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Odyssey Lightning

22d MEU Strikes From the Sea

Deployed in Iraq Marines Advise, Assist In Fight Against ISIL

World War II— Carrier-Borne Fighters Take It To Enemy

A Publication of the Marine Corps Association & Foundation



Photo By: Cpl. Harley Thomas

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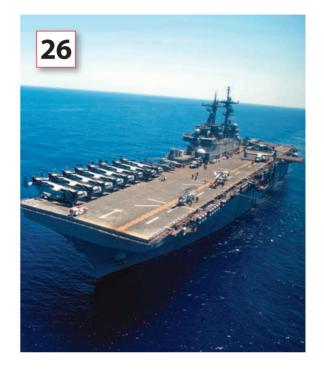
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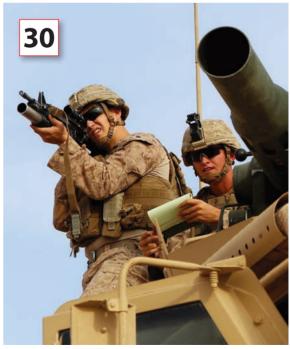
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COVER: An AH-1W Super Cobra from the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit lifts off from USS Wasp (LHD-1) during the MEU's recent deployment to the Sixth Fleet Area of Operations, Sept. 1, 2016. Photo by LCpl Koby I. Saunders, USMC. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to Leatherneck Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.

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.)

With a heavy heart, Nov. 10, 2016, was the first of my 62 years celebrating the Corps' Birthday absent of both my retired first sergeant father and colonel husband. According to family legend, my sister (born at Camp Lejeune) and I (born at Twentynine Palms, 15 months later) would sing with gusto the "The Marines' Hymn" before we ever learned to sing "Happy Birthday."

The year before my dad's passing, he was too emotional to complete the reading of the Commandant's Message. My son leaned forward, gently took the *Leatherneck* from his shaking hands, and finished the reading for his "Grampy."

Though I didn't know it, 2015 would be the last year my husband (Colonel H. Scott Harrison) would conduct our small family celebration on the Corps' 240th.

Our tradition will continue to the best of my ability. Though my husband's sword will remain sheathed, if all goes according to plan (after all-improvise, adapt and overcome), Marine brothers outside my immediate family will gather around our family table, stand tall for the message from the Commandant, and pray for all Marines, past and present.

I am grateful to have *Leatherneck* in my hands each month. Thank you.

Connie Harrison Scarborough, Maine

Special Performer at Oceanside

Every Marine has two birthdays, his own and Nov. 10. He or she celebrates both each year. On Nov. 10, 1951, at Camp Pendleton combat training facility at Oceanside, Calif., there was a special celebration at which just one performer was to appear. She was to sing and dance.

Thousands of mostly very young Marines were at Pendleton that November. Most would soon be in Korea and many would not return. The performer arrived by helicopter by herself and after a short meeting with some brass, two trusted and savvy noncommissioned officers were assigned to the young lady to help her prepare for the show. This was tough duty, including spending two hours with the performer helping her get ready.

While chatting, one Marine sergeant



Marilyn Monroe is escorted by Sgt Mike Capriola, left, before performing at Oceanside, Calif., on Nov. 10, 1951.

and the performer realized they were both 25 years old. The Marine sergeant was my brother Sgt Mike Capriola. Mike is now 90 years old and lives in Sarasota, Fla. The performer was Marilyn Monroe who died in 1962 at the age of 36.

Cpl Charles E. Capriola Jr., USMC 1953-56

Bennington, Vt.

C-Ration Trading

I recall my time in Khe Sanh. I was so glad to get the "ham and mothers," because I could trade the pound cake for almost anything on the menu.

Keep up the great work. You all are truly appreciated.

Thomas "Ken" Soerensen Oroville, Calif.

Hershel W. Williams MOH Recipient

I recently received a picture of the American flag being raised on top of Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima. It was given to me by Hershel "Woody" Williams and signed by him (he was with a flame thrower unit on Iwo).

Williams was awarded the Medal of Honor for destroying several Japanese pill boxes and exposing himself to enemy fire so those Marines on Iwo could secure their objectives through their tenacity and bravery.

I met Hershel Williams, who was and is a very humble man of U.S. Marine Corps stature.

> Daniel A. Villarial, USMC Bedford, Va.

Honor Our Nation's Anthem

This patriotic former old-breed Marine has been so disgusted with several of these professional athletes, along with other types of activists, who have shown their displeasure and disrespect for our nation's national anthem and flag at events by refusing to stand to acknowledge the anthem and flag.

I suggest these activists go and view the Arlington National Cemetery, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, World War II Memorial and the Korean War Memorial. If it was not for our military personnel, veterans, wounded warriors and fallen heroes who have made the supreme sacrifice, these activists would not have the freedom to show their despair. This old-breed Marine believes our flag and anthem are very sacred for the blood that was shed through the years since 1775.

Cpl John Messia Jr., USMC (Ret) 1952-54

Brockton, Mass.

Motivation, Pride and Integrity Of Marines

In April 2016, I attended the Marine Corps Educator's Workshop (MCEW) in San Diego, Calif., which is designed for high school educators who are interested in learning more about the Marine Corps way of life and what personal attributes the Marine Corps looks for in its new recruits.

While touring the facilities at MCRD, Pendleton and Miramar, I was humbled and impressed by the Marines who worked to make my experience safe and meaningful. Attending the MCEW gave me insight into the origins and historical significance of the Corps. The motivation, the pride and the integrity of Marines left me repeatedly humbled. Being invited to eat among the recruits coming off of "The Crucible" at the warrior breakfast was very special, considering the respect they offered us civilians, despite their being covered with dirt and stink. Nearly minted Marines, hungry and exhausted, invited us to pass ahead in the chow line as we made our way











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Five of John H. Hubacher Jr.'s buddies give him a proper farewell after eventually locating his final resting place.

up for a refill of coffee or juice, and always with a "good morning, sir."

I have applied the insights I gathered in San Diego by visiting with students who are considering enlisting in the Marines. Sometimes this means being direct with a student who does not have the character traits necessary to join America's premier fighting force. If I did not have this experience, I would have little basis to offer input in helping students make the significant choice to join. I thank those that have protected this country, and I thank the Marine Corps for offering me this once-in-a-career opportunity.

Benjamin Wannebo Big Lake, Minn.

Marines Honor Their Own

John H. Hubacher Jr., was born in Sterling, Ohio on Aug. 30, 1920, and grew up on a farm. John was a son, a brother, an uncle and a good friend.

John earned the title Marine in April 1943 at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., and was trained in field telephone. He joined the Fourth Separate Wire Platoon when it was formed in September 1943 at Camp Pendleton.

We "shipped out" of San Francisco on Oct. 2, 1943. He was my tent mate and buddy for 15 months as we traveled from island to island in the Pacific. We were attached to the Third Marine Division during the battle for Iwo Jima. I went with the Ninth Marine Regiment, and he went with the 21st Marine Regiment.

John was killed March 1, 1945, on Iwo Jima by a Japanese mortar and was buried on the island. When the United States

returned Iwo Jima to Japan, all Marines that had been buried on the island were returned to this country.

John's sisters thought that John was buried in Arlington National Cemetery; however, on two occasions, when our reunions took us to Arlington, Va., we were unable to find any record.

In September 2009, we were told that he might have been buried in Richmond, Va. I was determined to find the right cemetery.

We stopped in Richmond on the way home, and after some searching, we found his site. It is located in Glendale Cemetery, east of Richmond. This is in the area where the "Seven Days' battles" for Richmond were fought during the Civil War.

John had been buried with soldiers from Ohio of an earlier generation and was placed there by some people who never knew him. During the 2010 reunion, five of his buddies and their families gathered to bid him a proper farewell.

Joseph B. Tedder Gastonia, N.C.

Marine Corps Marathon

I read with great interest the article "Col James L. Fowler: Marathon Marine," founder of the Marine Corps Marathon, in the October 2016 issue. My first marathon was the Marine Corps Reserve Marathon, which it was called at that time, on Nov. 7, 1976.

I do, however, want to correct a mistake by the author printed on page 50. The distance from the Plains of Marathon to Athens is 25 miles (40 km), not 26.2. The first Olympic marathon in 1896 was from the Greek city of Marathon to Athens, a





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the Greek city of Marathon to Athens, a distance of 25 miles. Twelve years later in 1908 at the Games in London, the race's distance was extended by 1 mile, 385 yards so British royalty could watch the start in front of Windsor Castle. The race finished at Shepherd's Bush stadium, 26 miles, 385 yards, (42.195 km) away.

Thus, it was that the marathon distance became standardized throughout the world at 26 miles, 385 yards.

Please pass the word.

Sgt Marcus G. Miller, USMC India 3/1, 2d Recon Bn 1966-69 Millersville, Pa.

November 2016 Cover Photo

With respect to the cover photo of the November 2016 *Leatherneck*, my first impression in seeing the photo was that it was Marine Barracks Washington on a practice drill.

Noting the M16 rifles (vice the M1 Garand used in Washington) I looked for a better explanation. The change of command at Kaneohe Bay answered my question. However, I remain puzzled by the absence of a rifle belt on the uniform while under arms with the rifle. In my prehistoric days that would likely not have happened. Was there a shortage

of traditional 782 gear or has the policy changed that much?

I always look forward to the arriving edition. Semper Fidelis.

Maj Joe Featherston, USMC (Ret) Aiken, S.C.

National Defense Service Medal

I recommend a revision of the National Defense Service Medal to cover the Cold War years as a way of recognizing one's service during that period. We served our country honorably against communism in which there were many fatal and nonfatal casualties.

It would be no cost to our government at all for revising the medal.

Donald J. Zidik Sr. New Port Richey, Fla.

Force in Not-So-Readiness

I read with interest the article "Force in Not-So-Readiness: The Mobilization of the Marine Reserve During the Korean War," in the September 2016 issue of *Leatherneck*.

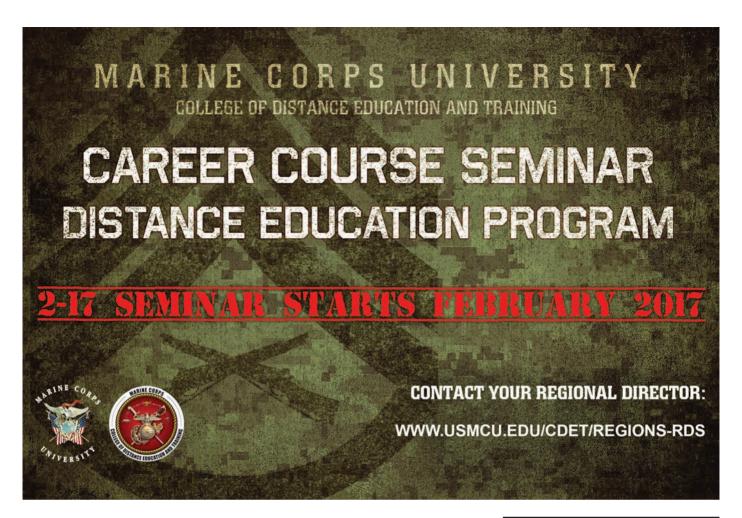
I enlisted in the 26th Rifle Company, a Marine Reserve unit, at Naval Air Station Minneapolis, Minn., in 1965. I went to boot camp at Parris Island, and infantry training at Camp Geiger and served the rest of my initial six months active duty with 2d Bn, 2d Marines at Camp Lejeune, N.C. In those days, the Marine Corps did not have MOS training for the infantry specialties.

I returned to my unit in Minneapolis, attended two two-week annual training duties and 24 weekend drills the next two years. In early 1968, the enemy launched the Tet offensive, and I found that I could no longer sit on the sidelines and volunteered for duty in Vietnam.

I reenlisted Feb. 8, 1968, and went to Camp Pendleton for a four-week staging. I boarded an aircraft for Vietnam on March 26. I was assigned to Kilo Co, 3d Bn, 7th Marines. By the first week in April, I was doing squad-size patrols, night time ambushes, and had experienced my first firefight.

I attended my last weekend drill in February 1968 and 60 days later was actively engaged with the enemy in a place called Dodge City, near Hill 55. It was not an easy transition, but I survived the change. I am eternally thankful for the training my drill instructors, the sergeants at Infantry Training Regiment, Camp Geiger, and the NCOs and officers of my reserve unit at 26th Rifle Company gave me.

I am a believer in the viability and success of the Marine Corps Reserve. It worked for me. I have observed the modern



reserve organization as it is almost 50 years later and I believe it is even better than it was in 1965. Keep up the great work. Semper Fi.

Tom Vogel Schererville, Ind.

Marine Corps ID Number

I served in the Corps from November 1964 to September 1968 and received two months early out after my second tour in Vietnam with the 26th Marines. I often thought of myself as "old Corps." Not because of the herringbone fatigues I often saw worn on base but because of my Marine Corps ID number which was 2,129,736.

I never understood the origin or its meaning. Did that mean 2,129,736 Marines serve before me or what? When did it all start?

Cpl Donald L. Zett USMC, 1964-68 Bull Shoals, Ariz.

• We addressed this in a previous issue of Leatherneck. Here it is again, for those of you who may have missed it.

The Marine Corps began issuing serial numbers on July 1, 1905. Each enlisted file case was assigned a file number, and this file case was filed numerically. The first, or lowest, number assigned was 20000.

Prior to July 1, 1905, enlisted files were alphabetized, and when there were two or more individuals with the same name, the files were arranged by date of enlistment.

Prior to 1941, serial numbers were not important because the Corps was so small. But on March 1, 1941, with the rapid growth of the Corps, Headquarters decided that all enlisted men would be assigned an identification number which would be identical to the one used to identify the man in his official file. A Marine reenlisting was reassigned the same number.

A document titled "Background Information on the Origin of Service Numbers of Marine Corps Personnel and the Method of Filing Officer and Enlisted Cases" at the Marine Corps Historical Center further states: "Each man enlisting in the Corps at recruiting offices on and after 1 March 1941 was assigned a serial number by the recruiting officer immediately upon completion of the enlistment contract. The Commandant of the Marine Corps assigned blocks of numbers to recruiting districts for the purpose. A man enlisting at a Marine Corps activity other than recruiting was assigned a serial number by Marine

[continued on page 66]





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In Every Clime and Place

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

BLATIND, NORWAY

BSRF Marines Overcome Mental Barriers to Complete Cold-Weather Training

U.S. Marines with Black Sea Rotational Force completed cold weather training under the direction of Norwegian Army Cold Weather and Mountain Training instructors in Blatind, Norway, Oct. 27-Nov. 4, 2016. The training was designed to improve their ability to operate in mountainous and extreme weather environments.

"It is important for them to go through this because prior to this training they have just as much fear for the climate as they do for the enemy," said Major Jan Heen, an instructor at the Norwegian Winter Warfare Center. "When they are done doing this training, they will only have respect for the climate and know that they can fight in it."

Marines originate from a wide variety of geographical backgrounds and many of them have never been exposed to such a cold environment. Leaders of the training agreed that the biggest challenge for the Marines was overcoming the mental barriers the weather created.

"I think the Marines are very wellsuited to work in this climate as they are and I think the key takeaway is that they are able to do it, that they have no fear for it and they see that they can hack it regardless," said Heen.

During the four-day training evolution,

the Norwegians taught the Marines how to navigate snowy terrain, search for comrades after an avalanche, build hasty shelters and recover from a fall into icy waters.

"Right now we are here to conduct coldweather training alongside our Norwegian counterparts," said Maj Kevin Newport, a company commander with Black Sea Rotational Force. "We started in the crawl phase and ultimately we are going to end with a battalion level force-on-force exercise called Reindeer II here in a couple of weeks after we conduct some battalionlevel live fire."

The Marines were very impressed by the knowledge and professionalism of the Norwegian Army and look forward to working with them again in the future.

"We are very similar to our Norwegian counterparts both from a training mindset perspective as well as a capabilities perspective," said Newport. "I think both partners have a lot to offer and a lot to bring to the table, especially as we continue to train and fight together."

Black Sea Rotational Force is an annual multilateral security cooperation activity between the U.S. Marine Corps and partner nations in the Black Sea, Balkan and Caucasus regions, designed to enhance participants' collective professional military capacity, promote regional stability and build enduring relationships.

Sgt Michelle Reif, USMC

COTONOU, BENIN

U.S., Benin Team Up, Teach NCO Leadership Development

The Benin Navy partnered with the U.S. Marine Corps to conduct noncommissioned officer development and general maintenance management training at Benin Naval Forces Headquarters, Coutonou, Benin, Oct. 17-28, 2016.

During the first week of training, U.S. Marines with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force—Crisis Response-Africa taught general leadership practices essential in developing NCOs in the Marine Corps. By reviewing the leadership traits and principles, the Marines passed along proven values that have served to strengthen their NCO corps.

"We've learned a lot about the leadership of NCOs," said Benin Navy PMT Charles Sagbo, the senior NCO in the course. "The NCO is the backbone of the military—no mission can be accomplished without strong NCOs. We have had training in the past, but this one has been very different because it has really touched on difficulties we have [in Benin]. This training will help us improve throughout our career."

The second week of training was spent teaching general maintenance techniques useful for storing, maintaining, tracking, inspecting and repairing gear.

"Teaching these maintenance management techniques allows the Benin Navy to





Above left: A Norwegian Army Cold Weather and Mountain Training instructor, left, confers with a U.S. Marine from BSRF in Blatind, Norway, Nov. 1, 2016. BSRF Marines trained in the mountainous terrain and extremely cold weather of Norway over a four-day period.

Above right: A U.S. Marine with BSRF climbs out of a hole in the ice in Blatind, Norway, Nov. 1, 2016. Much of the training involved overcoming mental barriers in order to survive frigid conditions.

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Marines with SPMAGTF–CR-AF's theater security cooperation team present a graduation gift to the Benin Navy class commander during a graduation ceremony at Benin Naval Forces Headquarters, Cotonou, Benin, Oct. 28, 2016. The Marines spent two weeks teaching an NCO development and maintenance management course in an effort to strengthen the relationship between the U.S. and Benin.

institute a system effective in maintaining a high state of equipment readiness," said First Lieutenant Joshua Littell, the Marine team leader.

By working together, Benin and the United States continue to develop an important relationship, providing more stability to the region and increasing the ability to work together effectively.

"It's important for us to be working with our allies to build strong relationships," said Staff Sergeant Michael Reinert. "In the future we never know when [Benin] might call on us or we might call on them, so it's important to keep these relationships maintained."

Both nations benefit by working with each other and look forward to training together again.

"It is our desire that this kind of training would continue—we look forward to working with Americans again in the future," said Sagbo.

1stLt Eric Abrams, USMC

MANADO, INDONESIA

Indonesian Air Force, VMFA(AW)-225 Come Together For Exercise

Marines with Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225 began exercise Cope West 17 at Sam Ratulangi International Airport, Manado, Indonesia, Nov. 1, 2016.

This fighter-focused, bilateral exercise between the U.S. Marine Corps and Indonesian Air Force is designed to enhance the combined readiness of the two nations.

Cope West 17 is the first exercise held in Indonesia in 19 years that involves the

U.S. Marines and the Indonesian air force.

"It has been a long time since Marines have operated in this area," said Master Sergeant Richard Ley, maintenance chief with VMFA(AW)-225. "We are working together with the Indonesian air force to build relationships between our aircrew, maintainers and other supporting elements."

Ley said expeditionary fire rescue, bulk fuel and aircrew Marines were working side by side with their Indonesian counterparts and their chains of command in order to get the best training possible for the two nations.

The squadron planned to complete their unit air-to-air training requirements, which focus on basic fighter maneuvering, section engaged maneuvering, offensive anti-air warfare and active air defense versus the Indonesian Air Force to increase situational readiness, interoperability, knowledge and partnership between the U.S. and Indonesia.

"We will be conducting air-to-air training involving mainly 'within visual range' tactics," said Captain Robert Lundgren, a pilot with VMFA(AW)-225. "We are starting with 'within visual range' training, which is close combat. Later we will be moving into basic fighter maneuvers and spreading the aircraft further apart before combining all the training into one event at the end of the exercise."

Both the U.S. F/A-18D Hornets and Indonesian F-16 Fighting Falcons bring unique capabilities, affording the two countries the opportunity to learn and understand each other's skills, preparing them for real-world situations and further strengthening their relationship.

"This exercise provides the U.S. and Indonesia an opportunity to share tactics and build interoperability together," said Lundgren. "Having the fighter aircraft integration in this part of the world is awesome, and it is something we haven't done before."

Cpl Aaron Henson, USMC



A F/A-18D Hornet with VMFA(AW)-225 taxis down the runway at Sam Ratulangi International Airport, Manado, Indonesia, during Exercise Cope West 17, Nov. 1, 2016. The exercise was the first held in Indonesia in 19 years between the U.S. Marine Corps and the Indonesian air force.

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. MARSOC Marines Help 24th MEU Develop Urban Skills

The morning of Nov. 2, 2016, started with an honest assessment—right out of the gate, the squad of Marines from 24th Expeditionary Unit's law enforcement detachment was faced with executing a full mission under the watchful eyes of their new instructors at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. Every inefficiency, every uncertain expression added to the overall picture of their readiness.

The Marines spent the next several hours holding classes, going through drills and conducting rehearsals in urban patrolling and close quarters battle (CQB), partnered with an element of critical skills operators from Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command (MARSOC).

"The first thing we did was run them through a full mission profile, doing urban movement and clearing an objective building. Once inside, watching their CQB techniques gave us our baseline for them for where we would tailor our training the rest of the day," said the MARSOC element leader.

Throughout the day, the two groups of Marines built on previous lessons as the



A Marine with the 24th MEU's law enforcement detachment provides rear security during a building clearing exercise at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., Nov. 2, 2016. Members of the detachment developed their urban patrolling and combat skills with coaching and mentoring from Marine Raiders with MARSOC.

Marine Raiders of MARSOC coached their notional partner nation force through the finer points of moving in an urban environment, assessing threats and methodically clearing buildings. Though there were noticeable differences, the commonalities among Marines working together were unmistakable.

"I've trained with infantry battalions on the last MEU. I've trained with SEAL Team Four and the Maritime Raid Force as well. Everyone has their own tactics and terms—but those are more tools to put in our toolbox," said Sergeant Derek Busby, law enforcement detachment noncommissioned officer in charge.

The Raiders highlighted bounding security when crossing linear danger features, thorough clearing of rooms while providing security for search teams, and several different methods for complicated interior movements such as clearing up a staircase. These particular skills would enhance the detachment's efficiency and improve their survivability in a hostile urban environment.

"Everyone has their own [standard operating procedures] and terminology. All we had to do was see how it was presented and then we were able to relate it to our SOPs and it made it a whole lot easier for the Marines that attended today," said Busby.

The MARSOC operators agreed, citing terminology barriers and different basic skills training standards as stark dif-



Military policemen from the 24th MEU's law enforcement detachment prepare to forcibly enter a building under the watchful eye of their MARSOC instructor at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., Nov. 2, 2016. The training exercise served as an opportunity for the law enforcement Marines to develop their urban patrolling and combat skills and for the Maine Raiders to refine their coaching and mentoring skills.

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ferences when training actual foreign forces. For the special operations Marines, the opportunity to coach and mentor other professionals was a welcome rehearsal before advising and assisting an allied force in unfamiliar terrain later.

"This got our junior guys on the team a chance to train ... [and] allowed them to get up in front of the podium and start giving instruction to an audience—an audience that is a peer of theirs that they could see so it's a little more difficult for them," said the element leader.

The group wrapped up day one of their training by conducting two final patrols through the urban training facility; once with prompts from the Raiders and finally with them serving as an aggressor force hidden within the objective buildings. An after-action debrief captured lessons learned and identified areas for improvement ahead of their nighttime heliborne raid the next evening.

"When it came to training with MARSOC, we were all excited and we got some really good training today. We learned advanced techniques and CQB tactics, which we plan on bringing into our training and passing back to our parent unit when we are done," said Busby. "I hope my team realized that looking at them and looking at us, it's one family teaching another. The skills we were taught today we can bring back to our own toolbox and pass down to the younger generation."

Maj Nicholas Mannweiler, USMC

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, HAWAII

Artillery Marines Conduct Direct Fire During Lava Viper

The "Black Sheep" of "Bravo" Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment conducted a direct fire training exercise at Range 13, Pohakuloa Training Area, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, during Lava Viper, an exercise that is a staple in the battalion's predeployment training, Oct. 16, 2016.

Lava Viper is an annual combined arms training exercise that integrates ground elements, such as infantry and logistics, with indirect fire from artillery units, as well as air support from aviation elements.

Observing from behind the gun line was First Lieutenant Andrew Schafer, the Bravo Btry guns platoon commander with 1/12.

"We were conducting a direct fire shoot, which is part of Exercise Lava Viper 17.1," said Schafer. "Direct fire shooting can be used offensively or defensively, depending on the situation. Offensively, if you are in a convoy and a target of opportunity is presented within close range, then we



Marines with Bravo Btry, 1/12, fire an M777 lightweight towed howitzer during a Lava Viper 17.1 training exercise at Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii, Oct. 16, 2016.

can engage that target without having a forward observer (FO). Usually, we'd have an FO, but in this situation the gun chief would direct the fire mission and lay down fire."

Schafer said in the case of a convoy being attacked, the howitzers can be unhitched from their trucks and redirected toward the assaulting enemy.

"During a defensive maneuver, the gun chief and artillery crew have direct sight of the target and the decision is made to return direct fire using the iron sights on a gun," said Schafer. "We can engage approaching tanks and hostile troops, and then defend our positions using our actual howitzers for a short range weapon."

Schafer said that this type of training is important because it helps enhance the lethality of the battalion and adds a way to respond to attacks while in a convoy.

"At the end of the day, these drills will save your life," Schafer added. "Besides having crew served weapons to assist in protecting ourselves, we now added howitzers and literally turn them into the heavy weapons against short-range targets. This training only helps in the Marines being more proficient in their roles on the gun line, and I saw a lot of leaders stepping up today helping out their junior Marines."

On the gun line was Corporal Adrian Rojo, an artillery recorder with Bravo Btry, 1/12, who was loading, firing and helping his junior Marines with their jobs.

"We fired the howitzers, practicing attack and defense drills," said Rojo. "In simple terms, if the convoy is overrun or the infantry needs backup in defending it, we jump out of the trucks and we turn the guns toward wherever we can physically see the enemy and fire rounds downrange."

Rojo said that artillery units don't have many opportunities to conduct this type of training in Okinawa, Japan, where the unit is based, and that they take full advantage during Lava Viper.

"I have been a part of multiple Lava Viper exercises and we go all out every time we get to come to this island," said Rojo. "I've gained knowledge and experience during my time here, and now I have the opportunity to share it with my junior Marines. I'd like to see more training opportunities like Lava Viper in the future."

Rojo said he has set goals for his Marines and expects them to work every second on the gun line. He added that this training is vital for the development of his Marines.

"You can never do enough, you can always do better," said Rojo. "It doesn't matter if you went through every position on the gun; there is still knowledge and experience to gain. The last Lava Viper exercise I participated in I was a private first class. I know what junior Marines will go through and the mistakes they will make. There are new Marines coming all the time and I want every one of them to be able to say, 'I have done this.' This training is necessary for Marines in artillery field and even more vital for when the day comes to deploy, where these drills could be the difference between life and death."

LCpl Jesus Sepulveda Torres, USMC



LCpl Zackary W. Rippin, an infantry assaultman with 3/5, operates a weaponized MUTT during a company assault on Range 400, MCAGCC, Twentynine Palms, Calif., Nov. 7, 2016, during ITX 1-17. The Marines of 3/5 have been designated as the Corps' experimental force, and during this iteration of ITX, they tested emerging technology and experimented with squads composed of varying numbers of Marines.

TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIF. 3/5 Conducts ITX as Corps' Experimental Force

Leathernecks with 3d Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., put their own "spin" on Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) 1-17 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., a 28-day exercise that began Oct. 21, 2016. ITX is the longest training evolution that occurs aboard the installation and involves a series of progressive live-fire exercises that assess the ability and adaptability of a force of more than 3,500 Marines and Sailors.

The Marines of 3/5, known as "Darkhorse," along with 1st Battalion, Second Marine Regiment, from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., made up the ground combat element (GCE) of Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force 4 during the exercise.

General Robert B. Neller, Commandant of the Marine Corps, designated 3/5 as the Marine Corps' experimental force and the battalion is being reconfigured and re-equipped and will receive additional training as it progresses through its preparation for deployment—placing a unique twist on this iteration of ITX.

"Overall, what we are trying to do is inform the future organization and equipping of the GCE, specifically the rifle battalion," said Lieutenant Colonel Donald Wright, field testing branch head, Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory. "What's different about this ITX is that [3/5 is] organized a little bit differently, and they're using some emerging technology."

Traditionally, the Marine Corps rifle squad is composed of 12 Marines and a squad leader. According to Wright, Darkhorse's rifle companies put new standards to the test during ITX, with one company experimenting with squads of 10 Marines and another with 14 Marines while the remaining company served as the "control group" with the original configuration. Tactical Training Exercise Control Group's "coyotes," the combat center's exercise controllers, were responsible for evaluating and providing feedback on each company's performance during ITX.

Emerging technology played a large role in this ITX, with rifle squads having hands-on experimental vehicles as well as unmanned aerial surveillance and ground robotics systems. They used one such vehicle—the Multi-Utility Tactical Transport (MUTT)—for both enhanced logistics capabilities, in transporting ammo and

other supplies, and in a weaponized variant with mounted heavy weapon systems.

"The Marines are adapting very well," Wright said during the exercise. "Some of the technology they just received when they got out here, so they are not fully trained on it but it's obvious they have the right attitude. 3/5 is doing everything they can do integrate this technology because they believe in it and they believe it will enhance their operability."

Wright described these experiments as an ongoing effort "to increase the infantry battalion's competitive advantage." Sea Dragon 2025 highlights a three-phase process consisting of exploration, refinement and validation prior to establishment of new Marine Corps-wide doctrine. This enables 3/5 to serve as the catalyst in testing emerging concepts and weeding them down to onlyw the most practical applications in future wars.

"It's an ever-evolving process because the situation out there is very fluid," Wright said. "What we are trying to do is inform the future organization and equipment of the GCE which in turn will drive the future organization and equipment of the MAGTF."

Cpl Levi Schultz, USMC





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Corps Connections



Boot Camp Friends Finish First Marathon Together

The 41st Marine Corps Marathon brought 30,000 runners to Arlington, Va., and Washington, D.C., Oct. 30, 2016. Among them were Marine veterans Jaclyn Halsey, Kasey Miller and Molly Zimmer, who began recruit training together at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., on Jan. 26, 2009. The trio formed a lifelong friendship that continued even after they left the Corps in 2012.

"We've been inseparable since we came into the Marine Corps, and the Marine Corps meant the world to us," said Miller. "We decided we wanted to run a marathon and if we were going to run one, it was going to be the Marine Corps marathon."

The group motivated each other throughout the training process via social media. All three finished their first marathon in approximately 4.5-hours.

Cpl Warren Smith, USMC



F/2/9 Vietnam Veterans Gather at Biannual Reunion

Veterans of "Fox" Company, 2d Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, Third Marine Division, who served in Vietnam from 1967-68, gathered for a reunion in Gettysburg, Pa., Sept. 14-17, 2016. Eight years ago, members of the unit resolved to reunite every two years to catch up and reminisce about their days in Vietnam. Front row, from the left, Andrew "Buz" Caldwell, Ed Amstutz and Steve Green, and back row, from the left, Terry Benjamin, Allen Wrubbel, Tom "Stumper" Colli and George Spiekermann, reconnected and enjoyed each other's company.

Submitted by Ed Amstutz

Zephyrhills, Fla.

MCL Det 1124 Recognizes 2016 Marine of the Year

Marine veteran Bob Loring not only is one of *Leatherneck*'s most venerable book reviewers, but he is also an active member of his Marine Corps League detachment and his community. Recently, he was named the Marine of the Year for 2015-16 by the Marines of the Sergeant Major Michael Curtin Detachment #1124 of the Marine Corps League, Zephyrhills, Fla., for his exemplary dedication to the league. In addition to serving as chaplain, sergeant-at-arms and judge advocate over the years, Loring has been in charge of running the annual Toys for Tots campaign for all of East Pasco County, Fla., including Land O'Lakes, Dade City, Wesley Chapel and Zephyrhills, since 1999. The detachment also acknowledged his contributions to *Leatherneck* and his involvement in the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, his local Rotary Club and the annual Rattlesnake Festival in San Antonio, Fla.

Jack Strong, left, the detachment's commandant, and Rod Rehrig, the detachment's former commandant, right, presented the award to Loring, center, Sept. 27, 2016. Loring said he considers it his most important honor.

Submitted by Bob Loring



Washington, D.C.

Veteran Musicians Share Time, Talents with Honor Flight

For the musicians in the Band of America's Few, the end of active duty Marine Corps service didn't mean putting away their instruments—or their dedication to their country and Corps. The veteran-run nonprofit organization, established in 2009, is made up of retired and honorably discharged Marine musicians who are dedicated to providing musical support to organizations and events while preserving the time-honored traditions of the Corps. The band's members hail from a wide range of geographic locations and the band itself has no home base; rather, they travel from all over the country to meet and perform at various locations wearing a uniform reminiscent of Marine dress blues.

On Oct. 22, 2016, the band gathered at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. where they performed for an audience that included



96 Vietnam Purple Heart recipients from Columbus, Ohio, who traveled to the memorial thanks to the efforts of Honor Flight Columbus. The group was the first group of Vietnam veterans that Honor Flight Columbus has transported to Washington, D.C., to see their memorial. The event provided a unique occasion for two veteran-related service organizations to work together to honor the nation's heroes.

Submitted by David Vita



Triangle, Va.

Former POW Honored By TBS Classmates at "Golden Anniversary" Reunion

Members of The Basic School (TBS) Class 1-66 gathered at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va., Oct. 4, 2016, for their 50-year anniversary reunion. During the reunion, they remembered not only their 20 brothers who lost their lives in Vietnam, but also honored one among them who endured more than five years as a prisoner of war.

Commander Laurence V. Friese, USN (Ret), center, who served as a Marine captain in Vietnam, flew 138 combat missions in Southeast Asia as a bombardier/navigator on an A-6 Intruder before ejecting over North Vietnam on Feb. 24, 1968. He evaded capture for four days before being taken as a prisoner

of war. After spending 1,839 days in captivity, he was released during Operation Homecoming on March 14, 1973. CDR Friese, center, was joined at the reunion by other notable members of the class. From the left, Major General David A. Richwine, USMC (Ret); General Richard I. "Butch" Neal, USMC (Ret), former Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps; Gen Anthony C. "Tony" Zinni, USMC (Ret); and MajGen Marvin T. "Ted" Hopgood, USMC (Ret).

Submitted by Ed Armento

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



Left: One of the F4U-1D Corsairs from USS Essex in 1945. The Corsairs proved their worth by dominating the best fighters the Japanese could marshal.

Essex moves into position to take part in the Okinawa campaign. Her complement of fighters, including F4Us, provided tactical air support to the Marines on the ground throughout the campaign.

Marines Off CARRIERS

Editor's note: This article originally appeared in the December 1945 issue of Marine Corps Gazette.

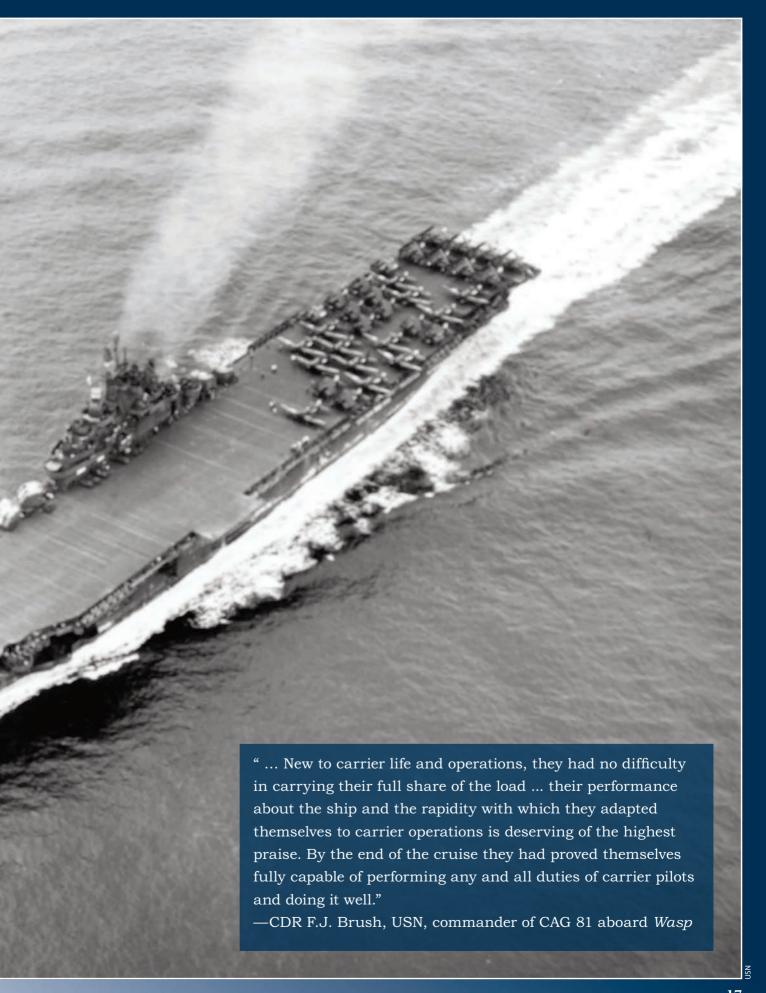
By John F. McJennett

The target was Kagi strip in central Formosa. On the morning of Jan. 3, 1945, the carrier USS Essex (CV-9) turned into the wind. The first TBM Avenger lumbered noisily down the flight deck and lifted into the air. One after another, the bombers took off. The fighters thundered after. Not the stubby F6F Hellcats, but sleek, gull-winged F4U Corsairs flown by fighter pilots from Marine Fighter Squadrons 124 and 213—the first carrier-borne Marines to take off from a flight deck on a combat mission against the Japanese.

VMF-213 and VMF-124 were the first of 10 Marine squadrons to operate with the fast carrier task force. Others followed shortly after. VMF-112 and VMF-123 boarded *USS Bennington* (CV-20) in late December. VMF-221 and VMF-451 joined *Bunker Hill* (CV-17) in January, VMF-216 and VMF-217 boarded *Wasp* (CV-18) in February and later, 214 and 452 went to the ill-fated *Franklin* (CV-13). The record of these squadrons demonstrated the soundness of Marine aviation doctrine which specified close support and carrier replacement as the primary and secondary missions of Marine pilots.

After the early January strikes against the stronghold of Formosa, the Marines aboard *Bunker Hill, Wasp* and *Bennington* joined in the first carrier strikes against the heart of the Japanese empire—the now-famous Feb. 16 attacks on Tokyo. They then swung south for strikes in support of the landings on Iwo Jima and Okinawa with interim visits to various spots of tactical importance from Kyushu





to French Indo-China—and then played a return engagement over the Japanese mainland.

The record of their accomplishments includes 226 confirmed kills of airborne enemy planes and 219 destroyed on the ground. They are officially credited with sinking a destroyer, seven cargo ships, one barge, one midget submarine and 148 smaller craft such as picket boats, luggers, landing craft, sampans and fishing boats. Five more freighters are listed as probably sunk.

They put out of action with damaging hits a light cruiser, three destroyers, four destroyer escorts, 26 freighters and 64 smaller craft on which the Japanese were leaning to keep the supplies that were the lifeblood of the empire flowing. This score against surface craft was made with the light armament of the fighter plane. On only a fraction of their flights did the Marine Corsairs load rockets or bombs.

Marine losses, exclusive of those aboard *Franklin*, were comparatively light. *Essex* Marines had combat losses of seven planes and two pilots, and those aboard *Wasp*—four planes and three pilots. *Bennington* and *Bunker Hill* paid a stiffer price as a result of the *kamikaze* hits they sustained.

VMF-112 and VMF-123 were reasonably typical of the squadrons which took over the carrier duty. Before coming aboard, no pilot had made more than 15 carrier landings, and 27 out of the 54 reporting had made only eight. None had made any night landings. Their training in instrument and weather flying was no more than that usually given to a landbased unit.

Corsairs

Several developments of the air war in the Pacific had made it apparent to the Naval Command that certain phases of the fighting were beyond the capacities of the Hellcat. Steps had already been taken in anticipation of such a development to bring F4Us aboard, but only a few Navy squadrons so equipped were ready. The Marine Corps had a number of experienced Corsair squadrons whose pilots had hundreds of combat hours in the plane in their logbooks. The answer was as obvious as time was short. The fliers were given a streamlined course in carrier routine and bounce drill and then went aboard.

Details of the flights by 10 Marine squadrons over a period of six months during the final air offensive against Japan cannot be covered with a single article. They amount to a tactical tour of the remnants of the Japanese empire and operationally ran the gamut from the housekeeping duties of the fighters in close support of ground troops and special interceptor patrols to the familiar and often flown missions against "enemy aircraft over the target' and "ships and strips."

Enumeration of the main strikes will give an idea of the extent and variety of their operations. Three days after the Jan. 3 attack against the Kagi strip in central Formosa, the Marines hit the Aparri and Camalanuigan strips in northern Luzon. Several days later they were back over south central Formosa. Then they jumped to French Indo-China with a primary target of the three strips adjoining the base at Saigon. Hainan and Takao Harbor were next. Then they moved up to Ie Shima



The pilot of this F4U Corsair fires a volley of 5-inch rockets at Japanese positions on Okinawa.



and swung back to work over the Formosa strips again.

The pattern of these strikes almost explains their purpose. They aimed at pinning down Japanese aviation for the Linguayan landings. The inability of the Japanese air force to interdict the landings or stop subsequent supply convoys indicates a good measure of their success.

Next on the list came strategic support for the assault on Iwo Jima—neutralization of the airfields of the home islands. Feb. 16 found *Bennington*, *Bunker Hill*, *Essex* and *Wasp* with the rest of the fast carrier task off Japan launching against Tokyo in the first surprise raid. The imperial city got another treatment the following day, and



then the fast carriers pulled out for the south to throw their weight directly into the fight for Iwo. En route, *Wasp* stopped off long enough for Navy and Marine Corps fliers to pay a punishing visit to the Susaki strip on Chichi Jima.

On Feb. 19, the Marines took off for tactical attacks against Iwo targets and in the next couple of days, worked for the first time in close support of Marine infantry. Several days later, Chichi again played host, and it was Tokyo's turn again on Feb. 25. Then back once more to Iwo.

Mid-March saw the fast carriers striking Kyushu targets and then moving down the Ryukyus in aerial preparation for the Okinawa landings. Marine fliers, along with their Navy shipmates, provided tactical support for the landing. On April 3, several squadrons took part in strikes against the airfields and installations at Saki Shima. Two days later the Tokino Shima strip got a working over with napalm, rockets and strafing.

The April 7 docket was a shipping sweep, and two days later came a swing against suicide aircraft awaiting takeoff. After a spectacular day on interceptor patrol, the April 13-14 were devoted to Kikai and Taenga Shima airfields, and then Tokuno Shima, Kikai and Minami Daito Shima on Kyushu were hit.

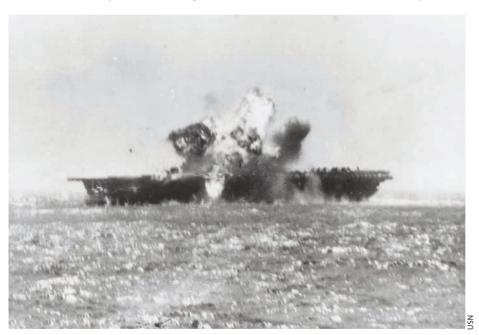
The routine narrowed in scope in late April through May. The primary mission

of Task Force 38 was support of the reduction of Okinawa and to wipe out, "as practicable," enemy air in Southern Japan. In addition, the force was charged with the continued surveillance and neutralization of the Amami Gunto, Minami Daito and Okino Daito.

June saw the Marines doing some aerial housekeeping at Okinawa. There were sweeps up the island chain to and including Southern Kyushu. They flew the interdictory and barrier combat air patrol and took part in the turkey shoot of the *kamikazes* coming down in droves after the fat bait of American shipping in the water around Okinawa. They ran fighter strikes on Kanoya and Minami and Okino



A kamikaze narrowly misses USS Sangamon (CVE-26) off the coast of Okinawa, May 4, 1945.



Essex erupts in flames following a *kamikaze* attack during operations in the Philippines in late 1944.

Daito. There was plenty to keep them busy until the strips ashore were far enough developed to support tactical operations of a size sufficient to handle the island defense and to mount an aerial offensive against the home islands.

Marine pilots flew a total of slightly more than 5,000 combat sorties—in excess of 20,000 combat hours. Workhorses of the group were the fliers aboard *Bennington*, who accounted for nearly half of the total. All but 360 sorties of the remainder were logged by the squadrons on *Essex* (1,041 sorties for 3,635 hours) and *Bunker Hill* (incomplete records credit 1,000 sorties

for 4,193 hours). VMF-216 and VMF-217 on *Wasp* flew 316 sorties for 1,602 hours and the unfortunate *Franklin*, in her day and a half of warfare, put off 48 planes.

Attacking Tokyo

Of the more notable strikes in which the Marines participated in their six months of carrier duty, the first attacks on Tokyo in mid-February just about top the list. The mission, initially, was to knock out airborne opposition, then to go after aircraft revetted around the fields and work over field installations.

Feb. 16 fell considerably short of an

ideal day for air operations. Rain and sleet lowered the ceiling to less than 200 feet in some areas, and nowhere was it higher than 2,000. At 25,000 feet, the temperature was 55 degrees below zero. The weather over the target was about as bad as it was around the fleet.

Things started auspiciously. A fourplane combat air patrol from VMF-112 drew first blood at 0800 when they jumped and splashed a "Betty" which was headed for the carriers. The strike flights got off without incident and pushed through rotten weather, hoping for a break over the target; it was not to be. They arrived over Honshu at 25,000 feet and began to lose altitude slowly, looking for trouble. There were no Japanese planes airborne. A puzzled, and somewhat disappointed, flight of Marines continued on down to the deck and raked the O Shima strip and neighboring installations. At Mobara and Katori and elsewhere, the sweep missions had the same experience. No aerial opposition. Yet intelligence had reason to believe that in and around Tokyo the Japanese had concentrated 600 first-line fighters. If they wouldn't defend Tokyo, what would they defend?

Subsequent analysis of why the Japanese failed to get their fighters off the deck on this first day could offer the single conclusion that the Japanese were taken completely by surprise, that the weather had permitted the carrier planes to get to their targets and strike before the Japanese could get up to meet them.

The strikes scored heavily. But if the weather had hindered airborne defense, it helped the Japanese antiaircraft gunners. Low-hanging clouds compelled shallow dives and gave the gunners a ceiling against which to check their bursts. The ground fires were rugged but ineffective. Marine pilots were credited with nine grounded aircraft destroyed and 17 damaged, plus numerous hits on installations at O Shima, Mobara and Katori. Two airborne "Zekes" were shot down and eight planes damaged on the ground on the fighter sweep against Hamamatzu and Mikatagahara. On the way home, this flight burned a 4,000ton tanker near Nii Shima. The group attacking the Konoike airfield got one kill, one probable and two damaged out of four airborne and bashful "Tojos" and wrecked 10 "Bettys" on the ground. They then moved over to Hokoda where they flamed three hangars. A return visit, late in the afternoon while flying escort on a hop against Hamamatzu and Mikatagahara, netted the Marines nine grounded twinengined planes of the baka-carrying type. On the way back to the carrier they spotted a destroyer escort and a picket boat. The destroyer escort was left smoking and the

picket boat was probably destroyed.

The absence of fighter opposition caused the brass to step up the schedule. The first day, which was to have been exclusively devoted to fighter sweeps, was reordered to include bombing strikes in the afternoon. The Marines played an escort role during the sweeps.

The second day was one of mixed sweeps, fighter-bomber attacks, and bomber-escort missions. The fleet weather was just as bad as the previous day, but as the fliers neared the coast, it lightened and over the target was CAVU (ceiling and visibility unlimited). The imperial city of Tokyo spread out beneath them. One squadron commander described it as a "thrilling, beautiful sight."

Atsugi and Tateyama fields got a working over from the fighter bombers with another flight following in on strafing runs. The bombers laid all their eggs on the Atsugi strip, which was described as being cluttered with twin-engine planes. There was no confirmed damage analysis of this particular strike, but it must have been considerable. All flights this second day reported the airfields jammed with planes probably massed by the Japanese

for a haymaker at the fleet around Iwo Jima. The Japanese never got to throw that punch.

One Marine flight of eight planes tangled with 20 Japanese, but gun jams at the critical moment "reduced" the kills to two, with another three damaged. Following this, the flight went after ground targets with a squadron commander hitting a locomotive from 20 feet altitude, low enough to get mud on his windshield as it blew up.

In the Air

Another group off *Bunker Hill* was a principal in one of the weirdest air battles of the war. Assigned an escort mission, it mixed with a group of Japanese at 25,000 feet and for 20 minutes made pass after pass at the enemy, unable to fire a shot because of frozen guns. Finally, one Marine enticed a Japanese plane down to lower altitude and shot him down—the sole kill of the fight. The Japanese broke off the engagement and the Marines continued down to deck level to strafe their target. In some of the fighter sweeps staged to knock out the *kamikaze* planes while still on the ground, the Marines

ran afoul of the Japanese faculty for good camouflage, and their effectiveness suffered. One in particular is worth mention. In mid-March a Marine flight was assigned a sweep against three air strips on Kyushu. After the customary search for airborne opposition, they dropped to near deck level to strafe. They made two passes over the first strip. There were no planes visible on the ground. The day following, photographs showed 27 cleverly camouflaged planes revetted around these three strips.

Nor did every strike have a happy ending. The March 19 attack on Kure can be put down as a bad day for the fleet. Even as the strike planes were winging on their way to hit the dumps and installations around the base at Kure, *kamikazes* burst out of nowhere and severely damaged *Franklin*. Not a good beginning.

Then as the forward elements of the attack planes came into sight range of the harbor at Kure, the target coordinator reported a ship. From that point on, as one squadron commander describes it, "it was like a stage show." The target coordinator mentioned seeing several more ships and then, excitedly, he trans-

This photograph of Tokyo, taken by an airplane from *Essex* on Aug. 31, 1945, vividly demonstrates the devastating capabilities of U.S. airpower. (USN photo)





mitted, "Jesus Christ—the whole [Japanese] fleet is here!"

The assigned targets of oil stores and ammunition dumps were forgotten. Sixteen Marine fighters from VMF-451 led the bombers in. The air over the harbor was alive with action. Attacking planes, antiaircraft bursts and over the latter, a flock of aggressive Zekes. The attacks were well-executed and determined but luck was against the bombers—luck and a terrific concentration of antiaircraft fire. Near misses were frequent and probably damaging, but the only direct hit was by VMF-451 on a carrier.

A pilot said that on leaving the target he looked over his shoulder and could see a solid mass of smoke from AA bursts that stretched from 3,000 to 13,000 feet. The same flier noted several splashes as injured planes ditched near the rescue sub.

The day closed with some of the Marines flying cover on *Franklin* as she limped to safer waters, while others paid a return call to Kyushu strip which got them 20 grounded planes.

VMF 112, off *Bennington*, figured in two actions which are regarded as perfectly executed fights against enemy aircraft. On the first occasion, 16 planes were cruis-

ing at 19,000 feet en route to the strips of Konoya for a sweep. The formation was stacked down in divisions of four. Over East Konoya they were jumped by 19 or 20 Zekes. The squadron executed a violent turn flush into the tail of the Japanese formation. In six seconds, five of the Zekes were aflame. Chutes blossomed all over the sky as the enemy bailed out. Unimpressed by this catastrophic beginning, the Zekes kept coming. The Marines maintained their divisions as fighting teams of four and the slaughter continued. When the Japanese broke off the dog fight, the Marine pilots had nine confirmed kills



to their credit and six Japanese aircraft severely damaged. Back on the carrier, a careful examination revealed not so much as a hole in any of the Corsairs.

VMF-112's success continued. Arriving on station over Amami O Shima, they spotted a half dozen "Kates" (most frequent suicide type) escorted by 15 "Jacks" and Zekes. The Marines were stacked at 9,000, 11,000 and 12,000 feet and the Japanese were above. A full power climb brought the Corsairs level at time of contact. One division hit the dive bombers and got four or five on the first pass. The other two divisions tangled with the fight-

ers. With the exception of the Jacks, the Japanese were not too aggressive. The Kates that had escaped blasting in the first pass hightailed it for the horizon with several of the Marines hot on their tails. After the first contact, the action changed to a melee. One of the fliers described it as a "rat race from the deck to the ceiling." Again the Marines fought in divisions with four planes as a mutually supporting unit. This time their tactics paid off with an even better score. Twelve Marines splashed 20 enemy aircraft without even serious damage to a Corsair or a pilot.

Numerous other strikes are of interest.

FG-1D Corsairs, of VMF-323, the "Death Rattlers," fly in formation as they participate in the Okinawa campaign.

On April 7, when the Navy had its big day against the anchored Japanese fleet and sank the battleship Yamato, the cruiser Agano and three destroyers, the only Marine pilot flying on the attack hit the Agano square on the forward turret. In the turkey shoot against the desperate kamikaze attacks on the fleet during the Okinawa battle, the Marines racked up their share of kills. Along with Navy fighters, they shared the barrier and interceptor patrols that were thrown up to the north. During these fights, pilots ran across plane types they'd never seen in their recognition drills—obsolete fighter and bomber craft, biplane trainers—the scrapings of the Japanese aircraft barrel. They came in droves of 160 to 200 at a time. Evasive action, save for slight turns, was rare. The sole difficulty was spotting them and getting to them before they passed the fleet screen.

One Marine blasted his guns into a *kamikaze*, and the plane disintegrated before his eyes. Something flapped across his windshield, temporarily blocking his vision, and then tore loose. It was his impression that it might have been a ceremonial robe worn by the Japanese pilot. On returning to the carrier he discovered a length of silken cord caught on his aerial, probably the tie that bound the robe around the pilot's waist.

Lessons Learned

The F4U Corsair proved its worth as a carrier aircraft. In experienced hands, it was satisfactory on and off the deck, and its speed and climb in air combat provided the fleet air arm with a killing edge over the best land-based fighters the enemy could launch.

The special nature of carrier operations was emphasized. Had time permitted a more thorough introduction to the tricks of the carrier trade before the Marines went aboard, operational accidents would probably have been reduced. These losses were not excessive at any stage, but their incidence among the Marines in their first weeks aboard was usually well above that for experienced naval squadrons for the same work.

Adding new laurels to the reputation of Marine air, the carrier program is further proof, if any is needed, that the "can do" spirit of the Marine Corps in World War II resulted in a fighting organization with a versatility unmatched in the history of war.

Leatherneck Laffs



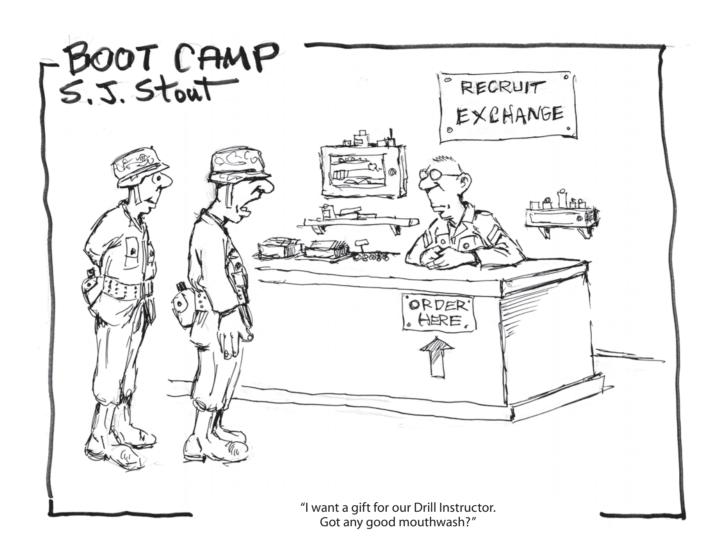
"I know, I know. We should not check wind direction with Marine snipers in the area!"



"Hey, that's an Army sergeant and he looks familiar."



"The difference between a hero and a coward is a hero will still fight to defend a coward."





22d MEU is the Tip of the Spear In Fight Against Islamic State

By 22d MEU PAO

emaining steadfast in their commitment to bringing the fight to the Islamic State (ISIL), Marines and Sailors with the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) and amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD-1) conducted the majority of their 2016 deployment in the Sixth Fleet area of operations. With the 22d MEU's deployment now coming to a close, those Marines and Sailors take great pride in knowing their actions during Operation Odyssey Lightning (OOL) contributed to the enduring fight against ISIL and international terrorism.

The 22d MEU, based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., deployed in June 2016 as part of the *Wasp*

Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), which included USS *Wasp*, amphibious transport dock ship USS *San Antonio* (LPD-17), and amphibious dock landing ship USS *Whidbey Island* (LSD-41). MEUs are forward deployed, engaged and postured to shape actions across the range of military operations to resolve conflict, conduct humanitarian assistance or combat the enemy in remote, austere environments that would otherwise be inaccessible.

Completing their voyage across the Atlantic Ocean in July 2016, *Wasp* ARG entered into a distributed configuration to better position the ships to respond to myriad simultaneous operational commitments and scheduled joint exercises with partner nations across several combatant commands.

Following an initial exercise in Morocco and a brief visit to Naval Station Rota, Spain, *Wasp* continued into the Mediterranean Sea and was tasked to support military operations against ISIL, which had taken a stronghold in Sirte, Libya.

At the request of the Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA), the MEU began launching air strikes against ISIL fighters in the city of Sirte, thus enabling GNA-affiliated combat forces to move into the city and engage ISIL fighters. Nearly three months of daily air strikes resulted in the destruction of more than 280 enemy targets.

"OOL is an ideal operation for the ARG/MEU," said Major Ben Reid, 22d MEU operations officer. "When we first entered the Mediterranean, we didn't



Marines from the 22d MEU, operating off of USS *Wasp,* prepare an AV-8B Harrier II for a precision air strike against ISIL positions in Sirte, Libya, Aug. 1, 2016.

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AH-1W Super Cobras of the 22d MEU operating off of USS San Antonio in the Mediterranean Sea, Oct. 27, 2016.

know that we'd be tasked with supporting OOL. We received the orders, conducted planning and began precision air strikes in a matter of days. Throughout OOL, we have continued to demonstrate agility and creativity developed during our predeployment training."

The Marines and Sailors eagerly welcomed the opportunity to apply their training to real-world missions and actively bring the fight to the enemy.

"This is what we trained for. This is what the Marines want," said a Marine tasked with managing maintenance on the various MEU aircraft.

The high operational tempo demanded constant and thorough maintenance of equipment and aircraft to ensure combat readiness for each successive mission. Multiple hours of maintenance and preparation go into every hour of flight for the pilots.

"Ît's a wonderful thing to see our pilots take off from the flight deck and know that their actions are actively working to defeat a terrorist threat," said an officer in the

Marines of the 22d MEU's ACE regularly worked 12-hour shifts sometimes enduring triple-digit temperatures on *Wasp's* flight deck. Here, a 22d MEU Marine fuels an AV-8B Harrier II, Aug. 1, 2016. (Photo by LCpl Koby I. Saunders, USMC)

MEU's aviation combat element (ACE).

Even in the moderate climate of the southern Mediterranean Sea, surface temperatures on the flight deck of *Wasp* can sometimes reach into the triple digits. Marines and Sailors working topside stay buttoned up in flame-retardant coveralls and long-sleeved shirts and wear thick vests with inflatable air bladders known as "float coats." Those assigned to the MEU's ACE routinely worked 12-hour

shifts building and loading ordnance.

According to one Marine ordnance handler, even with five others assisting, it's extremely strenuous work to lift a 500-pound bomb—particularly to do so 20 times each day.

When aircraft operate above contested territories, they face not only the danger of enemy fires, but also unforeseen mechanical issues. This risk is present in every operation the MEU conducts,



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but the ability to plan for these risks is the reason why the MEU is the essential fighting force for the job.

"Every time our pilots and aircraft leave the flight deck there is an inherent risk involved. This is something well-understood by both planners and pilots, but it is a job that must be done and we willingly accept those risks to do it," said an officer in the MEU's ACE.

The MEU's operations brought a measurable effect to the fight against ISIL.

According to a press release from U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), the area controlled by ISIL forces was reduced dramatically once the MEU arrived, and the number of ISIL fighters in the area decreased from an estimated several thousand fighters to a few hundred over the course of the MEU's and GNA's operations.

"Throughout our time on station, the ARG/MEU team has provided critical fire support to Operation Odyssey Lightning," said Maj Blake Johnston, MEU fire support officer. "22d MEU fixed- and rotary-wing strike capability, information operations and intelligence support to targeting coordinated through the Landing Force Operations Center (LFOC) and Supporting Arms Coordination Centers (SACC) ... allowed us to achieve a true combined arms effect in support of GNA's efforts to defeat ISIL."

At the end of October, after more than 100 days afloat, the Marines and crew of *Wasp* were afforded some much-needed rest and refit time in Souda Bay, Crete. Even with *Wasp* taking a break, the ARG/MEU team was able to stay in the fight against ISIL thanks to the versatility and interoperability of the Navy/Marine team.

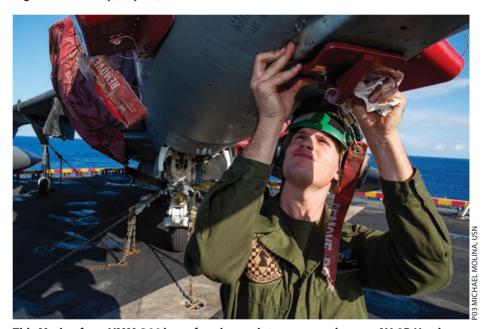
San Antonio, fresh off a tour through the Fifth Fleet AOR, and loaded with its own contingent of 22d MEU Marines eager to join the fight, arrived on station to relieve Wasp and her Marines.

"Conducting strike operations in support of OOL highlights the versatility of the amphibious transport dock ship," said *San Antonio* commanding officer Captain Darren Nelson. "*San Antonio*, being the first of her class, has been at the leading edge of the Navy's development of LPDs. Now we are making full use of this amazing ship with the 22d MEU's Aviation Combat Element carrying out precision air strike operations off of our flight deck."

According to AFRICOM, the combined campaign has leveraged GNA ground movements with U.S. air power to apply pressure throughout the fight against ISIL. The air strikes significantly impacted the enemy's ability to utilize heavy weapons and enemy fighting positions, reducing



Marines and Sailors cooperate in an effort to achieve the objectives of OOL. Here, Sailors assist a Marine pilot as he is about to launch his AH-1W Super Cobra from the flight deck of *Wasp*, Sept. 1, 2016.



This Marine from VMM-264 is performing maintenance work on an AV-8B Harrier on the flight deck of *Wasp*, Sept. 26, 2016, during OOL.

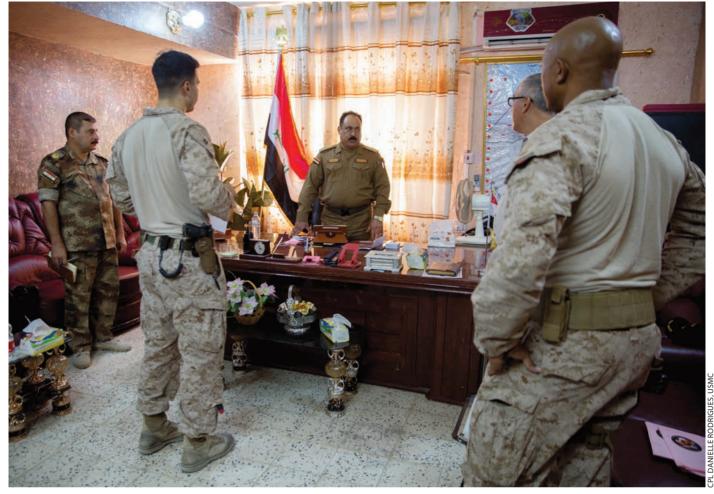
the number of vehicle-born improvised explosive devices intended for attacks on GNA-aligned forces.

"This deployment and this operation has been a vivid illustration of the impressive capabilities of the ARG/MEU team," said *Wasp*-ARG Commanding Officer CAPT F. Byron Ogden. "From the remarkable amount of ordnance expended from aircraft flown off *Wasp*'s deck during the first two and a half months of OOL to the groundbreaking air strike efforts taking place from the deck of the *San Antonio*, the *Wasp* ARG has been very busy. As we've proven, this ARG is a flexible and lethal force that will continue to operate effectively across both the Fifth

and Sixth Fleet areas of operation."

Thousands of miles away from home and working long hours into the night, Marines and Sailors continue the tradition of excellence in defense of their nation.

"We've shown the incredible flexibility and combat power that the MEU and Navy-Marine Corps team bring to the fight. MEUs exist to go wherever the trouble is and then win whenever we go," said Colonel Todd P. Simmons, Commanding Officer, 22d MEU. "This is a hard life well lived out here. Every Marine and Sailor contributed phenomenally. I couldn't be prouder of this incredible team."



Marine advisors conduct a key leader engagement with Iraqi staff officers. Relationships between advisors and Iraqi officers are critical to helping the Iraqis deal with emerging threats.

Advise and Assist In Operation Inherent Resolve

By Capt Brendan Aronson, USMC

n a Saturday night in March 2016, I anxiously awaited armory draw for my impending deployment as part of an advisor team. Concurrently, in joint operations centers (JOCs) across Iraq, Marines, Sailors, soldiers and airmen observed drone feeds and coordinated air and surface fires in support of Iraqi Security Forces (ISF). At the time, I had embarrassingly little idea what Marine advisors did in Iraq, how they operated, or in what capacity they supported the Iraqi army. In my mind, my team would serve in a similar capacity to that of previous generations of Marine advisors; we would imbed at the tactical level.

What do Marine Advisors Do in Iraq?

Task Force Al Taqaddum (TFTQ) has myriad tasks, but the simplest summary for what Marine advisors do in Iraq comes from the commanding officer of the task force—Marine advisors enable the ISF's success by killing DAESH (an Arabic acronym meaning ISIL) and supporting those who do. Coalition force advisors accomplish the first task in JOCs throughout the Euphrates River Valley.

Killing DAESH

The task force's JOC serves as the nexus for intelligence, fire support, and operations. Often, Iraqi liaison officers from partnered units supply intelligence and contact reports to the watch floor. Surveillance drones are dispatched accordingly, and watch officers in concert with forward air controllers (FACs) and joint tactical air controllers (JTACs) work to submit strike requests on behalf of Iraqi units in contact. A centralized target engagement authority (TEA) approves strikes, at which time terminal control is either delegated to the task force's FAC, who has developed the target, or maintained at a higher echelon for prosecution.

This centralized process is not as responsive as Marines would like it to be, but it exists to reduce civilian casualties—an essential counter narrative to DAESH propaganda. Moreover, as the coalition currently operates within Iraq at the

invitation of the government of Iraq, concurrence from the Iraqi Ministry of Defense is required prior to the execution of a strike. By utilizing a centralized strike cell and TEA, the Ministry of Defense interacts with fewer coalition advisors thereby enabling a habitual, trusting relationship to form.

The task force's fires effects coordination cell (FECC) plans deliberate targeting packages to support ISF maneuver, briefs preplanned targets to the TEA, conducts combined planning with Iraqi army officers, and facilitates the removal of a building's protected status as required to hasten the dynamic strike process. By submitting detailed packages including intelligence summaries and video feeds from surveillance drones, the FECC dramatically reduces the time required to prosecute a strike. In doing so, the JOC is able to take advantage of targets of opportunity as they arise and remove DAESH fighters from the battlefield.

Army and Marine artillery units forward deployed to outposts throughout the country provide surface fires to support Iraqi maneuver. These artillery units provide lethal fires—often in the form of precision guided munitions—and non-lethal fires such as illumination missions. Additionally, artillery units enable task forces to conduct counterbattery fires in self-defense when required.

Supporting Those Who Kill DAESH

To support those who kill DAESH, Marine advisors conduct combined planning with Iraqi commanders, provide necessary training to improve ISF units on the tactical level, produce intelligence products to assist Iraqi decision-makers, facilitate the equipping process for Iraqi units, and provide life-saving surgical assistance.

In order to maintain a unity of effort, TFTQ utilizes a primary advisor for each division who becomes familiar with Iraqi senior leaders within his assigned division. The primary advisor then augments his key leader engagements (KLEs) with task force staff primaries as required. The field grade officers who serve as the task force's staff primaries advise their Iraqi counterparts on their specific areas of expertise. In doing so, Marines provide tailored advice to their Iraqi counterparts.

While the primary advisor is the focal point for deliberate planning, staff primaries often build independent relationships with their Iraqi counterparts. These relationships enable coalition advisors to mentor Iraqi staff officers and help them improve. Throughout the deployment, these relationships have been critical to enabling the Iraqis to deal with emerging



LCpl Ali J. Mohammed, originally from Baghdad, serves as an interpreter for TFTQ.

threats throughout the area of operations.

Company grade officers and enlisted Marines and Sailors support Iraqis by teaching classes in a train-the-trainer model. These classes range in subject from combat lifesaver classes taught by task force corpsmen to forward observer training taught by Marine joint fires observers.

Intelligence officers, staff noncommissioned officers and analysts synthesize intelligence reports from many sources. The refined products are presented to Iraqi commanders to enable decision making. Additionally, intelligence Marines work

with Iraqi intelligence officers to refine their procedures, thereby increasing their organic capabilities.

The task force also supports the equipping process for Iraqi units. For ISF units, the task force S-4 works with them to track the procurement of equipment through their own channels. Marine advisors track the procurement process from higher headquarters down to the division level. For popular mobilization forces (PMF) and federal police (FEDPOL), who serve as auxiliary troops and often find themselves engaged in direct combat operations, Marine advisors facilitate the distribution



Marines are responsible for security at some Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve bases. Sgt Josh Greathouse, a team leader with Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, scans the area with his weapon during a perimeter patrol, March 21, 2016. (Photo by Sgt Ricardo Hurtado, USMC)





Task Force Al Asad is another coalition unit in which Marines serve, to accomplish the Building Partner Capacity mission of Operation Inherent Resolve. Here, EOD technician SSgt Brewer speaks with an Iraqi EOD officer about training offered at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, April 20, 2015.





Above: Marines with Weapons Co, 1/7 scan the landscape during an antiarmor team patrol, Oct. 23, 2015.

Left: During a perimeter patrol in Al Taqaddum, Iraq, Sgt Robert McCabe points out areas of interest to his team, March 21, 2016.



Soldiers with the 7th Iraqi Army stand in formation during their Building Partner Capacity training graduation, July 30, 2015. One of the missions of coalition troops at AI Asad Air Base is to give the Iraqis training that will enable them to destroy ISIL and secure their country.

Marines with Co E, 2d Bn, 7th Marines, Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command, practice a forward assault at a marksmanship range at Al Taqaddum Air Base, Iraq, June 27, 2016.



of equipment on behalf of the Department of State and the operational higher headquarters, the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command—Operation Inherent Resolve (CJFLCC-OIR).

The task force's organic corpsmen, corpsmen enablers sourced from the security force, and attached Army forward surgical teams (FSTs) provide necessary combat lifesaving support with remarkable results. The FST is a strategic asset; ISF troops know that they will receive quality emergency medical treatment if wounded in action. Hundreds of Iraqi soldiers and civilians owe their lives to the Navy corpsmen and Army surgeons who work tirelessly in austere environments across Iraq.

Advising at the Division Level

To Marines, the term advisor brings to mind the combined action platoon (CAP) concept employed during Vietnam, Marine training of constabulary forces in the Banana Wars, and the Military Training Team advisors who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and continue to serve in Afghanistan today. These advisors operated at the tactical level, often down to the squad level, and incurred significant risk.

Contrastingly, Marine advisors serving in Operation Inherent Resolve advise at the division level. Though President Barack Obama recently authorized American advisors to advise down to the battalion level, Major General Volesky, USA, the Commanding General of the CJFLCC—OIR, has made it clear that he will not arbitrarily attach U.S. forces to the brigade or battalion level; the decision about the accompany mission is made on a case-bycase basis. In an April press conference, MG Volesky said, "How we advise and assist, again, is a very deliberate decision, and where we put those advisers, we make sure that we've mitigated the risk to the force. As I said, force protection is job one."

Though some Marines will disagree with a risk-averse policy, it is born of necessity. First, due to the small footprint of U.S. troops on the ground, providing medical evacuation or quick response



Below: Marines with B/1/7, SPMGTF-CR-CC, conduct a mounted patrol in Al Taqaddum, Iraq, Jan. 1, 2016. (Photo by Sqt Ricardo Hurtado, USMC)





Above: Medical personnel of TFTQ perform surgery on a wounded Iraqi soldier. The U.S. Army's forward surgical teams provide lifesaving assistance to Iraqi soldiers during Operation Inherent Resolve. (Photo by Sgt Ricardo Hurtado, USMC)

forces to advisors in contact would be unreliable or impossible. Second, the decision is a natural response to America's lack of political will regarding Iraq; if casualties mounted, a war-weary American public could insist upon a withdrawal. Finally, the future stability of Iraq depends upon the ability of the Iraqi government and military to deal with threats; U.S. forces are deployed to help them develop the capability to do so, not to do it for them.

This force protection comes at a price. Unless operating at the lower levels, American advisors are unable to affect the tactical level. ISF tactical defeats are all the more painful to observe through drone feeds as American advisors imbedded at

a lower level may have been able to turn the tide of a fight, preventing retreats. Though it is impossible to assess how much more quickly ISF units could have retaken territory with advisors imbedded at the tactical level, doing so could both display America's commitment to the cause and hasten a DAESH defeat.

Regardless of the dearth of advisors at the tactical level, ISF units have achieved a great deal of success. Since July 2015, ISF units advised by Marines and soldiers have retaken Ramadi, Hit, Fallujah, Rutbah and thousands of square kilometers of territory throughout the Euphrates River Valley. Moreover, ISF units have suc-

ceeded on their own; operations continue to be planned and executed by Iraqis. As the fight for Mosul continues in the coming months, American advisors will continue to kill DAESH and support those who do.

Author's bio: Capt Brendan Aronson is an infantry officer who recently completed an advisor deployment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. He previously completed a deployment as a rifle platoon commander to Okinawa, Japan with First Battalion, First Marine Regiment.





By Sara W. Bock

here's an inherent power in the human voice—an ability to convey raw emotion and feeling in a way the written word, no matter how eloquent, can't seem to match. For Major Michael "Mac" McNamara, USMCR (Ret), his latest endeavor, All Marine Radio, allows him the opportunity to use that power to keep Marines connected to the Corps, encourage intellectual discourse and share the stories that set the Marine Corps apart.

The internet-based live broadcast program, which McNamara runs out of his home in Costa Mesa, Calif., is tailored specifically for a Marine audience. It's equal parts entertaining, informative, intellectually stimulating and inspiring—and for McNamara, it's a platform that he's determined to use in a positive way.

With McNamara at the helm as both founder and host, All Marine Radio, a four-hour show that broadcasts live Monday through Friday, was a success after its first program aired June 1, 2016. It certainly didn't hurt that the first guest was none other than General Robert B. Neller, the 37th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

"And getting him to admit that I was his favorite company commander of all time was even better!" said McNamara with a laugh, recalling his days as a captain in 3d Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion when Neller was the commanding officer. Armed with McNamara's impressive social network of notable Marines he served with during his 11 active-duty years, and later, as a Marine reservist who deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, All Marine Radio's credibility was established right out of the gate.

But it's not just who he knows that

Maj Michael "Mac" McNamara, USMCR (Ret), stands in the All Marine Radio broadcasting studio in his home in Costa Mesa, Calif., Nov. 29, 2016. The internet radio program, which debuted June 1, 2016, features a wide variety of guests and Marine Corps-related topics.

The internet-based live broadcast program, which McNamara runs out of his home in Costa Mesa, Calif., is tailored specifically for a Marine audience.



McNamara, second from the left, stands with his fellow lieutenants of C/1/5 at Camp Wilson, Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., in November 1984. Upon completion of IOC, C/1/5 was McNamara's first assignment as an infantry officer.

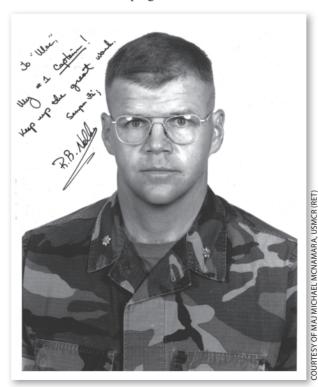
makes the program worth listening to it's even more about McNamara's contagious personality, passion for effecting positive change and a propensity to "tell

it like it is." He is, after all, a Marine—and he proudly quotes a listener who called the program "profane and profound." McNamara is not afraid to ask his guests controversial questions, nor does he fear the conversation going off topic or steering in a different direction. That, he said, is often when the most compelling content occurs.

For the man behind the microphone, All Marine Radio isn't just a job. And it's not as much about his voice, McNamara said, as it is about giving a platform to the multitude of stories within the broad community of Marines, whether active-duty, veteran or retired. His slew of guests, ranging from junior Marines to general officers, authors, Marine spouses, historians and more, lend their voices to tell different parts of the greater Marine Corps story.

"I get out of the way for these stories. It's not mine—it's their story. And I just help tell it," said

McNamara. He's virtually a one-man show, hosting all four hours of programming, which he says is focused on keeping active-duty Marines educated and informed and helping veteran Marines feel



connected to their "tribe" of fellow leathernecks. And not only is All Marine Radio a platform for those stories, it's also an opportunity for him to do what he feels is his part in helping alleviate combatrelated mental health issues among his fellow veterans.

Two years after his 1981 college graduation with a degree in economics, McNamara, unhappy working a desk job, started looking for something else to do. Given his location in Southern California, Marines were all around him—and he found them quite impressive. If he was going to be in the military, he said, he wanted to be a Marine. He was at Officer Candidates School, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., in 1983, when the bombing of the Marine Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, shook the Corps and the entire nation. It was a very sobering start to his Marine Corps career, he said.

McNamara became an infantry officer, first with 1st Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment and later with 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion.

And while the idea for All Marine Radio didn't even enter McNamara's mind until 2015, some of the groundwork took place in the late 1980s when he served as an instructor at The Basic School and Infantry Officer Course, MCB Quantico. It was the part of his life in the Marine Corps that changed him the most, he said. Working for then-Lieutenant Colonel James F. Amos, who later became the 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps,

and alongside captains and majors with names like Milstead, Kelly, Osterman, Furness, Kennedy and Allen, all of whom would later become general officers, McNamara said it was a very interesting time to be at TBS.

"We wrote, we argued, and we were trying to decode, 'How do you teach maneuver warfare?" " McNamara recalled. The group wrote articles, which they submitted to Marine Corps Gazette; they also met monthly to present papers to each other and debate a wide range of ideas. "It changed us," he said of the intellectual discourse he took part in during his years as a young officer. It was precisely the kind of discourse he encourages on his show today—an exchange of ideas that ultimately makes the Marine Corps better.

After leaving Quantico and serving as a company commander with 3d LAR Bn, McNamara left

Then-LtCol Robert B. Neller, who would become the 37th Commandant of the Marine Corps, gave this signed photo to McNamara, who worked for him when he was the commanding officer of 3d LAR Bn. Years later, Gen Neller was the first guest on All Marine Radio.



GySgt Paul Gage, left, and McNamara, right, donned their Santa hats for a Christmas party in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, in December 2010. Gage, who retired from the Marine Corps as a master sergeant, has been a partner in the All Marine Radio project, particularly in the areas of business and sales.

the Corps in 1994. Four years later, he moved to Grand Forks, N.D., and in 2000, he started hosting a talk radio show. The show didn't have any relation to the Marine Corps, and neither did McNamara—until 2002 when, at the request of several influential officers he had served with, he joined the Marine Corps Reserve. They wanted him to come to Iraq.

In February 2003, McNamara deployed to Al Anbar Province with the First Marine Division, where he was the staff secretary for then-Lieutenant General James N. Mattis. The division chief of staff, who McNamara worked closely with, was Joseph F. Dunford, who would

become the 36th Commandant of the Marine Corps and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"I got a view of the war that a lot of people didn't get to see," said McNamara. At the conclusion of this deployment, he returned home to North Dakota and went back to his talk radio show, where he began to bring some of his Marine Corps "battle buddies" on as guests. These segments turned out to be wildly popular among his civilian listeners.

"Their stories are incredible. They're guys who have done stuff. And people love to hear from them," said McNamara, who added that because he's one of them, he doesn't feel the need to be quite as

"Their stories are incredible ... And people love to hear from them," said McNamara, who added that because he's one of them, he doesn't feel the need to be quite as sensitive with his questions as a civilian reporter might be.

sensitive with his questions as a civilian reporter might be.

Once, a combat wounded Marine he invited on his civilian talk radio show told his story about being wounded by an improvised explosive device in Iraq. The Marine said he didn't realize he was injured until he saw smoke coming out of his leg. And, like Marines do, he made a joke about it.

"I'm from Tennessee. I'm not the brightest bulb in the shed, but even I knew that wasn't right," the Marine said, McNamara recalled with a chuckle.

The feedback McNamara got from his listeners was resounding—they loved hearing Marines share their stories.

"They [Marines] would say these hilarious things about being wounded, and people would listen to it and they'd see me places and talk to me and say, 'Can I just tell you something? When you have your Marine guests on, I just pull over and I just listen, because it's the most amazing stuff we've ever heard. It's like, the stories we want to hear but we never get to hear. You have a private conversation and we get to listen,' "McNamara said of his conversations with listeners in the early 2000s.

But during a time of war, talk radio was again put on the back burner for McNamara, who was called back to the fight twice more—in Fallujah, Iraq, in 2006 with Fifth Marine Regiment and in Afghanistan in 2010 with the 1st Marines.

When McNamara retired from the Marine Corps Reserve in 2015, he wasn't



sure what he was going to do but he did know that the typical "9-to-5" grind was not for him. He recalled his talk radio days and remembered the enthusiasm his audience showed for stories about the Marine Corps. That sparked an idea, and he began to wonder about the feasibility of doing a radio program with an exclusively Marine focus.

He took the idea to a friend, Master Sergeant Paul Gage, USMC (Ret), with whom he had served in Afghanistan. Gage, said McNamara, could "sell ice to eskimos," so when Gage told him he thought the plan would work, it was all he needed to hear. The two became partners of sorts—Gage helps on the side with business and sales, and McNamara runs the show, both literally and figuratively.

Using the power of social media to attract new listeners, and tapping in to the right kind of advertisers, like MilitaryBy-Owner, a home advertising site by which military homeowners can sell or rent their

home and the Global SOF [Special Operations Forces] Foundation, mortgage companies and universities interested in attracting veterans who want to use their G.I. Bill benefits, it's been a learning experience, McNamara said.

McNamara refers to the content on All Marine Radio as "varied fare"—there's something for everyone. And while some might wonder if he will eventually run out of content, he's not concerned about that in the least.

"There is no end to the story of the

1stLt McNamara lets his mom, Kathleen, hold an M60 machine gun aboard USS *Ranger* (CV-61) during Fleet Week in San Francisco during the 1980s.

Marine Corps, I've found out," McNamara said, adding that the more he interacts with people, the more connections he makes.

With weekly segments like "Marine Corps History Hour"; "Things I'd Like My Sons to Know Before They Go to War," which has personal significance to McNamara, whose two sons are activeduty Marine officers; "Marine Corps Gazette Hour" and "Transition Thursdays," All Marine Radio features content that runs the gamut of things Marines of all generations are interested in.

The history hour features historical audio, allowing listeners to hear former commandants, Medal of Honor recipients and other notable figures tell their stories in their own words, with their own voices. "Things I'd Like My Sons to Know Before They Go to War" was born out of McNamara's personal reflections when his oldest son was slated to go to Afghanistan with 1st Bn, 7th Marines. During that segment, he invites Marine veterans to talk about one lesson they learned while at war.

"I only let them talk about one lesson—and if they can only talk about one lesson, it's something extremely heartfelt," McNamara said.

He also particularly enjoys having liberal arts discussions on the air with writers from the Marine Corps Association & Foundation's publications.

"I grew up a fan of the *Gazette* and *Leatherneck*. They've been the intellectual developers of the Marine Corps for decades and decades. My idea was to get the writers of the *Gazette* to come on and talk, and to give the *Gazette* a broader forum," said McNamara.

And probably one of the most compelling things, he said, is his Thursday discussion about transitioning from the Marine Corps. He brings on a variety of guests who can speak about the topic from different perspectives. It takes a long time, McNamara said, for some people to transition to civilian life, and

Probably one of the most compelling things ... is his

Thursday discussion about transitioning from the

Marine Corps. He brings on a variety of guests who can

speak about the topic from different perspectives.



McNamara, center, stands with his two Marine officer sons, John, left, and Patrick, right, at Patrick's commissioning ceremony at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Triangle, Va., in 2015. Both following in their father's footsteps; John is a captain stationed at TBS, MCB Quantico, Va., and Patrick is serving with K/3/5.

it can be extremely difficult for some who aren't doing something they love or are passionate about. If your brain is on idle, it can easily go back to a bad place, McNamara added.

"You've got to do something you love. You've got to do something you're passionate about. And if you do, then your life is full," he said, adding that he feels it's his duty to reach out to his fellow Marines who struggle with post-combat related mental health issues. It's a topic he tries to work into his programming each day in ways both subtle and not so subtle.

"If you need help, just plug back in to your battle buddies. Plug back in to your fellow Marines, and like we always have, we'll get you help," McNamara tells them.

All Marine Radio also acts as a platform for other veteran-related causes, and this is an opportunity McNamara doesn't take lightly. Recently, a Gold Star mother, whose son served as a Marine for 10 years before joining the Army's special forces, and was then killed in Afghanistan, was seeking a way to raise the \$7,000 she still needed to finish establishing an endowed

scholarship in her son's name. McNamara invited her on the show, where she had the opportunity to talk about her efforts and hopefully reach her goal.

"We've seen the courage and selflessness of Marines, so to help their families—to be a part of making it better—is something that makes sense to us ... we're building this pipeline in this audience, and now we're going to take this audience and do good things with it," McNamara said.

As he looks to the future, McNamara envisions launching similar programs for each of the military services—All Army Radio, All Navy Radio and All Air Force Radio. He hopes to build a nonprofit organization that, hand in hand with his show, will do more work relative to post-combat related mental health. But for now, he's content to focus on the vibrant, unique culture of the Marine Corps he loves and provide an avenue for the telling of stories and the exchange of ideas that he believes will even further strengthen the unbreakable bond shared by leathernecks across the globe.

How to Listen to All Marine Radio

There are several ways to tune in:

- Listen to the broadcast live at www.allmarineradio.com from your computer or mobile device, Monday through Friday between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. EST (7 a.m. and 11 a.m. PST).
- Visit www.allmarineradio.com anytime and click on the "Podcasts" link on the banner at the top of the page. Each hour-long segment is archived and can be listened to at your convenience.
- Visit iTunes or Google Play, search "All Marine Radio" and download content to your mobile device.
- Download the "Tune In" mobile application, available on both iOS and Android devices, and search "All Marine Radio."

We—the Marines

FFI Course Shapes New Perspective on Training

The Marine Corps' first Force Fitness Instructor (FFI) course concluded Nov. 4, 2016, at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. and graduates received the secondary military occupational specialty of 0919, FFI.

In September, Headquarters Marine Corps announced the introduction of the military occupational specialty (MOS), which was implemented to improve overall unit fitness and health. Fifty students from across the Corps were selected to participate in the initial five-week course, which began Oct. 3, 2016.

"The FFI course is the Commandant's answer to fitness for the Marine Corps," said Gunnery Sergeant Dimyas Perdue, the chief instructor for the course. "It is designed to help Marines understand fitness in a better way."

Daily operations during the course include physical training in the morning, followed by classes and practical application for the rest of the day. Students study

a variety of fitness practices that test strength, endurance and agility, according to Arron Prowett, the strength and conditioning specialist for the course.

"They will do performance tests, and then we'll briefly give them a class on not only the framework, but also how to administer, record and score it," said Prowett. "We test lower body strength, lower body power, agility and anaerobic conditioning to see where they're at and give insight on how fit or athletic a Marine is."

The students learn in-depth about the seven foundational movements of fitness, which are push, pull, hinge, plank, lunge, squat and rotate. These movements are practiced throughout the course to improve the students' capabilities, said Gregg. The course is designed to augment existing training programs in the Marine Corps.

"The program is very scalable and inclusive," said Gregg. "We are not trying to get in the way of what the Marine Corps has already done. We wanted something that can leverage all of the resources we

have and apply them for the maximum potential they have for each Marine."

An FFI is educated on different elements of overall health and fitness for Marines, including nutrition. The course is working to break the mentality that any mix of diet and exercise is beneficial, said Perdue. The FFIs teach how nutrients work in the body, and how proper nutrition enables Marines to train more effectively

The students also learn the fundamentals of injury prevention measures.

"The course prepares them to take a group of Marines and make them as healthy and injury-free as possible while increasing performance," said Sergeant Adam Gregg, an FFI trainer. "There are a lot of preventive steps that can be done that are not being done."

The ultimate goal of the program is to send the newly trained FFIs back to the small unit level, where they will be capable of designing individual and unitlevel holistic fitness programs.

"It doesn't matter what [MOS] you are,"



A student at the Marine Corps' first-ever FFI course perfects his box jump at MCB Quantico, Va., Oct. 6, 2016. The course, which includes physical training, classroom instruction and practical application, is designed to teach a holistic approach to fitness and allow graduates to return to their units to serve as FFIs—instructors capable of designing individual and unit-level fitness programs.

said Perdue. "Your unit is going to have a standardized approach to fitness and an FFI will be able to tailor the unit's training program. This will change the overall perception of how we conduct fitness."

Marines interested in the program should check to see if they meet the prerequisites by reading Marine Administrative Message (MARADMIN) 460/16 and conducting adequate research before applying to attend the course, Perdue added.

"Students should come with an open mind and soak up the information so they can bring it back to their unit," said Perdue. "Prepare as if you were going to give your first class for fitness. Start looking at the information for physical fitness, but more importantly, live it."

Sgt Terence Brady, USMC

Marine Devises Immediate Battlefield Injury Treatment

His hands are greasy from handling oil-stained metal. He works with engines and wrenches, but within him is an idea to save the lives of his fellow Marines.

Corporal Matthew A. Long, a motor transport mechanic with Motor Transport Company, 3d Maintenance Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan, was selected as one of the winners of the Corps' 2016 Logistics Innovation Challenge, Sept. 19, 2016.

The Challenge solicited innovative ideas from throughout the Corps and 17 winning projects were selected from more than 300 entries submitted by Marines, Sailors and civilians. Winners will be teamed with sponsoring government-affiliated laboratories to prototype, experiment and implement their ideas.

Long designed a tear-proof package to sit behind a Small Arms Protective Insert—the ceramic body armor Marines wear under their flak jackets. It will be filled with a clotting agent as well as a pain-killing agent. When the packet is pierced, it will administer the quick clotting agent and the painkiller, thus stopping the bleeding and numbing the pain while immediately treating the body for shock.

"The whole point of this is immediate first aid," Long said.

Long, from Moultrie, Ga., is from of a long line of warriors dating back to the Civil War. Every generation of his family from that point on had at least one person serving in the Armed Forces.

"It is an incredible motivation just to sit there and think about my entire family and I am continuing that legacy." Long said.

Empowering Marines like Long and hundreds of others like him allows the Marine Corps to branch out and exper-



Cpl Matthew A. Long, a mechanic with 3d Maintenance Bn, turns a wrench on a humvee engine at Camp Kinser, MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan, Oct. 25, 2016. Long was recently named one of the winners of the Marine Corps' 2016 Logistics Innovation Challenge for an immediate first aid treatment he designed.

iment, said Lieutenant Colonel Dane Salm, the commanding officer of 3d Maintenance Bn.

The Logistics Innovation Challenge is part of a larger push for innovation across the Department of Defense.

"I know their ideas are fantastic and it is going to transform logistics by leaps and bounds," Salm said, adding that Marines today have knowledge that can change the future of Marine Corps operations.

LCpl Nelson Duenas, USMC

New Pentagon Display Pays Tribute to MARFORRES

General Robert B. Neller, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Lieutenant General Rex C. McMillian, Commanding General, Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North, participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony during the official unveiling of the Marine Corps Reserve Centennial wall display at the Pentagon, Arlington, Va., Nov. 9, 2016.

"The exhibit is meant to be part of



Gen Robert B. Neller, 37th CMC, left, and LtGen Rex C. McMillian, CG, MARFORRES and MARFORNORTH, perform the ceremonial ribbon cutting during the official unveiling of the Marine Corps Reserve Centennial display at the Pentagon, Arlington, Va., Nov. 9,

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one cohesive corridor," said Gunnery Sergeant Elizabeth M. Inglese, project graphic artist for the Marine Corps Reserve Centennial. "It shows 100 years of the Navy and Marine Corps Reserve together."

Even though the centennial was officially celebrated Aug. 29, 2016, the wall was unveiled in November, concurrent with the 241st Marine Corps Birthday.

"A lot of attention is given to the Marine Corps during this time of year, so it made sense to have the official unveiling of the exhibit now," said Inglese at the ceremony.

According to GySgt Brian A. Knowles, project historian for the centennial, the wall portrays the contributions of the Marine Corps Reserve over its 100-year history.

"It does this by hitting the 'wave tops' of the major conflicts the Marine Corps Reserve has been activated for dating back from World War I through Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom," Knowles said.

The display is unique in that there are three life-size images of Marines in uniform that change as you walk by them. As one passes by the exhibit, the uniforms of the Marines change from World War I to World War II to Korean War to modern day.

"I think it is important that you have a display because the decision makers in the Pentagon need to have awareness of the Marine Corps Reserve," said Cori Parker, the project director for the centennial.

Anyone who visits the Pentagon through the Pentagon Tours program will also be able to see the display. "The Pentagon is almost like a Smithsonian Museum in terms of military history," Parker said. "I think it's worth mentioning the significant contributions of reserve Marines for the public to see."

LtGen McMillian, in a speech during the ceremony, stated that the reserve component has been ready to support and augment the active component since its inception during WW I.

"Throughout our history, every one of our units has been mobilized and sent downrange into the fight," said LtGen McMillian.

He also thanked Gen Neller for his support of the reserve component.

"They were ready to go, Commandant," LtGen McMillian said. "I want to express our gratitude and thanks for the support you gave us in the reserve component to be part of the total force, and for supporting our history with the ribbon-cutting of this wall."

While the exhibit highlights past accomplishments, reserve Marines will continue to prepare for future missions for the Marine Corps.

"Reserve Marines have always been there to drop what they were doing in their civilian occupations and go back to being a Marine whenever and wherever needed," Knowles said.

By September 1945, during World War II, reserve Marines made up 70 percent of total wartime Marine Corps personnel. Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 86,300 mobilizations from the Marine Corps Reserve have occurred in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Reserve

Marines have been fully engaged across the globe over the past 15 years of combat operations, serving as the essential shock absorber and force enabler for the activeduty component.

Sgt Ian Leones, USMCR

Renowned Entomologist, Montford Point Marine Receives Congressional Gold Medal

He's already well-known as a research entomologist for his work involving the eradication of fruit flies, but on Nov. 12, 2016, Dr. Ernest James Harris Jr. was recognized for his contributions as a Montford Point Marine.

Brigadier General Brian W. Cavanaugh, deputy commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, presented Harris with a Congressional Gold Medal at Washington Place in Honolulu, Hawaii, Nov. 12, 2016.

"I'm proud to join in the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to Dr. Ernest Harris, the highest civilian award bestowed by the Congress of the United States," said U.S. Senator Brian Schatz during the ceremony. "We are here to recognize the unwavering perseverance and courage of Dr. Harris and his fellow Montford Point Marines that inspired change in the Marine Corps."

On Nov. 23, 2011, President Barack Obama signed legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the Montford Point Marines. This award recognizes their contributions to the Marine Corps and the United States of America from 1942 to 1949.

Many of the Montford Point Marines attended the award ceremony held at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center in Washington, D.C., June 27, 2012. Those not able to attend received the award through the mail or during special ceremonies.

The opportunity for African-Americans to enlist in the Marine Corps came in 1941. A year later, they began their training at Montford Point, N.C., known today as Camp Johnson, during a time and place in which racism and segregation were a part of everyday life. Schatz explained that despite segregation, the Montford Point Marines served with excellence during World War II.

"Anyone who knows a Marine knows they are a Marine regardless of race, religion or creed—and nowhere is this truer than in war," Schatz said. "As one Montford Point Marine recalled later in life, 'a bullet doesn't care what color you are, it will kill you just the same."

Harris explained how he initially thought he could fulfill an exciting career as a pilot or mechanic in the Marine Corps, but ended up cleaning rifles and artillery weapons.



GySgt Brian A. Knowles, left, Marine Corps Reserve Centennial historian, and GySgt Elizabeth M. Inglese, Marine Corps Reserve Centennial graphic artist, place the centennial logo on the display at the Pentagon, Arlington, Va., Sept. 27, 2016.



BGen Brian W. Cavanaugh, deputy commander, MARFORPAC, left, presents the Congressional Gold Medal to Dr. Ernest James Harris Jr., in Honolulu, Hawaii, Nov. 12, 2016. Harris, a renowned entomologist, was awarded the medal for his service as a Montford Point Marine.

"I wanted to get some extra training to be able to get a job and become a professional," Harris said.

After leaving the Corps, Harris finished college using his G.I. Bill benefits. He graduated from the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff with a major in biology and a minor in chemistry. Later, he submitted an officer's package to the Marine Corps but was denied entry due to medical reasons.

Harris earned a master's degree from the University of Minnesota and a doctorate in entomology from the University of Hawaii. He worked for more than 40 years as a research entomologist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is known for developing the sterilization of fruit flies, allowing fruit to be exported all over the world.

"Let us commit to carrying forward your story and the memory of the Montford Point Marines so that we will always remember your service to our great country," Schatz said.

Cpl Jonathan LopezCruet, USMC



Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



"Don't eat it all. It's my birthday."

Submitted by Don Sylvander Cape Coral, Fla.

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

This Month's Photo



(Caption)	 	
Name	 	
Address	 	
City/State	 ZIP	

1-17 **45**



By Dick Camp

Flashes of light filled the night sky and thunderous explosions shook the ground, a combination of sound and light that assailed the senses of Task Force Wolf Pack's Marines as they raced toward their objectives on the Fallujah peninsula. Captain Matthew T. Good, Headquarters & Service Company commander, described the scene as "mind-numbing." Bomb blasts, artillery, rockets and machine-gun fire fused together to produce an effect that overwhelmed the senses. For the men of Task Force Wolf Pack, the scene was straight out of Dante's "Inferno."

Task Force Wolf Pack

In late October 2004, the 3d Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion (LAR) was tasked to provide a headquarters element and one LAR company to support the 1st Marine Regiment's attack on the Iraqi city of Fallujah during Operation Phantom Fury. The commander of 3d LAR, Lieutenant Colonel Stephen R. Dinauer, led the new unit, designated as Task Force Wolf Pack. The task force included Company B, 1st Battalion, 23d Marines; Company C, 1st Battalion, 9th Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team [Co C, 1-9 INF], Combat Service Support Company (CSSC) 113, 1st Force Service Support Group and the 36th Commando Battalion. Reinforced with a scout sniper platoon from Battalion Landing Team 1/4, a Mobile Electronic Warfare Support System (MEWSS) vehicle, and a reinforced squad from the Interim Iraqi Security Force (Shawani special forces) with its U.S. Marine Corps advisors, the task force numbered more than 1,200 men.

Task Force Wolf Pack's mission was multifaceted: destroy the enemy in zone, seal the peninsula, capture Blackwater Bridge (the north bridge), capture Brooklyn Bridge (the south bridge), seize the Iraqi

Seizure of the Fallujah Peninsula

national guard headquarters as well as Fallujah general hospital and prevent anticoalition force reinforcement from the west

Opening Moves

On Oct. 23, in preparation for Operation Phantom Fury, 3d LAR's command element and Co C displaced from Camp Korean Village where the battalion had been operating since its deployment in August. "We departed at sunset and arrived at Camp Taqaddum a few minutes before sunrise," said First Lieutenant Andrew Gourgoumis, executive officer, Headquarters & Service Company. "We spent less than 24 hours there before setting out for Camp Manhattan, an old British base from the 1950s, where we formed Task Force Wolf Pack."

"The base was a classic assembly area. It's where we linked up with Small Craft Company; Co B, 1st Bn, 23d Marines; Team Mech, and the Iraqis [36th Commando Battalion]," said Capt Good.

"Camp Manhattan was an interesting place," 1stLt Gourgoumis said. "It got hit every day [by] a lot of indirect fire—82

mm mortars and 107 mm rockets. A Paladin self-propelled artillery battery was constantly conducting counterbattery fire."

Capt Good noted in his diary, "The enemy was much more active and numerous here. I have been out every day ... and either been shot at or someone I was with shot at the enemy ..."

"There was no shortage of people who are willing to shoot and mortar you," LtCol Dinauer commented dryly.

On Oct. 25, the task force conducted a leaders' reconnaissance of the Falluiah peninsula objectives. "We went up there in a low crawl," Dinauer recalled. "Everyone was very nervous that we were going to get engaged," 1stLt Gourgoumis recalled. "We met a liaison officer from the Army unit that had responsibility for the area. He told us that we couldn't cross a certain north grid line because an agreement was made with the insurgents after the April battle [first battle of Fallujah] that Americans would not go forward of the line." Gourgoumis was absolutely flabbergasted. "He made it very clear to us that we couldn't pass this line."



Terrain model of the peninsula constructed with colored glass and blue tile that the task force used to orient its commanders. 1stLt Gerbracht described it as a "version of a Byzantine mosaic." (Photo courtesy of Task Force Wolf Pack)

The reconnaissance party received medium machine-gun fire from across the river. "Close, but not very effective," Gourgoumis said. "It was high over our heads. I could hear the snap, but it didn't hit anyone." Major Michael Miller Jr. stated, "It was kind of interesting because we got the chance to see the battlefield before we went in."

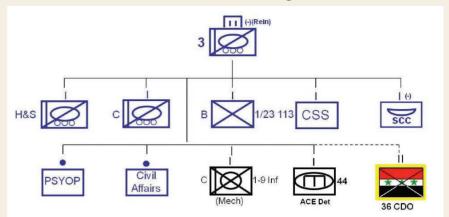
During the reconnaissance, Lt Gourgoumis spotted sandbagged insurgent positions on top of the hospital and the 506th Iraqi national guard building which confirmed intelligence sources' belief that the insurgents had been using the buildings as a base of operations. The Iraqi national guard building was a "substantial two-story structure across the street from the hospital that gave us concern," LtCol Dinauer said, "as it was well-constructed, at least by Iraq standards, and had good fields of fire to the southwest from where we would be attacking ... There was a big concern that the building was either a haven for fighters or it's wired to be blown up. During our planning we requested permission to engage and destroy it ... but our request was denied."

The reconnaissance team Capt Good was with spotted an insurgent weapon across the river adjacent to the north bridge. "The team could not get clearance to "snipe" it because of the fear of collateral damage," he recalled.

On Nov. 3, the assault on Fallujah was confirmed. "Task Force Wolf Pack was to begin operations 24 hours ahead of the main assault on the city," Dinauer explained. The task force conducted a command rehearsal of the battle plan in an abandoned cement building at Camp Manhattan, its temporary headquarters just north of Habbaniyah and 11 miles west of Fallujah. In the article, "Fallujah Peninsula: The Battle Before the War," Capt Chris Sheppard described the rehearsal. "Fifty plus warriors gathered around a [20 foot by 20 foot] terrain model. It was a functional modern art masterpiece, constructed from materials on hand-bricks, broken glass, wire and scrounged spray paint. It depicted Fallujah and its surroundings in striking threedimensional detail."

One by one, the task force officers came forward and briefed their portion of the operation plan. According to Lt Gourgoumis, "LtCol Dinauer briefed his commander's intent and helped everyone visualize the first six hours of the operation." Dinauer stressed, "I wanted a spectacular entrance [up the peninsula]. I just didn't want to creep up there; I wanted to come up there and say, 'We're here, and if you're a bad guy, we are going to kill you!"

Task Force Wolf Pack Organization



TF Wolf Pack (3d LAR Bn (-) (Rein)

LtCol Stephen R. Dinauer

HQSVC (-) (Rein), 3d LAR Bn

Capt Matthew T. Good

Forward CP

HUMINT Exploitation Team 4 (-) (Rein), 1st Intel Bn (DS)

Sub-team, HUMINT Exploitation Team 6, 3d Intel Bn (DS)

Det SMART-T, Comm Co, 1st MarDiv

Mobile Electronic Warfare System, 2d Radio Bn

Gossamer Electronic Warfare System, 2d Radio Bn

Rear Command Post (-)

Co B, 1st Bn(Rein), 23d Marines

Maj Michael R. Miller, Jr.

Sub-team, HET 4, 1st Intel Bn

Team, Scout Sniper Plt, 1st Bn, 23d Marines

1st Plt, CO A, 3d LAR (TACON for Phase 1 & 2; Then attach to Co C/3d LAR)

Co C. 3d LAR Bn

Capt Scott M. Conway

Sub-team, HET 4, 1st Intel Battalion Squad (-) Specialized Special Forces

Co C (-) (Rein), 1-9 INF, 2 BCT

Capt Victor A. Pirak

Plat, Co A, 2-72 AR

Plat, 44 EN Bn, 2 BCT, 2 ID

Plat, Co B 1/23 (TACON for Phase 1 and 2 or until Kurdish Village is cleared)

Sect, Scout Sniper Plat, BLT 1/4

Det, EOD, MWSS 373 (DS for Phase 1 and 2; Then revert to DS to TF Wolf Pack) Team 963, Det 940, Co B, 9th PSYOP Bn (DS for Phase 1 and 2; Then revert to DS to TF Wolf Pack)

Combat Camera Tm, Det Combat Correspondent, HQBn, 1st Mar Div

Small Craft Co, HQBn, 2d MarDiv

Capt Daniel J. Wittnam

Navy EOD Det, FSSG

Scout Sniper Teams x 2, Scout Sniper Plat, BLT 1/4

1stLt Manerian

36 CDO, ISOF Bn, (TACON)

Capt Driver, USSOF

Plat, Co A (-), Interim Iragi Forces (TACON)

Capt Adam Collier

Capt Adam Come

Combat Service Support Company-113 (DS), 1st FSSG

Maj Patrick Sweeny

At 0800 on Nov. 6, Co C, 3d LAR; Co B, 1/23 and the battalion's rear command post deployed to Attack Position 2 (Ammunition Supply Point Rock (ASP-Rock)) in preparation for the attack on the peninsula. The remainder of the task force remained at Camp Manhattan until H-hour on D-day.

Attack: D-day, Nov. 7, 2004

At 1900 on Nov. 7, Task Force Wolf Pack began a two-pronged attack. The main effort, Co C, 1-9 INF, Capt Vick Pirack's mechanized company, followed in trace by 3d LAR's Forward Command Post and the 36th Commando Battalion, attacked along Main Supply Route (MSR)



Task Force Wolf Pack's second objective, the north bridge, also known as Blackwater Bridge or the Contractor Bridge, was named for the two American contractors who were murdered and hung from the girders. It was located adjacent to the hospital.

Michigan to seize Battalion Objectives 1, 2 and 3. Co C, 3d LAR and Co B, 1/23 attacked in company zones along Alternate Supply Route Boston, a hard-surface highway that ran north-south through the peninsula, to establish blocking positions and support-by-fire locations along the western side of the Euphrates River facing the city. CSSC-113 followed in trace of the two fighting units.

Company C, 3d LAR

Within five minutes after crossing the line of departure, Capt Conway's light armored vehicle struck an improvised explosive device, temporarily knocking his driver unconscious. The company continued its attack and had established attack by fire positions facing the Euphrates River along the eastern border of the peninsula by 2200.

The insurgents inside the city immediately opened fire with mortars and 107 mm rockets. "Charlie Company [3d LAR] started making contact right away, small-arms fire, medium machine-gun [fire] and RPGs from the other side of the river and even a little fire from this side. During the night an Iraqi insurgent swam

across the river and threw hand grenades at the Marines until he was killed," said Lt Gourgounis.

According to Company C's 3d LAR after-action narrative, "The volume of fire was fairly consistent from across the river through the night. Through coordination with higher [headquarters], the FAC [Forward Air Controller] began prosecuting targets with F/A-18 Hornets, AC-130H Spectre gunships, and AH-1W Cobra helicopters."

Despite the fire, the company established fighting positions along the river and three vehicle control points on Route Boston to block vehicle traffic from the south. The control points were manned checkpoints on main roads designed to isolate the peninsula. "We let people leave from the peninsula but not from Fallujah," Gourgoumis explained.

"We'd [search] their cars and if they were military aged males, we'd vet them. If we didn't find anything specific, we'd let them go south, away from the peninsula." They were constantly exposed to sniper fire, mortars, IEDs and RPGs.

"One of Co C's LAVs had an armorpiercing RPG pass through the back of the vehicle and out the other side without detonating," Gourgoumis recalled.

GySgt Michael Fincher, the H&S Co gunnery sergeant, and five men were assigned an overwatch position on a small hill that overlooked the intersection of Routes Iron and Boston (Check Point 77) the afternoon before the attack. "We were about 500 meters off the road," Fincher recounted. "Our instructions were to keep traffic moving and report any activity."

The team had a .50-caliber special applications scoped rifle (SASR) with instructions to, "place the first shot in front of the vehicle or in a location that could be seen by the occupants," Fincher said, "If they showed any hostile intent, we were cleared to engage them."

Just prior to H-hour, Capt Pirack radioed the task force commander that he needed more time to fix a Bradley's main gun. Dinauer replied, "It's 1859 (H-hour was 1900), if all you have is the COAX (machine gun), it doesn't matter to me [but] you are crossing the LD in one minute." The young officer acknowledged the order and moved out smartly.

By 2100, Pirack's company secured the western ends of the two bridges (Object-

ives 1 and 2) and started blocking them with earthen berms and concertina wire. LtCol Dinauer explained that, "We had a platoon [2d Platoon, Company C, 44th Engineer Battalion] or so of Army sappers with Armored Combat Earthmovers (ACE) ... the ACEs went to the middle of the bridge with stuff [dirt] already in their buckets. They pushed it out, blocking the bridge and then the sappers went to work stringing wire ... under sporadic small-arms fire." A sign was erected in Arabic in front of the obstacle, "If you come across this barrier, you are going to be shot!"

Dinauer recalled, "Around 2200 I took my LAV-25 and my wingman up to Battalion Objective 2 to check on the operation to secure it ... it's dark as hell, and the sound of small-arms, explosions, and artillery is constant." He dismounted and knelt next to the sapper platoon sergeant watching his men set up the barrier. "Suddenly the old bridge began to rumble ... and out of the darkness an ACE appeared with sappers running alongside. It was quite a sight!"

As the night wore on, insurgent fire intensified. Richard Oppel Jr., a journalist from *The New York Times* reported, "American troops, fighting to secure the western end of the two bridges across the Euphrates River, received intense fire from fortified insurgent positions on the east side of the river." Gourgoumis remembered, "The tanks and Bradleys were getting hit regularly but there was nothing big enough to do much damage."

Forward Command Post

Task Force Wolf Pack's forward command group followed in trace of Co C, 1-9 INF as it attacked east along MSR Michigan toward the battalion's objectives—the two bridges and the hospital. As the column approached the Iraqi National Guard building, Dinauer recalled, "We're in the attack [when] my air officer says, 'We have some Cobras [helicopter gunships] working ahead of us, and they reported taking fire from there."

Dinauer approved an airstrike on the building. "I actually ran the mental calculus in order to approve the strike while traveling along Route Michigan in my LAV 25 following in trace of my main effort. I think they ended up dropping two 2,000-pounders on it from a Navy F-14." Lt Gourgoumis recalled, "The bombs were so close that they made my LAV rock ... it scared the heck out of my gunner." The bombs did not collapse the entire building and the task force was able to place snipers on the second floor.

Gourgoumis traveled with the forward command post. "As we went up, I saw

through my thermals a guy squatting in the olive/palm grove. I couldn't make out who he was and at the time I was so concerned about 'blue on blue' [friendly fire] that I just watched him. After he was no longer in sight, an IED went off. I'm convinced that the guy was the trigger man."

"We did take several IEDs on Route Michigan as we were moving up, but we were able to continue the attack," LtCol Dinauer said.

The forward command post was established in an abandoned three-story meat packing plant about 1,500 meters from the river. According to Lt Gourgoumis, communications antennas were installed on the roof, "and right away we started taking indirect fire ... the insurgents had already identified it as a command post."

Company B, 1st Battalion, 23d Marines

Co B, 1/23, a reserve unit based in Bossier City, La., was tasked to attack up the left side of Route Boston—Co C, 3d LAR on their right—and establish positions along the western bank of the Euphrates River. "The second platoon was attached to Co C, 1/9 specifically to clear out the 30 to 40 houses between the two bridges where the tanks were going to dig in," said Maj Miller.

The third platoon led Co B's assault. "The platoon had the open-backed humvees with boilerplate sides, boilerplate

doors and sandbagged floors," Miller explained. "The remainder of the company was loaded in 7-ton trucks." At one point, the company halted while the platoon cleared several buildings. Miller recalled, "We pulled off the road and were sitting in a ditch when we heard artillery firing from Camp Fallujah. Capt Phillips [forward observer] exclaimed, 'God, Sir, that sounds like short rounds!' We could hear the rounds coming in ... and they dropped right on top of us. We went through a few frantic radio calls and a couple of stern arguments—'No, you are firing on us'—before they ceased fire. We took 13 or 14 rounds but fortunately there weren't any casualties."

The artillery fire was actually a "smoke mission to screen the movement of the Boat Company as they pushed north along the Euphrates," Capt Charles Blume explained. "The M825 [white phosphorus] wedges were landing near the infantry company ... and our cease-fire-check-fire calls were not getting through."

By 0140, the company reached its designated positions and was pretty well dug in. The 3d Plt extended from the hospital down to an intersection that formed a "Y." The 1st Plt stretched from the company headquarters south approximately 800 to 900 meters to tie in loosely with Co C, 3d LAR. Miller established his command post in a large compound—"four of the most beautiful houses" belonging to a wealthy sheik, just across from the task



Task Force Wolf Pack's headquarters, located in this abandoned meat packing plant, was targeted by insurgent mortar fire almost immediately. One round hit a civilian car, setting it on fire. (Photo courtesy of Task Force Wolf Pack)

force headquarters. "It was a great vantage point," he explained, "I could see the entire battle space."

Maj Miller recalled that the 36th Commando Bn flew past his company on its way to seize the hospital. "All hell broke loose—explosions and gunfire—once the commandos secured the place," he explained. "If you showed yourself anywhere around the hospital point, you'd draw immediate fire, and in some cases very effective fire but mostly it was 'fire and forget."

36th Commando Battalion and the Fallujah General Hospital

Immediately following the heavy combat units, two companies of the Iraqi 36th Commando Battalion and their Special Forces advisors in 7-ton trucks and Nissan pickups roared up to the Fallujah General Hospital on the northern neck of land at a bend in the Euphrates River. The commandos quickly dismounted and stormed into the facility. There were two assault forces: Team A stormed the main entrance of the hospital entrance on the west side, while Team B stormed the east side of the hospital. Richard Oppel wrote in an article that appeared in *The New* York Times, "Ear-splitting bangs rang out as troops used a gun-like tool called a door buster, which uses the force from firing a blank .22-caliber cartridge to thrust forward a chisel to break heavy door locks." The Iraqis hustled patients and doctors out of the rooms, flexicuffed them with plastic zip ties, and put them under guard in the hallways.

The hospital search took less than an hour and resulted in the apprehension of five men suspected of being foreign fighters. "A man who identified himself as a foreign fighter from Morocco was wheeled down the hallway," Oppel wrote, "where he pointed out several others he said were also anti-American fighters from foreign countries." The search turned up several Kalashnikov rifles, grenades, anti-American propaganda, and two cell phones that were found on the roof. "Cell phones work fine on the first floor, if you want to talk to your family," the American Special Forces commander said. "It's pretty clear they [insurgents] were on the roof spotting."

Dr. Rasheed al-Janabi, a general surgeon at the hospital, claimed that there were no insurgents in the hospital. "Fighters," he shrugged, "I don't know about fighters." An Iraqi soldier who heard him said, "Doctors from around here are afraid of the terrorists." The only casualty in the hospital takedown was an Iraqi soldier

who accidently shot himself in the foot. Shortly after first light, the 4th Civil Affairs Group delivered emergency prepackaged medical supplies and humanitarian assistance kits to the hospital. Navy Captain John Williams declared the hospital was functional and adequately staffed and well-stocked with supplies. The insurgents attempted to portray the hospital as a monument to American brutality but were stymied when the embedded news media countered with stories about how the hospital was being supplied and equipped by U.S. forces.

Heavy Equipment Platoon

First Lieutenant Robert P. Gerbracht, Heavy Equipment section commander, recalled, "Our insert was very early in the morning on 8 Nov. after one of the spookiest nights I ever experienced. The sky was black and purple with clouds, peppered with minor flashes of lightning ... like something out of horror movie. I remember thinking the 'Muj' [Mujahedeen] in the city must've been terrified. Across the river, there were tracers and flashes from explosions. I remember Marines describing Muj running up and down the banks like ants."

Gerbracht's two armored D-7 and one D-8 bulldozers moved forward to



The Iraqi 36th Commando Battalion and 5th Special Forces Group advisors rehearse the seizure of the peninsula hospital using boxes to simulate buildings. The commandos carried out the mission in less than an hour.

the four-lane south bridge and began digging vehicle fighting positions along the river bank. Captain Chris Sheppard recalled, "The last bulldozer crept by on my left, tracks biting into the pavement as it slowly crawled toward the south bridge. Corporal Joshua Palmer—the dozer's ground guide—walked snugly behind it for cover. He turned and waved, I waved back, watching them march into the soggy night—into hell unleashed."

The two-man dozer team—Palmer and LCpl Jeffrey Lam—traversed a dense palm grove before emerging at the river bank. At some point, the two men switched places. Gerbracht continued, "It was my belief that Palmer took it upon himself to operate the bulldozer and Lam was the one who ground-guided it into the Euphrates. Lam died with all of his gear on, and Palmer died after attempting to save him. Palmer's weapon and interceptor vest were found on top of the dozer's roof."

"It was maybe around 0200," LtCol Dinauer recalled, "when I was informed that we were missing two engineers. At daylight, their platoon sergeant found them drowned near the D-7 which was fully buried in the water, except for the top 18 inches of the armored cab."

Task Force Disposition After the Attack

As a gray dawn broke on the morning of the Nov. 8, black smoke greeted the men of the task force as the city was pounded by artillery and air strikes. Wolf Pack's LAVs, Bradleys and M1A1 tanks joined in, sweeping the enemy's positions with 25 mm and 105 mm cannons. One of the sniper teams on top of a building reported they could see guys with AK47s across the river running for their lives. "Charlie Company was just burning through ammo," Lt Gourgoumis said. "It was one of the reasons our resupply convoys were so busy."

The insurgents were also active. "Fire was coming from the city, as well as pockets of resistance on the peninsula—82 mm mortars, 107 mm rockets, and RPGs," Lt Gourgoumis explained. "We could hear the 107s coming in but the mortars offered a much shorter warning." Two rounds landed inside the compound. "I was actually there when it came in," he said. "One round was a direct hit on a civilian car parked inside the compound that started it burning. By the evening of the 8th, the insurgents had 'dialed' us in pretty good." Capt Blume was even more specific. "Those bastards had us zeroed in!"

Co C, 1-9 INF was on the receiving end of a large volume of enemy fire. There were several insurgent strong points



CSSC-113 Heavy Equipment Detachment D-7 armored bulldozers dug more than 30 fighting positions and defensive berms for the task force. (Photo courtesy of Task Force Wolf Pack)

across the river. The enemy fire was not effective because the tanks and Bradleys were dug in with only the turrets were exposed. The company returned such heavy fire that it requested a resupply of ammunition and fuel.

"We took sporadic small-arms fire and constant mortar fire wherever we moved," 1stLt Gerbracht recalled. The insurgents targeted the bulldozers and even succeeded in spraying one with shrapnel from a mortar round that landed less than 2 meters from the dozer's cab.

Later in the day, a squad from H&S Co was clearing a building. "An insurgent ducked out of a house and fired a burst of AK47 rounds at Gunnery Sergeant [Larry A.] Bivens from only 30 to 40 meters away," Gourgoumis said. "The gunny went to return fire but there were several Marines in his line of fire, so he jumped off the vehicle, chased the insurgent down, and tackled him."

Co B was also active, "clearing all the real estate we owned," Maj Miller explained. He had the third platoon work south and first platoon work north, using the company headquarters as a blocking force. "We picked up several detainees and uncovered a few weapons caches."

The task force detained a number of men during the operation. Capt Joe Bianco remarked, "Most of the detainees were not Iraqis. They were North Africans and Middle Easterners and seemed to be mis-

creants, the dregs of society." Miller shared Bianco's opinion. "The detainees were filthy, strung out and tired. A few were willing to talk but the leaders would give them a look and they'd shut up ... so we tried to identify the talkative ones early and pull them aside." One of the houses in the sheik's compound was used as a handling center until they could be evacuated to TQ for further processing. Gourgoumis said, "When we asked them why they were fighting us, I would say that almost every one that wasn't an Iraqi said it was because they saw the Abu Ghraib [prison] pictures. Clearly it was a huge influencer on foreign fighters."

Small Craft Company

On the evening of Nov. 8, five smallunit riverine craft (SURC) and one Rigid Assault Craft (RAC) commanded by Capt Daniel Wittnam launched a waterborne patrol on the Euphrates River to cut the insurgent rat lines and restrict their freedom of movement. Maj Andy Dietz, RCT-1's information officer, said, "We knew there were rat lines that were coming into the city using the river, so we used the small craft company to close down this avenue." Color Sgt M.R. Tomlinson, a Royal Marine on an exchange tour, reported, "Within 20 minutes of launch, we were at our limit of exploitation. The intelligence we had received, that insurgents were actively patrolling the riverbanks, proved accurate.

Aerial photograph of Task Force Wolf Pack's first and second objectives: the peninsula hospital and Blackwater Bridge.

No sooner had we arrived when the enemy engaged the front two boats from a range of 50 meters. A mix of heavy machinegun and small-arms fire ripped overhead, some rounds striking the gunner's Kevlar plates on the general purpose machine gun (GPMG) mounts, others passing directly through the open console of the craft. Immediately, we returned fire into the building and riverbank positions where the enemy had foolishly tried to take us on. The rear SURCS maneuvered forward and increased our return fire, gradually silencing the enemy." Gourgoumis remembered hearing the fight over the battalion radio net. "I could hear the GAU 17 (M134 Minigun) spinning and spitting out rounds."

In a later action, two SURCs were ambushed. "Rather than attempt to drive through the ambush, the boats turned directly into the ambush," Color Sgt Tomlinson continued. The boat crews returned fire and offloaded two fire teams led by Capt Wittnam and the Royal Marine. "Over the next 48 minutes we were in contact," Tomlinson noted, "it soon became apparent that we were nearly surrounded." The small Marine force was heavily outnumbered and running low on ammunition. "We started taking fire from the left, right and to the rear," he explained. "We decided to call in the SURCs to conduct a hot extraction. We finally broke contact after 68 minutes."

Trouble on the Roads

Small groups of insurgents moved in behind the task force and began peppering it with indirect fire—rockets and mortars—establishing ambushes, and laying IEDs to interdict the resupply routes. "Basically trying to cut us off from TQ," according to Maj Miller.

Capt Good was tasked with leading the resupply convoys from ASP Rock which continually ran into IEDs. "We were doing daily resupply," he explained. "Our vehicles were rolling around with just one quarter inch plate steel, virtually no IED protection."

On Nov. 9, two Marines at the forward command post were wounded by indirect fire. The decision was made to evacuate them by a LAV-L, which was set up as an ambulance. As it drove down ASR Boston, the LAV was hit by an IED. "A young corpsman found himself the only conscious person in the vehicle, everyone else had been knocked out," Gourgoumis explained. "He came up on the radio calling for help. 'I don't know where I am, I



need help!" The machine gunner regained consciousness and, despite painful wounds, took over driving the vehicle toward the ambulance exchange point. The battalion immediately launched rescue forces."

Gourgoumis' rescue force was ambushed as it pushed south from the forward command post location. "The insurgents fired from a house with automatic weapons and RPGs," Gourgoumis explained. "HM2 Rocky Gans from my vehicle and Sergeant Major [Leland W.] Hatfield from the second LAV returned fire. At one point Gans killed an RPG gunner at less than 30 meters with my M4 ... thank God for the corpsman."

Good's force rushed up from the south. As they started to transfer casualties into an ambulance, a vehicle carrying an IED rammed the vehicle and exploded. The blast severely wounded a Marine, two corpsmen and the battalion surgeon. "It was bad," Gourgoumis said. "I was told that Capt Good jumped out of his vehicle and started clearing the street with his weapon, then ripped open the door of the damaged ambulance and pulled out one of the wounded men."

On their way back to the command post, the combined force was ambushed by 15 to 20 insurgents. "The fire came from houses, palm groves, and canal berms," Gourgoumis said. "An RPG hit one of the vehicles and caused a big dent in the turret ring. We didn't stop, just suppressed ... and then turned around and went back to clear them out. The '25s [LAR cannon] seemed to calm them down," he said tongue-in-cheek.

On the night of Nov. 10, Capt Good

was leading a resupply convoy on MSR Michigan. "I ran two sections of 'whiskeys' [AH-1W Cobra attack helicopters] up and down our route. Each time they reported it clear. Suddenly I heard one say, 'Wait a minute, I've got something holding heat." The lead 7-ton truck locked the brakes, hit a four-foot earthen berm the insurgents had placed in the road, and slid off the highway. "LCpl [Justin D.] Reppuhn was killed when the truck rolled over and five Marines injured," Good recalled, "and at the same time we started receiving machine-gun and small-arms fire." A second truck tried to avoid the obstacle and ran off the road into soggy ground.

The convoy Marines immediately returned fire and set up a defensive perimeter. According to the command chronology, "For two hours, Marines of H&S and supporting units (two sections of rotary wing close air support) held the ambushers at bay while they attempted to recover friendly KIA, evacuate friendly casualties, recover mission essential gear and equipment, and defeat attackers." A reaction force from Co C, 1-9 INF was sent to assist the embattled convoy and in the confusion, one of its men was hit in the leg by friendly fire. "Don't worry man," the wounded soldier said to the Marine who fired at him, "it was a good shot." The combined force beat back the attack, but the trucks were not recoverable and were destroyed.

A convoy from CSSC-113 was on its way back on Route Boston when it was struck by an IED planted in a vehicle hulk on the side of the road. The explosion sent shrapnel into a humvee, "blowing

the tires and slicing through the doors ... spinning it 180 degrees," according to Capt Sheppard. Two engineers were killed in the blast—SSgt David G. Ries and LCpl Thomas J. Zapp—and three others wounded.

The insurgents were pushing hard to cut off the task force. "We realized that we needed to attack south along Boston to clear it once and for all," LtCol Dinauer explained. "I attached an Army tank platoon and an infantry platoon from Co B to C Co. Nearly 12 hours later, after numerous meeting engagements, finding over 20 IEDs, and having a Cobra shot down by a SAM, they secured ASR Boston and we didn't have any more problems with the insurgents." The initial report stated that the Cobra, piloted by captains Jonathan E. "Gorby" Towle and Shawn "Gremlin" Anderson, had been shot down; however, although Towle was seriously wounded and Anderson received minor shrapnel wounds, they were able to land the aircraft safely and later it was recovered.

On Nov. 10, Sgt Herbert B. Hancock, chief scout, Co B, 1/23 made "the longest confirmed kill in Iraq so far," Capt Shayne McGinty explained. "... There were some bad guys firing mortars at us and he took them out from more than 1,000 yards." Maj Miller told the sniper to "go

find where the mortars were coming from and take them." Hancock remarked, "We looked out of the spot scope and saw about three to five insurgents manning a 120 mm mortar tube ... one had a black outfit on. I shot and he dropped. Right in front of him another guy got up on his knees ... so I dropped him too." The distance to the two insurgents was 1,050.

Coincidentally, Maj Miller was the victim of a mortar round. He was coming out of the building when he heard the round coming in. "It was a dud but it went all the way through the back of a humvee, hit the differential, and ended up laying on the ground." A second mortar round exploded and threw Miller against a wall. He suffered a concussion but refused to be evacuated. He later discovered that he had also cracked three vertebrae. A third round wounded three of his men.

Relief in Place

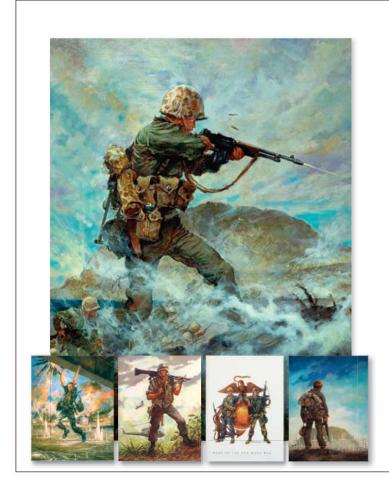
During Task Force Wolf Pack's 18-day fight on the peninsula, five men were killed in action and more than 60 were wounded. By Thanksgiving, the fight in the city had progressed to the point that Task Force Wolf Pack was no longer needed as a blocking force—it had accomplished its mission. LtCol Dinauer praised his men, "As with any battlefield

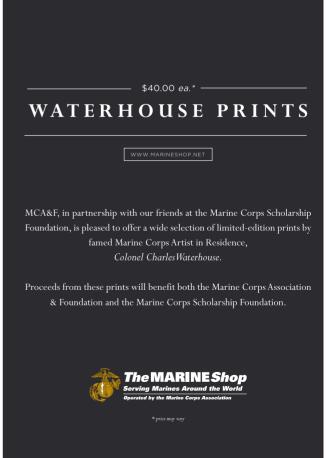
success, the Marines, Sailors, soldiers carried the day!"

"We were done tactically," Capt Good recalled. "We burned our utilities—they weren't suitable for keeping—and retrograded to Camp Taqqadum." Co A, 2d LAR Bn took over the responsibility of the peninsula. Task Force Wolf Pack, minus Co C, 1-9 INF, continued to serve as the fire brigade for Al Anbar Province. After several days of rearming and refitting at Taqqadum, Task Force Wolf Pack, now consisting of the 3d LAR command and support element, Co C 3d LAR and B/1/23, moved to Camp Ramadi to support the fight there.

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," available from The MARINE Shop. He is a frequent contributor to Leatherneck.







Sea Stories

SEA STORY OF THE MONTH

Dominance of Marine Marksmanship

After retiring as a gunnery sergeant in 1968, I spent the next 20 years as owner/operator of my own shooting range.

I began raising money to construct the Illinois Korean War Memorial. You cannot believe the time I spent and the people and places I encountered for the next seven years to raise \$1.6 million: all at no pay.

The final fundraiser we had was at the Abe Lincoln Gun Club, Springfield, Ill. The shooters paid an entry fee, 100 percent of which went to our memorial fund. At age 65, I was quite content to help run the shoot, grade targets, etc., but then I started hearing, "Why ain't the Gunny shooting?" "I reckon the Marines are chicken!" etc.

So, I said, "Enough." There were six events including the aggregate and novelty shoot. I entered all the events.

Two weeks before the shoot, I called the first sergeant at Drill Instructor School, Parris Island and asked if I could buy a drill instructor campaign hat. He said, "We don't sell them. Why do you want one?" I explained the circumstances and said "After I kick their ass. I want them to know it was a Marine that did it."

Without hesitation, he said, "What size do you wear?" I did not disappoint him; I won all six events.

GySgt C.I. Greenwood USMC (Ret) Springfield, Ill.

Roving Patrol

In 1985, I was a member of "Hotel" Company while attending The Basic School at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia. We were barracked at Graves Hall.

One evening I was traveling back to base from a night out with my new girlfriend. As we slowly made our way through the Graves Hall parking lot, we passed another second lieutenant walking among the rows of cars. He wore camouflage

We passed another second lieutenant walking among the rows of cars. He wore camouflage utilities and a helmet and was carrying a flashlight. My date asked, "What's that guy doing?"

utilities and a helmet and was carrying a flashlight. My date asked, "What's that guy doing?"

"Guard duty. He's the rover. He basically walks around the area to make sure there are no problems-no theft, no vandalism, no emergencies, that kind of thing."

She seemed fascinated. "How long does he have to walk around like that?"

"Four hours."

"Four hours! That's a long time!"

"Yes, yes, it is," I said. "I had that duty last weekend."

As we drove past the poor boot lieutenant, she stared at him. "What's that thing on his back?" she asked.

"Oh, that's a PRC-77 radio."

She considered that for a moment, and then offered: "Well, that would help, I guess. Four hours might not be so bad if you can find a good station."

> Jonathan Manis USMC, 1985-94 Granite Bay, Calif.

Fear the Gunny

In 1959, as an "acting" gunnery sergeant and editor of the Parris Island, Boot, I was accepting an Armed Forces Newspaper Award from our Commanding General, Major General Dave Shoup, a Medal of Honor Marine who later became the 22nd Commandant of the Marine Corps. It was fast becoming known to us that the good general was not a great fan of photographers or having his photo taken.

As we were doing the usual "grip and grin," my photographer asked for us to remain in place for a second shot.

"Son," Shoup said, glaring at the young corporal, "If you have to take a second shot, perhaps you shouldn't be a corporal."

Not batting an eye, my photographer fired back, "Sir, if I don't get that photo, the gunny will make me a private first class anyway."

To his credit, MajGen Shoup burst out laughing! The photographer became his favorite.

> Capt Jack T. Paxton USMC (Ret) Wildwood, Fla.

Greek Wine

In early 1963, I was embarked on USS Francis Marion (APA-249) as an 18-year-old private first class with Company A, 1st Battalion, Sixth Marines for a Mediterranean cruise. This was a big adventure and very exciting.

Prior to anchoring for liberty in Athens, Greece, the commanding officer of Francis Marion gave a liberty brief on the ship's 1-MC. One thing that he particularly emphasized was that we should not drink the local wine called ouzo. The chaplain spoke after the CO and he too emphasized that we should refrain from drinking ouzo since it has been known to cause blindness. Our company commander, Captain Bradley Cate, parroted the same information.

Finally, liberty, My liberty buddy and I surmised that those officers just did not want us enlisted guys to have any fun. So we really packed on a serious load of ouzo. That night we got back to our berth and went to sleep. However, the next morning when the boatswain's whistle sounded reveille, we could not see. I got out of my rack and was really scared. I wandered around saying, "Help me, I am blind."

A few minutes later, the lights came on. There had been a power failure. Ships can be dark as a cave when all the lights go out.

> MSgt John C. Feeney USMC (Ret) Fredericksburg, Va.

Marines and Basketball

In 1958, I reported to Marine Air Control Squadron 1 (MACS-1), Marine Aircraft Group-11, in Taiwan (Nationalist China). At the time, Taiwan was involved in an artillery and air war with Communist China over a dispute involving the offshore islands of Quemoy and Matsu. MACS-1, an air control squadron, had set up a radar site on a mountain

near the city of Kaohsiung, and for several months we were extremely busy providing air surveillance and control for Chinese Nationalist and U.S. aircraft.

By early 1959, the air war had de-escalated and we were able to spend some liberty hours in the city of Kaohsiung. We quickly learned that the Chinese were in love with the game of basketball, and the city had many playground sites with basketball courts. The Chinese always welcomed an opportunity to play against us. Some of us had played basketball in school and we invariably won these games. We thought we were pretty good.

In early 1959, several of us attended a security conference at the Joint U.S. Military Assistance Group (JUSMAG) in the city of Tainan. Following the conference, we were enjoying a few beers at the officers' club and became engaged in conversation with a Marine colonel. He told us he was coaching

welcomed an opportunity to play against us. Some of us had played basketball in school and we invariably won these games.
We thought we were pretty good.

a basketball team from a nearby Chinese military base and asked if we would play a game against his team so they could test themselves against taller players playing American-style basketball. We agreed to the game.

Several weeks later, we rounded up our players and

boarded a 6x6. We pulled up to a brightly lit outdoor basketball court surrounded on four sides by bleachers fully packed with loud, excited Chinese soldiers. The Chinese team had not yet arrived so we set up a bunny line and started shooting layups. Suddenly, the crowd roared as the Chinese team ran onto the court. They were dressed in gorgeous scarlet warm-ups with flowing red capes and immediately went into a complicated warm-up drill ending when each player drove the lane for a layup with several slam dunking the basketball. At this point, we knew we were in trouble.

The game started and it was quickly apparent we were completely outclassed. We managed to stay close in the early going due to accurate shooting by Fred Walker who had been a good college player. But as the game wore on, we wore down, and at halftime were down by 15 points. I don't remember the final score but it was a lot to a little. The Chinese soldiers watching the game thoroughly enjoyed the slaughter.

Following the game, the colonel who had set up the contest came over and thanked us for showing up. Then with a wicked grin on his face, he told us that most of his players had played on the team representing Taiwan at the 1958 Asian Games and had won the silver medal.

This happened 57 years ago, but I'll always remember it as the night we were conned into playing one of the best basketball teams in Asia for the entertainment of about 1,500 Chinese soldiers.

Maj John C. Ballantyne Ringgold, Ga.

Old School—New School

When I went to aviation mechanics school in 1960, the Marine barracks at Naval Air Technical Training Center, in Millington, Tenn., were two-story wooden buildings from the World War II era. This made it necessary to have a fire watch on duty after lights out. This duty always fell to the new privates, like me, who were right out of boot camp.

The staff noncommissioned officer barracks was right

"There is a gunnery sergeant up there smoking a cigar in his bunk. I want you to go up there and order him to put out that cigar."

across the street from the headquarters back then. Not only were the barracks dated from the war, but so were the staff NCOs who lived there. These were all old Corps. battle-hardened vets who pretty much lived by their own rules. I was unlucky enough to pull the fire watch duty one night for these men. I had learned in boot camp to keep a low profile in these situations so my first pass through the barracks before lights out went pretty quiet. When I got to the first deck entryway the officer of the day (OD), a young second lieutenant was waiting for me.

"Private," says he, "I was just up on the second deck and there is a gunnery sergeant up there smoking a cigar in his bunk. I want you to go up there and order him to put out that cigar."

"Yes sir," I said knowing that I just got a death warrant.

Leaving the lieutenant standing in the entry way, I went back up to the second deck, and there was the gunny at the end of the squad bay propped up in his rack in his skivvies, smoking a cigar and reading the latest issue of *Playboy*.

He also had a can of beer that he sipped from time to time. I walked up to him, cleared my throat, and said, "Excuse me, but the OD just gave me orders to tell you to extinguish your cigar."

He looked at me over his *Playboy*, took the cigar out of his mouth, and said, "What is your major malfunction, private?"

"Just doing my duty, sir," says I.

"Now you listen to me boy, and you listen good. You go back down there and tell that piss-ant lieutenant to suspend it from his rectal orifice," (or words to that effect). "And dump my ashtray on your way out." At which time he turned back to his reading matter and refreshments.

After dumping his ashtray, I proceeded to the first deck entryway where the OD was waiting. I related, word for word, what the gunny said. The lieutenant told me to carry on, did an about face, exited the barracks, and we didn't see him for the rest of the night. The gunny had another cigar and a couple of beers in peace before lights out

That *Playboy* would be a collector's item today I'm sure.

Cpl Norm Spilleth USMC 1960-64 Minneapolis, Minn.

Do you have an interesting story from your time in the Corps that will give our readers a good chuckle? Maybe it's a boot camp tale or a good old sea story that will have us in stitches? We would love to hear your stories and see any accompanying photographs. Write them down (500 words or less) and send them to: Patricia Everett, Leatherneck Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or e-mail them to p.everett@mca-marines.org. We offer \$25 or a one-year MCA&F membership for the "Sea Story of the Month." Spread the word!

Marine on the Scene

Sergeant Stuart Schulberg at the Nuremberg Trials

By Suzanne Pool-Camp

Prelude: Nov. 29, 1945, ninth day of the Nuremberg trials at the Palace of Justice in Nuremberg, Germany.

At precisely 9 a.m., 20 of the Nazi defendants being tried by the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg were handcuffed by white-helmeted military guards before they were transported from their cellblock to the basement of the Palace of Justice. Then they were herded into an elevator which took them up to the main courtroom. The Nazi leaders were taken into the courtroom in pairs; the first to file into the tiered benches for the defendants were Hermann Goering, the unrepentant Luftwaffe commander, followed by Rudolf Hess, Hitler's former deputy.

A young Marine, Staff Sergeant Stuart Schulberg, was working on adjusting lighting near the area of the defendants' rows of seating. As he was securing some neon tubing with adhesive tape below the top of the prisoners' dock, Schulberg saw Goering walking towards him. He was wearing his pearl-gray Luftwaffe uniform devoid of all rank or insignia. The Nazi had lost considerable weight since he was first arrested in early May 1945.

Perhaps Goering had heard that newsreels of the National Socialist Party were going to be shown during the trial. He said to Schulberg: "Kinema, Nein?" Schulberg later wrote about his brief encounter with Goering: "It is unfortunate, but we must admit that this man's mind was still keen after many years of narcotics and degeneration."

ow did a handsome 22-year-old Marine find himself face to face with the Nazi successor to Hitler? This encounter must have been far from Stuart Schulberg's imagination when he dropped out of the University of Chicago, where he was majoring in journalism, to join the Marine Corps following the attack on Pearl Harbor. After basic training, Schulberg was selected to serve in the Field Photographic Branch (FPB) of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the intelligence agency which later evolved into the Central Intelligence Agency.

His older brother S.W. "Budd" Schulberg, a screenwriter, joined the Naval Re-



Sgt Stuart Schulberg, above, pictured here as a corporal, was a member of the OSS field photo war crimes unit. His brother, Budd Schulberg, below, was a naval officer who joined the unit that worked diligently to find photographs and films that could be used as evidence against the Nazi leaders.

serve and was also assigned to the OSS field photo war crimes team under the famous movie director, Commander John Ford, USNR. The branch was made up of people mostly from Hollywood and included writers, directors, technicians, electricians, cutters and carpenters. The unit initially had 38 officers and 123 enlisted assigned. It later grew to about 600 members from all branches of the military. FPB was about one percent of the total roster of the OSS. Typically, new members of the team reported for duty at FPB's Washington, D.C., headquarters.

Ford's second in command, Navy Lieutenant Ray Kellogg, a special effects expert at 20th Century Fox, was the acting chief of the unit. He selected Schulberg and Daniel Fuchs, a former screenwriter and novelist, to go to Europe to search for German films which could be used as evidence at the war crimes trials of the Nazi leaders. Schulberg arrived in London during June 1945 and from there went to Germany. For the next three months, he and Fuchs hunted throughout Germany for newsreels which showed the history of the Nazi party from the early 1920s through the war years. At the end of the war, British and American troops had been ordered to rescue all the remaining German documents which had been hidden in mines, quarries and basements. Tons of records were shipped to various locations where the Office of Chief of Counsel (OCC) attempted to catalogue the overwhelming mess.



COURTESY OF SANDRA SCH



Hermann Goering, left, on the witness stand, testifying before the International Military Tribunal. He was found guilty at the trial but killed himself before his death sentence could be carried out.

In early August, Budd Schulberg traveled to Berlin where he began to work with his brother and the rest of the FPB team. They worked frantically to find any of the incriminating films made by the Nazis. One of the high points of their hunt occurred when they received a tip about a hidden cache in the basement of a small Berlin film library. There they found 68 reels comprising 11 hours of motion pictures of the Nazi trial of the conspirators who had attempted to assassinate Hitler on July 20, 1944.

Schulberg had the authority to requisition still photographs of Nazi members and supporters. In Munich he found a huge archive of Hitler's personal photographer, Heinrich Hoffmann. Hoffman was cooperative in helping the OSS team to find and organize the thousands of photographs he had taken over the last two decades.

Nuremberg Trials

After numerous postponements, the Nuremberg trials finally opened on Nov. 20, 1945, in the Palace of Justice, a large four-story granite building which was one of the few structures still standing

in the bombed-out town. The second floor courtroom had been appropriately renovated as the stage for the trial. Large windows draped with sage green curtains let light into the dark paneled room packed with hundreds of chattering people.

Elevated on a dais were the judges representing the four Allied countries—the United States, the Soviet Union, France and Great Britain. Each judge wore a black robe except the Russian judge, who wore a uniform. German defense lawyers, also wearing black robes, sat in front of their clients, and to the right were the prosecution teams. Translators sat behind glass booths with a network of wires spreading out like tentacles over the floor. Uniformed U.S. Army Signal Corps men were standing behind cameras on tripods to capture the trial proceedings. More than 250 journalists packed the press box and every one of the 150 seats in the spectators' gallery was filled.

The court opened with the prosecutors reading a summarized form of the indictments. The next day the defendants were called upon to plead guilty or not guilty. About mid-morning, the chief American

prosecutor, Robert H. Jackson stood at the lectern to commence the proceedings. "The privilege of opening the first trial in history for crimes against peace imposes a grave responsibility." He continued, "We will not ask you to convict these men on the testimony of their foes They arranged frequently to be photographed in action. We will show you their own films. You will see their own conduct and hear their own voices as these defendants re-enact for you, from the screen, some of the events in the course of the conspiracy."

The following days of documents and legal briefs were much less exciting until the afternoon of Nov. 29. Following a presentation on the annexation of Austria, things took a dramatic turn. Wearing his naval uniform, Commander James B. Donovan, OSS General Counsel, (not related to the head of the OSS, Major General William "Bill" Donovan) went to the lectern to introduce the 60-minute documentary film, "Nazi Concentration Camps." He explained how the film was compiled from motion picture footage shot by Allied military cameramen as they liberated the concentration camps,



Above: The Palace of Justice in Nuremberg, Germany where the International Military Tribunal was held from November 1945 to October 1946.

Right: Goering enters the defendants' docket of the courtroom at the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg.

including Dachau, Buchenwald and Bergen-Belsen. Then the lights were dimmed and the projector started to roll; horrible scenes of emaciated humans filled the screen.

Schulberg said that the cameras of the U.S. Signal Corps and the British Army Film Units had captured the "most grizzly details of the Nazi charnel houses." The beam of light from the projector high on the courtroom balcony flashed scenes "in a ghastly monotony of torn flesh and obscene death" on the large screen against the far wall.

There was still some light illuminating the faces of the defendants. This had been planned by Schulberg and his team the night before the showing, with the purpose of enabling the prosecution team to see the Nazis defendants' reactions. As Schulberg later explained, "It occurred to us in the Documentary Evidence Section that, with the lights off, it would be impossible to watch the reactions of the defendants to this evidence. We realized we were to be



robbed of a most interesting and even valuable ... experience." The team worked until midnight to install the reflective lighting near the defendants' seating.

Distinguished lawyer and a senior member of the U.S. prosecution team Telford Taylor later wrote: "Even for those who, like me, had an earlier viewing, these pictures were hard to bear The fright-

ful condition of the living and the cascade of naked corpses pushed by bulldozers into an immense burial ditch were wrenching sights."

The effect on the courtroom was powerful. There were gasps and soft sobs of compassion from the gallery. Some of the defendants were stunned—the former head of the Reichsbank, Hjalmar Schacht, turned his back to the screen; Goering and Hess stared at the screen, but without emotion; Walter Funk, former Minister of Economics looked like he was crying; Karl Donitz, former admiral of the German navy, kept jerking his sunglasses off and on in agitation. Julius Streicher, rabid anti-Semitic propagandist, was the only one who seemed entranced by the brutal scenes. The others watched with obvious embarrassment.

Schulberg noticed in particular General Keitel "mopping his lined face with a soggy ball of handkerchief." He looked like "a sad and hopeless old man." Schulberg believed that Keitel cried because that film had "robbed him of his last conceit, his cherished honor as a soldier of Germany."

When the film ended, the courtroom was silent until Judge Lawrence announced an immediate recess. The prisoners filed out, escorted by their guards back to their cells. Hans Frank, Hitler's attorney and wartime governor of Poland, later admitted to the prison psychologist, Dr. Gustav Gilbert, that "everyone sensed there was something horribly wrong [about the killing of the Jewish community during the Third Reich] ... even if we did not know all the details." Goering on the other hand was just angry. He told Gilbert: "They [the prosecution] were reading my telephone conversations on the Austrian affair, and everybody was laughing with me. And then they showed that awful film and it just spoiled everything."

The FBP's next big project was a fourhour film produced by Kellogg and the Schulbergs, entitled "The Nazi Plan," which was a history of the Nazi party from 1921-44, entirely composed of footage shot by German camera teams. On the morning of Dec. 11, the courtroom lights were dimmed and all eyes focused on the movie screen. The defendants were excited by scenes from the Nazi propaganda movie "Triumph of the Will" showing Hitler speaking at the annual party rallies. All of the defendants could be seen in clips from various German newsreels. Although they might have enjoyed watching themselves in their glory days, the film indicted them by proving their participation in the conspiracy to commit war and their commitments to Hitler. After a lunch break, the courtroom camera crew showed the next



half of the film. This session showed scenes of the Nazis' kangaroo trial of those who had attempted to assassinate Hitler on July 20, 1944—the conspirators were abused, humiliated and condemned to death without a fair hearing.

Late in December 1945, their work for the trial concluded, the members of the FPB war crimes unit—including Stuart and Budd Schulberg—were sent back to the United States. After they left, the trial proceedings continued until September 1946. Finally on the first of October, people jammed into the Nuremberg courtroom to hear the verdicts.

As the military guards individually escorted each Nazi defendant in separate

turns, the judges pronounced their fates—12 were sentenced to be hanged, three received life sentences, three received 20 years or less and three were acquitted. Goering cheated the hangman's noose by taking a cyanide capsule.

In December 1946, Schulberg was selected to work with Pare Lorentz under the Civil Affairs division of the War Department to produce the official U.S. documentary about the Nuremberg trials, a film that was intended to be used as part of the re-education/denazification campaign in Germany, as well as to be released in American movie theaters. Lorentz resigned in June of 1947, and the famous German movie producer Eric Pommer

Nazi defendants are seated in the docket during the Nuremberg trials. Front row left to right: Hermann Goering, Rudolf Hess, Joachim von Ribbentrop and Wilhelm Keitel.

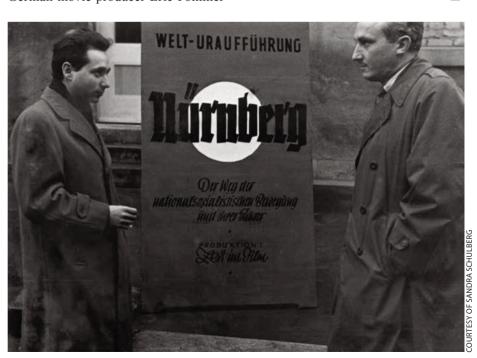
took his place. The resulting film—
"Nuremberg: Its Lesson for Today"—was first shown on Nov. 21, 1948, in Stuttgart and throughout Germany during 1949. The film was not released in the U.S. *The Washington Post* reported that an unnamed government official felt it was "time to forget about the Nazis and concentrate on the Reds." Records indicate that film materials were placed in the National Archives in the 1970s.

In 1950, Schulberg was named chief of the Marshall Plan Motion Picture Section in Paris, which he ran until 1952. He moved back to the U.S. in the mid-1950s to collaborate with his brother Budd on "Wind Across the Everglades," and then moved back into documentary filmmaking. As a co-producer of "David Brinkley's Journal" and producer of NBC's "Today" show, Schulberg enjoyed a successful career producing news and public affairs. He died at the age of 56 in 1979.

Author's bio: Suzanne Pool-Camp has contributed previous articles to Leatherneck. Currently, she is working on a book entitled, "Hitler on Trial: The Nazis Battle Their Opponents, 1923-1933." She and her husband, retired Marine Col Dick Camp, live in Fredericksburg, Va."



The Schulberg brothers, Stuart, left, and Budd, both worked in the OSS film unit.



Stuart Schulberg, left, writer-director of the film "Nuremberg," at the film's premiere in Stuttgart, Germany, 1948. On the right is John Scott, a film officer with the Office of Military Government, United States Element.

Passing the Word

Arleigh-Burke Class Destroyer Named After LtGen Petersen

In a ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., Nov. 9, 2016, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced that an *Arleigh-Burke* class guided missile destroyer, DDG-121, will be named *Frank E. Petersen Jr.*, in honor of the Marine Corps general who was the first African-American Marine Corps aviator and the first African-American general officer in the Marine Corps.

In 1950, two years after President Harry S. Truman desegregated the Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Petersen enlisted in the Navy.

In 1952, Petersen was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He would go on to fly 350 combat missions in various military aircraft during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He also went on to become the first African-American in the Marine Corps to command a fighter squadron, an air group and a major base.

Lieutenant General Petersen retired from the Marine Corps in 1988 after 38 years of service. At the time of his retirement, he was, by date of designation, the senior-ranking aviator in the Marine Corps and the Navy.

LtGen Petersen died Aug. 25, 2015, at his home in Stevensville, Md., at the age of 83.

"The courage and perseverance of LtGen

Petersen throughout his distinguished and groundbreaking career make him especially deserving of this honor," said Mabus. "Those who serve aboard DDG-121 will, for decades, carry on the storied legacy of this Marine Corps hero."

Arleigh-Burke class destroyers conduct a variety of operations from peacetime presence and crisis response to sea control and power projection. DDG-121 will be capable of fighting air, surface and subsurface battles simultaneously and will contain a combination of offensive and defensive weapon systems designed to support maritime warfare including integrated air and missile defense and vertical launch capabilities.

Construction began on the future USS Frank E. Peterson Jr. (DDG-121) on April 27, 2016, at the Huntington Ingalls Industries shipyard in Pascagoula, Miss. The ship is expected to enter the Navy fleet in 2020.

Frank E. Petersen Jr. will be built in the Flight IIA configuration with the AEGIS Baseline 9 Combat System, which includes Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) capability. This system delivers quick reaction time, high firepower and increased electronic countermeasures capability for anti-air warfare.

The ship will be 509 feet long, have a beam length of 59 feet and be capable of operating at speeds in excess of 30 knots.

For more information about the *Arleigh-Burke* class destroyers, visit www.navy. mil/local/DDG/.

SECNAV Public Affairs

Luncheon Emphasizes Networking For Spouses Stationed Overseas

D'Arcy Neller, wife of General Robert B. Neller, Commandant of the Marine Corps, hosted a luncheon for spouses of Marines grades sergeants and below at the Ocean Breeze Enlisted Club, Camp Foster, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan, Oct. 10, 2016.

The luncheon encouraged Marine Corps spouses to network and socialize with each other and to discuss the morale and welfare of Marine families who live on the island.

"When you are stationed overseas, your friends become your family," said Mrs. Neller. "It is important to break that comfort barrier and reach out to meet people that are in similar situations that you are." She added that she has moved 28 times to various duty stations around the world during her 41 years of marriage.

"I love my husband, and because of his passion for the Marine Corps, I feel it is my responsibility to look after the families of his Marines," Mrs. Neller said.

More than 30 spouses attended the luncheon where they engaged in a discussion about life in the Marine Corps, speaking about their experiences and hardships.

"Leaving my immediate family back home was difficult, and moving overseas was even more difficult," said a spouse in attendance. "Sometimes my husband gets deployed, and all I am left with is myself and other spouses in the military community. I make the most of it, and going to events like this gives me a better sense of community."

Mrs. Neller emphasized that the welfare of Marines and their families is of the utmost importance to her and to Gen Neller. They travel to bases around the world to ensure the quality of life and morale of the families is held to a high standard.

"During this visit to Okinawa, I wanted to see the perspective from E-5 and below spouses, and I am so pleased that I did," said Mrs. Neller. "My goal when visiting the bases is to connect with the families and reassure them that we have their best interests in mind."

Cpl Brittany A. James, USMC



This graphic representation depicts the future USS *Frank E. Petersen Jr.* (DDG-121). The *Arleigh-Burke* class destroyer, which is expected to enter the Navy fleet in 2020, is named for LtGen Petersen, who was the first African-American Marine Corps aviator and the first African-American general officer in the Marine Corps.





Marine Dependents Eligible For Free Online Tutoring

Active-duty servicemembers and their dependents are eligible for free services using Tutor.com, an online tutoring site with 24-hour support for subjects ranging from reading to advanced math and science.

When a student logs in, they are asked if they need tutoring, want to upload a paper for editing or need to take a practice test. If the participant requests tutoring, they indicate the subject and a certified tutor will connect with the student to assist.

"Students can use Tutor.com in a wide variety of ways," said Julie Fulton, school liaison at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. "The site can help with setting up a research paper, assisting with doing a report and searching for resources. They can even use editing services or do test preparations for the SATs, ACTs or the ASVAB test."

The site offers Spanish language tutors to assist students whose second language is English. Students can send pictures of homework, assignments or upload documents for class.

"The website offers personalized oneon-one tutoring," said Fulton. "There is even a whiteboard-type classroom where students can write or type problems and can drag in graph paper or math formulas when needed."

Each branch of service has its own contract with the site, which can result Above: D'Arcy Neller, wife of Gen Robert B. Neller, 37th Commandant of the Marine Corps, introduces herself to Marine spouses at the Ocean Breeze Enlisted Club, Camp Foster, MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan, Oct. 13, 2016.

Left: Spouses socialize during a luncheon hosted by Mrs. Neller at the Ocean Breeze Enlisted Club, Camp Foster, MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan, Oct. 13, 2016. The luncheon was aimed at encouraging spouses of junior enlisted Marines to network with each other.

in different requirements for eligibility. For Marine Corps families, authorized students include active duty Marines, dependent children (grades K-12) of active-duty Marine Corps personnel; dependent children (grades K-12) of full-time or deployed Marine Corps Reserve personnel; and dependent children (grades K-12) of Marine Corps wounded warriors or deceased servicemembers.

"Children who are independent and don't want a parent's help can still get quality support," said Fulton. "It allows single military parents and working parents who are not comfortable with a particular subject [to] get extra help for their child outside of the regular school day."

To create a military account or to learn more about the program, visit www.tutor. com/military.

LCpl Tavairus Hernandez, USMC



Books Reviewed

AS GOOD AS DEAD: The Daring Escape of American POWs from a Japanese Death Camp. By Stephen L. Moore. Published by Caliber. 368 pages. \$24.30 MCA Members. \$27 Regular Price.

On April 3, 1946, the eve of the execution by firing squad of Lieutenant General Masaharu Homma, commanding general of the Japanese 14th Army in the Philippines, a man responsible for innumerable war crimes and atrocities, General Douglas MacArthur was furious.

"Slowly but certainly, each evil Japanese military official responsible for allowing butchery and carnage of defeated

opponents, primarily American POWs, is now learning the ultimate cost," he said vehemently. "His savageries against our boys. and those of our Alliance. have shocked the world. His inhumanities have become synonyms of absolute horror, marking the lowest ebb of depravity in modern times. There are few parallels in infamy and tragedy of the brutalization of troops who in good faith had laid down their arms."

Now, with the arrival of the stunning, fastidiously researched, albeit often heart-rending, "As Good As Dead—The Daring Escape Of American POWs From A Japanese Death Camp," the argument can be advanced that of all the American fighting men callously slaughtered by their captors in World War II, none deserve the honors of war in their hour of final agonies more than the 139 helpless prisoners burned alive at the Puerto Princesa camp on the Philippine Palawan Island in the South China-Sulu Sea.

Stephen L. Moore, the author of a variety of Texas history and WW II titles has intricately planned his narrative brilliantly. Every bit of material, from firsthand sources, diaries, letters, court transcripts, and survivors' official statements, all leading to innumerable scenes, vivid words, biographical sketches, and anecdotes, adds to the cumulative effect of the whole—a massacre by dousing gasoline over helpless, emaciated men, then torching them all at once with only a handful managing to get away to tell about it. Palawan, a long rugged spine of an island off the southwest Philippines,

was needed by MacArthur in early 1945 for air bases for not only forthcoming operations in the Dutch East Indies, but also to augment Allied air attacks during the planned invasion of Japan.

Moore details how American forces landed at Puerto Princesa, the capital city, on Feb. 28, ready to fight, only to learn the Japanese had retreated into the high mountains. That afternoon, search parties, hopeful of locating American POWs, instead uncovered one of the worst American prisoner atrocities in the history of U.S. foreign warfare.

Outrage spread quickly as the enormity of it was pondered. The remains of 139

Americans who had surrendered and survived the Bataan Death March in 1940. and later corralled in a Puerto Princesa stockade. had been discovered. The men had quickly been assembled when the Japanese saw Allied troop ships approaching, not to Palawan, but instead for Mindoro. Panicking, Japanese officers ordered that the men, weakened by years of near starvation, be hosed with aviation fuel and herded into

two shallow underground air-raid shelters they themselves had constructed. They were then set afire. Thirty or more

managed to break out but were machine gunned, bayoneted, or shot by rifle fire. Only 11 men survived. Thus, Moore begins one of the truly great escape stories in the history of all the world's wars. The survivors, horribly burned, severely wounded, evaded Japanese search parties for weeks as they scrounged for food and water in the dangerous jungles until they were finally found and hidden by Filipino guerrillas.

There is little question that "As Good As Dead" is an absolute must-read for all Americans—virtually all of us who have never heard of the tragedy or heroic survival of only a few. Stephen Moore has not only provided in fine spirit a priceless chronicle of bravery and courage hitherto inadequately investigated and presented, but also one so concisely, cogently and

beautifully written. It deserves a place in every home where our POWs are revered, lest they be forgotten.

Don DeNevi

Author's bio: Don DeNevi is a frequent book reviewer for Leatherneck, mainly focusing on works about World War II.

THE SILENCE OF WAR: An Old Marine in a Young Marine's War. By Terrance Patrick McGowan. Published by Berkley. 304 pages. \$24.30 MCA Members. \$27 Regular Price.

Once a Marine, always a Marine. That was something "The Silence of War: An Old Marine in a Young Marine's War" author Terrance P. McGowan took to heart. After three and a half years of being a police officer, he decided to join the Marine Corps. McGowan began his career with the First Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

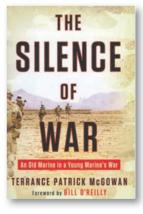
In California, McGowan and his unit trained intensely for a potential conflict against the Soviet Union, practicing in various environments including Marine Corps Base Twentynine Palms to train to fight a war in the desert. McGowan served as a platoon commander but after his four-year initial obligation expired, McGowan decided to return to law enforcement. He left active duty on Jan. 15, 1979, at 29 years old.

McGowan would later retire with 20

years of law enforcement experience including service as a special agent for the FBI. However, even outside the active Marine Corps, he continued to serve his country in uniform. He remained a member of the Marine Corps Reserve until 1992, earning the rank of captain while assigned to 1st Battalion, 25th Marines, 4thMarDiv.

While attending law school in 2001, the World Trade Center was attacked, and

McGowan felt compelled to fight in the global war on terror. He volunteered to mobilize with the Marine Corps Reserve and sought out contracting jobs that would send him to the Middle East—all without success. It was not until 2006 that he was accepted into a team that worked for Marine military intelligence in Iraq. This team included two retired British colonels and other high-ranking retired and active-



duty military members. The job was a stepping stone for the most impactful experience in McGowan's life.

In December of 2007, he was hired as a law enforcement professional with the Marines in Afghanistan. His 20 years of law enforcement experience proved to be vital. His experience allowed him to study the battlefield, investigate improvised explosive devices, and interview the Afghan people to gather intelligence effectively. These skills not only saved his and other Marines' lives but also contributed to the success of their mission as a whole.

McGowan was able to take Afghanistan's living conditions in stride. At the age of 58 years old, many were surprised that he could excel in that kind of environment. During his deployment he fought, suffered, and grieved alongside the Marines, and they soon considered him to be one of their own. The tight relationships he formed during deployment were like nothing he had ever experienced and will be something he will never forget. McGowan was treated the way he always wanted to be: as a Marine.

This is an inspiring story of a man who was unlikely to persevere in a war zone. His story reveals that nothing is impossible.

Matthew R. Vance

Author's bio: Matthew R. Vance is a writing major at Denison University in Granville, Ohio. He is the grandson and son of Marines.

A SEMESTER IN THE SAND BOX: A Marine Reservist's Iraq War Journal. By Adam Davidson. Published by McFarland & Co., Inc. 200 pages. \$18 MCA Member. \$19.99 Regular Price.

Corporal Adam Davidson, a Marine reservist, deployed to Iraq from late 2004 to 2005 and published the contents of the journal he kept while deployed.

Davidson's first-person account provides a valuable snapshot of the Iraqi war. It's not often we encounter such a well-written account penned by one of our country's reserve warriors. When Marine reserve units are activated, they must quickly shift from their civilian posture into an effective and deadly instrument of war

Davidson belonged to "Charlie" Company, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion (CEB). The Marines of 4th CEB were first sent to Twentynine Palms, Calif. for their two-month predeployment training period. While adjusting to the California desert environment, instructors, fresh from the battlefield, trained the eager reservists in the uses of explosives as well as the various types of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) they would

encounter on the battlefield. Davidson's team then deployed to the northwestern part of Iraq known as Al Anbar Province. Al Anbar Province is a mostly flat desert area which encircles the Iraqi city, Ar Rutbah. The engineers' home base was called Camp Korean Village, just outside the city.

Always an enthusiastic reader, Davidson's journal entry for Sept. 17, 2004, notes, "I am dangerously close to running out of the new material and have started reading "Beau Geste," (a Victorian-era

French Foreign Legion novel set in North Africa) which seems somewhat appropriate given where I am."

As expected, the Marines needed time to adjust to the harsh climate. The Marines were tasked with interrupting the flow of insurgents and arms flowing to Iraq from Syria and Jordan; their mission was deemed essential, as the major battle for Al Fallujah commenced. Davidson's integrated team

was made up of Marine infantry, a light armored reconnaissance unit, and the engineers of the 4th CEB. These combined assets, strategically placed, interdicted the enemy's movements along the main road system leading to Ramadi and Fallujah. Daily, the Leathernecks faced the combined threats of IEDs, snipers and mortars, along with the newly evolving suicide car bombers. Periodically, Marines conducted raids into the city of Ar Rutbah. When the grunts called out, "engineers up," Davidson and his fellow Marines moved forward to break through whatever obstacle faced the command. The engineers also disarmed IEDs, destroyed other enemy ordinance, and often supported infantry raids into the Iraqi city.

Davidson's closest brush with death came during October 2004. While on a routine inspection of a cluster of dwellings known as the Melon Farm, a car swerved off the road toward Davidson and the other Marines who were providing backup and security in their humvee. Davidson writes: "Things had gone from being just another uneventful, lazy day in a quiet corner of Iraq to full on war zone mentality in just a few seconds."

The Marines reacted as trained and quickly neutralized the threat of the car bomb and killed the driver. Had this bomb gone off, Davidson and other Marines surely would have been killed. "It finally

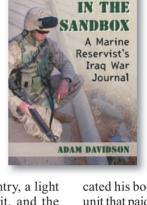
feels like we're in a war," he writes, "and that there are people actively trying to kills us." As time went on, the Marines became experts in dealing with combined attacks and the threat of ambush. Davidson writes, "I'm pretty happy with how I reacted. Once I finally figured out where the fire was coming from, I did what I was supposed to do." Well-trained, he always ran toward the gunfire. He dedi-

cated his book to the five members of his unit that paid the full measure of devotion. Near the end of their Iraqi tour of duty, the reserve Marines assisted in monitoring Iraq's first successful free election.

In his concluding remarks, Adam Davidson states. "There are literally tens of thousands of men and woman who have lived through very similar experiences. Of those many thousands, there are nearly 4,500 who will never return home, or have a chance to tell their own stories. It's to them that I truly want to dedicate this book."

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 SEMESTER



DPAA Works to Identify Remains of Tarawa Marines

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) is in the process of exhuming the caskets of approximately 100 unknown Marines killed in the Battle of Tarawa. The Marines' remains were interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The remains will be identified using a variety of methods, including dental charting matches and DNA testing.

DPAA officials hope to have all the identifications made by March 2019 as part of their mission to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel to their families and the nation.

DPAA is requesting photographs of Marines missing from the battle and since excavations continue on the Tarawa atoll, photographs of the original recovery or burial operations would be useful for analysis. Visit dpaa.mil and select the "Contact Us" tab for more information.

Leatherneck

MSgt Richard A. Pittman

Master Sergeant Richard A. Pittman, USMC (Ret), who received the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during the Vietnam War, died at the age of 71 in Stockton, Calif.

On July 24, 1966, while serving as a lance corporal with 1st Platoon, Company I, Third Battalion, Fifth Marines, during combat operations near the Demilitarized Zone, Republic of Vietnam, he disrupted an enemy attack, saving the lives of wounded Marines in the area.

General Robert B. Neller, the 37th Com-

mandant of the Marine Corps, said MSgt Pittman "showed audacious courage and initiative to protect his fellow Marines."

Pittman's company was operating on a narrow jungle trail when they were ambushed by the enemy. "Hearing the engaged Marines' calls for more firepower ... Pittman quickly exchanged his rifle for a machine gun and several belts of ammunition, left the relative safety of his platoon, and unhesitatingly rushed forward to aid his comrades," according to the award citation.

He silenced the enemy position as he

returned fire while advancing to aid the wounded members of the platoon. LCpl Pittman came under enemy fire from two automatic weapons, which he destroyed.

"Learning that there were additional wounded Marines ... further along the trail, he braved ... mortar and small-arms fires to continue onward. As he reached the position where the ... Marines had fallen, he was suddenly confronted with a bold frontal attack by 30 to 40 enemy. Totally disregarding his own safety, he calmly established a position in the middle of the trail and raked the advancing enemy with devastating machine-gun fire."

Even after his weapon was rendered ineffective, he continued his onslaught. He grabbed an enemy submachine gun and a pistol from a fallen Marine and fired until the enemy withdrew. When his ammunition was spent, he hurled a grenade at the enemy position.

He was presented with the Medal of Honor by President Lyndon B. Johnson during a May 14, 1968, ceremony.

MSgt Pittman retired from the Marine Corps on Oct. 27, 1988..

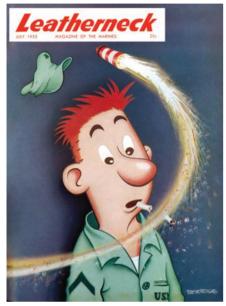
Dan Akee Sr., 96, of Tuba City, Ariz. He was a Navajo Code Talker who served with the 4thMarDiv in the South Pacific during WW II. He saw action in four battles, including Iwo Jima.



MSgt Richard A. Pittman was laid to rest in Lodi, Calif., Oct. 24, 2016. He served with 3d Bn, 5th Marines during the Vietnam War and was awarded the Medal of Honor for his relentless fight against the enemy on July 24, 1966, that advanced his platoon's position and saved the lives of many of his fellow Marines.

Jerry A. Alford, 85, of Westville, Fla. He joined the Marine Corps when he was 19 and saw combat during the Korean War. He was a drill instructor at MCRD Parris Island and a weapons training instructor. He later had a career in law enforcement in the Florida panhandle.

Daniel R. Beekman, 40, of Madison, Wis. After graduating from high school, he joined the Marine Corps and served for four years.



This July 1953 cover of *Leatherneck* was illustrated by Sqt Chuck Beveridge.

Charles W. "Chuck" Beveridge, 90, of Homewood, Ala. He was on the staff of *Leatherneck* in 1948 and returned for a second tour in 1952. He was the magazine's art director from 1954-57. When he enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1943, he was .30-caliber machine gunner. He became a heavy equipment operator in 1944 and fought with the 4thMarDiv on Roi Namur, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. He was wounded on Iwo Jima and saw the American flag had been raised atop Mount Suribachi from a hospital ship off the coast. As soon as he was able, he rejoined the battle.

He had a very successful career in advertising and design. He continued to do freelance work well into his 80s, including creating the layout for the 2009 edition of the "Guidebook for Marines."

CSM Harry O. Bodiford Jr., 93, of Clemson, S.C. He joined the Marine Corps and saw action on Iwo Jima. He served in China until he was discharged from the Corps in 1946. When he returned to Clemson, he helped organize Btry C of the 263rd Air Defense Artillery Brigade of the South Carolina National Guard.

Coy G. Brown, 84, of Glendale, Ariz. He was a Marine who served for 22 years. He was a veteran of the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He was on the Corps' pistol shooting team. His awards include two Purple Hearts.

Sgt James W. "Jim" Brown, 94, in Salt Lake City, Utah. In 1942, he enlisted and served as a tank instructor. He was a tank commander in the 6th Tank Bn when he was wounded on Okinawa. He later served in the Colorado legislature.

Col Edward L. Butler, 93, of Stone Mountain, Ga. He was a Marine who served for 34 years. He enlisted in 1942 and received a commission in 1951. During WW II he served in the South Pacific and in China. His awards include the Bronze Star with combat "V."

LtCol Frank S. Cannon, 87, of Gulfport, Miss. He was a Marine whose career spanned three decades and included service in the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Joseph A. Cichon Jr., 84, Algoma, Wis. He was a Korean War veteran who also was a member of the USMC Silent Drill Platoon. He later attended college and earned a degree in civil engineering.

Benjamin Cirigliano, 91, of Staten Island, N.Y. He was a Marine who fought in WW II. He saw action on Betio Island, Tarawa, with the 2dMarDiv; on Saipan, where he was wounded twice; and on Iwo Jima, where he was again wounded. His awards include the Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts.

MGySgt Laddie L. Coffin, 88, of Des Moines, Iowa. He was a Marine who served for 24 years and was a veteran of the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Daniel V. Conny, 95, of Silver Creek, N.Y. He was a Marine who served in WW II. He received a Purple Heart after he was wounded during the Battle of Tarawa.

Leonard A. DeBona, 95, of Mt. Pleasant, S.C. He was a Marine who served in the Pacific during WW II.

David H. Dorsett, 73, of Southport, N.C. He was a Marine who was assigned to Guantanamo Bay during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He served a tour in Vietnam.

Sgt Michael L. Earley II, 30, of Medina, Ohio. He was a Marine who served two combat deployments to Iraq.

LtCol Harry R. "Tex" Elliott, 94, of Stella, N.C. He was a 27-year veteran of the Marine Corps, serving in WW II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Alfred Grella, 93, of East Hampton, N.Y. He was a Marine who served with the 4thMarDiv during WW II. He saw action on Kwajalein, Roi-Namur, Saipan and Iwo Jima. He was wounded on Iwo Jima. After the war he was a minor league baseball player until an injury brought an end to his athletic career. He later worked for the New York department of transportation.

MSgt Clinton C. Hall Jr., 85, of Fairfax, Va. He was a Marine who served for 30 years. After his retirement from the Marine Corps, he worked in private industry in Fairfax and was an active volunteer for a number of community organizations.

Sgt John R. Hanley, 71, of Kernville, Calif. He was a Marine who served from 1963-67. After graduating from high school in Kansas City, Mo., he enlisted in 1963, and went to boot camp at MCRD San Diego. He was with the 3dMAW at Chu Lai, RVN. He was an active member of the MCL SgtMaj Jack G. Chalcraft Det. #965.

LtCol William C. Holmberg, 88, in Palm City, Fla. He was awarded the Navy Cross for actions in June 1952 during the Korean War, while leading a platoon from Co F, 1st Bn, First Marines. His other awards include the Silver Star.

According to a June 1992 Leatherneck article, "Holmberg had maneuvered his platoon into a full-scale donnybrook at kickin'-an'-bitin' range. Bullets were going off close enough to cause powder burns, and the sound of bayonet steel clashing could be heard over the cursing and screams. Through it all, Holmberg, though severely wounded, led the way. When there was a break in the fight, he refused to be evacuated. He let a corpsman dress his wounds while he issued orders and directed his unit in the attack until the Communists had fled in massive numbers, leaving their dead."

During WW II, he enlisted in the Marine Corps when he was only 15. He completed boot camp at MCRD San Diego, Calif., but his underage status was discovered shortly before his unit left for the Pacific and he was discharged. He later received an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy, and since he needed to improve his grades, he went through boot camp a second time to be entitled to attend the Naval Academy's preparatory school.

He later led men in combat in the Vietnam War.

Joe H. Kellwood, 95, in Phoenix, Ariz. He was a Navajo Code Talker who served in the 1stMarDiv in the South Pacific in WW II. He saw action on Cape Gloucester, Peleliu and Okinawa. His awards include the Congressional Silver Medal.

Dewey R. Moore, 83, of San Jose, Calif. He was a Marine who served from 1953-57. He later had a 32-year career in law enforcement.

1stLt Thomas J. Shanahan, 84, in Roseville, Calif. He was a Marine who served from 1957-1960. He completed law school at the University of Buffalo in 1960.

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SOUND OFF [continued from page 7]

enlistment paper, and the commanding officer of the man concerned was informed of that number."

The procedure differed a little for the officers. The document further states: "In the early 1920s a number was assigned to each officer's file case from an alphabetical listing, thus an officer whose name began with 'A' was assigned number '01,' etc. The system of filing the cases alphabetically was continued. The number was preceded by an 'O' to distinguish it from an enlisted number."

Originally, enlisted identification numbers were called serial numbers. In 1950 the Corps directed they be referred to as "service numbers." Officer identification numbers were called file numbers. On Jan. 1, 1972, Social Security numbers replaced the service (serial) and file numbers as a means of identifying Marines.—Editor

Air Force and Navy Veteran Loves the Corps

In 1966 I was a junior in high school. I stopped to see the Marine recruiter and became very enamored with the duty, honor, and commitment to country of the

Corps. When I told my big brother and cousin, one a former Sailor, the other a former Marine, that I was going to join the Corps, they told me they'd beat me bloody if I did. Since my brother was former Navy, he said, "Why don't you become a SEAL?" and then told me a bit about them. I didn't think they were quite up to snuff with the Corps, but they sounded like something I'd like to do to serve my country. The day after my 18th birthday, I went to see the Navy recruiter, took some tests and, on the advice of my dad, asked if I could become a corpsman. This was in June 1968.

I went to boot camp with a guaranteed corpsman "A" school. My brother and cousin were totally satisfied with my choice, mostly because they did not have a clue where I would head as a corpsman. After corpsmen school, I went to Camp Del Mar to Field Medical Service School to gain my first "B" school designator. I was now a hospital corpsman, an 8404. I found that I would serve with the Marine Corps. Out of 300 corpsmen, seven of us went to Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, not Vietnam. I was outraged. My chief in Hawaii could see that I was headed for trouble so he assigned me to battalion recon. I found my niche and spent the next year in the field with my Marines. Every Monday morning

I turned in a request for orders to RVN.

Finally, in early January 1971, seven of us headed for Vietnam. When I joined a CUPP unit in the village of Ha Nha, a bit west of Hill 55, southwest of Da Nang, I really found my niche. I was a field corpsman with 15 Marines and 30 ARVNs. I'd spent my whole life, up to that point, hunting and being in the woods. I found that I couldn't just be a corpsman, but found that my other skills would help keep Marines well. Marines taught me and I taught them. When we patrolled, I found myself close to point since I could pick up on things that city guys couldn't. Luckily, we had a couple corporals who were on their second or more tour. In short, I became a respected "Doc." The Corps pulled out of RVN in May 1971, and I finished my overseas tour at Camp Hansen, Okinawa. From there I had orders to Underwater Swim School, Jump School, etc., and spent the rest of my 10 years of Navy service in UDT and then SEAL One. I never forgot my Marines.

Out of the service, after combat duty and several years with NavSpecWar, I was again a fish out of water. I tried to find something that would gain me the same respect I had as a FMF combat corpsman. I became a trauma nurse. When Desert Storm started, I again raised my right



LEATHERNECK / JANUARY 2017 www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck



As an Air Force officer, Maj Horsmann was asked as he went through the gate at Luke Air Force Base, Phoenix, Ariz., why he had Marine Corps decals on his window.

Storm started, I again raised my right hand and took the oath, this time as an Air Force officer.

I kept running into Marines. It really hit me one day as I went through the gate at Luke Air Force Base near Phoenix when the gate guard (not anywhere near a Marine gate guard), checked my ID and noted the eagle, globe and anchor on the side window of my truck. "Why does an

Air Force officer have a Marine Corps symbol on his vehicle?" the young airman asked. My response: "Because I was a FMF combat corpsman."

Our readiness office knew of my past experience and used it by having me give classes that were totally in left field for a nurse Air Force officer, but I was still part of the "green machine" and firmly believed that not only was every Marine a rifleman, but that a nurse in the Air Force was an officer first, then your specialty. I'm certain I was the only Air Force officer who wore a gold "Budweiser" (NavSpecWar badge) as well as gold Navy jump wings plus expert rifle and pistol Navy ribbons. I also proudly wore my Vietnam campaign ribbon with the eagle, globe and anchor (can't remember which one was campaign versus service), but even though I thought I hated garrison duty with the Corps, I loved being in combat with Marines.

This helps explain why I put "Navy veteran" on my Marine Corps Association & Foundation application rather than Major, USAF, retired, since it took me the same amount of time to go from O3E to O4 in the Air Force as to go from E1 to E7 as a Navy corpsman. I have a great deal more pride in my Naval service, especially that with the Corps and NavSpecWar, than with the Air Force medics.

Maj Rob Horsmann, USAF (Ret) HMC (FMF, SEAL), USN Sonita, Ariz.

• Doc-Thank you for your service and for everything you did to take care of your Marines. As much as we respect our Air Force brethren, I would bet that every Marine reading your letter





completely understands and agrees with your preference of being referred to as a Navy veteran!—Editor

Eagle, Globe and Anchor On Shirt Collar

Not too long ago I saw a picture of a Marine in *Leatherneck* [October, 2016



Is the eagle, globe and anchor positioned 1 inch or 2 inches from the leading edge of the collar?

issue] wearing emblems on his collar but they were placed differently than I was told was regulation, which was two inches from the leading edge of the collar.

Here is a picture of myself showing that placement. I was wondering who is correct. Can you or readers please set me straight?

> MSgt Carl M. "Bud" DeVere Sr., USMC (Ret) Longmont, Colo.

Guidebook for Marines

I read the November 2016 issue of *Leatherneck*, as per usual, from cover to cover and I noted the history of the "Guidebook for Marines." I have my own story which, when I convey it to other Marine veterans, they look at me with a puzzled look on their face and the most common reply is "no way!"

I began my Marine Corps career at ohdark-thirty on Sept. 7, 1966, when the USMC gave birth to Platoon 3306 at MCRD San Diego. This period of time was when the Marine Corps was frantically building up strength to fight the war in Vietnam and accordingly, our training cycle was shorted to eight weeks. To be honest, I don't know what the standard duration for boot camp was a few years prior but those brutal eight weeks included

two weeks at the rifle range and one week of mess duty. Talk about a whirlwind tour!

When our platoon was issued our basic clothing and equipment, we did not receive a galvanized bucket or a "Guidebook for Marines." Now that I think about it, the Marine Corps must have run out of the book and we just missed getting them. I was ignorant of this incredible tome of Marine Corps knowledge, and it was not until 1999, that I found that the book even existed. That is an incredible 33 years of ignorance being bliss.

Needless to say, I ordered my first copy and I read it like I read *Leatherneck*, cover to cover. I wonder how may Vietnam-era trainees had the same experience.

Sgt John Wear USMC, 1966-69 New Hope, Pa.

I found the article in the November 2016 *Leatherneck* on the "Guidebook for Marines" quite interesting.

My father served on USS Simpson (DD-221) in World War II. Along with several excellent wool Navy blankets, he brought his copy of "The Bluejacket's Manual" home with him and a Navy issue K-Bar in a hard scabbard. The manual has approximately 500 pages and covered everything a Sailor of that time might need to know—weapons including the Lewis machine gun, Naval landing parties, drill, uniforms and how to wear them, large-caliber Naval ordnance and signal flags—every conceivable possible topic of shipboard life.

I spent many engrossing hours reading and rereading the manual. I believe it was a major factor in my enlistment in the Corps as the section having to do with shipboard life didn't interest me at all, but I really enjoyed the parts that could apply to USMC duties.

Of course, my dad couldn't believe I wanted to be a "seagoing bellhop!"

Sgt John Stevenson USMC, 1963-67 Tulsa, Okla.

Have a question or feel like sounding off? Address your letter to: Sound Off, 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.—Editor



Reader Assistance

Reunions

- Iwo Jima Survivors (Marines, Navy, Coast Guard, Army Air Corps), Feb. 16-18, Camp Pendleton, Calif. Contact Dan Zepeda, (951) 201-6251, zepeda012@msn.com.
- 2/3 (RVN, 50th Anniversary of the Hill Fights-881/861), April 26-29, San Antonio. Contact Art Ferguson, (623) 780-1819, clydesdadfergy@aol.com.
- Support Co, 3d Engineer Bn (RVN, 1967-68), September, Rehoboth Beach, Del. Contact A.J. Folk, 215 Sweetwater Lane, Newmanstown, PA 17073, (610) 589-1362, ajfpa@comcast.net.
- A/1/7 (RVN, 1965-70), May 17-21, San Antonio. Contact Gary Hunt, (210) 248-9102, ghunt12@satx.rr.com.
- B/1/5 and C/1/5 (RVN, 1966-67) are planning a reunion. Contact SSgt Jim Proulx, USMC (Ret), (904) 343-4850, bertojotol@gmail.com.
- H/2/7 (RVN, 1965-70), June 22-25, Kenner, La. Contact Dr. David McCann, (504) 909-9972, nopdret@gmail.com.
 - H/2/26, Sept. 10-16, Branson, Mo.

- Contact Bill Hancock, 2748 Moeller Dr., Hamilton, OH 45014, (513) 738-5446, hancockw@roadrunner.com.
- I/3/7 (all eras), April 26-29, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Dennis Deibert, 6007 Catherine St., Harrisburg, PA 17112, (717) 652-1695.
- 1st Provisional Marine Brigade ("The Fire Brigade," Korea, 1950) is planning a 65th anniversary reunion. Contact Col Warren Wiedhahn, USMC (Ret), Military Historical Tours, 13198 Centerpointe Way, #202, Woodbridge, VA 22193, (703) 590-1295, jwiedhahn@aol.com, www.miltours.com.
- Marines Stationed in Holy Loch, Scotland, May 17-21, Dunoon, Scotland. Contact Doug Ebert, (307) 349-3468, lochsailor9@charter.net, or Gerry Haight, (817) 602-0825.
- Parris Island Brig Guards (1976-1979), Summer 2017, Beaufort, S.C. Contact Ken Haney, 26420 Highway 49, Chase City, VA 23924, kenhaney79@gmail.com.
 - TBS, Co K, 9-68, is planning a re-

- union. Contact Jim Stiger, (206) 999-1029, jimstiger@earthlink.net.
- TBS, Co F, 6-79, is planning a reunion. Contact LtCol Tom Conners, USMC (Ret), (919) 303-2697, (919) 418-5757, tconners3 @yahoo.com.
- "Kilo" Co (Plts 277, 278, 279 and 280), Parris Island, 1961, is planning a reunion. Contact MSgt Martin D. Smith, USMC (Ret), 10 Lee Ct., Stafford, VA 22554, (540) 720-3653, martann843@gmail.com.
- Plt 98, Parris Island, 1948, is planning a reunion. Contact SSgt Jim Proulx, USMC (Ret), (904) 343-4850, bertojotol@gmail.com.
- Plt 171, Parris Island, 1966, is planning a reunion. Contact J.P. Kuchar, 33 Sheridan Ave., Metuchen, NJ 08840, (732) 549-6468, jpkuchar@mac.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.



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- 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 431, Parris Island, 1945, is planning a reunion. Contact 1stSgt George P. Cavros, USMC (Ret), (262) 782-7813, gcavros88@gmail.com.
- Plt 1040, San Diego, 1968, is planning a reunion. Contact Stephen Norpel, 206 N. 7th St., Bellevue, IA 52031, (563) 451-8417, snorpel@yahoo.com.
- Plt 2023, San Diego, 1983, is planning a reunion. Contact Jeffrey R. Johnson, 3751 Merced Dr., Unit 4D, Riverside, CA 92503, iri430@yahoo.com.
- Plt 2030, Parris Island, 1965-66, is planning a reunion. Contact John E. Lyford, (518) 654-6073, reniejohn@roadrunner.com.
- Plt 2077, San Diego, 1966, is planning a reunion. Contact SgtMaj Raymond Edwards, USMC (Ret), 100 Stephens St., Boyce, LA 71409, sgtmajedretired@gmail.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.
- Marine Air Control Squadrons (all squadrons), June 22-25, Quantico, Va. Contact Frank Walter, 3465 W. Loon Lake Rd., Angola, IN 46703, fwalter@frontier.com.
- HMM-165/VMM-165 (all hands/all eras), June 8-11, Washington, D.C. Contact Al Dickerson, (317) 462-0733, www.hmm165whiteknights.com.
- HMM-265, May 22-26, San Francisco. Contact George Cumpston, (704) 351-0193, george36691@aol.com, or Tim Bastyr, (770) 304-2290, tmb2sdl@numail.org.
- HMR/HMM/HMH-361 (all eras), Sept. 7-10, Arlington, Va. Contact John Ruffini, (850) 291-6438, ruffinich53@ gmail.com.
- VMFA-531 Gray Ghosts, June 15-17, Quantico, Va. Contact Roman Makuch, (347) 886-0962, or Ray Holmes, (732) 267-0518.

Ships and Others

• USS *Duluth* (LPD-6), Sept. 6-10, Duluth, Minn. Contact John Adams, (484) 766-3715, john.adams@ussduluth.org, www.ussduluth.org.

Mail Call

• Dr. Ian Saberton, 15 Owlings Place, Wisewood, Sheffield S6 4WQ, UK, +44



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114 232 0856 (international), iansaberton @hotmail.co.uk, to hear from LtCol Daniel T. Canfield, USMC.

- John Hannigan, 5523 Sable Ct., Fort Wayne, IN, 46835, naginnahj@yahoo. com, to hear from anyone who was born in or has lived in Allen County, Ind., and served in the Armed Forces (active or reserve); or from anyone whose family member(s) from Allen County, Ind., served in the Armed Forces (active or reserve) between Jan. 1, 1900, and present. His request is on behalf of the Allen County Genealogy Society of Indiana, which is recording the veterans' information for current and future genealogy research.
- John Rodenhausen, (760) 390-7232, john.rodenhausen@gmail.com, to hear from or about **Richard BRANDT**, who served in the Marine Corps in the **1960s** and did a **tour in Vietnam around 1967-1969**.



Harry T.
Kleinman
would like
to hear from
anyone who
knew or served
with Pvt Brent
Alexander
Reeder, who
was KIA in
Vietnam in
1968.

- Harry T. Kleinman, 2381 Carter Rd., Biloxi, MS 39531, (228) 388-1861, htkgulfcoast@gmail.com, to hear from anyone who knew and/or served with Pvt Brent Alexander REEDER, pictured above, an air traffic controller who was killed in action at Quang Tri, South Vietnam, Nov. 15, 1968. He was attached to Det 1, MASS-2, MACG-18, 1st MAW.
- Marine veteran Bill Napier, mo.rebel44@gmail.com, to hear from or about **Jim BYNAM**, who was a **corpsman with F/2/3, RVN, 1965**.
 - John L. "Trigg" Perkins, 1032 Guapo

Taking Care of Our Own



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Rd., Belen, NM 87002, (505) 319-9932, to hear from Marines who served with VMF-225, MAG-31, during the Battle of Okinawa, 1945.

• John Ballantyne, jballantyne5@att. net, to hear from anyone who played in or was a spectator at the basketball game between the Marines of MACS-1 and a team of Chinese soldiers in Tainan, Taiwan, 1959. (Read "Marines and Basketball" in "Sea Stories," page 54.)

Sales, Trades and Giveaways

- George Hill, 3150 NE 36th Ave. #373, Ocala, FL 34479, (352) 575-4508, george.hill1949@gmail.com, has **three** hardbound volumes of "U.S. Marines in Vietnam" for sale, from 1968, 1969, and 1970-71. He will sell all three for \$110, shipping included.
- J.B. Bell, (804) 276-1951, bbeljac@gmail.com, has **Marine Corps uniforms** from 1948-50 for sale. He is asking \$700.
- Bill Kroelinger, (843) 832-8133, mcret03@aol.com, has a recruit graduation book, Plt 354, Parris Island, 1972, which he will give to any member of the platoon.

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

Saved Round



"TO THE SHORES OF TRIPOLI"—This photograph was taken in November 1945 during actress Maureen O'Hara's visit to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. Sitting next to her is the captivated future Commandant of the Marine Corps, Major General Clifton B. Cates.

In 1942, O'Hara starred in the film "To the Shores of Tripoli" which was partially shot at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif. O'Hara's role in the movie was that of a patriotic Navy nurse who develops an attraction to a young, headstrong Marine played by John Payne. Despite the clichéd plot and questionable depiction of Marine Corps life, the film, shot in Technicolor, proved to be a commercial success and helped establish O'Hara as "the Queen of Technicolor." The film also gave the Marine Corps much-needed public exposure and proved to be an excellent recruiting tool as they prepared to fight the Japanese in the Pacific.