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**COVER:** U.S. Marine Cpl Edward Chontos, an M1A1 crewman with Tank Platoon, Battalion Landing Team 1st Bn, 4th Marines, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, guides a main battle tank during Exercise Alligator Dagger, Dec. 9. Exercise Alligator Dagger sustains the Navy-Marine Corps team's ability to be a flexible, adaptable and persistent force through conducting complex amphibious operations originating from U.S. ships that project power ashore or increase the safety of the seas. Photo by LCpl Zachery C. Laning. 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.)*

Enough already regarding the word games about using the proper language when discussing valor awards. Who cares if "awarded" or "won" is used to describe a Marine's action which resulted in a valor award? Don't worry about "the book" and this must be "correct" crap. In 1967 I was nominated for the Medal of Honor. In 1968 I was the recipient of the Navy Cross. I also have four Purple Hearts. It doesn't mean a hill of beans to me if someone refers to me as being awarded or that I won my decorations. There is no military purity in combat—just valor—that's the word to remember. That's the important word.

Cpl James L. Stuckey, USMC (Ret)  
Seminole, Fla.

• *Cpl Stuckey has proven that he knows about valor in combat. He received the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism while serving as a fire team leader with Company C, First Battalion, Ninth Marines, in Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam on July 6, 1967. His citation reads in part: "During one heavy attack, three enemy grenades landed in the fire team's position. Completely disregarding his own safety, Corporal Stuckey unhesitatingly picked up the grenades and hurled them back toward the enemy. As he was throwing the third grenade, it exploded, severing his right hand. Despite the painful wound, he steadfastly refused to abandon his position, and courageously continued to fight and ... refused to seek aid for himself and staunchly repulsed the furious onslaught throughout the night, accepting treatment only when the enemy had withdrawn the following morning."*

*An argument can be (and has been) made for either side of the awarded/received debate. We at Leatherneck strive to be consistent and correct, but it's good to hear someone remind us that whatever verb is used, the bottom line is that the focus should be on the courage, selflessness and, of course, valor of exemplary Marines. Thank you, Cpl Stuckey.—Editor*

## Gallipoli? Where's That?"

In the October and November 2016 issues I saw "Gallipoli? Where's That?"

I knew right away the answer to that question. The details that I recall may not be exactly accurate, but I made an amphibious landing there in 1957 or 1958 with Company F, 2d Bn, 6th Marines.

After our initial beach landing we moved inland about 38 miles on amtracs (LVTP-5s I believe). I'm not positive but I believe we landed with units of the Turkish Royal Marines. I do recall almost having our pants scared off of us when two uninvited Russian MiGs made a low pass over the beach. I saw the big red star on their tails. We were told that a Sixth Fleet support carrier scrambled two of our own who ran the "guests" off.

On our LVT we had a British colonel who came along to observe our operation. He was top notch with a great sense of humor. When we stopped our inland move for the night, my platoon sergeant gave the familiar command, "Okay men, saddle up and move out." To that, the colonel came back with, "I say ole boy, do you have 'hosses' too?" One of our guys made a real point with him by heating up a "spot" of C-Rations tea for him.

I was 18 years old back then and as I look back, it seemed that everything was just another giant adventure. I made a Med cruise three times in three years. On at least one of the cruises, I served under then-First Lieutenant Richard T. Spooner. In 2008 he inducted me into the Private Mess at the Globe and Laurel Restaurant. At 78 years old I wouldn't trade those memories for all the beer in St. Louis. Many thanks to *Leatherneck* and Major Bevilacqua for sparking so many excellent memories. Keep up the great work.

Sam Davis  
USMC, 1956-65  
Laurens, S.C.

## Death Valley

I am writing in regard to your article "Death Valley" by MSgt Herb Freedom, in the November 2016 issue.

Any Marine that wants more information on 1/26 Marines please order a DVD titled "Vietnam War: American's Conflict." I bought mine from Walmart. It shows us boarding USS *Iwo Jima* on the way to Vietnam. After arriving in the Northern Province, we boarded helicopters and made a landing on the soil of Vietnam.

After being involved in heavy fighting all over the Northern Province, we were flown to USS *Duluth* (LPD-6), as Regi-

mental Landing Team 16, Fleet Marine Forces Pacific.

First Battalion, 26th Marines lost a lot of our Marines and as a result, we were assigned to the 1stBn, 3dMarDiv (Rein).

This Vietnam DVD shows President Lyndon B. Johnson issuing the Presidential Unit Citation to the 26th Marines, 3dMarDiv (Rein).

Please run an article on USS *Duluth*.  
Sgt Sam Leonard, USMC (Ret)  
Saltville, Va.

• *Sgt Leonard, we'll see what we can do about an article on Duluth.—Editor*

## Marathon Marines Are Squared Away

I'm an old Vietnam Marine from "India" Co, 3/26, 1967-68. My daughter, Joy, ran in the Marine Corps Marathon 10K this year, and my wife and I went to Washington, D.C., with her. I have never been as proud of the Marine Corps.

I have never seen anything organized any better in my life. I was so proud every Marine I had contact with looked sharp and was very friendly.

If you have never attended a Marine Corps Marathon, you should.

All I can say is Semper Fidelis.  
Joseph "Jody" Hawkins  
Greenville, Ky.

• *Our October issue had two articles on the marathon which detailed the incredible growth of the "People's Marathon" over the last 40 years to include hosting numerous other races throughout the year. The 10K starts a few hours after the marathon begins. The race follows the first 4 miles of the marathon course and also finishes at the Marine Corps War Memorial.—Editor*

## November Cover Photo Brings Questions

When I pulled the November *Leatherneck* from my mail box, the first thing I noted was the sergeant on the cover and his rather extreme position of attention with fist(s) clenched and arms pulled back. I went to my Guidebook for Marines, Second Revised Edition, Twelfth Printing, Oct. 1, 1951, and on page 86 is an illustration of a Marine at the correct position of attention. There is mention of "arms hanging straight down without stiffness so that the thumbs are along the seams of the trousers, backs of hands out, fingers held naturally."

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Further reading brought me to the great article noting 70 years of Guidebook history. I am guessing that the current edition is in accord with the standards that we of my generation did our best to conform to. The lance corporal at the sergeant's direct front also has a clenched fist. I also noted that the degree of chin strap tautness seems to have been optional. Who's in charge?

SSgt Richard Wenham  
USMC, 1952-60  
Hoquiam, Wash.

## Marine Reserve Observation

I enjoy reading all the *Leatherneck* magazine articles. The August and September 2016 issue brought back some memories and observations from this former lance corporal, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. At the time of my draft notice, the National Guard and Army reserve were not taking new members. I was completing my fifth year of college under what I was told was an "S" deferment, which meant I would be allowed to graduate.

After five years of college, I received a draft notice but could not get a job as I was considered draft bait and spending time training me would be a waste of time until I completed my military requirement. My elder brother died as a result of an illness contracted during his service in the Navy and I thought it would be fitting if I joined some form of the Navy but not for a four-year enlistment.

With the advice of a family friend, I drove to Fort Schuyler in the Bronx, N.Y., on July 11, 1960, to enlist in the Navy. After a short speech by an officer wearing what I found out later was the Marine Corps summer service "A" uniform, I raised my hand and was sworn into the Marine Corps Reserve. The explanation was, "the Marine Corps is part of the Navy." We were told to get our affairs in order and be prepared to be called in approximately one and a half months.

After boot camp, ITR and ATR, I was assigned to the 4th Rifle Co., which became the 4th Communication Co., in Brooklyn. I spent the remainder of my six-year enlistment doing weapons training and training as part of a three-man radio communications team, loading and tuning radios, running a bike generator and climbing trees to fix antennas. We also were trained in voice communication using the extremely cumbersome ANGR 9 hand radio; all World War II technology and equipment.

Upon reaching 79 years of age, my memories of service in the Marine Corps Reserve are more clear now than it ever was. I never met so many people who worked so hard just for the privilege of

being able to serve. I compared the total amount of time spent during the six-year enlistment in the Marine Corps Reserve with friends and relatives who chose the two year Army enlistment. Total days over six years including first six months, one weekend a month for five and a half years and six two week summer camps, no weekends included, was 360 days compared with 20 weeks at Fort Dix, two weeks leave prior to leaving for Germany, 20 days leave for two years and weekend liberty added up to 444 days for a total service of one year, 11 months and 18 days. No matter how you cut it, the law of the land says full benefits for the two-year enlistment in the Army and zero for the six years of Marine Reserve service.

I often wonder what it would have been like if I joined a U.S. Navy reserve unit if there ever was one.

LCpl Samuel Berger "S.I." Berger  
USMCR  
Boynton Beach, Fla.

I have enjoyed the August and September 2016 articles on the Marine Reserve.

I enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in December 1942 as a class III officer candidate and lived through the growth of the reserve until retiring from the reserve after active duty in both World War II and Korea, with many assignments and duty stations in various reserve units.

One of the reserve activities was Operation High Desert that took place at Camp Pendleton, Aug. 17-20, 1970. This was an all-reserve exercise, written and executed by Marine reservists. The 8th Staff Group and 21st Staff Group, combined under the command of Brigadier General Harold L. Oppenheimer, wrote the operations plan and the operations order and served as the general's staff during the operation. I was the commanding officer of the 8th Staff Group and was appointed as the Chief of Staff for the 21st Staff Group.

I have read many times about some operations claiming to be the first or largest reserve operation but High Desert is seldom mentioned. The operation was made up of the 4th Marine Division and 4th Air Wing units, plus some selected reserve units as the 8th Staff Group, 21st Staff Group and individual reserves as needed.

According to *The Pendleton Scout*, dated Aug. 21, 1970, there were 19,000 reservists involved in the amphibious exercise.

The original operations order was placed in the library of the 1st Bn, 23d Marines at the training center in Houston, the home of the 8th Staff Group. For some unknown reason, I had managed to keep a copy of the post-exercise report.

It has been a long time since High





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Desert, and people are dropping by the wayside who had a part in this important part of Marine Corps Reserve history. I write this letter to make sure they are not forgotten.

Col Alden O. Bailey, USMCR (Ret)  
Granbury, Texas

### Happy Birthday, My Good Friend

In commemoration of the Marine Corps Birthday, I share with you a poem written by my good friend and Marine buddy, Jerry Kranz. He served with the 10th Amphibious Tractor Bn, Fourth Marine Division on Iwo Jima, Saipan, Tinian and Roi Namur during World War II.

Jerry wrote this poem some years ago, and his daughter Peggy sent it to me shortly after his passing in March 2015. He was a Marine's Marine and is missed, especially tonight on this special day.

I always called Jerry in San Marcos, Calif., to wish him a happy birthday. I know that tonight he is on guard duty at thepearly gates!

*Another birthday for we "gyrenes,"  
Who mostly joined while in our teens.  
We never worried about life or limb,  
Because we totally believed  
"The Marines' Hymn."*

*Some came from the farm and some  
from the city,  
To face DIs who had no pity.  
We pounded the grinder from one  
end to the other,  
All the time wondering why we left  
our mother.*

*We learned how to march and polish  
our brass,  
And combat training to protect our ass.  
When push came to shove, as it  
frequently did,  
A man emerged where once was a kid.*

*To summarize briefly this hideous  
scene,  
A lot goes into making a Marine.  
So, swabbies and doggies, wherever  
you go,  
Just keep in mind who's the star of  
the show.*

*Not ever in your wildest dreams,  
Could you hold a candle to the U.S.  
Marines!*

*Once a Marine—Always a Marine!  
—By Jerry Kranz*

Cpl Bill Pederson  
USMC, 1963-66  
Mauston, Wis.

[continued on page 64]



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# In Every Clime and Place

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

## **TRINCOMALEE, SRI LANKA** **Sri Lanka's New Marine Corps** **Benefits from Expertise** **Of U.S. Marines**

Marines and Sailors of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit and *Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group*, embarked aboard USS *Somerset* (LPD-25), participated in a Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) exchange training side by side with members of the new Sri Lankan Marine Corps at Sri Lanka Naval Base, Trincomalee, Nov. 22-25, 2016.

The Sri Lankan Marine Corps, still in its infancy, capitalized on the time its Marines had with their U.S. counterparts. The TSC consisted of sharing best practices in all facets of bilateral training such as offensive and defensive tactics, officer and noncommissioned officer leadership development, explosive ordnance disposal, physical fitness and Marine Corps martial arts, and developing and evaluating training programs, combat lifesaving skills and maritime interception operations—all of which support progress toward humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness and crisis response.

“Contributing to the cultivation of the Sri Lankan Marine Corps and setting conditions to promote a strong and enduring partnership between the U.S. and Sri Lanka was what we set out to accomplish,” said Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Lundgren, the commanding officer of Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, Fourth Marines, 11th MEU. “The experience we had in Trincomalee with these Marines proved to me our military-to-military partnership in this region will be able [to] work together if needed during a time of crisis.”

Units from the 11th MEU’s ground combat element, logistics combat element, aviation combat element and command element’s Maritime Raid Force (MRF) participated in the TSC exchange.

“The MRF worked with the Sri Lankan Navy’s Special Boat Squadron (SBS), which is comparable to the U.S. Navy SEALs,” said Captain Jared B. Picard, a platoon commander with MRF, 11th MEU. “The training was beneficial to us and the SBS because it allowed us to refine our tactics, techniques and procedures within the three skill sets of specialized insertion and extraction; visit, board,

search and seizure (VBSS); and close-quarter tactics (CQT). The training was beneficial to the SBS because they had never before conducted fast-rope training, and it was an opportunity for them to refine their CQT and VBSS methods.”

The MRF and SBS conducted specialized insertion and extraction techniques training by fast-roping from a 30-foot tower and then from a UH-1Y Huey helicopter. They conducted VBSS with an emphasis on hook-and-climb best practices; CQT; and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) detection techniques.

“This TSC was important to us specifically because it allowed us to conduct hook-and-climb training while underway,” said Picard. “We haven’t done this since our certification exercise, which was our last event prior to deployment. We need to maintain this currency because [conducting VBSS] is a likely tasking we’ll receive from our higher headquarters in the 5th Fleet area of operations,” Picard added, stating that hook-and-climb skills are crucial for maritime interdiction operations during follow-on tasking.

The TSC also provided opportunities

**Marines and Sailors with the 11th MEU, assigned to USS *Somerset* (LPD-25) pictured in the background, conduct a VBSS exercise on a training vessel with the Sri Lanka Navy and Marine Corps near Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, Nov. 24, 2016. (Photo by PO2 Jacob Allison, USN)**



for key leader engagement between representatives from both nations' naval services. During discussions, leaders from the U.S. Marine Corps and the Sri Lankan Marine Corps provided feedback and constructive criticism.

"The BLT leadership reported positive feedback in terms of the interactions between each side's Marines, emphasizing a high degree of enthusiasm and professionalism from both sides," said Lundgren.

Both the U.S. and Sri Lanka have a continuing interest in strengthening their partnership based on common interests related to sustaining maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness, and the security and stability in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

"Collectively we believe NCO and small-unit leadership development will be integral to the progression of the Sri Lankan Marine Corps," said Lundgren. "Allowing for a unit's leadership at that level—at the corporal and sergeant ranks—to make decisions and assign tasks in line with our commander's intent is one aspect of what sets us apart from other service branches. We shared this idea with our Sri Lankan counterparts."

"I learned that the Sri Lankan Marines are very hungry to learn," said Sergeant Anthony Sandusky, a squad leader with "Alpha" Company, BLT 1/4, 11th MEU. "I expected the language barrier between us to be our most difficult obstacle, but they have a good grasp of the English language and an even stronger foundation of military tactics. They were easy to work with on account of their discipline and eagerness to learn. I am grateful to have had the opportunity, and it is an experience I will always remember."

The 11th MEU and *Makin Island* ARG leadership believe that enabling credible, ready maritime forces helps preserve peace, prevent conflict and respond to emerging crises.

"I was most impressed with the Sri Lankan Marines' seemingly mutual desire to train with us, and after getting to know them, I learned we had a lot in common," said Sandusky. "They're very similar to us in that many of them come from backgrounds of prior service with different branches. They had jobs and lives outside of their Marine Corps, but they're just like us because they volunteered—they wanted to be Marines."

The *Makin Island* ARG and 11th MEU are at sea aboard USS *Makin Island* (LHD-8), USS *Somerset* (LPD-25) and USS *Comstock* (LSD-45) as part of their Western Pacific deployment 16-2, which departed from San Diego mid-October 2016.

1stLt Adam Miller, USMC



CPL ALEXANDER MITCHELL, USMC

**Above: Cpl Andrew Bastian, a heavy equipment advisor with SPMAGTF–CR–AF, leads a bulldozer driven by a Ugandan soldier at Camp Singo, Uganda, Nov. 16, 2016. Marines with SPMAGTF–CR–AF taught classes and participated in practical application exercises with Ugandan soldiers during a nine-week training mission.**

**Below: Sgt Joseph Cuntapay, the maintenance lead advisor with SPMAGTF–CR–AF, provides instruction on brake rotor maintenance to Ugandan soldiers at Camp Singo, Uganda, Nov. 15, 2016. Marines and Sailors assigned to SPMAGTF–CR–AF support operations, contingencies and security cooperation in the U.S. Africa Command area of responsibility.**



CPL ALEXANDER MITCHELL, USMC

### **CAMP SINGO, UGANDA Nine-Week Training Exercise Solidifies Partnership Between U.S., Uganda**

Marines with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force–Crisis Response–Africa partnered with Uganda People's Defense Force (UPDF) soldiers during training at Camp Singo, Uganda, Oct. 7–Dec. 11, 2016.

The bilateral training mission in Uganda focused on sharing tactics in a multitude of skills including heavy equipment opera-

tion, mechanical work, motor transport techniques, communication and combat engineering.

"We are training the engineering and logistics element of the Ugandan battle group for deployments in support of peace-keeping missions to Somalia, where they will predominately be fighting Al Shabaab," said First Lieutenant Ty Hubicki, the Ugandan Theater Security Cooperation team leader with SPMAGTF–CR–AF during the nine-week training mission.

Each group of training cadre contained



SGT DONALD HOLBERT, USMC

**TRADITIONS OF THE CORPS**—Gen Joseph F. Dunford Jr., Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, cuts a traditional Marine Corps Birthday cake, marking the 241st birthday of the Corps, during a ceremony with Marines from Weapons Company, 3d Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force—Crisis Response—Central Command in Erbil, Iraq, Nov. 10, 2016. SPMAGTF—CR—CC is forward deployed in several host nations with the ability to respond to a variety of contingencies rapidly and effectively. Even in the most austere of locations, Marines across the globe celebrate the founding of their Corps and observe the traditions that set it apart from other organizations.

Marines who taught proven techniques that would help set the UPDF soldiers up for success during execution of future missions.

“It is good for us to receive this training so that when we are sent on missions we can execute it smoothly,” said Lieutenant Welborn Kwe Odwokariek, a Ugandan motor transport team leader.

As the 13th iteration of the training mission at Camp Singo, the relationship between the Marines of SPMAGTF—CR—AF and the UPDF soldiers represents a long-standing partnership in the region.

“Each iteration has been modified based off lessons learned from past teams and UPDF deployments to Somalia,” said Hubicki. “A unique approach my team

has taken is integrating with the different countries and contractors who also provide training to the UPDF here aboard the camp. It has allowed our students to experience interoperability within their own military and apply their newly acquired skills in a real-world setting. It has also allowed our students to make a lasting impact on base infrastructure and the local community, further building good relations.”

By working together, Marines and UPDF soldiers improve their individual abilities as well as build a stronger partnership, which will increase interoperability for future operations.

Cpl Alexander Mitchell, USMC

### **TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIF.** **1/7 Takes on Challenge,** **Completes CALFEX at Night**

On a cool autumn night in the southern Mojave Desert, a chill settles over the Marines of 1st Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment. The only visibility comes from the pale moonlight. A palpable silence settles over the Marines. Then, as quickly as lightning strikes, a breaching charge explodes—rupturing the tranquility with a litany of mortars launching and machine guns firing.

Marines with 1/7 assaulted through Range 400 as part of their nighttime combined-arms live fire exercise at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Nov. 16, 2016.

Range 400 is designed to provide a reinforced rifle company with the opportunity to conduct deliberate offensive operations and integrate heavy machine guns, 81 mm mortars, scout snipers and combat engineers against a fortified position.

“Every infantry unit in the Marine Corps that comes here for Integrated Training Exercise runs Range 400 during the day,” said Gunnery Sergeant Michael Kroll, assistant operations chief, 1/7. “We own the night and doing a CALFEX without light as an infantry unit correlates directly to real life. If you look at the biggest operations that the Marine Corps has conducted in the past 15 years, like Operation Phantom Fury or the Battle of Marjah [Operation Moshtarak], the Marines kicked off the assault at night.”

The Marines commenced the exercise by walking through a terrain model of the area and planned out their assault on a small, accurate scale. Once the planning phase was complete, the Marines waited for the cloak of night to begin their assault.

“We can do CALFEXs all day long,” Kroll said. “But doing them at night poses an added challenge. The Marines who carry out the assault in a condensed area



CPL JULIO MCGRAW, USMC

**Machine gunners with 1/7 fire an M240B medium machine gun at a target at Range 400, MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., during the unit's nighttime CALFEX, Nov. 16, 2016. Conducting the exercise at night rather than during the day presented additional challenges that helped the 1/7 Marines improve and enhance their skills.**

with little light, using night vision goggles, definitely are a testament to this unit's proficiency. There is nothing special about what we did—it's more so the fact of where the unit is now with proficiency and their comfort level of the fundamental skills."

According to Captain Levi Hofts, intelligence officer, 1/7, the greatest challenges during the exercise were working in a non-illuminated area and coordinating all assets like machine guns and mortars, all while incorporating overhead fires as rifle companies maneuvered beneath them.

"At all levels there is a lot to be gained, all the way from the young [privates first class] to the officers coordinating the attack," Kroll said. "For officers, it validates their standard operating procedures and the more the young Marines do here, the more comfortable they are going to be if and when they are called upon to do it in real life."

Cpl Julio McGraw, USMC

### **CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. 3/6 Marines Strengthen Riot Control Techniques**

Sirens blared and the aroma of pepper spray lingered in the air as batons and cones flew at a platoon of heavily armored Marines taking their first step into the final exercise arena.

**Leathernecks with 3/6 push through a simulated riot during the final exercise of the non-lethal weapons training course at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., Nov. 18, 2016. The predeployment training exercise helped prepare the Marines for their upcoming deployment with the 24th MEU.**

Marines with Battalion Landing Team 3d Battalion, Sixth Marine Regiment, with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit participated in a non-lethal weapons course at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Nov. 18, 2016.

"Non-lethal weapons training is very important for us, especially when we don't know what kind of contingency could arise overseas," said First Lieutenant Matthew George, a platoon commander with "Lima" Company, 3/6. "We need to know how to react to different situations across the warfare spectrum, whether it is a non-violent protest or a block-three affair where we are conducting full-on combat operations."

Non-lethal weapons training is a two-week course provided by the Expeditionary

Operations Training Group and designed to teach Marines how to control riots and violent protestors.

"Teamwork is essential because you don't know if there will be flash bangs, loud music from the rioters, or anything else that adds to the fog of war," said Lance Corporal Karin Garcia, an automatic rifleman with 3/6. "Communication and teamwork build unit cohesion," he added.

During the first week, the Marines were exposed to various munitions systems, as well as the effects of electroshock weapons and oleoresin capsicum (pepper spray). They also learned about escalation of force and the rules of engagement according to Sergeant Christopher Williams, a non-lethal weapons instructor with EOTG.

In the second week of the training, they were taught shield formations while instructors applied more situational stress to allow the Marines to get accustomed to working in chaotic environments.

"There are different scenarios set up with aggressors charging the shield line and telling the Marines to go away, and another where peaceful protestors block the Marines' path, demanding food and water," said Williams.

Overall, the final exercise took an hour and 20 minutes to complete, leaving the Marines bruised and exhausted. With sirens still blaring, the range was filled with green smoke, and every few steps the Marines advanced, a loud flash bang would release a plume of white smoke in front of them.

"The training was very intense and very realistic," described George. "It put the Marines through a lot of different situations where they had to react quickly and keep a calm and cool composure. The instructors did a great job today of facilitating that. [They] pushed us through



LCPL VICTORIA ROSS, USMC

a long course with a live-fire [range] at the end, which was the culminating event.”

The leathernecks of 3/6 handled the stress and exhaustion very well and ultimately accomplished the mission.

“I think the Marines did spectacular. The NCO leadership was right up front and taking charge, directing their Marines and keeping the platoon calm the entire time,” said George. “I think that was the key to our success. It allowed decisions to be made faster and execution much clearer and more concise.”

LCpl Victoria Ross, USMC

### **USS MESA VERDE, AT SEA** **24th MEU Marines, Sailors** **Rehearse Strait Transit Defense**

Marines with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit and Sailors aboard USS *Mesa Verde* (LPD-19) conducted a defense of the amphibious task force (DATF) drill during a strait transit as part of their three-week Amphibious Ready Group Marine Expeditionary Unit exercise (ARGMEUEX), Dec. 13, 2016.

The ship conducts strait transits when it passes through a narrow body of water such as a channel or canal or anytime the ship is bounded by land on both sides. During this time, the *Bataan* Amphibious Ready Group, which consists of USS *Bataan* (LHD-5), USS *Mesa Verde* and USS *Carter Hall* (LSD-50), positions itself into “ARG form one,” in which the ships align vertically.

As the ship commences a strait transit, the vessel is placed in a heightened security posture. The Navy’s small-caliber arms

team is employed and Marines are sent to augment and reinforce the Sailors for DATF. Both Marines and Sailors man weapons systems to provide security for all directions of the ship.

“We simulate being overseas and practice now so we know how we’re going to react versus not knowing what to do when we’re deployed and have a real threat,” said Lieutenant Junior Grade Gabriella Davida, USN, a surface warfare officer with *Mesa Verde*.

The time it takes for a ship to travel a strait may vary, but for simulated exercises, it usually lasts about three or four hours. Within that time, the ship will face several scenarios. Fast-attack crafts and fast-inbound-attack crafts engage the vessel to see how Marines and Sailors will respond.

“Being able to make and learn from our mistakes during these scenarios will pay off huge in the end,” said First Lieutenant Benjamin Zeiss, a combined anti-armor team commander with Weapons Company, 3d Battalion, Sixth Marine Regiment. “What we take away from this training will make us more efficient for deployment.”

While Marines are disembarked from a vessel, the Sailors onboard are responsible for protecting the ship. While Marines are on aboard, they provide an extra layer of defense. Even while Marines and Sailors are being employed together, there is still a lot they can learn from each other. Marines are specifically trained on their weapon systems, whereas Sailors that are part of small craft action teams (SCAT) take on the position as a collateral duty.

“Most of our SCAT members belong to other divisions and are trained and fully qualified on the weapon systems, but are not subject-matter experts,” said LTJG Davida. “We’re definitely using the Marines to our advantage as far as learning from them and having them as that support element.”

Depending on the threat level detected, the ship’s commanding officer determines what type of DATF package is necessary. These packages—heavy, medium and light—provide flexibility for the commander. Each package varies on the amount of Marines it provides as well as the types of weapon systems they bring to the table. In addition to tying into and complementing naval assets, the MEU utilizes its aviation combat element for observation and information collection of foreign vessels. Aircraft are often the first to know the origin of the craft and whether it’s armed with weapons or not. For these reasons, communication with pilots is vital.

Marines and Sailors conducted the DATG drill as part of the three-week ARGMEUEX during which they had already conducted two other simulated strait transits. Throughout the training evolution, the ARG and MEU completed a wide range of operations and scenarios, improving their overall ability to conduct amphibious warfare operations with each other.

“These Marines have shown me they work like a well-oiled machine,” said Davida. “You would think we’ve been underway together for months, and we’re only going to get better from here on out.”

ARGMEUEX, as an Expeditionary Operations Training Group (EOTG) exercise, evaluates the Marines’ ability to conduct missions and refines the unit’s standard operating procedures. By completing these mission-essential tasks, the unit becomes certified and is capable of conducting missions on their upcoming deployment.

“I have 100 percent confidence in my Marines and their abilities to operate in a deployed environment,” said Zeiss. “You train and train and train, and at some point you’re ready to play in the game.”

These EOTG-led exercises, part of the predeployment work-ups, enable the MEU to demonstrate its capabilities and see where it stands as an expeditionary force. ARGMEUEX was the 24th MEU’s third work-up leading to their final exercise, the composite training unit exercise, which was scheduled to occur in January. The 24th MEU is slated to deploy in early 2017.

Cpl Brianna Gaudi, USMC



CPL BRIANNA GAUDI, USMC

**LCpl Ernesto Gonzalez, an artilleryman with 3/6, 24th MEU, provides security aboard USS *Mesa Verde* (LPD-19) during a simulated strait transit and DATF mission. The training was part of the three-week ARGMEUEX, which requires Marines to tackle a wide range of operations and scenarios with their Navy counterparts.**

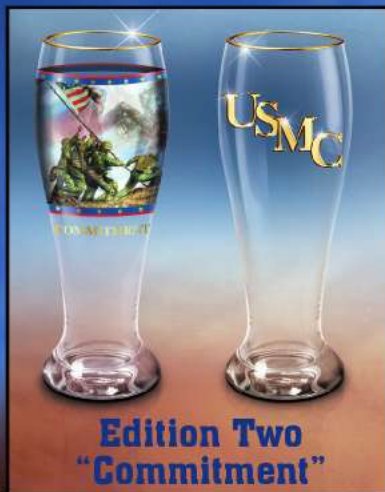




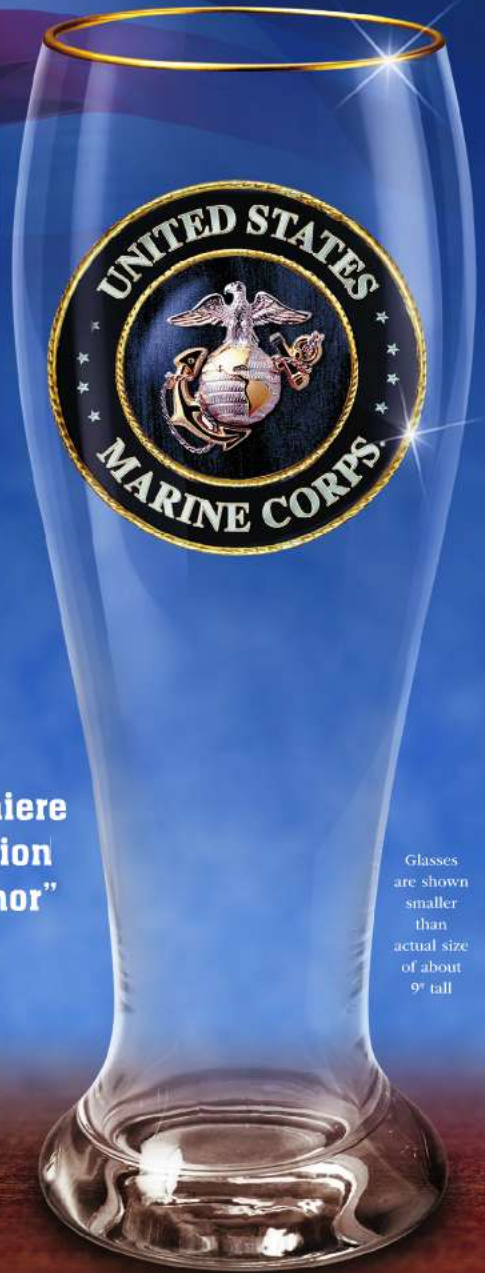
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SGT AUSTIN HAZARD, USMC

SSgt Caleb Little reenlists aboard the amphibious assault ship *USS Wasp* (LHD-1). Article 137 requires that specified articles of the UCMJ be explained to new members of the Armed Forces upon their initial entrance on active duty and whenever they reenlist.

# Remember the Oath

## Accomplishing the UCMJ's Article 137 Mission In the Midst of the Military Justice Act

By Sgt Stephen M. Cook, USMC,  
and Capt Tyrone N. Collier, USMCR

### Introduction

All Marines take an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and to bear true faith and allegiance to its provisions. Enlisted Marines also vow to obey the orders of the President and officers “according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice” (UCMJ). From the yellow footprints to the end of service, we hold ourselves and our Marines to the standards of the UCMJ. The oath of enlistment demands an understanding of these standards, and the UCMJ requires that several of its articles be “carefully explained” in accordance with Article 137.

Article 137 states that specified articles of the UCMJ “shall be carefully explained to each enlisted member at the time of (or within 14 days after)” either the member’s initial entrance on active duty or the member’s initial entrance into a duty status with a reserve component. Additionally, the articles shall be carefully explained again after the member has completed six months of active-duty service—or, in the case of a member of a reserve component, after the member has completed basic or recruit training—and again each time the member reenlists.

According to the Preamble in the Manual for Courts-Martial, the purpose of military justice is “to promote justice, to assist in maintaining good order and discipline in the Armed Forces, to promote

efficiency and effectiveness in the military establishment, and thereby to strengthen the national security of the United States.” The UCMJ provides a structure for accomplishing these objectives while also safeguarding military personnel’s individual rights; thus, the need for Article 137. An understanding of the UCMJ allows Marines to keep their personal conduct and leadership actions in accordance with the law, which is especially important because the law tends to change annually—this year is no exception. If passed as proposed, the Military Justice Act of 2016 (MJA 2016) will change the UCMJ yet again, effectively changing the structure for accomplishing the Preamble’s objectives while safeguarding Marine’s individual rights.

## History of Article 137

Before the Civil War, laws of war were less concerned with rules of engagement or the rights of detainees and more with regulating armies; hence, “court-martial,” or *war court*. These regulations were called Articles of War. Men intending to join—enlisted and officers—were required to sign their names, agreeing to be bound by the rules as terms of their service contract.

In 1874, the Revised Statutes of the United States demanded that the Articles of War “shall be read to every enlisted man, at the time of, or within six days after, his enlistment, and he shall thereupon take an oath or affirmation.” It became the military’s responsibility to read the rules to men intending to enlist, and only to enlistees—officers were excluded.

Through the Spanish-American War and the World War era, the Navy and Army maintained their own sets of articles, and each set evolved in its own way. After World War II, the Army Air Forces became the U.S. Air Force, regulated under its own department. In order to avoid having to maintain three separate sets of rules, and also to address many of the abuses of legal power that occurred during World War II, Congress mandated that there would be a singular, uniform code of military laws; thus, the Uniform Code of Military Justice was created in 1950.

The UCMJ established Article 137, which expanded the earlier statutes’ requirement, declaring that certain articles “shall be *carefully explained* to every enlisted person at the time of his entry on active duty ... or within six days thereafter.

In 1996, Congress changed the “within six days” requirement to “within 14 days.” With the exception of this change, the original 1950 version of Article 137 remains in force today. If passed as proposed, however, the MJA 2016 will change many aspects of the UCMJ, to include Article 137, effectively altering nearly half a century’s worth of military ethos and law.

## Military Justice Act of 2016

In 2013, the Joint Chiefs of Staff proposed and Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel directed a top-to-bottom review of the military justice system in order to recommend changes to the UCMJ. The result was the MJA 2016, which currently is pending as part of the comprehensive National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2017 package.

The MJA is considered a major re-

**Drill instructor SSgt Justin L. Hansen briefs recruits on the UCMJ at MCRD San Diego, Calif. (Photo by Cpl Bridget Keane, USMC)**



LCPL KAYLA L. RAINBOLT, USMC

**Military courtrooms, including the one shown here aboard MCAS Beaufort, S.C., serve as venues for courts-martial and other military hearings. The Military Justice Act of 2016 would change jury-member sentencing to judge-alone sentencing for all courts-martial.**

working of the military justice system because it proposes significant changes to the UCMJ. For example, if passed as proposed, the MJA would both add and remove several “punitive articles.” Among the changes the law as proposed would create is a stand-alone punitive article that makes it a crime to retaliate against someone who has reported an offense. Additionally, MJA 2016 would create another stand-alone punitive article to prohibit sexual relationships between servicemembers in positions of special trust, such as recruiters and poolers or drill instructors and recruits.

The MJA would also change how a court-martial works. For example, the

proposed law would replace jury-member sentencing with judge-alone sentencing for all courts-martial, and would increase public access to court-martial documents. The proposed law includes many other changes to the UCMJ that Marines should know and understand.

If passed, the MJA will also affect Article 137. The new Article 137 requires that the specified articles shall also be carefully explained to commissioned officers “at the time of (or within six months after)” entrance on active duty or commission in a reserve component. Additionally, the new Article 137 would require all court-martial convening authorities to receive specialized “periodic training





One of the military's more famous courts-martial occurred in 1925 when BG William "Billy" Mitchell, USA, was court-martialed on the charge of "conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline and in a way to bring discredit upon the military service." Proposed changes in the Military Justice Act of 2016 will now require officers to also be briefed on Article 137.

regarding the purposes and administration of [the UCMJ]."

Compliance with Article 137 will become even more critical when the MJA is signed into law. As the UCMJ is changed to continue to address the operational nature of the military and the need for effective discipline during time of war, Article 137 ensures that all Marines—enlisted and officers—remain fully equipped to support and defend the Constitution according to the UCMJ.

### Recommendations for Continued Compliance

It is the individual Marine's duty to remain forever faithful to the oath he or she took. It is also the command's responsibility to ensure that the articles of the UCMJ specified in Article 137 are carefully explained to Marines.

Instruction should be done by a judge advocate, as opposed to a "barracks lawyer." Marine judge advocates are lawyers who have been specially trained

in military justice and the UCMJ—they, more than anyone, are best qualified to explain the nuances of each article. In addition, judicial training should be standardized across the Marine Corps to ensure accuracy and consistency. Finally, this statutory training requirement needs to be well-tracked to allow commanders to ensure Corps-wide compliance.

The first time the articles shall be carefully explained is upon entrance on active duty or with a reserve component. The most straightforward way to meet this requirement is to continue to inspect the training provided to recruits during recruit training or, for officers, during The Basic School.

At the recruit depots, a Drill Instructor

**Cpl Marcus Jones, left, reenlists aboard USS New York (LPD-21). Proposed changes under the Military Justice Act 2016 require specified articles of the UCMJ be explained to all Marines. (Photo by Cpl Todd Michalek, USMC)**



gives a class on the UCMJ. That being said, a DI's UCMJ briefing may not satisfy the specific requirements of Article 137, so a judge advocate should provide this instruction using a presentation standardized for consistent content. By maintaining one standardized presentation for recruits at both depots, where attendance and attention are vigorously enforced, the Marine Corps can ensure thorough compliance with the requirements of Article 137. More importantly, by having a judge advocate available, recruits will be able to ask questions and engage with a subject matter expert on the important course content.

The same kind of standardized presentation given by a judge advocate could be provided at the unit or installation level to allow Marines to have the UCMJ explained again after six months on active duty and upon reenlistment.

An alternative to in-person instruction is the "film" format. The original 1950 UCMJ version of Article 137 stated that the requirement would "permit training films to be used to explain the Code." The use of a training film would make it easier to pass essential information and would ensure that the information being passed is accurate and consistent throughout the Marine Corps. In short, we would know what we are giving and what we are getting. A training film would also allow for the Marine Corps to carefully explain the specified articles in a narrative format by telling stories and using vignettes and visual cues. This format is most likely to hold Marines' attention. At the end of the film, a judge advocate should be available for questions and further discussion.

Another option is to provide an information course on MarineNet. A MarineNet course would be the most concrete solution to ensure that the specified articles are carefully explained to all Marines. It could include short quizzes for knowledge checks and references for additional training.

Other possible courses of action could help commands incorporate Article 137's requirements into their training and administration. For example, commands could inspect for or complete required UCMJ training as part of the check in/check out process. Additionally, commands could also include Article 137 UCMJ training in the unit's annual training plan. Because this is not an annual requirement for all Marines, the UCMJ training would only need to include Marines who had recently reenlisted or were reenlisting soon.

To provide command visibility and oversight of this training, training should be classified as a training event reported



CPL PEDRO CARDENAS, USMC

**Academic Instructor Sgt Michael R. Harrison instructs recruits at MCRD San Diego, Calif., on the importance of the UCMJ. Proposed alternatives to classroom instruction are film and online courses.**

in the Marine Corps Total Force System (MCTFS). Currently, Page 11 has a block that indicates when a Marine has the UCMJ explained to him or her, but this does not give commanders an efficient means of tracking compliance. An efficient method of tracking and reporting this training must be established to allow commands to meet the requirements of Article 137.

The coming changes to the UCMJ, particularly Article 137, provide an opportunity for the Marine Corps to renew its emphasis on carefully explaining the UCMJ to all Marines. This renewed emphasis needs to occur at all levels and should focus on:

- Ensuring that qualified instructors—judge advocates—are available to carefully explain the UCMJ
- Improving and standardizing training media and instructional content as needed to make the training more accessible, flexible, and memorable
- Integrating Article 137 UCMJ training into our training plans and administrative reporting systems and processes, for efficient tracking.

If the MJA is signed into law in fiscal year 2017, continued compliance with Article 137 will be even more critical

to ensure awareness of and continued compliance with the UCMJ. A better understanding of the laws that apply specifically to military personnel will give Marines the knowledge needed to prevent violations of the UCMJ. This understanding may also lighten the legal loads that commands and staffs bear. Moreover, given recent efforts of some in Congress to remove commanders from the military justice system, commanders cannot afford to neglect this statutory requirement. Diligent compliance with Article 137 will ensure that Marines remain ready to support and defend the Constitution in accordance with the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

*Authors' bios: Sgt Stephen Cook was the Military Justice Branch Chief NCO at Judge Advocate Division until December 2016 and is now the SJA Chief at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, Twentynine Palms, Calif.*

*Capt Tyrone Collier supports the Military Justice Branch as an Individual Mobilization Augmentee at HQMC, Judge Advocate Division.*



# Sergeant Robert Leroy Frey, USMC

## WW II Wake Island Defender and POW Survivor



COURTESY ROBERT L. FREY

By Maj Jim Geiser, USMC (Ret)

**Sgt Frey with a .30-cal. machine gun. Initially assigned to the 1st Defense Battalion as a machine gunner, he served under Maj James Devereux on Wake Island.**

**R**obert Leroy “Bob” Frey was born June 1, 1921, in Kansas City, Mo. The firstborn child of Louis Chase Frey Jr. and Sylvia Mae DeMoss, he grew up in Kansas City, only leaving when he enlisted in the Marine Corps on Jan. 11, 1940, after being turned down by the Navy.

He traveled by train to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., arriving on Jan. 15, 1940. Boot camp lasted 28 days, and Frey mastered the .30-caliber machine gun and qualified expert with both the Springfield M14 rifle and the .45-cal. pistol.

He then was sent to Hawaii where he joined the 1st Defense Battalion as a machine gunner under Major James Devereux. About four months before the Japanese attacks on Pearl Harbor and Wake

Island, PFC Frey was transferred to Wake Island.

When the Japanese attacked the island on Dec. 8, 1941, Frey was assigned to man a machine gun and protect the channel on Wilkes Island. He remained unafraid as the sounds of the battle echoed in the distance, but the aerial bombardments of the Japanese resulted in several lacerations across his face. On Dec. 23, after 14 days of fighting, Frey saw Maj Devereux—accompanied by several Japanese soldiers—approaching on foot. Devereux said “Son, don’t shoot,” and Bob Frey knew that after two weeks of intense fighting, the Wake Island Marines had surrendered. Because of his remote location, Frey was probably the last Marine to surrender.

Loaded onto Japanese cargo ships, the Marines endured the 12-day journey in the ship’s deep hold

to the eastern coast of Japanese-occupied China. On Jan. 24, 1942, they arrived at the Woo Sung POW Camp, located 12 miles north of Shanghai, China.

The POWs, housed in groups of 230 men, slept on raised platforms of bare boards with thin, cotton blankets. The Marines were housed separately from the civilians and other military personnel. The Marine officers had their own quarters, but the enlisted men never saw the inside. Morale was kept high as the enlisted POWs were frequently reminded they were Marines; they would stand at attention and salute when officers approached. Their spirits were lifted as they exercised together.

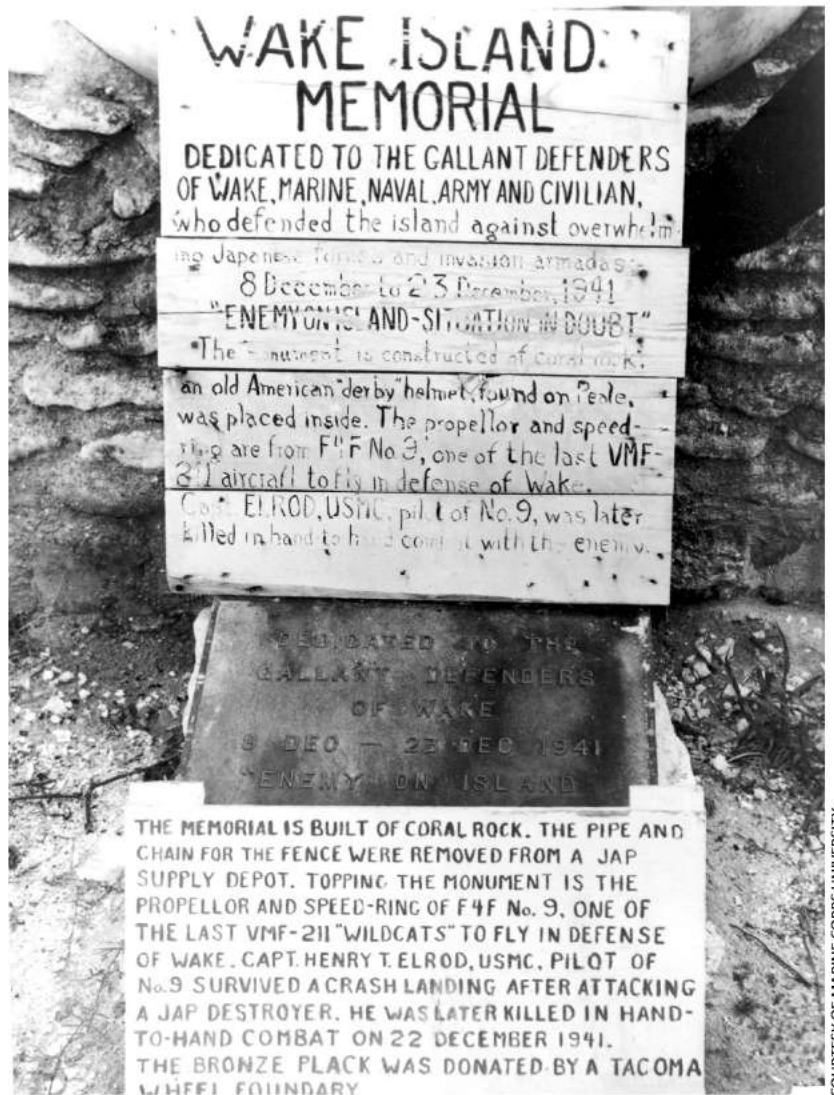
Conditions for all the POWs were deplorable. They received one bowl of rice in the morning and, on some days, a second bowl in the afternoon. Infrequently, they received "watered down stew." The well water was undrinkable, but they were given tea several times each day. The guards provided no medical support and treated the POWs with little respect. Many died of starvation, cholera or other dramatic experiences. On one Christmas day, a fellow POW was killed with a Japanese bayonet while the man stood next to his friend PFC Frey. Frey was then struck in the back with a rifle butt and to this day cannot fully straighten up without experiencing pain.

After some time in Woo Sung, a group of POWs, including Frey, was moved to the Akita POW Camp near the northwest corner of Honshu, Japan's largest island. Conditions there were similar to those at the Woo Sung POW Camp and, for a while, the POWs helped construct a rifle range for the Japanese. A typical day included walking down 200-500 feet into a coal mine, working long hours with a jackhammer in near darkness and then climbing back out. An additional responsibility for select POWs was the maintenance of the guards' vehicles. The POWs, however, frequently would sabotage the trucks by adjusting carburetor settings, adding water to gas tanks and letting air out of the tires. While the guards often remarked that the vehicles "did not run very well," the guards never suspected a thing. Frey said he "was honored to do the job I was called to do and tried to keep my buddies' morale high."

The POWs tended their garden with a small number of tools, including a wheelbarrow. One night, Frey and some of his buddies took the wheelbarrow, stole a container of "straight alcohol" from the camp's shop and took it to their quarters. There they used an old tea pot to mix the alcohol with "Cholera water" and radiator water from a vehicle. All the camp's POWs participated in the subsequent drinking and got "smashed." The evidence was quickly buried, and the guards did not discover them.

During his time as a POW, Frey lost 80 pounds, eventually leaving the camp weighing approximately 105 pounds. Frey's family was not notified of his POW status until May of 1942, five months after his capture.

Japan surrendered on Aug. 15, 1945. When the Japanese guards learned of the surrender, they simply escorted the remaining POWs into the nearby underground coal mine and left them there.



COURTESY OF MARINE CORPS UNIVERSITY



COURTESY OF ROBERT L. FREY

**Above:** The memorial on Wake Island is dedicated to those who defended the island against the overwhelming Japanese invasion in late 1941. The island was surrendered to the Japanese on Dec. 23, 1941; 49 Marines were killed, 32 more were wounded and the rest were taken prisoner.

**Left:** Sgt. Frey in 1945. He served in the Marine Corps for six years—45 months of which were as a POW.



**Frey and his father, Louis Chase Frey Jr. After the Japanese surrender Aug. 15, 1945, Frey spent six months in the hospital before he could return to his family.**

When the POWs later walked out of the mine, they did so as free men—the guards were gone. The POWs walked about 10 miles to the airport. From there, Frey was flown to Guam in a Douglas DC-3 for initial evaluations and rest, and then to Oakland, Calif., for further evaluations. There, at long last, PFC Frey kissed the ground of the United States. He was flown to the U.S. Naval Hospital in Great Lakes, Ill., where he quickly ate two heads of lettuce and drank a gallon of milk. He said, “I was thankful to God for bringing me back to the country I loved and fought for.”

Frey was promoted first to the rank of corporal and then to sergeant before he was discharged from the hospital on Feb. 6, 1946, at age 23. He served about six years in the Marine Corps, including 45 months as a POW. Regarding the surrender and his captivity, Frey simply said, “The Lord kept me in good shape.”

After his discharge from the Marine Corps, Frey served as a three-wheeler patrolman with the Kansas City Police Department. One day in 1971, while he was on duty as a patrolman, Frey approached a large, black limousine in downtown

**Below: Frey served as a patrolman with the Kansas City Police Department after leaving the Marine Corps. He now lives in Arizona, with his sister, Judi, left.**



COURTESY OF ROBERT L. FREY

Kansas City to tell the driver to move. The rear window rolled down. Former President Harry S. Truman was in the car and asked Frey to sit next to him. After a long discussion regarding the use of the atomic weapon, Frey looked at President Truman and said, “I want to thank you for dropping those bombs.”

While public service had been Frey’s primary calling, there was another reason he stayed in his hometown—a beautiful woman named Frances Jessie Allen, who later became his wife.

Frey and Frances had two children, Gloria Jean and Robert Leroy Jr., and when they were grown, the couple retired to West Palm Beach, Fla. They stayed together for 66 years until Frances’s passing on Oct. 25, 2012.

Frey now lives in Gilbert, Ariz., with his sister Judi in a house that proudly displays the American flag. Regarding his Marine Corps experience and treatment at the hands of the Japanese, he believes that, “The Lord doesn’t want us to be bitter” against those who harmed him, and that he was just “doing the job he was supposed to do: to protect the United States of America and the freedom of the American people.”

He said that this was a “great experience that gave me an increased appreciation of life and good food.”

*Author’s bio: Maj Jim Geiser’s Marine Corps career as a Mustang officer spanned 29 years, including a tour in Vietnam. He is currently the driving force behind two projects to build memorials for fallen military: one for 133 Arizona State University alumni and the other for 56 residents of Scottsdale, Ariz.*





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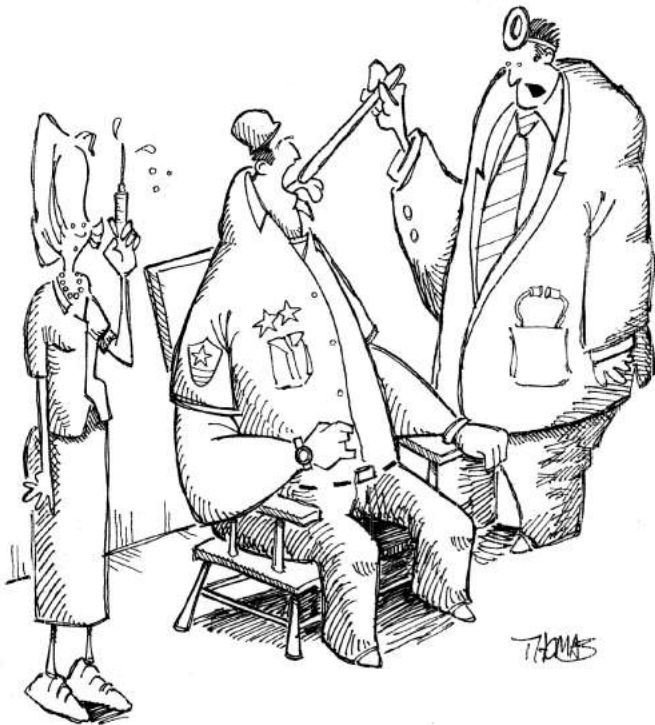
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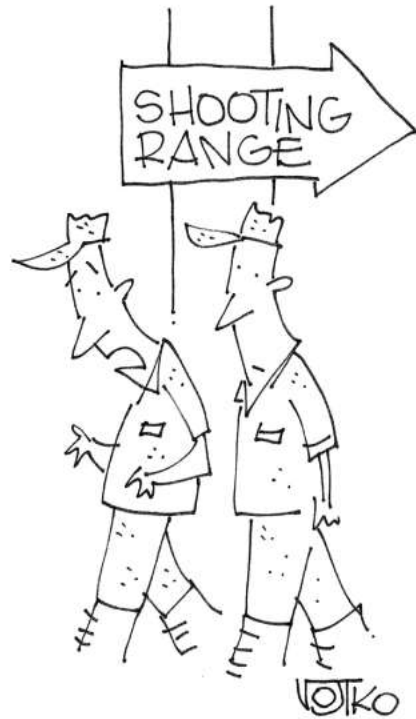
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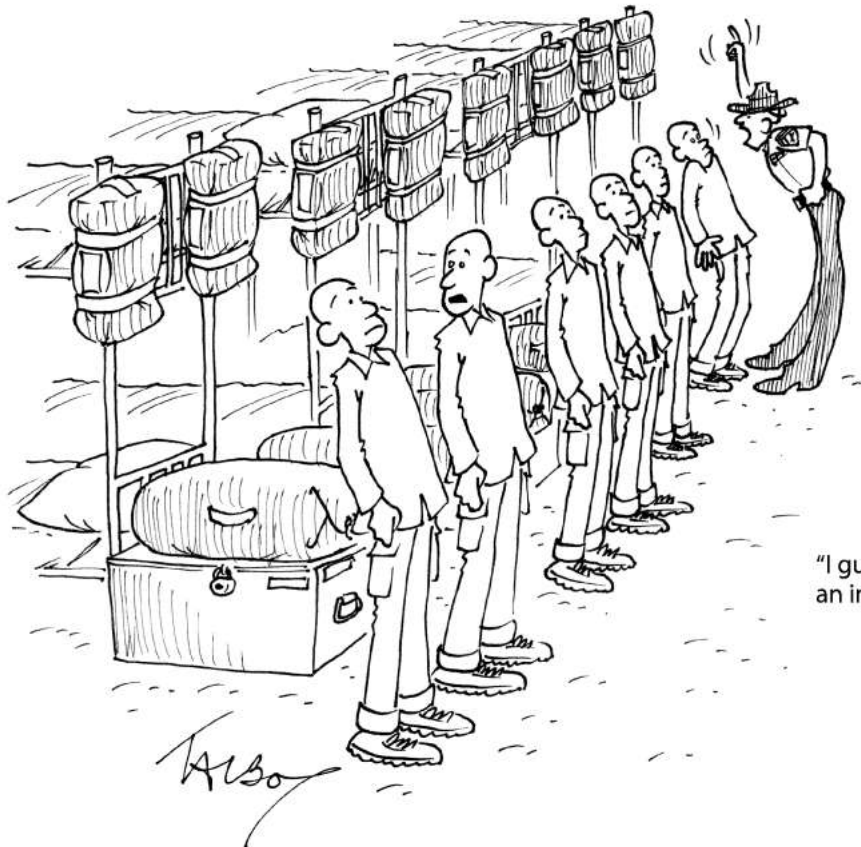
# Leatherneck Laffs



"This is a procedure we call 'shot and aaah.'"



"I don't get why I'm so bad at this. I always got top scores on my video games."



"I guess he doesn't have an inside voice."



"I'm sweating so much I think one of my tattoos just slid off."



"He's probably locked onto an IED."



"Too bad we can't wear them after chili night at the messhall."



"Gunny, I gotta pee."

# ANGLICO MARINES AT TRA BINH DONG



By LtCol James F. Durand  
USMC (Ret)

**T**he Battle of Tra Binh Dong is one of the most acclaimed battles fought by Korean forces during the Vietnam War. From Feb. 14-15, 1967, Republic of Korea Marine Corps (ROKMC) Marines of the 11th Company, 3d Battalion, 2d Marine Brigade—the “Blue Dragons”—defeated a regimental-sized attack force in four hours of close combat.

Tra Binh Dong is studied in Korean staff colleges and taught in boot camp. Artifacts from the battle are displayed at the War Memorial of Korea in Seoul. For nearly half a century, veterans have gathered annually to remember the fallen. Over time, the

names of the U.S. Marines supporting the 11th Co disappeared from the official histories. Yet Lance Corporals Jim Porta and Dave Long, radio operators assigned to Sub-Unit One, 1st Air/Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (ANGLICO), were critical to defeating the attack. The Americans coordinated air support, killed the infiltrating enemy, counterattacked to restore the perimeter and aided the wounded.

## **ANGLICO in Vietnam And Early Operations**

In April 1965, 1st ANGLICO sent four shore fire control parties and a spot team to the Republic of Vietnam. Eleven officers and 103 enlisted Marines and Sailors were assigned to Sub-Unit One, 1st ANGLICO.

The ANGLICO Marines found it effective to acquire targets using air spotters in U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force O-1 and O-2 aircraft; Marine OV-10 Broncos later assumed the mission.

Sub-Unit One worked with allied units, including the Australian Army, New Zealand Navy, ROK Army, South Vietnamese Army and Marine Corps, as well as supporting U.S. Army units. Military Assistance Command-Vietnam (MACV) assumed operational control of Sub-Unit One on Sept. 15, 1966.

Ten officers and 75 enlisted Marines were assigned to the Brigade Air Naval Gunfire Platoon, established in the summer of 1966 to support the 2d ROK Marine Brigade. Two radio operators were



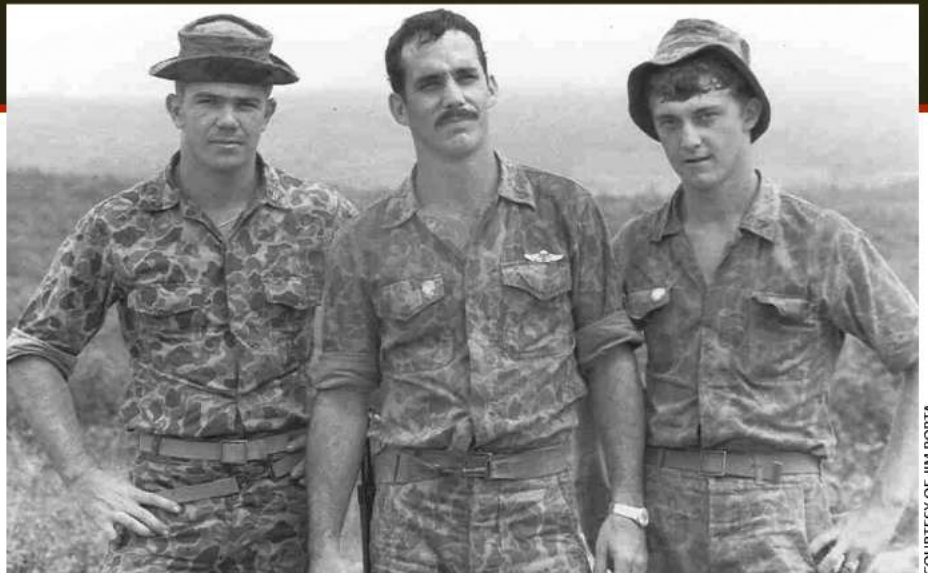
COURTESY OF JIM PORTA

assigned to each company. One Marine operated the PRC-25 radio while the second provided cover or marked the landing zone. Because the ROKMC lacked organic aviation assets, the ANGLICO Marines were the critical link to close air support, medical evacuation (medevac) and resupply.

### The Radio Operators

New Jersey native Jim Porta enlisted in the Marine Corps while in high school. He was the high shooter at Parris Island, and later trained in communications. He graduated from airborne training, earning his naval parachutist badge and was later assigned to 1st ANGLICO.

Dave Long, meanwhile, grew up in



COURTESY OF JIM PORTA

**Above: LCpl Jim Porta, center, and LCpl Dave Long, right, met in Hawaii prior to their deployment to Vietnam with Sub-Unit One, 1st ANGLICO. The ANGLICO Marines, including Sgt Burnie, left, played a critical role in supporting the 3d ROK Marine Battalion at Tra Binh Dong.**

**Left: ROK Marines stand over dead bodies of the enemy on Feb. 15, 1967.**

Huntington, W.Va. Like Jim, he was a crack shot. While serving with the 10th Marines, Dave shot with the regimental rifle and pistol teams and advanced to the All-Marine Championship and was classified as a Master by the National Rifle Association. The two Marines met in ANGLICO in Hawaii where they volunteered for service with Sub-Unit One. They arrived in Saigon in the fall of 1966.

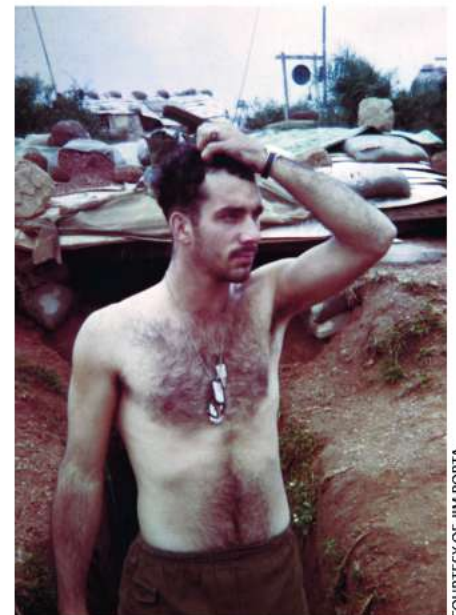
Wanting to serve together, the two Marines met with Lieutenant Colonel Carroll Burch, officer in charge, Sub-Unit One, and told him that Long was engaged to Porta's sister. While it's unclear as to whether Burch, a veteran aviator who had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in Korea, actually believed the story, ANGLICO Marines were needed in I Corps' area so he assigned the pair to the 3d ROK Marine Battalion.

Porta's and Long's arrival coincided with the arrival of several new ANGLICO officers assigned to the Blue Dragon Brigade—future Medal of Honor recipient Captain Stephen Pless assumed the duties as brigade platoon commander, while Capt Larry Oswald served as the 3d ROK Marine Bn air liaison officer.

Arriving with the 3d ROK Marine Battalion, Porta and Long rotated among the battalion's companies, as well as an outpost defended by a squad. They typically stayed with a company for three to four weeks, accompanying the unit on week-long patrols or remaining within heavily fortified positions. The ANGLICO Marines worked closely with company commanders as few Korean Marines outside the officer ranks spoke English. Most

ANGLICO Marines supporting the Blue Dragons frequently wore ROKMC uniforms to reduce their chances of being targeted by snipers.

Capt Oswald described conditions in the battalion's area of responsibility at the time: "My team members experienced enemy operations almost every day to include mortar and rocket attacks along with snipers and multiple firefights. In addition, Viet Cong units had infiltrated the area in which we operated. Antipersonnel mines and booby traps



COURTESY OF JIM PORTA

**LCpl Porta stands in front of the ANGLICO bunker within the perimeter of 11th Co, 3d Bn, 2d ROKMC Brigade. The gong near the command post was used to alert the Marines to the presence of infiltrators.**

were a daily experience. The South Korean Marines suffered many casualties from these devices. One of our team members was killed by one of these antipersonnel weapons in November 1966.”

In addition to fighting an elusive enemy, the Marines battled malaria, snakes and rats. Porta and Long subsisted on C-rations and usually ate with the Koreans, who cooked stew by adding edible greens to the C-rations and water. Rice was prepared in a separate ammo can. Despite the language barriers and cultural differences, the American and Korean Marines formed friendships based on mutual respect and shared hardship.

In early 1967, North Vietnamese Army (NVA) units began attacking the Blue Dragon Brigade. Armed with the AK47s, the NVA soldiers outgunned the Korean Marines who carried the M1. On Jan. 10, they ambushed the 3d ROK Marine Bn headquarters group as it was returning from a weeklong rotation with the 9th Co, seriously injuring Capt Oswald and Corporal David Lucht, another ANGLICO Marine. U.S. Marine LCpl John Houghton joined the 70-man force sent by Blue Dragon Brigade headquarters to rescue the trapped Marines. Arriving at the site, he secured a radio that had not been damaged by enemy fire and requested medevac for the casualties. Four helicopters successfully evacuated the injured, but the fifth was damaged and its crew chief badly wounded. Houghton crossed open terrain to treat the injured aviator, coordinated a sixth medevac for the remaining casualties, and guarded the downed aircraft through the night. He later received the Silver Star for his actions.

### The Battle of Tra Binh Dong

Emboldened by the success of the ambush, the 2d NVA Division sent two battalions from the 1st and 21st Regiments and a battalion of VC guerillas to attack the U.S. Marine base at Chu Lai. American and Korean Marines defended the critical aviation and logistics center. Under the command of Capt Jung Kyung Jin, 294 Korean Marines of the 3d Bn, 11th Co, operated near the village of Tra Binh Dong. Trenches crisscrossed the 200 x 300 meter outpost with claymore mines placed throughout the concertina perimeter. Preparing for the impending attack, Porta and Long slept near the company command post (CP) atop a small hill, waiting for the NVA to continue its assault.

Shortly before midnight on Feb. 14, the



**Inset: LCpl Jim Porta, left, and Capt Jung Kyung Jin at headquarters, 3dBn, 2d ROKMC Blue Dragon Brigade in April 1966. Capt Jung commanded 11th Co during the Battle of Tra Binh Dong. He was awarded the Taeguk Medal, Korea's equivalent of the Medal of Honor, for his leadership of the company during the battle. (Photo courtesy of Jim Porta)**

**Below: LtGen Lewis W. Walt, center, CG, III MAF, speaks with Capt Jung, left, CO, 11th Co, following the Battle of Tra Binh Dong in February 1967.**



COURTESY OF JIM PORTA

company went on alert after detecting enemy soldiers near the third platoon's position. Long grabbed the radio, and the two Americans met the 11th Co officers at the sandbag bunker that served as an alternate CP. Capt Jung allowed the pla-

toon-sized unit to approach the perimeter before ordering his Marines to shoot. Although the Vietnamese withdrew, the Marines sensed that a larger attack would likely follow. After meeting with the Korean officers to review their prepara-



COURTESY OF JIM PORTA

**Aerial view of 11th Co's position where a regimental-sized force attacked the company in Feb. 14-15, 1967.**

tions, Jim and Dave returned to their bunker and went to sleep.

At 0410, the sound of mortars and recoilless rifles woke the Marines as more than 2,400 North Vietnamese soldiers attacked the 11th Co. One battalion advanced on the 1st platoon's position while two others attacked the 3d platoon. Long again shouldered the radio as he and Jim ran to the bunker that served as an alternative CP, shooting three enemy soldiers who approached the wire. After none of the Korean officers showed up, Long and Porta left for the main CP. Seconds later, a rocket destroyed the bunker.

After locating Capt Jung, Long contacted an AC-47 Spooky gunship flying in the vicinity. The gunship dropped illumination flares, banked left and unleashed its Gatling gun on the enemy in the tree line. Unfamiliar with the gunship and concerned the flares allowed the enemy to see his Marines, the captain told Dave to order the plane away. As he continued to circle, the pilot described the combat below as "the biggest fight [he had] ever seen."

First Lieutenant Kim Se Chang began to coordinate artillery support from the brigade's 105 mm and 155 mm batteries. The forward observer directed fires close to the company's perimeter in an attempt to stop the waves of attackers. Porta and Long accompanied Capt Jung as he assessed the situation, providing updates to other ANGLICO Marines. Jim Porta recalled that, during the attack, "[t]he noise was deafening. I lost my hearing for periods of five to 10 minutes on several occasions. The NVA fired mortars and machine guns from a very close range. It was obvious they knew the location of the command post, mortar pits and other key areas. They destroyed the bunker with a rocket. I remember dirt running down my back when a mortar landed nearby. The enemy fired so many tracer rounds that I was surprised nothing caught fire."

Enemy fires quickly destroyed all landlines. The PRC-25 radios carried by Capt Kim and LCpl Long became the company's sole means of communication.

Attacking in human waves, the NVA

and VC breached the platoon's perimeter with Bangalore torpedoes. Third Platoon Marines and enemy soldiers fought hand-to-hand in the trenches and mortar pits. An enemy soldier came within 10 meters of the company CP, only to be shot by Jim Porta.

Fighting in the 1st Plt's sector was equally fierce. Second Lieutenant Shin Won Bae led an assault force to destroy a mortar position 100 meters in front of the company perimeter. Returning to his platoon, he saw soldiers armed with Soviet-made flamethrowers entering the breached perimeter. 2dLt Shin and his platoon sergeant killed the attackers with machine guns and hand grenades. Using rifles, entrenching tools and their fists, the Korean Marines fought to contain the breach.

After two hours of fighting, the attackers held nearly a third of the company's position. Although the North Vietnamese continued to attack the 1st and 3d Platoons, their advance slowed due to the fanatical resistance of the 3d Plt Marines.



COURTESY OF JIM PORTA

**Left: LCpl Jim Porta, left, and 2dLt Shin Won Bae. Lt Shin was awarded the Taeguk Medal, Korea's equivalent of the Medal of Honor, for his actions as a platoon commander during the Battle of Tra Binh Dong.**

At the same time, Blue Dragon howitzers destroyed the enemy's CP and mortar positions. Sensing a shift in momentum, Capt Jung ordered a counterattack. LCpl Porta joined 1st and 2d Plt Marines in a double envelopment. He killed three enemy soldiers with his M14 and helped restore the perimeter.

Amidst the chaos of the attack, Porta discovered 1stLt Kim who lay wounded in a trench with his PRC-25 radio after being shot by North Vietnamese snipers. Although his helmet slowed the bullet, Lieutenant Kim was bleeding profusely from a head injury. Porta stopped the bleeding and summoned the corpsman to tend to the wounded officer.

North Vietnamese support units assembled for one final assault on the 11th Co's position. In order to lure the company-sized force toward his position, Capt Jung ordered the 3d Plt to withdraw. The skies cleared as the North Vietnamese advanced, allowing Dave Long to contact the forward air controller who had arrived on station. Piloting an O-1 Cessna Bird Dog, Air Force Major Ted Brunson relayed the company's position to aircraft from the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. Four A-4 Skyhawks followed by helicopter gunships attacked the remaining enemy.

As the fighting subsided, Porta came across a Korean Marine standing over his badly injured friend. As he had many times in the past, Porta knelt down and held the injured Marine's hand, telling him "help was on the way." Shocked by

the battle and distraught by his loss, the Marine fired his automatic weapon into the ground near Porta. Recalling the incident, Jim Porta said, "For some reason, I was not afraid. I showed compassion."

At 0800, a ROK Marine company arrived via helicopter and began clearing operations. Eleventh Company Marines had killed 243 North Vietnamese and VC soldiers during the battle; over 100



COURTESY OF KIM SE CHANG

**1stLt Kim Se Chang's damaged helmet is part of the permanent Battle of Tra Binh Dong exhibit at the War Memorial of Korea. LCpl Porta was the first to discover Kim after he had been hit by a sniper; Kim credits Porta's quick actions with saving his life.**

corpses lay within the perimeter. Some of the infiltrators wore ROKMC uniforms, likely taken during the earlier Jan. 10 ambush. Fifteen Korean Marines died and 33 were injured during the fighting. The NVA withdrew from the area, abandoning plans to attack Chu Lai.

## Epilogue

LCpls Long and Porta returned to battalion headquarters two days after the battle. After a short stint at battalion, they returned to supporting the three line companies until completing their tours in September 1967. Before departing, the Korean government awarded the In Hun Medal to both American Marines as well as Maj Brunson. In addition, both Marines were meritoriously promoted to corporal.

Capt Jung and 2dLt Shin received the Taeguk Medal, Korea's equivalent of the Medal of Honor, in what is the only instance in the history of the ROK Marines in which two individuals received the award for a single action. Capt Jung continued to serve, retiring as a lieutenant colonel after commanding the 3d Bn, 6th ROK Marine Brigade

Shin served a second tour in Vietnam, rose to the rank of major general, and commanded the 2d ROK Marine Division. Retired and living in Seoul, General Shin leads the annual commemorations of the battle.

1stLt Kim recovered from his injuries in the ROK Navy Hospital in Vietnam. He returned to duty with his battery in Chu Lai before going home to Korea. Leaving the Korean Marine Corps as a captain, Kim worked as a high school English teacher until retiring in 2003. He credits LCpl Porta for saving his life.

Dave Long returned to his hometown following his enlistment. He worked for the Army Corps of Engineers until retirement. Jim Porta moved to Tucson, Ariz., and spent a career with the municipal transit agency. He and Dave remain close friends.

*Author's bio: LtCol Durand served as an intelligence and East Asia Foreign Area Officer. He graduated from the ROK Naval War College, and served tours with the Special U.S. Liaison Advisor, Korea and the Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Korea.*







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## SEA STORY OF THE MONTH

### Autographed Book

On Sept. 9, 2016, my wife and I attended the 70-year reunion of my high school class of 1946. I sat across from a nice lady, who, at 88 years of age, still sells real estate. When she found out I was an author, she wanted to buy one of my books for her son, Bob, who she said is in the Marine Corps.

She bought "Mission: Shanghai," the story of two Marines and a war correspondent who return to Shanghai in 1945. I signed the book, writing, "Hi Bob, enjoy a China Marine story. Semper Fi, Buzz Harcus."

I asked the lady about her son's rank—corporal, sergeant, what? She proudly answered, "He's Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, General Robert B. Neller."

I said "Ohhhh" and promptly and proudly added, "China Marine—1947-48," after my name.

Leslie F. "Buzz" Harcus  
Mancelona, Mich.

### In the Pits

About halfway through our eight weeks of boot camp, our senior drill instructor, Gunny Cadena, had us in the pits outside our huts at MCRD San Diego, Calif. Someone must have really upset him because we were doing squat thrusts as if they were the most fun thing in the world to do.

After a while, which was a really, really long time, we were all starting to wear down. The guy in front of me started "dogging" it, and the more he dogged it, the more squat thrusts Gunny Cadena made us do.

I decided I had had enough of this nonsense and nailed the guy from behind with

open palms to the back of his shoulders. He went face-first into the sand pit. Needless to say, he wasn't real happy and came up swinging.

That may have been all Gunny Cadena saw because he hurried over and pulled the guy off me and dragged him back to where he had been standing and told him, "If you want to hit someone, hit me."

This poor kid had the very best intentions with his response, but it came out wrong. His reply was, "Sir, the recruit can't, sir," to which Gunny replied, "Why?" And this is where it all went terribly wrong for the kid. His reply was, "Because of your age, sir!"

I'm not sure, but that guy may still be doing squat thrusts as it appeared the carotid artery was going to explode out of the gunny's neck.

Cpl Tom Gillespie  
USMC, RVN 1970-71  
Rolling Meadows, Ill.

### Prank with Cap Guns

I was on a Med cruise in 1964 during New Year's Eve onboard USS *Sandoval* (APA-194) in Genoa, Italy. The Italians really knew how to celebrate the New Year—furniture thrown out the window, drinking and singing, driving really fast cars on a go-kart track and a huge fireworks display. Everyone had cheap cap guns with really loud caps; the guns looked like small .38-calibers. When you give a bunch of Marines and Sailors guns, playing cowboys and Indians is natural.

It all came to an end around midnight—Cinderella liberty. We were all on the gangway in single file. They did a pat-down to see who was bringing booze onboard, and the line moved slow.

One of us had the bright idea to "shoot" the officer of the day (OD) with the cap guns. This was not one of our better ideas. We also yelled "this was the guy" as the eight of us fired. It was really funny from our point of view but the OD turned white and almost passed out. The Sailor with him was trying to get his .45 out of

**They did a pat-down to see who was bringing booze onboard, and the line moved slow. One of us had the bright idea to "shoot" the officer of the day (OD) with the cap guns. This was not one of our better ideas.**

the holster. Of course, we all ran.

We dumped the guns overboard and took off to our compartments. No one got caught, but the next day the captain was after the perps.

Maybe the two Sailors who had duty that night tell the story of when the Marines shot at them and missed.

Sgt Pete Roberto  
RVN, 1964-65  
Merrick, N.Y.

### Have Some Spuds

My sea story begins at evening chow on our first night aboard USS *Tulare* (AKA-112). We were aware of the age-old rivalry

between the Navy and the Marine Corps and could tell right off that the ship's crew wasn't happy about having 100 or more Marine Corps bandsmen and other Headquarters Company penguins aboard.

Two of my buddies, Private "V" and Private First Class "T," were in the evening chow line when a surly messman slopped a ladle of steaming hot mashed potatoes on T's metal tray, burning his thumb. T gave him a dirty look, and the messman snarled, "Have some spuds, Jarhead."

Later that evening, J got T out of his hammock and led him to a head in the crew area where they saw the same messman sitting alone on the long wooden seat with a trough of running water underneath. They quickly got a piece of paper, made a little boat, doused it with lighter fluid, set it afire and floated it down the trough directly under the messman as he sat in peaceful solitude. When he felt the heat, he jumped up and spied J and T peeking around the bulkhead whereupon T flipped him a bird and said, "Thanks for the spuds, Swabbie."

PFC Steve Shaw, USMCR  
Lebanon, Ind.

### The Passing of Tommy Battles

In the summer of 1941, when I was 12 years old, my extended family was embarking on the family's first real vacation together. My uncle, a saxophone player named "Nifty" Kleber, had an engagement playing at an old lakeside hotel and persuaded the family to come see him.

Among the bandsmen was a dapper, trim-mustached clarinet player named

Tommy Battles—much admired by all the young ladies in my family.

A few years later at a family gathering in the midst of World War II, someone recalled the last summer of peace and the week at the old resort. The memory was revisited each time the clan met over the years. When my uncle, who had served as a radio gunner during the war, returned home, the tale was told once again and also came the poignant revelation that Tommy Battles had been killed while serving in the Marines in the Pacific.

Fast forward 40 years after my time in the Corps to around 1986. I met a fellow named Salvatore “Tom” Battaglia at our local American Legion. During our conversation, we discovered that we had both been Marines and I also learned that he was a clarinet player who had known my uncle. Surprisingly, their last gig was at a summer resort in Ohio just before the war. I asked if he remembered a guy in the band named Tommy Battles who was killed in the Pacific.

His stunning response was, “No, I wasn’t killed even though I was hit at Saipan.”

It seems that the moniker “Tommy Battles” was bestowed on him since “Battaglia” was too long to fit on his bandstand nameplate.

James E. Treher  
USMC, 1946-48  
Pittsburg, Pa.

### My Birthday Party With the DI

On Dec. 3, 1951, I left for MCRD San Diego. My birthday was four weeks into boot camp on the 31st. We had just returned from the chow hall when I was called down to the DI hut. As usual you had to announce yourself several times before you were told to enter. I had my eyeballs on a spot on the wall directly

behind Sergeant Jones. He asked me my name, rank and serial number. Then, he asked if that was my name on the package sitting on his desk, and if so, would I please open it.

I did and it contained a small package of Velveeta cheese and crackers that my mother sent me knowing how much I liked cheese and crackers. He asked if I was hungry. I said, “No, Sir, I just came from chow.” Again, he asked if I was hungry. Unfortunately, I said no again and again he asked me in a firm voice if I was hungry. This time I said yes. He took out his K-Bar, opened the cheese and crackers and proceeded to slice off some cheese, place it on the cracker and handed it to me.

This went on for several minutes when he asked if I was hungry and I said no. He then told me to write my mother and tell her thanks for the package, but the Marine Corps provides more than enough food and not to send any more.

Dick White  
Shiloh, Ill.

### Never Give an Order That Can't be Carried Out

While serving as a platoon sergeant in 3d Battalion, 9th Marines at Camp Fuji, Japan, in 1957, I had a private first class in my platoon by the name of Kelly, who was surely one of that 10 percent who never got “the word.” Our company was scheduled for a battalion commander’s inspection, which, of course, included a “junk on the bunk.” Each Marine was required to put on display the same number of items of clothing which had been issued him—no more or no less—plus his rifle and 782 gear.

Most of us had more than the number of utilities and other clothing than had been issued us. What to do with the extra gear? In the States,

we put all of our extras in someone’s car until the inspection was over but in Japan, no one had a car on base. At the time we were living in an old one-story World War II Japanese barracks which had a sort of attic that could be reached by a trapdoor above the sergeants’ quarters. We decided to put all of our extra gear in the attic for the

**With the inspection scheduled for 1300, I began to put seabags full of extra gear in the attic hours beforehand. ... At 1255, PFC Kelly showed up in my quarters with a bulging seabag.**

duration of the inspection.

With the inspection scheduled for 1300, I began to put seabags full of extra gear in the attic hours beforehand. At 1245 hours I announced last call for extra gear to be put in the attic. At 1255, PFC Kelly showed up in my quarters with a bulging seabag. When I asked him what was in the bag, he said it was his extra gear.

By that time, I had already closed the trapdoor which was visibly bulging above my rack. Had I attempted to open the trapdoor at this point I am sure I would have had several seabags fall on my rack. I explained this to Kelly and told him there was no way that I would chance opening that trapdoor since I could see that the inspection party was just entering the barracks.

Kelly then asked what he was to do with his seabag. My response was, “Kelly, at this point all I can tell you is to stick it up your a--!”

Dejectedly, Kelly dragged his seabag back to his rack. I watched as the battalion commander made his way through my platoon area and noticed that the colonel spent a lot of time with Kelly, but I didn’t think too much about it.

Then the colonel was standing in front of me. After a short pause he said, “Sergeant Gill, you have a very squared away platoon here. But tell me, did you ever go to NCO School?” “Yes, sir,” I replied. “Do you remember any principles of leadership they taught you there?” he asked. I proceeded to recite several of those principles that I remembered. He stopped me short and asked, “Did they teach you that you should never give a subordinate an order that he cannot possibly carry out?” “Yes, sir,” I said. “Then tell me, sergeant, do you think that PFC Kelly could really stick his seabag up his a--?”

He looked me in the eye for a few seconds, smiled slightly, and left the barracks. I wasn’t sure if I was in trouble or not, but my platoon leader later advised me that the colonel got a good laugh out of it.

SSgt Paul E. Gill  
USMC, 1954-66  
Shippensburg, Pa.

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!



## Energy Office Moves the Corps Toward a “Greener” Future

As part of an ongoing effort to be the premier self-sufficient expeditionary force, the Marine Corps is striving to make itself “leaner, meaner and greener” as its leaders take a look at energy use across the Corps—equating the efficient use of vital resources with increased combat effectiveness.

The Marine Corps’ Expeditionary Energy Office held an Energy Capability Exercise at Camp Wilson, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., Dec. 6, 2016, as part of the Great Green Fleet (GGF) initiative. The exercise was designed to highlight different efforts and technologies the Corps has developed to promote a more energy-conscious force.

GGF is a yearlong initiative, spearheaded by the Department of the Navy, which demonstrates the sea services’ efforts to transform their energy use. The purpose of the GGF is to make Marines and Sailors better warfighters who are able to go farther, stay longer and deliver more firepower.

“2016 is the year of the Great Green Fleet, highlighting the energy efficiencies in both installations and operations in the Navy and Marine Corps,” said Colonel Bryan Magnuson, Director of the Marine Corps Expeditionary Energy Office. “Today, we are demonstrating operational energy technologies that allow the Marine Air-Ground Task Force to go further on the same amount of energy. We have rep-

resentatives out here from the office of the Secretary of Defense; the departments of the Navy, Air Force and Army; and Marine leadership to include general officers and commanders.”

The term Great Green Fleet is reminiscent of President Theodore Roosevelt’s Great White Fleet, which helped usher in America as a global power on the world stage during the early 20th century. The hope is that the “Great Green Fleet” will usher in the next era of energy innovation in the Department of the Navy.

The Expeditionary Energy Office intends to change the way the Marine Corps employs energy and resources to increase combat effectiveness and reduce the need for logistics support. “We take a look at the Marine Corps’ future requirements and how to fulfill those requirements,” Magnuson said. “We are focused on a multitude of capability sets from vehicles currently in use ... as well as different commercial technologies to make [Marines] more effective.”

In order to find the best technology for the future Marine Corps, the Expeditionary Energy Office has reached out to commercial industry through technical field demonstrations.

“We go out to industry, and we say, ‘Here are our challenges—what do you have out there that can help us?’ ” said Captain Michel Herendeen, science and technology analyst, Marine Corps Expeditionary Energy Office. “We actively search for those sorts of things. One of the challenges is to make sure what we are buying

is good so we make sure Marines have ‘hands on’ to test products before we invest.”

According to Magnuson, field artillery Marines with 3d Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment have already put to use a Ground Renewable Expeditionary Electronics Network System, a hybrid energy power system which utilizes solar panels and high energy density batteries to be more sustainable in a deployed environment. This allows them to go totally “off the grid” without having to haul a large generator through arduous terrain.

“[The system] provides the same power that Marines would normally need to idle the truck for,” Herendeen said. “Instead of burning fuel to power the cannon’s computer and communication systems, we can plug it into the green system and not need to consume that fuel or cause a need for additional maintenance on the truck.”

In 2012, General James F. Amos, 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps, identified expeditionary energy as one of the six pillars of modernization of the Marine Corps. The Expeditionary Energy Office is working toward enabling a Marine Expeditionary Force to maneuver from sea and sustain command, control, communications, computer, intelligence and life support systems in place with more efficient mobile systems, thereby requiring less liquid fuel.

“The future force is going to be much more energy intensive, so we need to understand how we use our energy,” Magnuson said.



During an Energy Capability Exercise, 3/11 Marines, including LCpl Marlon Hill (right), showcased a variety of different technologies the battalion has utilized, such as the Ground Renewable Expeditionary Electronics Network System (left), at Camp Wilson, MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., Dec. 6, 2016. The exercise was part of the Great Green Fleet initiative, which is dedicated to transforming the sea services’ energy use into a more sustainable system. (Photos by Cpl Levi Schultz, USMC)

“Right now, Marines don’t know how we use our fuel other than with the ‘E’ and the ‘F’ gauges. When we give Marines that information, they make it possible to implement change within the MAGTF,” he added.

In keeping with the Marine Corps’ future operating concept, the end goal is to allow small units to be self-sustaining in terms of energy and water, eliminating the risk and logistics challenges of moving fuel and water around the battlefield.

Cpl Levi Schultz, USMC

### EOD Marines Share Expertise With High School Robotics Team

Young minds were opened at Swansboro High School, Swansboro, N.C. as students spent time with the Marines from Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, 8th Engineer Support Battalion, and their robots. The Marines visited the high school to work with and help inspire students on the school’s robotics team in Swansboro, N.C., Nov. 17, 2016.

For the past three years, Daniel L. Lohmann, a team leader with EOD Co, has been coming to the school with other Marines from the unit to teach the students about robotics as the the school’s robotics team starts preparing for a competition that takes place in the spring.

“We’re trying to give them some ideas and get their minds flowing to give them a foundation that they can start with for the upcoming competition,” said Lohmann.

The event gave students an opportunity to see the practical application of the MK2 Talon, 310 SUGV System and MK 1 PackBot robots.

The Marines brought the three robots into the classroom where they taught the students about the capabilities and limitations of each one. The Marines taught the students that each robot serves a purpose, but also has its setbacks.

Cristina A. Colom, a member of the Swansboro High School Robotics Team, said she learned to consider the battery life of a robot while also keeping the weight of it in mind.

After the classroom instruction, the Marines gave demonstrations of the robots working through obstacle courses by moving over objects or picking them up.

“This will give them an idea of what’s feasible and what’s not with their robots,” said Lohmann.

Students looked to the Marines for knowledge and wisdom about how to overcome obstacles that they may face during the competition. The Marines inspired the students by sharing stories of adapting and overcoming with the robots that they use.

Once the demonstrations were over,



SGT CLEMENTE GARCIA, USMC

**Marines with EOD Co, 2d MLG, remotely control an MK-2 Talon robot during a demonstration for the Swansboro High School Robotics Team in Swansboro, N.C., Nov. 17, 2016. The Marines displayed three of their robots to students in an effort to inspire the students’ creativity.**

each student had an opportunity to drive a robot.

“We’re trying to give them some hands-on experience for when they build their robots,” said Staff Sergeant Malachi W. McPherson, an EOD technician. “It’s always good to get out and show different people in the community what we do and build relationships.”

Sgt Clemente Garcia, USMC

### Super Squad Competition Encourages Excellence

“The mindset out here for a competition like this?” asked Chief Warrant Officer 5 Craig Marshall, the gunner for Third Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. “Animalistic,” he answered.

Major subordinate commands from 3dMarDiv and Marines from 3d Battalion,

Third Marine Regiment competed in 3dMarDiv’s annual rifle squad/crew-served weapons competition held at the Eastern Training Area, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan, Nov. 28-Dec. 2, 2016.

The competition, better known as the Super Squad Competition, has been slowly making a return after being put on hold during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. This year, 12 teams faced off in a quest to win the coveted Super Squad badge.

“We’re out here forward deployed with the mission to fight tonight,” said Marshall. “We want to test that skill and within that provide that competitive feeling amongst each other to force them to go a little bit further.”

The competition was separated into two



LCPL TYLER NIGRASWEL, USMC

**LCpl Habimar NievesGonzalez, an infantryman with Co I, 3/3, conducts ammo can lifts during the 3dMarDiv Super Squad Competition held at the Eastern Training Area, MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan, Nov. 30, 2016. The competition is designed to build camaraderie and refine squad tactics.**

parts—the crew-served weapons portion and the rifle squad portion.

The crew-served weapons portion had each team run 4 kilometers with their weapon system, perform ammo can lifts and complete a modified combat fitness test. The weapon systems included the M2 .50-caliber machine gun, the M240B medium machine gun, M249 light machine gun and the M224 60 mm mortar system. The teams also were tested on their accuracy. The rifle squads were tested in their offensive and defensive capabilities, which required them to move and work together as a cohesive unit.

“They say war is a battle of wills,” said Marshall. “... the will of these Marines goes beyond any weapon system that we own, and they accomplish greater things than anybody ever thought of.”

The competition provided the participants with an opportunity to push themselves in Okinawa’s tropical humidity and tough terrain by running as a team with entire weapon systems that weigh more than 100 pounds.

“It’s a good time when you’re all sticking together, moving fast and end up finishing together,” said Lance Corporal Clayton Kennelly, a squad leader with Weapons Company, 3/3. “You’re tired, exhausted and you feel like you actually did something for that day, which is good.”

The competition brought many teams

together, but in the end, four teams rose to the top for each category. The win for the heavy machine guns category went to Combined Anti-Armor Team 2, Weapons Co, 3/3, representing Fourth Marine Regiment. The Marines of Weapons Platoon, Company K, 3/3 won the medium machine guns portion, while the mortars category was awarded to Weapons Plt, Company I, 3/3, representing 4th Marines. The Marines of 3d Reconnaissance Battalion won the rifle squad competition.

“With competition, even if you don’t win, everyone that competed in this training is better,” said Major General Richard L. Simcock II, Commanding General, 3dMarDiv, to the Marines who filled the chairs of the Camp Hansen theater during the competition’s closing ceremony, Dec. 4, 2016.

After congratulating and awarding the victors, the general left them with a message.

“When you walk out of here today, keep in mind that this is the standard,” said MajGen Simcock. “Don’t rely on the generals, the colonels, the sergeants major or the first sergeants. Take responsibility of you and your Marines. Get ready for that fight. Because when it happens, it won’t be Rich Simcock with his 9 mm at the end of the day; it’ll be you all.”

LCpl Tyler Ngiraswei, USMC

## Reservist Recognized For OCS Performance

The Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) program was established to develop college students mentally, morally and physically, and to imbue them with the military core values of honor, courage and commitment, in order to commission those young men and women as Naval and Marine Corps officers. Graduates who complete their education and receive NROTC training demonstrate the professionalism, motivation and potential to assume the highest responsibilities of command, citizenship and government.

Currently enrolled as a student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Lance Corporal Jeremy Fredrichsdorf was awarded the Marine Corps Commandant’s Trophy in Chapel Hill, N.C., Nov. 19, 2016, for his performance as the top candidate at Marine Officer Candidates School. He attended the Platoon Leaders Class, a set of two separate six-week training sessions taken between consecutive school years. He distinguished himself out of more than 200 candidates in academic performance, physical fitness and leadership.

Brigadier General Thomas A. Gorry, a 1984 graduate of UNC Chapel Hill and the president of Marine Corps University, said he was honored to present the young leader with the award.



Leathernecks with Co I, 3/3, participate in the 3dMarDiv Super Squad Competition held at the Eastern Training Area, MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan, Nov. 28-Dec. 2, 2016. The five-day competition encourages each participating squad to earn the title of “super squad.”



SGT ANTONIO RUBIO, USMC

LCpl Jeremy Fredrichsdorf, left, accepts the Commandant's Trophy award, sponsored by the Marine Corps Association & Foundation, from BGen Thomas A. Gorry, president of Marine Corps University, at UNC Chapel Hill, N.C., Nov. 19, 2016. Fredrichsdorf, a Marine reservist and student at UNC Chapel Hill, was the top candidate out of a class of 200 at OCS.

"I was certainly proud to be a part of this prestigious award ceremony, in which we recognized the stellar performance of a future Marine Corps officer and showed our appreciation to the University of North Carolina for its support to this outstanding NROTC program," said BGen Gorry.

Fredrichsdorf, originally from Leverkusen, Germany, moved to Raleigh, N.C., in 2008. While in high school, he saw the

diversity and opportunities the United States provided its citizens and realized he wanted to gain his citizenship. During this time, he heard President John F. Kennedy's famous quote, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." For Fredrichsdorf, the answer was clear.

"I joined the Marine Corps," said Frederichsdorf. "The Marine Corps is the

most difficult to join, and it is the best of all of the branches. The other branches promised things so you would join them, but the Marine Corps recruiters did not. They said that if you wanted to be a part of their Corps, that you as an individual would have to want to do it. It was not something that they would just give to you. So I enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve."

Fredrichsdorf studied economics and political science and graduated and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in December. While serving in the Marine Corps, he hopes to aid developing countries in their economic growth.

Sgt Antonio Rubio, USMC



## Crazy Caption Contest

### Winner



LCPL REBECCA ELLER

"Fire in the Ho, Ho, Hole!"

Submitted by  
GySgt Mark McKie, USMC (Ret)  
Coloma, Mich.

### This Month's Photo



SGT PARIS CAPERS

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

# ROYAL MARINES IN THE U.S.

Strategic Placement, Coordination with USMC  
Strengthen an Unparalleled Bond





By Sara W. Bock

One of British Royal Marine Major Tom White's initial interactions with U.S. Marines was an event that very well may have saved his life.

During his first deployment to Afghanistan in 2008, White, then a young lieutenant attached to a Royal Marine unit known as 42 Commando, was operating in Helmand Province. At the time, the presence of coalition forces in that area was limited at best, and, as White recalls, the environment was fairly kinetic. The battalion-size unit, part of the British amphibious entry force, 3 Commando Brigade, often called for close air support while battling enemy insurgents, and many times their request was met with the reliable and accurate firepower from a USMC aircraft.

White vividly recalls a specific instance in which a U.S. Marine AH-1W Super Cobra hovered overhead and took out the enemy during what he describes as a rather dire situation—one that otherwise, he said, likely would have had a very different outcome.

"If I could have substituted that USMC aviator for a British pilot, I probably wouldn't," White said, not because he views British helicopter pilots as inferior, but because for him, the experience solidified the level of trust and appreciation that he and his fellow commandos have for U.S. Marines. There's an undeniable bond between members of the two organizations that seems nearly impossible to replicate elsewhere.

"I know for a fact that the guy operating that aircraft has been a Marine, he's gone through certain training, he knows what it's like to have a pack on your back and have to do a 10K insertion ... I think that kind of common camaraderie is so important," said White.

The small, elite force of Royal Marine commandos, easily distinguishable by their green berets and the commando dagger insignia on their uniforms, is arguably the Marine Corps' closest ally and most venerable counterpart. They share a common identity as Marines that seems to transcend the differences between the two organizations, enabling them to combine forces to take on even the most formidable challenges with great success.

Particularly over the past 15 years, Royal Marines, who are the "amphibious arm" of the Royal Navy, have worked together closely with U.S. Marines during a multitude of campaigns and operations. As a result, the shared warfighting values between the two organizations have become even more evident than ever before,



**Above:** Gen James F. Amos, 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps, left, and the Commandant General Royal Marines, MajGen Buster Howes, right, present a trophy to a British Royal Marine rugby participant following a rugby match between U.S. and Royal Marines at MCB Quantico, Va., April 28, 2012. (Photo by Sgt Ben Flores, USMC)

**Opposite Page:** Maj Tom White, Royal Marines staff officer, left, and Col Neil Sutherland, Royal Marine attaché, right, stand outside the British ambassador's residence at the British Embassy in Washington, D.C., Dec. 15, 2016. As attaché, Sutherland oversees all interactions between the Royal Marines and U.S. Marines and helps coordinate training and exchanges. (Photo by Nancy S. Lichtman)

and the relationship even more deeply solidified, according to Lieutenant Colonel Eric Quehl, USMC, who heads the International Affairs Branch, Plans, Policies & Operations (PP&O), Headquarters Marine Corps.

Today, nearly a decade after that U.S. Marine Cobra crew supported him on the

ground in Afghanistan, Maj White is serving as the Royal Marines staff officer at the British Embassy in Washington, D.C. He works directly for Colonel Neil Sutherland, the Royal Marine attaché, who plays a key role in the relationship between the USMC and the Royal Marines.

Their function in Washington, D.C., is twofold: to act as the interface between the two organizations, as well as to manage the Royal Marine "footprint" within the United States.

That footprint—albeit small—is impressively strategic and made possible by the presence of Royal Marines in exchange billets throughout the USMC. By nature of the exchange, a U.S. Marine is sent to fill a similar role within the Royal Marines. Aside from the exchange Marines, liaison officers are assigned to the U.S. to represent the Royal Marines' best interests, coordinate the interactions between the two organizations and keep abreast of the USMC's most recent warfighting developments. By doing so, the liaison officers help determine how the Royal Marines can best complement the U.S. Marines, said Lieutenant Colonel Martin Twist, the Royal Marine liaison officer at Marine Corps Combat Development Command, MCB Quantico. Twist works to enhance and maximize interoperability between the Marines of Great Britain and the U.S., as well as help ensure that the



COURTESY OF LTCOL MARTIN TWIST, RM

**LtCol Martin Twist, pictured here in Afghanistan as a major when he served as an exchange officer with 2d Marines, now serves as the Royal Marine liaison officer at MCCDC, MCB Quantico, Va. He is strategically positioned to help keep the Royal Marines informed and involved in the USMC's newest developments.**

**Below: Royal Marine Commando Cpl “Britney” Piers Stacey, right, and U.S. Marine GySgt Jason M. Mills, left, run communications between British forces and U.S. Marines in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, during Operation Backstop, Dec. 11, 2008. In both Iraq and Afghanistan, the two organizations of Marines had unprecedented opportunities to work together during many operations.**



LCPL BRIAN JONES, USMC

Royal Marines remain “in step” with the USMC’s progress.

Twist is one of 12 international liaisons at MCCDC, and his chain of command is routed through the British Embassy—Col Sutherland—rather than through Lieutenant General Robert S. Walsh, MCCDC Commanding General and Deputy Commandant, Combat Development and Integration.

The number varies year to year, but at any given time there are approximately 15 Royal Marines assigned to the U.S. in a variety of capacities. Unlike the liaisons, the exchange Marines are placed within the USMC chain of command and report to the commander of the unit they are attached to—fully integrated into the Marine Corps—and the same goes for their U.S. counterparts who fill exchange slots in the U.K.

Exchange billets include a Royal Marine officer with Second Marine Regiment at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C and another officer at I MEF in Camp Pendleton, Calif. Royal Marine colour sergeants (E-8 equivalent) are assigned at USMC commands including as the physical training instructor (PTI) at Officer Candidate School, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.; as a sniper instructor at Weapons Training Battalion Quantico; and as a mountain leader at Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif.

An exchange relationship also exists

within Training & Education Command, through which Royal Marines and U.S. Marines have the opportunity to attend the other’s schools—namely, Command & Staff College. In fact, the current Commandant General of the Royal Marines, Major General Robert Magowan, is a graduate of the USMC’s Command & Staff College.

Chances are that most U.S. Marines



**Royal Marine Col Kevin Oliver, Commandant of the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines, observes the Confidence Course at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., July 9, 2015. Oliver visited Parris Island to discuss the role of women in combat with representatives from the Marine Corps Force Integration Office. (Photo by LCPL Vanessa Austin, USMC)**

**A British Royal Marine mountain leader explains to U.S. Marines with Black Sea Rotational Force how to set up their tents during cold weather training at Porsangmoen, Norway, Feb. 2, 2016. Cold weather training is an area of expertise for the Royal Marines, and the U.S. Marines often benefit from their instruction. (Photo by Cpl Immanuel Johnson, USMC)**



have served alongside or at least interacted with a Royal Marine at some point during their career, either operationally or thanks to one of the exchanges.

“There’s not a steep learning curve—we already know a lot about each other and it’s just very seamless,” said Quehl of the partnership, adding that he and his fellow U.S. Marines truly enjoy opportunities to spend time with Royal Marines. “They’re just good to be around,” he said.

Twist’s current assignment as the liaison officer at MCCDC is not his first in the U.S. In 2007, while a major, he joined Second Marine Regiment as an exchange officer where he deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan. He considers the experience to be the highlight of his career. Upon his arrival at Camp Lejeune, he had only two weeks to prepare to join the regiment in Al Asad, Iraq. He was forced to “hit the ground running,” he said, and quickly learn what the Marine Corps is about and how it conducts itself on operations.

“Two operational deployments with another nation. I feel hugely privileged to have had that experience. It was quite something, and what an amazing group of people,” Twist said as he recalled his tour with 2d Marines.

During his tour with 2d Marines, Twist met an American woman working in Richmond, Va., and the two were married in 2010. They returned to Great Britain in 2010 and then came back to the U.S.—Quantico—in 2014, when Twist began his tour as the liaison officer. During this tour, his twin sons were born.

“I’m outnumbered in the household in terms of nationality,” said Twist with a laugh. The opportunity to work closely with the Marine Corps and spend a significant amount of time in the U.S. has surely impacted his life positively, both professionally and personally.

For many, like Twist, the opportunity to build “equity” and relationships with the USMC affords them more opportunities to be invested in roles that strengthen

the relationship between the two organizations, said Sutherland, who added that it’s considered a real strength to have an understanding of how the U.S. Marines work.

White views the opportunity to work at the British Embassy in Washington, D.C., and interact daily with U.S. Marines as an ideal way to broaden his horizons.

“It’s just a fascinating place to be ... it’s a great job, one that I’ve thoroughly enjoyed,” said White. In general, the experiences of the Royal Marines in the U.S. seem to be overwhelmingly positive—so much so, that many are vying for the billets when they become available.

The underlying concept behind the exchange program is not only to expose Marines to differing perspectives and experiences, but also to highlight the areas in which each organization complements the other. The Royal Marines, adept at cold weather training and in the science of physical training, place colour sergeants who are subject matter experts in those

fields into vital roles in the USMC—namely, the PTI at OCS and the mountain leader at MCMWTC in Bridgeport. Likewise, a U.S. Marine gunnery sergeant is placed at the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines Lympstone in Devon, England, to share expertise in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

The more exposure the two groups of Marines have with each other, the better—and the payoff comes when they are called to serve shoulder to shoulder in the line of duty.

“If you put two Marines—a U.S. Marine and a Royal Marine—side by side in a fire trench, they are going to deliver. And it is absolutely critical that we provide them the opportunities to do that, because talking about working side by side and interoperability is all very good—but the bottom line is the guys need to train and operate together, and I think that’s something we do very well,” said White, adding that exposing young U.S. and Royal Marines to each other early and in difficult, tough training environments helps engender the trust that’s so important to maintaining the partnership.

From the British Embassy in Washington, D.C., all interactions are carefully coordinated with the Pentagon through

HQMC PP&O. As the Royal Marine attaché, Sutherland’s efforts deal exclusively with the U.S. Marine Corps. While officers from any of the U.K. armed forces can hold attaché positions in other British embassies, the position is the only dedicated Royal Marine attaché in the world. It’s a testament to the value both the U.S. and U.K. place on their “Marine to Marine” relationship.

The relationship is reciprocated in the U.K., as the USMC attaché in London gets exactly the same sort of direct access into the Royal Marines and wider Royal Navy, said Sutherland.

“We are the interface between the Royal Marines and the U.S. Marine Corps. So anything the Royal Marines want to do or any engagements with the USMC, effectively we act as the bridge,” said Sutherland of the role that he and White play as they operate out of the embassy. “Similarly, anything that the USMC is looking to do with the Royal Marines, we will again act as that bridge going back across the Atlantic.”

In many ways different from the U.S. Marines, Royal Marine commandos are a small, elite force of around 7,000 from which roughly 43 percent of U.K. Tier 1 Special Forces is drawn. While their

function is difficult to translate into USMC terms, said Sutherland, as the amphibious arm of the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines could be viewed as force reconnaissance, or an agile, scalable high-end infantry regiment with numerous niche and specialist skills. And as a much smaller organization, in terms of size, the Royal Marines are what Sutherland affectionately calls a “little brother” to the U.S. Marine Corps.

“We seek to be complementary, not provide more of the same,” Sutherland said. “I think we can enhance rather than just provide another brigade or another battalion.”

Focusing on these differences and recognizing the unique strengths that each organization brings to the table are the keys to sustaining the close alliance the Royal Marines and U.S. Marines share, and those differences and strengths are likely more evident than ever in a true operational environment.

Perhaps the most noteworthy example of interoperability between the two occurred during the initial invasion of Iraq in 2003, when the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit was subordinated under the British 3 Commando Brigade at Al Faw and Umm Qasr.

**U.S. Marines with 2d ANGLICO train with Royal Marine commandos in preparation for Exercise Joint Warrior on Cape Wrath, Scotland, Oct. 8, 2016. Each year, Royal Marines and U.S. Marines work together on a variety of exercises, all with the common goal of enhancing interoperability so that they can be prepared for the next fight in which they will serve together. (Photo by Sgt Rebecca Floto, USMC)**



**Right: U.S. and Royal Marines, along with their Navy counterparts, conduct a live-fire range near Inverness, Scotland, during Exercise Tartan Eagle, Sept. 16, 2014. The three-week exercise put each nation side by side in close quarter battle exercises, live-fire competition, room clearing and a vertical assault course.**

“It was a textbook example of how we would and do operate with the Royal Marines,” said Quehl of the successful partnership during those early battles of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

But in order to fight together, it’s important that they train together too. Annual exercises like Bold Alligator on the East Coast of the U.S., spearheaded by 2d Marine Expeditionary Brigade, in which nearly 1,000 Royal Marines participate, as well as large scale exercises with Second Marine Division and interactions with the USMC’s Black Sea Rotational Force in Europe require a great deal of planning and preparatory work. Joint training is yet another area in which Sutherland and White play a role from the embassy, carefully coordinating the interactions between the Royal Marines and the U.S. Marines.

Sutherland, a native of Scotland, previously served as commanding officer of 42 Commando and as the deputy commander of 3 Commando Brigade. While a company commander, his company 2IC—the equivalent of an executive officer in USMC terms—was a U.S. Marine exchange officer. Although Sutherland’s assignment as attaché is his first in the U.S., he’s spent a great deal of time throughout his career working alongside U.S. Marines. For him, it’s a similar ethos and shared mission that bind the two organizations together.

“If you asked any Royal Marine, ‘who would you trust fighting alongside you?’ the answer would undoubtedly be, ‘a U.S. Marine,’ ” said Sutherland, adding that the shared adversity the two have endured over the years by operating together in harsh environments is what strengthens the bonds of friendship and trust.

The assumption, however, that the U.S. and U.K. Marines are closely aligned because they are identical or interchangeable, is incorrect, said Sutherland. The differences are actually quite significant. In part, those differences have to do with the smaller size of the Royal Marines force—7,000 to the USMC’s roughly 180,000—and also with the fact that the Royal Marines are an all-infantry force. While some may specialize down the road, initially all are trained as commandos and are in many ways more of a specialist force, relying on other assets of the British armed forces for specialized support.

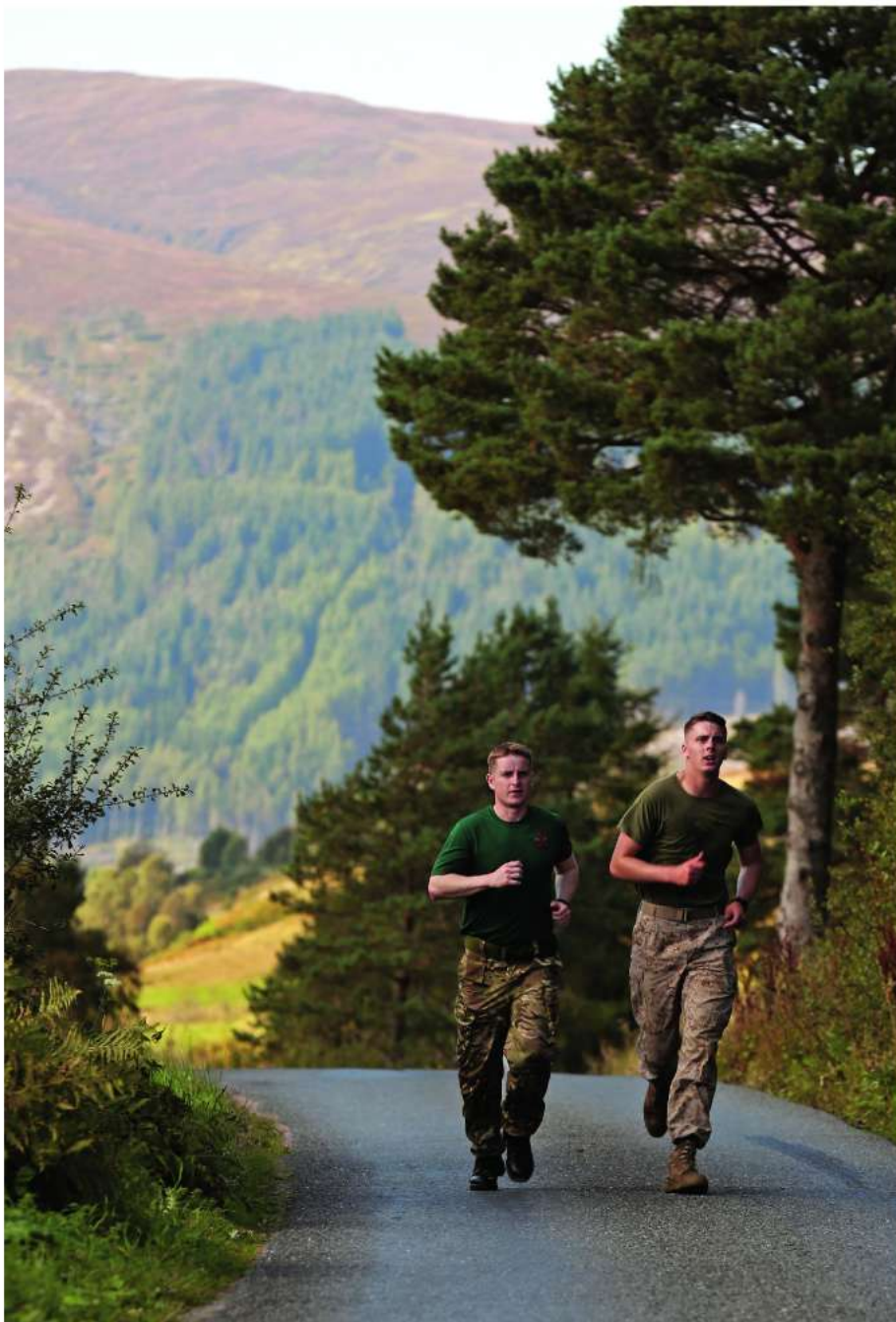


MSGT CHAD MCMEEN, USMC



WO IZZEL SANCHEZ, USMC

**A Royal Marine commando works alongside U.S. Marines during Exercise Bold Alligator 14, aboard MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., Nov. 4, 2014. Bold Alligator, which takes place off the East Coast of the U.S. and is designed to train the full range of amphibious capabilities, is one of the largest exercises in which the U.S. Marines and Royal Marines partner.**



MSGT CHAD MCMIEEN, USMC

**Royal Marine commando David Kielty, left, and U.S. Marine LCpl Jacob Lambrect, right, run the final stretch of a 7-mile commando speed march in the vicinity of Spean Bridge, Scotland, Sept. 17, 2014, during Exercise Tartan Eagle 14. The Marines worked to share knowledge and tactical procedures for the safeguarding of nuclear weapons.**

Other branches of the British armed forces provide the artillery and engineer elements of the Royal Marines' core organization, 3 Commando Brigade, a rapidly deployable amphibious infantry force. Those members of other branches who operate with the Royal Marines generally attend a 13-week All Arms Commando Course at the Commando Training Centre and earn the Royal Marines' signature green beret.

To become a Royal Marine Commando, recruits attend the Commando Training Centre for nine months, and officers are there for 15 months. Both train in the same

facility—a benefit of the small size of their force—and all are held to the same physical standards, regardless of their career path. Earning their green beret is the pinnacle moment—much like earning the Eagle, Globe and Anchor is for U.S. Marine recruits. While the junior recruits' and junior officers' training is not integrated, their proximity to one another allows for interaction and crossover. White, who has done a tour as an instructor at the Commando Training Centre, sees this an asset.

"Whilst officers and enlisted recruits attend separate courses, there is a high

level of interaction and combined exercises throughout training. It's visible. That's really important because the recruits see the standard that is expected of young officers and vice versa," White said of the structure of commando training. At the 32-week mark, both junior recruits and junior officers take the commando tests, and the requirements and standards differ only slightly for officers and enlisted recruits.

"If you've been in the operating force for 12 months, you've achieved the same standard as the brigade commander who's been in for 22 years," said White. "So it's that commonality that we all share across the organization that's so important."

During the Royal Marines' 15-month officer training course, junior officers travel to Quantico to conduct a joint exercise with the USMC's Infantry Officers Course. That type of early exposure, said White, is key to the relationship between the U.S. and Royal Marines.

"I think what really makes it special is that we both ... really value our role as amphibious sea soldiers ... we're both proud of our heritage and have a common set of values and ethos ... there's almost a natural alignment of partnership as two very advanced, capable warfighting organizations," said White.

According to Sutherland, a recently signed interoperability pathway between the U.S. Marine Corps and the Royal Marines/Royal Navy formalized the future relationship between the services. The idea, he said, is not that bilateral activity will necessarily increase in the coming years, but that both organizations will better capitalize on the existing activity.

"It's all about enabling us to work better and closer together so that the next time we deploy on operations somewhere, we can start from a better position," Sutherland said.

In 2015, the British Royal Navy announced that the USMC will deploy its F-35B Lightning II strike fighters alongside their own F-35Bs on Britain's new *Queen Elizabeth* class aircraft carriers beginning around 2021. And while the aviation aspect doesn't particularly correlate directly with the Royal Marines, one thing is clear: the future U.S. relationship with Great Britain will be stronger than ever before.

This year, the Royal Marines also will send a PTI to assist in the growth of the USMC's newest military occupational specialty, Force Fitness Instructor (FFI). The FFI course returns its graduates to their units, where they are certified to physically train members of their commands, similar to the role of a Royal Marine PTI.



SARA W. BOCK

**Royal Marine PTI Colour Sergeant Leslie Barrow instructs U.S. Marine officer candidates at Brown Field, MCB Quantico, Va., Oct. 15, 2015. The colour sergeant's billet at OCS is part of a unique exchange program between the U.S. Marines and Royal Marines, strategically designed to allow each organization to benefit from the other's strengths.**

13-week All Arms Commando Course has been open to women from other branches of service, and several have successfully completed it. White and Sutherland look at the integration of women in combat roles as an opportunity, emphasizing that anyone who can meet the standards can be a Royal Marine.

If there's anything that can be learned by observing the relationship between the U.S. Marines and Royal Marines, it's that shared values and experiences are vital to close military partnerships. For two organizations so deeply rooted in their own heritage, so fervently committed to excellence on the battlefield and beyond, and so profoundly committed to interoperability, there's little doubt that they are greater together than they are alone.



"No doubt, with the experience and professionalism of the USMC, there will be many things that he will learn as well and he can then take back to the Commando Training Centre," said Sutherland of the PTI assigned to the course. Sutherland hopes that in the future, there will be an opportunity to have another exchange that will allow a USMC FFI to come to the

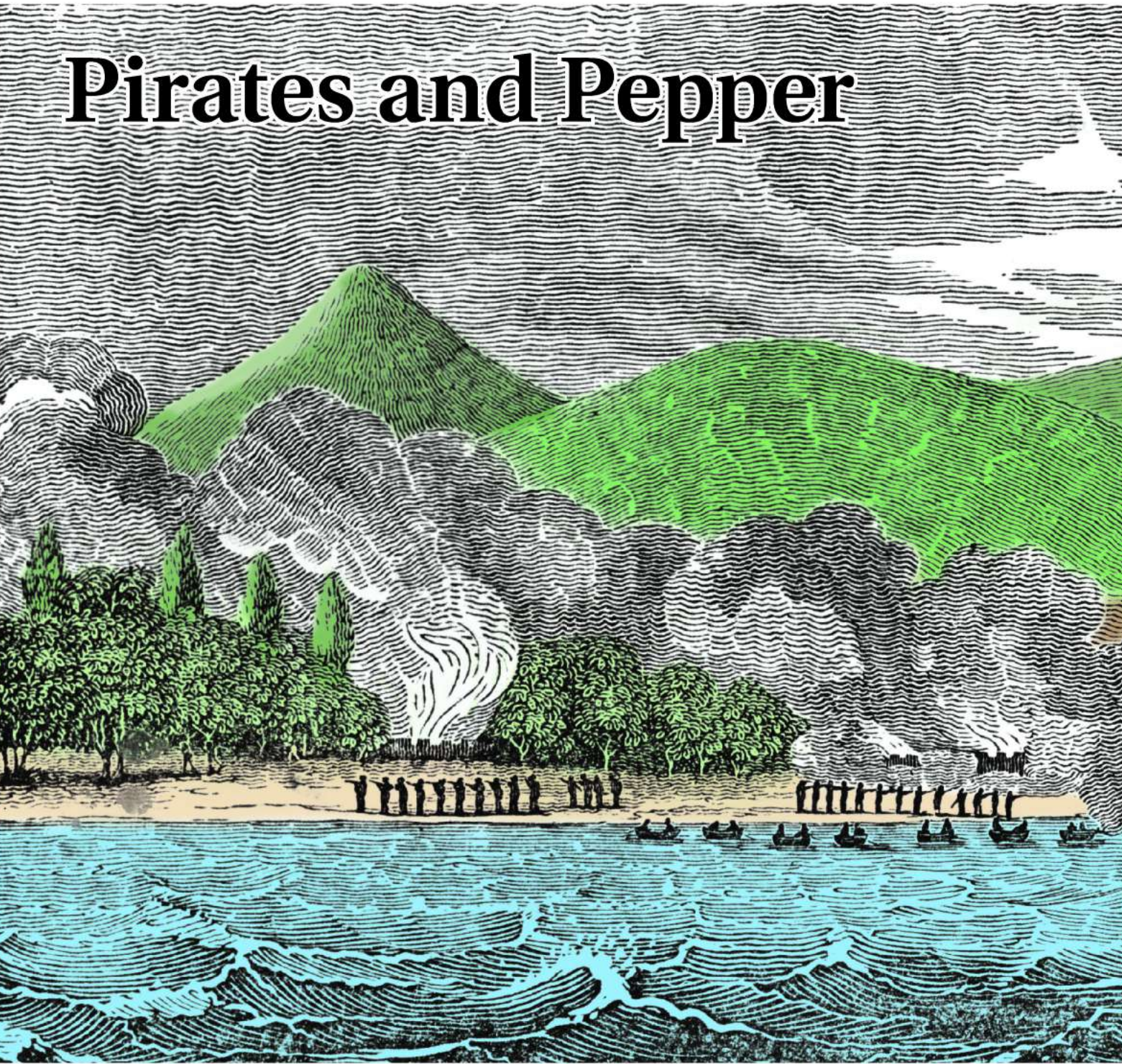
U.K.—and perhaps even a female.

"That would greatly assist us when we open the Royal Marines to females," said Sutherland. The U.K.'s Ministry of Defence recently announced that it would allow women into combat roles, and the Royal Marines are preparing for the change—although, Sutherland emphasized, for a number of years the

**Maj Martin Twist, RM, left, prepares for a patrol alongside LtCol Steve Wolf, USMC, the Regimental Combat Team-2 operations officer in Sangin, Afghanistan, in 2010. The opportunity to serve with 2d Marines as part of RCT-2 was an experience that Twist considers the highlight of his career as a Royal Marine officer. (Photo courtesy of LtCol Martin Twist, RM)**



# Pirates and Pepper



By Bernard Nalty

A whale oil lamp flickered wildly as a tall, sun-bronzed man, his face furrowed, his eyes faded from too many hours of staring out over the empty sea, grimly signed his name to a letter on the desk before him. He was Charles Endicott, skipper of the merchantman *Friendship*. His letter told of a profitable cruise in the Dutch East Indies, of piracy and of murder.

While *Friendship* was loading a cargo

of pepper at the port of Quallah Battoo, Sumatra, a band of natives had rowed alongside, clambered aboard and seized the ship. Endicott's first mate and two of his seamen had been hacked to pieces when they tried to resist and stop the pirates. Aided by sailors from other merchantmen in the harbor, the crew of *Friendship* had driven off the pirates, but before they fled, the natives destroyed a cargo valued at \$12,000 in gold.

The letter over which the captain had sweated found its way through diplomatic

and military channels to the desk of the Secretary of the Navy. In an attack upon a vessel flying the Stars and Stripes, three Americans had been murdered. What, Endicott asked, did the Navy intend to do about it? Within a month, the Secretary answered; USS *Potomac*—44 guns—was on its way to Sumatra.

On Feb. 5, 1832, the vessel arrived off Quallah Battoo. All her gun ports were closed and painted over, and her distinctive rigging had been changed. From the distance, she resembled an





unarmed Yankee merchantman on a peaceful trading cruise. Commodore John Downes, her captain, hoped that the pirates would attack, but they did not rise to the bait.

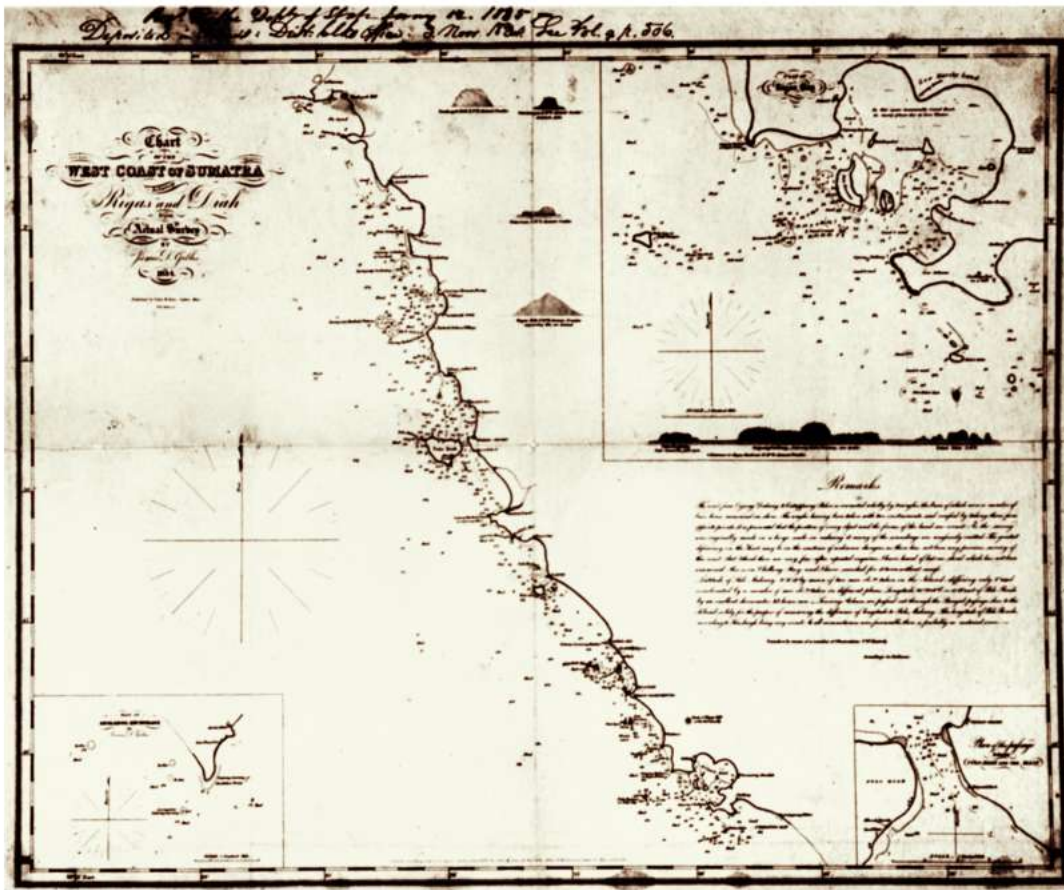
A pair of natives finally paddled out to *Potomac*, but these were not pirates. Instead of plunder, they were interested in selling fresh fish to the crew. Not until they were within a dozen yards of the vessel did they realize that she was a man-of-war. Before the natives could recover from their surprise, Downes had them

**Above: This drawing, which has been colorized to bring out the detail, captures the burning of Quallah Battoo, Sumatra, by COMO Downes' expedition in December 1838. (Photo Courtesy of Naval History and Heritage Command)**

**Right: COMO John Downes, USN, was in command of USS *Potomac* at the engagement of Quallah Battoo. *Potomac* was sent to aid *Friendship* after pirates seized the ship.**



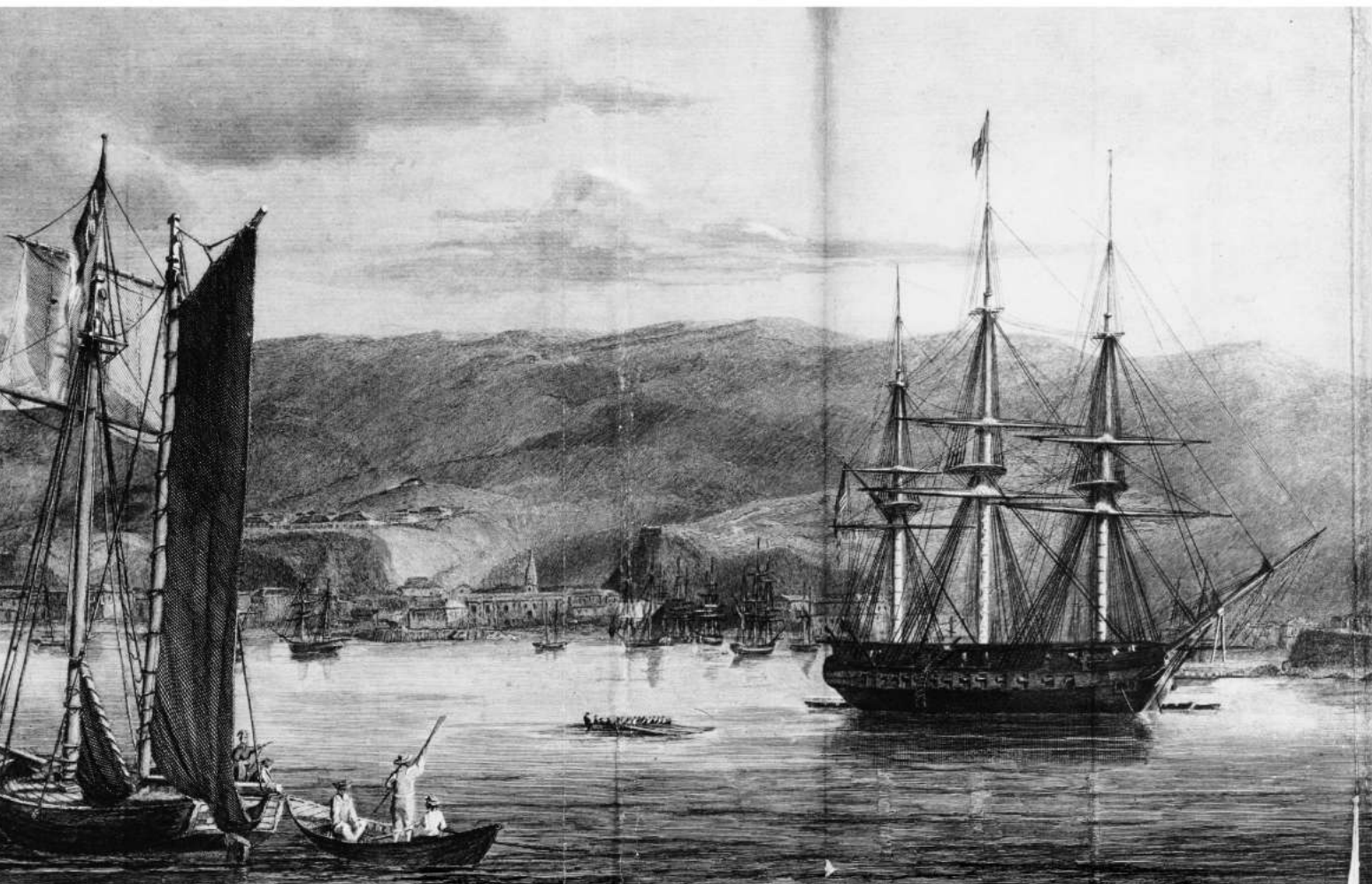
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Left: This chart depicts the west coast of Sumatra from a survey conducted by James D. Gillis, a surveyor aboard the merchant ship *Friendship*.

Below: J. Searle's painting of USS *Potomac*. The ship arrived off the coast of Quallah Battoo on Feb. 5, 1832, with her gun ports closed and painted over to resemble an unarmed Yankee merchantman on a peaceful trading cruise. COMO Downes hoped the pirates would take the bait and attack. (Illustration courtesy of Naval History and Heritage Command)

COURTESY OF NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND



seized and hurled into the brig.

Except for this attempt at ship-to-ship salesmanship, the villagers did not venture near the American ship. By dawn of Feb. 6, Downes had decided that the pirates weren't going to attack. He would have to make the first move.

Dressed as merchant seamen, Navy Lieutenant Irvin Shubrick, Marine Lieutenant Alvin Edson and five other ship's officers swaggered ashore to spy out the lay of the land. When they returned at sunset, they brought news that deepened the furrows across Downes' forehead.

The "merchant sailors," muttering in pidgin English and gesturing frantically, had tried to arrange an interview with Sultan Po Mohamet, the Rajah of Quallah Battoo. Their offer to trade gold for pepper got them nowhere. Each time they so much as looked toward Mohamet's hut, a fierce-looking guard would whip out his knife and with a few unmistakable gestures let the Americans know what would happen if they didn't leave. Worse still, the scouting party reported that 500 armed Malays manned the three wooden blockhouses guarding the approaches to Quallah Battoo.

At about 2 a.m. on Feb. 7, COMO Downes ordered away the landing party. He had divided his crew into three assault sections, each to storm one of the forts. Two of these sections were made up of blue-jackets while Lt Edson's Marines made up the third. To gain tactical surprise, the Marines were to hit the stockade at the rear of the village at the same moment the Sailors began their attacks on the two forts nearest the beach.

A few minutes before sunrise, Edson heard the sound of firing in the distance and immediately waved his men forward. Moving on the double, the Marines crossed an open field. Only a few yards to go, and still there was no sound from the fort. Two ship's carpenters sprinted forward and with heavy crowbars pried the wooden gates from their hinges. A short struggle with knife and bayonet, and the fight was ended.

On the other side of the village, one division of Sailors had won its objective, but the second had stirred up a hornets' nest. Time and time again these bluejackets had charged, only to be beaten back by the desperate Malays. Muskets proved useless. It was a battle of cutlass against the sharp, thin kris [sharp dagger] but the cutlass finally won out. After two hours of vicious fighting, the fort was taken, but only because the Marines and the other naval detachment had joined the fray.

Next, the landing party began the de-



Among the many works of Col Charles H. Waterhouse, USMCR, is his painting of the Battle of Quallah Battoo, Sumatra, on Feb. 6, 1832. (Illustration courtesy of the Colonel Charles H. Waterhouse Estate, Art Collection of the National Museum of the Marine Corps)

struction of Quallah Battoo. Flimsy shacks exploded into towering pillars of flame as they put the torch to the deserted village. Sweating, smeared with powder smoke, the Sailors and Marines were looking forward to a double ration of grog and plenty of sack time when a fourth fort suddenly opened fire on them.

blue-clad wave engulfed the walls, but the Americans could not keep their precarious hold on the gates. Every available man joined in the final assault. Slowly gaining momentum, the attackers rolled onward, crashed through the gates, and spilled into the fort. Bayonets made quick work of the handful of defenders who did not flee into the forest. At the cost of two killed and 11 wounded, the pirate strongholds had been captured.

Although the village had been destroyed and the four forts leveled, COMO Downes was not convinced that he had broken the fierce spirit of the Malays. At about midnight, under a full moon, *Potomac* glided across the silvery water and anchored a few hundred yards from the ruins of the pirate den. The mighty ship trembled slightly as she unleashed her first broadside. Again and again flames blossomed in the half light, and choking clouds of powder smoke drifted lazily toward shore. After an hour's bombardment, a lookout sighted a white flag waving near the edge of the jungle. Downes immediately ceased firing.

Early the following morning, a small party went ashore under a flag of truce. Although they found the place deserted, they did discover several white flags flying from the shattered forts. Later in the day, a native messenger rowed out to *Potomac* with the Rajah's solemn prom-



Cunningly camouflaged in the dense jungle, it had been overlooked by the Americans. From within the stockade, the natives chanted their war songs and blazed away with cannon and musket. Grimly the Sailors and Marines swept forward, only to be thrown back. They formed and charged again. This time the

ise to respect the Stars and Stripes in the future. Glancing nervously at the mighty cannon, he begged Downes not to resume his bombardment. Satisfied that he had pacified the pirates, he set sail to join the Pacific squadron.

No sooner had *Potomac* disappeared over the horizon than the work of reconstruction began. First the fortifications were repaired, then, a new village was built. Within a month or two, the pirates of Quallah Battoo were doing business at the same old stand. At first, they were reluctant to attack American vessels for the roar of cannon still rang in their ears. But gradually they grew bolder until the Navy Department was forced to organize another expedition to crush them.

On Dec. 21, 1838, two other American

vessels, the frigate *Columbia* and the sloop *John Adams*, arrived off the coast of Sumatra. On Christmas Eve, Captain George C. Read, of *Columbia*, demanded an apology from the pirate chieftans. His message was ignored and on the following day, the bombardment began. *Adams* was first to open fire, raking a flotilla of native boats with grapeshot. She then shifted her fire to the forts, smothering them in a torrent of round shot. Later, *Columbia* joined in the barrage but no troops were landed, and early in the afternoon, both vessels withdrew.

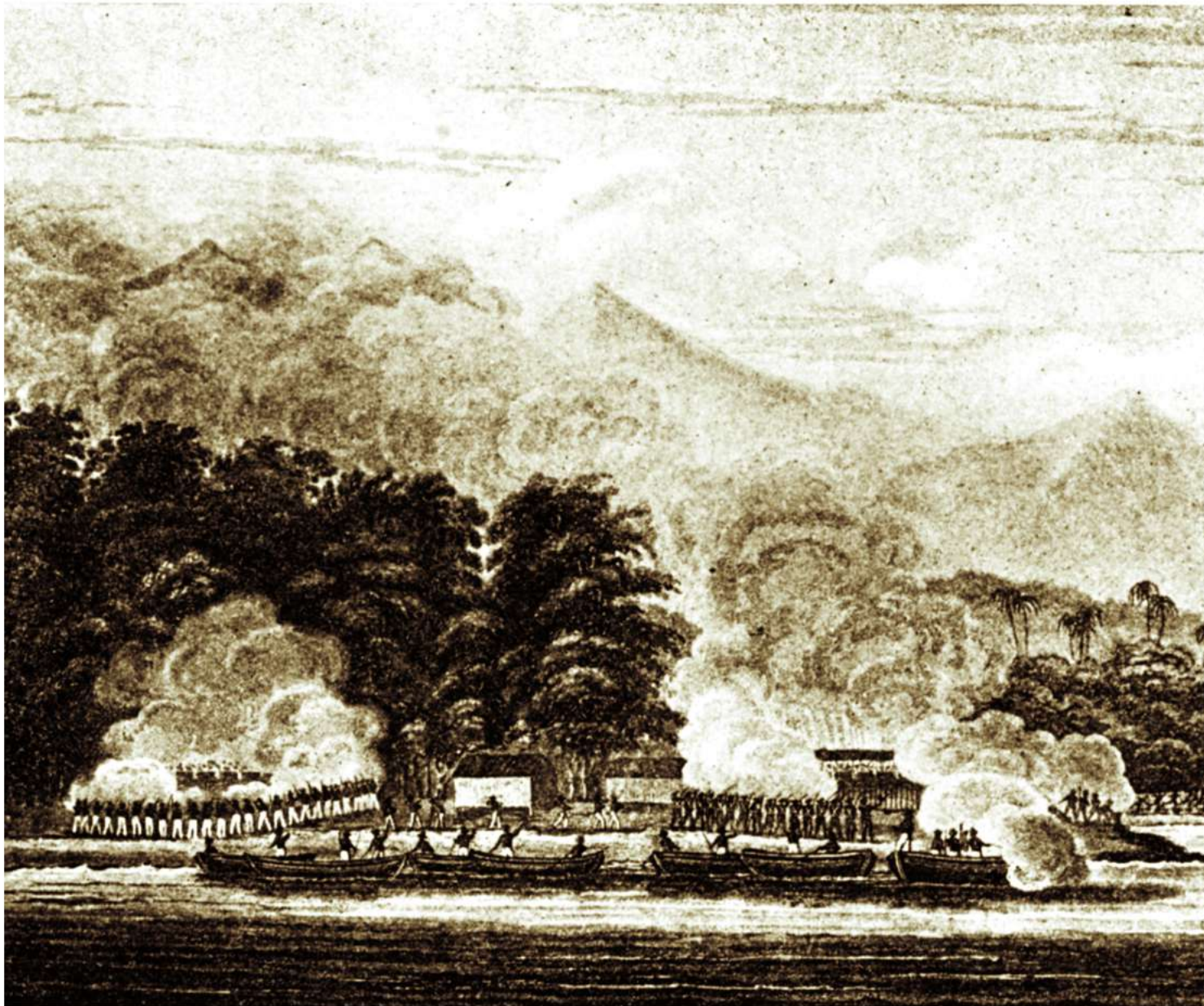
For the next few days, the tribesmen debated among themselves. Many of them could recall the burning of Quallah Battoo by COMO Downes' expedition, and on the morning of the 28th, a small boat bear-

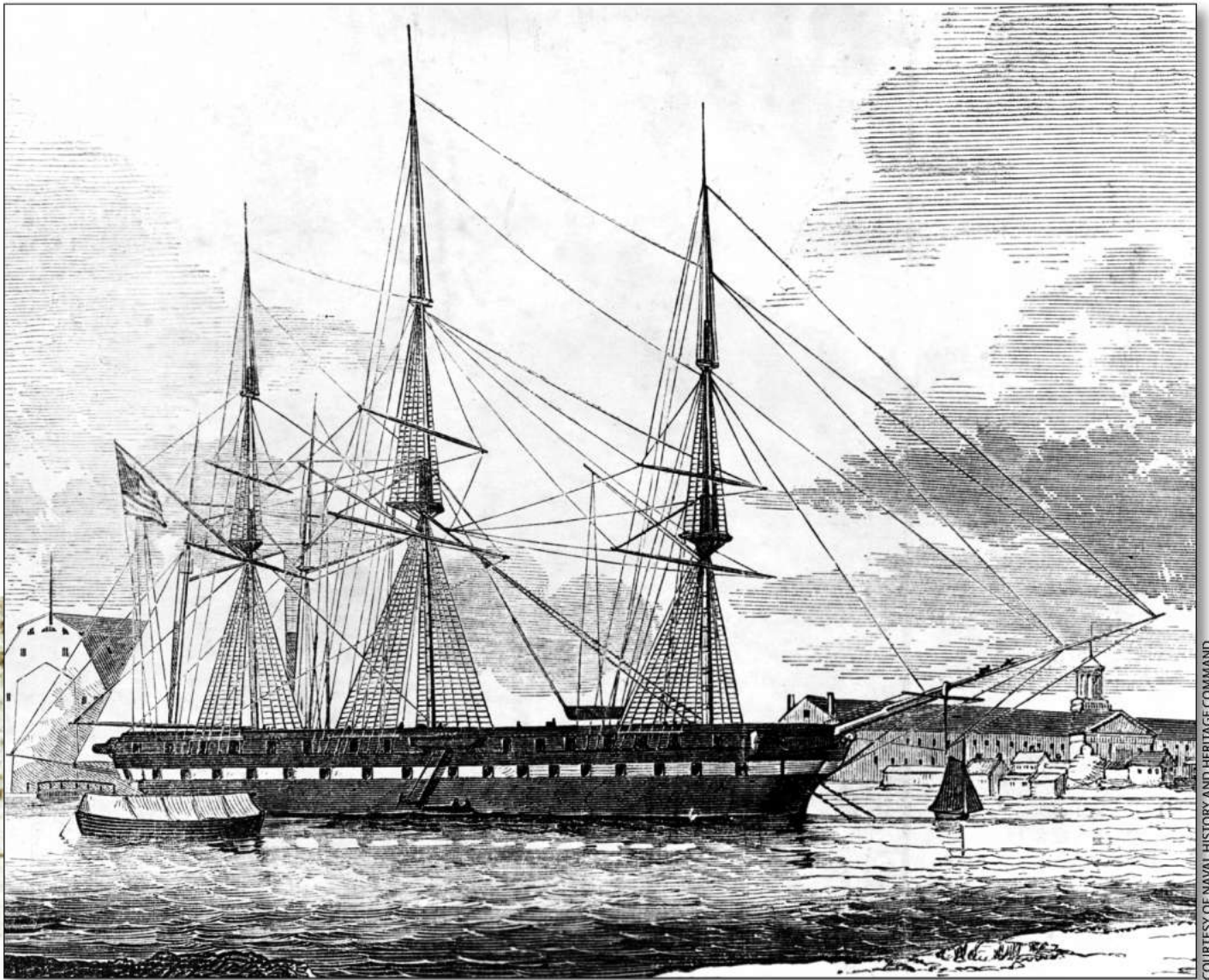
ing a white flag slipped across the sea toward the American flagship. As the tiny vessel drew alongside, *Columbia's* Marines, expecting some sort of trick, stood by with loaded muskets. A handful of thoroughly frightened chiefs clambered over the rail to stammer their apologies for having offended the powerful United States. With the natives of Quallah Battoo cowed into submission, CAPT Read was free to deal with a newer pirate redoubt, the town of Mukki.

The men of Mukki, who never had faced the Marines' bayonets nor felt the earth tremble at the sound of American guns, were obstinate. Haughtily, they scorned the Navy officer sent to talk with them. When Read sent a message stating that he would bombard the city in exactly

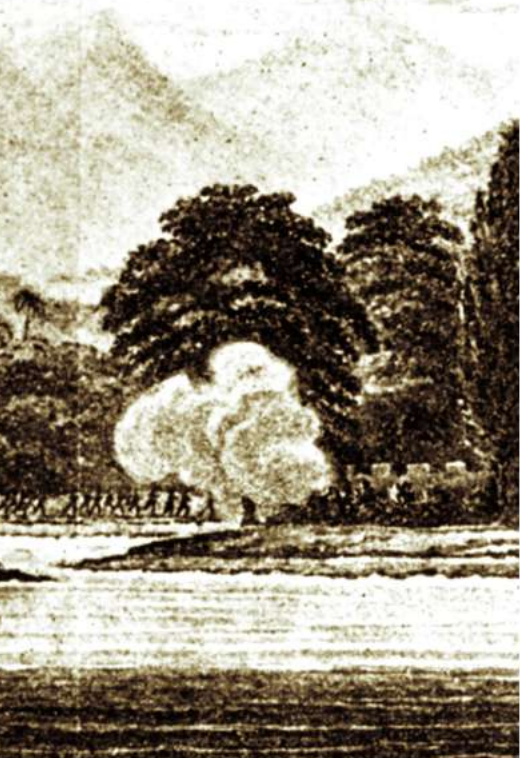
**Right: An illustration of USS *Columbia*. The frigate arrived off the coast of Sumatra on Dec. 21, 1838, commanded by CAPT George C. Read. His demand for an apology from the pirates was ignored. The bombardment began the next day.**

**Below: This drawing shows the action off Quallah Battoo, Sumatra, as seen from the anchored frigate *Potomac*.**





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24 hours, the warriors laughed. On the morning of Jan. 2, 1839, the warships ran out their guns, moved closer to the beach, and opened fire.

At 9:30 a.m., the first charge of grape-shot ripped through thatched huts of Mukki; rounds of solid shot splintered the thick wooden palisade of the main fort. In vain, the natives tried to return the fire, for the largest of their guns could not reach the American ships. Bravely they stood by their weapons, but courage alone could not stop the deadly rain. One of the men was hurled backward from the wall, torn to pieces by the vicious grape. One by one, they dropped their muskets and broke for cover. Nothing could withstand the American guns.

For more than two hours, the gunners fired as fast as they could reload; then the barrage slackened, and a landing party set out from *Adams*. Without encountering any opposition, the men from the sloop occupied the deserted village and began burning the crudely built houses. In the afternoon they were joined by a detach-

ment from *Columbia*. These men razed the fortifications, burning stores of powder and pulling down the walls. Two natives were found hidden in the village, but both surrendered without a struggle. On the morning of Jan. 4, the ships moved slowly out to sea. The power of the pirates of Sumatra had been crushed at last.

Two expeditions had been needed to convert the Malays from pirates to peaceful traders. Victors in battles for right and freedom, the Marines had done their share in winning the war over the pepper trade.

*Author's bio: Bernard Nalty was a well-known author who frequently wrote on historical and military subjects. Believing that the history of African Americans in the military was inadequately researched, he wrote "Strength for the Fight: A History of Black Americans in the Military" and edited the 13-volume "Blacks in the United States Armed Forces" with Morris J. McGregor Jr.*



## Mobile, Ala.



### A/1/7 Korean War Marines Reunite For Final Gathering

Veterans of "Stable Able" Company, 1st Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, who served in Korea from 1950-53, gathered in Mobile, Ala., for the unit's 21st annual and final reunion, Oct. 3-6, 2016. Due to dwindling participation in recent years, the members of the "Stable Able One Seven" Association made the difficult decision to make 2016 their last reunion. In addition to the eight Marines in attendance, there were five spouses and six other guests present. Pictured from the left, A/1/7 veterans Raymond James, Arthur King, Henry Bressman, Roland O'Con, Charles LaHatte, Leonard Shifflette, Guy Taylor and Harold Mulhausen toured USS *Alabama* (BB-60) and USS *Drum* (SS-228), ate dinner together each night, and held the association's final business meeting.

COURTESY OF CAPT LEONARD R. "SHIFTY" SHIFFLETTE, USMC (RET)

From their first reunion in Arlington, Va., in

1996, to the final reunion in Mobile, members of the association have enjoyed each other's company and have collectively provided financial contributions to the Semper Fi Fund and the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation.

Submitted by Capt Leonard R. "Shifty" Shifflette, USMC (Ret)

## Ossipee, N.H.

### Annual Deer Hunting Trip Includes Tribute to the Corps

Marine veterans Bill Corson, left, George Kinser, center, and Lieutenant Colonel Geoff Corson, USMC (Ret), right, toasted to the Corps on Nov. 10, 2016, during a birthday celebration they hosted at Corsons' hunting cabin in Ossipee, N.H. Their celebration has been an annual one for the past eight years as the trio, along with other family members and friends, spend the second week of November hunting deer in the New Hampshire hinterlands. Each year, they invite other family members, hunters and locals to join them in observing some of the birthday traditions that are unique to the Marine Corps.

During the celebration, they read the Commandant's birthday message, General John A. Lejeune's birthday message, and the Marine's prayer before the cutting of the traditional Marine Corps birthday cake. They even perform sword drill and invite their guests to join with them as they sing "The Marines' Hymn." At the end of their ceremony, they present a challenge coin or other keepsake to each attendee.

During the most recent celebration, the Corson brothers and Kinser were proud to fill the cabin with attendees who have served their community and country in a variety of capacities—a fireman and paramedic, an emergency medical technician, a Scout leader and an active-duty Coast Guard captain.



COURTESY OF LT COL GEOFFREY A. CORSON, USMC (RET)

Submitted by LtCol Geoffrey A. Corson, USMC (Ret)

## Staten Island, N.Y.

### MCL Det Members “Bring the Birthday” To Fellow Marine

When officers of the Staten Island #1 Marine Corps League Detachment 246 learned that Frank Marcardi, a fellow Marine veteran and Port Authority police officer, was unable to make it to any Marine Corps Birthday events on Nov. 10, 2016, due to his health, they decided to bring a celebration to him. Marcardi, who is battling cancer related to his involvement as a first responder at the World Trade Center on 9/11, was wished a “happy birthday” by the members of the detachment, who also thanked him for his service to New York City. From the left, Sean Torres Sr., Bob Geronimo, Frank Marcardi, Butch Sarcone, Jim Sweeney and Volker Heyde gathered for a photo at Marcardi’s home.

Submitted by Sean Torres Sr.

COURTESY OF SEAN TORRES SR.



## Oxon Hill, Md.



CPL SAMANTHA K. BRAUN, USMC

### “Oldest Marine” Tradition Keeps Generations Connected

Gen Robert B. Neller, 37th Commandant of the Marine Corps, right, presents the second piece of birthday cake to 97-year-old Marine and World War II veteran Betty Sims, left, who was the oldest Marine present at the Commandant’s Birthday Ball, held at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in Oxon Hill, Md., Nov. 12, 2016.

The Marine Corps tradition, in which the first piece of birthday cake is given to the guest of honor; the second to the oldest Marine present; and the third to the youngest Marine present, signifies the honor and respect given to seniority and the passing of responsibility to the young Marines who are the future of the Corps.

Cpl Samantha K. Braun, USMC

## Quantico, Va.



GYSGT P. BRANDY FITZGERALD, USMC (RET)

### MCA&F Presents Writing Award to SEPME Graduate

Sergeant Major Kevin S. Bennett, USMC (Ret), Director of Professional Development for the Marine Corps Association & Foundation, left, congratulates First Sergeant Collin Barry, the recipient of the writing award for the Senior Enlisted Professional Military Education (SEPME) course at Marine Corps University, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Nov. 18, 2016. On behalf of MCA&F, Bennett presented Barry with a plaque and a check for \$200.

One of the primary missions of MCA&F is to recognize excellence among Marines—both in the fleet and in an academic setting—through its awards program. As the largest contributor of awards given to the Marine Corps, MCA&F presents approximately 7,500 awards annually—95 percent of which go to enlisted Marines and Sailors. MCA&F welcomes the support of veteran Marines and friends of the Corps in helping us provide awards to today’s outstanding Marines. Donations can be made at [www.mca-marines.org/supportMarines](http://www.mca-marines.org/supportMarines).

MCA&F

**“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](mailto:s.bock@mca-marines.org). Submission does not guarantee publication, and we cannot guarantee the return of photos.**



## Marines Help Commemorate Japanese Samurai

“*Oyakata-sama!*” thundered warrior voices to show their motivation and dedication to their lord. Convinced, the lord called for a “battle” to the death.

The 27th annual Kuragake Castle Festival and Samurai Parade was held on Nov. 20, 2016, to commemorate the great battle of faith—a stand against an unfaithful ally—which took place in 1555 in Iwakuni City, Japan. This year, five Marines from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni participated in the parade, wearing traditional samurai costumes and shouting their battle cry.

Participants were ushered into a makeshift dressing room and were transformed into samurai warriors. Decked out in armor, headgear, swords and spears, the troops practiced their war cries before marching to a local temple to pray for safety and strength.

“During my transformation to a samurai,

I was amazed at how similar the samurai and Marines are,” said Corporal Waiyan Tin, a combat videographer and parade participant stationed at MCAS Iwakuni. “The samurai were not afraid to sacrifice themselves in order to protect their families and land.”

Emboldened from prayer, the re-enacting warriors marched to the town square to convince their lord that they were ready for battle.

“Our squad’s role was to be the advance group leading the troops into battle and trying to keep the massive enemy at bay as long as possible,” said Kida Shoji, an event participant and advance squad chief.

Falling into formation at the town square, the chiefs joined the lord in front to help the warriors longing for battle.

“It was so impressive and I felt so much power and strength from walking in the same squad as the Marines,” said Shoji. “This is a great opportunity to have U.S. and Japanese citizens get together and

I absolutely want the Marines to come back next year.”

The servicemembers and Japanese participants posed for pictures with onlookers, feasted on traditional Japanese cuisine and enjoyed the colorful festival.

“I felt humble and appreciative of being part of such an amazing culture that is rich in tradition,” said Tin. “Being able to participate with the local Japanese people was such a great experience.”

Sgt Nicole Zurbrugg, USMC

## Revised Pharmacy Network Now In Effect for TRICARE

Effective Dec. 1, 2016, Walgreens pharmacies joined the TRICARE retail pharmacy network, while CVS pharmacies, including those in Target stores, left the network, according to the Defense Health Agency.

“The network will still have more than 57,000 locations across the country,” said Dr. George Jones, DHA’s chief of



Dressed as samurai, local Japanese and U.S. Marines from MCAS Iwakuni march down the street during the 27th annual Kuragake Festival and Samurai Parade in Iwakuni City, Japan, Nov. 20, 2016.



pharmacy operation, in a release. “About 98 percent of beneficiaries still have a network pharmacy within 5 miles of their home.”

Express Scripts, Inc. (ESI) manages the TRICARE retail pharmacy network under a contract with the Department of Defense, the release said. ESI reached a



new network agreement with Walgreens, but not with CVS.

“Most of the pharmacy network stays the same, including major chains like Rite Aid and Walmart, grocery store pharmacies and thousands of community pharmacies around the country,” Jones said. “While we know this change might cause an inconvenience for some people, it’s easy to search for another network pharmacy near where you live or work.”

If customers fill a prescription at CVS after Dec. 1, 2016, it will be considered a non-network pharmacy. This means customers will pay the full cost of the medication up front and file a claim for partial reimbursement. TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery and military pharmacies may also be lower cost choices for some beneficiaries.

The ESI website has more information on the revised network and can help customers find a new retail pharmacy location near them. For more information, visit [www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/news/walgreens.shtml](http://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/news/walgreens.shtml).

DOD News

## DOD “BeThere” Call Center Offers Peer Support

On Oct. 21, 2016, the Defense Department launched a new call and outreach center that offers confidential peer support to active-duty servicemembers, National Guardsmen, reservists and family members through 24/7 chat, phone and text.

The DOD “BeThere” Call and Outreach Center is staffed by peers who are veteran servicemembers and family members of veterans and aims to provide support for everyday problem-solving of career and general life challenges.

“We are honored to support our servicemembers and their families as they get connected to needed resources through the support of those who have also served our country. This new initiative recognizes the unique challenges faced within the military community, promotes awareness, reduces the stigma and provides solutions for breaking through barriers when it comes to seeking help,” said Wendy Lakso, the Defense Suicide Prevention Office’s director for outreach and education.

TriWest Healthcare Alliance administers the “BeThere” Call and Outreach Center in 50 states and four U.S. territories and provides worldwide service through live chat. The company has supported the TRICARE program for active-duty servicemembers and their families and currently administers the Veterans Choice Program for veterans—a service that assists veterans for whom a regular VA medical facility is inaccessible—within 28 different states.

“It is a privilege to again serve alongside the Department of Defense in providing quality services to support those who wear the cloth of the nation and their families,” said Dave McIntyre, president and CEO of TriWest. “This unique population deserves and will receive our full focus in offering high-quality, easily accessible assistance. We thank DOD and their Suicide Prevention Office team for the confidence in allowing us to come to their side to contribute to their efforts through this important new initiative.”

Interested personnel can visit [www.betherepeersupport.org](http://www.betherepeersupport.org) for more information about the “BeThere” Call and Outreach Center or call (844) 357-PEER (7337).

DOD News

## Fisher House Awarded for Lodging Excellence

Major General Walter Miller Jr., Commanding General, II Marine Expeditionary Force, presented the Admiral Elmo Zumwalt Award for Lodging Excellence to the Camp Lejeune Fisher House at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Nov. 16, 2016.

“The Admiral Elmo Zumwalt Award for Lodging Excellence was given to this site after it was accredited by a team that inspected everything,” said Josie Callahan, the general manager of the Camp Lejeune Fisher House. “They looked behind pictures for dust. They checked with guests to make sure they were being accommodated, that they were able to get to the site easily and that everything was the utmost for the guests.”

The guests at Fisher House are supporting their loved ones who are receiving medical care at Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune and/or Wounded Warrior Battalion-East (WWBn-E). The main purpose of Fisher Houses is to provide military families a place to stay while their loved ones are being cared for.

“It’s not just the fact that you have a place to stay,” said Pamela Smith, a guest living in the Camp Lejeune Fisher House. “It’s the support that they offer. It’s them making sure you’re OK and making sure you’re taken care of so you don’t have to worry about the little day-to-day things.”

Smith has been staying in the Fisher House for more than six months while her son is in WWBn-E waiting to be medically retired.

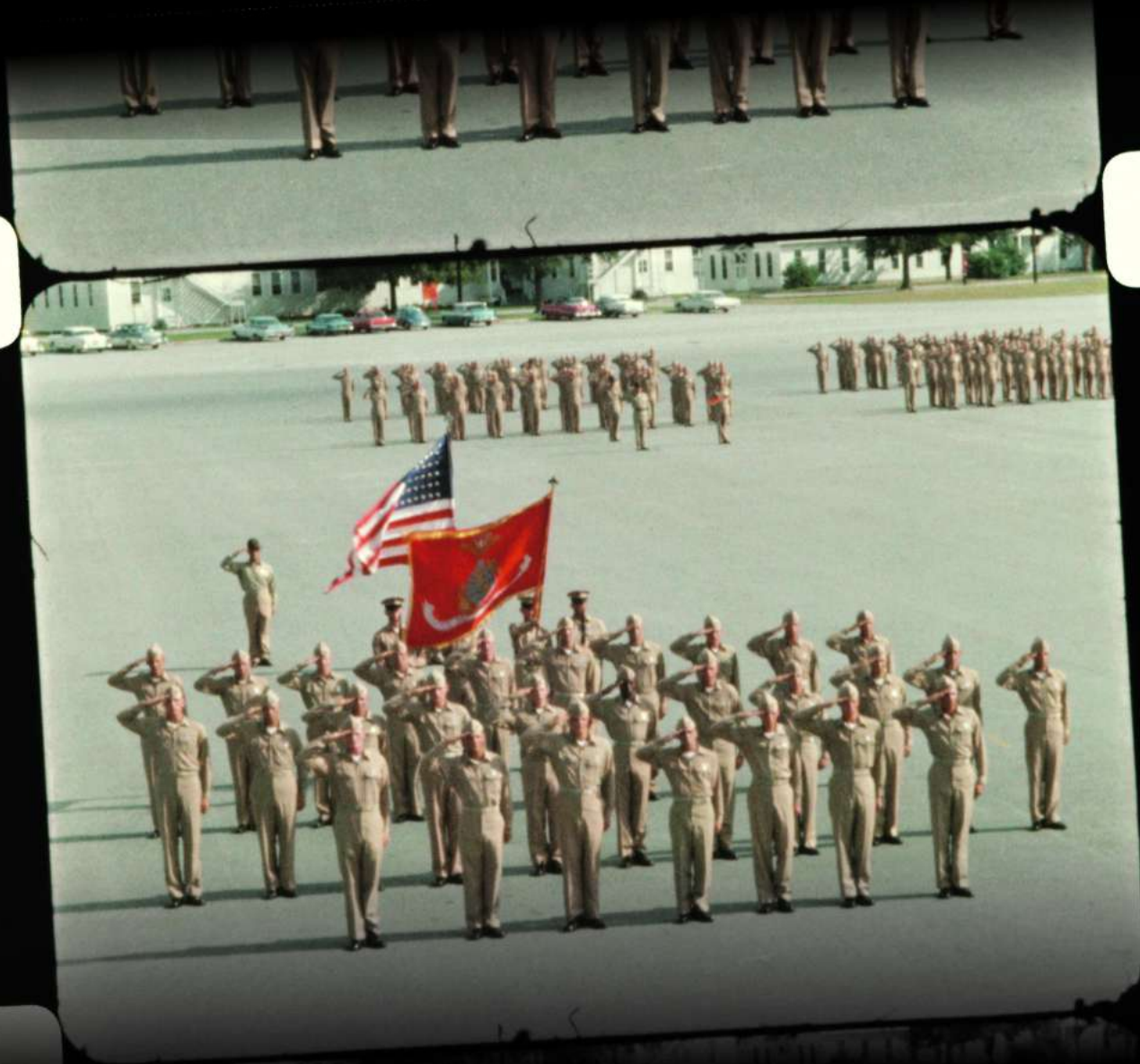
“The staff members here are very professional, and they have their jobs to do, but they see me day in and day out taking care of my son, and I couldn’t have made it without them,” said Smith. “I wish my son was well, but being here and being able to take care of him is a blessing.”

LCpl Tavairus Hernandez, USMC



MajGen Walter Miller Jr., right, presents the Admiral Elmo Zumwalt Award for Lodging Excellence to the staff of the Camp Lejeune Fisher House, MCB Camp Lejeune, Nov. 16, 2016. The Fisher House provides a place for families to stay while their loved ones are being treated at the adjacent Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune or WWBn-E.

LCPL TAVAIRUS HERNANDEZ, USMC



# University of South Carolina Works to Preserve Marine Corps' Film History

By Megan Sexton

**Above: The University of South Carolina Moving Image Research Collections will be digitizing Marine Corps films and hopes the public will help identify people, places and events, including the parade in this frame from a 1961 film.**

**F**rom the Iwo Jima beaches to the jungles of Vietnam to the recruit depots at Parris Island and San Diego, the U.S. Marine Corps history comes to life in films shot by the Corps' photographers over the last century.

That footage—10,000 reels of film documenting the operational history of the Marine Corps from as early as 1915 through the 1980s—has moved from Marine Corps University at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., to the University of South Carolina, home of one of the largest public film archives in the United States. The university's Moving Image

Research Collections will digitize the Marine Corps film repository, with plans to place the films online for the public to view free of charge.

The University of South Carolina's Moving Image Research Collections is one of the largest public film archives in the United States. Its facility houses 8,000 hours of unique moving image material, including the Fox Movietone News collection, South Carolina local TV news film, Chinese documentary and commercial films and various American home movies that provide a slice of life.

Storing and digitizing an estimated 1,800 hours of film isn't easy—or cheap. The University of South Carolina is working to raise about \$2 million to make the videos available to the public, with funds going to inventory, catalogue, digitize, store and stream the collection.

“Because of its sheer size, stewardship of this collection would be a challenge for any institution. We were eager to make space and digitize these films so that they could be made available to the American public and to Marines,” said Tom McNally, the University of South Carolina dean of libraries.

Contributing to the effort will make the film repository—which includes footage from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, along with training and testing activities—available to the public for the first time. The money raised will be used to hire staff to digitize and research the content, along with promoting programming and outreach to publicize the collection.

“Providing digital access to a collection of this scale is a major undertaking, and timing is critical,” McNally said. “The Marines who served their country overseas and here at home in the 20th century are aging. Their memories—a vital source of context for these films—will soon be lost.”

The university raised funds to build a special climate-controlled vault to ensure the stability of these perishable originals. The funds were donated by Richard and Novelle Smith, in memory of her cousin, Lieutenant Colonel James H. Davis, USMC, of Columbia, S.C. Davis served as a company commander in Vietnam and was one of the last Marines to leave Koh Tang Island by helicopter in March 1975, ending the final battle of the Vietnam War. A 45-minute oral history with Davis is among the items that will be available to the public.

The 2,000-square-foot vault was completed recently, and the 16 mm and 35 mm films arrived at

## Collection Highlights

- More than 10,000 reels of film—1,800 hours—documenting the operational history of the Marine Corps from 1915 through the 1980s.
- Extensive footage of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War
  - Clips include: Recruit training at Parris Island; evacuation of the wounded from Iwo Jima beaches in World War II; VJ Day in Honolulu, Hawaii in August 1945; Marines of the First Provisional Marine Brigade at the Nakdong River, Pusan Perimeter in August 1950; early tactical demonstration and training with the HRS-1 helicopter, Camp Pendleton in July 1955; scenes from Vietnam in 1967 and Khe Sanh in 1968.
  - All footage was shot by Marine Corps personnel.
  - Contributions will make the repository available to the public free of charge and donations can be made to the U. S. Marine Corps Film Fund at [library.sc.edu/MarineCorps](http://library.sc.edu/MarineCorps).

the University of South Carolina shortly thereafter.

The collection includes everything from battle scenes to training films, offering a comprehensive look at how a service branch went about the business of making films and why they did it, said Greg Wilsbacher, a curator for the university's Moving Image Research Collections.

The university also is looking into the possibility of a permanent museum site to showcase the Marine films and additional military-related collections from other academic institutions, if funding can be secured.

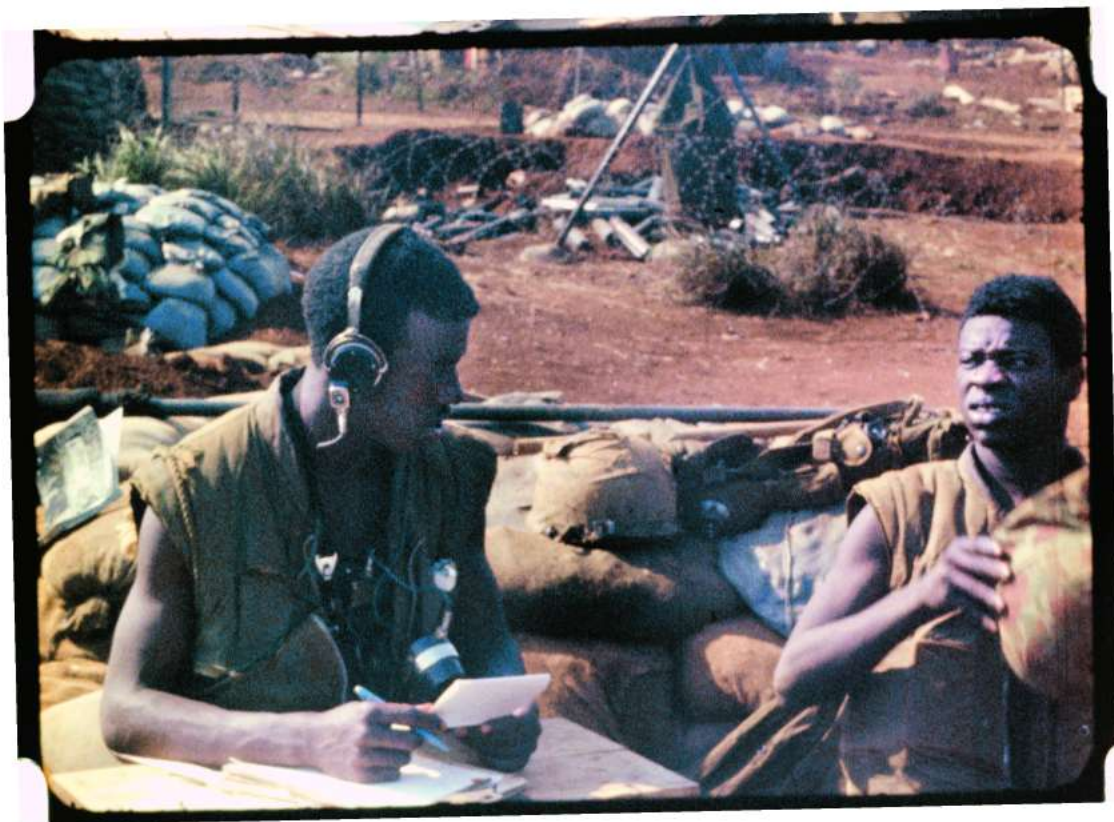
Along with the combat images, the films show the history of Marine training—the work the military does in peacetime to be prepared to fight the next war. For example, one of the oldest pieces of footage is from Marine Corps Base Quantico in the 1930s, showing officers learning how to assault beaches using amphibious craft, preparing them for dropping armed men on the beaches in the Pacific a few years later. Film from the 1950s shows



**Marines of Company F, Second Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment cross the Soyang-gang River and move into Division reserves south of Chuncheon, Korea, on April 5, 1951, in this film segment from the University of South Carolina collection of Marine Corps films.**

The films to be digitized cover a large portion of Marine Corps history including the Vietnam War.

At right, members of the Third Marine Division filmed at Khe Sanh, Vietnam, on Jan. 28, 1968, are some of the many leathernecks whose images will be preserved.



Footage of wounded Marines being evacuated from Blue Beach, Iwo Jima, on March 2, 1945, is another example of the Marine Corps films that the University of South Carolina hopes to make available to the public free of charge.

early training with helicopters, foreshadowing the importance of the equipment for transporting Marines in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan.

The films provide a glimpse of events in Marine history, and eventually, viewers will be able to log on and see individual units and bases where Marines trained. Many of the images were filmed at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., including a movie from September 1961 that focuses on the processing and training of recruits. The recruits' faces and the names on their uniforms are clearly visible. "People can say, 'That's my dad right there. He's 18 years old,'" Wilsbacher said.

"There is a commitment to let people see it for free; to make sure that everybody can see the films

## Online Viewing

Three edited film clips are available online at

<http://library.sc.edu/p/Develop/Endowments/MarineCorps>

- The evacuation of wounded Marines from Iwo Jima  
*Filmed March 2, 1945*
- Marines of F/2/5 crossing the Soyang-gang River  
*Filmed April 5, 1951*
- 3dMarDiv Marines at Khe Sanh  
*Filmed Jan. 28, 1968*

regardless of where they are," he said. "Collections of this size don't pop up very much. That's one of the things that's important. This is a library that was functioning and intact. That makes it a better representation of the Corps' history. It was a well-cared-for collection."

*Author's bio: Megan Sexton is a writer in the office of communications and public affairs at the University of South Carolina. A journalism graduate, she joined the public relations staff at her alma mater in 2010 after more than 25 years as a newspaper reporter and editor in North Carolina and South Carolina.*



# Reunion Provides Emotional Lift For OIF Combat Veterans

Story by Jeannine Maughmer-Miller  
Photos courtesy of the author

**O**ur son, Lance Corporal Ryan A. Miller, was killed by an improvised explosive device (IED) in Barwanah, Al Anbar Province, Iraq, on Sept. 14, 2006.

Over the past 10 years, I have been in touch with many of Ryan's fellow Marines from 1st Platoon, "Lima" Company, 3d Battalion, 3d Marine Regiment. In January 2015, when I posted a picture on Facebook of my husband with one of the Marines who had served with Ryan, several of the guys said they had lost touch with each other and asked to be connected. That's when I decided that we needed to do a 10-year reunion in September of 2016. Immediately, 20 of the guys said they would attend.

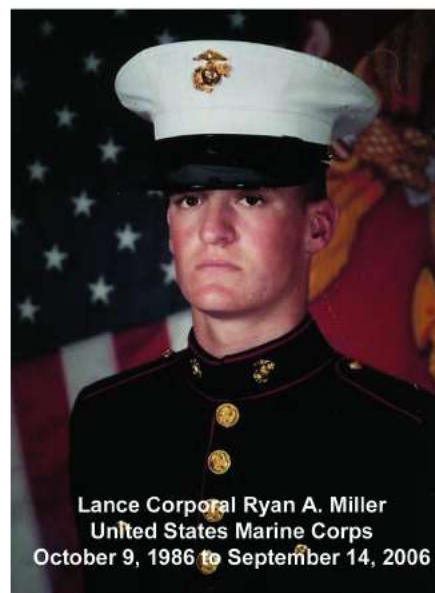
Knowing these young men were in the beginning stages of working, marrying, raising families and going to school, I didn't want them to have to spend a dime for this reunion—they were strapped for money as is. I also didn't want them to have an excuse not to come. In July 2015,

I mailed out letters to every business, corporation, airline, hotel, rental car, restaurant and retail store I could think of. Unfortunately, because we were not a nonprofit organization, we got little to no response. No large corporation responded, with one exception—an American Airlines veteran liaison returned our call and said if we could get proper nonprofit status, they would help us.

Discouraged but driven, we started a GoFundMe page and raised almost \$10,000 before we discovered that the Semper Fi Fund/America's Fund had a Reunion section. They took us under their nonprofit umbrella and gave us a grant toward our gathering, enabling American Airlines to donate the frequent flyer miles necessary to get the majority of our 3/3 Marines to Pearland, Texas. Our new nonprofit relationship also inspired many businesses to donate or highly discount their services or goods to us.

The Semper Fi Fund also donated Nike backpacks, cups, pens, pads, coffee mugs, water bottles and caps with Semper Fi Fund and America's Fund logos on them.

Many family and friends—and their



Lance Corporal Ryan A. Miller  
United States Marine Corps  
October 9, 1986 to September 14, 2006

friends and families—donated to the cause through GoFundMe, Semper Fi Fund, or with a direct donation. Due to the generosity of those we knew and the kindness of strangers, we were able to pay for three, 15-passenger vans, hotel rooms, events, food and beverages, as well as transport-



Marines from 1st Plt, Lima Co, 3d Bn, 3d Marine Regiment, held a 10-year reunion Sept. 16-19, 2016, in honor of LCpl Miller, who was killed in Iraq on Sept. 14, 2006.



**Above: Left to right: Marines Alan Nelson, Rahmell Gravely Arce, Ryan Miller, and Luke Sims deployed to Iraq in March 2006 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Miller was killed just weeks before he was due to return home.**



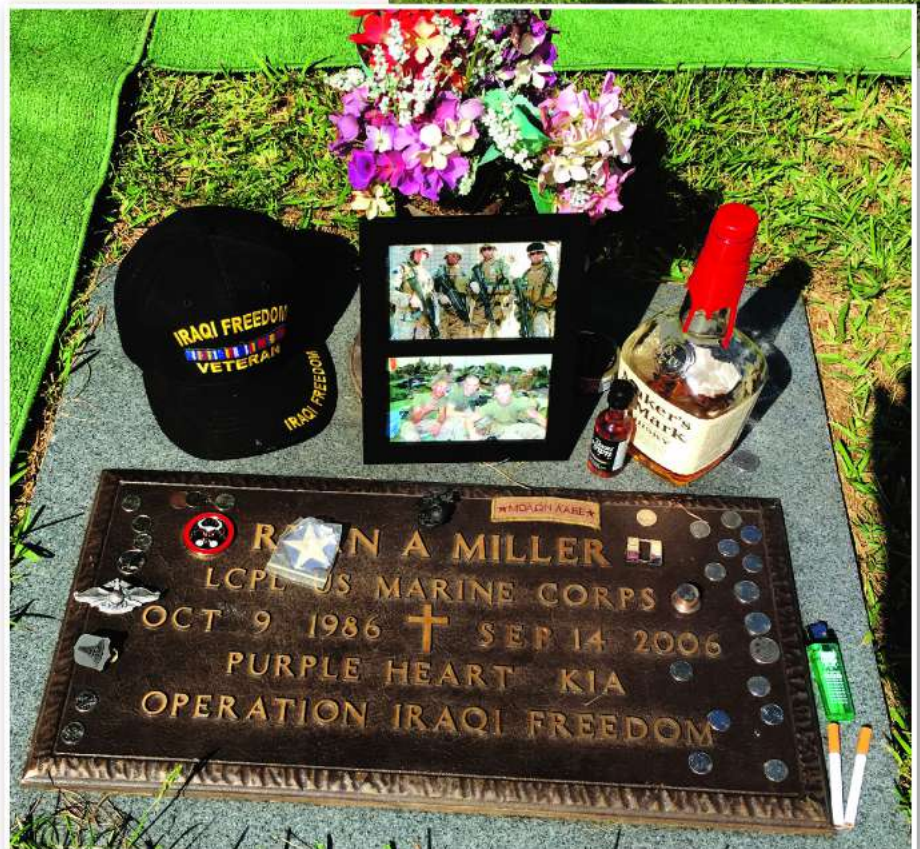
tation to every planned event. We were able to have commemorative coins and T-shirts made and have engraved RTIC lowballs for each attendee. Through our business community's kindness and the support of other organizations, we were able to provide everything we needed for these combat veterans to have the time of their lives during the reunion.

With the preparations complete, Sept. 16-19, 2016, we had 34 Marines from all over the world come together for the first time in 10 years. Some came with heads lowered, feeling unsure, not knowing what to expect from each other, from us and from themselves. They soon discovered that they were among friends with buddies who understood them, who had the same fears, insecurities and thoughts as they did. They began to see that they were not weak. They were not alone. And they were not responsible for Ryan's death.

We hosted a Friday night "Get Re-connected" dinner at a local restaurant and then went back to the hotel for a hospitality room gathering to continue to get caught up with each other. On Saturday morning, we took them to the cemetery to visit Ryan's grave—we wanted them to say their final goodbyes. It was tough, but something we felt was needed. We didn't want the visit to be overshadowed with grief. We wanted it to be a time of healing and remembrance, and we wanted the Marines to enjoy the remainder of their weekend.

On Saturday we had lunch, dinner, games, door prizes and a private social at our local Lion's Club. Sunday was open for sightseeing and for the Marines to come to our house for lunch and to swim. On Sunday evening, we took them to a seafood dinner to end the weekend reunion.

From the comments we heard personally



**Marines of 3/3 visited LCpl Miller's gravesite. The visit brought healing and closure to Miller's platoon mates and was a way for them to say their final goodbyes.**



**Above: Meghan Miller, LCpl Miller's sister, leans over the footstone at his gravesite. LCpl Miller was killed by an IED in Iraq, Sept. 14, 2006.**

**Right: Marines of 3/3 raise a glass to toast the memory of their fellow Marine, LCpl Ryan A. Miller, during their reunion in September 2016.**

and from others, every one of these Marines left with a smile on his face and a lighter load in his pack.

They saw that we didn't languish on the couch, crying over Ryan. Of course we miss our son, and we will to the day we die, but life does go on. We know Ryan would be so upset if he knew anyone was still down here grieving him—he wanted people to laugh, have fun and live life to the fullest.

We could not have done all of this without the help and support of the Semper Fi Fund. I highly recommend unit reunions, but I would suggest not waiting 10 years to do them. Seeing these combat veterans happy, laughing and leaving with such a visible, emotional load lifted from



their shoulders was beyond anything I could have hoped for when we decided have a reunion. I had no idea how healing it was going to be for them, but I am so thankful that it was.

*Author's bio: Jeannine Maugher-Miller is a retired senior police officer with the Houston Police Department with*

*25 years of service. Her husband, Sgt Frank C. Miller, is a 34-year veteran of the Houston Police Department and is Marine veteran of the Vietnam War. She has written many articles for law enforcement trade magazines and newsletters, and published Sisters In Law magazine from 1994-98.*



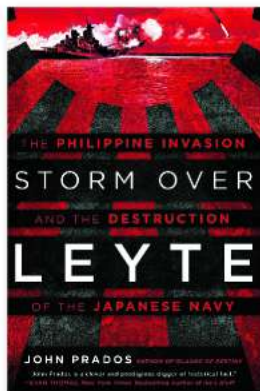
# Books Reviewed

**STORM LEYTE GULF: The Philippine Invasion and the Destruction of the Japanese Navy.** By John Prados. Published by NAL. 400 pages. \$25.20 MCA Members. \$28 Regular Price.

After the war, while awaiting execution by hanging, General Hideki Tojo told General Douglas MacArthur there were three main reasons why Japan was defeated—the American island leapfrogging strategy; her Fast Carrier Task Force in the Pacific; and the successful sinking of Japan’s merchant shipping by U.S. submarines. As for battles, he concluded the people of the Rising Sun lost World War II because of the three-day Leyte Gulf engagement—a vicious fight that finally doomed Japanese naval power. MacArthur disagreed, insisting the war was essentially over after the 1942 Battle of Midway in which four of the emperor’s carriers were lost, a defeat so devastating the Japanese navy didn’t bother telling Tojo’s army until late in the Pacific War.

A superlative new analysis of the grand scale, “Storm Over Leyte” by highly respected, much appreciated historian John Prados, who also wrote “Islands of Destiny—The Solomons” and “Normandy Crucible,” provides new and original insights on both Allied and Japanese conduct, maneuvering, and admiralship during three-plus days spanning half a million square miles of cold, turbulent ocean. He writes, “For a moment on the morning of October 25, 1944, the unthinkable happened. In the face of every Allied advantage in intelligence, air and naval forces, technology, and raw combat power, a Japanese surface fleet of great intrinsic strength put American aircraft carriers under its guns.”

Briefly, in a desperate attempt to wipe out the American landings at Leyte Gulf, the Japanese decoyed the U.S. 3rd Fleet (Admiral William “Bull” Halsey) to change course for the far north thus exposing the unprotected, disembarking forces to extermination by two Japanese task forces. As Prados so vividly, so beautifully writes, “Courageous sailors in a handful of destroyers, escorts, and expendable aircraft carriers were the ones who turned back the Japanese armada ... their story needs to be told forever.”



Although “Storm Over Leyte” recounts the penultimate phase of the Pacific War from the outside looking in, Prados reports in detail as if he is there amid the unfolding events, in naval battle strategy conversations with the participants, including the Japanese, during the greatest sea fight of all time. He is unafraid to explore and mediate the two major controversies that immediately erupted after

the battle—ADM Halsey’s decision to depart the disembarkation area in order to chase a decoyed phantom enemy, and Vice Admiral Takeo Kurita’s supposed cowardice in not challenging the American destroyers and other small ships left behind by ADM Halsey to guard the beaches. With keen analysis, Prados narrates how Kurita was too cautious to win, especially after our successful smoke screen was laid down.

As Admiral Samuel Eliot Morison, assigned by President Roosevelt to write the complete history of the war in the Pacific in 15 volumes, later smiled, “... and don’t forget there was one other component that led to our most enormous, but narrow, victory—the definite partiality of Almighty God.”

Don DeNevi

*Author’s bio: After writing numerous non-fiction books, book reviewer Don DeNevi is witnessing the publication of his first historical novel, “Faithful Shep—The Story of A Hero Dog and the Nine Texas Rangers Who Saved Him.”*

**THE 15:17 TO PARIS: The True Story of a Terrorist, a Train, and Three American Heroes.** By Anthony Sadler, Alek Skarlatos, Spencer Stone and Jeffrey E. Stern. Published by The Perseus Books Group. 256 pages. \$23.40 MCA Members. \$25.99 Regular Price.

As a nervous world awaits news of the next terrorist attack, it seems time to stop and celebrate a small but inspiring victory over these extremists. On Aug. 21, 2015, a 25-year-old Moroccan man, Ayoub El-Khazzani, boarded a Paris-bound train. The terrorist, in car number

12, was well-equipped for the job. Ayoub packed an assault rifle with hundreds of rounds of ammunition, a loaded backpack containing a 9 mm Luger, a knife, a box cutter, and additional supporting equipment. In Ayoub’s case, he was simply following the dictates of Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS). ISIS, it must be remembered, counseled their worldwide followers to “drain their blood and drain their wallets.”

However, what the terrorist did not reckon on was the train also carried three very brave young Americans. The world would soon know the names of these three young men who were “bound for glory.”

Jeffrey E. Stern, the author of “The Last Thousand,” who contributes to *Vanity Fair*, *Esquire*, *Time*, and *The Atlantic* magazines, worked with Anthony Sadler, Alek Skarlatos and Spencer Stone to tell their bone-chilling saga.

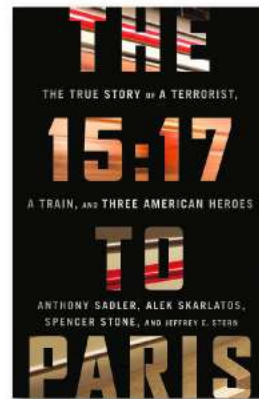
The three Americans had known each other since middle school in Sacramento, Calif. The boys bonded during their school days, but were considered to be outsiders by many of their classmates. As teens, they became passionate about fighting imagined battles using airsoft guns simulating combat. The three often watched their favorite war movies, “Saving Private Ryan,” “Black Hawk Down,” and “Apocalypse Now.” It seemed natural that after high school, both Skarlatos and Stone entered the service.

Stone, a martial arts enthusiast, joined the Air Force, where he hoped to be trained as a pararescueman. However, he didn’t qualify because he failed his depth perception test. Ultimately, he became an emergency medical technician (EMT).

At least, he thought, he’d be able to help people. Also, when his service time ended, he would be qualified to join the Sacramento fire department.

Skarlatos joined the National Guard and trained as a sniper before being sent to Afghanistan. With America now focused on Syria and ISIS, Skarlatos believed, Afghanistan wasn’t where the action was. Sadler was the son of a minister whose father, Pastor Sadler, kept in touch with his son as he toured the continent with Stone and Skarlatos.

The young men made plans to meet in





### **Ground Zero Leadership: CEO of You. By Andrew D. Wittman, Ph.D. with Amber J. Tester.**

There is a seal on the back of this book that reads “Get Warrior Tough.” Andrew Wittman’s background makes it obvious that he should know what he is talking about. Wittman is a Marine Corps infantry combat veteran, a former police officer, and a federal agent. He has also been a security contractor for the State Department and has taught high-threat diplomatic security to former Navy SEALs, Marines, Rangers and Special Forces. He has worked security for many high-level politicians and celebrities. He has a Ph.D. in theological studies and co-hosts a national call-in show called “Get Warrior Tough.” Wittman calls himself a Mind Toughness Coach.

The book, however, is not only for business people as the title might indicate. This is a comprehensive mental health house-cleaning book that anyone can benefit from. Then again, Ground Zero is not your run-of-the-mill, pie-in-the-sky, happy talk. Wittman could corner the market at being down to earth. The quotations selected are worth the price of admission alone.

Although I have to take Wittman with a grain of salt when he tries to convince us that we are all geniuses, his take that actually being a complete perfectionist is self-defeating makes perfect sense. But let’s not throw the baby out with the bathwater. As Wittman states: “I’ve learned that being a perfectionist is a bad thing. I get the whole OCD thing (I’ve got the OCD thing), but pursuing perfection i.e., excellence is a really good thing. Pursuing perfection should not be confused with being a perfectionist. Pursuing perfection is aiming for the center of the target. In fact, if you do not aim for the bull’s-eye of the target, you have almost no chance of hitting it (and zero chance of hitting it consistently).”

He believes we should still give ourselves credit when we don’t succeed. As he states, even when we lose or fail at a task, it is still worthwhile because we have learned something. The fact that he learned from Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel that only we can control our attitude is a nugget of golden Zen. Only we can decide what kind of information

is sieving through our brain. Wittman goes on to make two lists: thoughts that are harmful and self-defeating that should be “red flagged,” and good thoughts which we should dwell upon on. Ponder this quotation: “Negative thoughts with negative expectations actually shut down certain brain pathways that limit and restrict the processing of information that could bring about a positive solution to the problem you are worrying about.” I have to apologize to Wittman if I pull the beard off Santa Claus by stating the most important thing you will learn from “Ground Zero” is to separate emotional decision making—which is not very productive, even detrimental—from logical decision making. Once you learn to distinguish between the two and concentrate on logical decision making, the difference is like night and day.

Wittman says that the mindset that we should strive for is that of the elite warrior: “The elite warrior makes up less than 1 percent of the population worldwide. The elite warrior plays to win and is a class act, operating from a belief that, ‘I’m the problem and I’m the solution.’ The elite warrior knows if he or she has a problem, that he or she is the problem. But the good news is he or she is the solution to that problem, and every problem.”

Although some of Wittman’s advice may seem like common sense, you would be surprised how something fairly obvious is an epiphany when he points it out. For instance, how many times do we pay attention to negative people? Do you shut these anchor draggers out, or do you go along to get along?

I have to admit that I usually give self-help books a wide berth; I can count the number of them I recommend on one hand. When I say that “Ground Zero Leadership” is required reading, you can take it to the bank.

Andrew Wittman’s book “Ground Zero Leadership: CEO of You” is available through his website, [www.andrew-wittman.com](http://www.andrew-wittman.com).

Joseph D’Alessandris

*Author’s bio: Joseph D’Alessandris is a freelance journalist who lives in Pittsburgh, Pa.*

Europe where they were in the right place at the right time; they had not planned to be in Amsterdam let alone in the particular train car, and Stone’s EMT training gave him the skills to save a wounded man’s life.

While traveling on a high-speed train from Brussels to Paris, the three took down the would-be terrorist and saved countless innocent lives. Stone ran toward the attacker who fired at him. In a saving grace, the chambered round misfired and Stone jumped on the terrorist. Ayoub pulled a knife and cut deeply into Stone’s thumb when Stone applied a chokehold. Eventually, and with much effort, the three managed to subdue and restrain the jihadist until the train came to into a nearby station where help arrived.

As the story unfolded, the three Americans were treated to a well-deserved hero’s

reception and the French president presented them with his country’s highest award the Legion of Honour (*Chevaliers de la Legion d’honneur*). The friends appeared on several talk shows but their most important moment occurred when the President of the United States, Barack Obama, awarded Army Specialist Alek Skarlatos the Army Soldier’s Medal, and Airman Spencer Stone the Airman’s Medal of Valor and a Purple Heart. Anthony Sadler received the Medal of Valor from the secretary of defense.

The book’s co-author Jeffrey Stern has done a marvelous job in telling the story of these brave Americans. Stern skillfully weaved the stories of how the three grew up along with a first-rate description of their struggle while facing a most dangerous, and fully committed, jihadi terrorist. However, the book might have

been enhanced had the author chosen to include supporting before and after photos of the three guys.

Stern’s book expertly conveys how ordinary people, faced with an extraordinary challenge, rose up to take their place in the growing pentathlon of our modern-day heroes. Additionally, and perhaps most importantly, our war-weary world was provided with a much needed victory over the dark forces of ISIS and their treacherous brand of terrorism.

Bob 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.*



## DPAA Identifies Remains of WW II Marines

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) recently announced that the remains of several U.S. Marines, unaccounted for since World War II, have been identified.

The remains were recovered from Betio Island in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands. The Marines were killed during the Battle of Tarawa in November 1943.

Over several days of intense fighting, approximately 1,000 Marines and Sailors were killed and more than 2,000 were wounded.

Despite the heavy casualties, the battle was a huge victory for the U.S. because the Gilbert Islands provided the U.S. Navy's Pacific Fleet a platform from which to launch assaults on the Marshall and Caroline islands to advance their Pacific campaign against Japan.

U.S. servicemembers who died in the battle were buried in a number of battlefield cemeteries on Tarawa. In 1946 and 1947, recovery operations were conducted but many of the remains were determined non-recoverable.

The Marines whose remains recently were identified are:

**PFC Nicholas J. Cancilla**, 18, of Altoona, Pa. He was assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 2d Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division.

**PFC Ben H. Gore**, 20, of Hopkinsville, Ky. He was assigned to Special Weapons Group, 2d Defense Bn, Fleet Marine Force.

**PFC Wilbur C. Mattern**, 23, of Oelwein, Iowa. He was assigned to Co M, 3d Bn, 8th Marines, 2dMarDiv.

Compiled from DPAA news releases

## Mishap Results in the Death Of F/A-18 Pilot

**Captain James E. Frederick**, 32, of Corpus Christi, Texas, was pronounced deceased after his body was located during search-and-rescue operations.

He ejected from a Marine F/A-18 on Dec. 7, 2016, while conducting a regularly scheduled training mission.

He was an F/A-18 pilot with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115, Marine Aircraft Group 31, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing. He was deployed to III Marine Expeditionary Force at the time of his death.

"I mourn, along with his family and the rest of the Marine Corps, for the loss of Capt Frederick. We have lost a fine American patriot who volunteered to serve for freedom," said Lieutenant General Lawrence Nicholson, Commanding General of III MEF.

The incident remains under investigation.

1stLt Joseph Butterfield, USMC

## Col John H. Glenn Jr.

Colonel John H. Glenn Jr., a combat-tested fighter pilot, one of the original NASA astronauts (the first American to orbit the earth) and later, a U.S. Senator for 24 years, died at the age of 95 in Columbus, Ohio.

Glenn was born and raised in Ohio.

After graduating from high school, he attended Muskingum College. During his junior year, he enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve for training as a Naval Aviation Cadet. He completed his pre-flight training and then did his primary flight training at the U.S. Naval Reserve Aviation Base Kansas City in Olathe, Kansas. Upon completion of flight training at Naval Air Training Center Corpus Christie, Texas, in 1943, he accepted a commission in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Promoted to first lieutenant in October 1943, he sailed for the Pacific theater in February 1944. He flew 59 missions in the F4U Corsair during the campaign for the Marshall Islands.

After he returned from the war, he had a variety of staff and flying assignments including a tour as a flight instructor.

During the Korean War, Glenn, by then a major, served as a jet pilot in VMF-311 and flew the F9F Panther, along with famous squadron mate, baseball star Ted Williams, who often was Glenn's wingman.

In 1953, Glenn was an exchange pilot flying the F-86 Sabre with the Fifth U.S. Air Force. During his 27 missions with the 25th Fighter Squadron, 51st Interceptor Wing in Korea, he shot down three MiG-15s.

Glenn's next assignment was as a test pilot, where he was the project officer

on a number of aircraft, including the F8U Crusader. On July 16, 1957, Glenn completed the first nonstop supersonic coast-to-coast flight in a Crusader. Nicknamed "Project Bullet," the flight from NAS Los Alamitos, Calif., to Floyd Bennett Field, N.Y., took 3 hours 23 minutes and 8.1 seconds.

Glenn was promoted to lieutenant colonel in 1959 and was selected as one of the original seven Project Mercury astronauts. On Feb. 20, 1962, Glenn secured his spot in history when he became the first American to orbit the Earth. During the mission, which lasted 4 hours, 55 minutes and 23 seconds, he orbited the Earth three times in his Friendship 7 spacecraft, reaching a maximum altitude of 162 statute miles and an orbital velocity of 17,500 miles per hour.

He resigned from the astronaut corps and retired from the Marine Corps as a colonel and worked in business for several years. In 1974 his home state of Ohio elected him to the U.S. Senate. He retired from public office in 1999.

Glenn made another space flight, this time on the space shuttle. His nine-day mission aboard STS-95 Discovery, took place in 1998 and included 134 Earth orbits.

Col Glenn's awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross with two Gold Stars and two Oak Leaf Clusters in lieu of second through fifth awards, the Air Medal with 15 Gold Stars and two Oak Leaf Clusters in lieu of second through 18th awards. He was awarded Navy Astronaut Wings and the Marine Corps Astronaut Insignia.

To read more about Glenn, see Saved Round, page 72.

**Sgt John J. Banks Jr.**, 90, of Sarasota, Fla. He was a Marine who served during WW II.

**Gregory P. Basker**, 69, of Leland, N.C. He was a Marine veteran of the Vietnam War.

**Mercer John "Bull" Collum**, 70, of Wade, Miss. He was a Marine who saw action during the Vietnam War. His awards include the Purple Heart.

**Sgt Joseph W. Cope**, 94, of Manheim, Pa. He was a Marine who served during WW II.

**Arthur R. Dickson**, 97, of Augusta, N.J. During WW II he saw fighting on Peleliu and Okinawa in the 3d Armored

Amphibian Bn. He was a sharpshooter and an amphibian tractor mechanic. After the war he held various jobs in carpentry and maintenance. He actively participated in many civic organizations.

**Howard "Buddy" Glass Jr.**, 62, of Alvin, Texas. He was a Marine who served for 23 years.

**Capt J.D. Green**, 92, of Weatherford, Texas. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1942. He went overseas with the 22d Marines and upon arriving in British Samoa, he joined the 3d Raider Bn. He was involved in heavy combat during raids on Pavuvu and Bougainville. He also fought on Guadalcanal and Guam.

He retired in 1962, having served for 20 years.

**Sgt Richard A. "Rick" Hadler**, 94, of Ann Arbor, Mich. He was a Marine who served in the South Pacific during WW II. He saw action on Tarawa, Saipan and Tinian. In 1944 he was selected for the V-12 program and returned to the United States where he attended the University of Michigan. He was recalled to active duty in 1950 and served for a year.

He later had a successful career with Universal Die Casting and was active in local politics and civic organizations.

**SSgt Bruce E. Kates**, 74, of Sacramento, Calif. He was a combat veteran of the

Vietnam War who completed three tours in country. He was awarded a Purple Heart after being wounded in Khe Sanh. He was a drill instructor at MCRD San Diego.

**Col Robert D. McLaughry**, 95, of Hanover, N.H. He was a Marine pilot who flew F4U Corsairs during WW II. He was recalled to active duty during the Korean War and later commanded VMF-322. He was twice awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

**Leo W. Schmittgens**, 90, of Bonne Terre, Mo. He was a Marine who served during WW II. He was with 2d Bn, 1st Marines on Pavuvu. He saw action during the Battle of Okinawa and later served in China. He was part of the honor guard at the Japanese garrison surrender.

After the war, he returned to his job with Terminal Railroad in St. Louis, where he worked for 46 years.

**Nick I. Zobenica**, 91, of Coleraine, Minn. He left high school to join the Marine Corps during WW II. He was a member of the 4th Raider Bn. He was wounded on Guam and on Okinawa while serving with 2d Bn, 4th Marines. After the war, he worked for Minnesota Power. He inspired two of his nephews to become Marines; they were both Marine Corps aviators.

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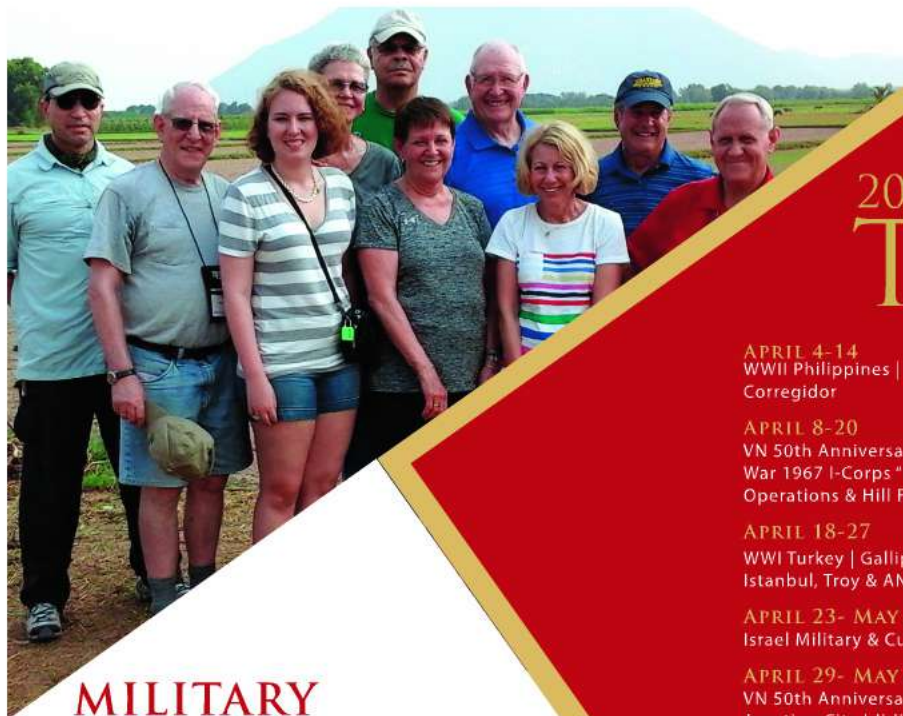
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VN 50th Anniversary of Operations Union I/II & Buffalo | I-Corps 1967

JULY 15-28  
VN 50th Anniversary | "Delta to the DMZ"

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COURTESY OF CWO-4 DONALD W. DAVIS, USMCR (RET)

**SOUND OFF**  
[continued from page 6]

**Could This Be the Original Emblem From Relics?**

I read with interest the article in the November issue, "Marines in Europe Bring Home World War I Relic."

As a member of the Marine Corps League Private Joe Hardt Detachment 818, in Tonto Basin Ariz., I was intrigued by the story and the picture of the remodeled emblem. The pictures here are of Pvt Joseph H. Hardt, left, a World War I Marine who served in France, and the barracks he lived in while stationed there. While I don't know the name of the camp, it has an emblem that very closely resembles the one in the article. So many similarities are what caught my eye when I was reading the story.

Our MCL detachment was given these pictures by Pvt Hardt's daughter after we asked permission to use her father's name for our detachment. At the time we were chartered, in 1992, Pvt Hardt was the only Marine buried in the Tonto Basin cemetery.

Pvt Hardt was born in 1894 in Payson, Ariz., about 30 miles north of Tonto Basin, a small community of ranchers, farmers and retirees and others looking for a quieter pace away from the big city. Pvt Hardt passed away in 1974, but he still has family living in Tonto Basin.



**Above: An unknown camp in France shows the Marine Corps emblem. Could this be the emblem molded at Camp Montierchaume, France, where relics were found that had been covered up and hidden for half a century?**

**Left: In 1918 Pvt Joseph H. Hardt, left, a WW I Marine, stands in front of his barracks in France. The camp displayed the Marine Corps emblem above. (Photo courtesy of CWO-4 Donald W. Davis, USMCR (Ret))**

He enlisted at Mare Island, Calif., in July 1918 and was sent to France shortly after. His daughter, Connie Brown, gave us his pictures, medals, dog tags and discharge certificate. His original discharge certificate was lost, but a replacement was issued in 1925 and states when and where he enlisted, where he served (France), when and where he was discharged (Hampton Roads, Va., Aug. 11, 1919) and the medals he was entitled to.

I don't know if this is the same emblem, as Marines are notorious for letting people know "The Marines are/were here." But it does seem to pose some interesting what ifs.

Just thought you might enjoy the story. CWO-4 Donald W. Davis, USMCR (Ret) Tonto Basin, Ariz.

• *We'll send copies of the photos to both Marine Forces Europe and Africa and the Marine Corps University to see if they can confirm if it's the same emblem and possibly use in their display.—Editor*

### Guidebook for Marines

I enjoyed Connie Rice's article entitled, "After 70 Years, Marines Still Rely on Guidebook."

I still have the copy issued to me in May 1967 at MCRD Parris Island. It's the Eleventh Revised Edition, First Printing,

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dated May 1, 1966. I also have my "Handbook for U.S. Forces in Vietnam," which was issued to me in July 1979 upon my assignment to H&MS-12, MAG-12, 1st MAW at Chu Lai, South Vietnam.

Sgt Tom Dunne  
USMC, 1967-71  
Hedgesville, W.Va.

I enjoyed your article on the Guidebook for Marines.

When I entered the PLC Program at Vanderbilt University in 1951, we were whisked off to boot camp at Parris Island that summer. There were nine members of Vanderbilt's football team starting

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line-up with us. Upon arrival by train at Yemassee, S.C., we noticed that there were student athletes from almost every college in the country.

One of the first things that we were issued was our Guidebook, Second Revised Edition, 11th Printing, April 1, 1951,

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From that point on, I was rarely without it in my hip pocket, even after my receiving my commission in June 1952.

Later in my career in the paper and publishing business, I supplied paper for *Leatherneck* magazine. During that time, a reprint was ordered—Eighth Revised Edition, First Printing, June 1, 1962, with 493 coated pages. We had difficulty with the cover matching the Marine green. I finally found a paper manufacturer that could produce paper to meet the specifications.

It is interesting to see the many additions, deletions and updates over the years.

Capt Richard H. Philpot  
Nashville, Tenn.

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



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## Reunions

• **East Coast Drill Instructors Assn.**, April 20-23, Parris Island, S.C. Contact SgtMaj Kenneth D. Miller, USMC (Ret), (828) 499-0224, usmcpidi@charter.net.

• **USMC Bulk Fuel Assn.**, April 27-30, Columbus, Ohio. Contact Howard Huston, (609) 432-4027, hhust61@aol.com.

• **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.

• **2d Force Recon Co (1970s-1980s)**, May 18-20, Topsail, N.C. Contact Phil Smith, 1830 Walhalla Hwy, Pickens, SC 29671, (540) 498-0733, jarhed73@yahoo.com, or Scott Nyman, (910) 650-8235, snyman@ecc.rr.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, bertojoto1@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.

• **E/2/3 (RVN)**, April 30-May 4, Swansboro, N.C. Contact Bill Smith, 7201 Castle Dr., Dublin, CA 94568, (925) 997-8041, da190@aol.com.

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

• **USMC Vietnam Tankers Assn.**, Sept. 21-25, St. Louis, Mo. Contact John Wear,

(215) 794-9052, johnwear@yahoo.com.

• **Marine Corps Security Forces, Naval Weapons Station Earle**, Sept. 29-Oct. 1, Colts Neck, N.J. Contact Dusty Wright, (618) 553-2205, dwright.schaefferoil@gmail.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 (1976-79)**, 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 reunion. 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, bertojoto1@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.

• **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, jrj430@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

• Sgt Sam Leonard, (276) 944-3054, 27915 N. Fork River Rd., Saltville, VA 24370, to hear from **Marines who served with the 26th Marines Regimental Landing Team, RVN, 1966**.

• John E. Kyle, (301) 460-1434, j.kyle1@verizon.net, to hear from members of **Plt 409, San Diego, 1953**. DIs were **SSgt A.L. ANDRACHIK and Sgt R.G. LIGHTNER**.

• SgtMaj Kenneth D. Miller, USMC (Ret), (828) 499-0224, usmcpidi@charter



.net, to hear from **active and former DIs** interested in becoming members of the **East Coast Drill Instructors Association**.

• Doug Scrivner, (513) 887-6266, docascriv@gmail.com, to hear from or about **MSgt R.C. RYNINGER**, who served with **Co C, 1st Tanks, 1stMarDiv, RVN, 1969**, and **DIs SSgt R.O. REED, Sgt C. HULLUM and Sgt J.F. HACKLEY, Plt 369, San Diego, 1967**.

• Walton C. Russell, 126 County Rd. 20 E, Marbury, AL 36051, to hear from **members of Plt 14, Parris Island, 1955**.

### Wanted

*Readers should be cautious about sending money without confirming authenticity and availability of products offered:*

• Gary M. Chlan Sr., molldol@verizon.net, wants a **USMC Tun Tavern ring, circa 1965, with ruby stone and gold Eagle, Globe and Anchor in the center of the stone**.

• Michael Shriver, 79 Geneva St., Geneva, NY 14456, (315) 729-6139, michaelshriverjr@gmail.com, wants a **January 1951 issue of Leatherneck**.

• William J. Wahl, 943 Tree Trails Ln., Fenton, MO 63026, williamwahl@icloud.com, wants **October 1984 issues of Leatherneck**.



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### ESSAYS:

- Minimum 1200 words; maximum 2500 words
- Must include contact information: grade, name, unit, email and phone number
- Submit electronically to [leatherneck@mca-marines.org](mailto:leatherneck@mca-marines.org) in Microsoft Word format
- All entries eligible for publication in *Leatherneck*—Magazine of the Marines

**DEADLINE:** March 31, 2017

William Pilgrim, (620) 521-1492, marinecorps1955@yahoo.com, has nearly 200 platoon books he will give away for free to members of the following platoons.

#### **Parris Island:**

- 1950s: Plts 626, 267, 638, 716, 721, 729
- 1951: Plts 45, 77, 85, 129, 135, 142, 146, 154, 158, 161, 169, 172, 175, 177, 180, 183, 190, 198, 199, 207, 210, 224, 231, 235
- 1952: Plts S-34, S-35, S-36
- 1956: Plt 270
- 1957: Plts 266, 280
- 1958-59: Plt 117
- 1961: Plt 122
- 1960-62: Plt 114
- 1962: Plts 314, 394 Sometime in 1962
- 1962-63: Plt 329
- 1963: Plts 2-A, 114, 144, 178, 274, 353
- 1964: Plt 353
- 1968: Plt 329
- 1971: Plts 8-A, 8-B, 9-A, 9-B, 128, 336
- 1972: Plts 395, 3004
- 1973: Plts 1-A, 1-B, 1017, 2031
- 1974: Plt 248, 356
- 1975: Plts 2-A, 2-B, 3-A, 3-B, 114, 311, 3017
- 1976: Plts 149, 154, 194, 224, 254, 322, 342, 1020, 2015
- 1977: Plts 1088, 2082, 3305
- 1978: Plts 1040, 1045, 2087, 2229, 2237, 3024
- 1979: Plt 1101
- 1981: Plts 13-A, 13-B, 1063
- 1982: Plt 1061
- 1983: Plts 2-A, 2-B, 1057
- 1984: Plts 9-A & 9-B, 20-A, 20-B
- 1985: Plts 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027
- 1986: Plts 3080, 3081, 3082, 3083
- 1987: Plts 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035
- 1990: Plts 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
- 1992: Plt 4018
- 1996: Plts 2152, 2153, 2154, 4036, 4037
- 1998: Plts 2016, 2017, 2018, 4040, 4041
- 1999: Plts 3056, 3057, 3058, 4004, 4005
- 2000: Plts 4040, 4041
- 2001: Plts 2084, 2085, 2086, 3108, 3109, 3110
- 2002: Plts 4024, 4025, 4038, 4039
- 2003: Plts 3060, 3061, 3062
- 2004: Plts 1088, 1089, 1090
- 2007: Plts 3012, 3013, 3014

#### **San Diego:**

- 1950-52: Plts 179, 180, 181
- 1950-54: Plts 209, 269, 280
- 1952-54: Plts 269, 280
- 1950-53: Plts 321, 322
- 1954-56: Plts 185, 186, 187
- 1954: Plt 293
- 1956-58: Plt 2046
- 1958-59: Plts 120, 254
- 1960: Plt 116
- 1962: Plt 157
- 1965: Plt 2012
- 1966: Plts 217, 256, 2057
- 1967: Plts 394, 1023
- 1968: Plt 188
- 1969: Plts 1034, 3139, 3152
- 1970: Plt 2025, 3204
- 1971: Plt 1071
- 1972: Plt 1002
- 1973: Plt 3006
- 1974: Plt 1083
- 1975: Plt 1028
- 1976: Plt 2015, 2021, 2126, 3054, 3128
- 1977: Plt 1044, 2066, 3007
- 1978: Plt 2049
- 1979: Plt 2090
- 1980: Plt 1064
- 1981: Plt 3108
- 1982: Plt 3070
- 1983: Plt 2060
- 1984: Plts 3065, 3066, 3067
- 1986: Plts 2017, 2018, 2019
- 1987: Plts 3033, 3034, 3035
- 1989: Plts 3065, 3066, 3067
- 1990: Plts 1009, 1010, 1011, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 3069, 3070, 3071
- 1991: Plts 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060
- 1992: Plts 2001, 2002, 2003
- 1993: Plts 2033, 2034, 2035, 3101, 3102, 3103
- 1994: Plts 2013, 2014, 2015
- 1995: Plts 3105, 3106, 3107
- 1998: Plts 1105, 1106, 1107, 1108
- 2000: Plts 1017, 1018, 1019
- 2001: Plts 3061, 3062, 3063, 3069, 3070, 3071
- 2006: Plts 3049, 3050, 3051

• Timothy Hetland, cplhet200@gmail.com, wants a **recruit graduation book, Plt 56, Parris Island, 1957.**

• MGySgt Marc Ciampi, USMC (Ret), 112 Cottage Ln., Jacksonville, NC 28546, (910) 381-9924, marc.ciampi@icloud.com, wants a **platoon photo and recruit graduation book, Plt 151, San Diego, 1965.**

#### **Sales, Trades and Giveaways**

• Richard "Doc" Kraft, (615) 477-8088, corpsmandocup@aol.com, has a **recruit**

**graduation book, Plt 3080, San Diego, 1970** to give away to anyone who can name a Marine in the platoon; and a **yearbook, VM CJ-1 (1971-72)** to give away to anyone who can name the CO, XO or change of command officers.

• James H. Strickland, 2812 Mirror Lake Dr., Fayetteville, NC 28303, (910) 485-7036, has a **recruit graduation book from Plt 3319, Parris Island, 1977** for sale, and a recruit graduation book from **Plts 3072, 3073, 3074 and 3075, Parris Island, 2007**, also for sale.

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.



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# Saved Round

By Nancy S. Lichtman



JOHN GLENN ARCHIVES, THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

**ONCE A MARINE**—Before he was a U.S. senator, a history-making astronaut or a record-breaking test pilot, John H. Glenn Jr. was a Marine.

Colonel John Glenn, the first American to orbit the earth, enlisted in the U.S. Navy as part of the Naval Aviation Cadet program during World War II, but transferred to the Marine Corps while still in flight training. He was commissioned a Marine Corps Reserve officer and designated a naval aviator on March 31, 1943.

Pictured here in the Marshall Islands in 1944, First Lieutenant Glenn was an F4U Corsair pilot in Marine Fighting Squadron (VMF) 155. He flew 59 missions during WW II, including strikes on Japanese-held islands during the Marshall Islands campaign. He was awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses (DFC) and 10 Air Medals.

After the war, Glenn had a variety of flying and staff assignments but returned to combat flying during the Korean War as a jet pilot in VMF-311. He flew 63 missions in the F9F Panther and was awarded a third DFC and six Air Medals.

In his next assignment, he was an exchange pilot with the Fifth U.S. Air Force, flying 27 missions with the 25th Fighter Squadron, 51st Interceptor Wing. From the cockpit of his F-86 Sabre jet, which he dubbed “MiG Mad Marine,” he destroyed three MiG-15s in nine days. He was awarded a fourth DFC and two additional Air Medals.

For more about the life of Marine Col John H. Glenn, see In Memoriam on page 62.

