

SEPTEMBER 2014

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

Leatherneck

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In Afghanistan The Fight Goes On

**The WW II Vet
Who Defied the Odds
Across 5 Beachheads**

**Fight In a Cemetery—
Marines vs. al-Sadr**

**Marine Security Guard
To U.S. Diplomat**





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COVER: Cpl Daniel Hopping, assaultman, Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, shields himself from dust kicked up by a CH-53E Super Stallion lifting off during a mission in Helmand province, Afghanistan, April 28, 2014. Photo by Cpl Joseph Scanlan. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to *Leatherneck Magazine*, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.

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Sound Off

Edited by R. R. Keene

Have a question or feel like sounding off? Address your letter to: Sound Off Editor, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or send an e-mail to: r.keene@mca-marines.org. Due to the heavy volume, we cannot answer every letter received. Do not send original photographs, as we cannot guarantee their return. All letters must be signed, and e-mails must contain complete names and postal mailing addresses. Anonymous letters will not be published.—Sound Off Ed.

Letter of the Month

(Leatherneck will 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.)

In 1947, I quit school (in Mount Hope, W.Va.) to join the United States Marine Corps. I was a laid-back, skinny introvert and a real hayseed.

In the Marines I met some of the finest young men in the country who helped me grow up. In boot camp at Parris Island, S.C., I was 5 feet 11 inches and weighed 128 pounds. That soon changed.

I made it when others dropped out. What the Marine Corps put in me carried me through Sea School. I served for 19 months in USS *Providence* (CL-82). Marine Corps discipline and military schools provided a way for me to receive my General Education Development diploma. I spent 15 months and six days in Korea from 1952 to 1953. More than a year of that time was with 1st 4.5-inch Rocket Battery.

In 1951 I became a born-again Christian, and a real change took place. I left my beloved Marines for Florida and Southeastern Bible College. There, I was freshman class president and met my wife of 56 years; we had two daughters.

I was an educator for 20 years and spent 10 years as a reserve police officer and retired from the Marine Corps Reserve with more than 20 years of service.

Now I am 84, drive a "Marine Corps red" Tahoe and just love being a great-grandfather.

Yet, standing out with this is my pride in those young men and women who are filling the Marine Corps ranks today. They are more than capable to carry on for us old leathernecks the tradition we passed on to them.

SSgt Arthur M. Cheek, USMCR (Ret)
St. Petersburg, Fla.

Some Former Students Are Now His Marine Brothers

I just read the article about the Maryland teachers' visit to Marine Corps Recruit

Depot Parris Island, S.C. ["Leatherneck Line," July]. I made three such trips back in the 1980s and '90s at the request of a local recruiter.

We did not get much of the drill instructor's personality on my first visit. On my second trip, I asked the officer in charge if he could get one of the DIs to come out and "get us off the bus."

It was quite a shock to others on the bus, but they went along with the drill. We all wondered what the recruits who were in the area must have thought with all of us older "recruits" standing on the yellow footprints while DIs yelled at us.

The whole trip was an eye-opener for the teachers who had not had the honor of the Parris Island experience when they were younger. For me, my first visit to Parris Island when I was 17 years old was one of the best things that ever happened to me. The Marine Corps, through my drill instructors, gave me a wake-up call that I never got in high school, and I was able to go to college and retire from teaching.

I am glad that Marine recruiters still give teachers the opportunity to visit Parris Island and experience what the recruits go through so that when they need to help their students make decisions about their future, they know what they are talking about. I know from experience that some of my students thanked me for showing them that the Marine Corps is one of their options when they graduate from high school.

It makes me proud to be able to refer to some of my former students as brother Marines.

Robert Herd
USMC, 1961-64
Wilmington, N.C.

Drummed Out of the Corps: A Punishment That Is Long Gone

During a discussion with friends, including a Marine veteran, the subject of "drumming out" came up related to the Ribbon Creek incident at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., in 1956. I said that the Marine Corps did not during my years of active duty (1958-78) resort to

a "drumming out" ceremony to embarrass and humiliate a Marine who was found to have misbehaved so badly as to warrant such action. I am sure that the Uniform Code of Military Justice would have prohibited such action.

LtCol Paul E. Westphal, USMC (Ret)
Bluffton, S.C.

• *"Old salts" online say essentially: Drumming out is being dishonorably dismissed from military service to the sound of a drum. The drumming out was a long-time military tradition for those who had disgraced the uniform. The soldier, Marine or sailor who was given a Dishonorable Discharge would stand before his unit. His commanding officer would read off the charges and remove all insignia, chevrons, patches, etc. Then the CO would order everyone in the formation to about face while he ordered military police to escort the convicted miscreant out the gate as a drummer beat the drum slowly.*

As best as I could find, a California paper, The Desert News, reported on April 9, 1962, that General David M. Shoup, 22nd Commandant of the Marine Corps, ordered "drumming out" banned. To me this implies that it was a custom of punishment already on its way out.—Sound Off Ed.

Gen Mundy Stood Up for What He Believed

I just finished reading the "In Memoriam" section of the June issue about the passing of General Carl E. Mundy Jr., 30th Commandant of the Marine Corps. Gen Mundy was Commandant during my time in the Corps, and I had the honor and pleasure of meeting him during a visit to the National Museum of the Marine Corps on our birthday almost two years ago. The general was kind, generous and seemed genuinely interested in speaking with one of "his Marines."

This was a very emotional birthday for me as it was my first birthday celebration without my father and, as coincidence would have it, I met up with three friends

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I served with on Okinawa 20 years earlier. Meeting Gen Mundy under these circumstances was just great!

If I recall correctly, when Gen Mundy was Commandant, he passed an order that lance corporals and below could not get married without their commanding officer's permission. The order was overturned by the Secretary of the Navy. At the time, I was a married lance corporal, and I agreed with the Commandant!

Kevin Hoag
Old Bridge, N.J.

• *In an Aug. 5, 1993, order, Gen Mundy ordered a ban on enlisting married people, citing that the high number of young married Marines was a problem. The order was overturned almost immediately by Secretary of Defense Les Aspin. Gen Mundy said he should have informed his superiors before ordering the ban. Nonetheless, at the time, a large number of Marines agreed with the Commandant's ban.—Sound Off Ed.*

More on Barstow's Mounted Color Guard

I was ordered to Marine Corps Supply Center Barstow, Calif., in about 1958 or 1959 and was transferred to the stables. Captain Don D. Beal had a lot to do with it and with establishing a Mounted Color Guard.

We never went to the Rose Parade; Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton handled that. Nonetheless, at the stables was a display case with the ribbons and trophies given to the group.

Apparently Special Services bought the horses. There was a barn for a feed room, an office and six stalls. There were six horses used for parades which also could be rented out. There were overnight trail rides and rides to Calico Ghost Town.

When I was transferred circa December 1962, the stable was still operating.

Darwinn B. Rutz
Greeley, Colo.

• *Mr. Rutz sent this letter as more information to his letter in the August issue, but it arrived after press time.—Sound Off Ed.*

The Mounted Color Guard Should Be Carrying "Patton Saber"

I am writing in response to Sara W. Bock's wonderful article entitled "A Four-Legged Legacy: The Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard," featured in the July issue.

The article states "The 'Horse Marines' was the nickname given to the mounted U.S. legation detachment in Peking, China, a guard unit established in 1900." The article later states that "The senior

Marine in the color guard would present the Stars and Stripes while the next in rank would bear the Marine Corps standard. The flanking guards carried NCO swords."

The October 2004 issue features an article entitled "Brooke Astor: Grand Dame of the Marine Corps University Foundation" by Suzanne Pool. The story pictures a "Horse Marine" stationed at the Peking legation. He is armed with an M1913 "Patton Saber" issued by the Springfield Armory.

The present-day Marine noncommissioned officer's sword is based on the Army foot officer's sword, Model 1850, in accordance with USMC regulations issued in 1859.

I would respectfully suggest that the USMC Mounted Color Guard consider equipping the flanking guards with the historically correct "Patton sword" or "Patton Saber M1913." Of course, this weapon is very rare (most were cut down to make commando knives during World War II).

I have attached a picture of an officer's Patton Saber and metal scabbard from my personal collection.

As an equestrian as well as a direct descendant of Virginia Confederate cavalrymen and a grandfather who owned racehorses in the 1930s, to me the Patton sword represents the passage of an era from horse cavalry to mechanized cavalry.

Former Sgt Thomas M. Dunne
USMC, 1967-71
Hedgesville, W.Va.



A Patton Saber with metal scabbard from former Sgt Thomas M. Dunne's personal collection.

COURTESY OF THOMAS M. DUNNE

• *I confess the idea has merit and appeal. I don't think it would be hard to forge authentic-looking replicas. Perhaps, some commander with the heart of a "Horse Marine" may find a way to make it happen.—Sound Off Ed.*

Our Marine Sisters Building a Legacy And Tradition

I really enjoyed the "Molly Marine" feature by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Randy Gaddo in the July issue. When people gather to discuss the Marines, the conversations seem to always focus on exploits of male Marines and their accomplishments. But women have played such a key role in our Corps' illustrious history. The article beautifully brought this out. Until now, I never heard of Molly Marine. It was a joy and privilege to read the story.

Thomas R. Lawton
USMC, 1965-69
Green Bay, Wis.

"Battlefield Annie" Was One of the Molly Marine Models

Thanks for the great piece on "Molly Marine." A very good friend of ours when we lived at Copper Mountain, Colo., was "Battlefield Annie." We skied, socialized and drank good wine with her and her Marine pilot husband, Peter Snyder, when they visited their condo.

Annie was one of the original Molly Marines of New Orleans who modeled for the sculptor; her maiden name is unknown to us.

In the 1990s, Walt Disney Co. had plans to build a major historical theme park on the lands [near] the Manassas battlefield in Virginia.

The Snyders' 160-acre farm was on the edge of the battlegrounds.

"No way," said Annie, "is Disney going to destroy this historic site!" She challenged Disney at the county, state and federal levels. In Congress, they called her "Battlefield Annie."

She won her cause, and my wife, Vlasta, and I celebrated with the Snyders at their farm site.

What great memories we Marines have of good lifetime friends on and off the battlefield of history.

GySgt Bernie Bovee, USMC (Ret)
China Marine
Cadillac, Mich.

• *Captain Elizabeth Anne "Annie" (Delp) Snyder, USMC was one of the models for "Molly Marine" and an activist who fought to preserve the Manassas battlefield. She died in 2002 (Leatherneck, "In Memoriam," October 2002). She was 80.*

In the 1970s she and others stood their

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ground and forced Marriott Corp. to abandon its proposal to build a Great America theme park.

She became internationally known in 1988 when she stopped a mall from being constructed on the site of Stuart's Hill where Confederate General Robert E. Lee directed his troops to victory at the Second Battle of Manassas.

In the 1990s, along with historians David McCullough and Shelby Foote, also a fellow Marine veteran, Snyder helped thwart the Disney plan for a 3,000-acre park situated four miles from the battlefield.

These confrontations with lawmakers and businesses earned her both friends and enemies. But she took it all in stride saying: "Friends may come and go, but enemies are forever."—Sound Off Ed.

DD-214s and Various Discharge Cards

When I was discharged I received a card that stated I was discharged from the United States Marine Corps.

Sometime over the years I misplaced this card. Now certain businesses require it from me so that I may receive a discount. Whom can I contact to get a replacement?

Dave Ream
USMC, 1951-53
Houston

• What businesses require is some proof of military service. The wallet-sized DD-214 is no longer issued. The easiest way to prove your military service is with a valid military identification card or your actual DD-214 form, which serves as your service record. The DD-214 is issued to all who serve when they separate from military service. It is the most important document you receive when you leave the Corps. Guard it well. (Those enrolled in the VA also can obtain an ID card.)

Your DD-214 is a letter-sized document—carrying it around is not really practical, but it opens other doors. In some states you can use it to have a logo or code denoting military service on your state driver's license. With it, in some counties or other communities, one can be issued veterans' ID cards. While they are not official, and vary by locale, they can be valuable at restaurants and retailers for discounts.

Service organizations such as the Marine Corps League, Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion all have membership cards, but usually require identification in the form of a DD-214 when you join.

According to themilitarywallet.com: "One tip we have received from many veterans is to take your DD Form 214

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to an office supply store such as Office Depot, Office Max, Fed-Ex/Kinkos, etc. and ask them to shrink the card to a wallet size version and have it laminated. This will give you a wallet size document that will prove your service.”—Sound Off Ed.

Parris Island Never Had “Little Red Pocket Books of Knowledge”

This is regarding the “The Little Red Pocket Books of Knowledge” in the July “Sound Off.” I graduated with Platoon 215 in 1966 at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., and we were not issued nor have I ever seen the books in question.

Former Cpl Robert T. Mauney
Glen Alpine, N.C.

... Well, Maybe They Did

We were issued these at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., in 1974. Referred to by our drill instructors as the “little red monster,” it may have been published at PI, as it has “PI-49-10170-35 (5th Revision)” printed at the bottom of its first page. And, yes, we were required to get it in front of our face and study whenever we were standing in formation for any length of time.

Tom Schmidt
Richmond, Va.

The response [from the “Sound Off” editor in July] stated: “You kept it in the left breast pocket of your utility jacket.” Well, as a proud former “maggot” of Platoon 2035, Parris Island, 1968, I can assure you that if I or any of the other “ladies” in the platoon put anything in the breast pockets of our utilities, our observant and able DIs would have promptly planted a fist into our chests (figuratively of course) to determine its content.

Our books were stowed in the small of the back between the web belt and waistband, only to be removed and studied during idle times and always held in the port arms position. The books we used at Parris Island, as I recall, were a little wider than the ones pictured. I have not seen mine in years unless it’s still in my seabag, which I haven’t emptied since the late ’70s.

I do have the “Individual Combat Notebook,” Acme Printing Company; it has a red cover (as opposed to black), and the red first page is exactly as shown in your photo. I purchased this at Infantry Training Regiment, Camp Geiger, N.C., in early 1969; the sticker on the back says “M.C. Exchange Camp Lejeune N.C.” So I know I’m not confusing this with the book we trained with at PI ... just wish I could find that one ... maybe I’ll have to dump out the old seabag someday soon and take a look?

Former Sgt Jim Cachine
Herndon, Va.

Reunions

• **3dMarDiv Assn. (Texas Chapter)**, Oct. 9-12, San Antonio. Contact Mike Sohn, (210) 654-3310, jumient2@hotmail.com.

• **5thMarDiv Assn.**, Sept. 8-13, Tampa, Fla. Contact John A. Butler, 11871 Raintree Dr., Temple Terrace, FL 33617, (813) 985-0657, jbutler813@verizon.net.

• **6thMarDiv Assn.**, Oct. 7-12, Dumfries, Va. Contact Holiday Inn Quantico Center, 3901 Fettle Park Dr., Dumfries, VA 22025, (703) 441-9001, www.sixthmarine division.com.

• **FLC-FLSG (all units, RVN)**, Sept. 11-14, Portland, Ore. Contact Jim Kadas, (503) 998-3516, kadas3516@aol.com, mbaker.flsg@gmail.com.

• **China Marine Assn.**, Sept. 17-21, Charleston, S.C. Contact AFR Inc. (Attn: China Marine), 322 Madison Mews, Norfolk, VA 23510, www.afr-reg.com/chinamarine2014.

• **Marine Corps CI Assn.**, Sept. 8-10, Quantico, Va. Contact Clay Niles, (540) 840-8013, clayton.niles@comcast.net, www.mccia.org.

• **USMC Combat Correspondents Assn.**, Sept. 8-11, Oceanside, Calif. Contact Jack T. Paxton, 110 Fox Ct., Wildwood, FL 34785, (352) 748-4698, usmccca@cfl.rr.com, www.usmccca.org.

• **Marine Corps Engineer Assn.**, Oct. 20-23, Pala, Calif. Contact Ken Frantz, 807 Carriage Hills Blvd., Conroe, TX 77384, (936) 273-4830, execdir@marcorengasn.org, www.marcorengasn.org.

• **USMC Motor Transport Assn.**, Sept. 21-24, Camp Pendleton, Calif. Contact Marcel Arbelaez, P.O. Box 1372, Jacksonville, NC 28541, (910) 450-1841, secretary@usmcmta.org, www.usmcmta.org.

• **Marine Corps Mustang Assn.**, Sept. 16-18, Las Vegas. Contact Sue Haley, (520) 628-7809, (541) 535-7117, suzhaley@gmail.com, www.marinecorpsmustang.org.

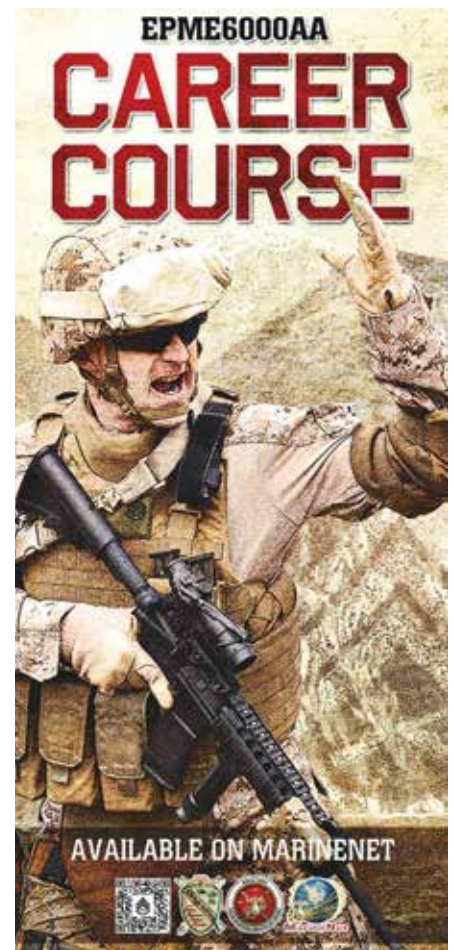
• **USMC Tankers Assn.**, Oct. 2-4, San Diego. Contact Buster Diggs, (619) 873-7385, bdiggs60@gmail.com.

• **West Coast Drill Instructor Assn.**, Sept. 4-7, San Diego. Contact Gregg Stoner, (619) 884-9047, greggstoner22@aol.com, or SgtMaj Bobby Woods, USMC (Ret), (760) 215-9564, www.westcoastdi.org.

• **Marine Corps Air Transport Assn.**, Oct. 1-5, Branson, Mo. Contact retired Marine Humberto C. Reyes, 2103 W. Mulberry Ave., San Antonio, TX 78201, (210) 867-9226, (210) 734-5967, hreyes5416@aol.com.

• **Anacostia Marines**, Sept. 21-27, Oklahoma City. Contact Ron Bursch, (928) 533-4349, ronbur38@gmail.com.

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Oct. 21-24, St. Augustine, Fla. Contact Joe "Red" Cullen, (203) 877-0846, aircooledmg7@aol.com, www.marinesoflongago.org.

• **MarDet/Barracks, NOB/NAS Bermuda**, Oct. 19-23, Branson, Mo. Contact Dennis McDonald, (763) 473-3458, d.mcdonald82575@comcast.net.

• **MarDet, U.S. Naval Prison Portsmouth/USNDC**, Sept. 17-22, Portsmouth, N.H. Contact Steve Jennison, (603) 988-9867, sajbuilds@aol.com, www.mardet.usncd.com.

• **Marine Barracks Sasebo, Japan**, Oct. 7-9, San Diego. Contact SgtMaj James Abraham, USMC (Ret), (949) 951-3824, (949) 433-3998, a-abraham@sbcglobal.net.

• **USMC Postal 0160/0161**, Oct. 19-24, San Antonio. Contact Harold Wilson, (740) 385-6204, handk.lucerne06@gmail.com.

• **Subic Bay Marines**, Sept. 2-7, San Diego. Contact John Laccinole, (818) 591-8916, johnlaccinole@aol.com, www.subicbaymarines.com.

• **CUPP Marines (RVN)**, Sept. 27-Oct. 2, Washington, D.C. Contact Rick Stanford, (850) 443-6373, rickstanford46@gmail.com.

• **Veterans of Guam and Iwo Jima (70th Anniversary)**, March 16-23, 2015,

Iwo Jima. 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.

• **3d Recon Assn.**, Sept. 16-21, Reno, Nev. Contact Doug Heath, (770) 684-7668; Bob Hoover, (843) 302-2151; or Cyndie Leigh, (702) 271-0365.

• **7th Engineer Bn Assn. (RVN)**, Sept. 18-21, Alexandria, Va. Contact Doug McMackin, (623) 466-0545, gunnymac@hotmail.com; Norm Johnson, (989) 635-6653, nwgj@outlook.com; Jim Taranto, (518) 567-4267, tarantoj@gmail.com; or Harry Dill, (704) 708-9865, hdill@carolina.rr.com.

• **1/27 (RVN, 1968)**, Sept. 18-21, Jacksonville, Fla. Contact Felix Salmeron, 1406 Nighthawk Dr., Little Elm, TX 75068, (469) 583-0191, mar463@aol.com, or Grady Birdsong, (303) 466-6491.

• **2/1 (RVN)**, Nov. 6-11, Charleston, S.C. Contact Mike Valdez, (713) 822-1165, mvaldez@windstream.net, www.ghostbattalion.org.

• **2/26**, Sept. 18-22, Charleston, S.C. Contact Sonny Hollub, (512) 825-4730, sonnyusmc@gmail.com.

• **3/11**, Sept. 10-14, San Diego. Contact Doug Miller, (402) 540-9431, dmiller48@gmail.com.

• **"Stormy's" BLT 3/3 (1961-62)**, Oct. 20-23, Las Vegas. Contact James Burrus, (949) 830-1732, calpacgp@pacbell.net.

• **BLT 3/9 (50-Year Reunion)**, Sept. 8-12, 2015, San Diego. Contact Charles Saltaformaggio, (504) 812-7369, csaltaformaggio@yahoo.com.

• **Wpns Co, 1/1 (1988-92)**, Sept. 27, Las Vegas. Contact John Patricio, (916) 941-6791, john.patricio@patricio-systems.com.

• **Co A, 1st Bn, 7th Marines Assn.**, Oct. 19-22, North Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Leonard R. "Shifty" Shifflette, 25 Emery St., Harrisonburg, VA 22801, (540) 434-2066, (540) 745-2066, captshifty@comcast.net.

• **Co B, 7th Motor T Bn (RVN)**, Oct. 1-3, San Diego. Contact Tim Weddington, 2527 S. Glen Ln., Independence, MO 64052, (816) 808-2357, timweddington@comcast.net.

• **A/1/12 (3dMarDiv, RVN)**, Sept. 17-21, San Diego. Contact Bob Schoenleber, (425) 822-7474, bobschoenleber@comcast.net.

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

• **D/2/13 (Battle of Ngok Tavak and Kham Duc, 1968)**, Oct. 8-13, St. Louis.

[continued on page 67]

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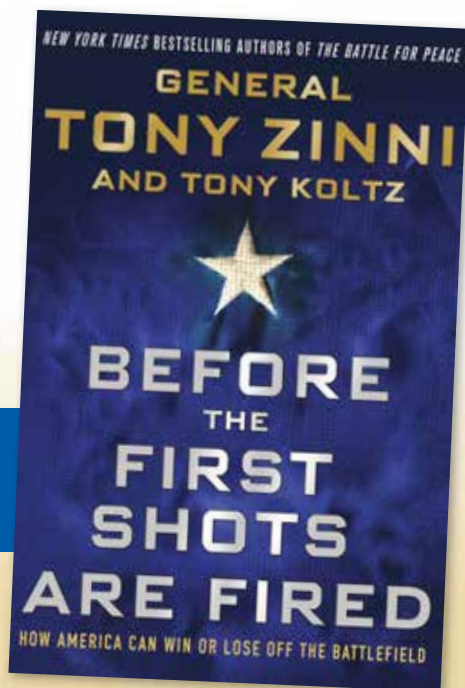
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In Every Clime and Place

Edited by
R. R. Keene



ISTIT WAJDAKALIC

TRIPOLI, LIBYA Marines Escort Americans From U.S. Embassy to Tunisia

U.S. Marines of Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response along with Marine security guards at U.S. Embassy, Tripoli, Libya, assisted in providing security and escort during evacuation of staff from the embassy in Tripoli to Tunisia, July 26.

Pentagon Press Secretary Navy Rear Admiral John Kirby said in a statement: “At the request of the Department of State, the U.S. military assisted in the relocation of personnel from the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli, Libya, on Saturday, July 26.

“All embassy personnel were relocated, including the Marine security guards who were providing security at the embassy and during the movement.

A quick reaction force with SPMAGTF-Crisis Response prepares to depart Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy, to assist with the evacuation of the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli, July 26.

“The embassy staff was driven in vehicles to Tunisia.

“During movement, F-16s, ISR [intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance] assets and an Airborne Response Force with MV-22 Ospreys provided security.

“The mission was conducted without incident, and the entire operation lasted approximately five hours.”

Airlift from the Tripoli airport was, according to the Pentagon, “not an option” because of nearby fighting.

The evacuation of between 150 and 200 embassy staff guarded by 80 Marines took place at approximately 5 p.m., in three convoys totaling 28 vehicles that drove 321 miles west to the Tunisian border under the umbrella of naval guns and missiles aboard two U.S. Navy warships in the nearby Mediterranean Sea, three U.S. Air Force F-16 Falcons, drones and two Ospreys with a heavily armed 24-Marine (with two-person medical team) quick response team. Pentagon officials deemed the protection as a “robust package of military forces.”

Compiled from DOD News, Defense Media Activity and various media accounts

■ GERESHK, AFGHANISTAN Infantrymen Engage Taliban Over 4th of July Weekend

Leathernecks with Company B, 1st Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment engaged Taliban insurgents during the Fourth of July weekend in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

The infantrymen along with Afghan National Army soldiers operated within close proximity of Camp Leatherneck to continue disruption operations and prevent future attacks on Camps Bastion and Leatherneck, July 4-6.

“Our job was to investigate some compounds of interest in order to deny the insurgents the ability to consolidate in certain areas where they could potentially plan attacks,” said First Lieutenant Robert Kay, a platoon commander with “Bravo” Co.

The Bravo Co Marines inserted into Gereshk via CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters in the predawn hours of July 4. They began to patrol across freshly tilled fields while monitoring the surrounding area with night vision goggles mounted on their Kevlar helmets.

By sunrise, the Marines were investigating suspicious areas and questioning local Afghans when the infantrymen came under enemy fire.

Insurgents engaged the Marines from three different positions with machine guns, AK47s and a precision-grade rifle. The Marines returned fire and began to maneuver on the enemy fighters. Gun crews with M240B medium machine guns laid down suppressing fire as Marines sprinted across an open field to a better firing position.

Audible cracks, pops and explosions of gunfire and high-explosive munitions resounded across the surrounding village indicating the Marines had gained fire superiority. Riflemen with M16A4 service rifles, M4A1 carbines and M27 Infantry Automatic rifles fired from behind berms. Bullets came within inches of several Marines, but when the firefight concluded, no Marines were wounded.

The Marines set up a security posture for a landing zone in a nearby field at mid-morning to prepare to extract from the area. Two CH-53Es arrived and the infantrymen darted through a prop wash of dirt and hay and loaded up to fly back to Camp Bastion within minutes. The company’s first day of operations had concluded; two more were to follow.

Before dawn the following morning, the company inserted into a different area of Gereshk. Insurgents were awaiting their arrival, and rounds were fired from several compounds at the helicopters. The crewmen aboard the helicopters responded



Above: Cpl Deshaun Jackson, rifleman, B/1/7, returns fire during a fight in Helmand province July 6. Bravo Co fought Taliban insurgents during three days in July. (Photo by Cpl Joseph Scanlan)

Below: Cpl Anthony Davis, fire team leader, Bravo Co, shields himself from the prop wash of two CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters during a mission in Helmand province July 4.



CPL JOSEPH SCANLAN

to the enemy fire with mounted .50-caliber machine guns silencing the enemy.

The company offloaded and began patrolling on foot. A combat engineer led the infantrymen through several freshly harvested fields with a mine sweeper. As disturbed earth or protruding wires can be visual indicators of an improvised explosive device (IED), the patrol relied

on mine sweepers to protect their lives as they maneuvered across fields.

The sun began to rise at 0430, and squads of infantrymen were already at their designated compounds. Afghans emerged from their homes and began their morning prayers. The infantrymen respected their customs and waited for their prayers to conclude before enrolling the



CPL JOSEPH SCANLAN

Sgt Logan Jones, combat engineer, Bravo Co, provides security July 5, while his company was involved in three days of fighting with the Taliban.

Afghans into a biometrics system to help identify those living in the area. The Marines later patrolled smoothly with no harassment, but the mounted element's patrol was not without incident. Four vehicles struck IEDs; miraculously, no one was injured.

After hours of patrolling and interacting with locals, the Marines flew back to camp and prepared for their final day of the operation.

The company gathered again on the Camp Bastion flight line at dawn on the next day and departed by helicopter. As the infantrymen neared the area, small-arms fire spewed from compounds below.

"We came under pretty heavy fire from about five different points of origin," said Lt Kay. "When I looked out of the helicopter, I could see tracer rounds."

The crewmen returned fire, and the helicopter pilots continued with their mission, offloading the Marines. Once on the ground, squads split up to move to different compounds. Daylight broke as Marines finished speaking with citizens and then moved to their next objective. Only the deep breaths and crunch of boots could be heard as the infantrymen maneuvered across a tilled field with full combat loads.

Suddenly, machine-gun and small-arms fire exploded from nearly 150 meters away.

Gunners triggered their M240B medium machine guns. Deafening gunfire and explosions filled the air. The only objects protecting the Marines were a flimsy mud wall and a small berm. The Marines needed

to move. Staff Sergeant Matthew Ingwerson, a platoon sergeant with Bravo Co, took charge.

"Everybody looks in one direction, at either the platoon commander or platoon sergeant, and someone has to remain level-headed, because if the leadership starts losing their mind, the Marines start breaking down, and they start losing their confidence in their abilities," said Ingwerson.

"I try to mitigate as much stress as I can in order to allow my squads to maneuver effectively and to ensure the junior Marines have confidence to do things they thought they could never do before," he added.

Machine-gunners provided suppressive fire as riflemen sprinted across an open field. Bullets kicked up dust as they impacted around the Marines. Afghan National Army soldiers led them into compounds to search for insurgents and question locals. The fire slowly died out, and the insurgents retreated.

After conducting a thorough search of the surrounding area and enrolling more Afghans into a biometrics system, the company linked up with the mounted element and departed the area via Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles.

"A lot of coalition forces haven't been present in that area recently," Kay said. "The Taliban start getting comfortable in places and think they can do whatever they want. We told them that they are not safe there. I don't care if they go north, south, east or west; the Marines are going

to find them. We denied their ability to consolidate and their ability to plan, and we also showed the local population that we are there to help them."

Cpl Joseph Scanlan

Combat Correspondent, MEB-Afghanistan

■ LASHKAR GAH, AFGHANISTAN

Marines End Mission

Advising Afghan Police

Marines of the Afghan National Police Advisor Team returned to Camp Leatherneck from Lashkar Gah, Helmand province, Afghanistan, June 27. The ANPAT, an advising team made up of approximately 20 Marines from all over the Corps, spent eight months advising the Afghan National Police (ANP) on how to develop a strong, capable and credible police force for the province.

"Our mission has been to assist in the institutional development of the Afghan National Police in Helmand province to increase their capability and capacity in providing security and upholding the rule of law for the population in Helmand," said Major Mark Nicholson, the administrative advisor for the ANPAT.

The ANP have grown since the beginning of the advising mission five years ago.

"We are more capable and stronger than before," said Major General Baqazoi, Helmand provincial chief of police. "Police are holding checkpoints across Helmand province with coordination from Afghan National Police. Police are able to perform and defeat. Our police have learned to stay on alert and react to any surprises, track suspicious movement and objects."

While growing the police force throughout Helmand province to approximately 11,500 police officers, the ANP and their advisors have overcome challenges and built stronger relationships.

"The biggest challenge has been in understanding that the police here have very different outlooks than we have as Marines," said Nicholson. "It is challenging as a Marine because we want to see quick, measurable results. However, many of our efforts will not be fully realized for years."

Captain Frank Alba Jr., the senior intelligence advisor for the ANPAT, said: "We overcame many of the obstacles by establishing close relationships built on mutual trust and confidence in one another. Later on this proved beneficial and enabled us to have honest and productive discussions on how to implement procedures and processes that would facilitate long-term sustainability."

As the current ANPAT members focus more on supporting and guiding the ANP, the advisors say the police are ready and

A Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle is staged at Patrol Base Diamond, Helmand province July 26, prior to the ANPAT's departure following the team's eight-month deployment advising the ANP. (Photo by Sgt Frances Johnson)

capable of sustaining their force and standards of law enforcement.

"I'm very confident in the ANP on many levels," said Alba. "They've largely been sustaining security and success in Helmand on their own for some time now. They proved this during the elections and then during the runoff. They will face additional challenges. That's just the nature of the situation whether it's organizational culture, corruption, the insurgency or some other internal strife. However, the ANP leadership has the tools, and they will be successful if they choose to be."

The Lashkar Gah Training Center has played a crucial role in the success of the ANP in Helmand and Nimroz provinces, training more than 7,000 Afghan police forces.

"Anything from a basic patrol officer to a [noncommissioned officer] leadership course to officer training for the patrolmen, they are making sure that at each level the training is happening, and that they are graduating the number of recruits ... to fulfill the needs throughout the entire province," said Capt Eric Gutierrez, headquarters officer in charge, ANPAT. "The [training center] has been building the stepping-stones, and now they're at a point where they're self-sufficient. ... [W]e've been looking at them and they've remained the proficient force and trainers ... able to keep up with the long-term success."



There are currently 11,500 Afghans serving the ANP in Helmand and Nimroz provinces spread throughout the three main pillars of the ANP: the Afghan Uniform Police, the Afghan Border Police and the Afghan Civil Order Police. These forces will continue to be advised and supported by advisors with Regional Command Southwest at Camp Leatherneck.

"We have seen tremendous changes in Helmand with regards to the development of the police forces," said Helmand Governor Naeem Baloch. "The police are now capable of taking on the insurgents face to face."

Sgt Frances Johnson
Combat Correspondent, MEB-Afghanistan

■ CAMP BASTION, AFGHANISTAN VMGR-352 Lights Up Sky With Battlefield Illumination

The six-man aircrew with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352 prepared their KC-130J Hercules for a battlefield illumination mission over Helmand province July 18.

The squadron conducts various types of missions over the province, including battlefield illumination missions that light up areas in support of coalition operations within Regional Command Southwest.

"Battlefield illumination is where we drop flares to light up the sky and below for ground troops and helicopter inserts," said Captain Ronald Rutter, a KC-130J



SGT FRANCES JOHNSON



SGT FRANCES JOHNSON

Above left: SSgt Ramon Rodriguez, left, a KC-130J crew chief, and Sgt Christopher Weins, a loadmaster, prepare for a battlefield illumination mission by setting timers on flares July 18.

Above right: During the mission over Afghanistan, SSgt Rodriguez stands ready to push flares from a KC-130J to light up the night in support of coalition operations against the Taliban.

pilot. “VMGR brings assault support and transports cargo, personnel and fuel. It’s a platform for command and control. We do multi-sensor imagery reconnaissance, close air support, air-to-air refuels for helicopters, jets and Ospreys. We also do aerial delivery and battlefield illumination like we did tonight.”

The illumination mission doubled as a training session for one of the crew members. As the aircraft reached its cruising altitude, the three Marines aft in the KC-130J donned parachutes as a precautionary measure and lowered the ramp in order to wedge the flare chute between the door and the ramp.

“I was learning how to do battlefield illuminations,” said Corporal Jacob Hall, a crew chief. “I learned how to [properly] set the timers on flares, load the flares and then push them out of the plane.”

To prep the flares, the Marines must set each of the timers to correlate to a distance the flare will fall before igniting the night sky. The Marines set the timers before takeoff, while still steady on the ground, ensuring the only steps they need to take in the air are loading the chute and pushing flares out.

“If I set the timer to 1,000, the flare will

fall 1,000 feet, and at that time the timer on the top will unlock, a spring will push the timer off and allow the parachute to deploy. The force of the parachute deployment then ignites the flare,” said Sergeant Christopher Weins, a loadmaster. “Depending on if it is an overt or covert [infrared light] flare, it will be lit for 4 or 7 minutes, respectively. At the end of that time, an explosive bolt destroys one of the parachute cables, causing the parachute to collapse and clear the airspace for other air traffic.”

Just moments after dropping the last flare and watching it brighten the Afghan night, the pilots turned their KC-130J toward Camp Bastion.

This detachment of Marines from VMGR-352 is at the beginning of its deployment at Camp Bastion.

“So far, we’ve done well,” said Capt Rutter. “For Marine Corps aviation, we’re a small community, but we have a lot to offer to the Marine Air-Ground Task Force. Our detachment will [continue] to do really well. We have really good senior leadership and good Marines. Overall, morale is high.”

Sgt Frances Johnson
Combat Correspondent, MEB-Afghanistan

ARMY NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER, FORT IRWIN, CALIF.

4th LAR Trains for Desert Readiness

Marine reservists of the 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion upped their readiness during annual training July 6-20 in the rugged environs of the Army National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif.

This year brought the entire battalion to the Mojave Desert to conduct exercises with weapons on live-fire ranges and set off demolitions.

It was the first time since their deployment to Afghanistan in 2009 that the battalion was able to train together.

“This training is vital for staff that don’t typically get the chance to command and control,” said Lieutenant Colonel Lance Ferrell, Commanding Officer, 4th LAR. “It is huge for companies to work together and operate on a larger scale.”

As Reserve units, the companies within 4th LAR meet only once a month and two full weeks a year. The companies are spread throughout the country in places such as Salt Lake City; Syracuse, N.Y.; and Camp Pendleton, Calif. While the companies work together on their drill weekends, they rarely get to work as a battalion.

“Most Marines know their entire com-



A Marine with “Fox” Co, 4th LAR Bn sprints to his next position during a live-fire exercise July 13 at the Army National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif.

panies, but this training allows them to work with Marines from other companies that they don't know," said Sergeant Major Michael Pritchard, Inspector-Instructor sergeant major. "Being able to integrate will allow the Marines to do their jobs when they deploy, no matter who they work with."

The training at Ft. Irwin was not only valuable for combat, but for logistics and communications, explained Ferrell. The battalion had to establish communications throughout the mountains that separated the ranges on Ft. Irwin.

"The large training area was an obstacle for logistics and communications but valuable training for the light armored vehicles [LAVs]," said SgtMaj Pritchard. "Fort Irwin gives the LAVs unrestricted training and more movement capabilities than other bases."

The large training area gave the Marines a chance to use all of the weaponry available on the LAVs including the M242 Bushmaster chain gun, the M240 machine gun and antitank guided missiles. Marines also fired the Mine Clearing Lane Charge (MICLIC), which consists of a rocket tethered to thousands of pounds of C-4 explosives launched from an LAV. The MICLIC clears out mines and obstacles and gives the LAVs a safe and clear path to travel through. The Marines also fired a man-portable MICLIC which consists of two backpacks that fire a smaller rocket with tethered grenades that makes a safe path. In addition to the firepower on the LAVs, the scouts had a chance to engage the enemy in live-fire exercises with the M4 service rifle, M27 Infantry Automatic Rifle and M136 AT4 antitank weapon.

The large training exercise gave the battalion a chance to evaluate the companies on mission-essential tasks, explained Ferrell.

"This is a great learning opportunity for myself and the rest of the Marines out here," said Corporal Christian Orosco, a vehicle commander with Company A. "Hopefully, the Marines will go back to their companies and build training packages from what they learned here."

The annual training concluded with the final exercise that incorporated the capabilities of all the companies.

The companies' abilities were tested, and the final exercise tested the battalion's ability to command and control, explained LtCol Robb A. Sucher, the Inspector-Instructor of 4th LAR.

"I will know the strengths and weaknesses of every company," said Ferrell. "I can tell the commanding general [of Fourth Marine Division] we are ready. We are at our highest point of readiness."

Sgt Justis Beauregard

Combat Correspondent, MARFORRES



An AAV crewman assigned to Combat Assault Co, 3d Marines signals an AAV to move alongside to transfer troops off Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, July 7. Indonesian Marines worked alongside the U.S. Marines as part of Exercise RIMPAC to familiarize themselves with standard amphibious operating procedures and ship-to-shore exercises. (Photo by Cpl Matthew Callahan)

■ MCB HAWAII 3d Marines Take to Water, Splash With AAVs

Leathernecks with Combat Assault Company (CAC), Third Marine Regiment practiced amphibious assault vehicle operations June 30 in preparation for amphibious operations during Exercise Rim of the Pacific 2014.

The AAV armored personnel carriers are designed to transport Marines from the well decks of amphibious ships to the shore and beyond. They are outfitted with .50-caliber machine guns and MK19 automatic grenade launchers to provide suppressing fire and smoke grenade launchers to conceal movement.

"We're doing waterborne operations to ensure training and knowledge is passed down to the more junior Marines," said Corporal Chris Hoover, an AAV crew chief assigned to CAC. "This [training] ensures everyone knows their steps and standard operating procedures."

The amtracs splashed into the bay from an entry point near the Pacific War Memorial at Marine Corps Base Hawaii to conduct a jetty operation, the smallest-scale training the unit conducts. A few Indonesian Marines accompanied CAC in the AAVs and observed how their U.S. Marine counterparts operated.

They studied the U.S. Marines' vehicle-towing procedures and learned about troop transfer.

Combat Assault Co then practiced tow-

ing a vehicle. Marines maneuvered their AAVs behind each other and cross-connected two troop carriers with rope.

Once connected, one vehicle towed the other with the crewman and crew chief watching to ensure the rope was secure.

Combat Assault Co also has emergency plans to remove personnel from an inoperable vehicle at sea.

"Let's say the trac is sinking," said Cpl Kevin Valle, a CAC vehicle commander. "We go into troop transfer and open up the starboard side hatch, and the vehicles are port to port side so the drivers can see each other."

Valle said the drivers position themselves a short distance from each other and coast closer until the tracs can connect and safely deliver personnel.

The company provides 3d Marines the ability to train in an amphibious environment. They also provide transportation through urban environments such as the military operations on urban terrain facility at Hawaii's Marine Corps Training Area Bellows.

Cpl Victor Chen, an AAV crew chief, said the tracs provide transportation for advancing Marines, serve as cover, provide security and point out targets. "Our job is to bring the 'grunts' to the fight."

Cpl Matthew Callahan
PAO, MCB Hawaii



The Parade Deck Legacy

By Roxanne Baker

Lance Corporal Lawrence Liechty's heritage is the Marine Corps. It is a tradition of which he is proud. It was also one that put him in the spotlight during boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

"Having a sergeant major as a dad, he grew up in the Marine Corps," said Liechty's recruiter, Sergeant Matthew Earle. "He faced a unique challenge that most recruits don't face in boot camp. He was under a lot of pressure to perform, but a good leader knows how to overcome stress and accomplish any challenge."

Despite all the knowledge Liechty had acquired as the son of a Marine and during Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps, nothing can fully prepare a recruit for the mental tests of boot camp.

"Boot camp is meant to break you down and build you up," Liechty said. "You can go through your life thinking you're bulletproof, but when you come here, you learn you're at the bottom of the totem pole. You learn that you can be broken down. Here, it's about the struggles you have to overcome."

LCpl Liechty received the "Chesty" Puller Recruit Company Honor Graduate Award for his outstanding performance while assigned to Platoon 2127, Company F, 2d Recruit Training Battalion. The Marine Corps Association &



LCpl Liechty, right, is congratulated by his father, SgtMaj Larry Liechty, for his outstanding performance during recruit training. The younger Liechty was named company honor graduate and promoted meritoriously to lance corporal.

CPT TYLER VIGILIONE

Foundation sponsors the award for the top Marine in each graduating company at both Parris Island and San Diego recruit depots who demonstrates the highest potential for future leadership and responsibility in the Marine Corps.

Liechty said a strong motivation to give his absolute best when he was struggling, was to think of his parents, recruiter and drill instructors. He didn't want to disappoint them. They had all put in effort to help him be successful, he said.

"At the end of the day, it's the drill instructors who have made me a Marine, and the young men and women of the Marine Corps. Without them, we're nothing."

Senior Drill Instructor Sgt Benjamin A. Shangraw said Liechty started as a guide on day one of boot camp.

"He made good decisions under pressure," Shangraw said. "If you

look at leaders throughout history, good decision making is an important part of any war. Being a leader, you have to make good decisions."

Liechty said it was "overwhelming" when he finally became a Marine at the June 13 graduation for "Fox" Co, 2d RTB. Not only was he upholding his family's tradition of service, but he also was joining the brotherhood of the Marine Corps.

"It's a legacy to walk on that parade deck," said Liechty, noting that many other Marines, including Medal of Honor recipients, walked on the same parade deck—as did his father 23 years previously. "I've always been taught by my dad to be the best. And the Marine Corps makes you the best."

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



LCpl Liechty displays his "Chesty" award with his recruiter, Sgt Matthew Earle, left, and his father, SgtMaj Liechty, by his side June 13 at MCRD San Diego.



CPL CATIE MASSEY

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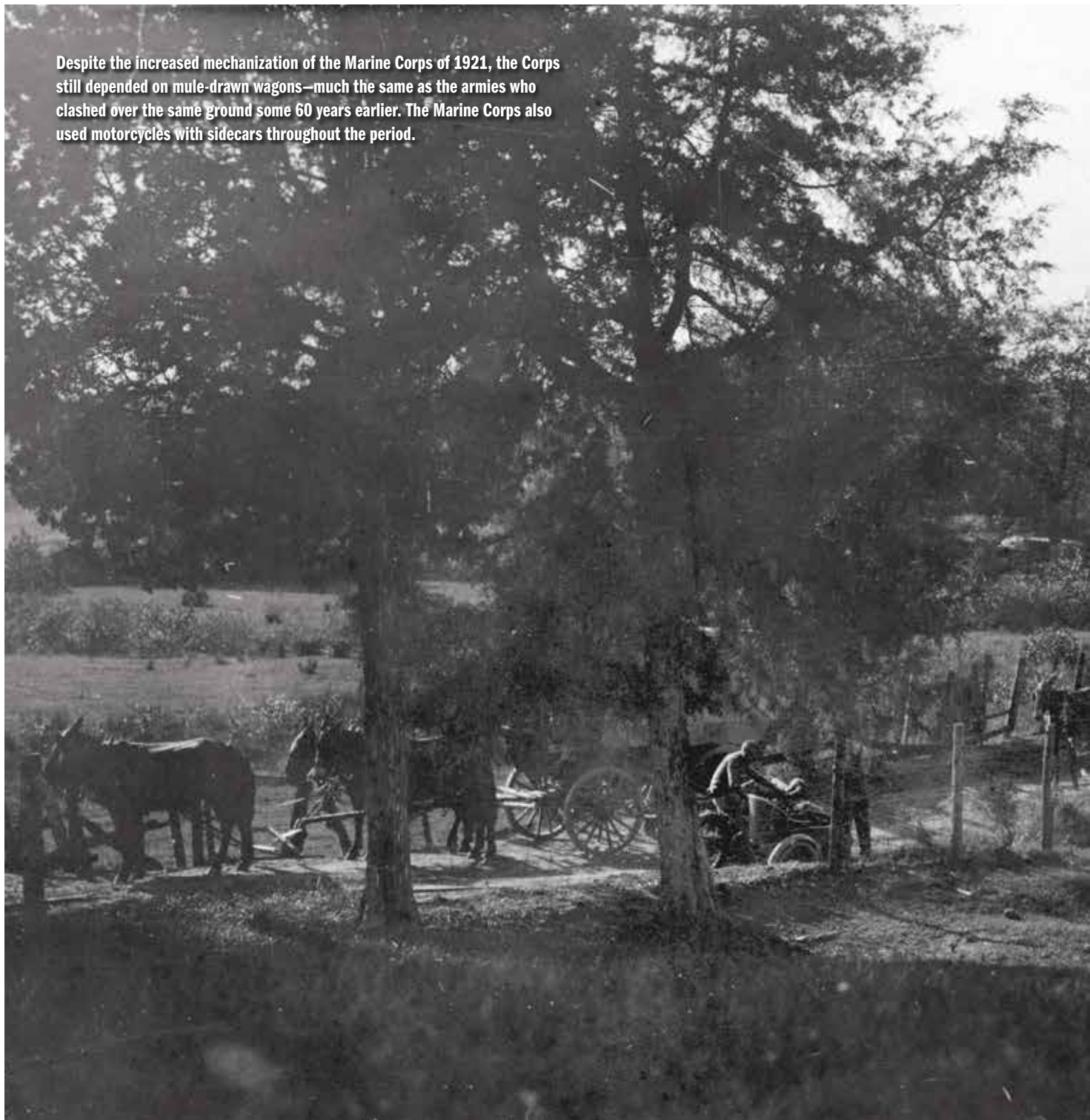
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Despite the increased mechanization of the Marine Corps of 1921, the Corps still depended on mule-drawn wagons—much the same as the armies who clashed over the same ground some 60 years earlier. The Marine Corps also used motorcycles with sidecars throughout the period.



Marines at the Battle of the Wilderness

By Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas

The Marine Corps' East Coast Expeditionary Force marched out of Quantico, Va., in September 1921, and headed for the Civil War battlefields to the southwest of Fredericksburg, Va., where they reenacted the 1864 Battle of

the Wilderness in early October. It was to be the first of four Civil War reenactments staged by the Marine brigade in the years from 1921 through 1924. [See the April 2014 *Leatherneck* for the 1922 reenactment of the Battle of Gettysburg.]

The primary reason for the reenactment was to provide training for the brigade

of Marines in the East Coast Expeditionary Force, then consisting of Fifth Marine Regiment (infantry), 10th Marines (artillery) and battalions of attached engineers, signalers and medical corps, as well as detachments of aviation and chemical units. The legendary Brigadier General Smedley D. Butler, commanding what



USMC

—1921

was then known as the Marine Barracks Quantico, envisioned Civil War reenactments as a means not only to provide a proving ground for innovations in the Corps, but as a way to increase publicity for a Marine Corps which was suffering from the effects of the draw-down that followed World War I.



USMC

Visiting dignitaries were a critical part of the Marine Corps' Civil War reenactments of the early 1920s. If the VIPs were impressed with what they observed, they could provide the support desperately needed by the Corps in the post-World War I period.

Fact or Fiction? The Mystery of Smedley Butler And "Stonewall" Jackson's Arm

During the 1921 Wilderness battle reenactment, legend has it that Brigadier General Smedley D. Butler questioned whether Confederate Lieutenant General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's amputated left arm actually was buried under a granite marker in the family cemetery at the Ellwood plantation house located on the Wilderness battlefield in Virginia. The arm had been retrieved from the field hospital where LTG Jackson was treated after being mortally wounded during the 1863 Battle of Chancellorsville, and it was then buried by one of his staff. LTG Jackson later died in an outbuilding on a plantation south of Fredericksburg.

According to a story told in the late 1930s by a member of the family then living at Ellwood, BGen Butler had disputed the claim with a local resident and said that he would have a squad of Marines dig up the arm to prove his point. The story goes that when the squad of Marines dug up the site, they indeed found the remains of a shattered left arm in a wooden box. Chagrined, BGen Butler had it reburied in "a metal box."

The event is celebrated on a nearby Virginia historical roadside marker, and it has been recounted in many histories, both of the Civil War and the Marine Corps. After the U.S. National Park Service acquired Ellwood in the late 1970s, the Park Service decided to protect the site and planned to build a concrete cap over it.

In order to justify the project, the Park Service employed an archaeological team to ensure that



COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This bronze plate marker was placed by Marines in 1921 at the burial site of Stonewall Jackson's arm.

Hot chow was provided to Marines and dignitaries in the field by mobile kitchens.



USMC

Accordingly, BGen Butler invited President Warren G. Harding, who reviewed the troops on 2 Oct., as well as a number of other dignitaries, to witness the event. They watched Marines with Civil War-era blanket rolls over their shoulders maneuver across the fields in formations reminiscent of battles in the mid-19th century.

The Marines wore their field hats,

sometimes creased for the event in the earlier style—not the familiar “Montana Peak” that was adopted in 1912, and tried to convey the feeling of the original battle. Separate demonstrations of modern equipment and vehicles took place apart from the reenactment, and it was deemed by all to have been a great success.

Author’s bio: Ken Smith-Christmas served on the staff of the Marine Corps Museum for nearly 30 years and was the senior curator on the exhibits design-planning team for the National Museum of the Marine Corps. In 2010, he retired from the Project Office of the National Museum of the U.S. Army, where he had been the director of Exhibits and Collections.



the arm was still there. The archaeologists found no evidence that the ground around the monument ever had been disturbed, and although they did not employ deep-ground-searching techniques to find the “metal box,” they concluded that the story was a fable. The Park Service echoed these findings in 2010, claiming in an interview and a press release that “the arm was never dug up. It certainly was not reburied in the box near the marker, there’s no question about that.” The press release goes on to say that “very likely, the story did not happen.”

Curiously, there is a photograph of a brass marker plate on exhibit at Ellwood. The original plate was removed from the 1903 granite marker after the Park Service acquired the property, and the cast brass plate was placed in storage for safekeeping. The plate is of high quality, and its placement on the monument shows that someone went to considerable effort and expense to produce it and affix it to the monument. As the Park Service noted in its 2010 press release on the subject,

no pre-1940 documentation has been found to support the story—no newspaper or magazine articles, no memoirs, no official reports and no letters.

It does, however, raise the question: Why then was this plate enshrined on the marker? If BGen Butler had painted himself into a corner by voicing his skepticism, and if the only way to exonerate himself was to desecrate a grave, would he not have simply and reverently acknowledged his mistake by having a marker made in “tribute to the memory of Stonewall Jackson,” after having been proven wrong and left it at that?

BGen Butler, understandably, did not include the story in Lowell Thomas’ biography of him—“Old Gimlet Eye.” The Marine Corps certainly was not going to bring up the subject and further embarrass the general. Some brash acts are best forgotten until time makes them into a good story.

—Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas

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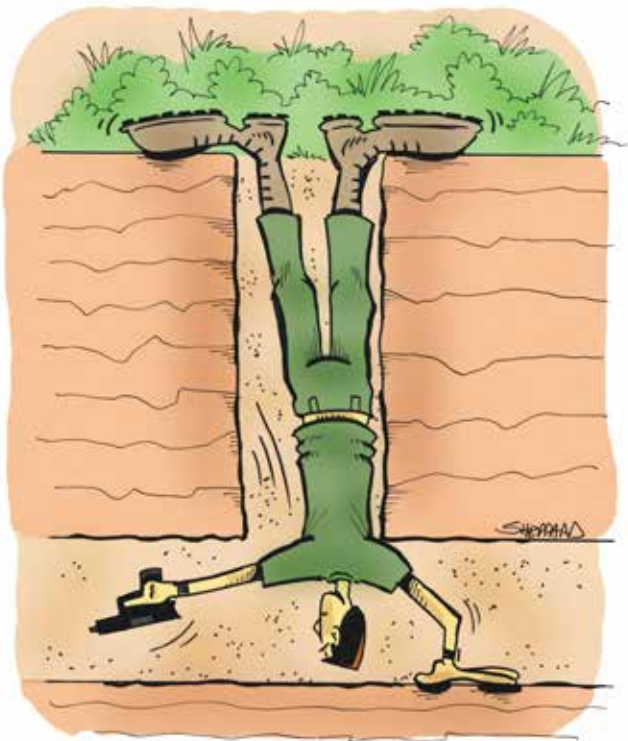
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Leatherneck Laffs

“Geography homework, huh? Great!
First, let’s learn about the
most important places:
the halls of Montezuma and
the shores of Tripoli.”



“Clodhopper Jones has a unique talent
for clearing enemy tunnels.”



“Laundry day, sir?”

BOOT CAMP

J.J. Stout



"One person got it right!"



"He's fallen and he can't get up."

Don Harris

Roi-Namur, Eniwetok, Saipan, Tinian, Iwo Jima—
World War II Veteran Is One of a Few Marines
Who Landed on All 5 and Lived to Tell About It



World War II Marine Don Harris recounts the story of the swim goggles custom-made for him on Maui by native children who used similar ones to swim and ride on sea turtles.

By CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret)

Marine veteran Don Harris fell into a good gene pool; his father lived to be 88, and his mother died on her 96th birthday. “I always tell people that the best choice I ever made was choosing my mother and father,” he quipped.

Rumor has it that Harris is 90 years old, but nothing in his persona would lead an observer to believe that, nor would the casual spectator guess that he is among a handful of Marines who went ashore during five World War II island battles and lived to tell about it.

However, if you ask the spry and energetic nonagenarian, he’ll tell you about it in a clear and concise fashion, remembering names, dates and details. For example,

he’ll tell you how an 18-year-old boy from New Jersey wound up “scared as hell” and treading water 100 yards off the shores of Iwo Jima two days before the invasion in February 1945, doing a job that few Marines had ever done.

“I was content with what I was doing,” recalled the 1941 high-school graduate about his life before the Marine Corps. He already had been doing clerical work at New York Life and had started school at Manhattan University. “I hadn’t really been thinking about going into the Marine Corps.”

Then the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941; 13 days later Harris turned 18, and by October 1942 he was stepping off the train in Yemassee, S.C., to board a bus bound for Parris Island and boot

camp with an indefinite enlistment committing him to the Corps for “the duration plus six months.”

“Most Marines were in that category,” he recalled, noting that he didn’t even know where Pearl Harbor was before that. “At times we thought it was going on forever. Before the ‘big bang,’ we were thinking at least another three years.”

Parris Island was busting at the seams as young men flocked to the Corps by the tens of thousands. “We were greeted at the gate by drill instructors,” he recalled about the first day of seven weeks of training. Like most Marines, he remembers his drill instructor.

“Sergeant Abbott, a fabulous DI,” he eulogized. “He was a poster Marine, short, broad shoulders, very GI. There were two ways of doing things: His way and the wrong way, and when it was the wrong way, it was four-letter words with no limit,” he recalled of his DI, who’d marched onto the drill field fresh from Guadalcanal where he’d contracted malaria and had to be shipped Stateside.

“He always carried a swagger stick, and he’d hit us on the top of our heads while we were wearing those pith helmets, and it sounded like you were inside a bass drum,” he bantered, flinching slightly as if Sgt Abbott was standing behind him, raising his stick for a swat. “We had footlockers we kept locked, and if you lost the key, he put a bucket on your head, and you had to march up and down the squadbay, chanting, ‘I’m a s---bird from Yemassee because I lost my locker key.’”

After boot camp, Harris went to radio school at Hadnot Point located on 11,000 acres of woods where Camp Lejeune, N.C., eventually would rise from the earth. “They were still building the base around us as we were going to school,” he recalled. After school, he was assigned to Signal Company, Headquarters Battalion, Fourth Marine Division and boarded a ship carrying troops from training, not knowing they were going directly into combat.

Of course, Harris couldn’t know it at the time, but he was about to make the first of his five island landings, that one at Roi-Namur. The Kwajalein atoll, the largest coral atoll in the world, features Kwajalein



JASON MONROE

Island to the far south, Roi-Namur to the far north and about 95 more islands or islets in between. Roi and Namur once had been separate islands, but during Japanese occupation they were connected with a causeway.

“We were at the north end of the atoll, and the Army was at the south end to take the island of Kwajalein,” Harris extolled, demonstrating his merging of experience and research he’s done in recent years. “It took about two days to secure Roi-Namur. This and Kwajalein was the first territory taken back from Japan since prior to the outbreak of war.”

After the victory at Roi-Namur, he heard rumors that a company in the tank battalion was being redesignated Reconnaissance Co, Headquarters Bn, 4thMarDiv and needed three radio operators.

The concept of reconnaissance units was in its infancy; initially formed from “observer groups,” the new units’ mission included scouting from the littorals inland, testing soil permeability for possible beach landings, clearing beach obstacles and observing enemy activity.

Harris and two others broke the cardinal rule of most military forces (never

volunteer) and raised their hands for the unknown duty. Asked during a February 2013 presentation he gave to Marine Corps League Detachment 1020 in Georgia about his volunteering, Harris said that on more than one occasion he volunteered for different duties.

“I came to the conclusion that if it had to be done, why shove it off on someone else? Why not just do it? It might be a little cocky; it might be confidence or maybe just stupid, but I never had second thoughts,” said the veteran, who now lives with his wife, Mary Beth, in New Bern, N.C.

So, in the blink of an eye, he became a radio operator with Recon Co, although he doesn’t recall ever having a radio with him because, as he noted, “Having a radio on a recon mission was not a good idea. Japanese would tune into any radio wave at all, so you didn’t want to relay important information, plus you’d send out a signal that said, ‘Here I am; come and get me.’”

Recon Co Marines loaded aboard a refitted WW I destroyer not designed for comfort, speed or stealth that Harris said had two boilers removed to make room for troops. He said at that point he and his



COURTESY OF DON HARRIS

Don Harris, left, is at ease with his best buddy, Walter Hopkins, on the island of Maui. Hopkins later was killed when a bomb hit the ship he was in offshore at Iwo Jima.



The first wave of Marines to hit the beach on Saipan take cover behind a sand dune while waiting for the following three waves to land. The next waves were delayed by Japanese artillery and mortar fire. Portions of a “buffalo,” one of the amphibious tractors that brought the Marines ashore, are seen on the left.

two fellow Marine recon volunteers had not been introduced or practiced the art of embarking and debarking from rubber boats.

“When we disembarked at Eniwetok, we went ashore at night in rubber boats to the wrong island, but somehow made our way to where we were supposed to be,” he lamented, remembering his second island landing. The next day they were taken to Eniwetok to secure that island. “The Army regiment was bogged down on the beach, so we moved inshore beyond where they were. We had several Marines killed or wounded,” he said.

He thought, but couldn’t confirm, that one of the injured had been actor Lee Marvin, who was in the Fourth Division, but actually was injured on Saipan, the next in the island-hopping campaign; however, it still makes for a good story. Marvin was shot in the buttocks from machine-gun fire, severing his sciatic nerve.

“I’m not sure he was injured on Eniwetok, but I heard that later when he was asked where he’d been injured, he said in his butt, and when asked what happened,

he said the drill instructors told us to keep our heads down, but didn’t say anything about keeping our butts down,” quipped Harris, grinning and obviously enjoying the telling of this story.

From there he went to Maui for more training, this time in another converted WW I destroyer. “It broke down, and we learned that the hull was reinforced with 8-by-8-inch timbers, which didn’t give us a great feeling of security,” he revealed. Then in June 1944, nine days after the D-Day invasion at Normandy, his unit was perched to go ashore at Saipan.

According to Harris, about 10 of the recon Marines were ex-Raiders, and then-Colonel Evans F. Carlson himself was in charge of Fourth Division’s intelligence and was with them at Saipan. Carlson was by then a living legend and considered a father of the reconnaissance units; he was wounded on Saipan while attempting to rescue a wounded enlisted radioman from a front-line observation post.

“We were scheduled to go to the back side of Saipan and land in a bay and then go to the top of the highest piece of land

on the island, Mount Tapotchau,” Harris remembered. “Carlson was on the destroyer with us about a half mile offshore, and he scanned the shoreline and said, ‘No, we’re not going in.’ ”

Returning to the other side of the island, they went ashore at the main landing beach after the main attack force went ashore. “We learned later that Carlson made the right decision because the horseshoe shape of the piece of beach we were supposed to take was covered by at least five machine guns, and they had us in a cross fire,” he said, now able to speak easily about what could have been a personal and unit disaster.

Again drawing from his study of history, he noted, “According to Japanese sources after the war, Saipan was one of the single-most important pieces of land we had taken because it had been the headquarters for the entire Japanese Central Pacific fleet. Many of the senior Japanese officers knew at that point they had been defeated.”

Marine General Holland M. “Howlin’ Mad” Smith confirmed that observation,

saying in historical texts, “It was the decisive battle of the Pacific offensive. ... [I]t opened the way to the Japanese home islands.”

Looking back and remembering his personal experience on Saipan, Harris said somberly, “For five days we could stand there and watch Japanese people, military and civilians, jumping over cliffs, committing suicide rather than being taken prisoner. I don’t know how many dead Japanese I saw, probably a couple thousand, but I believe, and men I served with agree with me, that probably half of them committed suicide.”

What he didn’t know at the time is that the massive civilian suicides were prompted by a decree issued by Japanese Emperor Hirohito, stating that Japanese civilians who committed suicide would enjoy an enhanced spiritual status in the afterlife.

After two weeks R & R, Recon Co went across the three-mile strait to Tinian. “Not many people outside the Marine Corps have heard of Tinian,” opined Harris, “but it is held up as closest to being a perfect amphibious assault because we did everything that was supposed to be done in the estimated time with very, very few casualties, wounded or killed.”

Historical accounts validate that the Japanese expected the attack to be at the town of Tinian, so Navy and Marine planners staged a fake attack there while the 4thMarDiv successfully landed on two beaches at the island’s north end. It still is considered a model of tactical deception and logistical innovation.

“One of the beaches was about 65 yards wide, and the other was 135 yards,” Harris remembered. “Typically for a division-sized landing you needed about 2,000 yards of beach, so this was going ashore in a place where the Japanese had no idea we could do it, and, frankly, many of our own officers didn’t think it was a good idea,” he said, visualizing the scene where wave after wave of landing craft moved inland and stockpiled weapons, ammunition and equipment. “But up to D plus two we had fewer than 100 casualties,” he confirmed, lauding the landings’ effectiveness.

About halfway through the seven-day Tinian operation, the 80-man Recon Co was tasked to replace one of the companies on the line, something it did when the situation demanded it. They dug in on a dirt road traversing the island.

“At that time the Japanese were still really fond of these *banzai* attacks,” he recalled. “They’d get high on sake or opium or sober, I don’t know, and they’d come charging in waving swords or rifles, yelling and screaming, ‘*Banzai, banzai; Marines, you die; Marines, you die.*’

We didn’t have any machine guns; the heaviest weapons we had were BARs. We estimated that we killed about 100 Japanese and didn’t lose one of our men.”

After Tinian, the company returned to Maui in late July 1944 to a camp that held about 20,000 men. Harris’ company was tasked with training new replacements for the Division and certain units such as the Seabees in jungle training and village fighting. He recalled, “We had our own camp about 10 miles from the main camp right alongside one of the rivers that came down from a volcano, so we had our own little swimming pool. It was great!”

In August 1944, they started training for the next operation, not knowing what it would be or where. “We knew we were heading into something that was going to be in early 1945, February or March,” he said.

At that point, Recon Co was asked for 12 volunteers for another mission, one that would involve a lot of swimming. Harris didn’t know exactly what that entailed, but he said that after he’d volunteered and learned more, “Believe me, I didn’t just have second thoughts, I had second hundred thoughts about why I was doing it.”

The new duty involved training with Navy UDTs (underwater demolition teams), which were just emerging from their earliest form called Navy combat demolition units. The volunteers were assigned a reconnaissance mission with them to investigate the area around an unnamed island to find out about some unknown black residue. “We didn’t know where it was, what it was or what we’d

be doing, but we went into training with these frogmen,” he said.

In Recon Co, Harris had received several weeks of standard training such as basic swimming, pioneering, using the map and compass, stealth techniques and intelligence gathering and reporting. With the UDTs, he and his fellow volunteers expanded their swimming, learning to use fins and a mask, training to drop off and be picked up by boats on the move and generally getting in shape.

“None of our guys washed out,” he said with pride. “My understanding was that about one-third of the Navy guys didn’t complete it, so we were very proud of that.”

Harris and some of his fellow Marines found that the round mask the Navy issued them didn’t seal on their faces, allowing water to come in. “We saw some young island kids riding sea turtles, wearing these little goggles,” he explained, holding up the pair that he’d worn, still in serviceable condition. The bamboo goggles with a rubber strap were hand-shaped by the kids for him. “They went into the eye socket and made a really good seal. I used them instead of the face mask and caught a lot of hell for them, but never wore them in front of an officer,” he shared.

Recon Co Marines boarded ships headed for what they would discover was Iwo Jima, that time riding in better style because, as Harris described, “Some high-ranking Navy officer saw those old destroyers we traveled on and said, ‘This is a hell of a way to live,’ so we went in new destroyers that were designed with an extra space for troop quarters.”

After researching it, he remembered



Harris shows his Japanese Marine belly band, an all-purpose item he said was used as a washcloth, towel or even underwear. Harris said, “We’d trade them with P-51 pilots for a bottle of booze. By the time they found out what they were, we were back in action.”

that all four ships they used had names starting with B: *Bates*, *Barr*, *Bull* and *Blessman*. “My son will tell you that it was fitting that I was on the *Bull*,” he told the Marine Corps leaguers, getting a laugh from them as he cast a conspiratorial glance at his son, who had accompanied him to Rome, Ga.

Harris remembered that they were taught to work in two-man units, each man watching the other’s back. He said the Fifth Division had two five-man teams and Fourth Division had two six-man teams. Steaming steadily, only making one stop, they headed toward Iwo Jima.

the standard LCVP [landing craft, vehicle, personnel] because the sides were too high for what we’d be doing.”

The LCPR had a large 10-man rubber boat tied to its side. The plan was to flip out of the landing craft into the rubber boat and then roll out of it at about 10 miles per hour. “You tried to roll out on your back, with your head in the direction the boat was going, otherwise you’d end up with a nose full of water,” he recounted.

They got into the water about 1100 on Feb. 17. “The landing craft were all in a parallel line along shore, dropping off teams as they went,” he explained. “So

After several hours of treading water, dodging incoming rounds and accomplishing their mission, getting out of the water involved a unique experiment.

Someone devised a rubber, double-looped retrieval device. “The sailors in the rubber boat leaned over and hung the loop over the side as the boat approached the swimmer. The swimmer had to throw his arm through the loop and quickly get it around his shoulder on the move and then was horsed into the boat and had to scramble out of the way to make room for the next swimmer.”

It worked, but there were instances where the swimmer missed the loop. “Standing orders were that if you missed, you’re dead, but nobody was allowed to die; they all got picked up,” he said.

His team reported that there were no major impediments to landing. However, they didn’t believe the black material was going to be suitable for landing vehicles. It was determined by higher headquarters that it was.

Later going ashore on Iwo, Harris had his share of close calls, but said he never was injured badly enough that the corpsman couldn’t patch him up. “Three of us were blown out of a hole once,” he said in passing, adding that “Iwo was an artillery fight when you come down to it ... and flame throwers and grenades more than rifle fire.”

After the war, Harris was rehired by the same company he’d left, with a raise from \$24 a week to \$42 a week. By the time he went back to college on the GI Bill, he was making \$47 a week. “Big money in those days,” he said. He was able to obtain his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in four academic years by going to summer school.

After a successful career, he finally retired in 2004, but still stays very active. Looking back, he has no regrets. “If I were a young man, knowing what I know now, I’d go in again,” he reflected. “I think the vast majority of young men who made it through WW II came out better than when they entered. The discipline, the camaraderie, the pride; it all helps in life.”

Author’s bio: CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret) was a combat correspondent as an enlisted Marine and later a public affairs officer. He retired from active duty in 1996 and now is a freelance photo-journalist living in Beaufort, S.C.



USMC

Marines in LCVPs head to the black sand of Iwo Jima in February 1945.

“We got to Iwo D minus three,” he said. “I always thought we were in the water D minus three, but I found out later I was wrong. In combat you know how the world gets very small. You’re not paying attention to a whole lot on the periphery. You’re scared as hell; you’re not sure what’s going to happen; you’re trying to concentrate on what you’re supposed to do, so you don’t screw up. I didn’t really know what all the other teams were doing. I was focused on what my buddy and I were supposed to do, and what my small team of six was supposed to do.”

As the heavy naval bombardment ensued, Harris and his team got into the water on D-2, transitioning from the destroyer to an LCPR (landing craft personnel ramp), what he described as a modified, oversized DUKW (commonly called a “duck”) boat. “We weren’t using

you had to keep track of where you were, where your buddy was and keep track of the signal flag on your craft so you could hopefully get the right one going back.”

Their mission was to find about the unknown black substance that surrounded the island. Was it sand? Was it suitable for wheeled and tracked vehicles to make an amphibious assault? They also were tasked with finding out more about the island’s terrain since no American had set foot on the island.

They originally were supposed to go ashore, but they never got closer than about 100 yards. “We were getting hit pretty hard with automatic weapons, rifles and some 20 millimeters,” he recalled, remarking that no one in the water was hit. “We were taught to stay underwater most of the time, come up quick for a breath of water and then back under.”

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7 KEYS TO A SMOOTHER MILITARY SEPARATION



J.J. Montanaro, a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ practitioner with USAA, and Darren Briggs, a USAA financial specialist who retired from the Air Force, identify seven keys to a more successful transition plan.

Readiness

At the sound of that word, the military stands alert. Now, as you consider leaving the military, readiness is just as critical. Only this time, your financial security may be on the line.

“For many servicemembers, separation becomes a bittersweet experience,” said Montanaro.

“Without proper planning and preparation, veterans may have a hard time achieving the civilian life they envisioned.”

1 Start Saving Early

“You’ve got to have money set aside in advance,” Briggs said. Montanaro suggests building a transition fund in a savings account to cover six to nine months of expenses. The fund can help pay for moving expenses as well as ongoing costs like rent and groceries. “Putting enough away might take years,” Montanaro said. “So start saving.”

2 Budget Carefully

Keeping an eye on expenses can get trickier as you go from fatigues to business casual. “Life gets more expensive as a civilian,” Briggs said.

In addition to creating a transition fund, tracking purchases and cutting fat can help you stay afloat financially.

3 Move With Purpose

One fun part of separation is choosing a permanent home. But the decision is fraught with financial implications such as the cost of living, housing conditions and the job market.

Take a look at our annual Best Places for Veterans list. USAA and Military.com commissioned Sperling’s BestPlaces to compile the list, which focuses on communities with jobs requiring military skills and on 16 other factors.

4 Kick-Start Your Career

Start your research as soon as you think you'll be leaving.

The military's mandatory Transition GPS program (formerly the Transition Assistance Program — TAP) will help you translate your military experience into a rewarding civilian career. Some government agencies give preferred status to candidates who are veterans. If the corporate world is calling, explore opportunities with organizations that value military service. Browse specific job listings at Military.com's job board, and find lists of military-friendly companies at www.gijobs.com (hint: USAA tops the chart).

5 Keep Retirement on Track

Don't let your transition derail your retirement. If you were contributing to the military's Thrift Savings Plan, you can leave it as is without adding to it, roll the money into an individual retirement account or roll the money into a new employer's 401(k) plan. The latter two choices offer the convenience of keeping all of your retirement dollars "under one roof" while you continue to make tax-deferred contributions.

"It might be tempting to use retirement funds as 'transition money,'" Montanaro said. "But cashing out now could cost you a 10% penalty and dash your dreams for retirement."

6 Stay Protected

Two valuable benefits — Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and TRICARE (health insurance) — go away when you leave the service. So it's essential that you plan ahead to replace them.

"VGLI is valuable to those veterans whose health prevents them from buying their own policy, but those in good health can probably get more competitive pricing from a commercial life insurance company," Montanaro said.

USAA Life Insurance Company offers separating servicemembers who already have a USAA life insurance policy the opportunity to replace their SGLI coverage without an additional medical exam.¹

Ideally, Montanaro said, you'll be able to move to an affordable health insurance plan with your new employer or a spouse's job.

7 Ask for Help

"There are many resources to help you, but you might never know unless you ask," Briggs said. He mentioned official military services and associations, community websites, and simply sharing ideas with others.

Additionally, USAA has a team of financial professionals who specialize in helping military members separate. Online tools and advice are also available at usaa.com/leavingthemilitary:

- **Military Separation Assessment Tool** — compares an estimate of your civilian vs. military cost of living to help you see if you're financially ready to separate or retire.
- **Military Separation Checklist** — gives you timely reminders on what to do — and when — starting up to 24 months out.
- **Leaving the Military Guide** — helps you make informed decisions.

Leaving the military can be daunting for even the most diligent planners. But by investing time today to make yourself ready, your return to civilian life may also be your next big step toward financial security.



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¹ Military Future Insurability — Increases in coverage require payment of additional premium. Availability of increased life insurance coverage depends on characterization of military separation. Form LBR57941ST 05-06 (may vary by state); NY form NBR60469NY 06-06. Increases in coverage more than two times the base policy face amount up to the current maximum Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) amount depends on your health and is subject to underwriting approval.

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The Battle of An-Najaf

By Robert J. Sullivan and Ann Todd Baum

The city of An-Najaf, Iraq, is a provincial and market center located on the western branch of the Euphrates River approximately 100 miles south of Baghdad. An important center of Islamic scholarship and theology, its prewar population of more than 550,000 is periodically swollen by an influx of pilgrims. The city remains the site of several significant shrines for Shi'a Muslims and has one of the largest cemeteries in the world. An-Najaf's recent history has been marked by political conflict and served as a point of convergence for Shi'a resistance to perceived oppression.

In April 2004, Muqtada al-Sadr, a charismatic Shiite cleric, and his private Mahdi Militia fomented an insurrection throughout Iraq. Coalition forces battled the militia and al-Sadr, who planned to make his last stand at Najaf. He negotiated a truce with the government in June, and parts of Najaf remained in the hands of al-Sadr fighters. Religious areas, including mosques and the large cemetery, were off-limits to coalition forces, and those areas quickly became havens for the insurgents. The city's security and the large optimism in the truce dissipated as militia

intimidation included assassination, kidnapping and torture of police and government officials.

The 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Special Operations Capable moved into Najaf province in mid-July to assume security and stability operations as part of Multi-National Division Center-South under a Polish commander. Marines relieved U.S. Army units in Najaf and immediately began aggressively patrolling the city, which eventually contributed to hostilities with the militia.

On 2 Aug., a sharp engagement with the militia near al-Sadr's compound was the first of many over the next month the Marines would fight in the battle for Najaf. The militia attacked a police station multiple times, only to be repulsed by the police and Marine reinforcements. Close to the police station, fighting erupted at the Revolutionary Circle near the cemetery and downtown district as hundreds of militia fired their individual and crew-served weapons in the stifling 115-degree heat.

The militia used the vast Wadi al-Salaam cemetery and Kufu Mosque as staging areas. The cemetery itself was 15 square

miles of tightly packed brick and mortar crypts, tombstones, mausoleums and catacombs, providing a place for militia fighters within its 5-foot walls to maneuver and hide. Mahdi fighters fired from the interior of the cemetery, still an off-limits area for Marines. Marines eliminated enemy positions around and within the cemetery with fire from light armored vehicles, tanks and the wide assortment of weapons mounted on humvees. Marine marksmen targeted insurgents as they moved through the cemetery. Request for permission to use air and artillery support into the cemetery was initially time-consuming, but that would change in days ahead.

An attack on the cemetery was needed to stop the insurgents from reinforcing their positions. The Marines requested and received permission from the Multi-National Force-Iraq to assault through the cemetery with a direct, simple and violent attack. From the cemetery, a maelstrom of enemy fires—a voluminous, steady stream of 60 mm and 82 mm mortars and rocket-propelled grenades—met the Marines. Mahdi snipers shot from every direction. Units maneuvered to gain



A lone Marine observes further destruction to the battlefield that was the city of An-Najaf.

An M1A1 main battle tank maneuvers through the cluttered streets of Najaf.

advantage, and fighting became chaotic. Marines and militia fighters exchanged insults as they lobbed grenades at each other. The militia suffered many casualties from artillery, helicopter and fixed-wing close air support which included the U.S. Air Force AC-130 gunship. The militia defenders suffered a serious blow when four 1,000-pound bombs destroyed a building containing the militia command and control.

Facing strong resistance from an estimated 2,000 to 4,000 Mahdi fighters in the area, Marines requested reinforcements to clear the cemetery and the nearby mosque. Multi-National Force-Iraq concurred and sent Apache attack helicopters as well as two U.S. Army battalions from the 1st Cavalry Division. Four Iraqi battalions joined the reinforcements. The Marines broke off their attack to rest, rearm, regroup and wait for the reinforcements to arrive. The two-day fight in the cemetery cost the militia 350 killed and hundreds wounded with Marine casualties totaling five killed and 60 wounded.



CPL DANIEL J. FOSCO

In planning for the final assault, the 11th MEU amassed many resources: Marines, Army, Iraqi ground forces with U.S. Army Special Forces advisors, Polish Special Forces and Marine, Army and Air Force aircraft. Command and control shifted from the Multi-National Division Center-South to I Marine Expeditionary Force. Pressure on the militia included skirmishes, raids and probes to find enemy positions and deplete their resources.

Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) targeted militia for artillery and aircraft. Fierce firefights were a daily occurrence as coalition forces reduced militia strongholds. The U.S. Army armored units were used for clearing buildings, providing heavy firepower and patrolling.

The battlefield for the final assault included the Imam Ali Mosque. The 11th MEU gathered overwhelming resources for an engagement many believed would

Destruction and devastation are clearly evident throughout Najaf. (Photo by Cpl Matthew Richards)





CPL. MATTHEW RICHARDS

Marines enter one of the many courtyards located throughout Najaf. Close-quarters fighting was common throughout the August 2004 battle.

make the cemetery fighting mild by comparison. The attack was planned along a route through less dense urban terrain, thereby minimizing damage to the mosque. Americans would surround the mosque, allowing Iraqis to undertake the actual assault.

Operations commenced on the evening of 23 Aug., with armor leading the way. Militia fighters proved stubborn, however, and close-quarters fighting was common,

with mortars and snipers harassing the Marines. Marine snipers responded, tallying 60 kills in the first 24 hours. Air strikes destroyed buildings. The intense fighting exhausted ammunition stores on the armored vehicles and tanks. By 25 Aug., the only safe haven for surviving militia was the mosque. Al-Sadr commenced negotiations. Coalition terms included acceptance of the Iraqi government's conditions and authority. By the

morning of 26 Aug., coalition and Iraqi forces surrounded the mosque, poised for the assault. A truce was declared, and hostilities ended the morning of 27 Aug.

In the 24 days of fighting for control of Najaf, seven Marines and two soldiers were killed in action. The 11th MEU alone suffered 94 wounded. Iraqi Security Forces fought well, although a significant number of Iraqis were killed or wounded. An estimated 1,500 militia were killed, and an undetermined number wounded. A coalition victory gave the Iraqi government greater confidence in facing other uprisings. Al-Sadr was forced to turn to other—including political—options. The 11th MEU returned to Camp Pendleton, Calif., in February 2005.

Authors' bios: Robert J. Sullivan, a retired Marine lieutenant colonel artillery officer, is a curator at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, and Ann Todd Baum, Ph.D., is the Special Assistant for the Office of Registrar, National Museum of the Marine Corps.



SSGT. ASHLEY BROOKOP, USAF

A U.S. medical team works diligently to treat an Iraqi soldier.

Leatherneck—On the Web

To see more photographs of the Battle of Najaf, go to www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/najaf

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PELELIU: 1944

By Maj Allan C. Bevilacqua, USMC (Ret)

"Peleliu is a horrible place. ... For sheer brutality and fatigue, I think it surpasses anything yet seen in the Pacific."

—Robert "Pepper" Martin, *Time* magazine
September 1944

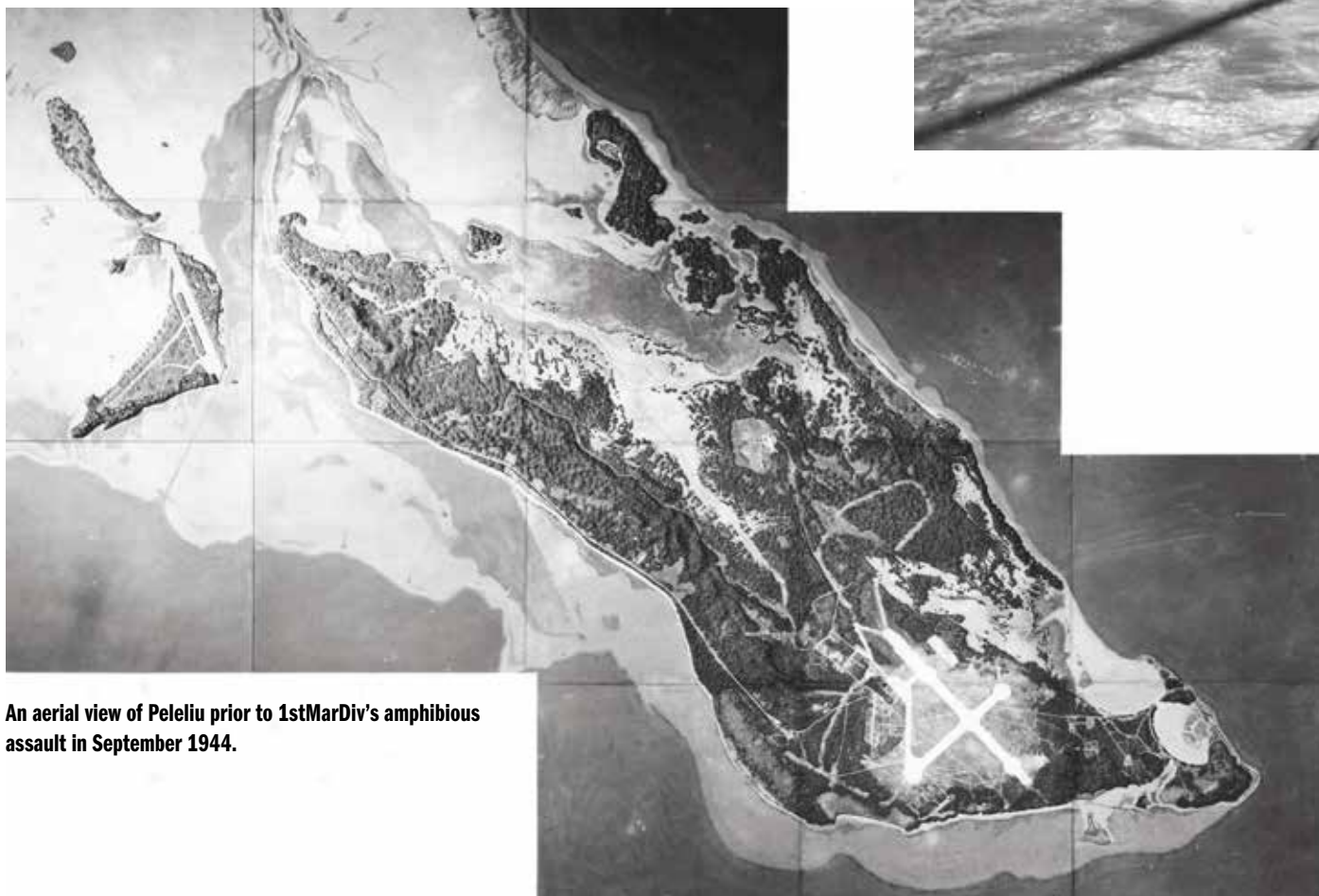
This one was going to be tough but brief, hard fought yet over in a few days, something akin to what the Second Marine Division had experienced on Betio Island in the Tarawa Atoll the previous year. That was the word filtering down through the ranks of the 1stMarDiv during the middle weeks of September 1944 as the assault transports carrying the Division closed upon the objective.

By then, most of the Marines of the 1stMarDiv had seen terrain models and aerial photographs of the area. It was an island called Peleliu in the Palau Islands, the very westernmost group of the

immense Caroline Chain. Peleliu is an oddly shaped island, looking something like a lobster claw. It isn't very big, barely 7 miles long by 2 miles wide. Compared to the Division's previous campaign, fought on the 370-mile-long New Britain earlier that year, it was, as one Marine remarked, "Like a peanut in a cement sack."

Despite the vast difference in size between New Britain and Peleliu, the goals of both campaigns were much the same. At New Britain, during the early months of 1944, 1stMarDiv had been tasked with eliminating the Japanese threat to the flank and rear of the forces of U.S. Army General Douglas MacArthur making their way up the east coast of nearby New Guinea. The Japanese airfield and troop concentrations on the western end of New Britain, Cape Gloucester, could not be left undisturbed.

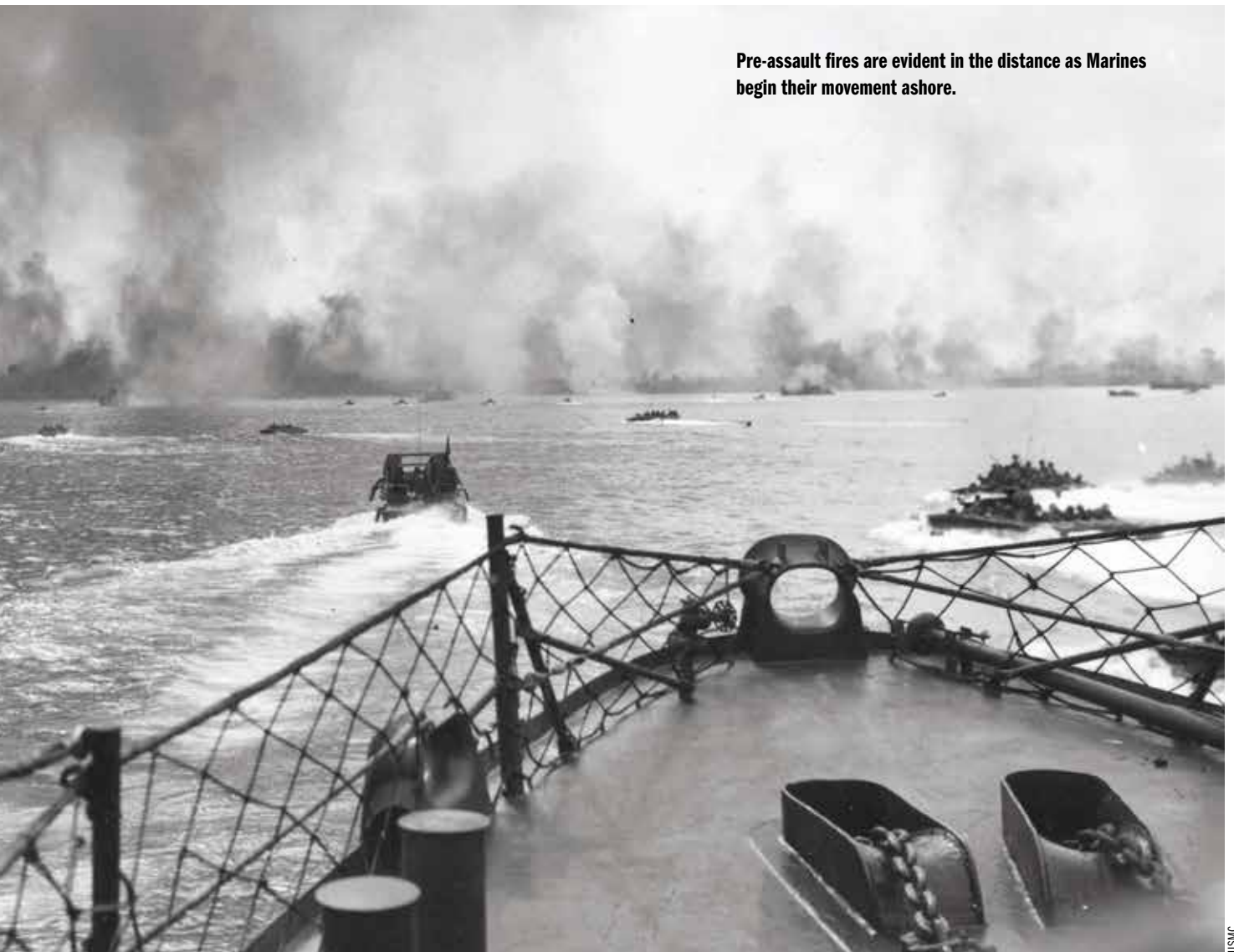
Then, with MacArthur about to launch one of the major American offensives of



An aerial view of Peleliu prior to 1stMarDiv's amphibious assault in September 1944.

USMC

Pre-assault fires are evident in the distance as Marines begin their movement ashore.



USMC

the war, the liberation of the Philippines, 1stMarDiv would, once again, be “MacArthur’s Marines.” Peleliu, with its excellent Japanese airfield and staging areas, lay squarely in the rear of MacArthur’s scheduled assault on the island of Leyte. The Japanese on Peleliu had to be evicted. Serving the eviction notice would be Major General William H. Rupertus’ 1stMarDiv.

Waiting ashore, deeply dug in and almost impossible to detect from a distance, were the 10,700 troops of Colonel Kunio Nakagawa’s Battle Group of the 14th Div, Imperial Japanese Army. Seasoned and experienced veterans of campaigns in China, they would prove uncommonly hard to dislodge. Little more than a stone’s throw away to the north, on the island of Babelthuap, largest of the Palaus, were 20,000 additional battle-hardened Japanese veterans.

D-day on Peleliu, 15 Sept. 1944, dawned sizzling hot. Marines encased in the steel hulls of amtracs (amphibian tractors, the grandfather of today’s AAV) already were sipping from their canteens as the circling

amphibians began to form up in line, awaiting the wave guide commander’s signal to head shoreward.

One of the Marines tensely anticipating the movement ashore was Private Eugene B. Sledge, a 60 mm mortarman in the ranks of Captain Andrew A. Haldane’s Company K, 3d Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment. Quickly dubbed “Sledgehammer” by the older hands in the company, he had purposely “bilged out” of Officer Candidates School in order to be assigned to a combat unit.

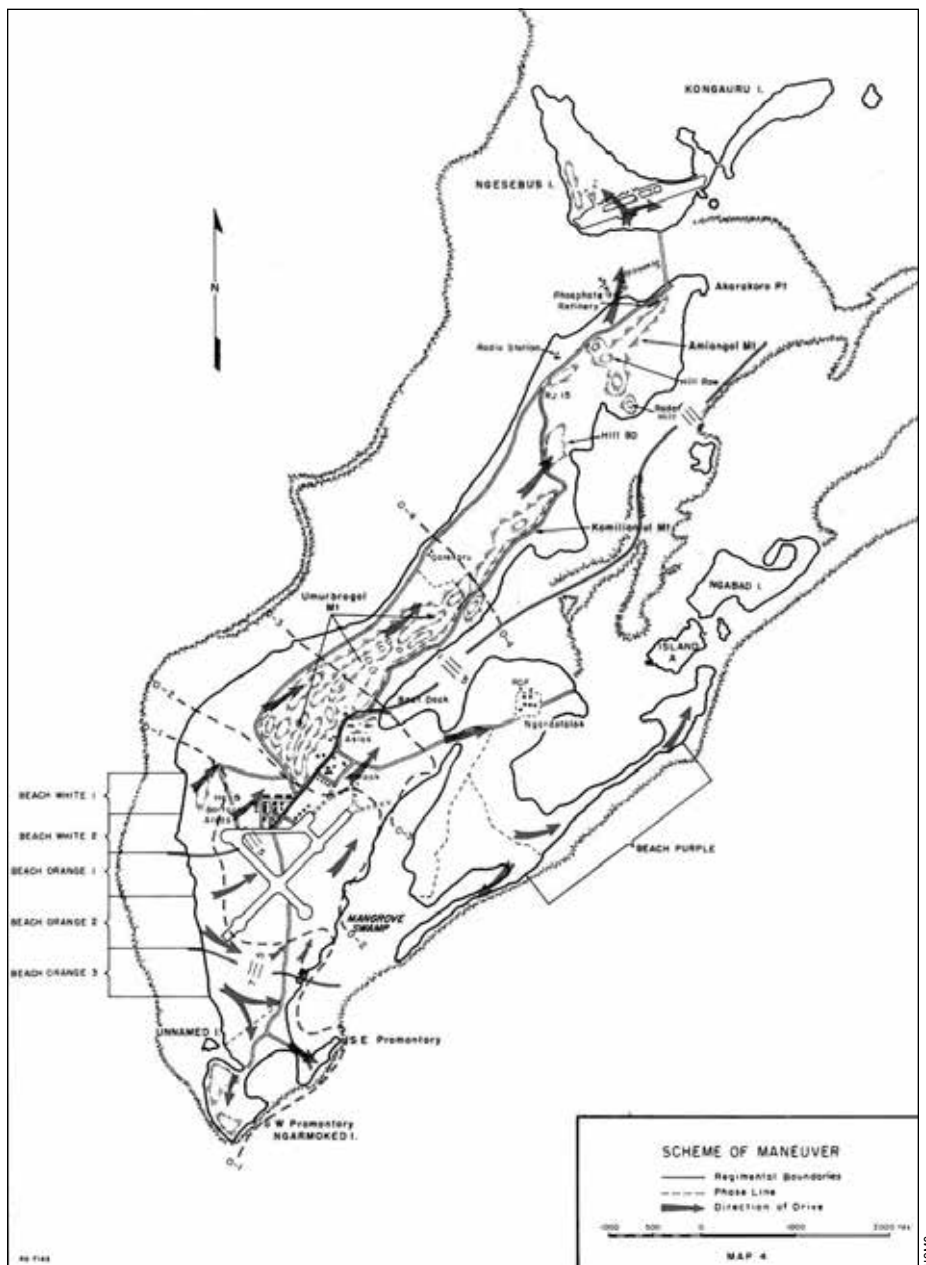
He was about to realize his wish, and he was terrified. It wasn’t a fear of death or dismemberment that gripped him. Rather it was a stomach-tightening dread that he would fail the ultimate test, that “my bladder would surely empty itself and reveal me to be the coward I was.”

Sledge could have spared himself the worry. During the coming days of unrelenting battle, Sledgehammer would prove to be all the combat Marine anyone could want. Even as the young Alabamian wrestled with his fears, the curtain of



COURTESY OF COL. JOSEPH ALEXANDER, USMC (RET)

Pvt Eugene B. “Sledgehammer” Sledge later wrote “With the Old Breed: At Peleliu and Okinawa.”



naval gunfire on the beach lifted, and the wave of amtracs crossed the line of departure and entered a firestorm.

No one knew it then, but COL Nakagawa's defense plan was something that never before had been encountered in the Pacific. The entire island of Peleliu was one single fortified position. With nearly 11,000 Japanese dug in on Peleliu, there was scarcely any bit of dry land where a man could set foot without encountering an armed and determined enemy. Col John T. Seldon, Division Chief of Staff, summed it up neatly, "There was no place on Peleliu where you couldn't be confronted by Japanese in numbers." The term close combat could have been created specifically for what was to come.

The assault on Peleliu was conducted by all three of the 1stMarDiv's infantry regiments—1st Marines, 5th Marines, 7th Marines. As the amtracs carrying the

leading waves made their way over Peleliu's wide fringing reef, Japanese fire was coming from every direction. There was no place in the inshore approaches to Peleliu that wasn't under constant and accurate fire. COL Nakagawa's fire plan left not an inch uncovered by weapons of all calibers zeroed in on overlapping and interlocking fields of fire.

Casualties among the landing waves were immediate. The water between the final control line and the landing beaches was littered with the burning hulks of amtracs and DUKWs (amphibious trucks) that sent a cloud of smoke over the scene. There were others, though, those that escaped being hit in that blizzard of lead and steel. Making their way grimly forward through that carefully constructed killing zone, they finally made the beach to gain a foothold.

On White Beach, the Division's left

flank, Lieutenant Colonel Stephen V. Sabol's 3d Bn, 1st Marines was under vicious fire from a Japanese stronghold that was dubbed "The Point." Solidly burrowed into a 30-foot coral outcropping and heavily covered with reinforced concrete, the position had not been touched by two days of naval gunfire. From that protected vantage point, the Japanese could place every landing beach under accurate and intense flat-trajectory enfilade fire. Any attempt to attack The Point frontally came under immediate fire from two or more supporting positions. Capt George P. Hunt's K/3/1 bore the brunt of the battle for The Point.

"I saw a ghastly mixture of bandages, bloody and mutilated skin; men gritting their teeth, resigned to wounds; men groaning and writhing in their agonies; men outstretched or twisted grotesquely transfixed in the attitudes of death; men with their entrails exposed or whole chunks of body ripped out of them."

—Capt George P. Hunt, USMC, K/3/1

When finally it was taken, The Point was found to consist of five interconnected reinforced concrete bunkers housing a number of heavy machine guns and a pair of automatic 40 mm antipersonnel guns. Riflemen and light machine-gunners in covered individual positions provided covering fires from numerous directions. In overcoming the defenses of The Point, 3/1 paid a price of 300 casualties to subdue that one small murderous bit of Peleliu. It was a preview of things to come many times over.

Every Marine on Peleliu was constantly under Japanese fire. Down the line on the right, 3d Bn, 5th Marines lost its executive officer and battalion commander less than five hours after going ashore. Every inch of ground ashore was bitterly contested, a resistance that culminated in a Japanese tank-infantry counterattack that swept over the airfield during the afternoon of D-day.

The Japanese Type 95 light tank was no match for the M4 Shermans of LtCol Arthur J. Stuart's 1st Tank Bn. Every Japanese tank was destroyed, but the Marine advance was halted short of the airfield. It was the first, last and, except for persistent nighttime infiltrators, the only time that most Marines saw a live Japanese above ground on Peleliu.

As darkness fell, getting off the beach had cost the 1stMarDiv nearly 1,200 casualties, most of them among Col Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller's 1st Marines which suffered heavily in reducing The Point. There were other casualties as well. A dismaying number of Marines had been felled by Peleliu's broiling heat, with the



USMC

Marines move up the ridge northeast of the airfield on the island of Peleliu.

thermometer climbing to 114 degrees. Cases of heat prostration and heat stroke were not uncommon. Corporal E. P. Warren summarized Peleliu accurately: “By day, Peleliu was a furnace. At night, it cooled down to only an oven.”

With the heat came thirst. Blazing, searing heat of a nature not encountered on Guadalcanal or New Britain literally sucked moisture from men, drying mouths and throats, turning tongues to blocks of wood. The water that managed to be taken ashore turned out to be in 55-gallon drums that had previously held gasoline and was tainted accordingly. Marines desperate for anything wet downed the unappetizing mix and paid the price in convulsive and painful intestinal cramps. When a man is thirsty enough, and the only choice is between tainted water or no water at all, tainted water usually wins out.

Despite fierce Japanese resistance, by the afternoon of D+3 the 1stMarDiv had firmly established a line completely across the lower end of Peleliu. The all-important airfield was solidly held. Getting there had provided Pvt Sledge with his own personal

near encounter with mortality. During the advance of K/3/5 across the airfield, he had thrown himself to the ground to avoid being cut in two by a furious burst of Japanese machine-gun fire only to discover he narrowly had missed landing on the pressure plate of a 500-pound bomb rigged as a mine.

With the south end of Peleliu firmly in Marine hands, the attack then would be faced with an advance into the island’s long central spine, a nightmare terrain of ridges and draws all tumbled together as though dumped there with no rhyme or reason. It was a region perfectly suited for defense, an absolute hell to attack.

“Ravines, which on the maps and photographs appeared to be steep sided, actually had sheer cliffs for sides, some of them 50 to 100 feet high. With nothing else on your mind but to cover the distance between two points, walking was difficult. ...

There were dozens of caves and pillboxes worked into the noses of the ridges and up the ravines. It was very difficult to find blind spots as the caves and pill-

boxes were mutually supporting. These caves and pillboxes housed riflemen, machine gunners, mortars, rockets and field-pieces.”

—BGen Oliver P. Smith, USMC
Assistant Division Commander, 1stMarDiv

Except for a thin covering of soil, which supported little beyond low scrub growth, the central spine of Peleliu was essentially solid coral. With plenty of time and proper tools for the job, the Japanese constructed scores of protected positions that bristled with firepower. Worse, those positions were all but impossible to detect from any distance and were impervious to anything short of a direct hit.

For a Marine out in the open, it was a different story. Private First Class Irvin R. “Dick” Stone, a rifleman with A/1/5, said it as well as anyone: “Dig a fighting hole in that coral? With nothing but an entrenching tool? You might as well have tried to break up a block of ice with a toothpick. About the best you could do was pile a few chunks of coral in front of you and hope for the best.”

Combat up on the ridges of Peleliu was a situation custom-made for graphic, descriptive words. Brutal. Hellish. Grinding. Battering. Murderous. Pick any one, and it would fit. Or simply settle for Sledgehammer's one-size-fits-all, "Life at the animal level." It was that bad, and it went on day after day, around the clock with no respite. And the blazing heat never let up.

The Horseshoe. Five Sisters. The Umurbrogol Pocket. Death Valley. Bloody Nose Ridge. Previously unnamed and unremarkable bits and pieces of Peleliu became names written in blood, and there was a great deal of blood spilled on them. A great amount of ordnance was unleashed on them as well. "Blind 'em, blast 'em, burn 'em" became a catchphrase and eventually a doctrine, as Marines used white phosphorus, demolition charges and flame throwers on Japanese defenders determined to fight for as long as they drew breath.

With the airfield operational and securely in Marine possession, the never-ending assaults on the ground then could be supported by Marines in the air. At Bloody Nose Ridge the inverted gull-wing F4U Corsairs flew what still may be the shortest

close air support missions ever. The target was practically just off the end of the runway. It wasn't even necessary to bring up the landing gear, just zero in on the target, release the bombs or napalm, swing around 360 degrees, touch down, rearm and do it again. And again. And again.

On the ground, the casualty lists were growing at a frightening rate. Up on the ridges there was no place that could be considered absolutely secure. Anyone anywhere could be shot at; the Japanese fire plan was that good. Out in front at the assault level, a Marine's life was at risk with every step.

"It was worse than anything I experienced at Cape Gloucester. I don't think there was any bit of dead space on Peleliu. Even in defilade you could be taken under mortar fire. We used Willy-Peter (white phosphorus) grenades to blind supporting positions, but there were a lot of those you couldn't spot until they opened up on you."

—PFC Irvin R. "Dick" Stone, USMC, A/1/5

The campaign that was going to be "tough but short" was certainly proving to be tough, but it certainly was not shap-

ing up as short. The days of constant unrelenting combat stretched into weeks, and September gave way to October.

The casualties continued to mount, and they could not be replaced. With the expectation of a short campaign, the provision of a replacement draft afloat had been thought unnecessary. With no one to take the place of the fallen, unit strengths contracted, with ever fewer able-bodied hands to take on the same duties.

How bad was it? It was frighteningly bad. By D+8, 1st Marines had become completely bled dry, shot to pieces with 60 percent casualties. In 1st Bn alone, only 74 riflemen were available. First Marines was finished as a combat unit. Backloaded aboard ship for evacuation, the Regiment's place was taken by the 321st Regimental Combat Team of the Army's 81st Infantry Div, the "Wildcats," fresh from overcoming the Japanese defenders of nearby Angaur. The soldiers would prove themselves to be fighting men as good as anyone could want.

"We in the 5th Marines had many a dead or wounded friend to report about from our ranks, but the men in the 1st Marines had so many it was appalling.

"How many men left in your company?" I asked an old Camp Elliott buddy in the 1st Marines as they passed us going out.

"Twenty is all that's left in the whole company, Sledgehammer," he choked.

"They nearly wiped us out. I'm the only one left out of the old bunch in my company that was with us in mortar school at Elliott."

—Pvt Eugene B. "Sledgehammer" Sledge, USMC, K/3/5

As the calendar turned its pages into October, the Japanese had been compressed into an area of about 400 by 500 yards called the Umurbrogol Pocket, the most torturous bit of terrain on Peleliu and the most ferociously defended. Every foot of ground was bitterly contested. The Marines fighting their way into that deadly ground were far beyond merely tired. Not even bone weary describes the state of the average rifle-company Marine. But the fighting raged on, and the same worn-down units were sent back into it. They were ragged, unshaven, hollow-eyed, and their dirt-streaked uniforms were ripped, torn and faded. They had known too much horror and too little rest. But their weapons were spotless. And they kept going back.

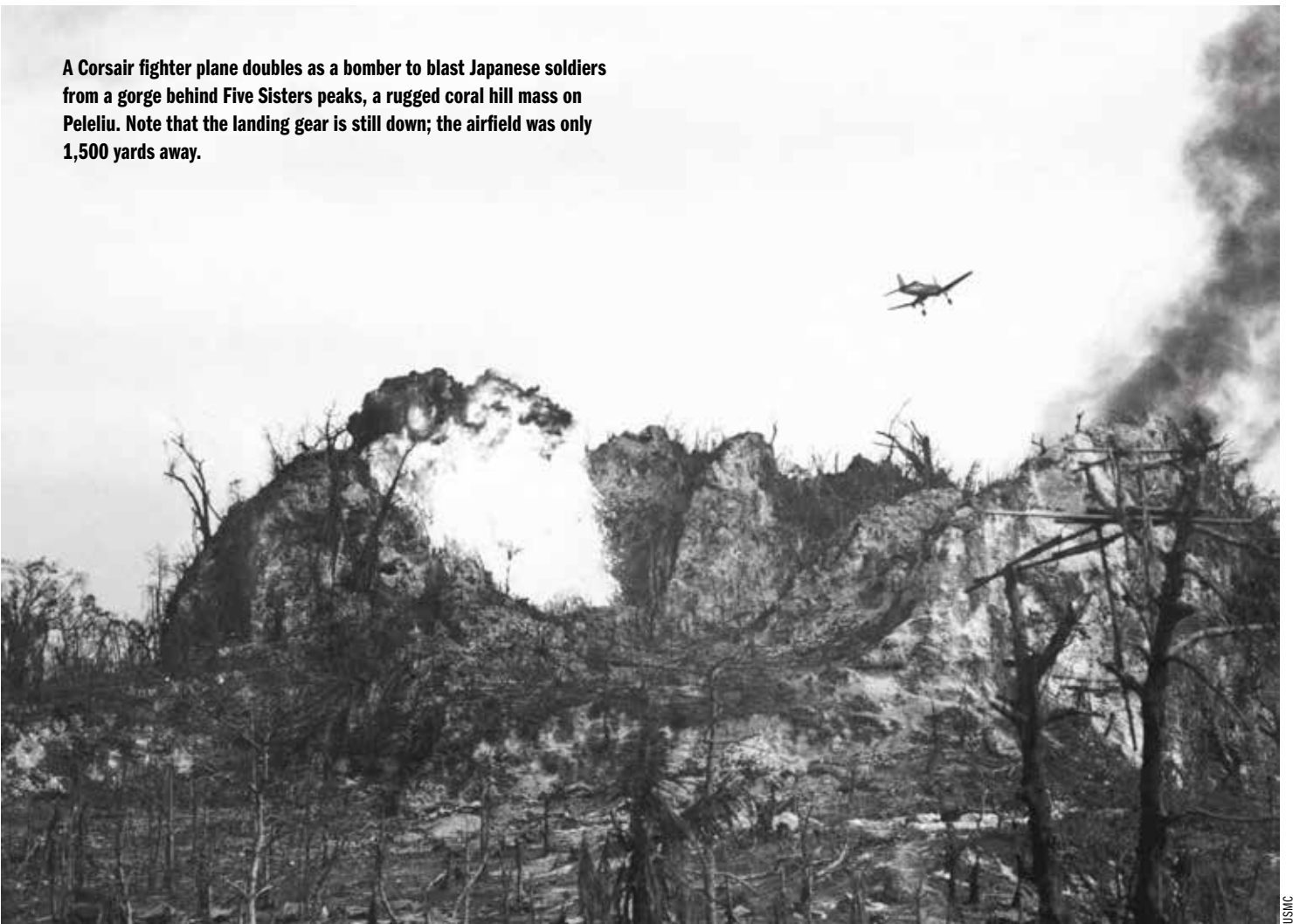
"During the fighting around Umurbrogol Pocket, there was a constant movement of one weary, depleted Marine company being relieved by another slightly less

Leathernecks on the opposite side of the ridge fire at the enemy with rifle grenades.



USMC

A Corsair fighter plane doubles as a bomber to blast Japanese soldiers from a gorge behind Five Sisters peaks, a rugged coral hill mass on Peleliu. Note that the landing gear is still down; the airfield was only 1,500 yards away.



USMC

weary, depleted company. We seemed to rotate from one particularly dangerous part of the line to one slightly less so and back again constantly,” remembered Pvt Sledge.

There was something else about Peleliu, something that never finds its way into news accounts or history books. There was the incredible stomach-churning stench born of rotting, putrefying human corpses, human urine and excrement, and the discarded and rotting rations of both sides. And there were flies.

“With human corpses, human excrement and rotting rations scattered across Peleliu’s ridges, those nasty insects were so large, so glutted, and so lazy that some could scarcely fly. It was revolting to say the least to watch big fat blowflies leave a corpse and swarm onto our C-rations,” Sledgehammer recalled.

On 15 Oct. 1944, after one month of constant battle with a tenaciously resisting enemy, the 1stMarDiv was relieved. Each of the Division’s remaining infantry regiments, 5th Marines and 7th Marines, suffered at least 50 percent casualties.

Of the 10,700 Japanese defenders of Peleliu, all but 300 died there. They were

followed in death by their commander, COL Kunio Nakagawa, who ended his own life by ritual suicide, *seppuku*, rather than surrender. He was promoted posthumously to the rank of lieutenant general.

Prior to loading back aboard ship, the members of Sledgehammer’s company, K/3/5, posed for a group photograph. Of the original 235 members of the company who landed on 15 Sept., there were only 85 Marines in the picture.

Afterward, in the wake of the U.S. Army’s unopposed landing in the Philippines, there was an outcry that the Peleliu operation had been unnecessary. Historians still argue the point. What cannot be argued is that at the time, with the intelligence that was available, both GEN Douglas MacArthur, Commander in Chief, Southwest Pacific, and Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander in Chief, Pacific Ocean Areas, believed it was necessary to neutralize Peleliu before the Japanese in the Philippines could be attacked.

Maybe it was a Marine who closed the book on Peleliu. As he heaved himself, ragged, dirty and exhausted over the rail of the transport that would take him away from the place where hell had raged, he

was approached by a member of the ship’s crew.

“Did you get any souvenirs over there, Marine? I’ll buy them,” the seaman offered.

The Marine patted the seat of his torn and filthy dungarees. “That’s my souvenir of Peleliu, pal.”

Author’s note: It was my privilege and good fortune in later years to know Sledgehammer, the late Eugene B. Sledge, Ph.D., as a valued friend. While combat may be experienced, it is uncommonly hard to describe. In his magnificent personal memoir of his experience as a combat Marine in the Pacific, “With the Old Breed: At Peleliu and Okinawa,” Sledgehammer vividly brings to life the realities of combat that very few ever have equaled.

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



We—the Marines

Edited by Sara W. Bock



CPL MATTHEW CALLAHAN

LCpl Brandon Dieckmann leads the LS3 through Kahuku Training Area, Hawaii, during RIMPAC 2014. The robotic mule—which is still in the experimental phase—is designed to carry heavy loads while following an operator through varying terrain.

Leathernecks Experiment With Military Robotics at RIMPAC

■ The Legged Squad Support System (LS3), developed by Boston Dynamics, took five years to develop and \$2 million to create. The system was field-tested by Marines from “India” Company, 3d Battalion, Third Marine Regiment in the heart of Kahuku Training Area, Hawaii, in July. The field test, observed by the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory, took place during the Advanced Warfighting Experiment portion of Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2014—a multi-lateral training event involving 22 nations and roughly 25,000 people.

The LS3 is a robotic mule, capable of traversing rugged terrain alongside Marines and carrying a great deal of their load. It is programmed to follow an operator and detect large terrain objects to maneuver around.

Lance Corporal Brandon Dieckmann remembers watching video clips of the LS3 on YouTube before he joined the infantry. He said he never would have guessed he would be chosen to operate the machine, which his company has affectionately nicknamed “Cujo.”

The Marines used Cujo to conduct resupply missions to various platoons around the training area. The LS3 delivered water to servicemembers in terrain that is typically difficult for all-terrain vehicles to reach.

“I was surprised how well it works,” Dieckmann said. “I thought it was going to be stumbling around and lose its footing, but it’s actually proven to be pretty reliable and pretty rugged. It has a bit of a problem negotiating obliques and contours of hills,” he added.

The LS3 was utilized as a logistical tool during RIMPAC as opposed to a tactical tool due to its loud noise during movement and problems traversing certain terrains.

“I’d say 70 to 80 percent of the terrain we go through, it can go through,” said Dieckmann. “There are times when it is going to fall over, but most of the time it can self-right and get back up on its own. Even if it doesn’t, it can take one person to roll it back over. The way it is designed is that you can easily roll it back over.”

Some of the Marines have grown attached to Cujo. In particular, Private First Class Huberth Duarte, an infantryman with I/3/3 and an operator for the LS3,

said the robotic mule has become like a dog to him. He added that the controls, which are operated by joysticks, are simple to learn.

Putting the LS3 in the hands of Marines is vital to the development of the program, said Ben Spies, a contractor with Boston Dynamics who observed the Advanced Warfighting Experiment.

“We give the military hands-on so we can see what they will use it for instead of putting it in a parking lot,” Spies said. “This is the first time we put the LS3 in a training environment like this. They push it to the max. It helps us develop it more, because right now, only the engineers have it.”

Dieckmann said he looks forward to seeing future developments of the program.

“It would be pretty crazy to see a later version of it 15 to 20 years down the line and be able to say I was one of the first groups that tested it and brought it to the field on one of the bigger training exercises,” Dieckmann said. “It’s pretty surreal.”

Since the robotic mule still is in development, there is room for improvement. Based on his experience during the field test, Dieckmann said that creating more space within the LS3 for equipment, like heavy weapons systems, would be beneficial for quicker movement in a field or combat environment.

Sgt Sarah Dietz
Combat Correspondent, MARFORPAC

Marines Test Energy-Harvesting Gear

■ In May, the Marine Corps launched the Experimental Forward Operating Base (ExFOB) 14, a weeklong demonstration of the Corps’ potential new gear, at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The ExFOB is part of the Commandant of the Marine Corps’ Expeditionary Energy Strategy, which was released in 2011.

“In that strategy, he set a pretty aggressive goal,” said Katie Hantson, a program analyst with the Expeditionary Energy Office. “By 2025, Marines will be able to maneuver from the sea, conduct distributive operations, and the only fuel they would need is for vehicles,” she added.

To achieve that goal, the Marine Corps is looking for ways to equip leathernecks



ERIC LONG

IN HONOR AND MEMORY—
The Vietnam veterans of “Hotel” Company, 2d Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, First Marine Division gathered May 24 for the dedication of a monument at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Triangle, Va., to honor and remember the Marines and corpsmen from the company who were killed during the Vietnam War. The ceremony was attended by more than 200 former members of the company and their families, as well as 60 family members and friends of the fallen members. Pictured from left are Maj Frank McCarthy, USMC (Ret); former Sgt Craig Worden, Semper Fi Memorial Honor Detail, Riverside (Calif.) National Cemetery; and Kay Efta, sister of LCpl William J. Hrinko, who was killed during the war.

with technology to reduce energy usage. Examples of wasted energy include the exhaust or heat from a generator or a vehicle engine, kinetic energy from an individual and solar power.

“We’re trying to broaden the capabilities of the individual Marine,” said Major Anthony McNair, requirement and technology analyst from Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps’ Expeditionary Energy Office. “The individual’s combat load has almost doubled over the last 13 years. They carry more batteries, more water and more armor.”

With the new tactical energy-harvesting technologies, there would be less battery weight, allowing Marines to extend their operational reach.

“One example is a knee brace that generates power just from the movement of a Marine walking around on patrol,”

Hantson said. “That knee brace sends a trickle charge to his radio, and all of a sudden he doesn’t have to carry around four batteries for that radio.”

During ExFOB 14, Marines tested and evaluated equipment as a part of the Corps’ research about reducing battlefield energy and water requirements. A team of engineers then analyzed the data, which was gathered through wiring systems hooked up to participants.

“All that data will be wrapped into a report and presented to the Executive Integrative Process team, who will look at the results and figure out which technologies we should pursue,” Hantson said.

Along with the data collection, Marines are given the opportunity to give their honest opinions through a survey.

“Their input is invaluable,” McNair said. “They’re the ones who will end up

using these systems. If they provide us feedback now, then they can impact the acquisition process.”

The equipment evaluations and the Marines’ surveys are only the beginning of the processes to find what best fits the needs of the Corps.

“This is our first taste,” Hantson said. “Nothing that’s here is going to be something that the Marine Corps will buy today. The idea is to see the possibility. ExFOB brings technologies from early concepts to fielding.”

LCpl Kathy Nunez
 PAO, MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Gear Testers Hope to Bring Change

■ The Marine Expeditionary Rifle Squad (MERS) program team visited Camp Geiger, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., in early June, to test the mobility and comfort of combat equipment on Marines navigating an obstacle course.

The Marine Corps Load Effects Assessment Program (MCLEAP) course ensures Marines are given the opportunity to provide feedback on the gear they wear while deployed.

Marines maneuvered through the MCLEAP course with an M16A4 service rifle and 12 equipment variations, varying from 20- to 80-pound loads. The speed and agility of each Marine was measured on the course.

Items tested included the new Modular Tactical Vest and a spine load distribution system.

Private Hailey D. Stuart, a recent grad-



LCPL KATHY NUNEZ

A Marine tests the Lightning Pack at ExFOB 14, MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., in May. The pack, which uses a generator to convert walking movement into electrical power, was tested and evaluated by Marines and engineers along with several other new energy-reducing gear items.



KATHY REESEY

FOR ENGINEERS—PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE—On May 14, more than 160 people attended the dedication ceremony for the Marine Corps Engineer Association Monument in Semper Fidelis Memorial Park at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Triangle, Va. Dedicated to the patriotism, valor and sacrifices made by Marine Corps engineers, the monument was made possible through donations from more than 200 individuals and organizations. Col Jim Marapoti, USMC (Ret), founder of the Marine Corps Engineer Association, left, and LtGen Frank Panter, USMC (Ret), guest speaker for the ceremony, presented the wreath, dedicating the monument to all engineers who have gone before and all those who will follow.

uate of “Delta” Company, Infantry Training Battalion, School of Infantry-East, was one of the first females to participate in the MCLEAP testing.

“Knowing I’m one of the first females to go through this testing gives me a huge sense of pride for what I’m doing,” said Stuart. “The new spine system took a huge amount of weight off my shoulders. If we test this gear here, we might be able to help Marines who are deployed in an actual combat environment.”

With the plans to integrate females into combat arms, MERS personnel wanted to receive their feedback on gear as well,

said Mark Richter, director of the MERS at Marine Corps Systems Command, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

The course was designed to resemble obstacles that Marines might encounter in a combat zone. It included a series of stepladders, pipes, uneven stairs, balance beams, low-crawl areas, prone-position areas, and window and wall obstacles.

“We started utilizing this course three years ago,” said Richter. “It’s designed to test the mobility of the Marines while wearing the current and prototype flak vests.”

While Marines went through the course,

their statistics were recorded by a device called the fitLight Trainer, which uses sensors located at the end of each obstacle to measure and record the degree of maneuverability the Marines have while navigating through the obstacle course.

“It felt good going through the obstacle course,” said Private First Class Max D. Laroche, a recent graduate of Co D, Infantry Training Bn. “The new spine load distribution system works well, but it reduced my mobility when I needed to crawl or move laterally.”

MERS staff also relies heavily on feedback from participating Marines to measure the comfort of the gear.

“I think the Marines get a lot out of the course,” said Richter. “By trying on and testing the different variations of the gear, they get to physically feel the differences. We’re going to go back and change some things and come back to see how they work. The testing is conducted whenever there is new gear introduced to the Corps.”

LCpl Justin Rodriguez

PAO, MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C.

New Boots for All Marines During 2015 Fiscal Year

■ In July, the Corps announced the replacement of the Hot Weather and Temperate Weather Marine Corps combat boots (MCCBs) with the Hot Weather and Temperate Weather Rugged All-Terrain (RAT) boot. Beginning in October 2014, the new boots will be issued to recruits and officer candidates.

Introduction of the RAT boots had been delayed in order to resolve quality and contractual issues.

The RAT boots are cheaper than the MCCB boots, and the cost savings will be reflected in the active-duty enlisted clothing allowance effective October 2016. The allowance change will reflect both the price difference and longer life of the RAT boot, decreasing the clothing allowance by \$31.07 per Marine.

The mandatory possession date for both the Hot Weather and Temperate Weather RAT boots is Oct. 1, 2016. On Sept. 30, 2016, the Hot Weather and Temperate Weather MCCBs will be deemed obsolete, according to Marine Administrative Message 299/14.

The standard RAT boots are brown, rough-side-out leather boots with a reinforced heel and toe and a wider platform for better weight distribution. Like the other Marine Corps boots, a Marine Corps emblem is heat-embossed on the outer ankle, identifying the RAT boots as authorized for wear by Marines. They will be sold through the Department of Defense supply system and retail clothing outlets, as well as through private vendors



COURTESY OF MARCORSSYS.COM

Beginning in October 2014, the Hot Weather and Temperate Weather MCCBs will be replaced by the Hot Weather and Temperate Weather RAT boots (above). The new RAT boots are more durable and boast a wider platform for even weight distribution and will be required gear after Oct. 1, 2016.

who have authority to sell the patented boots.

As of press time, the manufacturers of the RAT boots were unknown as Marine Corps Systems Command was still in the process of source selection for the boot contract.

Cpl Codey Underwood
Combat Correspondent, MARFORRES

Quick Shots Around the Corps

Corps to Return to Its Amphibious "Wheelhouse"

■ After more than a decade of land-based combat operations, the Marine Corps' new Expeditionary Force 21 doctrine will return the service to its amphibious roots.

The 45-page plan charts a course for the next 10 years to deploy Marine units up to expeditionary brigade size for both combat and humanitarian missions.

"We're taking our forward station of fully deployed forces that will be closest in crisis and provide that combatant commander with those forces as quickly as possible [to] give him the options to build the force that he needs," said Lieutenant General Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration and Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command Quantico, Va.

Focused on amphibious operations, Expeditionary Force 21 will be composed of a sea-based "family of systems" and will be able to meet the coming challenges in a future of complex security environments.

Terri Moon Cronk
Office of Marine Corps Communication, HQMC

MCAS Iwakuni Expands From Within

■ As the U.S. military rebalances in the Asia-Pacific region, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, continues to transform through a multitude of projects driven by the Defense Policy Review Initiative.

Over a span of seven years, construction efforts will transform approximately 77 percent of the station's 1,633-acre footprint in Japan's Yamaguchi Prefecture. The transformation will enhance the U.S.-Japan alliance's ability to meet new threats and diverse contingencies and reduce burdens on local communities.

One of the burden-reduction efforts is the relocation of Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 from Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, on Okinawa, to MCAS Iwakuni, on mainland Japan. This transfer of the KC-130J Super Hercules and the Marines attached to VMGR-152 will reduce the Marine presence in Ginowan City, Okinawa, by approximately 15 aircraft and 350 personnel.

SSgt Charles McKelvey
and Cpl James R. Smith
PAO, MCAS Iwakuni, Japan



Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



CPL JOHN ROBBART III

"I think it moved."

Submitted by
Dennis D. Skeate
Kennewick, Wash.

This Month's Photo



CPL JOHN M. RAUFMANN

(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.

Bill A. Miller: Warrior and Statesman

Marine Leads State Department's Diplomatic Security Service

Story by Maj Fred C. Lash, USMC (Ret)
Photos courtesy of Bill A. Miller

On Friday, May 2, 2014, in Little Hall at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Bill A. Miller looked out at nearly 100 Marines in dress blues, destined to be detachment commanders and Marine security guards at U.S. diplomatic posts and missions throughout the world. It was graduation day for MSG Class 3-14, hosted by the Marine Corps Embassy Security Group.

He had come a long way from his youth in Gainesville, Ga. To Miller, it may have seemed like an eternity or perhaps just yesterday since he was at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., or spent his summers at Quantico while enrolled in the Platoon Leaders Class program.

He told the graduates, "To call this an elite group is an understatement. Not every person can qualify to be a Marine, and not every Marine can qualify to be a Marine security guard."

The Department of State-Marine Corps Partnership

He pointed out to the MSG graduates that the Marine Corps and the Department of State have a rich and robust tradition of partnership. He reminded them that in 1775 a Corps of Marines was created by a resolution of the Continental Congress. "And not long after that," he said, "the relationship with the State Department began." He continued to describe the Corps' first "joint" operations with State, including when in 1779, Marines escorted American Consul General Edward Stevens to Cape Francois to establish diplomatic relations with a Haitian rebel leader. He reminded the graduates that when the Marines went to Tripoli in March 1805, they were under the command of William Eaton, the Department of State's consul to Tunis. Their mission was to free U.S. sailors who were being held hostage. "So," he said, "I cannot overstate how much we in the State Department value what the Marine security guards bring to the mission."

Looking back on his years in the Corps, he recalled "The Five C's" that he had picked up from an article about retired Lieutenant General George R. "Ron" Christmas, who was, as Miller put it, "a lion of the Corps." They are a part of Miller's character and what steers his course:

"THE FIVE C's"

Be Competent

Be Candid

Be Courageous

Be Compassionate

Be Committed



Be Competent—Always strive to know your responsibilities and to master the requirements of your job better than anyone. Learn constantly.

Be Candid—Be honest and tell it like it is, good or bad.

Be Courageous—Choose the harder right over the easier wrong. Be brave in the face of adversity. Live with integrity.

Be Compassionate—Care about those you serve and those with whom you work.

Be Committed—Know the difference between participation and commitment. Participate when circumstances permit; commit to ideals and excellence.

Miller included those guiding principles in his message to his Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) colleagues on April 17, 2014, upon being selected to serve as both the Director, Diplomatic Security Service and as the principal deputy assistant secretary of state for the Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS). As he said in that message, "I have found no better road map for success and personal fulfillment. There is just no way that you can grow up in the Marine Corps and not understand leadership traits—especially when times get tough. The Marines taught me all of that, and they also taught me pride."

Thoughts Regarding the Marines Of Today

Miller confided that he was somewhat envious of the adventures that the young men and women graduating from the MSG School have ahead of them. He admitted, “Just seeing these young people with those same opportunities was just amazing for me to see. And so I envy them because I don’t think I’d do anything dramatically different, hopefully learn from my mistakes—I’ve had some pretty big ones as well—but I envy them to have those opportunities as well. The challenges are different from anything we’ve ever experienced in the past—not to say they’re worse or better—but they’re just different. How they deal with them is really going to be interesting. And there’s a leader in that crowd somewhere who can, and will, have an impact on so many people.”

A Family Tradition

Miller then related a few tidbits of his past that served to shape his professional development. “My nephew is a Marine security guard in Athens. My youngest brother, his father, retired from the Marines as a first sergeant a few years ago. My middle brother was a Navy corpsman reservist with the Marines and deployed with them a few times. The only other person in our family who was in the Marine Corps when I joined was a ‘rogue great uncle’ who came from a family of preachers and was the only one who went off on his own and did his own thing. Everyone told me that if I joined, I’d end up just like Uncle Robert, and ‘You just don’t want to do that.’ My grandmother was totally against my joining the Marine Corps. After I joined, all of my cousins, with the exception of one, joined the Corps. And that’s what bound us all together—that Marine camaraderie. So we could all tell better lies than anyone else who was not in the Marine Corps.”

Because Miller served as Regional Security Officer (RSO) at posts in Iraq, Egypt, Pakistan, Israel and the Philippines, he had a few “sea stories” that stood out at family gatherings. “The Marines at every post at which I have been assigned have supported our security programs so tremendously. It was not just about ‘What are the rules and regulations?’ It was more about, ‘What is it that I can do to make things right?’ I can think back to Pakistan. We had a specific threat on the ambassador one night. And I remember calling the MSG detachment commander, and I issued the



Bill A. Miller, as a lieutenant, aboard Camp Butler on Okinawa, Japan, in the mid-1980s while serving with 2d Battalion, Second Marine Regiment.

‘five-paragraph order.’ I then said, ‘Gunny, this is what we’re going to do.’ We set up perimeter security around the ambassador’s residence on the compound, but outside what the normal Marine mission was. ... We did that for two days. Those Marines were excited and engaged because they were able to do something a

little bit out of the ordinary, but still they knew the worth of the mission—and that was to protect the ambassador. And they continued their regular mission as well. So we were out there 24/7, beneath the eaves of the residence, camouflaged up, under the bushes, and we were more than ready to ‘repel all boarders!’”

Miller noted that during the onset of the Arab Spring in Cairo, he was happy that he was with Marines and fellow RSOs as they stood inside the Chancery and felt the deck vibrate with the voices of “a million demonstrators in Tahrir Square, only 200 meters away, with tear gas as thick as fog outside and the sound of shots all around the area.” He recalled that they slept in the Chancery with the Marines for the next month. “The attention to duty and professionalism of the MSGs and FAST [Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team] Marines who were with us during the onset of the Arab Spring is one of my proudest memories.”

The Ramzi Yousef Case

If one case in Miller’s past is the most significant, it may be the Ramzi Yousef saga in 1995. In Samuel M. Katz’ book “Relentless Pursuit: The DSS and the Manhunt for the al-Qaeda Terrorists,” the events that led to the February 1995 arrest of the main perpetrator of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, Ramzi Yousef, from an Islamabad guest house, are described in detail.



Diplomatic Security Service Director Bill Miller, right, congratulates one of the most recent Marine security guard graduates of MSG Class 3-14, Quantico, Va., on May 2, 2014.

Diplomatic Partners

The U.S. Marine Corps and the Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) have had a mutually beneficial relationship for more than 60 years. The State Department's director of Diplomatic Security Service oversees the Marine Security Guard Program. Working together, DS and the MSGs operate as a team to ensure that the United States can conduct diplomacy safely and securely around the world.

DS regional security officers (RSOs) in charge of the embassies' security programs are highly trained, seasoned professionals and special agents of the Diplomatic Security Service. The security programs that RSOs implement are advanced and well-designed efforts to protect people and safeguard property and information from terrorists, foreign intelligence agents and criminals.

MSGs are a critical part of this security program. DS agents, engineers, technical specialists and other personnel at each post work with the MSGs on a daily basis. DS relies on MSGs to maintain their skills by regularly attending guard schools, response drills, familiarization firing and other training programs. A Memorandum of Agreement between the organizations governs the many details of the program, including fiscal responsibilities, housing, training, duties, discipline, logistical and medical support, and many other areas.

—Maj Fred C. Lash, USMC (Ret)

The raid to capture the FBI's Most Wanted terrorist was conducted jointly by a special team of the Pakistani intelligence service (ISI), assisted by two special agents of the Diplomatic Security Service—Bill Miller and Jeff Riner. On Feb. 7, 1995, the joint team raided Room #16 in the Islamabad Su-Casa Guest House and captured Yousef.

An eyewitness account of the incident reveals that the bomb maker was lying on his back when Pakistani security officials kicked in his door. He seemed calm initially, possibly because he believed that the raid was a routine immigration matter. Then, the U.S. grab team entered the room. DSS agent Bill Miller greeted Yousef by

saying, "What's up, Ramzi?" and put the handcuffs on Yousef. "I was working at that time in the RSO's office," Miller recalled. "The day after we grabbed him, he was on his way out of the country in a C-141. And by the way, the FBI still has my handcuffs in its headquarters."

Diplomatic Security Employee of 2004

In 2004, the Bureau of Diplomatic Security selected Special Agent Bill Miller as the employee of the year for his service as the regional security coordination officer for the Coalition Provisional Authority and as Regional Security Officer for the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

As the first regional security officer in

Baghdad since 1991, Miller was responsible for establishing the security office and programs to protect the newly opened embassy, in what can be described only as a difficult and challenging environment. Miller stated that the toughest part of his job in Iraq was articulating the frequent changes in the security environment to the members of the mission. "I had to explain to them why they could not do today what they did last week," said Miller. "I needed to make sure that they knew there was an actual thought process involved in the changes, and that the changes were not made just because I said so. That's sometimes one of the most difficult things a regional security officer has to do."

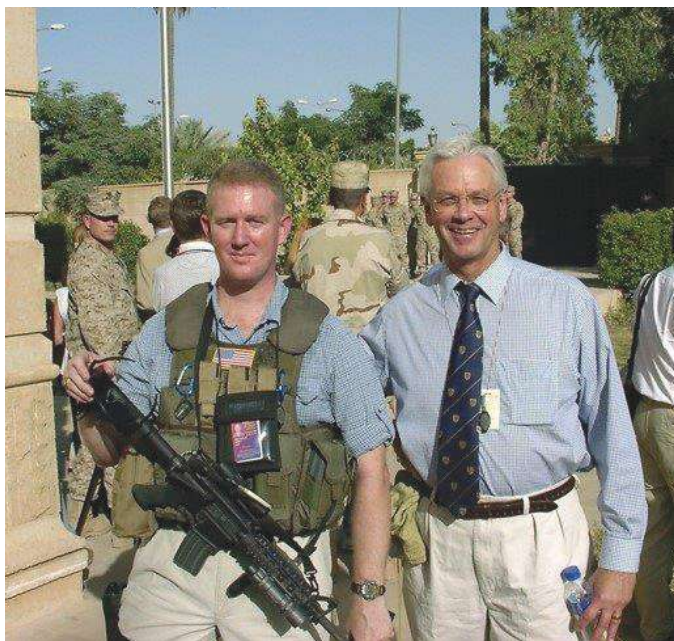
That tribute pleased Miller, but the recognition of which he is proudest is his "RSO of the Year" award, presented in 1997 and signed by Brigadier General Matthew E. Broderick, Director of the Operations Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. Presented in appreciation for Miller's service while assigned to the American Consulate General Jerusalem, it reads, in part, "For superb leadership, enthusiasm, and selflessness contributing to the outstanding morale and professionalism of the Marines under his operational control." It currently hangs in a prominent position on the wall of his office.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State

On Nov. 30, 2012, in what appeared by many to be a direct response to the attack on American diplomatic facilities in Benghazi, the State Department announced the appointment of a deputy assistant secretary of state, charged with monitoring



In November 1993, Assistant Regional Security Officer Miller, seated, left, attends his first Marine Corps Birthday Ball in Islamabad, Pakistan, after leaving the Corps.



Miller, left, and a colleague have their photo taken after the flag raising at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq, in 2004.

security threats and directing resources at high-threat posts to mitigate them in our most critical threat posts. Bill Miller was tapped to assume that new position.

The State Department announcement said that the new deputy assistant secretary will be responsible for “evaluating, managing, and mitigating the security threats, as well as the direction of resource requirements at high-threat diplomatic missions.” Those missions, the announcement noted, included American diplomatic facilities in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Pakistan, Sudan and Syria, although the countries vary as local conditions dictate.

Experience Counts

“I had some great experiences at all my posts. Sure, I’ve experienced some trying times, but I’ve never had a bad day. I’ve had some bad minutes and difficult challenges, but I hope I have grown a bit after serving at each of the posts where I have been assigned,” Miller said. In Cairo, when the embassy was literally under siege during the tumultuous events brought about by the Arab Spring, he and the Marines had to “hunker down” and eat MREs [meals, ready to eat].

Just listening to Miller speak about the developments in the Marine Corps reveals how loyal he is not only to the Marine Corps, but to the Diplomatic Security Service and his country. As he put it, “I have truly enjoyed seeing firsthand how forward-leaning the Marine Corps is today with its collaboration in building the relatively new Marine security augmentation units [created in 2013 to provide augmented support, wherever and whenever needed] and, even newer, the Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force—Crisis Response organizations, based out of Morón, Spain.”

New Position

DSS Director Miller realizes that there are numerous challenges and dangers that can affect any U.S. post in the world. “We are ready to shape our story and our training to coincide with these emerging threats and security challenges,” he said.

“We have developed and fielded new, expanded high-threat training, and many of our agents who have received it are either already at these designated high-threat posts or will be on their way very soon.” Asked about prioritizing the level of security at embassies, Miller replied, “We have to be attentive to how we categorize our posts and missions. If every post is treated like a high-threat post, it would be tantamount to proclaiming, as did Chicken Little, that ‘the sky is falling.’ The fact remains that we must shape our ability to respond anywhere in the world.”



Marine embassy security guard Clay Duplantis, left, and Director Miller are pictured here in Manila, Philippines, in March 2006.

The Diplomatic Security Service Post-Benghazi

“We are a great organization,” he stated. “The spirit and fortitude of DS is not defined by a single event. It takes pride and a sense of mission accomplishment just like in the Marine Corps.” In his message upon being selected for his new position, he told the employees that DS has higher visibility and greater influence in foreign-policy decisions than ever before. He reiterated that in order to stay one step ahead of the challenges that will be faced, DS needs solid leadership at all levels throughout the organization. “Foremost,” he stated, “I believe leadership is about service and not just to the Foreign Service and the State Department, but to each other—the DS family.”

Back at Quantico on May 2, addressing the MSG graduates, Miller said: “As Marine security guards, you will enable U.S. diplomacy to continue by protecting diplomats and ordinary citizens. It is a noble cause. The long-lasting partnership between the State Department and Marine Corps will see you safeguard more than 165 State Department missions around the globe, protecting our facilities, our information and our people from hostile

attack—24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year. As a Marine security guard at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate, you will not just be standing post; you’ll be standing for America. I thank you for accepting this mission, and I salute your selfless devotion to duty, honor and country. Semper Fi!”

Miller has proven his “devotion to duty, honor and country.”

The Oath

“And that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the Office on which I am about to enter. So help me, God.”

When Bill Miller repeated this oath after raising his hand to join both the Marine Corps in 1977 and the Diplomatic Security Service in 1987, he truly meant it.

Author’s bio: Fred C. Lash is a frequent contributor to Leatherneck, having recently submitted book reviews of former Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates’ “Duty” and U.S. Senator James Webb’s “I Heard My Country Calling.” A retired Marine officer, he currently is serving in the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Diplomatic Security.





CWO-4 RANDY GADDO, USMC (RET)

LCDR Jay Friedman, right, provides dental implants to a patient at MCRD Parris Island.

Changing Course

Dentist Leaves Civilian Life Behind, Joins Navy Dental Corps at Age 55

By CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret)

Jay Friedman personifies the adage that it's never too late to do something in life. In 2012, as the Navy Dental Corps turned 100, he—at age 55—became the U.S. Navy's newest dentist, a prosthodontist, providing highly specialized dental services to Marines and other servicemembers in Beaufort, S.C.

The road that led him to be one of about 50 prosthodontists in the Navy took him from East Coast schooling to a West Coast private practice of nearly 30 years and then, through a chance referral, to a Navy recruiting office.

“Around 2010 I started thinking about changing things up,” said the Bronx, N.Y., native. “I was sort of frustrated being in Southern California, running a business,

so a friend of a friend who had served in the Dental Corps asked me if I'd ever considered it [military service]. That was the beginning of the process to apply to the Navy and see what the options were.”

Reflecting on what took him to that point, Friedman said his story started when he was a young man who finished four years of college in 1978 at the State University of New York (SUNY) in Stony Brook, Long Island, and then attended four years of dental school at SUNY in Buffalo, followed by two more years of specialized training in prosthodontics at the University of Southern California.

“Fate brought me to USC,” he recalled. “I filled out a postcard, asking for an application for the following year, but I got a phone call from them saying they had an immediate opening and was I interested.

I flew out, had two days of interviews and was accepted.”

When he finished training at USC in 1984, he had intended to go back to New York, but fate again stepped in. “I met another prosthodontist who had an established business and was looking for a younger doctor to go into the practice with him. I went in as his associate, took over the practice and ended up staying for nearly 30 years.”

The older doctor was involved in developing implant systems for the dental profession, and his time was spent moving the systems into the marketplace. So young Dr. Friedman ran the practice, but he also gave lectures and seminars in the United States and abroad about the implant systems from 1987 through 2012.

“Dental implants were just becoming

Below left: A new set of teeth in the final stages of completion.

Below right: LCDR Friedman explains the equipment he used to fabricate a new set of teeth for one of his Marine patients.



CWO-4 RANDY GAUDIO, USMC (RET)



CWO-4 RANDY GAUDIO, USMC (RET)

known within the profession starting in the mid- to late-'80s," he explained. "Implants are small screws that anchor into bone to help replace missing teeth or attach other components into the mouth," he said, simplifying what is a much more complicated system. "They've been around since the time of the early Egyptians, but not with as high a degree of success as we started to see in the mid-'80s. My associate was part of that new growth, and I became part of it, teaching other doctors what we were doing. The industry has advanced, now using the same technology that NASA uses to connect screws within the space shuttle."

Actually, Friedman had a 33 percent chance of being called by the Southern California dentist to offer him a partnership. "I was in a class of three at USC," he said, noting that prosthodontics—the art and science of restoring missing teeth—is one of the smallest sub-specialties in the field of dentistry, with only about 3,500 prosthodontists with a similar background and philosophy as his own, in the United States. "He was looking for a young prosthodontist with a similar background and philosophy as his own, and I happened to be in the right place, at the right time," he said.

In 1999, after a divorce, Friedman be-

gan commuting once or twice a month to the East Coast to visit with his children. It was a grueling schedule. He would work Monday through Thursday in California, hop on a red-eye and work at an East Coast practice on Fridays, spending the weekend with his children. "The Friday work paid my travel expense and more," he said. Then it was back to the West Coast on Sundays.

Perhaps that schedule, plus 28 years in private practice, encouraged him to consider other options and led him to a trip to the Navy recruiter. He liked what he heard, and Friedman saw an opportunity to serve his country and still do what he loved.

"I suspect if I'd been a general dentist, they wouldn't have needed me, but because I was in a specialty the Navy needed, it opened their eyes to say, 'OK, let's go through the application process,'" he surmised.

Navy Captain Philip Rinaudo, Dental

Corps, Deputy Chief of the Navy Dental Corps, confirmed that suspicion. "The Dental Corps has the ability to waive the 42 age maximum when the specialty area has a need. In this case, the prosthodontic community is manned at approximately 87 percent, so there was a need," the captain noted. "The age waiver gives the Dental Corps the flexibility to manage dental specialties and aim to fill gaps where necessary."

However, fate still had a few twists to present; the Navy turned him down three times before accepting him. The first was for his age; the max was 42, and at 55 he far exceeded that. It was waived. Next, a previous knee surgery became an issue, but he quickly presented evidence that cleared that hurdle. Then, somewhere in his medical records the term "asthma" came up, but he quickly resolved that potential issue.

"The Dental Corps has the ability to waive the 42 age maximum when the specialty area has a need. In this case, the prosthodontic community is manned at approximately 87 percent, so there was a need."

— CAPT Philip Rinaudo, USN



COURTESY OF LCDR JAY FRIEDMAN, USN

LCDR Friedman gave lectures about dental implant systems during his 30 years in private practice.

Even with the delays, it took only six months from the time he applied to the time he was accepted. “When they brought up a problem, I got them what they needed fast,” he said with conviction, demonstrating his desire to serve.

After acceptance, he sold his interests in the private practice and was signed up as a Navy lieutenant commander with a year’s time in grade. In September 2012, he shipped out for five weeks of Navy Officers Development School in Newport, R.I. Although not a boot camp, there was daily physical training.

“It was all officers, all different occupational fields. I was the oldest one there by about 15 years,” he said. “It was more of an indoctrination into the Navy life, learning the ways of the Navy, and I am still a neophyte in that department. The dentistry part wasn’t hard. It was learning the ways of the Navy that’s taken me longer to understand, and I’m still learning,” he admitted.

The Navy life, followed by assignment with Marines, was a bit of culture shock, especially for someone who had little exposure to the military. “My father was in the Army during Korea, but that was the only military background in the family,” he said.

Being assigned to the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., after a lifetime in New York and California, also had its own learning curve. However, he and his wife, Carole, a retired physical therapist, have been busy enjoying “Lowcountry” activities including kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, golf, tennis and sailing.

From clinics to forward deployed units, Navy dentists support Marines throughout the globe. Here, Navy LT Amy Plant conducts an exam of a young Afghan boy during Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo by GySgt Keith A. Milks)

The Navy life, followed by assignment with Marines, was a bit of culture shock, especially for someone who had little exposure to the military.

“I am happy with the service,” he said after serving two years of a four-year term, adding, “I have no intentions of leaving. I am hoping to elevate the level of dental care in the Navy Dental Corps because I have the experience and there are so many young dentists who are new to the field coming into the Navy. So, my goal is not only to treat those who need to be treated, but also to train others. I’ve been able to do that here, and I hope to continue doing that at Pendleton,” he declared, explaining that he had orders to report to Camp Pendleton, Calif., this month.

His immediate supervisor at the MCAS dental clinic, Commander Sandra Middleton, confirmed that assignment, but cautioned, “I always tell my staff to be prepared for change because we always have to consider the needs of the greater Navy, but at this time he is slated to go to Pendleton.”

CDR Middleton stressed that Friedman’s level of experience in private practice coming to the Navy is the reverse of the norm, where someone serves in the Navy first, then goes into private practice. “The Navy is certainly going to take advantage of his experience,” she said. “Wherever he goes, he is going to be a great asset to serve our core value of providing quality service to our Marines and sailors and to teach new lieutenants coming into the field.”

Friedman guest lectured at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., and at the naval base in San Diego, both during prosthodontic week last year. “This was a week of pros-

thodontic education about two weeks apart,” he said. “There is a yearlong advanced-education general dentistry residency program at Camp Pendleton that I have not been involved with before, but I presume I will have some interaction.”

He also was involved in volunteer work during “dental access days” in South Carolina where dental services are provided free of cost to those who can’t afford them. “It is controlled chaos,” he recalled of his experience last year in North Charleston; this year’s event was in Rock Hill in August. “The North Charleston Convention Center was taken over by about 200 dentists and 75 hygienists, and we saw approximately 1,000 patients in a day and a half. We did about a million dollars’ worth of dentistry during that short time. It’s good to give back to the community to those who need help.”

Friedman’s patients in Beaufort can attest to the elevated level of dentistry he has provided as well. For example, Sergeant Major Scott Baker of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251 will approach retirement in less than a year with a mouthful of new teeth, thanks to Friedman.

“When I was about a year and a half from retirement, I decided to go get a routine dental checkup,” Baker recounted, adding that his teeth were in bad shape from a lifetime of grinding them. “Previous dentists would make me mouth guards, but I’d chew right through them,” he revealed. “They sent me to see Doctor Friedman. I didn’t even know what a prosthodontist was, but we hit it off right from the start because he’s very outgoing



and a funny guy. So he evaluated my teeth and got together with his team and came back to me with a long-term plan.”

That plan involved replacing all of the sergeant major’s teeth except three molars on the top. “He told me that in the civilian world I’d be paying about \$40,000 for the work he’s doing on me. I consider it a blessing for him to come into my life right now,” he observed.

The sergeant major confirmed that the benefit extends to his Marines as well. “I know he’s a big hit with my junior Marines,” he shared. “They all talk about him after they’ve gone to see him. I just can’t say enough about him. He’s doing a great job.”

Friedman continues a long line of service by the Navy Dental Corps that extends back 102 years to August 1912, when the 27th President of the United States, William Howard Taft, signed into law the act establishing the Navy Dental Corps. The first dental officers were assigned to the Navy in October 1912; service to Marines officially started on Aug. 4, 1913, when acting assistant dental surgeon Lucian Williams reported for duty at Port Royal, S.C., which was redesignated as “Paris” Island in 1918.

Dental officers have earned more than just accolades for helping maintain combat readiness for Marines. Since the Dental Corps’ founding, its officers have earned 33 Bronze Stars, 17 Silver Stars and one Navy Cross, as well as two Medals of Honor earned by two dental officers during World War I, according to information from the U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

Ensuring Marines are “fit to bite, fit to fight,” as an unofficial slogan goes, is and always has been the bottom line for dental officers.

“Our goal is mission readiness,” emphasized Friedman, who only serves active-duty Marines, sailors or other servicemembers. “We’ve been at 95 percent or higher at the air station, and I just saw a report for Parris Island that puts us at 97 percent there. Marines either need to take care of their dental needs, or they’re not deploying. They’ve got to be stable when they go because we can’t afford the time and expense of pulling a Marine from the field to take care of a dental emergency,” he added after experiencing multiple deployments from the air station over the past two years.

The benefits reaped by more highly specialized dental services extend beyond combat readiness to care for wounded warriors. Prosthodontists have a part in that mission which is more directly served by another dental specialty, maxillofacial prosthetics. CAPT Rinaudo noted that



COURTESY OF BUMED

This dental operating room at Naval Station Great Lakes, Ill., in 1942 is a far cry from the state-of-the-art clinics in which Navy dentists such as LCDR Friedman work today.

specialty requires a fellowship after the dentist becomes a prosthodontist.

Unfortunately, those unique services have been required for injuries experienced by servicemembers in recent years.

“Prosthodontics and maxillofacial prosthetics specifically have experienced an increased demand for care as a result of combat-related injuries,” confirmed CDR William Wilson, D.D.S., M.S., Dental Corps, Chairman of Maxillofacial Prosthetics, Naval Postgraduate Dental School, Bethesda, Md. He specified that many of the injuries presented to them for treatment involve the head and neck areas.

“Prosthetic replacement of teeth and supporting structures, as well as prosthetic eyes, ears and noses have all been services we have been able to support for our wounded warriors as part of their rehabilitative care,” he declared. “Fortunately, these types of injuries seem to be on the decline, but the need for ongoing care will remain for many years.”

Dental officers have been active in every wartime engagement since WW I, and WW II saw the Dental Corps swell to its largest level ever, with 7,000 dental

officers and 11,000 dental technicians by war’s end. The Dental Corps today has more than 1,000 active-duty and about 270 Reserve dentists.

Navy dentists routinely deploy aboard more than 46 ships as part of Marine expeditionary units and as individual augmentees to places such as Guantanamo Bay, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, the Horn of Africa and across the Pacific. They do that while maintaining high operational readiness and setting the standard for excellence, research, humanitarian assistance and health promotion and prevention around the world.

Friedman doesn’t envision any deployments in his future, but as his path to this point has demonstrated, who knows what fate has in store for him next.

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



In the Highest Tradition

Edited by R. R. Keene and Tina Pearce



CPL DONOVAN LEE

MajGen Mark A. Clark, Commander, MARSOC, presents the Navy Cross citation to the wife of GySgt Jonathan Gifford, a team chief with 2d MSOB, during a ceremony at Camp Lejeune, N.C., June 17, 2014. Gifford posthumously was awarded the Navy Cross for his actions while serving with Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force–Afghanistan in July 2012.

MARSOC Gunnery Sergeant Posthumously Awarded Navy Cross



Gunnery Sergeant Jonathan Gifford posthumously was awarded the Navy Cross, June 17, during a ceremony at Stone Bay, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

General John M. Paxton Jr., the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Major General Mark A. Clark, Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, presented the award to Gifford's wife and children.

"Acts of extraordinary heroism, those of conspicuous gallantry, are acts that cannot be planned, ordered or demanded. They are acts given fully and willingly by a person without regard to themselves; they are acts done for the man to their left, and the man to their right and for the mission," said MajGen Clark.

GySgt Gifford of Palm Bay, Fla., was mortally wounded while assigned as a team chief with Special Operations Task Force West, Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force–Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Gifford was advising Afghan commandos during an operation in Badghis province, July 29, 2012, when he saw three commandos wounded.

His award states: "Without hesitation he mounted an All-Terrain Vehicle and crossed 800 meters of exposed ground, performed first aid and, with the help of another Marine, moved the casualties several hundred meters to a protected landing zone for medical evacuation."

Realizing other commandos were under heavy gunfire, GySgt Gifford gathered ammunition and, with another Marine, ran back across the same terrain under

fire and led the commandos in an assault.

In his final act, he eliminated an insurgent firing from a window, climbed atop the building from which insurgents were firing and dropped a grenade down the chimney. He continued to engage the enemy until he fell mortally wounded.

"Gifford's actions during this fight were extraordinary, and they turned the tide of this ambush, ultimately saving the lives of his fellow Marines, soldiers and Afghan commandos," said Gen Paxton. "We are forever indebted to the service and leadership [Gunnery Sergeant Gifford] gave and continues to give through all those he has touched, and those who continue to serve, with the traits and characteristics garnered from [Gunnery Sergeant Gifford's] tutelage."

Cpl Donovan Lee
Combat Correspondent, MARSOC

Platoon Commander Leads Mission To Retrieve a Downed Huey



First Lieutenant Grant Todd, a platoon commander with Company F, 2d Battalion, Second Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division, was awarded a Bronze Star with combat "V," May 28, at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Todd was cited for heroic service in combat operations while leading his platoon into enemy fire during 27 of 90 combat patrols and successfully retrieving a downed UH-1Y helicopter during a 28-hour mission in which he employed his Marines with only an hour of planning.

He accomplished it all while his platoon was attached to Task Force Belleau Wood in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

According to 1stLt Todd: "The noncommissioned officers are why I got this award. They were the ones who put in the extra time, they were the ones who made those critical decisions that either give you success or make you fall on your face, and 10 times out of 10 times these same NCOs succeed."

L/Cpl Krista James
Combat Correspondent, 2dMarDiv

First Lt Grant Todd, a platoon commander with F/2/2, speaks to his fellow Marines after receiving a Bronze Star with combat "V" during a ceremony held at Camp Lejeune, N.C., on May 28.



LCPL KRISTA JAMES

Personal Combat Awards

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

The following awards were announced in June:



Bronze Star With Combat "V"

Capt Zachary J. Lehman,
2d Marine Special Operations
Battalion (MSOB), U.S.

Marine Corps Forces Special
Operations Command (MARSOC)

SSgt Christopher R. Lynch,

2d MSOB, MARSOC

GySgt Michael V. Perella,

2d MSOB, MARSOC

Capt Gianoulis Roussos, 2d MSOB,
MARSOC



Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal With Combat "V"

SSgt Dathan R. Decker,

1st Bn, Ninth Marine Regiment,
Second Marine Division

Capt Daniel J. Hoag, 1/9, 2dMarDiv

Sgt Adriane P. Pachicano,

1st Combat Engineer Bn, 1stMarDiv

Cpl Clint A. Taylor, 1/9, 2dMarDiv



Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal With Combat "V"

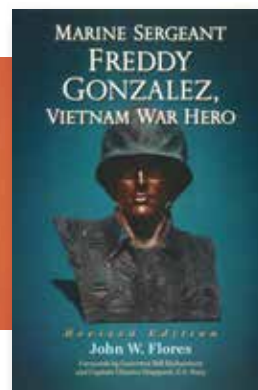
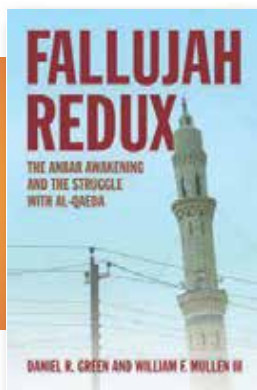
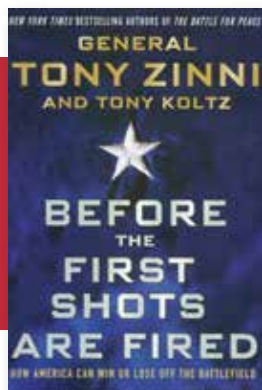
Sgt Albert Chapa Jr.,

2d Marines, 2dMarDiv



Books Reviewed

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



BEFORE THE FIRST SHOTS ARE FIRED: How America Can Win or Lose Off the Battlefield. By Gen Tony Zinni, USMC (Ret) and Tony Koltz. Published by Palgrave-Macmillan. 156 pages. Stock #1137279389. \$24.30 MCA Members. \$27 Regular Price.

Retired Marine General Tony Zinni's current book, "Before the First Shots Are Fired: How America Can Win or Lose Off the Battlefield," is being published at a most appropriate time: Iraq is falling back into the anarchy of 2005-06 days. Ukraine remains a Putin-sponsored mess; the Chinese are aggressively looking to expand both their presence in the South China Sea and southeast Asia; and Muslim extremists fighting in Syria allegedly want to export terror tactics into Western Europe through Turkey.

Does this convergence of security crises pose a serious challenge to America's foreign policy, and if so, what should America do?

Writing with an honesty and clarity unknown in Washington, D.C., "Before the First Shots Are Fired" is Gen Zinni's assessment of what went wrong with America's foreign policy and what is needed to correct it. In conjunction with co-author Tony Koltz, Gen Zinni examines America's military-political history under Abraham Lincoln in the Civil War, Roosevelt in World War II, Johnson and Nixon in Vietnam, and then the confusing part-war/part-peacekeeping missions of Desert Storm, Somalia, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Gen Zinni is not an armchair general. A combat infantry officer (0302) in Viet-

nam, he retired in 2000 after a 40-year career that took him to the head of U.S. Central Command. His father served in WW I, his older brother in Korea, and his Marine son in Iraq and Afghanistan.

With noncombat considerations now fully blended with military dimensions, "the young Zinni under arms experiences a far different battlefield than his grandfather," he writes. It's this far different battlefield that is the root cause of today's global problems, and it's the politicians' inability to decide on America's role, coupled with a military that prefers to act on a huge scale or not at all, that is paralyzing America's response.

World War II, according to Gen Zinni, was the last "good war." Understanding the importance of defeating Hitler and the Japanese, America rallied to the cause under President Franklin Roosevelt's clarion call to arms. While Roosevelt kept abreast of each theater, he did not meddle or overrule the military.

America's civilians control the military—and that's the strength and weakness of the system. A President needs an innate curiosity, Gen Zinni says, and one cannot be passive and disengaged when discussing the potential use of military force. But there is a difference between President George W. Bush ("the Decider") simply making decisions on the recommendations being presented by like-minded people, the general writes, and truly knowing and understanding the risks and consequences of that decision.

But President Bill Clinton, according

to Gen Zinni, got it about right. Gen Zinni credits him for carefully studying plans, grasping their complexities, and understanding where he might be needed to make critical decisions. President Clinton also understood that his "OK" didn't mean he could then just stand back and watch; he had to follow events should he need to make a critical decision.

Gen Zinni also credits then-Secretary of Defense William Cohen with building relationships between President Clinton and the military: Gen Zinni and his fellow commanders briefed President Clinton several times annually; a far cry from "hyper-controlling secretaries like Robert S. McNamara and Donald Rumsfeld who limited the direct contact with generals and admirals."

But in today's world, Gen Zinni acknowledges, not only are the issues not as simple as WW II, but the American people need to be convinced the war, or military action, is worth supporting for its entirety. While the "CNN-effect" of bleeding women and gassed children always results in a call for American military, support wanes when America suffers a casualty or polls detect a lack of interest.

That's the problem, Gen Zinni says, there are no credible long-term thinkers like George Kennan or even an agreement on whether or not America should get involved in these small wars. An April 2014 NBC News/*The Wall Street Journal* poll showed just 19 percent of Americans say the United States should be more active in world affairs, versus 47 percent

who say the country should take a less active role globally. Within the GOP, 45 percent of Republicans say they'd like America to take a step back on world affairs, compared to three in 10 who want to see more engagement and 21 percent who say the current level of activity is correct.

"Before the First Shots Are Fired" is not a political expose; Gen Zinni announced years ago he has no wish to run for public office. But it is a hard-hitting book critical of the losses incurred by Marines and soldiers when America's superb military is not used appropriately, and especially when the military is misused due to indifferent politicians and senior leaders with various agendas.

Short of an existential war, the question that needs answering is Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's, during the 1999 Balkan Crisis, "How do you commit the military to missions with limited objectives, limited political will, and limited resources?" An excellent question—and one to which America's young lance corporals and corporals deserve a thoughtful answer before they deploy to yet another clime and place.

But the political leadership and the military commanders need to be in sync, Gen Zinni argues, as anything less ends in bloody and expensive disaster. In addition to ignoring Desert Crossing, a 1999 CENTCOM war game in which all the after-combat issues in 2003 Iraq were forecast, the Bush administration even ignored their own military commanders. "We never knew what was expected of us," Gen Zinni writes that two of his successor CENTCOM commanders told him. "We did not have the strategic guidance to fight these very strange wars intelligently, and we were not invited to contribute to developing it."

Andrew Lubin

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

FALLUJAH REDUX: The Anbar Awakening and the Struggle With al-Qaeda. By Daniel R. Green and William F. Mullen III. Published by Naval Institute Press. 192 pages. Stock #1612511422. \$34.16 MCA Members. \$37.95 Regular Price.

Be forewarned—if you believe that the "unconventional" operations conducted by the Marine Corps in Iraq and Afghanistan are an aberration, or that Marines should only be called upon to kill people and

Leatherneck Book Browser

"**One Marine in WWII**" by Fritz Gemeinhardt. Leatherneck students of Marine Corps aviation are likely to know or have heard of Master Sergeant Fritz Gemeinhardt, USMC (Ret), who is somewhat of a duty expert of the Corps' flying machines. When it comes to the inner workings of the Corps' early helicopters or fixed-wing aircraft, Gemeinhardt was for years the historical mechanic.

But, before that, he was a Marine quite like you and me. His autobiography of his time in the Corps during World War II is an unpretentious, unfiltered account that is refreshingly honest and a quick, easy and enjoyable read.

From hearing the standard "You'll be sorry!" and answering "The hell I will!" at the train-whistle stop at Yemassee, S.C., before the gates of mercy shut behind them at Parris Island, Gemeinhardt was one of thousands of young men in the summer of 1942 who volunteered to serve their nation in time of war, volunteering without promises or guarantees.

He mastered the nomenclature and operation of the behemoth .50-caliber, air-cooled machine gun well enough to be promoted to private first class. He eventually would earn a hash mark to go with the chevron and realized, "The Marine Corps was becoming a special way of life for [him]."

In quick vignettes about becoming a para-Marine, liberty, love and war, he is surprisingly concise and, without ego or bravado, takes us from Guadalcanal to Guam and Okinawa. His story makes you feel as if you and he hadn't seen each other since discharge and now were having a beer and catching up. You're going to like it.

And, you cannot beat the price: "One Marine in WWII," ISBN 978-0-9860017-6-5, is \$6.99 in paperback from Amazon.com through *The MARINE Shop*.

break things—this book is not for you.

For the rest of you, it's a must-read.

In "Fallujah Redux," Brigadier General William F. "Bill" Mullen III, USMC and Dr. Daniel R. Green have collaborated to tell the "rest of the story" about the fascinating, and ultimately successful, struggle to wrest control of the population of this symbolic city from the insurgents in 2007 as part of the larger "Awakening" in the Al Anbar province. Their story is a natural extension of the bloody battles of 2003-04—in particular the appropriately lauded accomplishments of the Marines and sailors who participated in Operation Al Fajr.

The authors respectively recount their experiences in and around Fallujah during this period. BGen Mullen served in the city twice, first as the operations officer for Regimental Combat Team 8 from February 2005 to February 2006, and again as the commanding officer of 2d Battalion, Sixth Marine Regiment from March to October 2007. Green served in Fallujah as a "tribal leadership and engagement officer" with a naval special warfare unit from April to October 2007. While the credentials and credibility of both BGen Mullen and Green are sound, the substance, sincerity and humility of the former's recollections will resonate far more effectively with the average reader.

The heart of the book focuses on Operation Alljah and the decisive four months from June to September 2007 during

which the mythical "tipping point" was reached and the population shifted overwhelmingly to the side of the local government. The story brings to life the central tenets of counterinsurgency theory and doctrine, illustrating the synergistic effects that can be achieved by a well-prepared, flexible and professional counterinsurgency force operating hand in hand with a representative, credible and legitimate host nation government. Moving beyond the cliché of "hearts and minds," the more powerful themes of trust, ownership, restraint, patience and perseverance take on real meaning. This is what right looks like when it comes to operating "by, with and through" at the tactical level.

Perhaps the most telling theme of the book is the disproportionate impact of key leaders in the right place at the right time. For the Americans, these leaders run the gamut from the young Marines and sailors on patrol or in hardened checkpoints to the company and battalion commanders and, ultimately, to the senior leaders in and around the city. On the Iraqi side, the real hero of the tale is Fallujah's young "Mayor Saad," who demonstrates courage, intellect and will that far outweighs his foibles and imperfections.

The book also serves as a cautionary tale regarding the frustrations and inconsistencies of counterinsurgency operations, with a largely unseen enemy operat-

[continued on page 66]

Leatherneck Line

Edited by Sara W. Bock

Quantico to Blaze Trail for Caregivers With Peer-to-Peer Support Initiative

Caregivers of wounded warriors now have better opportunities to network with those who share similar experiences through the new Caregiver Peer-to-Peer Support Initiative.

Launched in April by the Department of Defense, the initiative is designed to facilitate in-person forums for caregivers at military installations that serve wounded, ill and injured servicemembers. Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., one of five installations in the National Capital Region that will be piloting the program, held its first meeting June 23.

Dozens of caregivers gathered at the Religious and Family Service Center at MCB Quantico to connect, share common problems, ask questions and learn about resources available to them.

“Although there are a ton of resources out there that can be found online, what caregivers are saying to the White House and other nonprofits through our survey efforts is that they just want help connecting to caregivers in the local area who are experienced,” said April Peterson, program manager for the future initiative transformations team at the Wounded Warrior Regiment headquarters at Quantico. She added that the program addresses a major concern for families.

The initiative is a joint effort that also includes the Office of Military Community and Family Policy, the Office of Warrior Care Policy and the Service Wounded Warrior Program Leadership and Recovery Care Coordinators.

Spearheaded by the Wounded Warrior Regiment, the program also has become a base-wide initiative, thanks to dedicated support from Colonel David Maxwell, commander of MCB Quantico, said Peterson. This allows caregivers full access and support from all of the Marine Corps Community Services at Quantico.

By institutionalizing the “peer-to-peer” support concept, it decreases the feeling of being overwhelmed that many families face when caring for a recovering servicemember, said Paul Williamson, command advisor at Headquarters, WWR.

“Most of our caregivers are spouses, but they can also be mothers, fathers, sisters,



Cpl Andrew Martinez, a crew chief with Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting, MCAS Miramar, Calif., shows children how to operate a fire hose during Lil' Leatherneck Day, June 27. The event allowed them to learn about the Marine Corps through fun and engaging activities. (Photo by Cpl Michelle Piehl)

girlfriends—all people who have no acculturation with the Marine Corps or government systems and how they work,” said Williamson. Oftentimes the information they’re receiving, she said, is coming at them from a “fire-hose perspective,” and they would like to have someone sit down with them and explain what it means.

For more information on the Caregiver Peer-to-Peer Support Initiative, visit www.militaryonesource.mil/wounded-warrior.

Ameesha Felton
PAO, MCB Quantico, Va.

Lil' Leathernecks at MCAS Miramar Learn About Military Duties

Children of Marines and sailors with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., participated in Lil' Leatherneck Day, June 27.

More than 50 children between the ages of 5 and 17 explored different “stations,” which represented various units located at MCAS Miramar. Forty-five Marine volunteers led the children around the air

station to several locations, helping them to learn more about the Marine Corps.

The event began with a military working dog demonstration. Volunteers then divided the children into three groups to visit the different stations. They toured the air traffic control tower and viewed a demonstration from aircraft rescue and firefighting. From there, they moved to the indoor simulated marksmanship trainer, explored police vehicles and learned about some of the tools and equipment used by explosive ordnance disposal.

“It’s nice for them to experience this,” said Sergeant Tony Orejel, a logistics and supply warehouse chief with H&HS, who took his 6-year-old daughter to the event.

The military lifestyle often presents a challenge in terms of time spent away from family, he explained.

“The kids are having a blast,” said Shondra Jerabek, family readiness officer for H&HS. “Today is our favorite day of the year.”

Lil' Leatherneck Day serves to foster a greater understanding of what a military

child's parent does at work, she explained. As a family readiness officer, Jerabek works to increase unit morale through family support and equip families to meet the challenges of military life.

Cpl Michelle Piehl
PAO, MCAS Miramar, Calif.

New School Directory Guides Parents Whose Children Have Special Needs

A permanent change of station (PCS) move comes with many challenges—and servicemembers who have children with special needs face an additional hurdle when looking for the right schools at their new home.

Ed Tyner, acting deputy director of the Office of Special Needs, Department of Defense, said July 2 that servicemembers and their families can find a comprehensive tool in the newly updated Education Directory for Children With Special Needs, which includes schools and programs in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Available on the Military OneSource website, the directory gives parents guidance to help them make informed decisions on school districts, programs and services for special-needs children.

“[The] DOD is supportive of all families with special needs,” Tyner emphasized.

The directory has been available for about four years and initially covered the 15 states with the largest military populations, but only certain special needs, such as autism, intellectual deficits and behavioral concerns. It has been expanded to include “the whole gamut,” from speech and language, to learning disabilities and physical impairments, according to Tyner.

Tyner noted that the directory is an education resource that's also useful to families without special needs children. Navigational tools provide family members with tips on transitioning between schools by providing questions to ask and offering forms to download.

The directory has two components: one on early intervention for children under the age of 2, and another for school-aged children and young adults up to age 22. Both provide a substantive guide of tools and resources to make education transitions easier during a PCS move.

While the directory on Military OneSource neither compares nor rates schools, it does help family members learn about school districts, and it also lists what schools offer in terms of services for children with special needs.

To access the directory, or for more information, visit http://apps.militaryonesource.mil/MOS/f?p=EFMP_DIRECTORY:HOME:0.

Terri Moon Cronk
DOD News, Defense Media Activity



AMERICAN HERO BOOKS—Marine spouse and award-winning author Alia Reese prepares for a book signing at the Marine Corps Exchange, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., June 24. Her books, “My Daddy Is a Marine” and “My Mommy Is a Marine”—part of the American Hero Books series—are insert-your-own-picture books for infant through preschool-age children, designed to help them understand their Marine parents’ jobs and maintain a connection when they are separated due to deployment or other work-related duty. The books can be purchased through *The MARINE Shop* at Quantico, Va., and online at www.marineshop.net.

COURTESY OF ALIA REESE

“While We Wait” Supports Children Whose Parents Are Deployed

Deployment is a stressful time for military families, and dealing with the stress can be especially challenging for children. The “While We Wait” Club, a monthly program offered through the Marine Corps Family Team Building Center aboard Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., helps children cope with separation from their deployed parent.

“The program offers kids the chance to realize they aren’t alone,” said Wendy Loizzi, whose husband is a deployed Marine. “I could tell that my son was having trouble with his father being away, and ‘While We Wait’ showed him that there were other kids who missed their parents and that he wasn’t alone.”

The program offers the children a safe place to relax in a supportive environment,

said Sarah Harrell, Marine Corps Family Team Building trainer at New River.

She also said the center works with the Single Marine Program to find volunteers.

“I just recently started volunteering with ‘While We Wait,’ and I love it,” said Private First Class Devonte Holmes, a maintenance administrative clerk with Marine Operational Test and Evaluation Squadron 22. “It feels great to give back to the community and to take time out of my day to make a difference in someone else’s life.”

Holmes said volunteering with “While We Wait” is a perfect opportunity for Marines to impact the military community in a positive way.

Cpl Cameron O. Payne
PAO, MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C.



Sarah Harrell, a Marine Corps Family Team Building trainer at MCAS New River, N.C., paints the face of a young member of the “While We Wait” Club, June 20. The club is dedicated to resiliency-based education and allows children with deployed parents to enjoy each other’s company. (Photo by Cpl Cameron O. Payne)



In Memoriam

Edited by R. R. Keene

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

Operation Enduring Freedom: Marine Casualties, June 1-30, 2014

The following were listed as having died while supporting combat operations:

LCpl Brandon J. Garabrant, 19, of Peterborough, N.H., with 2d Combat Engineer Battalion, Second Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., June 20, in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

Sgt Thomas Z. Spitzer, 23, of New Braunfels, Texas, with 1st Bn, Seventh Marine Regiment, 1stMarDiv, I MEF, Marine Corps

Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., June 25, in Helmand province.

SSgt David H. Stewart, 34, of Stafford, Va., with 2d CEB, 2dMarDiv, II MEF, MCB Camp Lejeune, June 20, in Helmand province.

LCpl Adam F. Wolff, 25, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with 2d CEB, 2dMarDiv, II MEF, MCB Camp Lejeune, June 20, in Helmand province.

LtCol Thomas A. Richards

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas A. "Tom" Richards, USMC (Ret), who as a corporal earned the Navy Cross in Vietnam and in later years uncovered those who falsely claimed to have been awarded medals of valor, died of cancer June 18 in Virginia Beach, Va. He was 67.

He was a high-school star distance runner who eventually ran several marathons. In 1967, he enlisted and was selected to attend scout sniper school and Vietnamese Language School at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif.

He was assigned to Company H, 2d Battalion, Ninth Marine Regiment in Vietnam and earned a meritorious promotion to the grade of sergeant. He was awarded the Navy Cross for actions on June 5 and 6, 1969.

His citation states: "When his platoon initiated contact with a company-sized hostile force occupying well-camouflaged positions on a cliff overlooking a trail, and were subjected to a heavy volume of fire, Corporal Richards, during the initial attack, skillfully regrouped his platoon and led his men in a counterattack, enabling them to establish a defensive perimeter. Throughout the night, he assisted in countering enemy attacks and in moving casualties to areas of relative safety. Although wounded by fragments of an enemy grenade, he steadfastly refused to be evacuated in order to remain with his men and continue the fight.

"Observing that a machine gun in his area was dangerously short of ammunition, he made several trips across the fire-swept zone to obtain and replenish ammunition for the weapon. When the machine gunner and assistant gunner sustained wounds, Corporal Richards unhesitatingly dashed to the gun

position and, although exposed to the brunt of the enemy attack, concentrated a heavy volume of fire on the hostile troops, causing the attack to falter long enough for the Marines to repulse it. His gallant actions resulted in the death of eight enemy soldiers and prevented the Marine perimeter from being penetrated."

He served as a drill instructor at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and was selected for the Marine Associate Degree Completion Program during that tour. He later attended Officer Candidates School through the Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Education Program.

He went on to serve numerous tours with infantry units and in various staff positions. His personal decorations also include the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal (two awards), the Army Achievement Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon and the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, of which he said he was most proud. He retired in 1995.

He spearheaded nationwide efforts to discover incidents of "Stolen Valor" and prepared a "Friend of the Court" brief for submission to the Supreme Court in support of a finding that the Stolen Valor Act of 2005 was constitutional. He did this after finding approximately 40 names among more than 80,000 in the Marine Corps Association Membership Directory listed as recipients of awards they had not earned.

He actively participated in the Legion of Valor and served as its 2008 national commander. He established the Miramar Semper Fidelis Rotary Club and was an active member of the San Diego County United Veterans Council, serving as its chairman in 2010. He helped found the Soldiers of the Sea, Band of Brothers Inc., an organization dedicated to bridging the gap between the

Marine Corps and business communities.

He also served as a mentor to the San Diego State University Student Veterans Organization and was presented with its "Mentor for Life" Award. He was appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to the California Veterans Board. He also received the "Lifetime Support of Veterans Award" from the San Diego Veteran of the Year committee in 2009.

LtCol Richards moved to Virginia Beach in 2012 and was appointed by Governor Robert F. McDonnell in 2013 to the Virginia Joint Leadership Council of Veterans.

Maj John H. Rich Jr.

Major John H. Rich Jr., veteran NBC News war correspondent and decorated combat veteran, died April 9 in Cape Elizabeth, Maine. He was 96.

He started reporting for the *Kennebec Journal* in Augusta and then reported for the *Portland Press Herald*.

Maj Rich was commissioned a Marine officer and learned Japanese at the Navy Language School in Boulder, Colo. He saw action at Kwajalein, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima and was awarded the Bronze Star.

According to the *Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram*, after the war he was a correspondent for the International News Service in Japan where he covered the International War Crimes Tribunal in Tokyo, interviewed "Tokyo Rose," and was once called upon to serve as an impromptu interpreter for wartime Prime Minister General Hideki Tojo and his American lawyer.

He also sent reports from the Chinese civil war, escaping Communist forces in Shanghai on a U.S. gunboat in 1949.

In 1950 he began covering the Korean War.

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It was there that he joined NBC and reported on the signing of the armistice at Panmunjom. According to the *Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram*, Rich filed nearly 1,000 color photographs of the Korean War. His photos are scheduled to become part of the permanent collection of the National Museum of Korean Contemporary History in Seoul.

He eventually returned to Tokyo as NBC's senior correspondent in Asia. For more than a decade, he covered the war in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. In 1971, he and other reporters were allowed into China to cover what was then called "Ping Pong" diplomacy. In 1974 he accompanied President Richard M. Nixon to China.

His reporting earned him the Peabody Award, the Overseas Press Club Award for "best reporting from Asia in any medium," and an honorary degree from Bowdoin College.

The *Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram* reported that Rich once said: "My job as a reporter gave me a chance to live in many parts of the world. It made me a realist, but please don't think it made me cynical. All the news is not bad. One simple lesson was driven home to me time after time. When one gets to know people, whatever their background, nationality or racial origin, they are basically alike. Penetrate the surface differences and you learn that they all want about the same things that we do. Freedom from want, from fear, freedom to be independent; to have opportunity; to live lives without excessive government interference; a chance to

give their children good educations. I'm reminded of Hong Kong. My wife was riding in a taxicab. "Where are you from?" the driver asked in halting English. "America," she said. He paused a moment, thought, and then said, "Lucky." "

Cpl Robert F. "Bob" Bedgood, 84, in Sparta, Mich. He served at the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea with 1/3/1 in 1950. He lost his right eye to a mortar fragment and some toes to frostbite.

He was medically discharged in 1951 and made a career with the U.S. Postal Service.

Cleveland D. "Papa Cleve" Boyd, 82, of Longview, Texas. He served in the Marine Corps Reserve and worked as a law enforcement officer in Mississippi.

He also worked for the Arthur Murray dance company for 10 years and later owned his own paint and wallpaper business. He served as an elder, administrative board member and Sunday school teacher at his church.

PitSgt Monroe "Big Roe" Bryant, 90, in California. He was a Montford Point Marine and was among the first African-Americans to serve as Military Police in the Marines. He served in the Pacific with the 13th Marine Depot Co.

After the war he returned to his home of Baton Rouge, La., and worked as a mail carrier. He moved to Los Angeles in 1957, where he drove a cab and then worked at Standard Brands Paint Co. for 28 years, retiring as foreman of the emulsion plant. He was an



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honorable member of the Knights of Columbus. His service during WW II was recognized in 2012 when he was presented the Congressional Gold Medal from President Barack Obama.

GySgt William "Bill" Buck in Fort Myers, Fla. He was a Marine journalist and public affairs specialist who served more than 20 years, which included assignment to the American Forces Vietnam Network in Saigon from 1968 to 1969.

Edwin P. Clarke Jr., 78, in Tyler, Texas. After serving in the Corps he started his own insurance agency.

Sgt Robert L. "Bud" Compton, 81, in Henderson, Texas. He served in ordnance during the Korean War.

Later, he and his family owned General Propane.

Fred J. Conover, 83, of Grand Prairie, Texas. He served in the Corps from 1948 to 1952.

He joined the Grand Prairie Police Department in 1954 and rose to become chief of police in 1961. He also was director of public safety and later worked for the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, retiring in 1991. He was instrumental in forming a regional police academy as well as the North Texas Chiefs of Police Assn.

Maj Jerry A. Edwards, 76, in Quitman, Texas. He served 20 years, including two tours in Vietnam where he was awarded the Bronze Star.

In his second career, he was executive director of the Mineola Housing Authority for 30 years. Maj Edwards also was a city councilman, the president of the Wood County Historical Society, and the Wood County Emergency Management Plan developer.

MSgt James R. Harris, 60, in Spout Spring, Va. He was a veteran of both the Vietnam War and the Persian Gulf War. He retired in 1991 after 20 years of active duty and worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 18 years. He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Ellen (Ennis).

GySgt Jessie David Herndon, 82, of Hallsville, Texas. He enlisted in 1951 and was a machine-gunner in Korea. He served for 20 years, retiring in 1971.

Sgt Logan A. Houshmand, 26, of Longview, Texas. He served in Iraq.

Cpl Manning "Bud" Hutson, 90, in Marinette, Wis. He enlisted in 1942 and served with the 2dMarDiv in the Pacific.

After 35 years with Caterpillar Tractor Co., in Joliet, Ill., he retired to Crivitz, Wis., where he served on the local fire department as a firefighter and assistant fire chief. He also started the first auxiliary police department for the Marinette County Sheriff's Department.

LtCol Cliff A. Jones Jr., 94, of Dallas. He was a WW II veteran on American Samoa and with the 2dMarDiv at Tarawa, and he served as the CO of the MarDet, USS *Chicago* (CA-136).

He earned a B.A. and M.A. from SMU and a Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley. He completed a fellowship in the psychiatry department of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Dallas. He worked as a clinical psychologist for 39 years. He served as president of the Texas Psychology Assn. and co-wrote a parenting column for the *Dallas Morning News* in the late 1970s. He later was an independent pine tree farmer near Mineola.

SSgt Joseph L. "Ski" Kochanski, 85, of

Oregon, Ohio. He served from 1948 to 1952 and was a radio operator with 1st ANGLICO in Korea in 1950 and again in 1952.

Karl "Dwayne" Kraushaar, 69, of Streator, Ill. He enlisted in 1962 and served with combat intelligence in Vietnam.

Delmar P. Leonard, 90, of Jefferson, Texas. He enlisted on his birthday, April 7, in 1943. He served in the Pacific and China.

He then attended barber school and became an assistant teacher of barbering in 1969 for the state of Ohio. He later owned his own barbershop.

Sgt George Leyda, 83, of Monongahela, Pa. He served in the Corps from 1951 to 1954. He was an engineer and troop handler and served at Montford Point, N.C.

He later volunteered as a Cubmaster for Scouts in Bell Vernon and Monongahela. He was assistant district commissioner of the Allegheny Trails Council of Boy Scouts of America. In 1986, he helped form the Mon Valley Leathernecks. He was a life member of the USMC Motor Transport Assn. and the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, Quantico, Va.

John C. Lusk, 94, of Austin, Texas. He served during WW II and later became an executive with Anderson Clayton Foods and a private investor.

He was active in The Stewpot, an urban safe haven for homeless and at-risk individuals in downtown Dallas.

Capt Anthony "Tony" Miranda, 89, of Hayward, Calif. He enlisted in 1942. He saw action at Guadalcanal during WW II. He also served during the Korean War and completed two tours in Vietnam. He retired from the Corps in 1978.

MSgt John J. Mitchell, 84, of San Antonio. He served from 1947 to 1968. He was a China Marine and was with 3/7 at the Chosin Reservoir in 1950. He also served in Vietnam.

Maj Pat Morgan, 86, of Dallas. He was commissioned in 1951, served in combat in Korea and Vietnam and received a Purple Heart. He retired after 20 years. He was a hospital administrator for more than 18 years. He was involved with the Boy Scouts of America as a Cubmaster and district commissioner and was active in Masonic and Shrine activities.

Raymond C. Morrow, 88, of Muskegon, Mich. His father was a Marine and he followed suit. He was a WW II veteran who served in the South Pacific.

He went on to work 45 years for Teledyne Continental Motors and was a member of the MCL.

Donald Neill, 85, of Fayette City, Pa. He served in the Marine Corps and later enlisted in the Army during WW II. He also served in Vietnam.

He retired as a systems technician for Bell Telephone and AT&T.

William C. "Cort" Phalp, 85, of Anchorage, Alaska. He served from 1948 to 1952 and at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., as a flame-thrower instructor.

He went on to run a successful partnership business, Northern Meats Wholesalers.

SgtMaj Ted Prophet Jr., 83, in Tomball,

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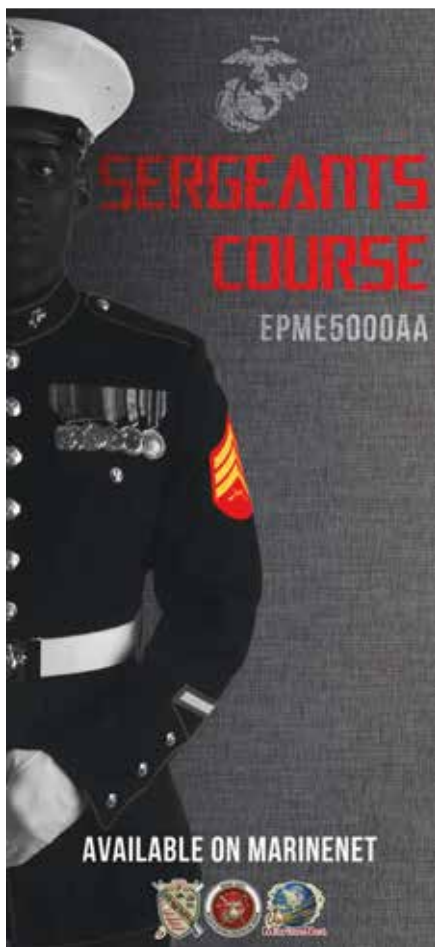


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Texas. After his service in the Corps, he worked at InterFirst Bank and other banks until retiring in 1993. He was a senior vice president and manager of real estate loan administration.

George P. Rains, 72, of Kilgore, Texas. After service as a Marine, he worked at Dusty Rhodes Ford Auto Sales.

Cpl Wilfrid S. "Beaver" Raymond Sr., 82, of Dallas. He was with the 1stMarDiv during the Korean War.

1stLt Richard W. "Dick" Reynolds, 91, in Austin, Texas. He enlisted during WW II and later was commissioned. He served as an aide to Gen Alfred H. Nobel. He became a businessman and haberdasher and, with his brother, ran Reynolds-Penland men's clothing store, eventually expanding to nine stores across Texas.

1stSgt Robert M. "Duke" Snyder, 85, of Sonoma County, Calif. He served in the Korean and Vietnam wars. He also served in Panama, Hawaii and Okinawa. He participated in the 1952 atomic bomb test "Desert Rock IV" in Nevada. He was with the Marine All-Star Softball team that won the Panama Canal Zone Tournament in 1950. He was also on the rifle and pistol team that outshot the British Marines at Malta in 1953 and served as an infantryman in the 1st, 2d and 3dMarDivs.

He retired in 1968. After much effort, he was awarded a service-connected full disability due to radiation exposure during the atomic bomb tests.

He worked for the Army Corps of Engineers

as a civilian employee at various dam sites around the state.

Don C. Staggs, 84, in Longview, Texas. He served in the Korean War as a forward observer for mortar crews of 3/5, 1stMarDiv.

After returning to the States, he went to work for Eastman Kodak as a chemical operator until his retirement. He also played the French horn with the company's orchestra. He later started his own painting business.

Raymond Tolar, 89, in Ticonderoga, N.Y. He was a WW II veteran who fought as an infantryman on Iwo Jima. He later was employed as an administrator by Eden Park Nursing Home in Troy.

Sgt Leo J. Wagner, 90, of Ann Arbor, Mich. He enlisted in 1943 and served with Co B, 20th Engineers, 4thMarDiv. He saw action at Roi-Namur, Saipan, Tinian and at Iwo Jima where he was wounded. His awards include the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

He spent 34 years at St. Thomas School in Ann Arbor as a teacher and coach and was the director of teacher personnel for the Archdiocese of Detroit. He retired in 1985.

SSgt Paul E. White, 92, of Garfield, N.J. He served in the South Pacific during WW II.

He retired as senior clerk at Shell Oil Company Laboratories and was a former secretary-treasurer of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union Local. Also, he was a former superintendent of St. Muriel's Episcopal Church of Manasquan, N.J.



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ing beyond the confines of the law of war, and years of sacrificing blood and treasure seemingly producing little to no long-term results before the “tipping point” is finally, and often unexpectedly, reached. The inherent difficulty of sorting out “who’s who in the zoo” is painfully clear, as is the vulnerability of the true patriots to intimidation and assassination. The reality of “flawed partners” also resonates as a theme, particularly in the strategic context. Even during the headiest days of the Awakening, the ham-fistedness and negligence of Iraq’s national leadership reverberates throughout the narrative—from the actions of the predominantly Shi’a Iraqi National Army units in the area to the complete absence of a budget for Mayor Saad, despite the billions of U.S. dollars poured into Baghdad.

Leaders were able to mitigate these and other “irritants” while on the scene, unfortunately, but perhaps inevitably, the fundamental religious and tribal fissures returned to prominence after these not-so-ugly Americans were gone.

The book is timely, given recent events in Iraq; one of the stated objectives of the

authors is to help answer the question, “Was it worth it?” In his foreword, General John Allen, USMC (Ret) says it best: “Even though subsequent political decisions in Washington, D.C., and in Baghdad would reverse the fortunes of the people of Fallujah, nothing should be taken from the sacrifices of our magnificent troops during the period when Bill and Dan made such a difference.”

Superbly detailed, the book conveys the sights, sounds and smells of the struggle, along with the moments of boredom, frustration, humor and abject terror that will be instantly recognizable to veterans of these campaigns. The unique, two-voiced approach broadens the scope of the work, providing insights into the characters and events of the story in a way that would necessarily be more limited if written from the perspective of a single author. That said, there are challenges to this technique, and the meshing of two different writing styles and slight variations in timelines is not without its bumps.

Overall, however, this is a fascinating read and helps to fill a gap in the historiography.

Scheduled for release on Sept. 15 and with authors’ royalties donated to the Semper Fi Fund, this future addition to the Commandant’s Reading List will make a fine addition to the libraries of anyone interested in counterinsurgency operations or in the U.S. Marine Corps, especially those men and women who served “over there.”

Col Jay Hatton, USMC (Ret)

Author’s bio: Col Hatton retired in 2013 after 27 years of service. He served in Iraq in 2005 as a battalion commander with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

MARINE SERGEANT FREDDY GONZALEZ: Vietnam War Hero. (Revised Edition). By John W. Flores. Published by McFarland. 236 pages. Softcover. Stock #0786474211. \$31.50 MCA Members. \$35 Regular Price.

Marine Sergeant Alfredo “Freddy” Gonzalez posthumously was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions as an infantry platoon commander with Company A, 1st Battalion, First Marine Regiment, First Marine Division during the Battle of Hue City in the Tet Offensive, 1968. In this updated edition of his 2006 book, “When the River Dreams: The Life of Marine Sgt. Freddy Gonzalez,” the author, John W. Flores, adds new dimensions to Gonzalez’s early life as well as more definition to his time in the Corps, particularly his combat experiences.

Gonzalez was born in Edinburg, Texas, in 1946. By the tender age of 9, Freddy had evolved into a full-time field hand

picking carrots, beans, melons and cotton. His mother recalled him saying, “Mom, I’m going to become a Marine sergeant someday.” And, so he did.

In 1965, Gonzalez joined the Marine Corps. Graduating from Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, he became an infantryman and was ordered to the Republic of Vietnam.

On his first tour in Vietnam, he served as a rifleman in Co L, 3d Bn, 4th Marines. His simple request of his mother was: “Send me Kool-Aid and cookies!” The young Marine’s outlook, learned from his mother, was not fatalistic, but he believed that his character would shape his destiny. His leadership skills gained him rapid promotion to sergeant at his next duty station, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

In 1967, he volunteered for a second tour in Vietnam, joining Co A, 1st Bn, 1st Marines. Gonzalez believed he must utilize his hard-won combat skills to keep his brother Marines safe.

In early 1968, the Tet Offensive hit like a lightning strike. Hue City was besieged by an aggressive communist force and Marines were rushed forward into the fight. Wounded several times during the early days of the offensive, Gonzalez refused evacuation. On Feb. 4, with his company pinned down by heavy fire, Gonzalez moved forward firing several light antitank assault weapons to knock out key enemy positions before being killed.

The devastating news of his death was soon transmitted to his mother. She and an appreciative Marine Corps combined to see that his bravery would never be forgotten. Besides earning the highest combat award presented by a grateful nation, a U.S. warship, an elementary school and an American Legion post have been named in his honor. In his hometown of Edinburg, a bronze bust of Gonzalez sits atop a marble monument at a park named for him.

John W. Flores never ceased researching and learning more about the contributions of Sgt Freddy Gonzalez. This updated edition of his earlier work brings that continued research to life. The book is well-written, well-researched and highly recommended.

Robert B. Loring

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



SOUND OFF

[continued from page 8]

Contact Greg Rose, gregvn68@gmail.com, or Bill and Ann Schneider, wschnei591@aol.com.

• **G/3/1 (Korea)**, Sept. 29-Oct. 3, Beaufort, S.C. Contact Carleton "Bing" Bingham, 1453 Patricia Dr., Gardnerville, NV 89460, (775) 265-3596, bingbingham@msn.com.

• **K/3/7 (and attached units, RVN)**, Sept. 9-15, San Diego. Contact William Rolke, (262) 780-0993, k37usmc@att.net, or Jerry Walker, (951) 203-2280, jwalkercdr@verizon.net.

• **2d Topographic Co**, Oct. 26-29, Beaufort, S.C. Contact James Martin, 7 Crocket Dr., Chelmsford, MA 01824, (781) 572-7924, toptrooper@aol.com.

• **3d 155 mm Gun Battery (SP)**, Sept. 11-13, Alexandria, Va. Contact Ed Kirby, (978) 987-1920, ed-kirby@comcast.net.

• **Point Mugu Marine Detachment (1946-60)**, Sept. 5-8, Branson, Mo. Contact Arthur Smallenberger, (816) 436-6493, pt.mugumarine@kc.rr.com.

• **Yemassee Train Depot**, Oct. 17-18, Yemassee, S.C. Contact Roy Hughes, P.O. Box 265, Yemassee, SC 29945, (843) 589-3385.

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• **"Alpha" Btry, 1/11 (RVN, 1965-66)**, Oct. 12-15, Las Vegas. Contact Gordon Hansen, (928) 757-4882, glhansen@citlink.net.

• **American Embassy Saigon, RVN (all military and civilian personnel stationed pre-April 30, 1975)**, May 17-21, 2015, Louisville, Ky. Contact MSgt Gus Tomuschat, USMC (Ret), (804) 693-

3007, saigongunny@yahoo.com, www.saignonmac.org.

• **TBS, Co H and Co I, 5-62**, Sept. 25-28, San Diego. Contact Peter Obernesser, (719) 331-9510, peterjobernesser@gmail.com.

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

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• **81 mm Mortars, H&S Co, 1/1/3 (Camp Sukiran, Okinawa, 1959-60)**, Sept. 16-18, Quantico, Va. Contact Ron Peacock, 95383 Nassau River Rd., Fernandina Beach, FL 32034, (904) 583-2640, prpeacock2@gmail.com.

• **Plts 17 and 19, Parris Island, 1955 (and others who went through PI during 1955 are welcome too)**, June 4-6, 2015, Parris Island, S.C. Contact Al Pasquale, (484) 802-2516, pasquale@bigplanet.com.

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

• **Plt 296, Parris Island, 1965**, Nov. 7-10, Parris Island, S.C. Contact SgtMaj Jim Butler, USMC (Ret), (910) 340-7074, jbutler29@ec.rr.com.

• **Plt 331, Parris Island, 1959**, Sept. 24-27, Quantico, Va. Contact MGySgt Bob Daniels, USMC (Ret), (904) 579-4346, bertojotol@gmail.com, or Bob Wood, (205) 903-7220, bwood@bellsouth.net.

• **Plt 1096, San Diego, 1968**, Oct. 10-13, Phoenix. Contact Dan Hefner, (312) 504-4658, drh818@msn.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 4035, "Papa" Co, Parris Island, 2000**, is planning a reunion for 2015. Contact Tammy (Manyik) Epperson, (571) 451-7263, tammy.epperson@gmail.com.

• **Marine Air Groups (WW II-present)**, Oct. 1-4, Branson, Mo. Contact James Jordan, (417) 535-4945, james.m.jordan@hughes.net, or Bob Miller, (636) 327-5854, mbobsue13@gmail.com.

• **VMF/VMA-311 Assn.**, Oct. 1-5, San Antonio. Contact Jim Galchick, 1290 E. 12th St., Salem, OH 44460, (330) 337-9383, jgalchick@neo.rr.com; George Phander, 3032 Potshop Rd., Norristown, PA 19403, (610) 584-5654, piboxer@comcast.net; or Cecil Cheeka, 2207 Lilac St. S.E., Lacey, WA 98503, (360) 352-7227, ccheeka@comcast.net, www.vmf-vma-311reunion.org.

• **VMF-323/VMF (AW)-323 (1960-64)**,

Sept. 2-5, Pensacola, Fla. Contact T. C. Crouson, (209) 369-6793, tc@inreach.com.

• **VMA (AW)-533 (Chu Lai/Iwakuni, 1969-70)**, Sept. 5-7, Havelock, N.C. Contact Jerry Callaway, (303) 946-7893, j2callaway@q.com, or John Murphy, (609) 313-8434, jmurphy317@gmail.com.

Ships and Others

• **USS Antietam Assn. (CV/CVA/CVS-36)**, Sept. 17-21, Branson, Mo. Contact Erma Booth, 5406 N. 37th St., Tacoma, WA 98407, (253) 752-6158, ermabooth@aol.com.

• **USS Canberra (CA-70/CAG-2)**, Oct. 8-12, Norfolk, Va. Contact Ken Minick, P.O. Box 130, Belpre, OH 45714, (740) 423-8976, usscanberra@gmail.com, www.usscanberra.com.

• **USS Elokomin (AO-55)**, Sept. 23-26, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Robert F. O'Sullivan, 25 Denny St., Dorchester, MA 02125, (617) 288-3755, theeloman@verizon.net.

• **USS Hornet (CV-8, CV/CVA/CVS-12)**, Sept. 9-14, San Antonio. Contact Carl or Sandy Burket, P.O. Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673, (814) 224-5063, hornetcva@aol.com, www.usshornetassn.com.

• **USS Houston (CL-81)**, Oct. 20-25, Norfolk, Va. Contact Donna Rogers, 3949 Little John Dr., York, PA 17408, (717) 792-9113, dlr7110@yahoo.com.

• **USS Inchon (LPH/MCS-12)**, Oct. 12-16, Norfolk, Va. Contact David F. Fix, 131 Waypoint Dr., Lancaster, PA 17603, (717) 203-4152, ussinchon@gmail.com.

• **USS John R. Craig (DD-885)**, Sept. 24-28, Portland, Ore. Contact Jerry Chwalek, 9307 Louisiana St., Livonia, MI 48150, (734) 525-1469, jermail@ameritech.net, www.usjohnrcraig.com.

• **USS Perkins (DD-26, DD-377, DD/DDR-877) Assn.**, Sept. 10-14, Fort Worth, Texas. Contact Billy or Sue Orr, 2388 E. State Hwy. 56, Bonham, TX 75418, (903) 227-1852, jackaloperancher@msn.com.

• **USS Ranger (CVA/CV-61)**, Oct. 1-4, Jacksonville, Fla. Contact Larry Schmuhl, (904) 997-2217, lschmuhl@gmail.com.

• **USS Saratoga (CV-3, CVA/CV-60)**, Sept. 25-27, Louisville, Ky. Contact Harvey Hirsch Jr., 139 Beechwood Dr., Franklin, VA 23851, (877) 360-7272 (SARA).

• **U.S. Navy Amphibious Force Veterans Assn.**, Sept. 7-10, New Orleans. Contact John J. Walsh, 2745 Dalton Ln., Toms River, NJ 08755, (732) 367-6472 (do not call after 8:30 p.m. ET), navy_guys@verizon.net.



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Edited by Sara W. Bock

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Mail Call

- Marine veteran Bruce A. Rund Jr., 1404 Allwood Ln., Apt. 103, Belcamp, MD 21017, (443) 547-8638, al47hdg@comcast.net, to hear from anyone who knew (or has photos or information regarding) **TSgt Bruce Addington RUND Sr.**, a Marine aviator stationed at **MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.**, during **WW II**.

- LtCol Dan Showalter, USMC (Ret), (760) 468-0421, dirtydanshowalter@gmail.com, to hear from **Maj Grady CHANEY**, who served as the **combat cargo officer** aboard **USS Tarawa (LHA-1), 1984-85**.

- Ted Lewis, (317) 853-6206, grandma wasasquaw@gmail.com, to hear from Marine veteran **Paul DOMER**, who was stationed at **Hunters Point, Calif., 1958-60**.

- Marine veteran Matt Homer, (847) 778-2679 (text messages only), matthew.homer@att.net, to hear from Marines who were in his boot camp platoon and can help him identify the platoon number, **2d Bn, San Diego, September-December 1977**. Drill instructors were **MGySgt HOUSTON, SSgt BRICE and Sgt SANCHEZ**. He would like a **recruit graduation book** for the platoon.

- Cpl Sarah Keep, Royal Air Force Police (UK), +447931 141430, sarahxkeep@yahoo.co.uk, to hear from a Marine with the last name **CONSTANTINE**, who was stationed at **Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, May 2013**.

- Marine veteran Eric Gagomiros, (602) 309-5025, mcl767@yahoo.com, to hear from **veterans interested in joining a**

new Marine Corps League detachment in Phoenix.

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- Marine veteran Daniel Beard, 358 Riverdale Rd., Toccoa, GA 30577, (706) 886-0698, wants a **recruit graduation book and photo for Plt 297, Parris Island, 1964**.

- MSgt Larry Stevenson, USMC (Ret), PSC 704, Box 2787, APO AP 96338-0008, (512) 672-7615, larry.stevenson1@us.army.mil, wants **photos from Plt 2047, San Diego, 1973** and from his tour as a **DI, MCRD San Diego, 1979-81**.



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**The 2014 Leatherneck Marine-to-Marine Classified
 Information and Insertion Order**

Classified Advertising Policy

Marine-to-Marine classified ads are accepted on a space-available basis and available only to those and/or their spouses who served in the United States Marine Corps. The ad must list the years served in the Marine Corps.

All ads are black-and-white in this section. Ads are accepted camera-ready and electronically; pdf, tif or jpeg formats (300 resolution). Any classified ad may occupy one column width (2.25 inches) by a maximum of 10 inches of column height.

Marine-to-Marine classified ad rates are \$100 per column inch. There is a 10% discount for 6 months or more of insertions.

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Saved Round

Edited by Sara W. Bock



ARTHUR S. MOLE AND JOHN THOMAS

LIVING EMBLEM—In 1919, 100 officers and 9,000 enlisted Marines gathered at Marine Barracks Paris Island, S.C.,* to participate in the “Living Emblem of the United States Marine Corps,” taken by photographers Arthur S. Mole and John Thomas. Mole, a commercial photographer who worked out of Zion, Ill., and Thomas, his associate, staged numerous “living photographs” during the early 20th century, all of which were taken from atop towers rather than directly overhead—a remarkable feat at the time, particularly considering the number of subjects involved.

* From 1917 to 1919, what we know today as Parris Island was spelled with one “r” rather than two.

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Photo by: Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich

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*National Safety Council's *Injury Facts*, 2011 Edition.

War and acts of war are excluded from this coverage.

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