

DECEMBER 2015

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

# Leatherneck

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Holidays!*

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# Welcome to *Leatherneck* Magazine's

## **DIGITAL EDITION** DECEMBER 2015

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We hope you are continuing to enjoy the digital edition of *Leatherneck* with its added content and custom links to related information. Our commitment to expanding our digital offerings continues to reflect progress.

Also, access to added content is available via our website at [www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck](http://www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck) and you will find reading your *Leatherneck* much easier on smartphones and tablets. Our focus of effort has been on improving our offerings on the Internet, so we want to hear from you. How are we doing? Let us know at: [leatherneck@mca-marines.org](mailto:leatherneck@mca-marines.org).

Thank you for your continuing support.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary H. Reinwald".

Col Mary H. Reinwald, USMC (Ret)  
Editor



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*By LCpl Jason Jimenez, USMC*

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### **16 Marines on Capitol Hill**

*By BGen David J. Furness, USMC and the staff of the Office of Legislative Affairs*

There are few legislators who have served as Marines and few who understand the Corps' interests, needs and capabilities. A handful of business-suited Marines have the crucial job of ensuring Congress understands the Corps and continues to allocate the much needed resources to man, train and equip our operating forces and supporting establishment.

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### **30 Sea Stories**

*Compiled by Sara W. Bock*  
Humorous vignettes of the Corps in every clime and place. Perhaps there's a lesson or two to be learned in this month's "Sea Stories." So fill your mug and fire up a stogie. What you're about to read "ain't no BS."

### **32 Hornet Air-to-Air Tactics: Capable, Relevant and Ready for the F-35**

*By Maj Jason B. Ladd, USMC, Capt*

*Omen D. Quelvog, USMC and Capt Thomas A. Frey, USMC*  
The Corps' newest fighter, the F-35 Lightning II, has shot across the horizon entering Marine aviation's inventory. However, the reliable and ever-lethal F/A-18 Hornet still has a crucial role in fighter attack missions. Integrating the two aircraft in combat support and attack missions is the challenge for leatherneck air-tactics instructors.

### **36 "We Were Caught Flat-Footed": The Japanese Attack on Marine Corps Air Station Ewa, December 7, 1941**

*By Dick Camp*

It was called Ewa Mooring Mast Field, and its 48 Marine aircraft were parked wingtip to wingtip on that fateful morning when Japanese aircraft made their devastating strafing runs. Like everybody else on Oahu, the Marines were caught unaware, but attempts to fight back and acts of courage were the order of the day.

### **48 The Football Classic**

*By Maj Allan C. Bevilacqua, USMC (Ret)*

It was the All-Star football game that nobody saw—aside from Marines on Guadalcanal. It nonetheless became a gridiron classic when the 4th Marines and 29th Marines, both battle-tested regiments, squared off amid the coconut palms at Pritchard Field a very long distance from the Rose Bowl.

### **54 The Weather Marines: Meteorological and Oceanographic Analyst Forecasters Predict the Weather of War**

*By CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret)*

Weather conditions have been a key factor in battles throughout history and especially in every Marine Corps amphibious assault. METOC Marines are more than Weather Channel storm trackers. Their prognostications can make a difference in winning a battle and even a war.

## DEPARTMENTS



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**COVER:** The Marine Corps mascot, Cpl Chesty XIV, poses for a holiday portrait, Dec. 16, 2013, at the Home of the Commandants in Washington, D.C. Both Chesty and the *Leatherneck* staff wish all of our readers Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas. Photo by Sgt Mallory S. VanderSchans, USMC. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to *Leatherneck Magazine*, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.

# 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.)*

I joined the Marine Corps at age 17 in 1953 and was discharged in 1956 (I am 80 now) and have always credited that important experience with reforming my character from that of a kid to an "effective" adult.

After discharge, I joined the city of Bellevue, Wash., police department and rose through the ranks to be appointed chief of police at age 39 and held that position for the next 11 years. Thereafter, I started a successful business. During my career, I attended college on my off-duty time and used the GI Bill to help fund a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Washington and a Master of Public Administration degree from Seattle University.

When I read "15 Habits of Highly Effective Marines" in the October issue, I vividly recalled learning all those "habits" from boot camp through the remainder of my service. They have served me well, and I owe the USMC for instilling such practices through example and repetition. Having been a career police officer, I am aware that effective police officers exercise those same habits in protecting public safety.

I am sure that the Marine Corps is still mentoring young men and women by helping them to mature, and may they appreciate how important that will be to them both now and in the years to come. I know that I do!

D.P. Van Blaricum  
Bellevue, Wash.

## Warrant Officers for 99 Years

In the September issue (page 33, "Seven Marine Corps Myths—Truth or Fiction?") there is a photograph of Brigadier General Wendell C. Neville and six named members of the Fourth (Marine) Brigade staff in France. The caption gives the grades of six of the seven officers, but identifies

Thomas Dorney only as "Quartermaster Clerk." His unstated grade was warrant officer.

The grade of warrant officer was authorized for the Marine Corps in 1916, 99 years ago. Initially, no grade insignia was authorized for WOs until mid-1918. WOs and second lieutenants wore the same uniforms as first lieutenants and captains. Dorney and other WOs also wore specialty devices on their epaulets or aft of their eagle, globe and anchor emblems on their collars.



Only two specialty insignia for WOs were authorized between 1916 and 1919: Quartermaster Clerk, whose device was a key crossing an officer's sword on a wheel with spokes, and "Gunner," who wore the bursting bomb device still worn by appointed Military Occupational Specialty 0306, Infantry Weapons Officer, Marine Gunner.

After World War I, Marine warrant officers and commissioned warrant officers were authorized to wear a gold bar bisected across by a broad or narrow scarlet stripe. In the 1940s the Marine Corps grade was changed from "Commissioned" WO to WO and "Chief" WO (CWO-2/3/4). The rank of CWO-5 was authorized Feb. 1, 1992.

CWO-4 Warren I. Paul, USMCR (Ret)  
USMC, 1951-54; USMCR, 1954-88  
Lake Worth, Fla.

## Women in Combat Units: One Marine's Opinion

Ray Mabus, current Secretary of the Navy, has "made it clear he opposes the proposal from [General Joseph F. Dunford Jr., then-36th Commandant of the Marine Corps] and has recommended that women be allowed to compete for any Navy or

Marine Corps combat jobs," according to Lolita C. Baldor, of washingtonpost.com, on Sept. 19.

This was predictable, and there is no practical value in railing against his decision. There is, however, a sound alternative to integrating women into mixed combat units.

We should form all-female combat units. The SecNav and others claim that women who meet standards are equal to the men who meet the same standards. Based on this assertion, the combat efficiency of an all-female unit should be equal to any all-male unit, and any argument to the contrary would weaken their opening assumptions.

There are some very serious reasons for doing this.

There is an inherent protectiveness on the part of most men toward women, and this could get men killed if they treat a female comrade any differently than they would a male comrade. While the frequency would be hard to predict, it is certain that this would happen at least occasionally in integrated units.

It is impossible in any mixed organization for attractions not to emerge between men and women, and the bonding will be different. In addition, sexual harassment, while regrettable and criminal, is pervasive in all of our society and will not be different in integrated units.

There is an inherent intimacy that is associated with the normal elimination of bodily waste. Men have a preference for privacy relative to other men, and this is much more important for men in the presence of women and women in the presence of men. In live combat, privacy is near impossible.

Each of the above seriously impacts unit cohesion and unit effectiveness, and all-female units are seen as the best way of addressing these concerns.

Over time, opportunities for promotion for women in combat arms would be available and increase proportionally as the number and size of all-female units increased. Further, female commanders certainly could be considered for com-

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mand of company level and larger units composed of all male platoons or a combination of male and female platoons so there would be no discrimination in the opportunities for promotion.

Col John R. Powers, USMCR (Ret)  
Amherst, N.H.

## Letter Receives a Thumbs-Up

Just a short note to tell you that the September "Sound Off" letter "In Honor of the Girl in Seat 30C" should have been awarded "Letter of the Month."

It is one beautiful letter!

Charles L. Killam  
USMC, 1956-59  
Newbury, N.H.

## Deforesting Tanker Style

I read "Tankers Compete, Prove Their Mission Readiness" in the August "We—the Marines" column and really got a chuckle as the article brought to mind an event that occurred on Saipan shortly after the 1944 campaign.

We were in the 2d Armored Amphibian Tank Battalion and were carrying out maneuvers along the beach when our platoon leader notified us that we had visitors from the Fourth Marine Division.

According to an account in our battalion book, written by Lieutenant Cornelius J. Vanderkolk of Company C, "Colonel [Reed M.] Fawell [Jr.] [our commanding officer], told me that Division wanted to know if we [and our LVT(A) amphibian tank] could hit anything with our 75s and for me to get a crew. We followed the jeep with the colonel and the Division officer to the far end of the island and what was

supposed to be a landing place for light planes. Harlan Rosvold was the [tank] driver and Carlton Evans was the gunner. We stopped, and the Division officer gave instructions. On our right was a hill, and we were to pull around that [hill and then fire] and hit a tree at the far end of the field as quickly as we could.

"Rosvold slammed on the brakes and the dust flew. Evans let one go that blew off the tree about 3 feet from the ground. Then Evans looked down from the turret of the tank and said matter-of-factly to the Division officer, 'Want me to blow out the stump?'"

What a shot! Luck? Who knows? Anyway, we all got a free beer on that one.

Harlan Rosvold  
Oak Park Heights, Minn.

## Fellow Veterans Are Taking Care of Our Dead

Emily Churchill's "Always Faithful" article in the October *Leatherneck* spotlighted how veterans service organizations provide military funeral honors when active-duty personnel are not available. While we can never hope to match the professionalism or *savoir faire* of the Central Coast Leatherneck Honor Guard, resplendent in their dress blues, the Huntington, N.Y., Marine Corps League Detachment #792 has from time to time answered the call to provide full military honors to a deceased veteran Marine. Other volunteer service organizations should be joining us in filling this much-needed void.

Bill Ober  
Huntington, N.Y.



Huntington, N.Y., MCL Det. #792 also provides funeral support to their fellow Marines. From left to right: Bill Ober, bugler; Phil Adam; Howie Blackmore; Brent Whiteman; Don Dziomba and "Rocky" Paduano.

COURTESY OF BILL OBER

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### Too Many Ribbons Today?

It seems most ribbons worn today (excluding specific campaign and personal decorations) were instituted post-Vietnam, many in the 1990s and later. Work in a particular job/billet, get a ribbon. Stationed outside the U.S. or go on a float, get a ribbon. Additionally, some seem redundant, while criteria for others seem inconsistent. When the National Defense Service Medal was re-instituted following 9/11, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal was created with virtually the same criteria. An analogy would be having created a Global War on Communism Service Medal to go with the National Defense Service Medal during Korea and Vietnam, which would have been an unneeded duplication.

Additionally, while re-instituted for Desert Storm and following 9/11, the National Defense Service Medal wasn't

issued for service during the U.S. invasions of Grenada, Panama and other Armed Forces expeditions that were undertaken to save American lives and protect national security.

The medal Bill Ober refers to [August "Sound Off"] in H.R. 2067 is the Cold War Service Medal, which wasn't always cold. Just ask a surviving crew member of USS *Pueblo* (AGER-2). It was created by the Army's Institute of Heraldry, with a Congressional resolution in the 2001 National Defense Authorization Act stating the Secretary of Defense should authorize it for qualified military personnel, active and veterans. Then-Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, however, opposed it. Some states authorized it for their qualified State National Guard personnel.

SSgt Bill Jochym  
USMC, 1970-73  
Chattanooga, Tenn.

• *Sound Off Ed.* has for many years been of the opinion there are too many ribbons today. What Marines wear now are ribbons and medals that are more representative of a miniature record book than awards for combat and campaigns.

Later in this column, "Pappy" Boyington is mentioned. He had three rows of ribbons that include the Medal of Honor, Navy Cross, Purple Heart, Prisoner of War Medal and four campaign and victory medals and a unit commendation. Today a Marine can have three rows of ribbons without any combat awards and without ever seeing combat. This is a DOD-wide trend. Other branches even have ribbons for completing boot camp.

There are valid pros and cons, but when one looks at the uniforms of Marines from 1775 through Vietnam there were few ribbons and badges. The point is you are wearing the uniform of a United States Marine. That, in and of itself, has always been more than enough.—*Sound Off Ed.*

If a two-star general approaches a private first class who is wearing the Medal of Honor, is the general required to salute?

Cpl William P. Noyes  
Brockton, Mass.

• *I don't know why you picked out a two-star, but the short answer to your question is no. However, the Congressional Medal of Honor Society says there is no law or military regulation requiring Marines or any member of the Armed Forces to salute, but you may do so out of respect when the person is physically wearing the medal.*

*Medal of Honor recipients are entitled to a monthly stipend (currently \$1,259), priority on aircraft when flying Space-A, and their children are not required to have a Congressional sponsor to apply to the military academies.—Sound Off Ed.*

### "Hark! Do I Hear the Cannons Roar?"

Ear and hearing concerns have been important issues among Marines for a long time. As a recruit on the rifle range at Parris Island in 1950, my drill instructor provided the following information in reference to ear protection. "If any of you ... want cotton to stuff in your ears, go to the corpsman." None of us met his qualification, so we all lost good hearing abilities. With an M1 rifle and, afterward, a .45-caliber pistol going off at 10 feet on both sides of you as well as the one in your hands, you lose. The constant, long periods spent on the ranges were more harmful to hearing than a firefight later in the Korean War.

Another hearing problem in our Corps: My wife and I attended the Commandant's

passage of command last year. We were seated in the far right bleacher that is in front of the cannons. We suffered through four 21-gun salutes. With the first round, I put my fingers in my ears; however, I was slow in telling my wife that she should also cover her ears. She lost most of her hearing in her right ear due to the many blasts. We paid \$6,000 for hearing aids that help her to hear conversation.

My point to Marines: If you attend the Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., Evening Parades and the cannons are fired, cover your ears. Another thought: Why not turn those cannons around so that they fire away from rather than in front of the viewers?

Col Wesley L. Fox, USMC (Ret)  
Blacksburg, Va.

• Col Fox is an old and honored friend of Leatherneck. He modestly didn't mention that he served as a Marine for 43 years, and as a first lieutenant, he commanded Company A, 1st Battalion, Ninth Marine Regiment and earned the Medal of Honor on Feb. 22, 1969, during Operation Dewey Canyon. Marine Barracks "8th & I" is redoubling their efforts to alert spectators when they are firing the cannons.—*Sound Off Ed.*



COURTESY OF WILLIAM P. CROZIER

The flying crane symbol for long life.

### Flying Crane Did Not Provide Long Life For Its First Owner

The Asian "gung-ho" character depicted in the September "Saved Round" caught my eye, jarring loose my memory of an unpleasant image almost 64 years ago.

I was a rifleman with Company W, 2d Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment attached to Co F during the Sept. 16-20, 1951, assault to take and hold Hill 812 near the Punch Bowl in central Korea.

On our approach, we passed the still-smoldering remains of many enemy victims of a napalm air strike when something shiny caught my eye. I took a moment to remove the object with the point of my bayonet. I then saw it was a stamped-metal belt buckle, and after checking to make sure it wasn't too hot to handle, I put the still-warm object into my pocket. A few days later I cleaned it

[continued on page 65]

## WHAT IS THE PERFECT GIFT TO THE US MARINE CORPS? AN IWO JIMA FLAG RAISING MONUMENT AT CAMP PENDLETON.



**"...the tenacity and courage of those who fought the battle ensured the survival of the Marine Corps.... winning the battle imbued American pride.... our country was confident in calling on (Marines) when our nation is least ready..."**

- Remarks by Lt. General Terry Robling, CG Marine Corps Forces Pacific (retired), October 31, 2015 in support of Iwo Jima Monument West, followed by Curtis Fentress, Marine Corps Heritage Museum designer with his winning design!

### **A CALL TO ACTION, MARINES!**

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# In Every Clime and Place

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

## ■ CAMP LEMONNIER, DJIBOUTI 15th MEU Marines, French Forces Conclude Bilateral Exercise

Elements of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit concluded 17 days of bilateral training with the French 5th Overseas Combined Arms Regiment (RIAOM) at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Africa, on Oct. 7.

The Marines participating were assigned to “Delta” Company, Light Armored Reconnaissance Detachment; Battalion Landing Team 3d Bn, First Marine Regiment; Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 161 (Reinforced) and the MEU’s Force Reconnaissance Detachment.

The training began with an indoctrination phase during which French instructors tested Marines and French soldiers both physically and mentally on land and in the water to ensure that they were ready for the grueling desert survival course.

After indoctrination, they entered into the official execution of the course at the Arta Training Area in Djibouti.

Mountain obstacle courses and basic

desert survival training made up the first five-day phase of the desert commando course. The basic desert survival lessons included skinning goats for food, procuring drinking water and carrying gear in the desert.

“The Marines and French soldiers then occupied a forward operating base to conduct the second phase of the course, offensive and defensive operations. This phase incorporated patrolling, reconnaissance, security and defensive tactics,” said Major Robert Tart, the executive officer of BLT 3/1.

Tart explained that the Marines and French soldiers then transitioned to a company-level day-and-night live-fire exercise with U.S. light armored vehicles and French AMX-10 vehicles training side by side. The exercise culminated in a battalion-level exercise complete with reconnaissance missions and the seizure of multiple objectives by both French soldiers and U.S. Marines.

“We were able to build a better working relationship with our French brothers in

arms and were able to share ways that we conduct planning as well as tactics,” said Tart.

As the final objective of the battalion-level exercise, Brigadier General Philippe Montocchio, Chief of French Forces, stationed in Djibouti, and the French commando course staff held a ceremony to award the French commando badge to those who participated in the course.

“At the strategic level, this course provided an opportunity to strengthen the already existing partnership between U.S. and French forces. At the tactical level, the training provided by this course enhanced interoperability and allowed both sides to share tactics and procedures with one another,” said Lieutenant Colonel Ted Greeley, the commanding officer of BLT 3/1.

In addition to the desert commando course, Marines from the 15th MEU’s Force Reconnaissance Detachment conducted free-fall operations with French paratroopers.

The 15th MEU provides a forward-deployed, flexible sea-base Marine Air-Ground Task Force capable of conducting amphibious operations, crisis response and limited contingency operations, to include designed special operations, in order to support the theater requirements of geographic combatant commanders. The 15th MEU currently is deployed aboard the ships of the *Essex* Amphibious Ready Group.

1stLt Allison Burgos, USMC

## ■ SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND, CALIF. 13th MEU, PHIBRON 1 Prepare for Deployment

The wind from roaring fans propelled an LCAC (landing craft, air cushion) through the ocean to ensure the arrival of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment onto San Clemente Island, Calif., Sept. 24, as part of the Supporting Arms Coordination Center Exercise (SACCEX) for the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit and Amphibious Squadron 1 (PHIBRON 1).

SACCEX is the first exercise during which the battery conducts coordinated missions with its naval and air counterparts. After arriving at their first staging area, the Marines and sailors of Btry B



SGT STEVE LOPEZ, USMC

**Leathernecks with the 15th MEU and members of the French 5th RIAOM do crunches together prior to participating in a desert survival course at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, in early October. Designed to improve interoperability between the MEU and the French military, the 17-day bilateral training also included a live-fire exercise and free-fall operations with French paratroopers.**



**Above: Marines with Btry B, 1/11 fire rounds downrange in support of SACCEX on San Clemente Island, Calif., in late September. The exercise was the first coordinated mission between the Marines of the 13th MEU and PHIBRON 1, who will deploy together in early 2016. (Photo by LCpl Alvin Pujols, USMC)**

**Below: Capt Sean Wolterman, the air officer for the 13th MEU, coordinates the landing of an MV-22B Osprey onto San Clemente Island, Calif., during SACCEX, Sept. 24.**

received their ammunition via an MV-22B Osprey from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 166 (Reinforced), the aviation combat element for the 13th MEU. The Osprey offloaded an internally transportable vehicle towing the rounds that were used during SACCEX.

“With the composition of the 13th MEU’s elements, we have a wider range of capabilities,” said Captain Sean Wolterman, the air officer with the 13th MEU.

According to Lance Corporal Jerson A. Gilces, a cannoneer with Btry B, it was very interesting to see so many different elements come together as one.

Once the ammunition was loaded, the battery’s vehicles were assembled into a convoy, and the battery quickly made it to the area where they conducted live-fire missions.

The Marines and sailors quickly spotted the Navy ship and attack helicopter firing on the same objective as the battery. LCpl Travis Capps, an ammo chief with Btry B, said that seeing the ship fire at the same area he and his unit were targeting left him in awe.

“I did not expect to see a ship assaulting the same objective as us—let alone attack helicopters,” said Sergeant Rudy J. Rodriguez II, a section chief with the battery.

The combination of the ground combat element, aviation combat element and logistics combat element, along with the amphibious ready group, has made the



PHIBRON-MEU team a force in readiness.

The Marines and sailors of the 13th MEU re-embarked USS *New Orleans* (LPD-18) after experiencing their first taste of working as a cohesive unit with PHIBRON 1. As SACCEX came to a close, the 13th MEU, slated for two more at-sea

periods with its naval counterparts, continued to further strengthen the relationship between the PHIBRON-MEU team. The team is slated for deployment to the Pacific and Central Command areas of responsibility in early 2016.

LCpl Alvin Pujols, USMC



CPL JUSTIN UPDEGRAFF, USMC

**A Marine with the CAC explains the unit's artillery capabilities to Dimitar Zdravkov Georgiev, right, the chairperson of State Agency for National Security, Bulgaria, who visited the U.S. Marines at Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, during the fall. The CAC, a new addition to the Black Sea Rotational Force, was established Sept. 13.**

## ■ NOVO SELO TRAINING AREA, BULGARIA

### New Eastern Europe Rotation Begins With Ceremony

The U.S. Marine Corps' Combined Arms Company (CAC) conducted a ceremony at the Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, Sept. 23, to mark the establishment of the new rotational force as the first Marine mechanized unit in Eastern Europe.

The CAC, consisting of approximately 150 Marines, is forward deployed to Bulgaria to serve as a temporary boost to the Black Sea Rotational Force. It allows for an increased capability for exercises by providing armored vehicles and indirect-fire assets, including M1A1 Abrams tanks, artillery cannons and light armored reconnaissance vehicles.

"I feel honored that the Marine Corps was selected to be the partner to deepen our already strong relationship with our Bulgarian allies. Over the course of the next five-plus months, and successive rotations, we will continue to deepen that relationship," said Colonel James Donnellan, the deputy commander for U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa.

While in Bulgaria, Marines will increase the value of ongoing North Atlantic Treaty

Organization (NATO)-led exercises by providing tanks, infantry vehicles and artillery that will allow American forces to more easily participate.

"The defense and territorial integrity of Eastern Europe is principal among U.S. interests," said Captain Daniel Whitt, CAC commander. "We are excited to be here and eager to employ our armor and artillery assets to enhance multinational exercises. Operating alongside NATO allies' and partners' mechanized units will enhance our collective capabilities, in turn promoting regional stability."

The presentation of the unit's colors at the ceremony officially recognized the CAC's presence in Bulgaria, an important step in future participation with the United States' allied and partner nations.

"The security and prosperity for tomorrow starts today," said Whitt, "and the Combined Arms Company is a piece of preserving a safe, secure and prosperous Europe."

Cpl Kaitlyn Klein, USMC

## ■ AL ASAD, IRAQ

### Task Force Team Helps Iraqi Army Improve Communications Capabilities

U.S. Marines with Task Force Al Asad's Advise and Assist team helped members of the 7th Iraqi Army Division's (7th ID)

media cell set up radio transmission equipment at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, Sept. 28.

The equipment, provided through the Iraq Train and Equip Fund, will allow the Iraqi government to broadcast transmissions to help in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). The government's goal is to increase the morale of the Iraqi people with news of successes against the terrorist organization and messages of a unified Iraq.

"Three weeks ago the 7th ID was given a 'Radio in a Box,' " said Task Force Al Asad's information operations advisor, Staff Sergeant Eric Alabiso, referring to the device, known as the RIAB. "The Iraqi Ministry of Defense gave them this piece of equipment to enable the 7th ID to broadcast news and communicate with the people in Al Anbar Province."

Iraqi soldiers rigged the antenna to a broadcasting tower, ran the wire from it to the RIAB and calibrated the equipment to the radio frequency for broadcast. While Iraq's Ministry of Defense (MOD) provided the equipment, and the Marines offered advice on how to best use it, it is ultimately the Iraqis' responsibility to operate and maintain.

"This new capability will allow 7th ID



CPL GARRETT WHITE, USMC

**SSgt Eric Alabiso, right, a military information operations advisor with Task Force Al Asad, helps an Iraqi soldier with the 7th Iraqi Army Division set up a RIAB at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, Sept. 28.**

to get their messaging out to a broader range of people,” Alabiso said. “At the direction of the Iraqi Ministry of Defense, the media cell will be able to broadcast Iraqi Security Forces’ news, Iraqi music and entertainment, and any information and media the Iraqi MOD wants to disseminate to a broad audience.”

While the benefits of this new capability depend on how the 7th Division and Iraqi MOD choose to employ the RIAB, the Marines of the Advise and Assist team will continue to work with the 7th ID media cell as they ensure the radio station is fully operational.

Task Force Al Asad continues to foster

a positive working relationship with its Iraqi partners through projects like the RIAB setup and other “advise and assist” and “Build Partner Capacity” missions, Alabiso explained, with the end goal of building a self-sustaining Iraqi military capable of securing its nation’s borders and defending its people against ISIL.

Cpl Garrett White, USMC

**■ CROW VALLEY, PHILIPPINES  
Leathernecks, Philippine Marines  
Detonate Explosives During PHIBLEX**

“Three, two, one,” said Staff Sergeant Corey Jeffers, counting down the seconds before detonating composition C4 plastic

explosives, sending shards of metal in all directions. Once the debris cleared, helmeted heads peeked over a berm to view the damage caused by the explosion. For many in the group, this was the first time they experienced an explosion in person.

The detonation was just one of many as Philippine and U.S. Marines trained side by side on Oct. 2, during demolition training in Crow Valley, Philippines, as part of Amphibious Landing Exercise (PHIBLEX) 2015.

PHIBLEX is an annual bilateral training exercise conducted by U.S. servicemembers and their counterparts from the Armed Forces of the Philippines in order to strengthen working relationships across a wide range of military operations.

“We came out here to get the Philippine Marines involved and show them our ways of doing improvised explosives such as improvised bangalores, improvised shaped charges and different ways of using explosives without having them factory-made,” said Jeffers, a platoon sergeant with “Echo” Company, Battalion Landing Team 2d Bn, Fifth Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

Marines from both countries received training in using time fuzes, calculating burn rates and standoff distances, building charges and initiating detonations.

“The U.S. Marines are teaching us how to use the claymore [mine] and how to make a bomb with C4,” said Private First Class Mike Asiguado, a rifleman with 7th Marine Brigade, Armed Forces of the Philippines. “It is kind of new for us, because the only troops who usually



CPL RYAN MANNS, USMC



CPL RYAN MANNS, USMC

**Above left: A Marine with Echo Co, BLT 2/5, 31st MEU places a blasting cap into a composition C4 plastic explosive during demolition training at Crow Valley, Philippines, Oct. 2. The demolition training was part of PHIBLEX 2015, an annual bilateral exercise conducted by servicemembers from the U.S. and the Philippines.**

**Above right: LCpl Mitchell Kokoruda places a claymore mine during PHIBLEX 2015 in the Philippines, Oct. 2.**

do this kind of stuff are the improvised explosive device teams.”

Prior to starting the range, the Philippine and U.S. Marines packed C4 into a piece of metal and then placed detonation cord on top with tape to hold it down.

“C4 is pliable, so it is moldable and we can use it for a lot of different things like cutting fences, cutting concertina wire, cutting breaches, blowing breaches and blowing doors,” explained SSgt Jeffers.

The highlight for many was getting the opportunity to pull the charges for the claymores.

“My favorite thing I have done with the Marines has to be detonating that claymore,” said Asiguardo, a native of Manila. “I never get to do stuff like that. We are so thankful for you guys teaching us everything and training side by side with us.”

Cpl Ryan Mains, USMC

## ■ CHERRY POINT, N.C.

### 2d LAAD Perfects

#### Surface-to-Air Defense Skills

The sound of Stinger missile rounds cracked through the air as Marines with 2d Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, Marine Air Control Group 28, Second Marine Aircraft Wing honed their surface-to-air defense skills at Marine Corps

Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., Sept. 24.

“Alpha” Battery Marines fine-tuned their tactical proficiency skills with the FIM-92 Stinger Missile. The weapon is a personal and portable infrared homing surface-to-air missile capable of tracking and engaging aircraft up to an altitude of 10,000 feet and can cover distances up to 8 kilometers.

“This training simulates the Stinger weapons system by taking the approximately 34.2-pound missile and launching the aluminum sleeve out of it,” said Staff Sergeant Kristopher Lucas, a platoon sergeant with Alpha Btry, 2d LAAD Bn. “The process replicates that transition of the weight off the gunner’s shoulder. Gunners need to be prepared for the extreme weight difference experienced once the weapon is detonated.”

More than 20 Marines took turns walking up to the firing line and firing the weapons system at a designated target downrange.

“The idea of the Stinger simulation is to duplicate the weight shift the gunner experiences after firing the weapons system and to mimic the loud noise that the detonation produces,” said Corporal Grant D. Daggett, a low altitude air defense gunner with the unit. “As low altitude defense gunners, we are the only military occupa-

tion responsible for providing surface-to-air defense in the Marine Corps. We are the only ones who specialize in providing security to the Second Marine Aircraft Wing and Marine Air-Ground Task Force elements.”

According to Daggett, the Marines of 2d LAAD Bn conduct simulation training often to ensure the members of their unit maintain the highest level of readiness and possess confidence in their skill set.

Low altitude air defense gunners must possess a vast knowledge of the Stinger missile weapons system and maintain their proficiency even when in a noncombat environment.

“We train our Marines to be prepared to take on anything with the skills they master,” said Lucas. “Marines have to be ready at any time to utilize the techniques they learn while out in combat and engaging an enemy.”

The 2d LAAD Bn has provided aerial defense for nearly three decades. Although the unit’s organization and equipment have evolved over the years, its mission to provide aerial defense and security has remained the same.

Cpl Neysa Huertas Quinones, USMC



Marines with 2d LAAD Bn fire a FIM-92 Stinger Missile at a target during surface-to-air defense skills training at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C., Sept. 24. Members of the unit sharpened their proficiency skills by simulating the weight transfer felt when firing the 34.2-pound missile.

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PHOTO BY CPL JOSEPH SCANLAN, USMC

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# DIGITAL INTEROPERABILITY

## Speeds Up the **KILL** **CHAIN**



UH-1Y Huey, left, and AH-1W Super Cobra helicopters are part of a digital interoperability exercise at MCAS Cherry Point. The exercise included HMLA-467, VMU-2 and MARSOC. Leathernecks hope to link their communications quicker and thus increase prowess above and on battlefields.

Story and photos by  
LCpl Jason Jimenez, USMC

**I**nnovative technology such as tactical data links are changing the way battles are won and strategies are implemented on the battlefield.

On July 24, Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron (HMLA) 467, Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (VMU) Squadron 2 and U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command participated in an exercise at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., that tested data movement between different tactical networks.

“This exercise focused on integrating field radios and commercial ‘off the shelf’ tablet systems to rapidly and securely pass converted LINK 16 messages to HMLA aircraft in a tactical training exercise,” said Captain Justin Pavlischek, the intelligence officer with VMU-2. (LINK 16 is a secure, jam-resistant, high-speed digital data link.)

Access to LINK 16 data allows interoperability between pilots of certain aircraft, joint terminal attack controllers, maneuver units and VMU aircrews, provided the assets and the conversion protocols are present and can be utilized.

“If I have situational awareness before I show up into an objective area, then I don’t have to spend precious time figuring out what’s going on.”

—Capt Michael Marron Jr.

“A lot of our systems have requirements and are difficult to modify,” said Capt Michael Marron Jr., an AH-1W Super Cobra pilot with HMLA-467. “We overcome that by leveraging a specific com-

bination of current technology to provide access to two tactical networks and move some specific messages between those networks—in this case LINK 16 and ANW2.”

According to Marron, digital interoperability is the way the Marine Corps will be able to communicate between multiple type/model/series aircraft in an objective area that contains enemy threats, friendly air positions and ground forces.

“For the rotary-wing aircraft, up until recently, the Marine Corps has been using paper maps and objective area diagrams to plot friendly and enemy locations using a pen or pencil,” said Marron. “Now with tablets, we have modern technology in an aircraft that is 30 years old. It allows us to tap into a tactical picture that was previously out of our reach.”

Assets that are LINK 16 capable can send information to ground control stations for unmanned aerial systems, acting as a network gateway to then push out specific

information in a readable format to non-LINK-16-enabled aircraft. Those aircraft can then see that information, provided they are carrying a specific radio and tablet with an application called “KILSWITCH” (Kinetic Integration Lightweight Software Individual Tactical Combat Handheld).

Systems that monitor the aircraft’s status also can be tapped into, and that information can be transmitted off the aircraft. “In the future, it will tell how much fuel an aircraft has and how many weapons it possesses,” said Capt Christopher Cain, a pilot training officer with HMLA-467.

Additionally, there are efforts underway to integrate technologies that will have the ability to populate threats. “If one aircraft can see a threat, it can notify everyone connected, show how far away and how to stay away to mitigate it. . . . It will speed up the kill chain,” Cain added.

Among the military aviation community, the term “speed up the kill chain” refers to utilizing the most efficient method toward negotiating a nine-line expeditiously. A nine-line is the method of establishing the scene of an objective area and incorporating necessary information to achieve mission success.

“Passing of that nine-line over the radio is going to take a minute or two, at the very least,” said Cain. “The building of a nine-line using KILSWITCH can take as little as 30 seconds. There is less of an opportunity to copy down a wrong grid or mix up information.”

With this upgraded technology, someone building an attack brief in a KILSWITCH tablet can send it electronically and quickly ask for read-backs. Ultimately, the close air support players will be more effective and able to get more attacks in during their time on station, said Cain.

“The longer it takes to figure out where the enemy is and where the friendlies are, the longer it will take to put down effective fire on the enemy,” added Marron. “If I have situational awareness before I show up into an objective area, then I don’t have to spend precious time figuring out what’s going on.”

By design, unmanned aircraft are capable of providing persistent coverage and can be fitted with “plug-and-play” radios and payloads, which will extend the ranges and capability of digital networks into disparate battlefields and areas of operation, explained Pavlischek.

When fitted with those payloads and radios, the MQ-21A Blackjack, an unmanned aerial vehicle, will be ideally suited to provide airborne data network relay and gateways for aviation and ground units.

In addition to the VMU’s traditional

**Sgt Cyrus Brown, a radio operator with VMU-2, communicates over an AN/PRC-117 wideband tactical radio from a UH-1Y during a rotary wing exercise. The goal is to allow interoperability between pilots, joint terminal attack controllers, maneuver units and VMU aircraft.**



**Sgt Brown and Cpl Cassie Mousaw operate the wideband tactical radio and the KILSWITCH tablets that allow aircraft crews to see specific information.**

role of providing aerial reconnaissance, its mission recently has been expanded to include “supporting arms coordination and control.” The foresight developed into this exercise demonstrated a potential role the VMUs could fill in the future—enhancing the lethal and non-lethal capabilities of the Aviation Combat Element and Marine Air-Ground Task Force through digital interoperability.

According to the 2015 Marine Aviation Plan, digital interoperability will be tested and validated with an “integration through innovation and experimentation” approach. The exercise between VMU-2 and HMLA-467 is one example of the innova-

tion and experimentation within the fleet, according to Pavlischek. It demonstrates how technology present in the Marine unmanned aviation ground control station can provide a critical link in extending and enhancing the situational awareness, survivability and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capability for ground units and aircraft.

*Author’s bio: LCpl Jason Jimenez is a combat correspondent with the Second Marine Aircraft Wing and MCAS Cherry Point public affairs office. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in June 2014.*



# Marines on Capitol Hill

By BGen David J. Furness, USMC  
and the staff of the  
Office of Legislative Affairs

**A**s forward-deployed Marines around the globe stand watch and fight the nation's battles to ensure that our country and our citizens are safe and our way of life remains secure, another type of conflict is waged—a struggle that has persisted for decades on the American home front.

On this front, the terrain is complex and must be navigated with the utmost care—but only after thorough intelligence preparation of the battlespace. This is a campaign that demands constant vigilance, strategic messaging and firm resolve. Many of the battles in this struggle are not measured in minutes or hours, but in months and years.

This is a relentless campaign that demands coalition building and is subject to shifting alliances. It requires key leader engagement and a nuanced cultural under-

standing of a wide range of stakeholders. Without the support of the American people, this campaign is doomed to failure, and although this struggle is centered on military capability and capacity, it demands a whole-of-government approach to be effective.

This is the struggle for resources—fought principally in the battlespace of the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill by the Marines who stand their watch in Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps (HQMC). Virtually every battle fought has strategic implications that can last for a generation.

Within the Pentagon, the battle for resources is fought between the four military services, the Joint Staff and the Office of the Secretary of Defense staff. As part of our nation's smallest service, the Marine Corps staff often is outnumbered. Nevertheless, what it lacks in numbers, it makes up for with initiative, ingenuity, hard work and a mindset that knows only mission accomplishment as the acceptable end state. Every day, the HQMC staff

fight battles against entities that throughout the Corps' history have at times threatened our very existence.

There is one ally that the Marine Corps has been able to rely upon in the fight for resources: the U.S. Congress. Within HQMC, there is one office—the Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA)—whose sole mission is to interface with Congress in order to help the Commandant and the Corps prevail in the daily, monthly and annual resource battles that garner the necessary means to man, train and equip the Corps' operating forces and supporting establishment.

OLA has a unique mission with many functions, and the role the office plays in the legislative process ensures that the Marine Corps not only endures, but remains true to its congressionally mandated role as America's premier crisis response force—the force that is most ready when our nation is least ready. Today, there is tremendous pressure to reduce the size of the military in order to save money



**Capt Erin Ashford, left, the visits officer for Officer Candidates School, and Capt Carla Gerlach, second from left, plans and policy officer, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., escort congressional chiefs of staff on a tour of OCS during the Navy and Marine Corps Caucus Staff Delegation visit on Dec. 12, 2012. Maj Kenneth Jones, legislative liaison, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, second from right, and Maj Janine Garner, Office of Legislative Affairs, far right, also participated in the tour.**

LCPL ANTHONY L. JEFFERSON, USMC

during a time of fiscal austerity. To the Marines who served during and immediately after World War II, these conditions might seem remarkably familiar: In the two-year period following WW II, the Marine Corps was reduced from a wartime high of more than 485,000 personnel to 90,000. There were calls for a further downsizing of the Marine Corps or possible absorption into the Army in order to gain efficiency and to eliminate a “second land army.”

Because of the Corps’ outstanding reputation as America’s “911 force,” and most recently, superb performances in Iraq and Afghanistan (all while continuing forward-deployed Marine expeditionary units and performing “Phase Zero” shaping operations across the Western Pacific), the question is no longer one of existence, but one of ensuring the Marine Corps’ continued relevance and effectiveness. Those can only be achieved by ensuring that Congress, the provider of funds and authorities for the military, understands the Corps and its roles and missions as part of the joint force. This can only happen if the Marine Corps cultivates a healthy relationship with elected representatives and their professional staffs.

By providing timely accurate information and frank, open feedback to Congress as they execute their constitutionally mandated roles in authorization, appropriation and oversight, the Commandant is able to gain the funding and authorities necessary to provide ready, trained Marine forces to the combatant commanders.

The mission of interfacing between the Corps and Congress falls to the Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs within HQMC. OLA coordinates with all Marine Corps agencies to inform Congress on Marine Corps matters, responds to congressional inquiries, supports the preparation of key leaders for testimony and supports congressional travel.

OLA was created in 1952 to establish and maintain a relationship between Congress and the Marine Corps with particular emphasis on constituent matters. The Constitution of the United States clearly articulates the role of Congress in governing the Armed Forces, and OLA’s primary mission is to ensure Congress has the information required to do that. As such, OLA is directly responsible to the Commandant in order to ensure that the CMC’s priorities and perspectives are understood on the Hill.

During the past 30 years, as the needs of Congress and the Marine Corps have changed, so too has OLA. The organization now has Marines stationed in the Pentagon, on Capitol Hill and in Legislative Affairs Offices within various Marine

Corps organizations throughout the country. Approximately 50 Marines and civilians constitute the OLA staff under the direction of a brigadier general—whose title is legislative assistant to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. He and his staff are the “face” of the Marine Corps to the legislative branch. They meet with congressional members and their staffs several times a week and routinely attend congressional hearings and provide information requested by congressional members.

In the current era of fiscal constraint, OLA must work harder than ever to ensure that CMC’s priorities are understood on

Much, although certainly not all, of OLA’s work deals with providing information to the members and professional staff of the Armed Services Committees of both the House and Senate. Congressional liaison Marines provide an escort function to members and professional staff as they execute their oversight visits. Member travel is called a congressional delegation or “CODEL,” and professional staff member trips are known as “STAFFDELS.” The professional staff writes the bill language that becomes law; they are very hardworking and important members of the congressional defense establishment and should always be



**GySgt Jason Dean, a Department of Defense fellow for the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, speaks with Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska at the Russell Senate Office Building during the committee’s Tots drive on Dec. 3, 2014. (Photo by Cpl Sarah Luna, USMC)**

Capitol Hill. To facilitate this communication, OLA uses various functional “lines of operation” (LOO) that include Pentagon, House and Senate Liaison (with their respective liaison officers), specially trained Congressional Fellows, congressional engagement events and dedicated written congressional correspondence. Each LOO provides a unique function.

### House and Senate Liaison Offices

The Legislative Liaison Offices are the Marine Corps’ ambassadors to Capitol Hill in both the House of Representatives and Senate. These small offices are located in the Rayburn House Office Building and the Russell Senate Office Building on Capitol Hill. Each liaison office is directed by a colonel, who leads a hand-selected team of enlisted and officer liaisons. These Marines provide a critical set of services to the Corps and Congress. They work with HQMC offices to facilitate information flow to and from member offices and the offices of the many congressional committees.

treated with the same level of respect as a member of Congress. By investing the time to develop close personal relationships with members of Congress and their staffs, OLA can help them make informed decisions that benefit the Marine Corps.

Lines of communication are vital to maintain in any operating environment, and OLA is no exception. When Congress asks HQMC for the critical resources it needs—timely and accurate information—they get it—so they can make good decisions to provide the Marine Corps the critical resources it needs.

### Liaison Officers

Understanding the progress that our key investment programs (e.g., for procurement, research and development of weapons systems and capabilities), personnel initiatives and family support programs are a key part of congressional oversight. In order to support Congress in this effort, OLA uses several liaison officers who come from a variety of mili-

tary occupational specialties and a variety of career experiences that represent the Marine Air-Ground Task Force. This hand-picked core group provides OLA the opportunity to leverage its collective expertise in order to create a shared understanding of CMC's priorities to Congress. These include the Marines in the Capitol Hill liaison offices and those in the Pentagon and offices around the Corps.

OLA liaison officers are the primary interface between Congress and HQMC for all Marine Corps programs and requirements, to include aviation platforms (both manned and unmanned), amphibious ships, ground tactical/combat vehicles, ground equipment, weapon systems and personal protective equipment. Other liaison officers focus on cyberspace, intelligence, facilities sustainment, military construction and personnel initiatives. In short, if a Marine wears it, rides in it, fires

justify funding requests by outlining system capabilities and development/procurement profiles throughout the five-year budget plan. These briefs are a key tool in ensuring Marine Corps programs receive their required funding in the yearly budget cycle and arm congressional staff members with the knowledge needed to make recommendations to their members of Congress on how to use finite resources to satisfy many different needs.

Prior to passing the yearly budget laws, Congress calls key senior leaders to testify to various defense-related committees and their subcommittees to brief senators and congressmen on the state of our Corps and answer their questions. These hearings help Congress understand why requested resources are needed. OLA liaison officers assist and prepare the Commandant, the Assistant Commandant and Deputy Commandants for this congress-

production facilities to gauge the progress of developmental systems working their way through the acquisition process. Some trips are international and allow legislators and their staffs to visit forward-deployed Marines in all parts of the world and observe them as they perform operational missions.

### Congressional Fellowship Program

Personal communication and the development of strong relationships on Capitol Hill are essential in order for OLA to effectively educate and inform members of Congress, their office staff, and professional committee staff members on Marine Corps warfighting capabilities and mission requirements. Another essential component of achieving success is the Congressional Fellowship Program (CFP), which offers a unique opportunity for officers, staff noncommissioned officers and civilian Marines to serve in a congressional office, represent the Marine Corps and gain an intimate perspective and understanding of the legislative process.

Marines have served as fellows in the offices of either congressional members or committees for more than 15 years. Today, the Department of Defense establishes the policy for the Legislative Fellowship Program and tasks the secretaries of the military departments to manage their individual programs and maintain overall compliance with DOD intent. The assistant secretary of defense for legislative affairs determines which members of Congress and committees are best served with the assignment of a DOD fellow and works with each branch of the Armed Forces to assign fellows to an eligible legislative office. Fifteen of the 100 authorized congressional fellows who serve each congressional year are Marines.

Historically, OLA solicited interest in the CFP through release of a Marine Administrative Message as an independent Special Education Program (SEP). In June 2011, the Commandant of the Marine Corps approved changes to combine multiple SEPs into the Commandant's Professional Intermediate-Level Education Board (CPIB) and the Commandant's Career-Level Education Board (CCLEB)—so it is through these boards that congressional fellow candidates are identified.

Nominees for the fellowship program are not expected to be experts in the legislative process but must possess the intellect, drive and temperament to succeed in the dynamic and high-profile Capitol Hill environment. After initial selection via the CPIB/CCLEB, all applicants are subject to a final interview by an OLA panel to gauge disposition and the ability to effectively communicate and



LCP1 JACOB BIZJIC, USMC

**BGen David J. Furness, Legislative Assistant to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and the Italian Ambassador, Claudio Bisogniero, speak with a guest at the Sunset Parade reception at the Women in the Military Service for America Memorial in Arlington, Va., July 15, 2014. BGen Furness and his Marines interface with Congress on a daily basis to ensure its members and professional staffers understand the Corps' roles and missions.**

in combat, or his or her family needs it, OLA liaison officers are actively engaged to ensure that Congress clearly understands the Marine Corps' requirements, the current and projected status of the program and the funding necessary to support it.

Immediately following the president's annual budget submission, OLA's liaisons coordinate program briefs for House and Senate Armed Services Committees and their staff members. Provided by Marine program managers from Naval Air Systems Command and Marine Corps Systems Command, these briefs articulate and

professional testimony, most frequently in support of the annual budget request. As questions arise throughout the legislative process, liaison officers also coordinate key engagements on Capitol Hill, linking Marine Corps subject matter experts with professional staff members or members of Congress.

Finally, OLA liaison officers coordinate travel for members of Congress and their staffs who visit various Marine Corps activities and units to observe fielded systems in operation in order to get user-level feedback on actual system performance. They also visit test ranges and



CPL KATHY NUÑEZ, USMC

**Congressional staff members enthusiastically participated in static displays during OLA's annual Marine Day, May 15, 2015, at MCB Quantico, Va. Marine Day is dedicated to teaching congressional staffers about the Corps' history, ethos and warfighting capabilities.**

represent the Marine Corps. Marines selected trade their Marine pattern digital camouflage for the “congressional camouflage” of business suits for 12 months with their assignment to the office of a representative or senator. Following their fellowship, they have a two-year tour in HQMC. This arrangement leverages the knowledge and experience gained by each Marine’s time on Capitol Hill.

Each member’s office is a unique environment and each fellow’s experiences will vary based on the needs and desires of the congressman or senator they serve. As members of the congressional office, fellows typically work on multiple port-

folios (e.g., defense, veterans affairs, trade, foreign affairs, homeland security, intelligence, transportation, environmental/space science, technology and/or welfare/Social Security), coordinate travel, draft correspondence for proposed legislation and meet with constituents and concerned interest groups. To help prepare for their assignments, fellows undergo Marine Corps specific training that includes briefs on current and future programs and policy, DOD structure and individual service roles and programs (to include National Guard and Reserve), and legislative seminars offered by the Congressional Research Service and Govern-

ment Affairs Institute at Georgetown University. As a past fellow has commented, the CFP provides a truly exceptional opportunity to “view the legislative process from within.”

### Correspondence Section

Due to the large number of congressional inquiries that OLA receives from Congress, a correspondence section was set up within OLA to deal with this specific aspect of congressional interaction. This section’s primary role is to ensure that members of Congress receive the information they need—expeditiously. At any one time, the OLA correspondence section may be handling hundreds of inquiries dealing with everything from awards issues for WW II Marines to helping transitioned Marines receive educational benefits.

A major task in this section is to research each subject and try to get to the heart of the problem to accurately provide the inquiring Congress member with correct information so he or she can respond to his or her constituent with a quality and satisfactory answer. The correspondence section works hard to meet each assigned timeline and maintain a well-respected relationship with legislators and their

**Ty R. Littau, a congressional staffer for Senator John Thune of South Dakota, fires an M240B machine gun during Marine Day on May 15, 2015.**



CPL LENA WAKAYAMA, USMC

staff. Composed of uniformed and civilian Marines, the members of the OLA correspondence section are professionals, many of whom have handled thousands of cases over many years of experience.

### Special Events

Relationships with legislators and their staffs are essential if the Marine Corps is to build a strong foundation of trust with Congress. OLA actively seeks opportunities to demonstrate the capabilities of the operating forces for congressional members and their staffs. These events range from capability demonstrations to observation of exercises to participation in larger-scale annual events such as a Fleet Week or Marine Day. As a result, members of Congress and their staffs are able to meet Marines, learn what they do and get a close-up look at the Corps' capabilities.

Each year OLA hosts a Marine Day and invites more than 400 professional and personal staff members to attend. This year's Marine Day included a visit to the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va.; an opportunity to shoot Marine Corps weapon systems on a range at nearby Marine Corps Base Quantico; and a flight in an MV-22 Osprey. The event allows congressional staff members to learn about the equipment Marines use and better understand the importance of properly resourcing the Marine Corps' operational needs.

Other OLA-sponsored events include smaller activities such as congressional breakfasts with key Marine leaders and ceremonies that allow members of Congress to witness cherished Marine Corps traditions. Perennial favorites include Sunset and Evening Parades, as well as the OLA-hosted Marine Corps Birthday ceremonies held in the House and the Senate on Capitol Hill.

### The "Payoff"

The end result of all these efforts is an educated and informed legislature that understands the present needs of the Marine Corps (in the case of the budget, resources for the next fiscal year) as well as those required future capabilities essential to maintaining its status as the nation's premier force in readiness. There are two key activities that Congress performs each year in order to give the Marine Corps the resources it needs. First, Congress authorizes funding and other needed authorities for the Marine Corps portion of the defense budget via the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA); second, Congress appropriates funding via the annual Defense Appropriations Bill. These two key authorizations dictate how much the Marine Corps is allowed

to spend, what that money can be spent on and how much funding actually will be received.

The NDAA is one of the biggest and most significant bills OLA facilitates. Based on the president's annual budget request, the NDAA is a federal law that specifies the budget allowed for DOD. This bill also authorizes salaries and benefits and includes guidelines for funding the development and procurement of war-fighting systems such as aircraft, weapons, ships and vehicles. It is the NDAA that authorizes the hundreds of millions of dollars needed for things like ammunition and construction of facilities. In some cases, such as the Joint Strike Fighter and the Amphibious Combat Vehicle, these



**Gen Alexander A. Vandegrift, 18th Commandant of the Marine Corps, in his famous "Bended Knee Speech" to the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs, May 6, 1946, stated, "The Marine Corps, then, believes that it has earned this right to have its future decided by the legislative body which created it." His efforts ensured the future of the Corps and laid the foundation for the healthy relationship between the Corps and Congress today.**

authorities account for billions of dollars. In a given year, Congress authorizes approximately \$25 billion to man, train, equip and operate our Marine Corps.

### Conclusion

In order to counter efforts to downsize the Corps after WW II, General Alexander A. Vandegrift, 18th Commandant of the Marine Corps, in 1946 gave his famous "Bended Knee Speech" to the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs, stating: "The Congress has always been the nation's traditional safeguard against any precipitate action calculated to lead the country into trouble. In its capacity as a balanced

wheel, this Congress has on five occasions since the year 1829 reflected the voice of the people in examining and casting aside a motion which would damage or destroy the United States Marine Corps. In each instance, on the basis of its demonstrated value and usefulness alone, Congress has perpetuated the Marine Corps as a purely American investment in continued security."

Gen Vandegrift's speech had the desired effect. Congress, which at the time had more than 50 Marine veterans serving in the House of Representatives and the Senate, established by law the Marine Corps as an independent service within the Department of the Navy, protecting the Corps by mandating its force structure and unique mission into Title 10, United States Code.

In this legendary speech, Gen Vandegrift concluded, "The value of the Marine Corps is so obvious that its destruction is unthinkable." With these words, Gen Vandegrift saved the Marine Corps. The lessons learned from that experience cannot be forgotten. By ensuring the Marine Corps is properly understood and supported by Congress, it will likely never have to face a similar fate in the future.

As the smallest service with a unique set of missions, the Marine Corps has had to continually demonstrate and justify its relevancy. The Corps has been "the first to fight" throughout much of the 20th century and continues to do so in the 21st. In the past year, Marines have answered the nation's call in Africa against the scourge of Ebola; in Iraq, training Iraqi soldiers to defend their country and to defeat ISIS; and in Nepal, assisting with disaster relief following a devastating earthquake. It is this versatility and responsiveness that endears the Marine Corps to the American people and continues to reinforce what Lieutenant General Victor H. Krulak famously declared when he said: "America doesn't need a Marine Corps; America wants a Marine Corps."

In today's challenging and dynamic fiscal environment, interacting with a Congress that has a mandate to rein in federal spending, OLA continues to promote open lines of communications between the Corps and Congress in order to create a shared understanding of the Commandant's priorities. Through OLA, the Marine Corps can maintain strong relationships with members of Congress, their staff and those who work in and around Capitol Hill. In doing so, OLA helps to guarantee that Marines are positioned to fight and win when called upon, ensuring that Americans will always want a Marine Corps.





# HONOR, COURAGE *and* COMMITMENT USMC TRIBUTE RING

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Our "Honor, Courage and Commitment" USMC Tribute Ring is individually crafted in solid sterling silver with 18K gold plating, and features the Marine Corps emblem of eagle, globe and anchor in raised relief against a custom-cut genuine black onyx center stone. The striking contrast of silver and gold continues in the rope borders that surround the central emblem and the sculpted eagles on each side. Adding to the meaning and value, the ring is engraved inside the band with: *Honor • Courage • Commitment and United States Marines.*

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A bold statement of everything Marines stand for, this custom ring comes in a deluxe wood case with a plaque engraved with the same words that are on the ring, and includes a Certificate of Authenticity. An exceptional value at \$249\*, you can pay for your ring in 6 easy installments of \$41.50. To reserve yours, backed by our unconditional 120-day guarantee, send no money now. Just mail the Reservation Application. But hurry... this edition is strictly limited to only 5,000!

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values of the United States Marines

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with engraved plaque

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# Leatherneck Laffs



"His lists have been very helpful."



"You need a darn *hair* cut!"



"Everyone likes a snowman in uniform."

# BOOT CAMP

S. J. Stout



"You know what George Washington said to his men at the Delaware River?  
Get in the boat!"



"Football game?"  
"No, we're watching Congressional Military Appropriations hearings."

# Toys for Tots Literacy Program

## 16 Million Books for Needy Children



Children receive books and toys at a Toys for Tots function at the Martin De Porres School in Rockaway, N.Y. The Scholastic Possible Fund donated 1,000 books for the event. Scholastic is a publisher and distributor of children's books.

By Arthur P. Brill Jr.

**W**hile distributing unwrapped new toys to less fortunate children at Christmas is the primary mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, literacy is also a focus of the organization's dedicated efforts. Since its inception in 2008, the "under-the-radar" Toys for Tots Literacy Program has provided almost 16 million books to needy American children.

"When we talk about toys, we also include books," said Lieutenant General Henry P. "Pete" Osman, USMC (Ret), who started the literacy program in his first year as the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation president. "Since we gave books with the toys over the years, we formalized that process."

The multifaceted Toys for Tots Literacy Program includes giving books to needy kids at Christmas. However, it also is a year-round operation that provides books to elementary schools, often when tragedy

strikes. When Superstorm Sandy hit New York and New Jersey in 2012, the foundation replaced entire libraries in many schools.

"Large book companies and smaller children's publishers give us sizeable book donations. We averaged 2 million books a year and zoomed to more than 4 million last year," said LtGen Osman. "We also work closely with The UPS Store, our primary literacy sponsor."

About 50 percent of the 4,500 UPS Store Inc. franchises have coin collection boxes, and many sponsor book drives. Since 2008, The UPS Store Inc. has contributed \$3.4 million to the Toys for Tots Literacy Program.

"We're not in the business of teaching literacy, but we can help provide the tools to do that," said Tim Davis, president of The UPS Store Inc., a veteran Marine infantry officer and current Toys for Tots board member. "Literacy has no chance without a book."

Patti Winter, a UPS store owner, goes

the extra mile to promote literacy. In five years, her book drives at Milwaukee Bucks basketball games, coin collection boxes and other literacy events have resulted in the distribution of 30,000 books to Milwaukee, Wis.-area kids. She oversees 26 other franchises, primarily in the Milwaukee area. Her region extends 150 miles north to Green Bay and includes three Toys for Tots campaign coordinators.

"I so enjoy seeing the smiles on the kids' faces. They love getting books. The Marines get a huge kick out of it, too," Winter said. "Not many people are attracted to UPS employees at a Bucks game, but the Marines are a huge draw. They are always excited to get involved and hang out with the Bucks."

Since most of the books are presented at Christmas, the Toys for Tots culture plays a big role. First, last and foremost, Toys for Tots is a Marine program. "We have a good working relationship with Marine Forces Reserve. The Marines in those Reserve units make it work," said



COURTESY OF TOYS FOR TOTS

A veteran Marine volunteers with the Toys for Tots Native American Program, which provides toys and books to children in Native American communities.



COURTESY OF THE UPS STORE

Patti Winter, The UPS Store Toys for Tots Literacy Program coordinator in the Milwaukee, Wis., area, was honored at the company's national convention in July 2015 in Dallas, Texas. She appears with (left to right) Tim Davis, president, The UPS Store; LtGen Henry P. "Pete" Osman, USMC (Ret), president, Marine Toys for Tots Foundation; and Jim Hillquist, vice president of operations, The UPS Store. The company is the primary sponsor of the Toys for Tots Literacy Program.

LtGen Osman. "Toys for Tots is their program, and we're here to support them."

Secondly, Toys for Tots is one of the most popular charities in America. Who doesn't want to help needy children at Christmas? Its nonpolitical, noncontroversial message receives White House support, no matter the officeholder, and that image filters down throughout the country.

Currently ranked as one of the top 100 largest U.S. charities, Toys for Tots' 97-3 "program-to-support ratio" [how

much of the dollar goes to the programs compared to overhead] is the envy of the not-for-profit-sharing world. Its 3 percent overhead mainly goes to fundraising costs, i.e., direct mail.

"We touch 3 to 4 million homes each year and reach over 7 million children," said LtGen Osman. "Most families have several kids who wouldn't otherwise have a Christmas or [would have] a pretty diminished one."

Together with the six regional super-

visors, the staff of mostly retired or veteran Marines working for the Toys for Tots Foundation oversees 790 unpaid campaign coordinators who manage 36,000 volunteers throughout the nation. The 155 Marine Reserve coordinators in large cities handle about two-thirds of the national demand and are heavily supported with toys and books from the foundation headquarters in Triangle, Va.

"Children's literacy depends on the number of words they hear daily. Access to books makes hearing more words possible. Those without books have a vocabulary deficit," said Carrie Heflin, an experienced pre-kindergarten teacher for the prestigious Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center in Washington, D.C. "Reading a book to a child or letting them explore a book on their own automatically teaches them literacy skills. When people read to them, children hear inflections and tone. They bond with the reader and see that words go from left to right and top to bottom on a page. Children need these basic skills to advance. Books also make stories possible."

LtGen Osman is encouraging the large book companies to continue their huge in-



COURTESY OF TOYS FOR TOTS

**While most Americans are very familiar with Toys for Tots, many don't realize that promoting literacy is a goal of the foundation. The Toys for Tots Literacy Program has served American children by providing more than 16 million books since 2008.**



JEROME A. POLLOS/COEUR D'ALENE PRESS

Linda Rohlinger and her son, Kyle, then 11 months old. This photo appeared in a 2007 *Coeur d'Alene Press* article about Rohlinger's first year of collecting books for the local Marine Toys for Tots campaign. She now raises enough funds to donate 8,000 to 10,000 books a year.

kind donations of books. As this story went to press, Bendon Publishing announced it would donate \$10 million in books to Toys for Tots in 2015. The larger campaigns normally receive those shipments. The smaller ones fend for themselves.

"I encourage coordinators to give a book along with toys. I don't say, 'You will' because I can't," said LtGen Osman. "Many depend to a great extent on the books they get from the local community."

Ron Bell, the Toys for Tots coordinator in picturesque Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, doesn't worry about books. He has Linda Rohlinger. She has supplied books to the charity for the past eight years. Rohlinger and her husband, George, moved to the resort town in Idaho from Santa Monica, Calif., in 2007 with their infant son, Kyle. Once settled, Linda searched for a worthwhile volunteer project. The new mom and two-time "Ironman" had energy to burn after working 21 years in Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles, Calif., in such high-powered jobs as DIRECTV's director of corporate communications.

"Since George and I both have Marine fathers, I contacted the local Toys for Tots coordinator. He said they give books only with extra money, and the norm was one book per family to share, no matter the age," recalled Rohlinger. "I knew we could do better. I believe in the power of books and started reading to Kyle when he was in my belly.

"In that very first conversation [with the Toys for Tots coordinator]," Rohlinger

continued, "he agreed that I would supply the books, and we jointly named the local project, 'Books for Tots.' "

Rohlinger's goal in 2007 was one age-appropriate new book per child, and through creative fundraising projects, she raised the money to buy the books.



COURTESY OF TOYS FOR TOTS

**While distributing toys to children during the holidays is still the primary goal of Toys for Tots, its efforts have expanded to also include providing books to elementary schools throughout the year.**

"That first year, we used the Christmas party model where a host asks guests to bring something to donate. We were new to town and could invite 40 people," remembered Rohlinger. "Instead of our house, the Bardenay's restaurant manager agreed to provide appetizers with a cash bar for two hours in midweek. Everyone brought a book to the reception, and that's how it started. That event has blossomed since, particularly our silent auction. One year, a guest brought 100 new books."

Eight years later, Rohlinger's appeals have attracted four corporate sponsors and a team of eight volunteers. She now collects 8,000 to 10,000 new books annually, and each needy child will receive three to four books from Toys for Tots this Christmas.

Coeur d'Alene kicks off the 2015 holiday season on the Friday night after Thanksgiving with its jam-packed annual holiday lights parade, lighting ceremony and fireworks display. The following day, Ron Bell's local Marine Toys for Tots campaign opens for business. Volunteers help families register at the American Legion Post.

Families pick up their gift bags at the distribution center at a Kootenai County Fire Department facility. The modern building sits below foothills topped by tall evergreens and a magnificent blue sky. Inside is a reception area and front desk manned by volunteers. Behind a curtain is Bell's warehouse area. Several fire vehicles stand to the side, but there is

## It's Christmas Every Day at Marine Toys for Tots Foundation Headquarters



ARTHUR P. BRILL JR.



**William L. "Bill" Hendricks**  
**Founder, Toys for Tots**

ARTHUR P. BRILL JR.



ARTHUR P. BRILL JR.

**Above left: Maj William J. "Bill" Grein, USMC (Ret), outgoing Marine Toys for Tots Foundation marketing and development vice president, points to a historical Toys for Tots poster in the Cooper Center's colorful display room.**

**Above right: The portrait of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots founder, Col William L. "Bill" Hendricks, USMCR, hangs in the Cooper Center display room. The Oscar he received in 1961 is also on display in the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation headquarters.**

Want to get into the Christmas spirit early? Try visiting the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation's headquarters building on a blistering 95-degree day in August. Located in Triangle, Va., about a mile from the main gate for Marine Corps Base Quantico, the 17 employees in the Cooper Center think Christmas 24/7.

The Cooper Center is a pleasant and roomie workplace. The pale-red brick, three-story, 10,000-square-foot building is named after retired Marine Lieutenant General Matthew T. "Terry" Cooper, who took over the foundation two years after it became an operational organization and supported Toys for Tots for the first time in 1991. [Back then, LtGen Cooper and Maj William J. "Bill" Grein, USMC (Ret), currently vice president of marketing and development, were Marine Toys for Tots Foundation's only employees.] LtGen Cooper purchased the office building with part of a \$15 million endowment donated by an anonymous donor. The building and its lifetime maintenance are paid completely off. Cooper planned extra space for the organization to expand.

"We're a \$250 to \$280 million-a-year enterprise being run by 17 headquarters people and thousands of volunteers," said retired Marine LtGen Henry P. "Pete" Osman, current president and CEO of the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation.

A decorated Christmas tree greets visitors to the Cooper Center. The glass-enclosed display room in the foyer is a

delightful look at the organization's history. Santa's red coat is draped over the jutting door of a wooden locker containing a Marine sergeant's dress blues, greens, utilities, assorted covers and a campaign hat.

The 24-karat-gold-plated, 8½-pound Oscar statue awarded to William L. "Bill" Hendricks in 1961 sits in an Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences-mandated airtight glass case. Hendricks, a Marine Reserve colonel and well-known Warner Brothers executive during Hollywood's heyday, founded the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots in 1947.

Framed "Dear Bill" letters from film stars Joan Crawford, Burt Lancaster and Ginger Rogers are hung beneath his portrait. The early publicity posters and the original red three-car-train Toys for Tots logo designed by Walt Disney are displayed with commendations from former first lady Pat Nixon and other celebrities.

On Dec. 23, the Cooper Center's offices will close shop and celebrate the current Christmas campaign with an all-hands lunch at the Globe & Laurel Restaurant, a popular local watering hole owned by veteran Marine, Maj Richard T. "Rick" Spooner, USMC (Ret). After taking a few days to celebrate the holiday, the hard work starts all over again.

"Our 2016 Christmas starts on Dec. 26," said LtGen Osman.

—Arthur P. Brill Jr.

plenty of room for the numerous 8-foot picnic tables stacked with toys and books sorted by ages and gender of recipients. The tables holding books also will have books piled underneath. Bell's wife, Janet, runs the warehouse, and it takes her a week to set up. Bell helps, but he's often in town raising money.

"What we give out is based on the money we receive locally, except for the few toy packages we receive from

the Marine Corps," said Bell, a Marine infantry officer in Vietnam. Bell spent 30 years with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department before moving to Idaho 10 years ago. This is his third season as Toys for Tots coordinator. "This eats me for about two months."

Among Bell's 40 carefully chosen volunteers are members of the local Marine Corps League's "Pappy" Boyington Detachment. Ten two-person teams

place 100 toy donation boxes throughout Kootenai County and frequently unload them. Others pack and sack in the distribution center.

"In an ideal world, we try to give every child a book and two toys of their own, and that would be a great Christmas," said LtGen Osman. "That's the guidance we give the coordinators, and they do the best they can."

The needy children in Kootenai County



COURTESY OF TOYS FOR TOTS

Marine reservists distribute stuffed bears donated by Build-A-Bear Workshop at its flagship store in New York City.

certainly have a brighter Christmas.

“Last year, each family got a game, and every child received three toys, stocking stuffers and three books,” said Bell. “This season, Linda may give more books. She’s absolutely our primary book effort, and we’re her delivery mechanism. It’s a great partnership.”

Books are a year-round project for Rohlinger. She constantly keeps abreast of children’s book titles and roams store aisles looking for good deals on books. Six years ago she created “Kids Helping Kids” where parents take their children to a local bookstore to pick out a book to donate to a needy child. The project teaches kids to give back. Businesses now involve their employees in the growing program.

“This past August, I purchased 140 books off the Scholastic website [a leading children’s book publisher and Toys for Tots literacy supporter]. They had a series of books I thought the Toys for Tots kids would like at a very reasonable price,” said Rohlinger. “When I see a good deal on a book or a series of books, I’ll purchase them. This summer, I got 20 copies of ‘Little Women’ for a dollar each at Target. That’s a fantastic price for solid softcover books.”

In early December, Rohlinger heads to the Scholastic Books semiannual sale in its large Spokane Valley warehouse. She divides her eight book-loving volunteers into two-mom teams, and each team will buy books for a different age category.

“Searching through those shelves is an all-day affair. We need quantity and quality, so we must be selective,” said Rohlinger, who receives a substantial discount. “I want to spend everything our supporters donated in November and early December. We’ll buy 3,000 to 5,000 books on this trip. The hard part is ringing the books up. I have a total amount to spend. If it’s lower than that, back to the stacks we go. Another hurdle is lugging 5,000 books back to the ... distribution center. George helps, but it takes the team several trips.”

A visit to the Rohlinger household is revealing. Boxes of books are stacked in the garage. Many neighbors on the Spokane River’s northern shore are regular Toys for Tots book contributors; some are Linda Rohlinger’s volunteers. Inside, photos of Marines are abundant, and a huge picture window reveals speeding pleasure boats and jet skis on the water. Near the fireplace, Kyle, now 8, is reading “I Survived 9/11.”

Perhaps someday he’ll read “I Survived

Iwo Jima.” Kyle’s grandfather, Corporal Joe Rohlinger, served in Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone’s ill-fated machine-gun platoon on Iwo Jima. Sent aboard ship in the final days, his unit was summoned to return to the island to search for snipers. Cpl Rohlinger was wounded severely. He recovered months later, raised a loving family and lived a successful life, and now his descendants continue his tradition of service.

“I believe in this book program with every fiber of my being. I’ve seen the impact books have on the life of a child. Other kids deserve the same lift,” Linda Rohlinger said. “If one of these books at Christmas helps a child learn the importance of reading, then we have done our job.”

*Author’s bio: Retired Marine LtCol Arthur P. Brill Jr. has written more than 70 feature articles about Marines for Leatherneck and defense publications. He commanded a rifle company in Vietnam and later was the Corps’ press spokesman. He was a media spokesman in key positions for the Carter and Reagan administrations.*



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## SEA STORY OF THE MONTH

### To Tell the Truth

It was 1961, and I was back on active duty as an acting sergeant after a number of years in the inactive Reserve. My unit at Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, Calif., was undergoing an Inspector General formation. I was leading the first rank in the formation when the IG, a colonel, stopped in front of me and said, "Sergeant, have you seen the new training film on the M60 machine gun?"

"No, sir, I just returned to active duty and am somewhat out-of-date in some areas," I replied.

Without further comment, he moved on to the sergeant leading the second rank and repeated the question, receiving the reply, "Yes, sir."

"Did you find it informative?" the colonel asked.

The sergeant answered, "Yes, sir."

The colonel then said, "Sergeant, that's very interesting, since I haven't released it yet."

Dr. Roger Peterson  
USMC, 1952-68  
Ypsilanti, Mich.

### Last Order Given

It was 2007 and I was in boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., in Platoon 2017. Our platoon was doing Marine Corps Martial Arts Program training, and everyone paired up with a buddy. Because we had an odd number of recruits, I was by myself. I was doing the best I could by myself when the company first sergeant yelled: "Recruit Troxel, front and center!" At a full sprint, I ran to him and reported in. When he asked

what I was doing, I said, "This recruit had no battle buddy to train with!"

After looking around, the first sergeant told me, with a smile on his face, to go kick down a large power pole that was nearby. So I said, "Sir, yes, sir!"

I ran some 120 yards to the pole and started kicking it. After a bit, I looked up to see that my platoon was gone. Sticking to my last order given, I practiced kicking and punching that pole until a drill instructor from a different platoon walked up and asked me where my platoon was. After telling him, I was walked back to the chow hall where my platoon was eating dinner. I had spent five hours kicking a damn power pole.

Ben Troxel  
USMC, 2007-13  
Hazlehurst, Miss.

### My "Hiding Spot"

In late 1966, I received orders to go from Twentynine Palms, Calif., to Camp Smith, Hawaii. Following my orders to the letter, I flew from San Francisco, Calif., to Seattle, Wash., to Tokyo, Japan, and finally, Camp Hansen, Okinawa. Instead of sending me to Hawaii, the officer in charge at the transit barracks decided that since Vietnam was so close and Hawaii was so far away, he would change my orders and send me to Chu Lai.

After I had been in Vietnam two or three months, two Marines in dress blues knocked on my mother's front door. Mom was somewhat upset for she was sure they were going to tell her that I was dead or wounded. Instead, they told her I was "UA" for not reporting to Camp Smith.

She explained where I was "hiding" and advised them to "look for a tall guy wearing green clothes." She was later informed that all charges were being dropped.

Sgt E.M. Smith  
USMC, 1964-70  
Sun Valley, Nev.

### The "Refrigerator"

In 1967, I was ordered to monitor radios in a large building in Chu Lai, Vietnam. To describe this place, it looked like what might be called a "war room." Every Marine platoon and operation in our sector was closely monitored in that building. There were numerous PRC-25 radios that were in touch with Marines in the field. I was a radio operator assigned to one of the platoons in 1st Reconnaissance Battalion and was ordered to stand watch temporarily in the building in lieu of going out into the field with my platoon.

The radio I was ordered to monitor was right next to an air conditioner. I was flabbergasted! I couldn't believe I was taken out of the field in Vietnam and ordered to sit monitoring a radio right next to an air conditioner!

The guy next to me and I figured out a way to disassemble the front of the air conditioner so we could hide a couple of cans of Coke down inside. After about an hour or so, we had an ice-cold Coke! Everything went along fine until one day when I reached for a Coke and accidentally knocked it down inside the air conditioner. The air conditioner started making a grinding sound and quit working. A gunnery sergeant quickly ran over, took it apart and discovered

what we had been doing. He fixed it, but boy, were we in trouble. Using many colorful phrases, he told us to never again do anything like that with "his" air conditioner. Judging by his demanding demeanor, he meant it!

This gunny liked cigars, so I concocted a plan. I bought a large box of cigars and some more Cokes. Once again, we disassembled "his" air conditioner and hid our Cokes. I then went up to the gunny and gave him the box of cigars as a gift. Boy, did his face light up! He couldn't thank me enough, and he never again said a word about hiding our Cokes in the air conditioner.

Tom Lawton  
USMC, 1965-69  
Green Bay, Wis.

### Where's Their Captain?

In early 1950, I led a dozen Marines to the opening of the movie "Sands of Iwo Jima," in Philadelphia, Pa. I heard the theater manager call out: "Where's their captain?"

Another employee responded: "They don't have a captain. These are Marines. The corporal is in charge."

1stLt Robert McEwen, USMC (Ret)  
Indian Shores, Fla.

### Improvised Drill

It was the summer of 1971 and our unit had been pulled out of Vietnam in April. We were all scattered to the Marine Corps wind, and I, along with one or two of my buddies, ended up at Schools Demonstration Troops at the Marine base at Quantico, Va. Outside of being trained on riot control due to the riots in Washington, D.C., the Marine Corps also liked to conduct inspections. Lo and behold, we were informed there would be

a “general’s inspection” in the coming days, and anyone who received an “outstanding” from the general would be given weekend liberty.

Living off base with my wife of two weeks, I returned to our tiny apartment and informed her that I needed her to starch and iron my skivvies for a footlocker inspection. Giving me the “you’re out of your mind” look, she agreed.

During the footlocker inspection, the general took one look at my footlocker and loudly proclaimed, “Outstanding, Marine.” Then it was on to the drill portion, and somehow I was selected to lead the platoon on close order drill. Flustered, because I had never done it before, I gave an order for a movement that isn’t in the Marine Corps Handbook—an “open ranks” while marching. The minute it left my lips, I knew

the mistake I had made. But, being Marines, the entire platoon reacted and did what they thought an “open ranks” on the move should look like, so naturally, I gave them the command “close ranks,” and wouldn’t you know, they pulled it off flawlessly, considering it didn’t exist.

And that weekend liberty? I showed up in the captain’s office to collect it and received it.

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

### The Wrong Question

During most of my tour in Korea, I was a member of an aircraft retriever team out of K-6 airfield in Pyongtaek. Pilots of damaged aircraft from the squadrons of Marine Aircraft Group 12 were instructed to make it to emergency landing areas. Many of the emergency landing areas were the island beaches off the west

coast of North Korea. Our task was to repair or salvage the downed aircraft.

We were supplied, as needed, by Air Force transports.

On one supply flight, while on Ch’o-Do Island, as we unloaded our supplies we saw that the plane was stocked with cases of beer—something we hadn’t seen in quite a while. We proceeded to help ourselves to several cases and to stow them in our DUKW [amphibious truck].

The following week, the same aircraft and crew landed. The captain singled out a technical sergeant and asked him, “Sergeant, did any of your crew accidentally remove any cases of beer from our aircraft when we were here last week?”

With a completely innocent face, the technical sergeant replied, “Sir, we did not accidentally remove any beer from your airplane.”

I believe the pilot knew he had asked the wrong question. To his credit, and our benefit, he did not pursue the issue.

GySgt William Tunney, USMC (Ret)  
St. Louis, Mo.

*Editor’s note: Do you have an interesting story from your time in the Corps that will give our readers a good chuckle? Maybe it’s a boot camp tale or a good old sea story that will have us in stitches?*

*We would love to hear your stories. Write them down (500 words or less) and send them to: Sara W. Bock, Leatherneck Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or e-mail them to s.bock@mca-marines.org.*

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Iwo Jima MOH Recipient Woody Williams on top of Mt. Suribachi

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Maj Clint Weber, the tactical aviation department head for MAWTS-1, trains in an F/A-18 Hornet during MAWTS-1's spring Weapons and Tactics Instructors Course at MCAS Yuma, Ariz., March 30, 2013.



# Hornet Air-to-Air Tactics

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## Capable, Relevant and Ready for the F-35

By Maj Jason B. Ladd, USMC,  
Capt Omen D. Quelvog, USMC and  
Capt Thomas A. Frey, USMC

**W**hen did Hornets lose the ability to operate jointly? That question was intimated by Major General Robert F. Hedelund when he was the Second Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general at the 2014 Commanders Conference regarding F/A-18 A-D Hornet integration. The conference highlighted a problem that instructor pilots (IPs) at Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One (MAWTS 1) already were trying to solve: how to integrate the Hornet effectively with the F-35 Lightning II and other fighter communities. The general's question pointed toward difficulties of

Marine fighter integration with other services: using different terms and maneuvers for similar tactics during sometimes identical mission sets.

The Hornet has been the Marine Corps' primary fourth-generation fighter/attack aircraft for the last 30 years, and operational requirements demand its continued service until 2030. With the arrival of its replacement, the fifth-generation F-35B Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter, the Marine tactical aviation community faces the challenge of adapting tactics for fourth- and fifth-generation integration.

The Joint Strike Fighter is a transformational program. The 36th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Joseph F. Dunford Jr., highlighted the importance of evolving tactics with a quote from the

Corps' 29th Commandant, Gen Alfred M. Gray. "Like war itself, our approach to warfighting must evolve. If we cease to refine, expand and improve our profession, we risk being outdated, stagnant and defeated. We must win today's battles while evolving, innovating and adapting to win tomorrow's fight."

Gen Dunford also said, "As the nation meets current and future challenges, it will rely heavily on the Marine Corps to be ready, relevant and capable." A fleet of combat-proficient F-35 pilots undoubtedly will provide the solution for those future challenges.

As budgeting, acquisitions and tactics development priorities continue expanding into the realm of the F-35B, the Marines also must keep the Hornet ready, relevant



CPL TRAVIS GERSHANECK, USMC

**Inset: LtGen Jon M. "Dawg" Davis, Deputy Commandant for Aviation, speaks to WTI Course 1-16 on the importance of tactical risk management at MAWTS-1's Memorial Hall aboard MCAS Yuma, Ariz., Sept. 10, 2015. LtGen Davis was a MAWTS-1 instructor for three years in the early 1990s.**

with the development and employment of aviation weapons and tactics. After an extensive evaluation of air-to-air tactics, collaboration between Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force Weapons School IPs and integration of Personnel Exchange Program and Interservice Exchange Program participant feedback, the Marine Corps has adopted an air-to-air plan with increased lethality and survivability for the F/A-18 A-D.

### Capable

The F/A-18 A-D is a proven combat aircraft in the air-to-ground arena. Hornet aircrews have conducted close air support and strike missions in Iraq and Afghanistan and continue to execute strikes in support of coalition forces around the world. As an attack platform, the F/A-18 A-D is fully capable of fulfilling future tasking. However, in the air-to-air arena, the rise of fifth-generation threats and the joint nature of future battles demanded a re-evaluation of the Hornet to maximize its potential.

In order to remain capable in today's networked battlespace, the Hornet must be able to integrate with all other assets on the air tasking order. Known as the Hornet Standard Game Plan (HSGP), the new air-to-air tactics enable aircrew to execute a common mission with other

service platforms yet drastically reduce the amount of mission-planning time spent learning each other's tactics, techniques and procedures.

The Marines realized their air-to-air tactics must be not only better integrated, but better executed—a difficult expectation for a military service already struggling to maintain proficiency in some skill sets threatened by reduced exposure due to maintenance issues. "I am concerned about our readiness," LtGen Davis stated in the 2015 Marine Aviation Plan, referring to the Marines' ability to maintain high states of readiness with legacy gear. "We need to finish our transition to our new platforms as quickly and efficiently as possible."

Giving credence to the proven tactics, the Marines took the most successful aspects of air-to-air employment from across the services and combined them into a single, standardized game plan. LtGen Davis explained the benefits of standardization: "By improving our standardized approach to training, planning and executing, we position ourselves to more effectively adjust from our plans by creating a more solid baseline from which to shift. The more we work on standardization, the more we will force



CPL WILLIAM WATERSTREET, USMC

and capable through the end of its service life. A rigorous process of research and tactical development and evaluation by the staff at MAWTS-1 has revealed a way forward.

"MAWTS-1 is our schoolhouse for the development and sharing of advanced tactics, techniques and procedures [TTP]," said Lieutenant General Jon M. Davis, Deputy Commandant for Aviation. "The Weapons and Tactics Instructor [WTI] course is our first choice for advanced instructor training over all other options." The WTI course provides semiannual, graduate-level training to the Corps' rising leaders, focusing on Marine Air-Ground Task Force integration and large-force exercise planning.

As part of its mission, MAWTS-1 assists

ourselves to look at best practices across Marine aviation and other partners that operate similar gear (think U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy and allies). A standardized approach also consistently creates well-trained aircrew.”

### Relevant

Since executing the new tactics, MAWTS-1 Hornet instructor pilots and the first students to learn the new tactics attrited more enemy fighters with fewer missiles and suffered fewer friendly losses during live and virtual simulations.

Lieutenant Colonel Derek Brannon, the commanding officer of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 122, observed planning and execution of the HSGP as a participant during WTI 2-15 and attested to the effectiveness of the standardization effort. “During WTI, every evolution using HSGP with either fifth-generation or fourth-generation United States Air Force and USMC aircraft was eye-watering and successful,” he said. “It was interesting to see both services on the same page. Briefs focused on the tactical scenario—not the integration—and then they executed lethally and efficiently.”

Students also said positive things about the new tactics. When Major Timothy Farag, an instructor pilot with MAWTS-1, asked how the new tactic affected pre-mission planning with aircrew flying USAF fifth-generation fighters, a WTI student responded, “It was too easy, based on the common terminology and tactics that HSGP brings to the table.”

Additionally, HSGP is yielding new training opportunities. LtCol Brannon pointed out that the common features HSGP shares with USAF air-to-air tactics make it executable for training and open opportunities for mixed-section tactics with all of the Air Force squadrons on the East Coast. Flying similar tactics allows Marine Corps and Air Force fighter elements to augment each other’s training opportunities without sacrificing required flight profiles. In other words, HSGP has created opportunities for more robust and cost-efficient training.

### Ready

The F-35 is a joint program of record with USMC F-35Bs already assigned to VMFA-121, Marine Aircraft Group (MAG) 13 at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Yuma, Ariz., and Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron (VMFAT) 501, MAG-31 at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C. These units are working with the MAWTS-1 F-35 Division at MCAS Yuma, the 422nd Test and Evaluation Squadron (TES) at Nellis AFB, Nev., and the 31st TES at Edwards AFB, Calif.,

to develop and refine the joint F-35 TTP manual. The TTPs contained in that manual reflect training and experience from the F-22, F-15C, F-16, F/A-18 A-F and AV-8B communities.

Additionally, the Marine Corps Inter-service Exchange Program enables selected pilots to master the TTPs of sister services, leading to a mutually beneficial exchange of tactics. VMFA-121, the “Green Knights,” is the Marine Corps’ first Lightning II squadron to reach initial operational capability, and the aircrews who will become the first F-35 weapons and tactics instructors by attending WTI 1-16 and fully integrating with each training event already have been selected.

As tactics evolve in the air-to-air arena, so must communications from the Marines who provide ground-controlled intercept (GCI). The F-35 community is using the Air Force Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (AFTTP 3-1) communication standard as are many of our NATO allies. During WTI 2-15, Tactical Air Operations Center (TAOC) air intercept controllers (AICs) used the AFTTP 3-1 communication standard for the first time with incredibly successful results. Spearheading the integration was TAOC

**Inset: A Marine with VMFA-122 prepares an F/A-18 Hornet before its departure to participate in a WTI Course at MAWTS-1 in Yuma, Ariz., April 8, 2015.**



SGT CODY W.D. HAAS - USMC

Division Chief Gunnery Sergeant Richard White and AIC augments Sergeant Michael Hoxie and Sgt Matthew Crum.

While 3-1 communication can serve specific aircraft, it is built for large-force exercise and combat environments, simplifying the air intercept controller’s job of providing general situational awareness to friendly aircraft. “Three-1 comm is actually a bit easier than TOPGUN control because there are more assumptions when the intercept is going according

to plan—less radio time,” said GySgt White. “If the intercept starts to go south, you tack on more detailed communication to give as much situational awareness to as many pilots, or even a specific pilot, as necessary.”

The new communication procedures are improving AIC integration between Marines and the Air Force. Adopting 3-1 terminology helps align service vocabularies, reducing confusion during mission planning and execution. During



Escorted by Marine Corps Hornets, the Corps' first F-35B flies to its first home with VMFAT-501 at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Jan. 11, 2011. The squadron has since moved to MCAS Beaufort, S.C.

SSGT JOEY SANTIAGO, USIF

the anti-air warfare (AAW) evolutions of WTI 2-15, one Air Force AIC was located on an E-3 airborne warning control system (AWACS) aircraft, while the USMC employed two AICs, one located at the TAOC detachment located in the R2301W training range and one at the Early Warning and Control detachment located in the R2301E training range. Whether the passage of control was planned or unplanned, 3-1 communication transitioned seamlessly from one agency to the next, with F/A-18 aircrews noticing only a call-sign change.

GCI Marines still will learn Navy TOPGUN control. While the 3-1 communication standard will be the primary language in the TAOC, controllers must understand the differences between the two standards of control, especially as Marine AICs integrate aboard Tactical Air Control squadrons and work with Navy AAW platforms.

MAWTS-1 continually reviews and updates Marine air-to-air tactics in order

to integrate new U.S. weapons, accommodate new systems capabilities and respond to emerging threats. U.S. technology remains unmatched; however, the words of the "Red Baron," Manfred von Richthofen, remain relevant today: "The quality of the box matters little. Success depends upon the man who sits in it." The new box is here. You can't turn an F/A-18 into an F-35, but you can prepare an F/A-18 pilot to think like an F-35 pilot. That is a key component of the new tactics, designed specifically to ensure a smooth transition for aircrews into the Lightning II. The groundwork has been laid. Now it's up to the squadrons to execute.

The Hornet Standard Game Plan not only integrates the F/A-18 A-D with the F-35, but with the USAF and our allies around the world. Our tactics must keep us capable, relevant and ready to handle tomorrow's threat. HSGP accomplishes that mission, and in the words of a squadron commander acquainted with its power, "We will be better for it."

*Authors' bios: Maj Jason B. Ladd is a former MAWTS-1 instructor pilot. He flew in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II with the "Bats" of VMFA(AW)-242 and represented the Marines for three years as an F-16 instructor pilot with the 310th FS as a participant of the Interservice Exchange Program.*

*Capt Omen Quelvog is the TAOC division head at MAWTS-1. He served as the senior air director with Marine Air Control Squadron 2, TAOC, aboard Camp Leatherneck in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Additionally, Capt Quelvog deployed in support of Operations Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom I.*

*Capt Thomas A. Frey is a MAWTS-1 F/A-18 instructor pilot and F/A-18 air to air employment subject matter expert. He has flown with the "Black Knights" of VMFA-314.*



# “We Were Caught Flat-Footed”

The Japanese Attack on Marine Corps Air Station Ewa  
December 7, 1941



By Dick Camp

**C**aptain Richard C. Mangrum, Marine Scout-Bombing Squadron (VMSB) 232's flight officer, was reading the comics in his cottage on Ewa Beach, Territory of Hawaii, near the airfield when he heard the muted sounds of machine guns firing. He initially shrugged it off, thinking the fleet was holding some sort of exercise, but then he thought it strange that this one was so early on a Sunday morning. As he looked out his front door, a tight formation of low-flying planes passed right over his cottage; they had bright red “meatballs” painted on their wings.

Capt Leonard W. Ashwell, the Ewa Mooring Mast Field officer of the day, recalled, “At 0755, I was in the officers’ mess when I heard a large formation of planes approaching. Upon stepping outside, I saw 18 torpedo planes at about 1,000 feet flying down the beach from Barbers Point toward Pearl Harbor. From the northwest another formation was just coming over the hills.” He thought it was strange that anyone would be flying so early on a Sunday morning, which was a nonflying day.

He watched the group pass north of the base, wheel to the right and head back in a classic “string” attack formation. “What’s going on?” he exclaimed. A stream of red

tracers suddenly erupted from the wings of the lead aircraft, and an SBD-1 on the flight line exploded in flames.

Taken aback, Ashwell quickly recovered and ran back inside the mess hall, shouting frantically, “Air Raid ... Air Raid! Pass the word!” He had recognized the Japanese red sun insignia on the wings and sides of the aircraft and knew the event was no drill. His frenzied shouts, coupled with the roar of machine-gun fire and explosions, caused pandemonium in the room as the morning diners stampeded toward the exits. Ashwell ran to the guard house, where he ordered the duty field music to sound the call “To Arms.”

The Ewa Mooring Mast Field (later



**Left: The primary airfield targets during the attack on Pearl Harbor were Hickam Field, Wheeler Field and Ford Island. Kaneohe Naval Air Station, Bellows Field and Ewa Mooring Mast Field were all secondary targets. It was, however, pandemonium at all of them. Chaos reigns amid the wreckage of aircraft in this photo of Ford Island seaplane base. That's USS *Shaw* (DD-373) exploding in the background.**

**Below: Marines were perhaps in a better position to defend themselves than personnel at other airfields. The antiaircraft unit with its .50-caliber antiaircraft guns was under the same commander as the rest of the airfield which provided a more coordinated and efficient effort in the issuing of weapons and ammunition.**



commissioned as Marine Corps Air Station Ewa) was located on Oahu's southwest shore, 7 miles west of Pearl Harbor. The base originally was constructed to house Navy dirigibles, but after three of them crashed, the field was turned over to Marine Aircraft Group (MAG) 21, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Claude A. "Sheriff" Larkin.

MAG-21 consisted of Headquarters and Service Squadron 21, Marine Observation Squadron (VMO) 221, 22 SBD dive bombers of VMSB-232, eight assorted utility planes of Marine Utility Squadron (VMJ) 252, 10 F4Fs and one SNJ from Marine Fighting Squadron (VMF) 211's rear echelon and seven SB2U-3 spares left

**The phone traffic in the Ewa switchboard tent went wild once Japanese planes strafed and bombed the field with devastating accuracy.**

behind by VMSB-231 when the squadron deployed to Wake Island—a total of 48 aircraft.

Lieutenant Commander Shigeru Itaya (2d Fighter Combat Unit) and Lieutenant Yoshio Shiga (1st Fighter Combat Unit) from the Japanese aircraft carriers *Akagi*

and *Kaga* swept in from the northwest and made devastatingly effective strafing runs against MAG-21's aircraft parked in neat, straight rows, wingtip to wingtip on the runway. The Mitsubishi A6M2 Zero fighters firing 7.7 mm and 20 mm incendiary, explosive and armor-piercing





rounds came in at treetop level.

“The Japs used the old German dive-bombing machine-gun strafing tactics with incendiary and explosive bullets up to 20 millimeter,” Larkin explained.

Itaya’s nine planes made one pass down the short, wide northwest-southeast runway and then headed for Hickam Field, while Shiga’s nine made at least eight passes concentrating on the planes. The sitting ducks smoked, flamed or sat there with streams of gasoline spurting out of their tanks and pooling on the runway.

MAG-21’s report of action noted: “Enemy airplanes approached as low as twenty to twenty-five feet over the ground, attacking single aircraft with short bursts of gun fire. Upon delivering an attack, they would pull up over the tree tops, reverse their course and attack from the opposite direction. After ten to fifteen minutes when they could see that

all tactical aircraft were either on fire or had been well shot up, they concentrated on personnel, general utility aircraft, and planes that were obviously out for repairs ... the whole first attack lasted about twenty to twenty-five minutes. The fact that the Japanese concentrated initially on aircraft in this attack accounts for the comparatively small personnel casualties.”

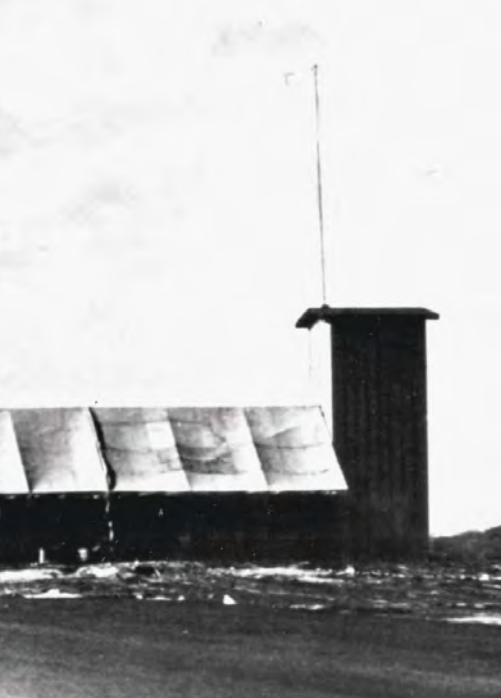
When the enemy fighters drew off at about 0825, they left behind a field littered with burning and shot-up aircraft. “We were caught flat-footed ... and lost everything we had without getting a plane in the air,” Larkin wrote to Brigadier General Ross E. Rowell, Commanding General, Second Marine Aircraft Wing.

The field music’s “Call to Arms” was punctuated by the sounds of strafing and exploding aircraft. Marines poured from the barracks. Corporal Duane W. Shaw,

Ewa’s fire-truck driver, was fully dressed when he heard the approaching planes. At first, he thought they were maneuvers. “We really got the message,” he said, “when one of the Japanese planes tattooed the barracks with bullets.” Cpl Albert A. Grasselli recalled, “I threw on my khakis, grabbed my rifle and ran outside. I saw fighter airplanes with big red balls on their wings passing in what seemed all directions and firing their guns. Within minutes, or so it seemed, a weapons carrier drove by distributing bandoleers of .30-caliber ammunition for our rifles.”

Pilots and ground crewmen rushed to the flight line to try and save the aircraft. Capt Milo G. Haines of VMF-211 was caught out in the open and dove behind a tractor, along with the driver. A Zero came in spraying bullets, one of which clipped off Haines’ tie just underneath his chin, and, as he reached up, another bullet sliced

**Ewa Mooring Mast Field derived its name from the mooring mast erected years before for the Navy lighter-than-air dirigibles. The mast stood stoically on Dec. 7, 1941, as Japanese aircraft spit 7.7 mm and 20 mm incendiary, explosive and armor-piercing rounds into the Marine aircraft around it.**



USMC

his finger and part of his scalp. Several Marines took cover in the construction forms for the new swimming pool and fired at the Japanese with their rifles.

Cpl Grasselli was one of the first to reach the dubious protection of the construction project. "I immediately headed for the nearest shelter, which just so happened to be the freshly laid cement foundation for the new swimming pool ... from there, along with several others, we began shooting at the Jap planes."

Technical Sergeant Henry H. Anglin, noncommissioned officer in charge of the photographic section, had taken his 3-year-old son Hank to the station's photo tent just before the Japanese attack. The toddler managed to escape his father's attention and wandered out on the landing mat before he was spotted. His horrified dad grabbed the boy and crawled back to the safety of a radio trailer just as a bullet slammed into the door. Anglin stuffed his son under a wooden bench and grabbed his camera. Just as he stepped into an adjacent tent, a machine-gun bullet tore through the upper part of his right arm. He stopped the bleeding and ran back to see if his son was hurt.

The boy still was crouched under the bench, pointing to a spent bullet on the floor. The child pointed to it, saying,

"Don't touch that, Daddy. It's hot."

LtCol Larkin was about a mile from the base when a passing Zero shot at his 1930 Plymouth jalopy, forcing him to jump into a roadside ditch. Unscathed, he got back in the car and reached the base just in time to be strafed a second time. Again he was unharmed. His luck finally ran out when a round from a third enemy plane hit him in the hand and the leg. He refused medical treatment and continued to coordinate the efforts to meet further enemy attacks.

Cpl Shaw and his buddy, Cpl Carl Hines, jumped into the 1930s vintage fire truck and headed for the burning planes. As they pressed forward at the truck's 42-mile-per-hour limit, a low-flying Zero shot out the windshield, but miraculously missed both men. A second strafing shot the rear tires off, ending their race in a cloud of flying glass and bits of metal. The two men abandoned the truck, raced across the runway and took cover behind a stack of crates. Shaw recalled, "We found plenty of company behind them."

Private First Class James W. Mann, the driver assigned to Ewa's 1938 Ford ambulance, was refueling when the attack began. Lieutenant Thomas L. Allman, Medical Corps, USN, the group medical officer, saw the first aircraft break into flames and ordered Mann to take the



USMC

**After the Pearl Harbor attack, gunnery practice with the anti-aircraft .50-cal. guns at Ewa became a regular drill for Marines assigned there during WW II.**

## The Mystery of Sgt William E. Lutschan

In the Sept. 3, 1995, edition of the *Honolulu Advertiser*, in an article titled, "War Scenes Were Hard for Boys to Stomach," Domingo Bolosan described what he saw at Ewa on Dec. 7, 1941.

At the time, he was a 13-year-old boy living close to the main gate into the air station. He saw several Marines approach a scrap-metal pile at the end of the village and fire shots into the pile. Next, a car raced back and forth past the pile, spraying bullets into it with a submachine gun. Shortly afterward the car left the area with the body of a dead man. When the car stopped briefly at a railroad crossing near Bolosan, he asked them who the man was. Bolosan was told he was a spy who cut down communication lines and took some guns and ammunition.

According to Bolosan, the Marines told him the name of the dead man sounded like, "Sergeant Loo-zhun."

—Dick Camp

ambulance to the flight line. Pharmacist Mate Second Class Orin D. Smith climbed aboard, and the two sped off.

The speeding vehicle attracted the attention of a passing Zero, and realizing they were under attack, Mann slammed on the brakes. The two bailed out and crawled under the ambulance, amid a hail of machine-gun fire. More than 50 bullet holes were later counted in the vehicle. Smith was hit in the fleshy part of his left calf. Despite the fire, Mann loaded the wounded man into the cab and safely delivered him to the aid station.

Cpl Grasselli was involved in the shooting of a fellow Marine. According to Grasselli, "Shortly after the first attack, the duty officer gave orders to my tent mates and me to arrest one of our fellow tent mates who, we were told, was a German spy." Sergeant William E. Lutschan Jr., a truck driver, had been "under suspicion" of espionage, and he was ordered placed under arrest. "He resisted our efforts to arrest him," Grasselli explained, "and opened fire on us; he was subsequently shot and killed ... thankfully, we never knew which one of us had fired the shot that killed him."

Two more fighter units conducted the second strike 10 to 15 minutes after the initial attack; eight planes from Lieutenant Masaharu Sukanami's 3d Fighter Combat Unit from *Soryu* and six aircraft from the 4th Fighter Combat Unit led by Lt Kiyokuma Okajima from *Hiryu*. The attack came from the direction of Pearl Harbor. Aichi D3A1 Val dive bombers from the 12th and 13th Attack units also made several passes. The Vals concentrated their strafing and bombing on camp areas, buildings and personnel dropping small 30-pound bombs as they wove in and out over the field. "We only had about four to five light bombs dropped on the field. They did practically no damage, but the gunfire was terrific," Larkin said.

MAG-21's report noted: "This attack

was very heavy and prolonged. Their primary objective was still the planes on the ground, but when it became evident that all the planes were out of action ... they concentrated on the camp area, buildings, installations, and personnel. It was met by heavy fire of rifles, Thompson submachine guns, and .30-caliber machine gun fire from small groups and individuals who had taken cover in and around the field area. The Japanese pilots would fire their forward guns from extremely low altitudes, then pull up into a steep wing-over and the free gunner would open fire on personnel."

Captain Mangrum, VMSB-232, recalled, "Between the first and second [attacks] was long enough for me to get from our house at Ewa Beach into my pants and out to the field in time to see my planes destroyed in most expert fashion. ... And I got a bullet through my erstwhile best Saturday morning inspection pants—but without touching me!"

By then the initial shock of the surprise attack had worn off, and the Marines were fighting back with rifles and .30-cal. machine guns taken from damaged aircraft and from the squadron ordnance rooms. Master Technical Sergeant Emil S. Peters, a veteran of Nicaragua, spotted a Douglas SBD-2 Dauntless dive bomber parked behind the squadron's tents. He grabbed Private William G. Turner, VMSB-231's squadron clerk, ran over to the aircraft and unshipped the .30-cal. Browning machine gun.

After rounding up the ammunition, the two manned the "free" gun and put bursts into every Val that came within range. They shot down what witnesses thought were at least two of the attackers before bullets made a sieve of the Dauntless, wounding both men. Peters still kept the gun in action, but Turner toppled from the wing, mortally wounded. He died a few days later.

The interval between the second and



**Located 7 miles west of Pearl Harbor, Ewa was a tar-covered runway and field that emerged from the jungle of tropical bush. On Dec. 7, 1941, its planes were parked in "neat straight rows, wingtip to wingtip on the runway."**

third attacks was utilized to reorganize defenses, distribute ammunition, put out fires and care for the wounded. The hospital, its medical stores, equipment and installations were housed in canvas tents and were set afire early in the attack. Working under heavy machine-gun fire, LT Allman and his corpsmen cared for the wounded throughout the attack.

MAG-21's report stated: "The last attack was made by approximately fifteen fighters with fixed landing gear and very maneuverable. ... This attack was light and ineffectual in comparison with the



USMC

first two as our defensive gun fire was quite heavy. Two or three, two-plane sections of fighters remained over the field making sporadic strafing attacks against personnel for a short time.” Sgt Carlo A. Micheletto of VMJ-252 continued to help put out fires until the last strafing attack when he put aside his firefighting equipment and grabbed a rifle. He took cover behind a small pile of lumber and fired at the attacking planes until he was struck in the head and killed.

MAG-21’s report noted: “During the three attacks on this field, casualties were comparatively light, three enlisted killed, one fatally injured (dying three days later), 10 enlisted and [two] officers minor gunshot and bomb fragment wounds. Damage to material, installations, machinery, tentage, and building was quite considerable;

government motor vehicles slight, privately owned automobiles heavy, these vehicles were in most part owned by enlisted personnel and were in parking space. Damage to aircraft extremely heavy [47 of 48] as the primary objective was aircraft on the ground and attacks were made on individual aircraft by individual enemy pilots using explosive and incendiary bullets from extremely low altitudes.”

Larkin wrote, “Every officer and man, with very few exceptions, of this group who were on the field during this fight behaved faultlessly. We had nothing to fight back with except rifles, pistols, and a few of the free machine guns we managed to put in commission.” He placed the following notation in their service record books: “Participated in defense of Ewa Field, Oahu, T.H., against Japanese aerial

attacks on December 7, 1941, displaying undaunted courage while under direct fire.”

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



# We—the Marines

Compiled by Sara W. Bock



SGT ERIC KEENAN, USMC

**Spot, a quadruped prototype robot, aids Marines in clearing a room during a demonstration at MCB Quantico, Va., Sept. 16. Representatives from Boston Dynamics and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency trained leathernecks from the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab to operate Spot on different types of terrain.**

## Four-Legged Robot Runs Toward Potential Future With Marine Infantry

■ Employees of Boston Dynamics and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency taught Marines from the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory how to operate “Spot,” a quadruped prototype robot, at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Sept. 16.

Spot is a 160-pound electrically powered, hydraulically actuated robot designed by

Boston Dynamics for use indoors and out.

“We want to continue to experiment with quadruped technology and find ways that this can be employed to enhance the Marine Corps’ warfighting capabilities,” said the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab’s Captain James Pineiro.

In September, the Marines from the lab tested Spot’s abilities on different terrain, including hills, woodlands and even on urban terrain.

“I think a robot like Spot has tons of opportunities [Marines] could use it for, like scouting or load carriage,” said Ben Swilling, a roboticist with Boston Dynamics.

During a drill involving military operations on urban terrain, Spot went into a building ahead of the Marines and simulated peeking around corners and looking for enemies and possible threats.

“The Marines have been very receptive

to the new technology, embrace it and come up with new ideas we couldn't even dream up," said Capt Pineiro.

An operator uses a radio link from a laptop computer and a video game controller to operate Spot from as far away as 500 meters.

"It's actually very easy to operate the robots," said Swilling. "We have had people as young as 4 run the robot around."

Spot isn't the first of its kind. It has a few predecessors, such as the much larger and heavier "LS3" and "BigDog" robots. Spot is leaner, quieter and much more agile than them, making it more efficient.

"Spot is great and has exceeded the metrics that we've provided," said Pineiro. "We see it as a great potential for the future dismounted infantry."

While Spot is not intended to be operational, the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab is evaluating the use of other robotics in the future.

"We continue to invest in research and development of robotics and autonomy to find ways to reduce threat to Marines and enhance our capability at the same time," said Pineiro.

Further evaluation and development of robotics in the Marine Corps could help save lives and lighten the load for Marines in the future.

"Robots can't get shot, and they can't die," said Swilling. "If you need to send someone into danger's way, you don't want anyone to get hurt."

Sgt Eric Keenan, USMC

### HADR Village Unites Marines, First Responders, Bay Area Residents

■ Marines, sailors and other emergency responders packed the lawns of Marina Green Park in San Francisco, Calif., with static displays for a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) "village," Oct. 9.

Designed for residents of the Bay Area to observe during San Francisco Fleet Week 2015, the HADR village showcased the military's operating platforms and demonstrated the Navy and Marine Corps' logistics capabilities in providing relief efforts following natural disasters.

Passersby witnessed logistical armament such as heavy utility vehicles, a field medical facility and explosive ordnance disposal gear. The event also featured exhibits from civilian first responders. Their presence helped strengthen their bond with the Marines and sailors and showcased a cooperative spirit that is crucial in relief efforts.

"The civilian authorities and response agencies know that there is an inevitability that we will be working shoulder to



PFCDDEVAN GOWANS, USMC

**Above:** As part of Fleet Week San Francisco, a servicemember interacts with young children in the HADR static display at Marina Green Park, San Francisco, Calif., Oct. 9. The event featured both civilian emergency responders and Navy and Marine Corps crisis response forces.

**Below:** Marines with Task Force San Francisco assemble solar panels as part of the HADR "village," Oct. 9. Local residents had the opportunity to visit the static display and learn about the city's plans for disaster preparedness.



PFCDDEVAN GOWANS, USMC

shoulder with our Armed Forces to provide the disaster support that we need to our communities that are affected," said Jeff Myers, the assistant deputy chief of emergency medical services with Task Force San Francisco.

In a region like the Bay Area, with a history of devastating earthquakes, San Francisco city officials understand the value of disaster preparedness. In the event of a disaster, the resources that

would be needed to provide aid would be substantial, and the city always is preparing to ensure that the citizens of San Francisco County will be taken care of when necessary.

Throughout the afternoon, the park was filled with servicemembers, first responders and residents of San Francisco. As the servicemembers displayed their capabilities for helping the people of San Francisco, they were met with a



CPL DEMETRIUS MORGAN, USMC

**MajGen Daniel J. O'Donohue, CG, 1stMarDiv, center, pays his respects to Navajo Code Talkers Samuel T. Holiday, left, and Roy Hawthorne. On Sept. 28, members of the Navajo nation visited MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., for a tour and a ceremony to honor the Code Talkers.**

positive response, said Master Gunnery Sergeant Michael S. Parker, Task Force San Francisco.

“The citizens have been very warm and open to the [Marines and sailors] out in town, and strong community relations, as well as a solid support for military and government, is what we are trying to build upon,” Parker added.

PFC Devan Gowans, USMC

### Navajo Code Talkers Return To the Blue Diamond

■ Marines who served as Navajo Code Talkers during World War II were joined by other members of the Navajo nation during a tour of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 28.

Leathernecks with the First Marine Division hosted a ceremony to honor the Code Talkers for their pivotal service during the war.

“It’s an honor to have you here today,” said Major General Daniel J. O’Donohue, Commanding General, 1stMarDiv. “The Navajo nation provided a duty that no one else could at that time. You humble us by returning to the Division. The sacrifices you made we can’t even imagine, and your legacy and your spirit live on.”

Navajo Code Talkers were first put into action in early 1942 to establish an undecipherable code, which could be used in combat environments to communicate sensitive information.

The Navajo language was selected because of its difficulty and obscurity; it enabled commanders to issue commands

securely in the heat of battle against the enemy. The code remained secret until it was declassified in 1968.

Two Navajo Code Talkers, Roy Hawthorne and Sam Holiday, were in attendance on the tour. Both reminisced about their time in the Corps and what it meant to them to contribute to the efforts in WW II.

“I always stress to people that we aren’t heroes,” Hawthorne said. “We were

chosen to serve in the Marine Corps. ... I loved every bit of it, and I would do it all over again.”

Hawthorne told stories of his time in the Corps and talked about the shock of being in a new environment with a culture that was very different from his own.

“I remember getting on the train and not knowing what a sergeant was,” Hawthorne said. “We didn’t have any of those back home. I was told to find this sergeant on a train. Luckily the first train I saw was the one that led me to the sergeant.”

MajGen O’Donohue presented Hawthorne and Holiday with coins symbolizing the gratitude of the 1stMarDiv. The two Code Talkers then presented gifts to two Marines currently serving within the Division. The gesture symbolized the passing of the torch to the next generation of Marines.

The Division song, “Waltzing Matilda,” was played in honor of those who had served in 1stMarDiv. [Editor’s note: See the November issue of *Leatherneck* and the article “Marines in Australia, 1943” to learn why “Waltzing Matilda” is 1stMarDiv’s official song.] After the ceremony came to a close, the Navajo nation council visited various units within I Marine Expeditionary Force.

Cpl Demetrius Morgan, USMC

### Okinawa-Based Marines, CG Connect During Roundtable

■ “Do you guys feel you’re prepared for war?” asked Major General Richard L. Simcock II, Commanding General,



CPL NATALIE DILON, USMC

**MajGen Richard L. Simcock, CG, 3dMarDiv, speaks to his Marines about readiness and other issues at Legends Officers’ Club, Camp Courtney, Okinawa, Japan, Oct. 14. The roundtable event was designed both to educate Marines and allow them to ask questions.**



J.T. DUNN

**PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE**—A monument was dedicated in honor of the late MajGen Merritt A. Edson, USMC (Ret), Medal of Honor recipient and legendary Marine for whom the World War II Edson's Raiders were named, near his birthplace in Chester, Vt. Following the Aug. 15 ceremony, Col David W. Edson, center, a deputy director at Marine Corps University and grandson of MajGen Edson, talks with young members of Company A, 1st Battalion, Marine Cadets of America, and Sgt Matthew Smith and LCpl Marc Conte, far right, of Maintenance Services Co, Combat Logistics Battalion 25, New Haven, Ct. The Marine Cadets of America traveled more than 200 miles to serve as a color guard for the ceremony.

Third Marine Division. “Do you know how to fire? Are you comfortable with your weapon? Do you know how to tie a tourniquet? Know what your Marines are up to? Where your Marines are? Do you feel ready to fight tonight?”

During a roundtable discussion at Legends Officers’ Club, Camp Courtney, Okinawa, Japan, on Oct. 14, MajGen Simcock spoke with his Marines about what he can do to ensure they are ready to accomplish any mission when called upon.

As the ground combat element of III Marine Expeditionary Force, readiness isn’t an option for the Division. Based thousands of miles from the continental U.S., the Division is a perpetually forward-deployed unit that maintains stability in the Pacific by being ready to respond to natural disasters and strategic threats in the region. The Division’s mission is to

conduct amphibious assault operations and combined arms land operations with strategic partners and allies.

MajGen Simcock has been at the helm of 3dMarDiv’s efforts since he took command on June 26. As a commanding general with 32 years of service in the Marine Corps, he said there are many dilemmas that keep him up at night, but his primary concerns are the welfare and readiness of his Marines and sailors.

The dichotomy between mission accomplishment and troop welfare represents an internal paradox within warriors from all cultures: pride in warfighting, tempered by a healthy fear of combat’s terrible repercussions.

“I want every Division Marine to be hard, tough and ready, but I don’t want them to go to combat,” said MajGen Simcock. “Combat? It’s horrible, it’s bad and it

sucks, but they have to be ready.”

He went on to say that the Corps is changing for the better in response to the evolving nature of present-day conflict. He explained that today’s warfare is less kinetic than it once was, but more focused on the manipulation of information, the public’s perception of Marines, and how a variety of sociopolitical factors have an enduring influence on global stability.

During the roundtable, Marines asked a variety of questions pertaining to the Corps and the Division.

One of the Marines asked how the Corps’ heightened focus on off-duty conduct and administrative discipline affects the Corps as a combat-ready force today. Others brought up some specific technical problems they have faced in preparation to fight.

The general concluded the discussion



with a promise to improve the Division and look into the Marines' suggestions and concerns.

"No one reads the policy letter, but I guarantee you will remember what the sergeant major and I said tonight, and we'll remember a lot of what you all mentioned," said MajGen Simcock. "Help me be a better general, help the sergeant major be a better sergeant major, help us make this institution better."

The Marines and sailors who attended walked away with knowledge to help them assess their own strengths and weaknesses in preparation for the fight.

LCpl Samantha Villarreal, USMC

### Quick Shots Around the Corps

#### "Pedro" Makes DOD's Final H-46 Flight

■ The end of an era took place at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., Sept. 25, when "Pedro," one of the three remaining HH-46E search and rescue models of the venerable helicopter, departed the air station's Miller's Landing facility after a ceremonial sendoff.

Pedro joined its two orange and gray brethren over the Neuse River to return to the Marine Transport Squadron 1 flight

line for the last time.

Hundreds of friends and members of the "Phrog" family, the affectionate term for the H-46, attended the ceremony. Pilots, maintainers, local dignitaries and others gathered to reminisce and say goodbye.

Over the past decade, Pedro averaged more than 50 lifesaving missions per year in support of regional authorities. In 1999, during Hurricane Floyd, Pedro crews rescued 399 people in three days and provided logistical support with emergency delivery of food and water to isolated communities throughout eastern North Carolina.

The last combat-configured model of the aircraft, a CH-46 Sea Knight, flew its final flight Aug. 1.

Mike Barton

#### Combat Center Receives Sustainability Award

■ The Department of Defense awarded the 2015 Secretary of Defense Sustainability Award in the non-industrial installation category to Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Oct. 1.

Several noteworthy accomplishments were achieved by the combat center be-

tween Oct. 1, 2012, and Sept. 30, 2014, in terms of sustainability.

According to Lieutenant Colonel Timothy Pochop, the director of Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs, the combat center was able to achieve a 45 percent water intensity reduction since 2007 and a 48 percent reduction in solid waste diversion.

The combat center also installed additional solar photovoltaic systems to surpass DOD standards in energy reduction.

Pochop said NREA plans to continue education on water conservation while progressing in storm water treatment and reuse techniques.

"We're up to the point where we generate over 90 percent of our own power," said Gary Morrisett, base energy manager.

This year, along with receiving the Secretary of Defense Sustainability Award, the combat center also received the Secretary of the Navy Environmental Award, which recognized the installation for its efforts in environmental awareness efforts in natural resources and sustainability throughout 2014.

LCpl Connor Hancock, USMC



## Crazy Caption Contest

### Winner



SGT PARIS CAPERS, USMC

"The gunny said this was going to be a yoga class."

Submitted by  
Larry J. Baehre  
Sugar Land, Texas

### This Month's Photo



SSGT ROBERT L. FISHER III, USMC

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

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

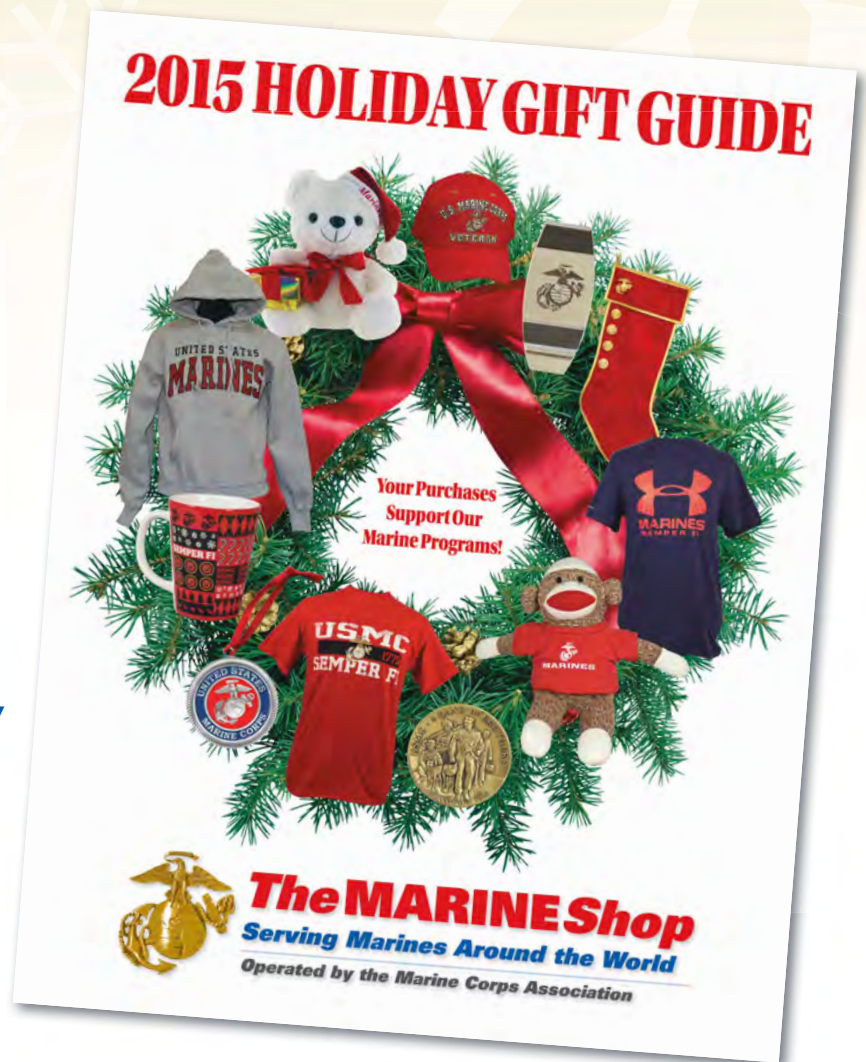
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Dream up your own Crazy Caption. *Leatherneck* will pay \$25 or give a one-year MCA membership for the craziest one received. It's easy. Think up a caption for the photo at the right and either mail or e-mail it to us. Send your submission to *Leatherneck* 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.

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# The Football Classic

By Maj Allan C. Bevilacqua, USMC (Ret)

*"Tradition is the life blood of regiments."*  
—Sir Winston Churchill

## Guadalcanal Island Dec. 24, 1944

On the afternoon of the day before Christmas in 1944, a football game was played on the island of Guadalcanal. A backwater of the war, far removed from the climactic battles fought in its jungles and swamps two years before, Guadalcanal was the staging area for Major General Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr.'s Sixth Marine Division.

The game, billed as the "Football Classic," and also referred to as the "Mosquito Bowl" pitted an 11-man team from Colonel Alan Shapley's Fourth Marine Regiment against a squad representing Col Victor Bleasdale's 29th Marines. Interest in the game was high throughout the Division even before the two teams lined up for the kickoff.

It was no small wonder that the contest was eagerly awaited. Both teams were made up entirely of former college football standouts who could have made any all-star team assembled in the States. "Irish George" Murphy had captained the 1942 Notre Dame Fighting Irish. Hard-running Tony Butkovich collected All-American honors at Purdue in 1943 while piling up a Big Ten single-season rushing record. Dave Schreiner and Bob Baumann had held down the tackle spots for the Wisconsin Badgers, while Bob Fowler anchored Michigan's line at center. Like his tentmate George Murphy, Walter "Bus" Bergman had been captain of his college team at Colorado A&M (Colorado State today). A third tentmate, Dave Mears, was a stellar performer at Boston University.

The Football Classic may have been the most ballyhooed football game west of Pasadena, Calif., but in the glamour department it fell somewhat short of the New Year's Day Rose Bowl Classic and the Rose Parade that precedes it. Somewhat short? Actually it was a bit more than that, a good bit more than that. In point of fact, the Football Classic was

football at its most primitive.

There was no stadium. The "playing field" was the 29th Marines' parade ground, bare, hard-packed earth and coral, a bit less unforgiving than concrete, but not very much less. If the playing field had nothing resembling grass, it did have a name, Pritchard Field, in honor of Corporal Thomas Pritchard, an explosive ordnance disposal specialist, who only one day before had died in an accidental detonation there.

Spectators (some counts put the crowd at as many as 10,000) perched and roosted wherever they could to watch the action. MajGen Shepherd was provided a coconut-



## FOOTBALL CLASSIC!

29th MARINES vs. 4th MARINES  
- AT PRITCHARD FIELD -  
Sunday, 24 December 1944 at 1400

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1330 - 1400	-	Music by Regimental Bands.
1400	-	Reception of Major General Lemuel C. SHEPHERD, USMC, Commanding General, Sixth Marine Division. Honors by 29th Marines Band.
1405	-	Colonel Victor F. BLEASDALE, USMC, Commanding, 29th Marines, and Colonel Alan SHAPLEY, USMC, Commanding, 4th Marines, meet in center of gridiron and exchange greetings.
1415	-	Kick-off.
Half	-	(1) Music and ceremony by 4th Marines Band. (2) General SHEPHERD changes to opposite side of field. (3) Music and ceremony by 29th Marines Band and 29th Marines Drum and Bugle Corps.
End of Game	-	Band music. *****

COURTESY OF TERRY FRIE

log bench from which he watched the fray. The general watched one half of the game from the 4th Marines' side of the field, and then he diplomatically crossed to the 29th Marines' side for the final 30 minutes of action. Aides carried MajGen Shepherd's bench across the field so he could enjoy a "comfortable" seat for the entire game.

As there was no stadium, neither was there any equipment beyond an elderly

and somewhat worn football. There were no helmets, no pads, no cleats and no uniforms. Players took the field in whatever they had.

A faded photograph that appeared in the *Denver Post* shows the 4th Marines' Dave Schreiner and the 29th Marines' Tony Butkovich shaking hands on the playing field. Butkovich wears shorts fashioned from what appear to be cut-



The original Henderson Field on Guadalcanal soon after its capture from the Japanese in November 1942. By the time the Football Classic was played in late 1944, a makeshift football field had been created out of the 29th Marines' parade ground. Programs (opposite page and the following page) were even printed to help the spectators identify the players, many of whom had played at the collegiate level.

off issue dungaree trousers and a T-shirt. Schreiner's "uniform" is much the same, although the Marine Corps dungaree trousers haven't been chopped into shorts. That was all by design. It had been agreed that for the purpose of recognition, the 29th Marines would wear shorts, while the 4th Marines would take the field in dungaree trousers.

There were a few amenities. Hundreds of programs had been printed, although with the players' uniforms bare of numbers, it was a bit difficult for spectators to know exactly who was who. Beer was available, a bit warm and tepid, but it still was beer. The Division band was on hand to provide rousing music. Communicators rigged a public address system.

**Right: Four of the six lieutenants in Co A, 1st Bn, 4th Marines before the Battle of Okinawa (left to right): Bob Baumann, Joseph "Big Joe" Jamison, John Clark and Dave Schreiner. Baumann and Schreiner also had been teammates on the legendary 1942 University of Wisconsin football team. Both were killed during the Battle of Okinawa.**



USMC

COURTESY OF TERRY FREI

LIST OF PLAYERS

(\* - Probable starting line-up)

29th Marines

POSITION	NO.	NAME	RANK	SCHOOL	YEAR	HONORS
End	1	*MURPHY, George	2dLt	Notre Dame	1940-42	Capt.
End	2	JUDD, Saxon	PFC	Tulsa	1941-43	All-American
End	3	*MALIZIEWSKI, Hank	Sgt	Duquesne	1938-40	
End	4	SMITH, Huston	Opl	Miss.	1941-42	
End	5	BEHAN, Charles	2dLt	(DeKalb Detroit Lions)	1938-41 1942	Capt.
Tackle	6	*NEFF, Robert	2dLt	Notre Dame	1940-42	
Tackle	7	*GENIS, John	Opl	Ill.-Purdue	1942-43	Capt.
Tackle	8	MEARS, David	2dLt	Boston U.	1941-42	
Tackle	9	LYNCH, Joseph	1stLt	Holy Cross	1940-42	
Tackle	10	BYTSURA, "Beast"	Opl	Duquesne	1939-41	
Tackle	11	VAN ORDER, Ed	PFC	Cornell	1939-41	
Tackle	12	HEBRANK, John	Opl	Lehigh	1942-43	
Center	13	*DE GREVE, "Red"	Pvt	Notre Dame	1940-41	
Center	14	POWER, Robert B.	Capt	Michigan	1940-41	
Qtrback	15	*GALLEN, Frank	PFC	St. Marys, Cal.	1941-42	Capt.
Qtrback	16	MOATS	PFC	Duke	1941-43	
Qtrback	17	DOUGLAS, Jack	PFC	Miss. Sou.	1942-43	
Halfback	18	FLEMING, Don	1stLt	Creighton	1939-41	Capt.
Halfback	19	*SEELINGER, Bud	2dLt	Wisconsin	1941-42	
Halfback	20	CASIGNOLA, Jack	Opl	Penn. State	1942-43	
Halfback	21	*BERGMAN, Walter	1stLt	Colo. Aggies	1940-43	Capt.
Halfback	22	JOHNSTON, Russ	Opl	Marquette	1941-42	
Halfback	23	STRAUB	PFC	Rochester	1942-43	
Fullback	24	*BUTKOVICH, Tony	Opl	Ill.-Purdue	1942-43	All-American; Nation's Leading Ground Gainer, 1943.
Fullback	25	BOND, John	Opl.	Tex. Christian	1942-43	All-Southwest Conference.
Fullback	26	CERISE, Vic	PFC	La. Tech.	1942-43	
End	27	KALUGER, Eli	Opl	Ala. U.	1942-43	
		General Manager - 2dLt G. A. BARRETT				
		Coach - 2dLt Charles E. BEHAN				

(OVER)

COURTESY OF TERRY FRIE

More than a few wagers were placed very quietly and unobtrusively on the outcome. It was a long way from the Yale Bowl where Yale met Harvard, or Chicago's Soldier Field or Pasadena's Rose Bowl where in a few weeks the Trojans of the University of Southern California would meet the University of Tennessee Volunteers. None of that mattered. What mattered was that it would be a football game, and it would determine who the champions of the 6thMarDiv were.

It was supposed to be touch football: two hands above the waist. It was, but not for long. After only a few opening possessions by each team, the game quickly evolved into football as full of hard blocking and tackling as any game played on college or professional gridirons thousands of miles away. Somewhere ahead was a baleful unknown, one that would, for some, last forever. Twenty-two young Americans who would be facing that unknown decided just to play some old-fashioned football for an afternoon, and did they ever play!

John McLaughry, a star at Brown University who also had played for the New York Giants, started in the 4th Marines' backfield. Afterward, in a letter to his parents, McLaughry wrote: "It was really a lulu, and as rough hitting and hard playing as I've ever seen. As you may guess, our knees and elbows took an awful beating due to the rough field with coral stones here and there, even though the 29th did its best to clean them all up. My dungarees were torn to hell in no time, and by the game's end, my knees and elbows were a bloody mess."

Bloody knees and elbows? They were the norm, not the exception. Television viewers today may see National Football League teams occasionally take the field in "throwback" uniforms, the playing gear worn 50 or more years ago. The football that was played on Guadalcanal that long-ago December day was throwback football, with ball carriers buried under piles of tacklers, pass receivers flattened and blockers upended. Bloody knees and elbows may have been the norm, and bloody noses weren't far behind. There were no cheap shots, no taunting and no insults, just hard, clean, legal hitting on a rock-hard field.

All in all, it was a rip-roaring good time that for one brief afternoon allowed players and spectators alike to forget what was waiting just over the horizon. A battle royal it was, 60 minutes of controlled mayhem that ended when the 4th Marines' Bob Spicer intercepted a last-minute pass, ending the game in a scoreless tie.

After the handshakes and the good-natured banter faded, the 6thMarDiv

COURTESY OF TERRY FRIE

4th Marines

(\* - Probable starting line-up)

POSITION	NO.	NAME	SCHOOL
End	1	* SCHRIFNER	U. of Wisconsin
End	2	* MC NEIL	Michigan State
End	3	* RIFUNSKI	Fordham
End	4	DUNN	Michigan Hi-School
End	5	REYNOLDS	Indiana Hi-School
End	6	JONES	Alabama Hi-School
End	7	HALL	L.S.U. & Texas A.&M.
End	8	QUINN	Amherst College
Tackle	9	* ANDERSON	So. Dakota Hi-School
Tackle	10	* CLARKE	Purdue
Tackle	11	HINDE	So. Methodist
Tackle	12	HENSLEY	Ohio Hi-School
Tackle	13	* SEMPLE	Ohio U.
Tackle	14	* FENNERT	Northwestern
Tackle	15	PICKERTS	Riverside, Calif, J.C.
Tackle	16	BAURMAN	Wisconsin
Tackle	17	WARREN, P.	Purdue
Center	18	DALY	Loyola
Center	19	JANCOSEK	Indiana Hi-School
Center	20	* STEWICKI	Fordham
Back	21	LAZETICH	Montana - Cleveland Rams
Back	22	* GIBSON	Purdue
Back	23	* CLIFFORD	New York
Back	24	MC LAUGHEY	Brown U. - N.Y. Giants
Back	25	* BARTKIEWICZ	Chicago Hi-School
Back	26	* SPICER	Colorado
Back	27	LONG, G. D.	Oklahoma Military Acad.
Back	28	* LENZ	No. Carolina U.
Back	29	* HOPPER	Notre Dame
Back	30	MC TYRE	USS New Mexico
Back	31	ZACKASH	Montana U. - Detroit Lions
Back	32	BRENNAN	Yonkers N.Y. Hi-School
Back	33	DOOLITTLE	Ohio State
Back	34	BAUER	E. St. Louis Hi-School

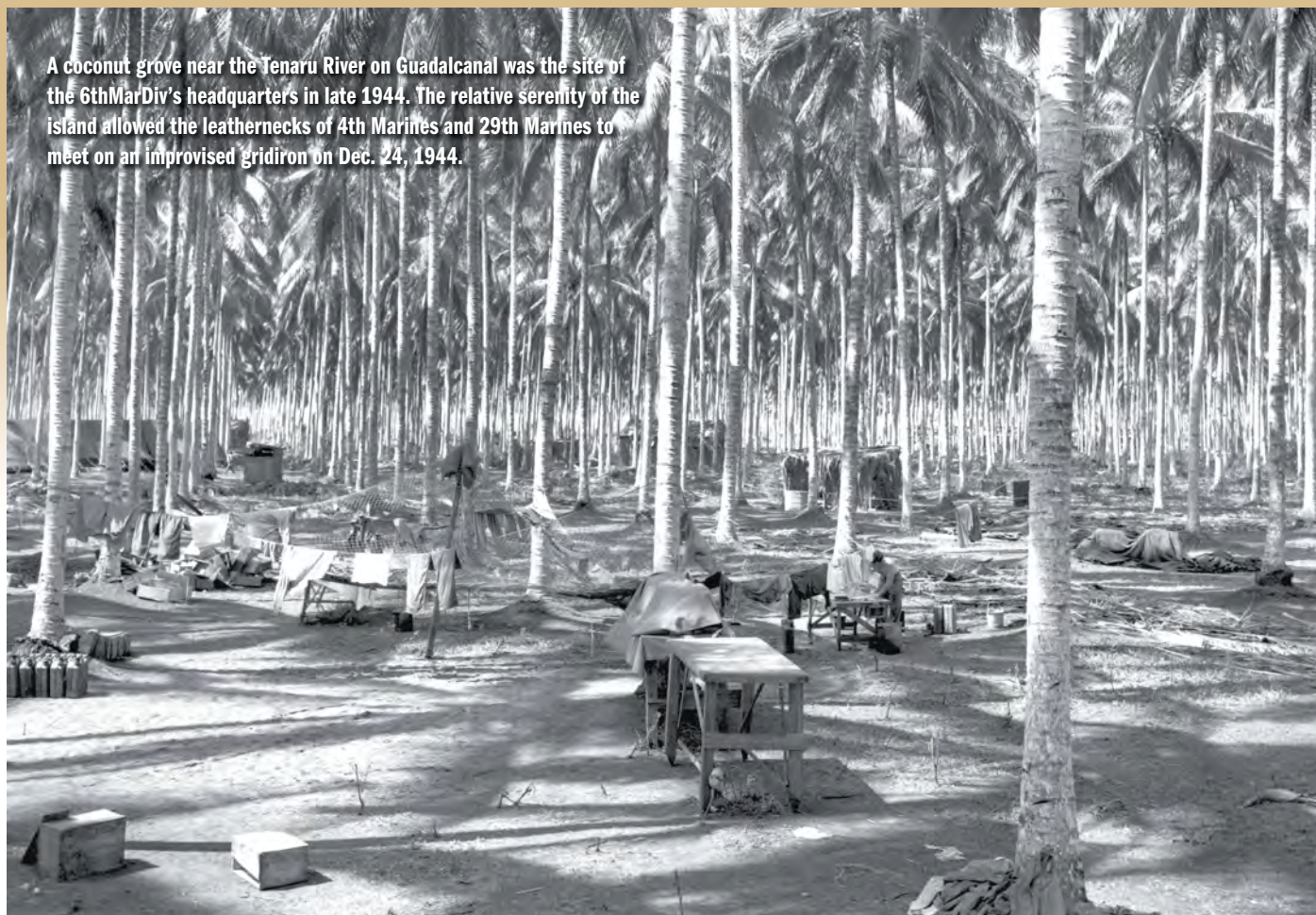
Head Coach - 1stLt William V. LAZETICH

\*\*\*\*\*

OFFICIALS OF THE GAME:

1stLt Larry SULLIVAN, 29th Marines  
1stLt Bob HERRIG, 4th Marines.

A coconut grove near the Tenaru River on Guadalcanal was the site of the 6thMarDiv's headquarters in late 1944. The relative serenity of the island allowed the leathernecks of 4th Marines and 29th Marines to meet on an improvised gridiron on Dec. 24, 1944.



PC/EDWARD MERNA, USMC

returned to preparing for combat. No one could possibly have known that 12 of the players who took the field that day had less than six months to live. Each one would die on Okinawa.

The football players who never came back were Bob Baumann, Wisconsin; Rusty Johnston, Marquette; Charlie Behan, Northern Illinois; George Murphy, Notre Dame; Tony Butkovich, Purdue; Johnny Perry, Duke; Bob Fowler, Michigan; Jim Quinn, Amherst; Hubbard Hinde, Southern Methodist; Dave Schreiner, Wisconsin; John Hebrank, Lehigh; and Ed VanOrder, Cornell.

“They say certain guys are heroes because they did this and that. I say the heroes are those guys who never came back. I’ve thought about that a lot. I think about the 60 or 70 extra years I got on them. I know I was lucky,” Bus Bergman later recalled.

### The Tentmates

George Murphy, Dave Mears and Bus Bergman led rifle platoons in Captain Howard L. Mabie’s Company D, 2d Battalion, 29th Marines. Murphy and Mears were hit by Japanese fire on Okinawa’s Sugar Loaf Hill on the same day, May 15, 1945. Irish George Murphy died there, never to see the infant daughter



COURTESY OF TERRY FREI

**Dave Schreiner, left, and his University of Wisconsin teammate, Bob Baumann, were both officers in the 4th Marines. While serving in the South Pacific, Baumann sent this picture to his fiancée back in the U.S. On the back he wrote: “Junior (Dave) and I putting on a show.”**

who had been born after he shipped out for the Pacific. Mears was wounded and evacuated. He went on to a long career as an accountant. Bergman survived Okinawa, was awarded a Bronze Star

with combat “V” for actions on May 19, 1945, and returned to college to pursue a master’s degree in 1946. His love for football never left him, and he spent his adult life as a coach. He died in 2010, one of the last living participants in the Football Classic.

The Football Classic, a forgotten football game played long ago on a faraway island, is unheard of by most of today’s Americans. For Marines, though, the island of Guadalcanal occupies a special niche in our history, and the Football Classic is woven into the cloth of our traditions.

*Author’s bio: Maj Allan C. Bevilacqua, a Leatherneck contributing editor, is a former enlisted Marine who served in the Korean and Vietnam wars as well as on an exchange tour with the French Foreign Legion in Algeria. Later in his career, he was an instructor at Amphibious Warfare School and Command and Staff College, Quantico, Va.*

*Editor’s note: Thank you to Terry Frei, author of “Third Down and a War to Go,” for giving Leatherneck access to photographs and additional research for this article.*



# In the Highest Tradition



CPL IAN FERRO/USMC

**Sgt Kenneth A. Altazan, right, receives his Navy Cross citation from LtGen Rex C. McMillian, Commander, MARFORRES. The medal was presented Oct. 13, in Baton Rouge, La., for valor in Vietnam. Sgt Altazan, a helicopter crew chief, demonstrated bravery and disregard for his own safety to save others. He jumped off of his aircraft and rescued fellow Marines while under heavy enemy fire.**

## 50 Years Later: Crew Chief's Valor Earns Upgrade to Award

By Cpl Gabrielle Quire, USMC



Forty-six years after responding to a call to extract numerous Marine casualties from an area overwhelmed by enemy forces in Quang Nam Province, Republic of Vietnam, Sergeant Kenneth A. Altazan was presented the Navy Cross by Lieutenant General Rex C. McMillian, commander of Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North, during a ceremony on Oct. 13, 2015, in Baton Rouge, La.

On May 9, 1969, Sgt Altazan, crew chief for Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364, Marine Aircraft Group 16, First Marine Aircraft Wing, was conducting emergency medical evacuations for a Marine infantry company under heavy fire by Communist forces.

Altazan's heroic efforts during this time were initially recognized with a Silver Star. However, additional evidence

recently submitted to the Marine Corps led to the upgrade of his Silver Star to the Navy Cross.

That evidence was a recording taken by another serviceman whose surveillance aircraft was flying above Altazan's helicopter that day. The recording showed that Altazan twice jumped into the line of fire, the second time after suffering an injury to his knee.

Altazan was the chief on the lead helicopter of two CH-46 Sea Knights that were assigned to extract more than 10 Marines who were heavily engaged in a fire-fight with North Vietnamese Army forces.

The plan was to land in two places to rescue the injured, but the aircraft immediately came under heavy fire, and the wounded Marines were scattered. Undaunted by the volume of fire directed at his aircraft, Altazan directed his crew to extract the dispersed Marines from five locations.

At the second extraction location, Altazan saw a Marine, who was attempting to evacuate another wounded Marine, get

shot and fall. Without pause, Altazan ran to them, lifted one onto his shoulder, grabbed the other by the arm and headed to the helicopter. In the midst of his rescue effort, the Marine he was carrying was hit, causing all three to fall to the ground. Altazan, who had injured his knee in the fall, stood up and continued to carry the Marines to safety.

"In boot camp, they taught us to react. You react to something more than you think it through," said Altazan. "If I had sat back and thought about what was going on, none of this would have ever happened."

When the pilot landed the helicopter in the fifth and last zone, dangerously close to the enemy's position, Altazan noticed another Marine waving a green shirt in the distance. The Marine was wounded and under enemy fire. Again, with no regard for his own injuries, Altazan jumped out of his aircraft, pulled off his body armor and ran toward the Marine. Upon arrival, he discovered not one, but two wounded Marines. One, he hoisted over his shoulders into a fireman's carry, the other he dragged by his belt across approximately 30 meters to the safety of the helicopter.

According to Altazan's Navy Cross citation, his bold initiative and selfless concern helped save the lives of his fellow Marines, inspired all who observed him and was instrumental in completing the hazardous mission.

"He left the safety and comfort of his aircraft and personally carried wounded back," said Sergeant Major William F. Fitzgerald III, the 4th MAW sergeant major.

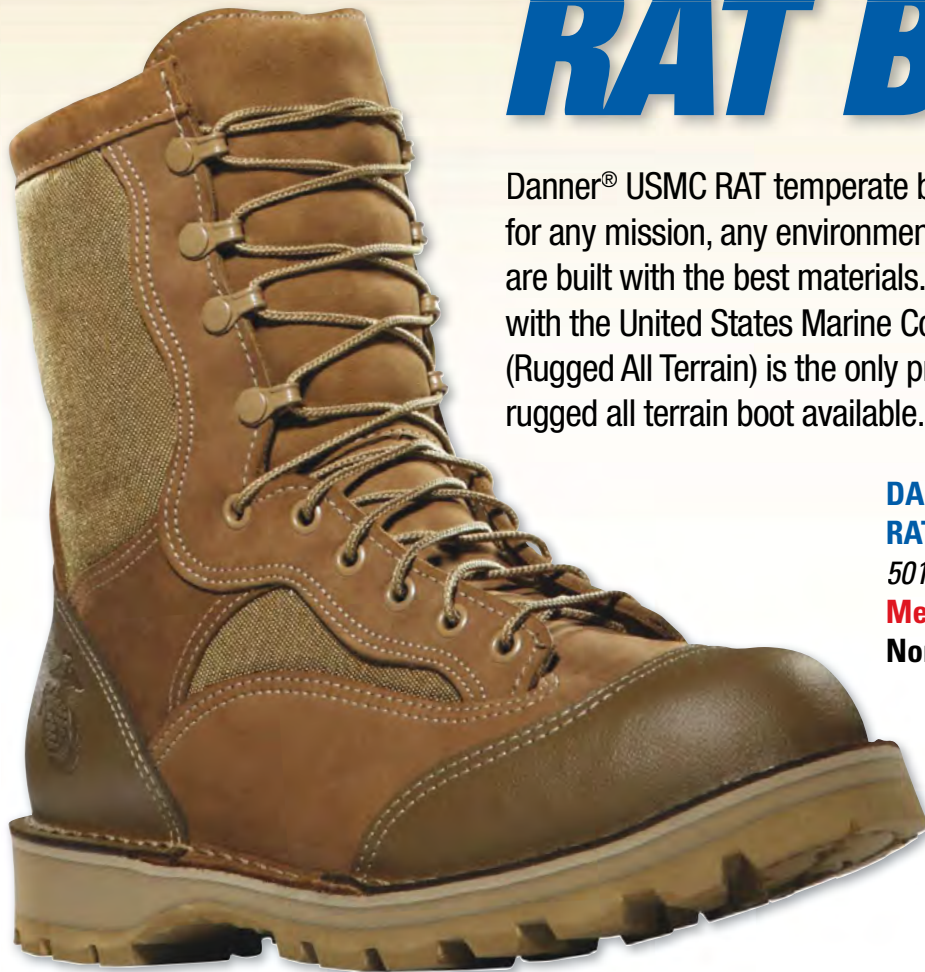
Fitzgerald noted that it's important for Marines to recognize achievements like Altazan's, not only because it fills them with pride, but also because they, too, may be called to display that kind of courage.

*Author's bio: Cpl Gabrielle Quire has been a combat correspondent with U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve, New Orleans, La., for a year and has served three years as a Marine.*



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# The Weather Marines

## Meteorological and Oceanographic Analyst Forecasters Predict the Weather of War

By CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret)

*6 June 1944, D-day: "Adverse weather conditions before D-day and the lack of timely surface observations caused the German commanders not to suspect an invasion on 6 June 1944. The Germans had no knowledge that a maritime polar air mass was pushing into France from the northwest and would cause weather conditions suitable for the invasion."*

—"Weather Effects During the Battle of the Bulge and the Normandy Invasion," by Marvin D. Kays, U.S. Army Electronics Research and Development Command, 1982

Many historic battles have been won or lost because meteorological or oceanographic conditions were misjudged, unknown or not factored into the battle plan. The process of studying, analyzing and forecasting future weather conditions has been refined, and today Marine METOC (Meteorological and Oceanographic) forecasters and analysts can provide air and ground forces with minute to minute, current and future, conditions that can affect operations.

According to the head of the METOC schoolhouse, there has been a paradigm shift over the past 10 years moving the METOC mission from largely aviation support to MAGTF (Marine Air-Ground Task Force) employment.

"Two things I am involved in emphasizing is the need to expand METOC throughout the MAGTF and not think of it as an ACE [aviation combat element]-niche MOS [military occupational specialty], and that is slowly happening," said Chief Warrant Officer Kyle Wohlwend, officer in charge of the Marine METOC Course at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Miss. "We support MAGTF commanders at every level."

Wohlwend continued, "Weather analysis and forecasting is actionable intelligence for a commander. METOC is a function of G2 [Intelligence], and we fall under them when we are deployed."

Wohlwend and his staff pass on that knowledge and much more during the extremely challenging nine-month-long Meteorological and Oceanographic



**Sgt Zachary M. Salter checks the automated weather observation system at the Marine Air Control Squadron 2 compound at Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan, April 15, 2015. The system takes weather readings every five minutes and provides METOC analyst Marines with valuable atmospheric information.**

Analyst Forecaster (MOAF) Course at Keesler. The road to earning the MOS 6842, METOC Analyst Forecaster, is not an easy one.

The course consists of 142 days of consolidated METOC training for the Marine Corps, Air Force, Navy and

Coast Guard; the Army depends on the Air Force for this capability. There is a pending proposal to extend the course to 148 days. The Marines spend an additional 30 days at the end of the consolidated portion in "Marine-unique" training.

"We just rewrote the Marine-unique

course, and it came on-line in September,” said Wohlwend. “Students learn the structure of the MAGTF and basic doctrinal organization of the Marine Corps. We also dive deeper into the subjects of physics and atmospheric dynamics, then we have a robust capstone event where they conduct realistic briefs using everything they’ve learned to support a notional MAGTF. They learn how to look at the broader picture to provide strategic support via the use of climatology.”

The METOC Course is not for the faint of heart. It is nine months of meteorological and atmospheric immersion training, equaling what would normally be close to a two-year college associate’s degree. In fact, students who successfully complete the course earn 59 college credits through the Community College of the Air Force, a program accredited by the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges.

Wohlwend said that over the past six years or so, the METOC field has been aligned into the Geo-Intelligence Division at the Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps level, consolidating it with topographic and imagery sections. The MOS advocacy remains within Marine aviation.

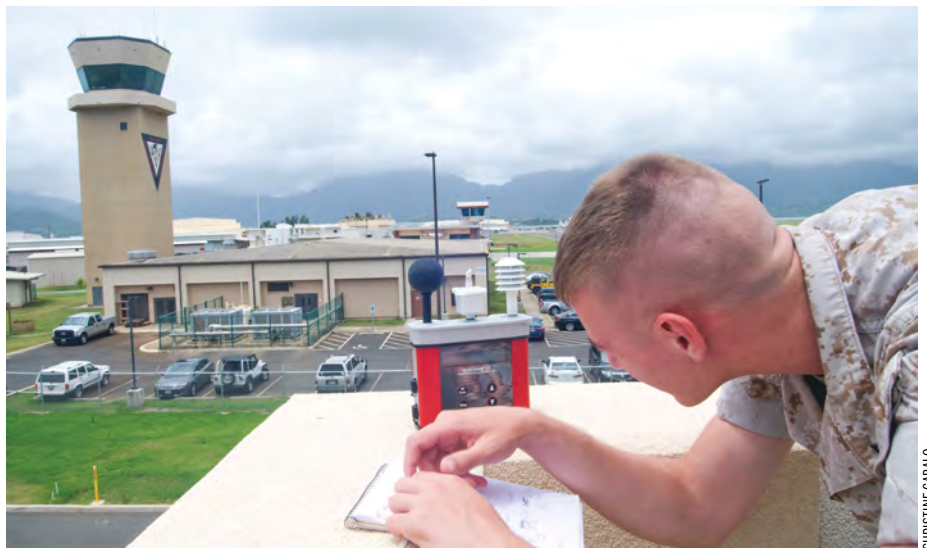
“The Marine Corps intelligence community has been considering how we can professionalize the force and have been looking at university opportunities to do so,” said Wohlwend. “A pilot program started last December with Delta State University in Mississippi to offer university education to GeoInt Marines in the ‘MOS2Degree’ program.”

Several METOC Marines have applied and been accepted into the program. “We’re looking at leveraging the 59 credits they get at the METOC school into a four-year bachelor’s degree in environmental sciences. It’s an exciting time; I’ve been in the METOC field for 16 years, and there’s never been an educational opportunity like this,” added Wohlwend, who was a gunnery sergeant before becoming a warrant officer.

The METOC Course at Keesler is taught by instructors from the Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force.

“All instructors have at a minimum an associate’s degree in meteorology,” said Staff Sergeant Patrick Kinsella, the Marines’ instructor supervisor. “If they don’t have it when they get here, they have one year to attain it.”

Kinsella spent the first four years of his Marine Corps career in the infantry and was discharged in 2004. He later went back on active duty and attended school to be a weather observer, which is no longer an occupational specialty. In 2007 the occupational field was consolidated into one military occupational specialty



CHRISTINE CABALO

**LCpl Conrad Marcoff takes readings from a thermal environment monitor to check temperatures and other weather statistics, July 13, 2015. Marcoff, a forecaster for the Meteorology and Oceanography section, Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, assists the department in compiling reports for units to craft flight plans, execute operations and conduct physical training.**



COURTESY OF MARINE DETACHMENT, METEOROLOGICAL AND OCEANOGRAPHIC COURSE, KEESLER AFB

**SSgt Nathan Pennington instructs cloud feature analysis and associated precipitation patterns while LCpl Virginia Jones analyzes infrared satellite imagery during the Marine-unique portion of training.**

The METOC Course is not for the faint of heart. It is nine months of meteorological and atmospheric immersion training, equaling what would normally be close to a two-year college associate’s degree.

of 6842 for all enlisted grades.

“I volunteered to be an instructor here,” said Kinsella, who went through the school as a sergeant and said he developed aspirations to be an instructor then. “For me it was sort of a dream. I believe my job here is extremely important because

it is my responsibility to ensure that all students under my charge, not just Marines, learn their job and learn from my experience, not just on weather-related subjects but also general military subjects.”

Kinsella served as a METOC chief in the 24th MEU (Marine Expeditionary Unit) during a six-month deployment in 2012. As a staff sergeant, he was the senior METOC Marine on the MEU and advised commanders at all levels about the impacts of weather on their operations. He also did a separate tour with the aviation combat element.

“So I emphasize this experience in any class I have, and especially to the Marines, that nowhere else in the Corps

will a junior Marine be advising a colonel or above,” said Kinsella, who has been instructing at the school since June 2013. “These students have opportunities that didn’t exist when I was a lance corporal.”

Marine instructors go through a lengthy certification program; they must complete the Basic Instructor’s Course followed by additional training and then shadow experienced instructors in the classroom before they are certified to teach. “Then we put our own touches on it because everybody teaches in a different manner,” said Kinsella.

The Marines have what Wohlwend called an “instructor tax,” owing the Air Force one instructor for every 10 Marine students attending the course. Currently, there are 10 Marine instructors in the mix, three of whom oversee the Marine-unique portion of the course. “All the instructors work closely together because ultimately we are getting these students ready for the fleet,” Wohlwend explained. All instructors have contact with students to provide mentorship and continue the transformation from recruit training and MCT (Marine Combat Training).

Students who are destined to be METOC analyst forecasters must be exceptionally motivated to succeed at the nine-month course. Not all make it; the average attrition rate is 15 percent.

Course content consists of lower level vector algebra for the first two weeks, and then students are immersed in the theory and science of their future specialty.

“It is a unique course because it’s the

only environmental science course in the DOD [Department of Defense], so it proves to be very challenging for enlisted Marines who may have joined because they weren’t ready for college and here they find themselves learning university-level theories about meteorology. Conceptualization of the science is difficult for a lot of the students,” Wohlwend explained. “So we present it in cause-and-effect relationships and have them apply

“Our analysis of the atmosphere is a powerful tool and provides environmental intel that has a direct impact on the mission.”

—LCpl Emmanuel Pajel

that in practice in a live lab. Still, it’s fairly daunting because weather patterns change every hour or more.”

Generally, students in each METOC class can be classified into three categories: those who specifically chose the MOS, those who were assigned the MOS at enlistment, and a sliver of lateral moves.

“The opportunities for lat moves fluctuates,” Wohlwend explained. “There used to be a lot of lat movers, but over the past couple years, the door has closed because we now have a single pipeline from MCT; however, we had five openings for lat moves this year.”

The type of candidate who will be suc-

cessful in the METOC field will have an above average GT (General Technical) score—the requirement is 105 or higher—and be smart and capable. “They will typically have a year or two of college,” said Wohlwend. “This MOS appeals to them because it is a highly analytical field and they will be challenged on a daily basis at school and on the job, and they like that.”

Lance Corporal Emmanuel Pajel was slated to go into the intelligence field as a cryptologic linguist, but during MCT he learned that it was changed to METOC.

“I didn’t know too much about METOC initially, but once I looked into it, I got excited about it because it’s not just talking about how hot or cold it will be,” said the Chapel Hill, N.C., native who entered the Marine Corps in September 2014. “Our analysis of the atmosphere is a powerful tool and provides environmental intel that has a direct impact on the mission.”

At the time of this writing, Pajel had successfully graduated from the consolidated training and was in the Marine-unique portion of his training. He said that as he progressed through the course, “When you start to reach the light at the end of the tunnel, you begin to realize what your job entails, and part of that is briefing commanding officers so they can make sound, high-speed decisions based on our intelligence. This course gave me all the tools I need to succeed in the field, but I also know there is still a lot to learn.”

During the nine-month course, students have ample opportunities to conduct practice briefs on each other and to the school staff. In one instance, a student had the opportunity to brief a visiting colonel.

LCpl Virginia Jones is in the same class as Pajel. She joined the Marine Corps hoping to work in the intelligence field but is happy with the METOC MOS. “I found that METOC is closely related because in the fleet I am going to use meteorological intel and relay that to pilots or commanders so they can make sound decisions,” she said.

Jones received real-world experience when a visiting Air Force colonel, a group commander, asked to be briefed by one of the students. “I knew about a week ahead of time, but I was still a little nervous,” she admitted. “I definitely stuck to my briefing note cards, and at the end, he said I did a good job.”

The Houston native entered the Corps in September 2014. “I’ve got an associate’s degree from college, and I can tell you this course has a lot of information to cover in nine months,” she said. “It is definitely more challenging than I expected. It takes a lot of studying, a lot of memorization, and a lot of being able to absorb infor-

**Cpl Justin R. Seddon, a meteorology/oceanography specialist with the 26th MEU, uses a Kestrel portable weather device to collect weather data during a Composite Training Unit Exercise aboard USS *Kearsarge* (LHD-3), July 27, 2015. The Kestrel has built-in measurement devices that determine wind speed, air pressure and temperature.**



CHL JOSHUA W. BROWN, USMC



COURTESY OF MARINE DETACHMENT, METEOROLOGICAL AND OCEANOGRAPHIC COURSE, MEESLER AFB

**SSgt Nathan Pennington instructs (left to right) LCpls Darrien Huggins, Alexander Boothby and Emmanuel Pajel in the principles of atmospheric physics and dynamics during the Marine-unique portion of training.**

mation and then make it applicable.”

The course is set up in 12 blocks of instruction, and each block builds on the previous block, making it much easier to follow along and keep up, according to LCpl Jones.

The level of analysis and forecasting that the METOC Marines provide the MAGTF is greatly aided by technology. Wohlwend explained that they are currently using two main systems.

“The primary is NEXGEN, or Next Generation Mobile Meteorological Facility, which is a mobile and expandable weather office in the back of a humvee,” he said, adding that nine of 11 variants have been fielded. Officially termed the METMF (R) NEXGEN, it is replacing the METMF (R) legacy system.

The variants account for different uses and requirements in different operational settings. Those units reside either at a Marine Air Control Squadron (MACS) or Intelligence Battalions and can be deployed as needed.

The other program is a Navy system called NITES IV Program, which is a suite of computers and sensors that, Wohlwend explained, “allow you to establish an expeditionary METOC capability on a smaller scale than the NEXGEN would

allow. This would generally be used at the company level in a more tactical type of operation.”

Even with all the improvements in weather prognostication, weather balloons are still used. “Yes, we still launch them, but they are much more technologically advanced than our grandfathers’ balloons,” Wohlwend said. “The real evolution has been taking data and information the balloon provides and incorporating that data into more accurate weather models. This is not only desirable to have for commanders in the battlespace but also for any meteorological organization in the world because they can tap into the increased resolution of the models that result from NEXGEN capabilities.”

The METOC field is small, consisting of only about 320 officers and enlisted personnel, spread throughout the Corps. “We support Marine Corps Installations East and West through Regional METOC Centers (RMCs),” said Wohlwend. There are about 17 Marines at both Marine Corps Air Stations Miramar, Calif., and Cherry Point, N.C., the sites of the RMCs.

Each MACS is composed of three officers and 36 enlisted Marines divided evenly between three METOC detachments. There are METOC officers at Ma-

rine Forces commands, Marine Expeditionary Forces, Marine Aircraft Wings and Intelligence Battalions.

With that sort of dispersion, METOC Marines are never far from the action. Wohlwend explained that the METOC warfighting document is in final stages of being updated. “The update is in progress and almost ready for approval and dissemination to the fleet,” he said. “In summary, the update is orienting what we do in the operating forces, how we as METOC staff and officers are going to participate in the Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield and how commanders are going to be expecting that participation.”

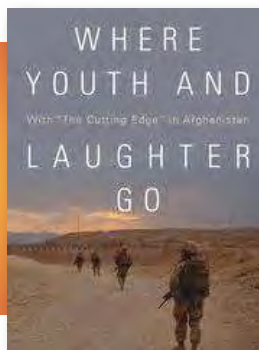
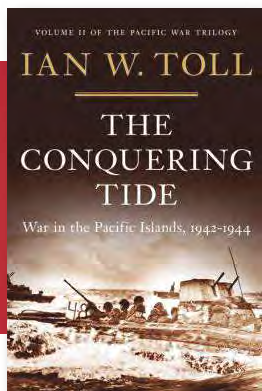
All this, so that now and in the future, METOC Marines will be able to cut through the “fog of war” and provide commanders with timely and accurate meteorological and oceanographic information to help them win battles.

*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 operates his own writing-based business, RGCommunications, and is a freelance photojournalist.*



# 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 7 percent. Prices may change. Make check or money order payable to: MCA, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, call toll-free: (888) 237-7683, or shop online at [www.marineshop.net](http://www.marineshop.net).



**THE CONQUERING TIDE: War in the Pacific Islands, 1942-1944.** By Ian W. Toll. Published by W.W. Norton & Company. 656 pages. Stock #0393080641. \$31.50 MCA Members. \$35 Regular Price.

Within hours of Japan's failure to fulfill its carefully conceived crushing blow to the Pacific Fleet and its auxiliaries anchored in Pearl Harbor on the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, savvy sea strategists assigned to the staffs of the Chief of Naval Operations and the Commander in Chief of the U.S. Fleet foresaw the doom of the Imperial Empire.

Certainty, however, wasn't assured until the afternoon of June 5, 1942, six months later, when U.S. Navy forces dominated, then routed, Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto's massive Combined Fleet. In destroying its main striking force, three splendid fast carriers were sunk within minutes, a fourth carrier hours later. The magnitude of the disaster so eclipsed the "Rising Sun," that previously skeptical Allied planners began charting tedious and costly island-hopping operations. No one was under the illusion that invading and securing atolls and their coral islands would be easy. Virtually everyone underestimated the heavy price that would have to be paid in dead, wounded and missing.

"The Conquering Tide: War in the Pacific Islands, 1942-1944," Volume II, is the continuation of author Ian W. Toll's projected, and ambitious, "Pacific War Trilogy." Volume I, "Pacific Crucible: War at Sea in the Pacific, 1941-1942," was the winner of last year's coveted Samuel Eliot

Morison Award for Naval Literature.

Writing in his usual forthright, balanced framework of reportorial realism, Toll delineates in layman's terms the immediate and specific Allied offensive plans to exploit the Japanese agony of defeat at Midway, and also the War Department's grand strategy for ultimate victory. After all, Yamamoto's fleet was still intact.

Scrutinizing the original tabular ship movement charts and commingling them with fascinating firsthand personal letters, war diaries, battle debriefings, memoirs and recent interviews, Toll unfurls all the significant landing operations, the most important being Operation Cartwheel in June 1943.

Two great thrusts westward were projected, one starting at Guadalcanal and the other at the Gilbert and Marshall islands for convergence on the beaches of Leyte. The final thrust from there led across Iwo Jima, then Okinawa, into the underbelly of the enemy homeland. By early 1944, the author explains, the Western powers had forged an iron ring around Japan—the date of the nation's last gasp from air, sea and land (U.S. Marine Corps, primarily) uncertain.

In "The Conquering Tide," Toll offers vividness in his clarity explaining the complexities of mobilizing wartime production, savage battle scenes, strategic expositions, logistics evaluations and the bitter interservice rivalries in Washington, D.C., and Tokyo war councils. The final chapters, including the aftermath of the

Battle of the Philippine Sea, and the book's epilogue, a brilliant summation of the 1942-44 years of the United States at war in the Pacific Ocean, are by themselves worth the price of the book.

By successfully submerging us in the temperament, character and style of the high commands of both sides as they pondered ultimate decisions around large conference room tables, Toll's writing has become the yardstick by which all future war histories are measured.

Don DeNevi

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

**WHERE YOUTH AND LAUGHTER GO: With "The Cutting Edge" in Afghanistan.** By LtCol Seth W.B. Folsom, USMC. Published by Naval Institute Press. 392 pages. Stock #1612518710. \$31.46 MCA Members. \$34.95 Regular Price.

In his new book, "Where Youth and Laughter Go," Lieutenant Colonel Seth Folsom has painted a hard-charging and, yet somehow, disturbing picture of the problems faced by U.S. Marines as they attempted to turn over the hard-won battlefields to the Afghan National Army. Folsom led the elite 3d Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment (3/7) in the Sangin section of Helmand Province during its 2011-12 Afghan deployment.

Folsom's goal for writing his book is to tell the Marines' story; he also noted that it is his way to "reconcile [his] experiences, to make sense of the senseless, to find answers to difficult questions." A gifted writer, Folsom has authored two other outstanding books and has a Master of Arts from the Marine Corps War College. The book's unusual title, "Where Youth and Laughter Go," is taken from a poem skillfully penned by the gifted WW I British poet Siegfried Sassoon.

At the height of its deployment, 3/7, also known as “The Cutting Edge,” included 1,200 Marines, sailors, soldiers and support contractors. The battalion replaced 1/5 in the Green Zone west of Route 611 in Helmand Province. The Marines experienced few direct-fire engagements, but the Taliban continued to seed the battlespace with a nasty assortment of improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Throughout their tour, Marines and sailors continued to suffer death and catastrophic wounds from these vicious exploding weapons. To Folsom’s lasting credit, he often sought the opportunity to patrol alongside the men he commanded.

One effective tool in detecting IEDs was the use of balloons. Called “The Eye in the Sky,” the balloons look much like the ones that flew over war-torn London during the Blitz, only smaller. Weather permitting, enemy movements were tracked and monitored back at the Marine bases. The balloons provided critical information needed to make correct calls about the intentions of those being observed. Of course, under the restrictive rules of engagement, Marines needed to correctly identify a threat before they engaged and destroyed any targeted insurgent. Making a mistake and killing, say, an Afghan farmer or a member of his family, might easily set back the long-sought-after trust-building (read “Hearts and Minds”) among the local population.

Folsom declares: “Afghans lacked the ability to look further than two weeks into the future, [however] one thing was certain: they had long memories.”

For their commander, balancing and protecting his Marines while working closely with the Afghan police and military forces was, at best, a challenge. A part of their important mission was to train these often unreliable forces to assume responsibility after the American surge ended. Keeping the locals happy became tricky to the point of becoming absurd. It was bad enough that Marines had to actively patrol in a harsh and unforgiving environment, but protecting the innocent and their property while training their often uncooperative counterparts severely tested the 3/7 Marines, sailors and their hard-pressed commander.

In the Green Zone along the fertile Helmand River Valley, the annual poppy harvest gained the farmers a high annual income; far more than what they could make from growing corn or wheat. When in bloom, the landscape looked, as Folsom notes, like “something out of ‘The Wizard of Oz.’ ” Although the coalition made halfhearted attempts to steer the local farmers away from growing the plant, it still remained the “lifeline” of the local

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harvest. The Taliban helped exacerbate the problem because they reaped the benefits.

Folsom, a father of two daughters, was disturbed by the treatment of girls in Afghanistan. Folsom writes: “Parents there did not appear to adore their little girls the same way I adored my daughters.” In one case, a little girl had suffered a frightful injury. “As far as the Afghan uncle was concerned, if his niece lived, well okay then. But if she died it was one less mouth to feed,” according to Folsom. Young Afghan male children also were often harshly treated.

The payoff for 3/7 came near the end of its tour. The local elections were conducted in Sangin without a hitch, and by March of 2012, the battalion turned over its hard-won battlefield to 1/7. Then the Marines and sailors of 3/7 proudly turned homeward.

LtCol Folsom writes with eloquence and passion, and his impactful book details the myriad challenges faced by the battalion during the beginning of the critical turnover period. He ably reports on his unit’s trials and tribulations while fighting in a faraway land: faraway in both historical time and distance. During their seven-month tour, the Marines of 3/7 lost seven killed and a larger number severely

wounded. They fought the good fight and skillfully weathered the extreme culture clash that accompanied the pending handoff to the Afghan national forces.

Well-written, sir. Your love and deep respect for the Marines and sailors of 3/7 rings true!

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.*



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# Passing the Word

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

## New Tradition Introduces Birthday Ball To Corps' Youngest Family Members

Each year, Marines celebrate the birth of the Corps with one of the most beloved traditions in the military—the Birthday Ball. The time-honored custom allows them to pay tribute to their shared history while enjoying time together outside of the office and field environments.

Usually Marines bring only one guest to the Ball—a spouse or significant other—but on Oct. 13, approximately 50 families gathered for the inaugural Marine Aircraft Group 26 Marine Corps Children's Ball at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

“The Children's Ball was designed to give children the benefit of knowing what a Marine Corps Ball consists of,” said William Coplen, the MAG-26 family readiness officer. “This gives the kids the ability to really see what their parents are doing: celebrating the traditions of the Marine Corps and having a good time.”

The tradition of the Children's Ball within MAG-26 originated in 2011 with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 263;

in following years, it became popular enough with the families to be held at the aircraft-group level.

“During the Marine Corps Ball, the children are all someplace else, and they don't know what Mom and Dad are doing,” said Colonel Jeffrey P. “Jeff” Hogan, Commanding Officer, MAG-26. “It's important to remember why we're all here and that the families are the most important part. If the kids know what their parents are doing, they can be even more proud of their mom or dad for serving.”

The Children's Ball began with the presentation of the colors, an invocation from the unit's chaplain, and the traditional cake-cutting ceremony. The families then enjoyed dinner, dancing and music.

The guest of honor at the Ball was the “Devil Dog” mascot, who visited with families on and off the dance floor while balloons and laughter filled the air.

“This is the first time I've been to a ball like this and everyone seems like they're having a good time,” Hogan said. “I think we should do this every year. I'll

tell anybody that this is a really great time, and the only thing we should do next year is make it bigger.”

Cpl Sullivan Laramie, USMC

## Website Brings Military Child Care Into 21st Century

The Department of Defense continues to expand its new online tool to assist servicemembers who are seeking child care for their dependents between the ages of 4 weeks and 12 years. MilitaryChildCare.com, which began as a pilot program, now is gradually adding military installations to its website. It is expected to be fully functional worldwide by September 2016.

MilitaryChildCare.com became available to servicemembers stationed at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island and Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., in late October.

“The website will be used throughout the military in all branches, so hopefully families will begin to learn how it works,” said Ashley Utsey, the family child care director for Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) South Carolina. “It will be the first place to go when you are looking for care at any base you move to.”

Military personnel new to installations may not be aware of all the programs and services available to them or they may be overwhelmed with choosing a provider to fit their needs. The system also will help inform transitioning families.

“When families move into the area and are looking for care, they are going to be able to go online and see information about all of our centers,” said Utsey. “Whether it's Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island or Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, they will be able to see where the openings are.”

In addition to the child development centers, the site lists before- and after-school care programs as well as alternative programs, like family child care providers who run programs out of their homes.

All of these programs and more are featured, along with photos, driving directions and schedules, allowing parents to make informed decisions.

Users of MilitaryChildCare.com can make a profile that stores their basic infor-



CPL SULLIVAN LARAMIE, USMC

**The MAG-26 Marine Corps Children's Ball begins as Marines present the colors during the Oct. 13 event at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C. The event allowed the unit's Marines to share the traditions of the Marine Corps Birthday with the youngest members of their families.**

mation, including family-type and child data. With this profile, they can conduct a customized search for a wide range of child care options. The site is designed to improve and simplify the child care search process.

“Right now, families have to go to the resource and referral office to get the information they need,” said Utsey. “With this website, the process of choosing a child care provider can be faster.”

The site is designed to expedite a child’s placement in a program or class. The system helps MCCS staff stay up to date on all requests from parents, cutting down on waitlist time.

“We are excited to update our process and bring our child care options directly to the families who need them,” said Utsey. “This is a 21st century update to military family services.”

LCpl Jonah Lovy, USMC

### Sergeant Recognized as “Hometown Hero” During NFL Game

Sergeant Benjamin J. Annarino was honored as a Detroit Lions’ “Hometown Hero” during a National Football League game at Ford Field in Detroit, Mich., Oct. 20.

Annarino took to the field as more than 60,000 fans cheered during a break in the third quarter when the Detroit Lions played the Chicago Bears.

A canvassing recruiter in Richmond, Mich., Sgt Annarino was nominated via the Detroit Lions website, where military personnel and first responders are recommended through a public community nomination process. The organization then selects one individual to become a game’s “Hometown Hero,” according to Sergeant First Class Ronnie P. Cyrus, an Army National Guardsman and coordinator for the Lions’ Hometown Hero/Salute to Service program.

“The Detroit Lions ... are proud to salute men and women who serve our country,” said Cyrus. “We select an active-duty, wounded or retired member of the military or local emergency services who has made the community proud through their courageous service and exemplary character.”

After hearing that he was selected, Annarino felt like he was a local celebrity.

“I am the type of person that does not like to be in the limelight or have too much attention on myself,” said Annarino, a native of Livonia, Mich. “When my family

**Sgt Benjamin J. Annarino signs a fan’s helmet during a Detroit Lions’ football game at Ford Field in Detroit, Mich., Oct. 20. Annarino, a canvassing recruiter for Recruiting Station Detroit, was honored as the game’s “Hometown Hero” during the third quarter of the game.**



SGT TERRY BRADY, USMC

**ON YOUR MARK, GET SET**—Children race through the starting line during the Marine Corps Marathon Kids Run at the north parking lot of the Pentagon, Arlington, Va., Oct. 24. More than 3,500 participants between the ages of 5 and 12 ran the 1-mile event held the day before the Marine Corps Marathon. Marines were lined up along the sides of the course to encourage the participants and boost their morale. The competition gave the children an opportunity to get acquainted with the Marine Corps and to test their physical limits.

and I entered the stadium, we were treated very well. When we walked out onto the field I had no idea how the crowd was going to react, but it turned out to be an amazing and humbling experience.”

As Sgt Annarino and several of his family and friends walked down the tunnel leading to the sideline, he began to feel a nervous excitement come over him, he recalled.

“When I was walking down the tunnel all I could hear was the crowd screaming,” he said.

According to SFC Cyrus, Annarino along with his family received one of the

warmest and loudest cheers of the day.

“To me it felt like I was out there for 20 minutes, but it was probably closer to 15 seconds,” said Annarino. “Honestly, it felt like their cheers were in honor of all those who serve, not just me. It put everything we in the military do in perspective for me. It reminded me that our nation loves our military for all of our sacrifices, and it was something that I will never forget and I am extremely thankful for.”

Sgt J.R. Heins, USMC



SGT J.R. HEINS, USMC



# In Memoriam

Compiled by Savannah Norton and Nancy S. Lichtman

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

## Marine Hornet Crash Results in Pilot's Death

A Third Marine Aircraft Wing pilot died when his F/A-18C Hornet crashed near Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England, Oct. 21, 2015.

Major Taj Sareen, a pilot with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 232, stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., died as a result of the crash. Maj Sareen was deployed as part of Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command 15.2 and was returning with his squadron after their six-month deployment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

Maj Sareen, 34, a native of Hillsborough, Calif., received his commission in the Marine Corps in 2005. He previously deployed to Afghanistan in 2010 with VMFA-232 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and was an instructor in Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101.

His awards include the Air Medal with Strike Numeral "5."

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the family, friends and fellow Marines of Major Sareen, and we are currently providing support to those affected by this tragic incident," said Major General Michael A. Rocco, commanding general of 3d MAW.

The cause of the F/A-18C crash is under investigation.

Compiled from 3d MAW media releases

**Cpl Barbara (Marvin) Adams**, 91, in South Burlington, Vt. During WW II she was a Marine who served in North Carolina and California.

**James L. Allen**, 68, of Lindale, Texas. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1964 and served in Vietnam. He later worked for AT&T.

**Harry L. Archer**, 92, of St. Joseph, Mo. He was a Marine during WW II. He later worked as the parts manager at Farmers' Equipment Company and did volunteer work in his community.

**2ndLt Frank E. "Gene" Autrey**, 91, of

Miami, Fla. He was a Marine Corps pilot who flew Grumman F6F-3N Hellcats with Marine Night Fighter Squadron 533 in the South Pacific during WW II. He earned three Distinguished Flying Crosses and 12 Air Medals. He also flew combat missions during the Korean War. He earned a degree in electrical engineering and later served as an executive with utility companies.

**James "Jimmy B" Balatsos**, 91, of Mountainside, N.J. He was a Marine veteran of WW II. He loved Greek music and played the bouzouki in a band known as "The Ageans."

**Capt Jerald Beasley**, 93, in Jackson, Miss. After graduating from Louisiana Tech University, he served in the Marine Corps during WW II and the Korean War.

**1stLt Robert A. Benson**, 85, of Grand Rapids, Mich. He was a Marine who served on the East Coast. He also was a lawyer and judge. He worked as a banker before he attended Wayne State University Law School in 1961. He was appointed to the circuit court bench in 1980 and served as chief judge between 1991 and 1994. Although he officially retired in 2000, he continued to work as a visiting judge in circuit and district courts around western Michigan until 2013.

**Thaddeus A. Berry**, 89, of Johnson City, Tenn. He was a Marine who fought in the Pacific during WW II.

**Cpl Salvatore J. "Joe" Bilello**, 93, of Oceanside, N.Y. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1942 and saw action on Tarawa. A graduate of Seton Hall University, he was a police officer in New York City for 25 years.

**GySgt Arlie R. Bingaman**, 87, in Tustin, Calif. He was a Marine who served for 22 years. He then worked for the Tustin Unified School District for 24 years.

**Sean M. Bolton**, 33, of Memphis, Tenn. He was shot in the line of duty as a Memphis police officer. He was a six-year veteran of the Marine Corps, including a tour in Iraq. He participated in several martial-arts disciplines and was an avid reader who spoke several languages. He

also was involved with community service endeavors.

**Col Frank C. Caldwell**, 94, in Newport, R.I. He was a Marine who served in the South Pacific during WW II. He was awarded the Navy Cross for his actions during the fighting on Iwo Jima.

According to his Navy Cross citation, as commanding officer of Co F, 2d Bn, 26th Marines, 5thMarDiv, "[when] his company encountered heavy opposition from Japanese forces entrenched in a network of caves ... Captain Caldwell skillfully organized and coordinated his attack over most difficult terrain, exposing himself to heavy enemy fire to insure the execution of his mission. ... When his platoon leaders became casualties and the platoons became disorganized, he personally organized and maintained contact in his units despite hostile fire, and with unflagging determination and courage, inspired his men to hold the objective."

He later served in the Korean War as the executive officer for 2/7, and from 1962 to 1973, he was the director of Marine Corps History Division.

His other awards include the Legion of Merit and the Purple Heart.

**Ralph R. Carter**, 91, of Medina, Ohio. He was a Marine who served in the Pacific during WW II. He was a 40-year employee of Snow Manufacturing Company in Bellwood, Ill.

**Lee Castro**, 93, of Galveston, Texas, was a Marine who served in the South Pacific during WW II.

**James A. Cavaliero**, 91, of Vineland, N.J. During WW II he was in the South Pacific and saw action on Guadalcanal and Guam. He also participated in the invasion of Okinawa.

**James D. Chavers Jr.**, 91, of Savannah, Ga. He enlisted during WW II and saw action with the 4thMarDiv on Iwo Jima.

After the war, he had a career in government service working for the U.S. Postal Service and U.S. Customs Service.

**Robert P. "Bob" Craig**, 92, of Winter Haven, Fla., was a Marine who fought in

WW II. He was awarded a Purple Heart for wounds he received in the fighting on Okinawa.

**Maj John B. "Jack" Crone**, 85, of Vista, Calif. He was a Mustang Marine who served 32 years in the Corps in China, Korea and Vietnam. He earned a Purple Heart near the Chosin Reservoir in Korea.

**Sgt Ronald H. Cummins Sr.**, 80, of Longview, Texas. He graduated from high school in 1953 and joined the Marine Corps. He served during the Korean War and later was a drill instructor. After his service in the military, he became a commercial pilot and flew as a crop duster. He was a 32-degree Mason and an endowed member of the 1396 Pine Tree Lodge. He also was a member of the Scottish Rite.

**Harry M. Cutting**, 92, of Libertyville, Ill. He was a veteran of the Pacific theater during WW II, who was awarded the Purple Heart. After returning from the war, he attended college and medical school. He was a family practice physician in Milwaukee, Wis., for 35 years.

**Cpl Frank S. Czerwinski**, 92, of Bridgeport, Conn. During WW II he was wounded during the fighting on Okinawa. He was awarded the Purple Heart.

**John W. DesJarlais**, 90, of Seattle, Wash., fought with the 4thMarDiv on Roi-Namur, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. He later worked for a Seattle food services company.

**John J. Devine**, of Stoughton, Wis. He fought on Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima, where he was wounded. He was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

**GySgt Robert L. Duncan**, 82, of Luray, Va. He served for 20 years and was a veteran of the Korean War. He was awarded the Silver Star for actions at the Chosin Reservoir on Nov. 30, 1950, while serving with 3/7, 1stMarDiv (Rein).

According to his citation, when his company was pinned down by heavy enemy automatic weapons and small-arms fire, "Private First Class Duncan ... put his machine gun into action. ... He returned accurate and effective fire against the attackers and, when the ammunition was expended, moved through intense fire, grabbed a box of ammunition from another position and returned to man his weapon. While most of the unit was seeking cover, he again braved fire to obtain additional ammunition and continued to manipulate his weapon effectively against the attackers until his gun crew had gained fire superiority and eliminated the fierce opposition."

He also served in Vietnam in 1968. His other awards include the Combat Action Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal. He

was a member of the VFW, the 1stMarDiv Association and The Chosin Few.

**Capt Louis M. Dunklin**, 90, of Dallas, Texas. He served in the Marine Corps during WW II and was recalled to active duty in 1950. He commanded an artillery battery with the 11th Marines in Korea. A graduate of Yale University, he had a successful career in business.

**Rita (Cantrell) Eckels**, 91, of Carmel, Ind., was a Marine who served during WW II. She was stationed at HQMC in Washington, D.C. She later worked for 27 years as a management analyst with the U.S. Army.

**GySgt Ronald D. Eckert**, 78, of Fort Mill, S.C. He was a Vietnam veteran with two Purple Hearts who retired from the Corps in 1974.

**Mark R. Edgar**, 88, of Gladwin, Mich., was a Marine who served in WW II.

**Kee Etsicitty**, 92, of Chichiltah, N.M. He was a Navajo Code Talker. He enlisted in the Marine Corps when he was 16. He saw action on Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Guam, Saipan and Iwo Jima.

**Louis J. Evans**, 92, of Longview, Texas. He joined the Marine Corps in 1940 and served in the South Pacific. He was wounded on Guadalcanal and received the Purple Heart.

**2ndLt John B. Farnham**, 94, of Phoenix, Ariz. After graduating from college he joined the Marine Corps, went on to receive a commission and participated in the invasion of Okinawa as a member of the 8th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion.

After the war, he enrolled in the Still Osteopathic College in Des Moines, Iowa, and graduated in 1950. He practiced family medicine in rural Iowa for 10 years before pursuing a specialty in radiology. He helped establish hospitals in Battle Creek, Iowa, and the Phoenix area.

**MGySgt Richard C. Fenn**, 93, of Jacksonville, N.C. He was a Marine who served in both WW II and Korea and also served two tours in Vietnam.

**Cpl William K. "Kyle" Ferrell**, 21, of Carthage, N.C. He was stationed at Camp David in Maryland where he was assigned to the Presidential Security Detail. Before joining the Marine Corps, he volunteered his time as a member of the Carthage Fire Department.

According to reports, he was killed in a hit-and-run traffic incident after he stopped to assist a stranded motorist.

**Roy "Kirk" Fisher**, 84, of Tyler, Texas, was a veteran Marine who earned an accounting degree from Stephen F. Austin University in Texas. He ran his own accounting firm for more than 30 years.

**Raymond A. Floriani**, 90, of Toms River, N.J. A WW II Marine, he went to

work for his father in the family business, A. Floriani Embroidery, and eventually took over the business.

**Sgt Billie G. "Pop" Fore**, 91, of New Bern, N.C. He was with VMF-422 in the South Pacific during WW II. After the war, he was a flight engineer in the Air Force.

**Sgt Billy Joe Frazier**, 84, of Dallas, Texas. After high school, he joined the Marine Corps and served in the Korean War.

**Howard Garcia**, 77, of Bellingham, Wash., was a Marine who retired after 23 years of service. He was a DI, and he served three tours in Vietnam. After retiring from the Marine Corps, he owned and operated a fish processing business.

**Maxine (Rimmer) Georgi**, 92, of Arlington, Texas, was a Marine who served during WW II.

**BGen Harry T. Hagaman**, 87, of Grand Junction, Colo. He was a naval aviator. During his 32-year career in the Marine Corps he was a flight instructor and aircraft maintenance officer. He commanded Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323 in combat in Vietnam. He was forced to eject from his F-4B Phantom II after his aircraft was hit by gunfire in the skies over Khe Sanh in 1968. He was rescued by a Marine helicopter crew.

Later in his career he commanded 1st Marine Brigade, FMF, Pacific and was the Director of Intelligence at HQMC. His awards include the Bronze Star with combat "V," the Air Medal and the Purple Heart.

**SSgt Vincent J. Hale Jr.**, 69, in Lakeport, Calif., was a combat correspondent in Vietnam from 1966 to 1968. He also was a broadcaster for American Forces Radio and Television Service.

**William A. "Red" Harrison**, 93, of Atchison, Kan. He served during WW II in the South Pacific. He was awarded the Purple Heart for bayonet wounds received during the fighting on Iwo Jima while serving with Co C, 26th Marines, 5thMarDiv. After the war, he worked as a carpenter.

**Harold M. Henry**, 93, of Blue Bell, Pa., was a Marine who fought on Okinawa with the 29th Marines.

**J.C. "John" Hodges**, 88, of Longview, Texas. He was a Marine who served during the Korean War.

**Albert A. Hujdich**, 85, of Bordentown, N.J. He joined the Marine Corps when he was 17 and saw action with 1st Battalion, 1st Marines at the Chosin Reservoir and Inchon during the Korean War. He had two Purple Hearts. After the war, he was in the Marine Corps Reserve and then the New Jersey National Guard.

**Thomas A. "Tom" Johnson**, 80, of

Lewisville, Texas, was a Marine who served at MCAS El Toro, Calif. He earned his private pilot's license, and after completion of active duty, he earned a bachelor's degree in aircraft maintenance engineering.

**John F. Keller**, 91, of Fishersville, Va., was a Marine who saw action on the Marshall Islands during WW II. He was a member of the VFW.

**Cpl Mary (Chillman) Kerke**, 91, of Berwyn, Ill. She was a Marine who served during WW II.

**Sgt Richard N. Krasner**, 90, of Springfield, N.J. He served during WW II where he fought on Okinawa and Leyte in the Philippines.

**Robert W. Landis**, 91, of Berlin, Pa., was a WW II Marine who served in USS *Hancock* (CV-19).

**Wesley E. Leech**, 94, of Morrison, Ill., was a Marine who served in the Solomon Islands during WW II.

**Capt Lou Lenart**, 94, in Ra'anana, Israel. Born in a small Hungarian village, his family immigrated to the United States when he was 10. At 17, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and later was sent to flight training. He flew F4U Corsairs during WW II, participating in the Battle of Okinawa and other Pacific campaigns. In 1948 he volunteered to fly for the new state of Israel. He was a member of the 101 Squadron, the first squadron in the Israeli Air Force.

**John J. "Bampy" Lyons**, 89, of Chicopee, Mass. He was a Marine who served in the South Pacific during WW II.

**Cpl Vincent E. Maranto**, 84, of Arlington Heights, Ill., was a Marine who served during the Korean War.

**Robert E. "Bob" Miller**, 92, of Middletown, Ohio. During WW II he served in the Pacific and earned the Combat Action Ribbon. He was a member of the MCL, American Legion, VFW and DAV.

**Cpl Katharine "Kay" (Cooke) Mulligan**, 92, of Newburyport, Mass., enlisted in the Marine Corps during WW II. She served at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.

**Allen D. Nelson**, 84, of Granbury, Texas. He enlisted in the Marine Corps after his graduation from high school. He later went to college and veterinary school and worked for the USDA for many years.

**Bernard J. "Bernie" Neuville**, 88, of Green Bay, Wis. He fought in WW II at the Battle of Iwo Jima. After the war he worked for Nabisco.

**1stLt Joseph R. Owen**, 90, of Skaneateles, N.Y., was a Marine who served in WW II and later returned to active duty as a second lieutenant during the Korean War. He fought at the Chosin Reservoir and later was awarded the Silver Star for his actions while serving as the

mortar section commander of B/1/7, 1stMarDiv. While on combat patrol, the Marines came under heavy fire, resulting in numerous casualties. Owen "expertly delivered mortar fire with deadly effect to hamper enemy movement. When his mortar rounds were exhausted, he quickly reorganized his mortarmen and available headquarters personnel into an ad hoc rifle unit," according to the citation. He "fearlessly led his Marines into the midst of the onrushing enemy soldiers ... to repulse the enemy."

After the war he worked in marketing and wrote "Colder Than Hell: A Marine Rifle Company at the Chosin Reservoir," a memoir about his experiences in the Korean War. He also had several articles published in the *Marine Corps Gazette* and *Leatherneck*.

**LtGen Frank E. Petersen Jr.**, 83, of Stevensville, Md. He was the Corps' first black aviator and the first black Marine to be promoted to brigadier general.

He joined the Navy as a seaman apprentice in June 1950 and was an electronics technician. In 1951 he entered the Naval Aviation Cadet Program, and he completed flight training and accepted a commission as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps in 1952.

His first tactical assignment was during the Korean War with Marine Fighter Squadron 212. He later commanded a fighter squadron, a Marine aircraft group, a Marine amphibious brigade and a Marine aircraft wing. His last assignment before retiring was as commanding general of Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Quantico, Va.

He flew more than 350 combat missions during the Korean War and Vietnam War and, through the course of his career, accrued 4,000 hours in various fighter and attack aircraft.

He earned his bachelor's degree in 1967 and his master's degree in 1973, both from George Washington University. He also completed the National War College.

His awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with combat "V," the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Purple Heart and the Air Medal.

"[He was] a pioneer and role model in many ways; a stellar leader, Marine officer and aviator," said General John M. Paxton Jr., the 33rd Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps.

**Donna C. (Hathaway) Robinson**, 93, in Wells, Maine. During WW II she served in the Marine Corps.

**Sgt Ciro C. Sanicola**, 93, of Millers-town, Pa. He maintained F4U Corsairs while serving onboard an aircraft carrier in the Pacific during WW II. After the war

he had a career in the aircraft industry as an airplane mechanic.

**John G. "Jr." Scheperle**, 90, of Jefferson City, Mo., was wounded on Iwo Jima. He made a career as a bricklayer and contractor. He served in the Corps from 1944 to 1946 and earned two Purple Hearts.

**LTC Leonard G. Sewell, USA**, 88, of Augusta, Ga. He was a Merchant Marine during WW II and in 1945 joined the Marine Corps. He landed at Inchon and fought at the Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War. He served in the Army including two tours in Vietnam. He was a Bronze Star recipient.

**Jason P. Sheaffer**, 93, of Pensacola, Fla., was a Marine who was a radar specialist during WW II.

**Vernon Sturdy Sr.**, 92, of Flushing, Mich. He served in the Marine Corps during WW II and saw action on Guadalcanal. Later, he was in the Air Force Reserve. He attended the University of Louisville and was part of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

**1stLt Lawrence G. Ward**, 80, in Fairfax, Va. As a teenager he joined the Marine Corps and served in the Korean War as a machine-gunner for 3/7. He also served in the Vietnam War and as a drill instructor at MCRD Parris Island, S.C. He received a battlefield commission in Vietnam. His personal decorations include four Purple Hearts. After his retirement he was a civilian employee for the Marine Corps and for the Coast Guard. He was a volunteer with Boy Scout troops in Stafford, Va., and was a Little League umpire.

**David P. Whatley**, 91, of Longview, Texas. He enlisted in the Marine Corps during WW II after graduating from high school in 1944. He was assigned to 1stMarDiv. He later served with 3dMarDiv and went to Guam as one of the replacements for the Marines killed during the fighting on Iwo Jima. At the end of the war, he was sent to China. After the war he attended Tyler Junior College and joined the Humble Oil and Refining Company.

**Col Barkeley B. Yarborough**, 90, of Huntington Beach, Calif. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1943 and fought on Saipan, Tinian, Guam and Okinawa before serving with occupational forces in China until 1946. During the Korean War he was selected for the Meritorious Enlisted Commissioning Program. He served with the 1stMarDiv in Korea. After returning from Korea, he joined the Marine Corps Reserve and retired in 1985. He worked in the insurance industry for many years.





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## SOUND OFF

[continued from page 7]

with water and sand in a small brook.

I carried it with my gear for my remaining three months in country and, upon arriving home in early 1952, deposited the buckle in a drawer where it remained unseen until a few years ago when I took it to the office and showed it to a business associate of Korean descent. He smiled and said the character and flying crane symbol meant "long life." The irony struck me, and I did not tell my friend the circumstances of my find.

William P. Crozier  
Weymouth, Mass.

## Who Said Rank Is Slow?

I learned many years ago not to claim to be the only or the first Marine to do something. Thus, I'll claim I'm one of the few.

My date of rank when promoted to corporal in April 1947 was nine days before my date of rank when promoted to private first class. I still have both promotion warrants, and they clearly show the following to be correct.

The authority for my promotion to PFC was Letter of Instruction 1219, dated Jan.

18, 1946. The type of warrant was temporary, and my date of rank was April 24, 1947. This warrant was signed by Colonel Clayton C. Jerome, Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Air Station Quantico, Va. (He later became a lieutenant general.)

The authority for my promotion to corporal was paragraph 1(a), CMC letter serial mc-891250, dated April 11, 1947. The type of warrant was temporary, and my date of rank was April 15, 1947. This warrant was signed by Lieutenant Colonel John W. Sapp Jr., C.O. (Acting) MCAS Quantico.

In 1971, as a colonel, I was assigned to be the head of the Promotion Branch, Personnel Department, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. The senior civilian in the Enlisted Promotion Section was the popular and very well-known Ms. Vickie Tenelli. This competent lady had worked in that section more than 30 years. When I told her about my dates of rank, she said that could not have been in accordance with the regulations. She found copies of both authorities and found that my dates of rank were in fact in accordance with the regulations.

The authority for my promotion to PFC stated that the date of rank was to be the date of the actual promotion. The authority for my promotion to corporal stated that

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a lot of records, but who is the oldest is not one of them. They are in the business of being Marines, not Guinness record keepers.

Retired Col Walter R. Walsh was 106 when he died in 2014, and although he could have been the oldest Marine at the time, we let the fact that he was 106 be enough, because who knows, somewhere there may have been some old salt pushing 107.

Let's hope Col Miller keeps going for a long time to come.—Sound Off Ed.

### "Ourselves Alone"

From the time of our landing at Inchon in September 1950 until Uisong guerrilla patrols in January 1951, the war in Korea was a series of continuous short and bloody skirmishes.

February brought a new phase to the war when the First Marine Division was again reassembled and used as one complete unit. Towns on maps were just names. We never were in any town or village. We were in the hills, valleys and mountains all the time. We never slept or were quartered in any structured buildings.

Cleanliness was unknown. Whatever was in our backpacks were our only possessions. Time, days, dates and months were unimportant since we could see no end of the war in sight and had no idea how the war was going except in our little group.

This did instill the camaraderie in Company C, 1st Battalion, First Marine Regiment commanded by Captain Bob Wray that still exists today.

John J.V. Cook  
2d Plt, C/1/1, 1stMarDiv  
Havertown, Pa.

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the date of rank was to be April 15, 1947. Ms. Tenelli very gracefully agreed that my dates of rank were correct.

I also had another unusual promotion situation. I was selected to be promoted to technical sergeant with a date of rank of May 28, 1951. Without being promoted, I was discharged on that date due to having been selected to be commissioned a second lieutenant on May 29, 1951.

I wonder if any other Marines had an experience like mine.

Col Edwin C. King, USMC (Ret)  
Fredericksburg, Va.

### Oldest Living Marine, Nobody Knows for Sure

On Sept. 24, 2015, a picture appeared on Facebook captioned "Property owner installing bullet proof glass at Armed

Forces Recruiting Center in Cullman says he's been honored by the Pentagon for being the oldest living Marine in the U.S. He's 95."

We just had a party to celebrate the 101st birthday of a U.S. Marine. This Marine was not in Marine Fighter Squadron 214, but did fly F4Us with Colonel Gregory "Pappy" Boyington. He is Colonel Justin "Mac" Miller of Mars Hill, N.C.

Cpl Bruce A. Rund Jr.  
USMC, 1961-67  
Belcamp, Md.

• *Congratulations, Col Miller. As Col King explained in the previous letter, we should beware of "absolutes," e.g., first, last, biggest, smallest, youngest, oldest, etc. They often are just not so or are proven wrong. The Marine Corps keeps*



**Infantryman John Cook sporting his Korean A-frame with straw for a bed.**

COURTESY OF JOHN J.V. COOK

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## Reunions

• **East Coast Drill Instructors Assn. (Parris Island Chapter)**, April 21-24, 2016, Parris Island, S.C. Contact SgtMaj Kenneth D. Miller, USMC (Ret), (828) 499-0224, [www.parrisislanddi.org](http://www.parrisislanddi.org).

• **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](mailto:bertojoto1@gmail.com).

• **D/2/11, BLT 1/5, USS Montrose (APA-212), USS Pickaway (APA-222), USS Alamo (LSD-33), USS Princeton (LPH-5), (RVN, 1965-68)**, Jan. 25-29, 2016, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact Bill Collier, (559) 790-4496, [bill222u@me.com](mailto:bill222u@me.com).

• **I/3/7 (all eras)**, April 27-30, 2016, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Dennis Deibert, 6007 Catherine St., Harrisburg, PA 17112, (717) 652-1695.

• **Btry A, 1/11 (RVN)**, April 15-19, 2016, Herndon, Va. Contact Peter Van Ryzin, (540) 347-3267, [vanryzin1@hughes.net](http://vanryzin1@hughes.net), [www.all1reunion.com](http://www.all1reunion.com).

• **“Bravo” Co, 4th CEB, 4thMarDiv (Desert Storm, 25th Anniversary)**, May 13-14, 2016, Roanoke, Va. Contact Steve Garman, P.O. Box 748, Salem, VA 24153, [stevegarman7@gmail.com](mailto:stevegarman7@gmail.com).

• **1st Provisional Marine Brigade (“The Fire Brigade,” Korea, 1950)** is planning a 65th anniversary reunion.

Contact Col Warren Wiedhahn, USMC (Ret), Military Historical Tours, 13198 Centerpointe Way, #202, Woodbridge, VA 22193, (703) 590-1295, [jwiedhahn@aol.com](mailto:jwiedhahn@aol.com), [www.miltours.com](http://www.miltours.com).

• **American Embassy Saigon (RVN, pre-1975)**, Sept. 4-7, 2016, Portland, Ore. Contact MSgt Gus Tomuschat, USMC (Ret), (804) 693-3007, [saigongunny@yahoo.com](mailto:saigongunny@yahoo.com), [www.saigonmac.com](http://www.saigonmac.com).

• **TBS Class 5-62**, Sept. 29-Oct. 2, 2016, Nashville, Tenn. Contact Denis W. Retoske, (714) 287-0706, [dwrlawyer@gmail.com](mailto:dwrlawyer@gmail.com), [tbsclass562@gmail.com](mailto:tbsclass562@gmail.com).

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

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

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

• **Plt 245, San Diego, 1965**, is planning a reunion. Contact David S. Alvarez, (209) 735-2601, [srt8o06@yahoo.com](mailto:srt8o06@yahoo.com).

• **Plt 266, Parris Island, 1962**, is planning a reunion. Contact Donald A. Welch, 129 Hawthorne Pl., Ithaca, NY 14850,

(607) 256-0554, [don814u@hotmail.com](mailto:don814u@hotmail.com).

• **Plt 340, Parris Island, 1963**, is planning a reunion. Contact Garrett W. Silvia, (508) 992-7392, [gwsil@comcast.net](mailto:gwsil@comcast.net).


• **Plt 2023, San Diego, 1983**, is planning a reunion. Contact Jeffrey R. Johnson, 3751 Merced Dr., Unit 4D, Riverside, CA 92503, [jrj430@yahoo.com](mailto:jrj430@yahoo.com).

• **Plt 2030, Parris Island, 1965-66**, is planning a reunion. Contact John E. Lyford, (518) 654-6073, [reniejohn@roadrunner.com](mailto:reniejohn@roadrunner.com).

• **Plt 2086, San Diego, 1966**, is planning a reunion. Contact Bill Kennedy, (707) 527-8319, [wm.kennedy98@yahoo.com](mailto:wm.kennedy98@yahoo.com).

• **Plt 4035, “Papa” Co, Parris Island, 2000**, is planning a reunion. Contact Tammy (Manyik) Epperson, (571) 451-7263, [tammy.epperson@gmail.com](mailto:tammy.epperson@gmail.com).

• **VMA(AW)-242 (RVN)**, May 1-4, 2016, Gettysburg, Pa. Contact Bill Mellors, 4000 Emmitsburg Rd., Fairfield, PA 17320, [242reunion@gmail.com](mailto:242reunion@gmail.com).

• **VMFA-212 (1975-81)**, March 18-20, 2016, San Diego, Calif. Contact J.D. Loucks, P.O. Box 1, East Jewett, NY 12424, [vmfa212reunion@aol.com](mailto:vmfa212reunion@aol.com). 

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# Reader Assistance

Edited by Sara W. Bock

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## Mail Call

- Alexander Molnar, 88400 Diamondhead Dr. E., Diamondhead, MS 39525, alranlom@msn.com, to hear from **Marines who served in intelligence during the Vietnam War.**

- Cpl J.M. Armbruster, 10 Imperial Dr., Selden, NY 11784, (631) 698-3756, jmausmvet@gmail.com, to hear from members of **Plt 151, Parris Island, 1961.** **SSgt BARTON** was the senior drill instructor, and **SSgt ANDERSON** was the drill instructor.

- Thomas Walsh, (817) 371-2659, twamli@hotmail.com, to hear from or about **Norman TUPPER**, who was a member of **Plt 121, San Diego, 1968.**

- SgtMaj Kenneth D. Miller, USMC (Ret), (828) 499-0224, www.parrisislanddi.org, to hear from **former drill instructors** who are interested in becoming members of the **East Coast Drill Instructors Association, Parris Island Chapter.**

- Clay McCall, 1043 Lanterns Ln., Leland, NC 28451, (910) 520-1637, mccall.clay@gmail.com, to hear from any **members or drill instructors of Plt 365, Parris Island, 1971, who recall an accident** that occurred on the first day of the two weeks of maintenance duty.

- Cpl Jon L. Caylor, 3707 Pat St., Schofield, WI 54476, (715) 359-3913, putpilot4@hotmail.com, to hear from members of **Plt 376, San Diego, 1958**, anyone who attended **CW Radio School** with him, or anyone he served with from **1958 to 1962.**

- John H. Abbott, 13 Mill St., Manchester, MA 01944, abbott.john1@gmail.com, to hear from **Marines who attended Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine**, and are interested in helping establish the **Bowdoin Marine Corps Society**, which will connect Bowdoin Marines and provide scholarships to Marine veterans who would like to attend Bowdoin College.

## Wanted

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

- Victor Torres, (678) 462-4227, tigervic25@hotmail.com, wants a **platoon photo for Plt 158, Parris Island, 1974.**

- Clay McCall, 1043 Lanterns Ln., Leland, NC 28451, (910) 520-1637, mccall.clay@gmail.com, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 365, Parris Island, 1971.**

- Retired Marine Arthur J. Manning, 9505 Kingscroft Ter., Unit A, Perry Hall, MD 21128, (410) 256-4531, (443) 928-1966, jmleatherneck@aol.com, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 103, Parris Island, 1955.** The senior drill instructor was **SSgt FOSTER.**

- Mike Kerrigan, (708) 218-8763, makltd@comcast.net, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 2062, San Diego, 1967.**

- Paulette Meyer, (951) 672-1542, pmeyer1949@verizon.net, wants a **January 1976 issue of *Leatherneck*.**

- Laura Wehrley, (415) 283-9967, lbwehrley@gmail.com, wants a **September and an October 1971 issue of *Leatherneck*.**

## Sales, Trades and Giveaways

- Tom Redus, (662) 272-5292, redus@ftcweb.net, has the following **Parris Island platoon photos** to give away: **Plt 118, 1952; Plt 551, 1952; Plt 365, 1952; Plt 82, 1956; Plt 189, 1956; Plt 50, 1957; Plt 139, 1957; Plt 283, 1957; Plt 391, 1957; Plt 217, 1958; Plt 324, 1960; Plt 317, 1961; and Plt 344, 1961.** He also has **recruit graduation books** for **Plt 82, 1956; and Plt 216, 1957.**

- Garrett W. Silvia, (508) 992-7392, gwsil@comcast.net, has a **recruit graduation book for Plt 3011, Parris Island, 1975**, to give away (postage not included).



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# Saved Round

Edited by R.R. Keene



SGT FRANK C. KERR, USMC

**THE “FROZEN CHOSIN” 65 YEARS AGO—“General, I don’t accept that suggestion at all. I’m going to fight my way out. I’m going to take all my equipment and all my wounded and as many dead as I can. If we can’t get out this way, this Division will never fight as a unit again.” First Marine Division Commanding General Major General Oliver P. Smith’s response to Army MG Edward M. Almond, CG, X Corps, after MG Almond recommended that MajGen Smith “destroy all your artillery, burn your supplies and let every man go out on foot by himself.”**

The temperatures were well below zero, and the Marines were surrounded by the ice- and snow-covered Taebaek Mountains where more than 60,000 Chinese troops (six divisions) were waiting to attack yet again. MajGen Smith’s First Marine Division, however, simply “attacked in another direction” and fought its way out. Forty miles and four days later, the Division broke through to the Sea of Japan on Dec. 11, 1950.



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Photo By: Lance Cpl. Steven Fox



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VOL. XCVIII, No. 12

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

# Leatherneck

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INSIDE COVER:  
Save with  
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## When the year ends, car savings begin.

If you're in the market for a new or used car or truck, this is one of the best times of year to take action, as dealers scramble to optimize their inventory. In true Marine fashion, you'll want to go in armed with a strategic plan to take advantage of year-end deals and maximize your savings. So we've assembled six ways to save even more at the dealership. See our tips inside the back cover of this issue.

**➤ SAVE MONEY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.**  
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# MARINES

SEEK THE TACTICAL ADVANTAGE IN EVERY SITUATION. INCLUDING BUYING CARS.

**These six strategies can help you save even more on dealers' end-of-year sales:**

## ➤ TIMING

As the new year approaches, sales quotas, potential bonuses, new and old inventory create the perfect storm for buyers. Incoming models are in greater supply, making their pricing more flexible. At the same time, dealers are working to rid their lots of outgoing models, often triggering additional sales incentives.

## ➤ BUDGET

No deal is a good deal if it doesn't fit into your budget. What's your budget? Obviously, the answer will vary based on your situation, but if you can cap all your transportation costs at roughly 10% of your gross income, you should be on track. That includes gas, maintenance, insurance and the like.

## ➤ NEW VS USED

Opting for a slightly older version of the model you're interested in can yield thousands in savings on the vehicle and insurance costs. On the other hand, with a new vehicle, you may find better incentives and financing, plus the latest in safety and technology.

## ➤ FINANCING

A good deal should also include a good loan. Focus on loan length and interest rate. Aim for a rate in the low single digits. If your credit history is holding you back, buy a safe, reliable vehicle below your means while you work to bump up your score.

## ➤ THE EXTRAS

Extras like vehicle protection and "environmental" packages can add thousands to your final price tag. Do your homework in advance and don't leave the lot with something you didn't intend on buying when you got there.

## ➤ TOTAL COST OF OWNERSHIP

Don't stop at the sticker price. Compare the insurance costs, fuel efficiency, depreciation and maintenance track record. Remember to check out special deals like rebates, cash-back or bonus cash that may tip the scales in favor of one vehicle or another.

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<sup>1</sup>Between 01/01/2014 and 12/31/2014, the average estimated savings off MSRP presented by TrueCar Certified Dealers to users of the USAA Car Buying Service, based on users who configured virtual vehicles and subsequently purchased a new vehicle of the same make and model listed on the certificate from Certified Dealers, was \$3,485, including applicable vehicle specific manufacturer incentives. Your actual savings may vary based on multiple factors including the vehicle you select, region, dealer, and applicable vehicle specific manufacturer incentives which are subject to change. The Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price ("MSRP") is determined by the manufacturer, and may not reflect the price at which vehicles are generally sold in the dealer's trade area as not all vehicles are sold at MSRP. Each dealer sets its own pricing. Your actual purchase price is negotiated between you and the dealer. Neither TrueCar nor USAA sells or leases motor vehicles. USAA Car Buying Service provided by TrueCar, Inc. USAA Bank receives marketing fees in connection with the Car Buying Service. © 2015 USAA. 223900-1215

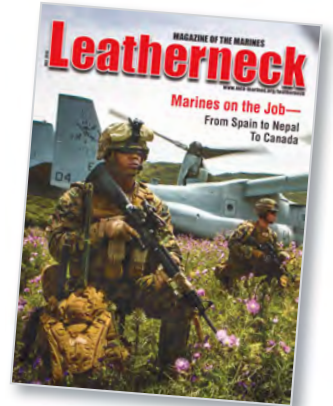
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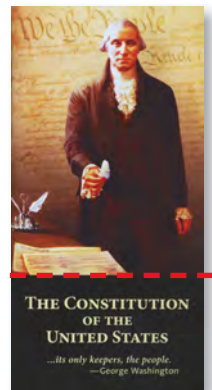
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