JUNE 2021

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

Leatherneck

www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck

Eternal Fraternity:

Marines Share A Sacred Bond With their "Docs"

EARN IT EVERY DAY.

The Marine that will be successful at MARSOC is a self-starter, initiative-driven; always seeking to improve himself, find his weaknesses and make them his strengths; someone who learns from everyone and seeks others' knowledge to make it his own and make him a better warrior. Marines selected for MARSOC have demonstrated attributes such as effective intelligence, adaptability, maturity, initiative, and determination that qualify them to perform special operations. MARSOC training is designed to take those baseline attributes and develop Marine Raiders who are tactically proficient across the full spectrum of special operations, and who understand the strategic importance of their tactical actions. See how you qualify at *marsoc.com*.

MARINE RAIDERS

Contents

LEATHERNECK—MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

JUNE 2021
VOL. 104, No. 6

Features

Departments

COVER: Top left: With the aid of candlelight, a Navy corpsman starts an IV on a wounded leatherneck in Vietnam, 1968. USMC photo. Top right: Cpl Brandon Rumbaugh pins the Silver Star on HM3 Class Todd Angell, a corpsman with 1st Bn, 8th Marines, 2ndMarDiv on April 27, 2012. Photo by SSgt Neil A. Sevelius, USMC. Bottom: HM3 Kevin Pollock, a corpsman with "Delta" Co, 3rd LAR Bn, 1stMarDiv (forward) hands a bag of hygiene supplies to an Afghan boy on Jan. 19, 2011. Photo by Cpl Ned Johnson, 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

Compiled by Patricia Everett

Letter of the Month

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

I enjoy reading the letters sent into the Sound Off section of *Leatherneck* magazine. They cover a multitude of various topics and I would like to touch on one; that being the pride of being a Marine. When I'm telling someone about my life, that's not too often, but I tell them that the proudest moment of my entire life was when I became a United States Marine. It's all about Marine pride starting with my graduating from boot camp back in 1966. It's about earning the right to so proudly wear that coveted eagle, globe and anchor. Then off to our war—the Vietnam War.

My father was a World War II Marine with 6th Marine Division who spent time on Okinawa. He was all the inspiration I needed to try to follow his lead and become a Marine. I served as an 0311/0351 with "Echo" Co, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines from August 1966 through September 1967 in Vietnam. We operated in and around Khe Sanh and Con Thien, the area known as "The Trace" or "Leatherneck Square." I was proud of my service in the Corps just as most Marines that I know are. It's a pretty common question asked when one Marine happens to meet another, "When were you in? Who were you with?"

A while back a young man came to our home for a repair of some sort. The front of our home is adorned with the American flag and the Marine Corps flag. The young man gave me an "oorah" and I replied with "Semper Fi." Through usual conversation of when and where, he said that his time was spent at Camp Pendleton and in Norway. He said that he had never heard of the places that I have mentioned above.

I asked a relative who had recently graduated from boot camp at MCRD San Diego if while in your training and being taught the history of the Marine Corps, did they make any mention of Vietnam. He said no. They talked about WW II and Korea, about Chesty Puller and the Cold War but never made mention of Vietnam. I wonder why not?

I discussed this with several other Marines that were with me at different times of my service and unfortunately everyone came to the same conclusion, the Marine Corps is embarrassed. I don't get it. I contacted a sergeant major at MCRD San Diego who said that he certainly wasn't embarrassed by us and that they don't, but should, make mention of us to recruits. We all know that Vietnam was a cluster. I have read elsewhere that the history of the Vietnam War is not being taught anywhere in the Marine Corps. Does anyone really know why not?

I sent a letter to the Commandant, General David H. Berger on July 25, 2020. I didn't expect a reply and didn't get one either. I doubt that I will read this in *Leatherneck* magazine, but I got it off my chest.

Thomas J. Burke
Florissant, Mo.

• As someone who has done a few tours in various schools in the Training and Education Command, I know that the number of required subjects is considerable and there is often the expectation that Marines will learn more about our battles when assigned to their units and in follow-on schools. I attended several schools during my time on active duty including the Marine Corps War College and Command and Staff College and the Vietnam War was a common topic throughout both academic years. There are electives on the war at various schools throughout the Training and Education Command including the courses at the staff academy. The Marine Corps Association provides opportunities for additional education on the Vietnam War and the rest of our history through our battle studies, archives, podcasts and, of course, in the pages of Gazette *and* Leatherneck. *Marines are briefed on the support we provide early in their enlistments.—Editor*

"My Adj"

In reading Mary Vargo's letter, "Marine Steps Up in Time of Need," in the February Sound Off, I was surprised to see she was writing about her deceased uncle, Major John C. Hoogerwerff, USMC (Ret). John was my Adjutant in 2nd Bn, 4th Marines and Battalion Landing Team 2/4 in Okinawa in 1980 to 1981. John and I became both professional and personal friends.

After I retired, John and I attended the 4th Marines reunions in 2009 and in 2014 at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. We kept in touch by phone, and as his dementia started to progress in earnest, I started calling him monthly. His wife, Florence, told me that he was admitted to a home for care, and unfortunately, I lost contact with her.

On behalf of the battalion, I ordered a brick for John from the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation in May 2020. Recently I received a letter that his engraved brick, number 36535, has been placed in Semper Fi Memorial Park.

I would like to give Mary Vargo the brick information plus photos of her uncle if you can put me in touch with her.

Col Malcolm E. "Doc" Smith Jr.
USMC (Ret)
Daniel Island, S.C.

• Thank you, Colonel, for honoring your "adj" in such a meaningful way. We've passed your contact information along to Ms. Vargo and we're happy to report to our readers that you two have been in touch.—Editor

"Full Metal Jacket" Comments Revisited

This is in response to the Sound Off letters, "Parris Island, 1968," by Sergeant Daniel C. Hodge and Cpl Carl R. Withey, in the April issue. First of all, I have watched the classic movie, "Full Metal Jacket," perhaps 40 times. That is, I watch the first half with admiration and joy. That first half of the classic movie is exactly how my boot camp experience was in the fall of 1966 with the exception of the murder of the drill instructor. My Senior DI (name withheld to protect the guilty) was the USMC bantamweight boxing champion and he used his fists to very effectively get his recruits' undivided attention and to correct our slovenly ways. Our other two DIs were not quite as physical, but they did not "spare the rod."

I have polled an estimated 250 U.S. Marine veterans from the Vietnam War-era, and they agree that their own boot camp experience was so similar to the movie that they could have been filmed with R. Lee Ermey—may he rest in peace. Perhaps that is the difference between the *real* U.S. Marine recruit training at MCRD San Diego and where Sgt Hodge attended his basic training in Parris Island. Over the years, Marines argue nonstop about which boot camp is harder. I have to repeat that from what I can gather, and from what Sgt Hodge and Cpl Withey

#1 international bestselling authors

BRIAN ANDREWS & JEFFREY WILSON

A new generation of elite American warriors faces off against an enemy unlike any other.

"As a veteran, thriller-writer, and fan of the genre, the Sons of Valor series is as good as it gets. If you liked Tom Clancy's John Clark, and if you like Brad Thor's Scot Harvath, you'll devour the Tier One series."

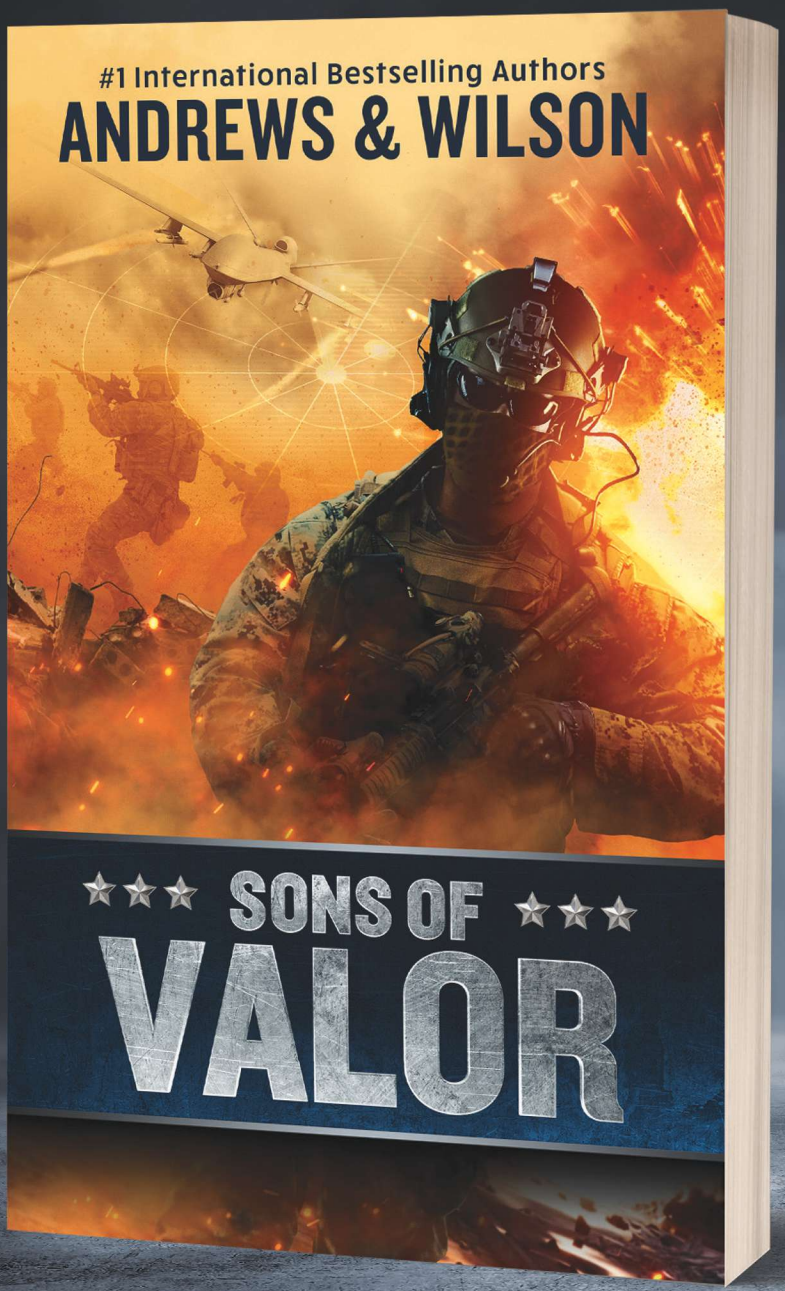
—Andrew Watts, Navy veteran & bestselling author of the War Planners

"Action, suspense, and intrigue…the Sons of Valor series is Andrews & Wilson at their absolute finest!"

—Jason Kasper, former Green Beret and *USA Today* bestselling author of the Shadow Strike series

"Want a look into the shadowy world of US special operations? *Sons of Valor* puts you on the front lines. Nobody does action like Andrews & Wilson!"

—Jack Carr, Navy SEAL sniper and *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Devil's Hand*



BLACK STONE PUBLISHING

Available June 8, 2021 in print, ebook, and audio!
Visit us at BlackstonePublishing.com

Leatherneck
MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

President/CEO,
Marine Corps Association
LtGen W. Mark Faulkner, USMC (Ret)

Vice President/COO,
Marine Corps Association
Col Daniel P. O'Brien, USMC (Ret)

Publisher: Col Christopher Woodbridge, USMC (Ret)

Editor: Col Mary H. Reinwald, USMC (Ret)

Senior Editor: Nancy S. Lichtman

Copy Editor: Jessica B. Brown

Staff Writer: Sara W. Bock

Editorial/Production Coordinator
Patricia Everett

Art Director: Jason Monroe

ADVERTISING QUERIES:
Defense Related Industries/Business:
Contact: LeeAnn Mitchell
advertising@mca-marines.org 703-640-0169
All Other Advertising Contact:
James G. Elliott Co. Inc.
New York: (212) 588-9200
Chicago: (312) 236-4900
Los Angeles: (213) 624-0900

EDITORIAL OFFICES
Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134
Phone: (703) 640-6161, Ext. 115
Toll-Free: (800) 336-0291
Fax: (703) 630-9147
Email: leatherneck@mca-marines.org
Web page: www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck

TELEPHONE EXTENSIONS
Editorial Offices: 115 • Business Office: 121

MEMBER SERVICES
Phone: toll-free (866) 622-1775
Email: mca@mca-marines.org

LEATHERNECK AND MCA MEMBERSHIP PRICES
1 year $42; **2 years** $79; **3 years** $119

Leatherneck also is available in digital format at www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck.

All overseas and foreign addresses add $16 postage for each year's membership except APO and FPO military addresses. Periodicals postage paid at Quantico, Va., USPS #308-080, and additional mailing offices.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS
Please send your new address six weeks before the date of issue with which it is to take effect, if possible. Include old address with new, enclosing your address label if convenient. Send to: *Leatherneck* Magazine, Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134 or email to: mca@mca-marines.org.

POSTMASTER
Send address changes to: *Leatherneck* Magazine,
Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134.

MARINE CORPS ASSOCIATION
EST 1913

Leatherneck (ISSN 0023-981X) is published monthly by the Marine Corps Association, Bldg. #715, MCB, Quantico, VA 22134.

indicate in their letters that they had it a lot easier in Parris Island.

Just to let the readers know and understand, in addition to having a similar experience in boot camp to the boot camp depicted in "Full Metal Jacket," I was inside of a U.S. Marine tank embroiled in the fighting in Hue City during the Tet Offensive. I can truthfully say with a rather extensive amount of firsthand knowledge that the second half of the movie is horrible and does not portray anything like the real battle that we fought.

Sgt John Wear
USMC, 1966-1969
Elbert, Co.

• While I appreciate you taking the time to provide your comparison of your boot camp experience to that depicted in the movie "Full Metal Jacket," I'm pretty sure that our Parris Island Marines will take issue with your assumption that recruit training on the East Coast was easier—but then, the debate of which coast provides better recruit training has been going on for years!—Editor

Having just finished reading two letters about R. Lee Ermey and his depiction of Gunnery Sergeant Hartman in "Full Metal Jacket," I felt the need to respond. I went through boot camp in 1958 at San Diego and my experiences differed sharply from those of the letter writers. Gunny Ermey was, in fact, a real Marine drill instructor (DI) and he played the part absolutely realistically. I failed to see any of the sadist in Ermey's portrayal as described by Corporal Carl R. Withey in his letter. My Senior DI was Staff Sergeant Guy DeWolf (who was seriously wounded at the Frozen Chosin) and he was at least as tough on us as was Sgt Hartman. During a footlocker inspection I made the cardinal mistake of leaving my sewing kit untied. I was backhanded clear across the squad bay and my sewing kit flung in all directions. To this day, I have never left a sewing kit untied.

We had seven non-qualifiers in our platoon on the rifle range and following our return from Camp Mathews (where we qualified), each one of those recruits was taken into the DI hut and was shown the error of his ways manually. Another unfortunate recruit failed to shave properly one morning and needed to correct this problem by dry shaving with a bucket over his head while running in place. I could go on and on, but I think you get the point. Nobody in our platoon ever once complained of his treatment but considered it part of becoming a Marine and learning to endure hardship without complaint. When we did well individually or collectively, we were rewarded with a smile from our DIs (the other being Sgt Charles Herringer) which was better than a Christmas present.

Yes, they were stern, tough and demanding but I wouldn't have had it any other way. My brother went through boot camp in 1951 and experienced similar treatment. I'm not sure that Cpl Withey knows the meaning of the word sadistic. Being a DI is tough duty and mine were dedicated to turning out the best Marines possible. Sadistic? Hardly. They epitomized what a Marine should be, and I will always hold them in the highest esteem. Their example and my experiences in boot camp made me into a better man, and I don't regret one minute of it.

Cpl R.E. Westlake
USMC, 1958-1962
Spokane Valley, Wash.

I enlisted in the Marine Corps back in 1964 fresh out of high school, in an effort to escape my brutally hostile and dangerous Bronx, N.Y., neighborhood. From the moment I got off the bus at Parris Island, I was shocked and immediately discovered that my life was about to change dramatically. I had senior Marines barking at me relentlessly while being provided with gear. I was regretting that I had enlisted.

Once I arrived at the barracks and assigned a rack, I got to meet my three drill instructors. One was a staff sergeant, the other a sergeant, and the youngest of the three was a corporal. Little did I know that the sergeant was going to torment us and physically abuse us during our entire training period.

While reading Sound Off in the April issue, one veteran Marine wrote, "I do not recall a single time any of my DIs ever laid a hand on any of us during the time I spent at Parris Island." Interestingly, I am sure most Marines feel the same way and can attest to what this one Marine wrote but a few of us did suffer gross abuse like me.

When I get up in the morning to shave and I look in the mirror, I can't help but notice a 1-inch scar between my eyes that I've had since going through boot camp. It happened when my abusive DI (sergeant) asked to see my M14 during an inspection. After he inspected the weapon, he threw it at me and struck me in the face causing me to bleed profusely. He immediately stated, "Remember, you tripped and fell over your footlocker and hurt yourself." I immediately yelled out, "Yes, Sir!" and was taken to sickbay to get patched up. After that one incident the sergeant stopped abusing me. He discovered I had the brand of cigarettes he smoked in my footlocker and asked me to provide him

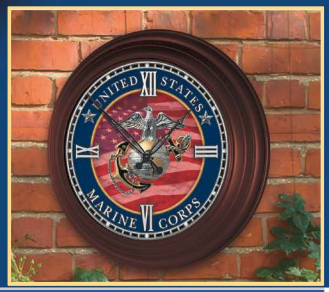
ILLUMINATED ATOMIC CLOCK

INDOOR AND OUTDOOR

Atomic clocks are completely self-setting and accurate to the second

Over a foot in diameter!

Shown much smaller than actual size of about 14" diameter. Requires 1 AA and 4 D batteries, not included.



USMC
Indoor/Outdoor Illuminated Atomic Clock

The time is right to salute the heroic men and women of the United States Marine Corps, and this officially licensed wall clock honors our Marines with commanding style and technical precision. This limited edition is available only from The Bradford Exchange.

A finely detailed USMC Eagle, Globe and Anchor is featured front and center against a billowing Stars and Stripes. Proud words decorate the blue border. Because it is in sync via radio waves with the official source of U.S. time in Fort Collins, Colorado, it is completely self-setting and accurate to the second. You never need to adjust it, even for Daylight Savings. As night falls, a built-in sensor cues hidden LED lights to automatically illuminate the glass-encased face and Roman numerals. The 14-inch diameter copper-toned housing is crafted of weather-resistant materials, ideal for indoor or outdoor living.

Peak demand for this fine clock is expected, so don't miss out. Make it yours now in four payments of $36.25, the first due before shipment, totaling $145*, backed by our unconditional, 365-day money-back guarantee. Send no money now—order today!

ORDER TODAY AT BRADFORDEXCHANGE.COM

™Officially Licensed Product of the United States Marine Corps

The Bradford Exchange • Since 1973 •

Where Passion Becomes Art

RESERVATION APPLICATION
SEND NO MONEY NOW

The Bradford Exchange
9345 Milwaukee Avenue, Niles, IL 60714-1393

YES. Please reserve the *USMC* Illuminated Atomic Clock for me as described in this announcement.
Please Respond Promptly

Mrs. Mr. Ms. _____
Name (Please Print Clearly)
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Email (optional) _____

*Plus a total of $19.99 shipping and service; see bradfordexchange.com. Limited-edition presentation restricted to 295 crafting days. Please allow 4-8 weeks after initial payment for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

01-35617-001-E50201

with one to two packs of cigarettes per day right through graduation day.

The other two DIs were less abusive but did punch us real hard in our guts every so often for "eyeballing" them as they walked past us. I guess it was their way of teaching us discipline and toughening us to become real Marines.

After graduation I was shipped to the Far East and experienced the best four years of my life as a Marine. It was a positive learning experience that I will never forget. As a matter of fact, my dress greens are hanging on the wall in my home office. So, please don't let this letter fool you into thinking bad about the Marine Corps. My experience as a Marine was all good and I am proud to say, Semper Fi.

Sgt Joe Garcia Parisi
USMC, 1964-1968
Pelham, N.Y.

Beirut Bombing

Thanks for the article, "Terrorism in Oklahoma City: 20 Years Later Marine Survivor Shares His Story," about Captain Norfleet. Another Marine who died that day in the Murrah Building was Paul Douglas Ice. Paul was a former Marine captain who became a senior special agent and investigator in the U.S. Customs office on the 5th floor. Just six months prior to the bombing Paul had run the Marine Corps Marathon.

That was a sad day in our history. Let's hope that an attack like that by a domestic American terrorist never happens again.

Mike Allen
Long Beach, Wash.

Having worked for months on the Oklahoma City bombing as an FBI counter-terrorism agent, Sara Bock's descriptive account brought back so many memories, all bad, of this very sad day in our nation's history. Even Timothy McVeigh's execution was incapable of bringing closure to survivors and those who had to sift through the rubble. Once again, my thanks to Sara Bock for sharing her exceptional talent with all of us. Another great article by Sara Bock.

Ed Armento
USMC, 1965-1968
Prospect, Ky.

• *Editor's note: The Oklahoma City bombing article was originally run in the April 2015 issue of* Leatherneck *on the 20th anniversary of that horrible day. The article was recently included in "Extra Rations" an email sent to our members in early April. Our goal with the "Extra Rations" email is to provide our readers with even more great stories from the* Leatherneck *archives. We posted a special video of the impact of the bombing on the Marine Corps Association social media accounts on April 19. It can be found on the Marine Corps Association's channel on YouTube.*

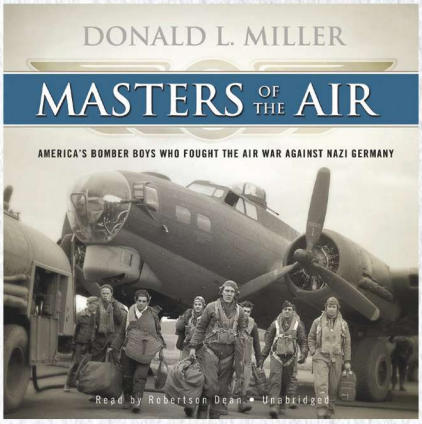
Recognition for Heroic Actions

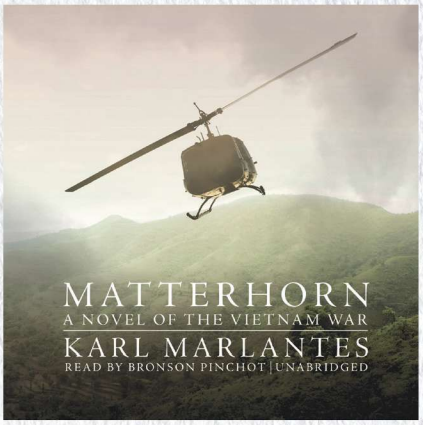
I am married to a humble Marine who has not been recognized for his heroic actions when participating in three horrible battles during World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam War. Thomas Kalus has received several medals for his bravery and action under fire. However, he earned three combat medals that were never received.

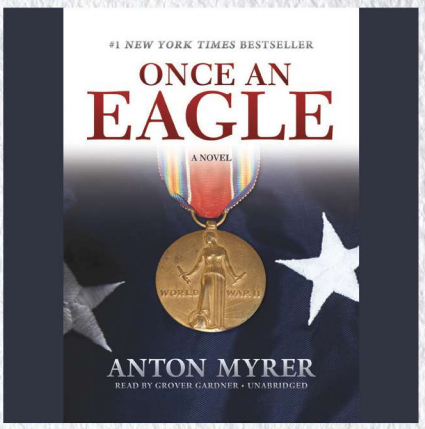
In 1944, Tom Kalus participated in the invasion of Iwo Jima. I do not know what he endured after landing on Red Beach. At the time we were told not to ask questions and the real heroes never talked about their experiences. Years later he told me that under fire with heavy casualties, he led his team of 22 men to a strategic position on the beach and consequently this was the only team that all members survived and were able to make their way off the beach. Tom turned 18 years old on that God-forsaken rock.

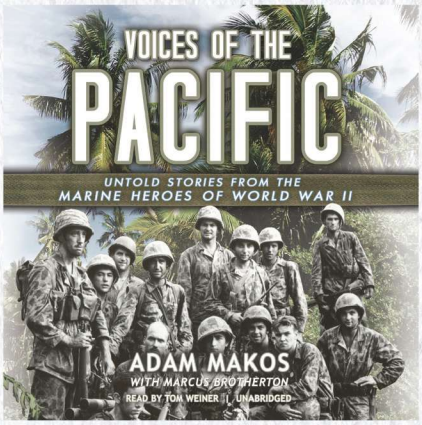
SAVE 50% on these popular audiobooks!

For a limited time only.

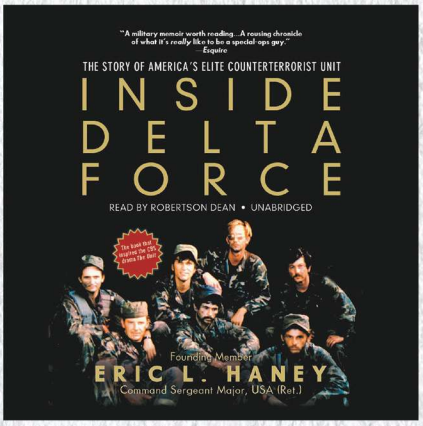


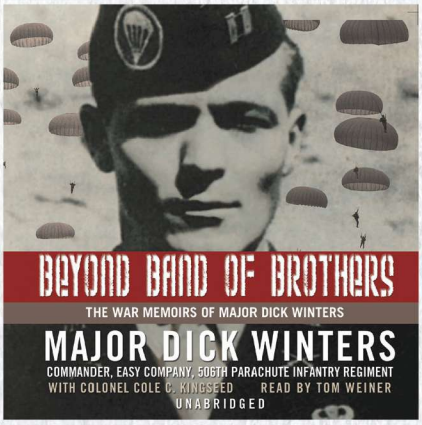


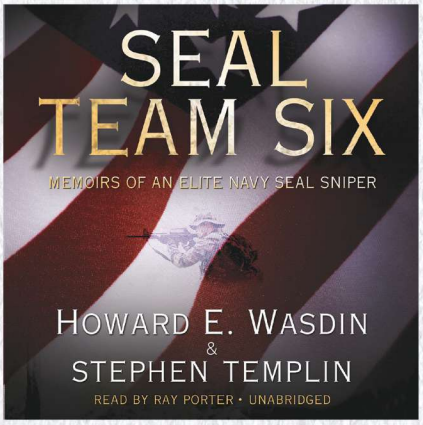


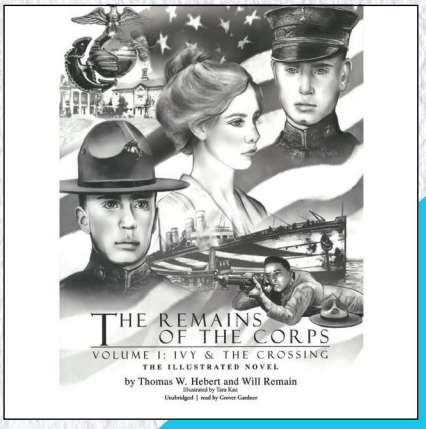


downpour









Downpour.com offers a constantly growing selection of audiobooks on CD and digital downloads.
Find pricing starting as low as $1.99!

Listen a little or listen a lot—you make the call.

Go to Downpour.com today!

In 1950, Tom received orders to Korea. After helping to liberate Seoul and being trapped at Chosin Reservoir, he returned home. Twenty years later I noticed a scar on his leg while caring for him after a cancer operation resulting from radiation exposure when he was part of the occupying forces on Hiroshima and Agent Orange in Vietnam. When I questioned him, it was only then that he told me after being trapped on the Chosin Reservoir he sustained an injury from a grenade on his right leg just above his boot top. Putting on a tourniquet he trudged up the 2-mile hill with a full pack on his back and communications gear on his shoulder to the top where he overheard Colonel Murray say, "That's a Purple Heart and a Silver Star for Kalus." Tom refused to go to the aid station because the Red Cross would have informed me of his injuries. At the time we had four young children, the youngest a baby in arms, and he was sure I would have a breakdown with the news. Consequently, no medical reference exists. Those who could speak of this occurrence have passed on. I believe it's never too late to recognize the bravery, courage and sacrifice made on the battlefield.

In 1969, he served in Vietnam with the 1st Marine Air Wing on General Thrash's staff. He flew many missions with Gen Thrash and was a valuable resource to the general. Tom told me that because of his service Gen Thrash had slated him for colonel and the promotion would happen when they got home but somehow it didn't happen. Tom retired in 1970 a lieutenant colonel.

Today LtCol Kalus is bedridden but still mentally sharp. This is written with the hope that my husband will be recognized and receive what was promised him for his bravery, courage and sacrifice in WW II, Korea and Vietnam.

Dr. Janet M. Kalus
Aiea, Hawaii

• Editor's note: Your husband sounds like an outstanding Marine and like many others, his exceptional performance was not always recognized.

From what I learned in your letter and based on my experience, I think it will be challenging for your husband to receive additional medals primarily for two reasons: it appears that no award recommendations were submitted at the time and as importantly, there is no one who can verify his valor. Sad to say, this does happen. I recommend you contact the experts at the Awards Branch at Headquarters Marine Corps to see if they can assist you. Here's a link to an article we published on the Awards Branch a few years ago that might help you understand the complexity of trying to get medals issued decades after service. https://mca-marines.org/wp-content/uploads/Awards-Branch.pdf

As far as Gen Thrash slating your husband for promotion to colonel, I'm afraid the general may have misspoke. Generals do not have the authority in the Marine Corps to promote officers—the authority resides with the Secretary of the Navy who convenes a board each year to select officers for promotion.

Please thank your husband for his service on our behalf and thank you for the sacrifices you made throughout his career.—Editor

Puzzling Question

I am writing in regard to a letter from Staff Sergeant Robert D. Minton in the April issue of *Leatherneck*. He seems to have a question concerning the Personnel Protective Security Unit (PPSU). I believe that it still exists. I have observed that when a general officer attends an event, either as a guest or a feature speaker, his driver is usually a young man in civilian clothes, normally a dark suit, white shirt and nice tie. The giveaway is the haircut

[continued on page 68]

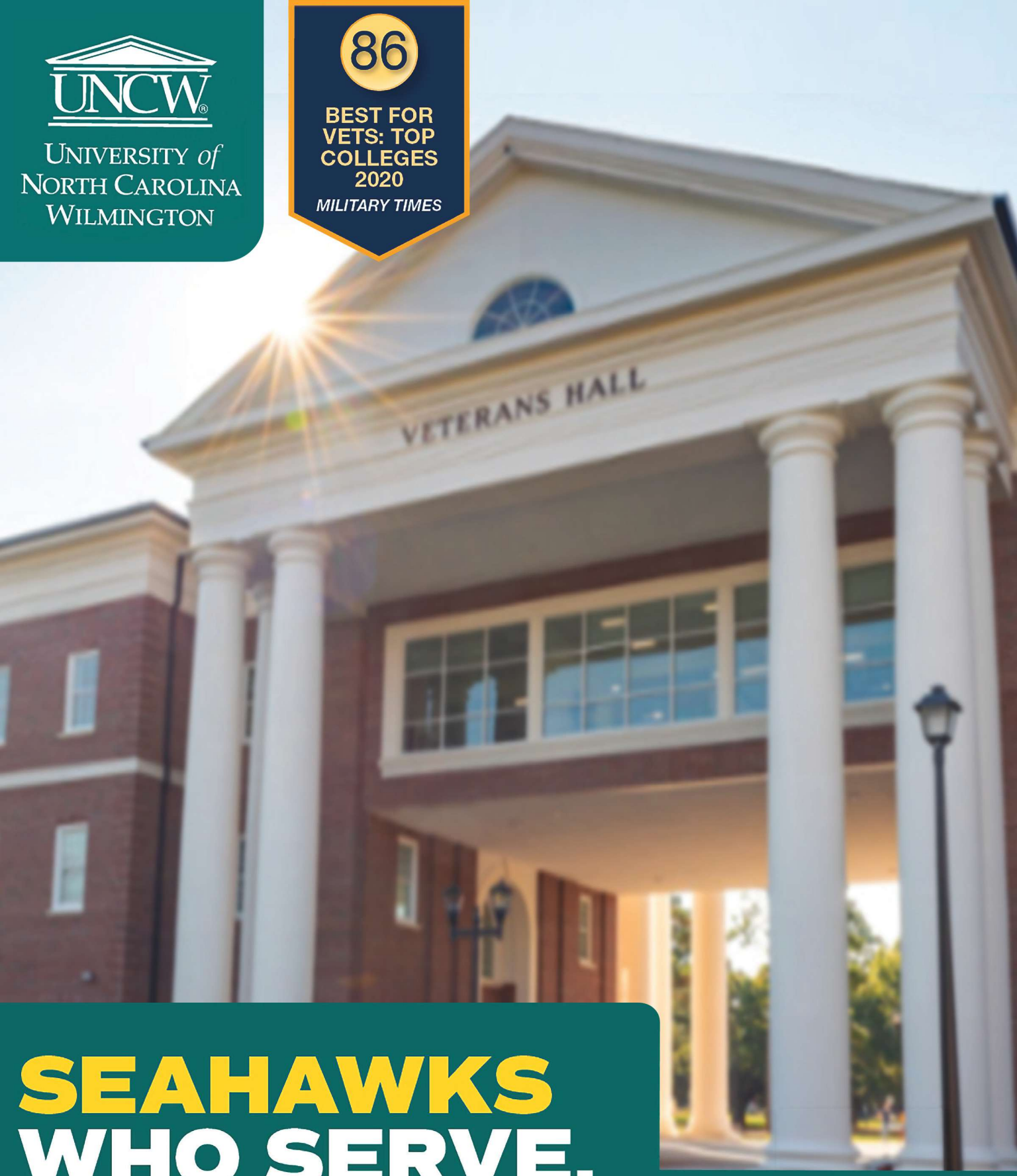
UNCW

UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON

86

BEST FOR VETS: TOP COLLEGES 2020

MILITARY TIMES



SEAHAWKS WHO SERVE.

UNCW is dedicated to supporting active-duty and veteran members of the armed services through specific admission processes, financial aid, and veteran's benefits.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: UNCW.EDU/ADMISSIONS

In Every Clime and Place

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

OKINAWA, JAPAN AND GUAM
CLR-3 Marines Put "Fight Now" Concept to the Test

During Exercise Hagatna Fury 21, Marines and Sailors with Combat Logistics Regiment 3 honed expeditionary advanced base operations (EABO) and distributed maritime operations capabilities across U.S. Indo-Pacific Command with elements of 3rd Marine Division and 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Feb. 18-March 1.

The overall operation was designed to test CLR-3's ability to conduct distributed command and control of forces providing EABO sustainment across INDOPACOM via a robust communications network, while executing various mission profiles in support of III Marine Expeditionary Force "Fight Now" concepts. During the exercise, CLR-3 simultaneously conducted command and control of forces from 3rd Landing Support Battalion, 3rd Transportation Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Battalion 4 and Combat Logistics Battalion 3, to include Marine air-ground task force enablers across Hawaii, Guam and Okinawa.

The operation began with the deployment of a composite task force of 3rd MLG, 3rdMarDiv and 1st MAW logistics enablers, led by CLR-3, to Naval Base Guam for a Maritime Prepositioning Force offload of the *Bob Hope*-class vehicle cargo ship USNS *Pililaau* (T-AKR-304) alongside Sailors with Navy Cargo Handling Battalion One and Navy Beach Group One. This offload demonstrated the ability to project combat power ashore to push forward to key maritime terrain across the Indo-Pacific.

"[This training] allows Marines to execute a full mission rehearsal and offload procedures and ensures the Marines have the training and the proficiency needed should we have an operation where Maritime Prepositioning Force assets will be required to execute their mission," said Captain John Bub, USN, Maritime Prepositioning Ships Squadron 3 commodore.

While CLR-3 executed offload operations and command and control from Guam, simultaneous operations occurred across various remote island locations around Okinawa. Marines from 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment and 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment executed aerial assaults on Ukibaru Island and Ie Shima via MV-22 Ospreys and CH-53E Super Stallions in order to seize key maritime terrain. In doing so, they demonstrated the capability to seize and defend remote island terrain and existing airfields in support of follow-on operations.

LCPL MOISES RODRIGUEZ, USMC

Marines with CLR-3, 3rd MLG backload USNS *Pililaau* during Hagatna Fury 21 at Naval Base Guam, Feb. 24. Based in Okinawa, Japan, 3rd MLG is a forward-deployed unit that serves as III MEF's comprehensive logistics and combat service support backbone for operations across the Indo-Pacific.

CPL SARAH MARSHALL, USMC

During Hagatna Fury 21, Marines with CLR-3, 3rd MLG conduct an advanced motor vehicle operations course on Camp Schwab, Okinawa, Japan, Feb. 19.

CPL SARAH MARSHALL, USMC

Marines with 3rd Landing Support Bn, CLR-3 work with Marines from HMH-465 to conduct a helicopter support team aerial lift of a U.S. Navy skid steer from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4 during Hagatna Fury 21 at Kin Blue, Okinawa, Japan, Feb. 24.

With the seizure of Ie Shima and Ukibaru complete, Marines with 3rd LSB, 3rd TSB, Marine Air Control Squadron 4 and Marine Wing Support Squadron 172 quickly established forward arming and refueling points to support 1st MAW flight operations for attack and assault support aircraft. On Ukibaru, Marines also executed a beach landing site survey to assess the feasibility of bringing landing forces ashore for future operations. On Ie Shima, the combat logistics detachment and support squadron additionally conducted aerial delivery operations to establish a second FARP and sustained the force with their water purification capability.

"Our actions on Ukibaru and Ie Shima demonstrate our ability to establish, operate and maintain expeditionary advance bases in support of naval forces by integrating all elements of the MAGTF," said Major Sean Day, operations officer for CLR-3. "Training to these types of distributed operations with multi-functional logistics detachments enables us to experiment with and improve our 'Fight Now' force while also determining how to best sustain forces from rear areas to forward areas."

Throughout the execution of the exercise, elements of CLR-3, 3rdMarDiv and 1st MAW also executed a variety of additional real-world operations and training events, to include integration with Naval Beach Detachment Sailors to conduct vertical replenishment operations in support of USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN-71). Live-fire ranges, helicopter support team lifts of bulk fuel and heavy equipment, aerial delivery of sustainment and personnel jumps, and motor transportation skills courses in training areas on Okinawa were also conducted, ensuring that proficiency and lethality as a combat logistics unit was maintained.

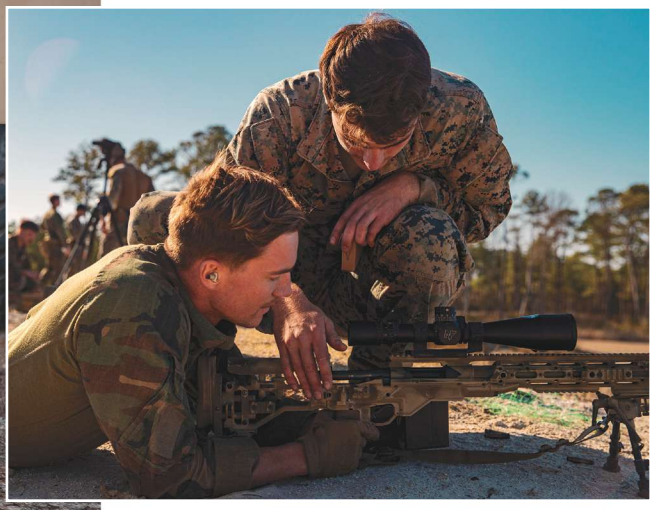
With command and control split between CLR-3's headquarters on Camp Foster and their forward combat operations center in Guam, the regiment's leaders used the exercise as an opportunity to practice what real-world dispersed operations would look like in the dynamic area of operations that is the Indo-Pacific.

"Hagatna Fury enabled us to continue to build on the MAGTF and joint integration and training we started in previous homegrown exercises. This type of training, allowing us to experiment with truly distributed operations, is key to ensuring that we build and continuously test the 'Fight Now' force in III MEF," said Colonel Travis Gaines, the commanding officer of CLR-3. "I am proud of what these Marines and Sailors accomplished because it demonstrates our ability to support the build-up of key capability sets in the rear logistics support area while simultaneously establishing and sustaining expeditionary advance bases in support of 7th Fleet sea denial operations."

3rd MLG, based on Camp Kinser, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan, is a forward-deployed combat unit that serves as III MEF's comprehensive logistics and combat service support backbone for operations throughout the Indo-Pacific area of responsibility.

1stLt Jonathan Coronel, USMC

A Dutch Marine with 32nd Raiding Squadron, left, and SSgt Brady Parks, a maintenance chief with 2nd Recon Bn, right, discuss a scheme of maneuver during Exercise Caribbean Urban Warrior at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., March 23. (Photo by LCpl Jacqueline Parsons, USMC)



Below: U.S. Marine Cpl Louis Newton familiarizes a Dutch Marine with the M40A6 sniper rifle on Range G-21, MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., March 8. Newton and his fellow 2nd Recon Bn Marines used the range to conduct sniper training alongside Dutch Marines with 32nd Raiding Squadron during Exercise Caribbean Urban Warrior. (Photo by LCpl Jacqueline Parsons, USMC)

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.

Caribbean Urban Warrior: U.S., Dutch Marines Continue Vital Partnership

In a continuation of their longstanding partnership, the United States and the Netherlands have maintained relations through thick and thin, including during the COVID-19 pandemic. Both countries have been quick to adapt their military training procedures to uphold health guidelines while maintaining a high level of mission readiness and combat effectiveness. In March, 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division hosted the Aruba-based 32nd Raiding Squadron (RSQN), Netherlands Marine Corps for Exercise Caribbean Urban Warrior at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

To prepare for operations on urban terrain and increase interoperability between the Dutch Marines and 2nd Recon Bn Marines, the exercise utilized Camp Lejeune's expansive training areas, advanced facilities and available assets, allowing the units to refine a myriad of skills. On a sniper range, teams tested their skills with long-range weapons at known- and unknown-distance targets. In the Infantry Immersion Trainer and numerous Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT) facilities, squad to company sized teams rehearsed clearing and securing areas, taking notional enemy contact and treating and evacuating notional "casualties."

In the final stage of the exercise, the Marines of 2nd Recon conducted high-altitude, low-opening parachute inserts with CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters to infiltrate objectives for reconnaissance and surveillance operations. With the information from 2nd Recon, the Dutch were able to maneuver efficiently through the woods and swamps of Camp Lejeune to conduct raids and deliberate attacks on the objective.

"This all simulates the environments our unit has to work in," said Netherlands Marine Corps Corporal Marvin Sahetapy, a deputy section commander with the 32nd RSQN. "From the foot patrols to dominating the information environment and urban warfare operations. Enablers, like close air support, are not available for us in Aruba."

From the Netherlands Marine Corps base in Savaneta, Aruba, the 32nd RSQN protects the Dutch Antilles, conducts counter-illicit trafficking operations, supports local authorities and provides humanitarian aid when needed.

"The 32nd RAQN has different taskings than full-kinetic squadrons back in the Netherlands," said Dutch Marine Captain Mark Brouwer, a foreign exchange officer with 2nd Recon. "We support humanitarian efforts in the Dutch Kingdom every year during hurricane season. At the drop of a hat, we must be ready to face looters and criminals."

As the exercise came to a close, plans for 2nd Recon to travel to Aruba in the coming months were being finalized. In Aruba, the units planned to work together again in open water and dive training for Exercise Coastal Caribbean Warrior.

"Both exercises serve as a way to exchange knowledge, TTPs [tactics, techniques and procedures], and increase cooperation between both units," said Brouwer.

Both Exercise Caribbean Urban Warrior and Coastal Caribbean Warrior integrate the participating units to increase interoperability and lethality in diverse environments. The training fulfills their shared goals of safety, mission readiness, increased proficiency in several categories, and a heightened ability to switch from non-kinetic to kinetic operations.

"We train, shoulder to shoulder, with several assets under the II Marine Expeditionary Force, bringing us closer and stronger every iteration," said Brouwer.

Working together, both units enhanced the skillsets needed to deploy across the globe to defeat tomorrow's enemies.

LCpl Jacqueline Parsons, USMC

SETERMOEN, NORWAY

Marines Take to the Arctic, Develop Expeditionary Advance Basing Concepts

Marines and Sailors with Marine Rotational Force-Europe 21.1 (MRF-E) enhanced their warfighting ability above the Arctic Circle during Exercise Arctic Littoral Strike in Northern Norway, March 11-31.

"This exercise demonstrated the battalion's capability to operate inside actively contested maritime spaces, in this case arctic littoral spaces, and to provide support to joint fleet operations," said Lieutenant Colonel Ryan Gordinier, the MRF-E battalion commander. "The Marine Corps has demonstrated an interest in developing expeditionary advance basing capabilities in the Pacific, and we took advantage of the opportunity to exercise those concepts in the Arctic."

Exercise Arctic Littoral Strike enabled elements from MRF-E 21.1 to experiment with emerging defense concepts and to confront the challenges of anti-access, area-denial capabilities posed by a notional peer adversary. The Camp Lejeune-based Marines and Sailors of 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment conducted experimentation of the future force by supporting simulated sea-denial operations in arctic littoral terrain.

CPL PATRICK KING, USMC

A Marine with MRF-E communicates with Marines downrange during a company live-fire attack as part of Exercise Arctic Littoral Strike in Blatind, Norway, March 30. The exercise improved MRF-E's ability to confront the challenges of anti-access area denial capabilities posted by a notional peer adversary in a contested littoral environment.

"I'm satisfied that our allies have achieved success on their training while in Norway," said Major General Lars Lervik, chief of the Norwegian Army. "A complex exercise like this, including other Norwegian branches as well, will always increase the alliance's ability to implement complex operations and strengthen the collective defense of NATO."

Joint naval integration was the first focus of the four-stage exercise. Exercise Arctic Littoral Strike enhanced sea-denial capabilities by pairing mobile MRF-E elements with Norwegian naval forces in the Arctic fjords.

Marines with LAR Co, MRF-E conduct a submarine overwatch as part of Exercise Arctic Littoral Strike near Lavangsfjorden, Norway, March 11.

CPL JESSE CARTER-POWELL, USMC

CPL PATRICK KING, USMC

Right: During a company live-fire attack, Marines with MRF-E buddy rush downrange in Blatind, Norway, March 28. Exercise Littoral Strike allowed MRF-E to demonstrate the ability to support joint fleet operations by providing overwatch to a Norwegian submarine and destroying a notional adversary's integrated air defense system.

MRF-E's Light-Armored Reconnaissance (LAR) Company received a training mission that required the unit to "secure the bridge" by observing along routes that could be used by an adversary and then reporting their observations to allow a Norwegian submarine the ability to move without being impeded by notional enemy forces. The company conducted integrated training with the Norwegian Submarine Command Course that enhanced their interoperability with combined naval forces.

"Because of the terrain, the tactical scenario placed the Norwegian submarine in a position of vulnerability," said Captain Joe Tortorici, USMC, LAR company commander. "Our efforts to conduct effective overwatch were critical to the survival of not only our Marines, but also to the joint force's ability to operate within the adversary's weapons engagement zones. Our ability to do that in the future will ultimately enable us to integrate directly with naval assets as we have done in this exercise with the Norwegian submarine and support larger naval campaigns."

The exercise culminated with a second focus: company reinforced live-fire attacks simulating the isolation and destruction of a notional adversary integrated air defense system. Both day and night, the Marine contingent exercised a combined-arms approach, integrating Javelin antitank missiles, tube-launched optically tracked wire-guided missiles, artillery, explosive ordnance and heavy machine guns with maneuver elements.

"Lima" Company commander, Capt John McNamara, explained how this

exercise demonstrated the battalion's commitment to training in "any clime or place."

"A combat-credible force is a company that can conduct a company-reinforced, non-illuminated live-fire attack anywhere they are deployed," said McNamara.

The battalion's strategic location in the U.S. European Command area of responsibility, especially along Northern Norway's arctic coastline, offers unique opportunities for the Marine contingent to apply concepts from the Commandant of the Marine Corps' Force Design, which 2nd Marine Division's training objectives support.

"Our ability to conduct this training has shown not just 2nd Marine Division, but the Marine Corps writ large, that we can fight and win in any clime and place," McNamara added.

Exercise Arctic Littoral Strike followed a sequence of arctic cold weather training events led by Norwegian instructors. The Marine contingent spent weeks leading up to the exercise honing their ability to live, thrive and fight in the Arctic.

"We appreciate the graciousness of the Kingdom of Norway in allowing us access to the training facilities," said Gordinier. "The battalion benefited greatly from the instruction of our Norwegian Armed Forces instructors and this exercise would not have been a success without them. They are truly among the best in the world in arctic cold weather training. This opportunity to continue to build relationships with our allies has been exceptional."

MRF-E focuses on regional engagements throughout Europe by conducting various exercises, arctic cold weather and mountain warfare training, and military-to-military engagements, which enhance overall interoperability of the U.S. Marine Corps with allies and partners.

2ndLt Kayla Olsen, USMC

UNDISCLOSED LOCATION

Unmanned Aerial System Hits Milestone, Remains Key to Force Modernization

On March 31, the Marine Corps' first MQ-9A Unmanned Aerial System achieved 10,000 total flight hours in the Central Command area of responsibility, a major milestone for the modernization of the force.

The MQ-9A Reaper is a Remote Split Operations (RSO) product from General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Incorporated. The RSO capability revolutionizes military operations by allowing the system operator to be thousands of miles away from both the launching site and airspace covered by the aircraft. Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron (VMU) 1, based at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., pilots the forward-deployed Reaper, which supported daily combat operations for Task Force Southwest in Afghanistan before its end of mission, and later 5th Fleet in the Arabian Gulf.

The Marine Corps acquired the MQ-9A in September 2018.

"The Reaper has proven operationally effective in the Central Command region. Not only does that further CENTCOM objectives, it also clears a key pathway to achieving the Commandant's vision for the Marine Corps in the Indo-Pacific," said First Lieutenant Kyle Daugherty, an intelligence officer and MQ-9 lead for Marine Corps Forces, Central Command (MARCENT).

MARCENT has utilized the Marine Corps' first MQ-9 assets to evolve the service as a force, capable of further integration of operations in naval, ground, air and cyber domains. As the Marine Corps transitions to government-owned, government-operated employment of the MQ-9, this force design presents opportunities for similar implementation in the Indo-Pacific region.

The Commandant of the Marine Corps' Force Design 2030 articulates his priorities and desired state for the services as it seeks to modernize and align all efforts to the National Defense Strategy.

1stLt John Coppola, USMC

1STLT JOHN COPPOLA, USMC

An MQ-9A Reaper sits on the flight line at an undisclosed location in the Central Command area of responsibility, March 31. The unmanned aerial system reached a milestone 10,000 flight hours in support of Marine Corps Forces, Central Command operations.

Liberated Artillery:

The Long and Winding Journey of an M1 Pack Howitzer

By Jonathan Bernstein

One of the great responsibilities of the National Museum of the Marine Corps is recording and maintaining the history associated with our artifacts. An artifact on exhibit without its associated story becomes just another "thing," instead of bringing to life the vibrant experiences of the people associated with that object. Those associated histories often come with a mix of emotions—excitement, elation or sorrow, to name a few. Through those personal stories, we are better able to convey the individual Marine experience, and the presence of the artifact is tangible evidence of that experience. In the case of the museum's M1 pack howitzer, it profoundly affected many Marines at Camp Carroll in 1968 and had wider-ranging impacts as a result.

The M1 pack howitzer was designed in the early 1920s as a lightweight artillery piece that could be broken down into seven loads and transported via pack mule. The gun fired high explosive rounds over 9,600 yards and significantly increased the U.S. Army's mobile artillery capabilities. The howitzer went into full production in the late 1930s. The museum's gun, serial number 358, was built in 1941 and sent overseas as part of the lend-lease program supporting American Allies. While original M1 guns were being supplied overseas, the M1A1 variant with an upgraded carriage and pneumatic tires entered service with U.S. Army Airborne forces and Marine artillery. The type would see combat in every theater of war during World War II and was used widely in the postwar years as well.

The 1954 French defeat at Dien Bien Phu was due in no small part to the artillery arrayed around the besieged base. Located nearly 300 miles west of the North Vietnamese capital of Hanoi, the remote French outpost was situated at the bottom of a convergence of valleys. As the Vietnamese fought to push out French colonial rule, the base was surrounded and put under siege for nearly three months, from March through May of 1954. The Vietminh, under General Vo Nguyen Giap, hauled 75 mm and 105 mm howitzers and a number of antiaircraft guns to the tops of the reverse slopes surrounding the base and dug them through the mountain tops, enabling them to fire from concealed positions on the other side. This made them nearly impervious to counterbattery fire but able to effectively place rounds anywhere within the compound or its adjacent airfield.

A significant amount of the Vietminh artillery used at Dien Bien Phu was former lend-lease equipment given to China during WW II and passed on to the Vietminh in their efforts to push France out of the country. Additionally, some pieces were captured from French stocks, the majority of which were U.S.-provided weapons. It is unclear if any of the 68 pack howitzers supplied to France were used in Vietnam. Those guns supplied to the French were mounted on M8 carriages with pneumatic tires, unlike those supplied to the Chinese, which had the earlier wooden wheels.

After the French surrender, the Geneva Accords of 1954 partitioned Vietnam along the 17th parallel, establishing the People's Republic of Vietnam in the North under Ho Chi Minh, and the Republic of Vietnam in the South under Emperor Bao Dai. Those artillery pieces remained in what became North Vietnam and would be used as the North began its war on South Vietnam.

Although the American involvement in Vietnam began with support to the French and covert CIA involvement in the early 1950s, the first military advisors deployed to assist the Army of the Republic of Vietnam in 1959. The Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) resisted the North

Vietnamese attempts to unify the two countries under communist rule. The number of U.S. servicemen on the ground in country filling combat support roles steadily increased until President Johnson committed combat troops after the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution in 1964. The first known American reference to North Vietnamese/Viet Cong use of the M1 pack howitzer came in a 1964 CIA intelligence summary of NVA/VC activity in South Vietnam. The U.S. knew that the North had pack howitzers, but until the South

The museum's gun, serial number 358, was built in 1941 and sent overseas as part of the lend-lease program supporting American Allies.

Vietnamese Navy intercepted a sampan near Can Tho carrying 100 rounds of 75 mm pack howitzer ammunition, there had been no evidence that any had been moved south across the demilitarized zone separating the two nations. The ammunition discovered was all in its original 1942 packing crates with U.S. ordnance codes. In addition to the U.S. markings, there were also Chinese stencils. It was clear that if the North was operating pack howitzers, they most likely came from former Chinese lend-lease stocks.

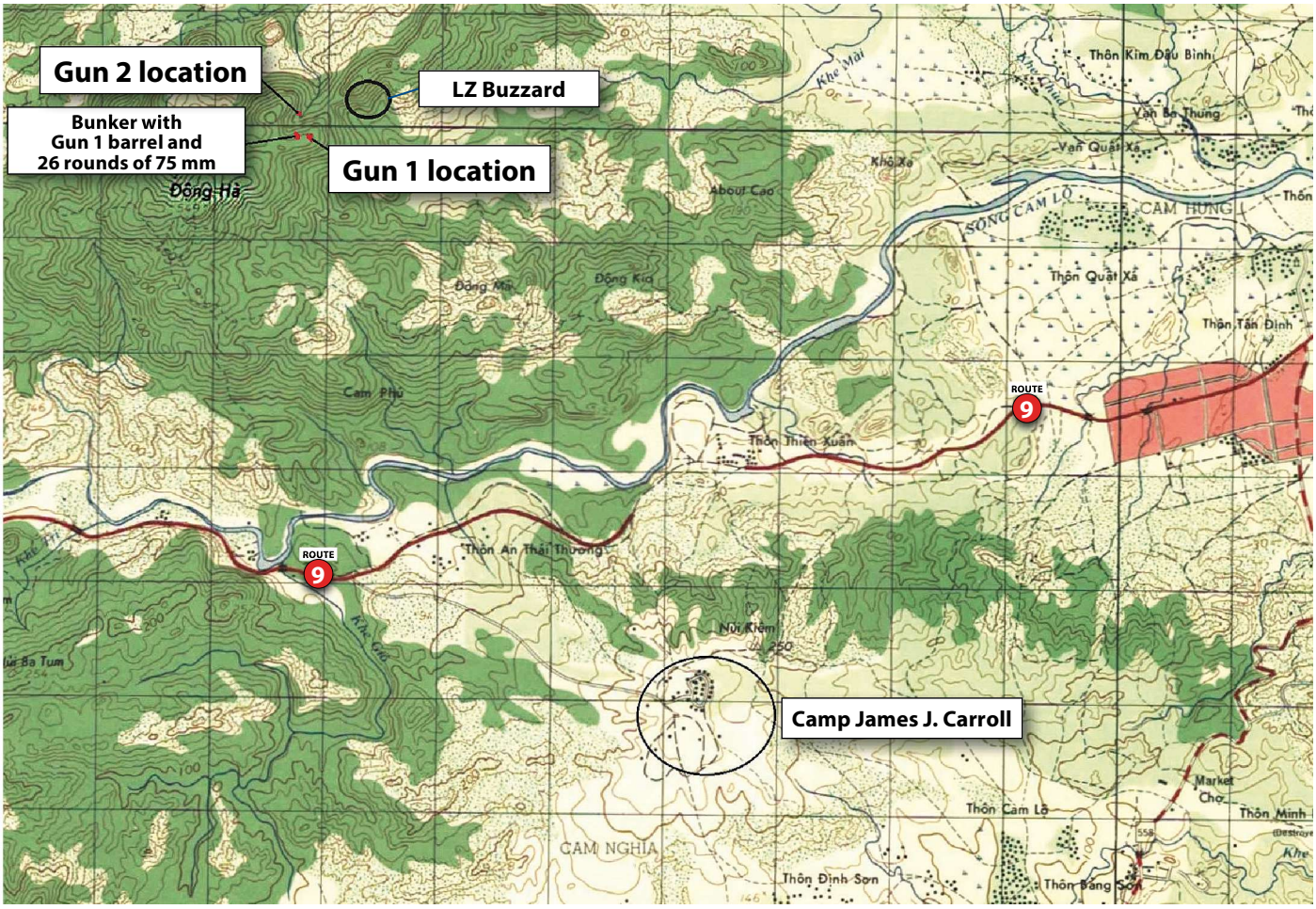
Combat Operations

The U.S. formally entered the war on March 8, 1965, when U.S. Marines came ashore at Da Nang. The next several years would see a significant increase in U.S. combat power on the ground and in the air over South Vietnam. The Marines were situated in the northernmost portion of South Vietnam, in what came to be known as the I Corps Tactical Zone (CTZ). From 1965 through 1975, more than 450,000 Marines served in South Vietnam, the overwhelming majority in the I CTZ.

LtCol Joseph Como, right, was the commanding officer of 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines at Camp Carroll during 1968. The battalion provided supporting fires to Co I, 3/3 during the recovery of the pack howitzers. (Photo courtesy of National Museum of the Marine Corps)

Camp James J. Carroll was established on the Marine Corps birthday in 1966, west of Dong Ha just south of Route 9, which paralleled the Cua Viet River from the western portion of the DMZ to the

Using those lessons learned from Dien Bien Phu, a pair of former Chinese lend-lease M1 pack howitzers were brought up the mountain at Dong Ha and dug into carefully hidden firing emplacements that allowed for a clear field of fire at Camp Carroll.



COURTESY OF USMC HISTORY DIVISION

Gulf of Tonkin. Route 9 was the northernmost east-west route in South Vietnam, and it was a crucial logistical artery needed to support the U.S. military installations that had been built along the DMZ. Camp Carroll was named for Marine Captain James J. Carroll, commander of "Kilo" Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, who had posthumously been awarded the Navy Cross for actions during Operation Prairie earlier in the year. Camp Carroll's location was ideal for providing artillery support and security for almost the entirety of Route 9, as well as the DMZ, and was able to engage any enemy artillery on the other side. Strategically, Camp Carroll was the keystone for defending the I CTZ from a potential invasion by the North. 155 mm and 8-inch howitzers were the main Marine heavy guns at Camp Carroll. By 1968, they were additionally supported by a battery of Army self-propelled M107 175mm long-range guns that could reach across the DMZ and eliminate North Vietnamese artillery positions that had previously been untouchable.

The Marine experience in Vietnam varied widely by year and region, but it can be argued that 1968 was the most pivotal year of the war. The Tet Offensive, launched to coincide with the 1968 Vietnamese lunar New Year, was a massive country-wide operation involving almost all of the available North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces. General Giap, commander of Vietminh forces at Dien Bien Phu, was the commander of the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN), the North Vietnamese Army. Building on his previous successes, Giap was able to infiltrate artillery into and across the DMZ in preparation for his well-planned and executed nationwide assault on South Vietnam. Artillery was brought south along the Ho Chi Minh trail in Laos and Cambodia and infiltrated into South Vietnam in support of the offensive.

Using those lessons learned from Dien Bien Phu, a pair of former Chinese lend-lease M1 pack howitzers were brought up the mountain at Dong Ha and dug into carefully hidden firing emplacements that allowed for both a clear field of fire at Camp Carroll in the valley below and enough space to carefully conceal them when not firing.

The guns were ready to fire on the morning of Jan. 20.

Beginning at 4:20 a.m., 35 rounds of 122 mm rockets and 75 mm artillery slammed into Camp Carroll within the 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment's area. While Carroll had been subject to harassment fire previously, this marked a significant increase in enemy fires directed at the installation. According to the battalion's command chronology compiled at the end of the month, "The artillery was identified as 75 mm and represents the first evidence of such caliber being employed against Camp

COURTESY OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

COURTESY OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

Capt Matthew McTiernan, CO, Co I, 3rd Bn, 3rd Marines (above) inspects the howitzer after its arrival at Camp Carroll. The two pack howitzers were airlifted to Camp Carroll by Army CH-47 helicopters. The howitzer that was displayed outside the Marine chow hall at Camp Carroll for the rest of 1968 would eventually come into the NMMC collection.

Carroll. Since this weapon is of relatively short range, the counterbattery fires of this battalion were reoriented to compensate for the employment of this weapon. The 75 mm incoming appears to be fired from one gun, whose specific location has not yet been identified. Information is being collected from all sources in an attempt to locate this weapon."

In the 10-day period from Jan. 20 to the launch of the Tet Offensive on Jan. 31, artillery fire was a regular and increasing occurrence across the northern portion of South Vietnam. In that time, Camp Carroll took nearly 100 rounds of 75 mm and 122 mm rocket fire, inflicting four KIA and 44 WIA, one of whom later died of his wounds.

The Marines at Camp Carroll knew roughly where the gun was positioned but initially were unable to confirm its precise position. The 12th Marines' counterbattery radar was able to identify where the rounds came from, and counterbattery fire was usually quick to respond; however, because of the way the pack howitzers were situated, they were nearly impervious to Marine return fire. On one occasion on April 11, 1968, counterbattery fire hit what must have been the howitzers' ammunition resupply, setting off three secondary explosions. That was the only time in six months that counterbattery fire was effective against Camp Carroll's harassers.

75 mm fire waned through June and July, with only six incidents in June and two in July, with no more than seven rounds being fired in any one engagement. The enemy had shifted focus, and an increasing number of attacks on Rt. 9 resulted in a multi-battalion assault in response. The 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment was the operational reserve, and on July 19, they boarded CH-46s from HMM-262 for airlift into LZ Buzzard in order to begin a sweep and clear mission

of Dong Ha Mountain in support of ongoing operations.

3/3 secured the LZ without any resistance and began their sweep of the area. That evening at approximately 6:30 p.m. local time, Company I located a complex of six bunkers. After an extensive search of all of them, the Marines discovered that one fairly large bunker had a false bottom. Co I, under Captain Matthew McTiernan, quickly unearthed components of a pack howitzer, including the cradle, trail, wheels and elevation mechanism.

The following day at 9:20 a.m., Co I found an additional 17 bunkers, one of which contained a complete but disassembled pack howitzer. Along with the gun, 26 rounds of 75 mm ammunition, breech and sight assemblies for both guns, and all necessary tools were discovered.

The final component was discovered in a third bunker at around 4:30 p.m. when the barrel for the previous day's gun was located. This position also had aiming stakes oriented toward Camp Carroll. After continuing their sweep the next day, that evening Co I found more bunkers, including another pack howitzer firing position, but no gun was located. More than likely, one of the other two guns had occupied it at one point.

As the operation continued to locate and destroy the rest of the bunker complex recently vacated by the North Vietnamese, both guns were rebuilt and prepped for the flight back to Camp Carroll. With Marine aviation assets unavailable, both guns were rigged for sling loading, and each was carried by a CH-47 Chinook back to Camp Carroll. One of the two, serial number 358, was displayed in front of the chow hall on Camp Carroll. The other was flown directly over to the Army side of Camp Carroll and displayed by 2nd Battalion, 94th Artillery's 175 mm guns. It remained there for a time, but the Marines of Kilo Battery, 4th Battalion 12th Marines "recaptured" it, disassembling and burying it back on the Marine side. It is most likely still at Camp Carroll.

One of the 4/92nd soldiers at Camp Carroll vividly remembers the breech stamping on one of the two pack howitzers, remarking that it was dated 1941 and had GE's manufacturing logo on it. The museum's pack howitzer still bears the identifying serial number 358.

In the six months that the Dong Ha mountain pack howitzers were in active combat operations against the Marines of Camp Carroll, they fired roughly 600 rounds. The precise number is difficult to determine since the command chronologies for January and February just identify the number of rounds hitting Camp Carroll, while March and later specifically differentiate 75 mm impacts versus 122 mm rocket rounds or larger artillery. The vast majority of those 75 mm rounds had minimal effect and were simple harassment and interdiction fire; however, during that six-month period, the incoming fire killed 11 Marines and wounded 102. While some of those casualties were inflicted by rockets, most were from incoming 75 mm fire. The capture of the Dong Ha guns relieved some pressure on the artillery crews at Camp Carroll and allowed for the counterbattery focus to shift to longer ranges where the more significant enemy artillery lay just over the DMZ.

COURTESY OF USMC HISTORY DIVISION

LtCol Vaughn Stuart, CO, 3rd Marines, attaches a sign on the pack howitzer after his Co I Marines captured it northwest of Cam Lo.

After the Marines inactivated Camp Carroll at the end of December 1968, the trail goes cold. It is unclear how the one remaining pack howitzer returned to the United States. Museum records are a bit jumbled, and we know it was accessioned into the collection at least twice, the first time in 1978 and again in 1992. In both cases, the only documentation that accompanied it read "captured in Vietnam."

The 10-year gap in its chain of custody initially raised some questions on whether we were able to confirm that serial 358 was the remaining Dong Ha Pack Howitzer. Careful examination of the gun and comparison with the photos shot on its arrival at Camp Carroll, however, revealed identical damage on the axle housing. These observations enabled the museum to confirm that it is one of the two North Vietnamese pack howitzers captured in July 1968, forever representing a monumental artifact of Marine Corps history.

Editor's note: At press time the National Museum of the Marine Corps, in Triangle, Va., was scheduled to reopen to visitors on May 17. For more information visit www.usmcmuseum.com.

Author's bio: Jonathan Bernstein is the Arms and Armor Curator for the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Previously he was the Director/Curator of the Air Defense Artillery Museum. Bernstein began his museum career in 1991 at the USS Intrepid *Sea Air & Space Museum and has served in a number of museum roles since then. He was an Army Aviation officer, flying AH-64A and D Apache attack helicopters with the 1-104th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, PA NG from 2006-2012. He has also published a number of books and articles on military and aviation history.*

After the Marines inactivated Camp Carroll at the end of December 1968, the trail goes cold. It is unclear how the one remaining pack howitzer returned to the United States.

SHOW YOUR FAITH IN AMERICA

ONE NATION UNDER GOD

MEN'S HOODIE

AN EASY-CARE, COTTON BLEND WITH THERMAL KNIT-LINED HOOD

Available in 5 Men Sizes, M to 3X

A DESIGN EXCLUSIVE AVAILABLE ONLY FROM THE BRADFORD EXCHANGE

Your love for faith and for America are so intertwined that it's impossible to separate them. Now you can celebrate how much God and country mean to you with our custom-crafted ***"One Nation Under God" Men's Hoodie***, exclusively available from The Bradford Exchange. Crafted in an easy-care blue cotton-blend knit, lined with a grey thermal knit, the hoodie showcases on the back an appliqué patch with the Stars and Stripes wrapped around the arms of a cross, framed by the words ONE NATION UNDER GOD in distressed print. An American flag is embroidered on the front and accented with the phrase GOD BLESS AMERICA. Other design features include front pockets, knit cuffs and hem, full front zipper, and chrome-look metal tippets on the drawstrings. Imported.

AN OUTSTANDING VALUE... AND YOUR SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

This custom hoodie is available in men's sizes medium to XXXL, only from The Bradford Exchange, and only for a limited-time. So don't miss out—order yours now! A remarkable value at $99.95*, you can pay for your hoodie in 3 convenient monthly installments of $33.32 each (for sizes XXL and XXXL, add $10). To place your order, backed by our 30-day guarantee, send no money now; just fill out and send in your Priority Reservation today.

Order online at bradfordexchange.com/30898

Connect with Us!

Uniquely Designed. Exclusively Yours.

PRIORITY RESERVATION SEND NO MONEY NOW

The Bradford Exchange
9345 Milwaukee Avenue, Niles, Illinois 60714-1393 U.S.A.

YES. Please reserve the ***"One Nation Under God" Men's Hoodie*** for me as described in this announcement in the size below.
Please Respond Promptly!

- ❑ **M (38-40)** 01-30898-011
- ❑ **L (42-44)** 01-30898-012
- ❑ **XL (46-48)** 01-30898-013
- ❑ **XXL (50-52)** 01-30898-014
- ❑ **XXXL (54-56)** 01-30898-015

Signature

Mrs. Mr. Ms.
Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address

City State Zip

E-mail

*Plus a total of $13.99 shipping and service (See bradfordexchange.com). Please allow 2-4 weeks after initial payment for shipment. All sales are subject to product availability and order acceptance.

E50201

General Charles C. Krulak

A Marine Corps Great—the Rest of the Story

By SgtMaj Daniel N. Heider, USMC

Editor's note: The following article is the first-place winner of the 2021 Leatherneck *Writing Contest. Major Richard A. "Rick" Stewart, USMC (Ret) sponsored the contest, which is open to enlisted Marines through the Marine Corps Association. Upcoming issues of* Leatherneck *will feature the second- and third-place winners and honorable mention entries.*

The Marine Corps has established itself as a highly disciplined and effective fighting force. This legacy of excellence was developed through a perpetual generational commitment to uphold the underlying principles of honor, courage, and commitment.

The Marine Corps, throughout its extraordinary history, could achieve this by engendering the belief that the Marine Corps can triumph over any adversary. This unshakable commitment to winning battles is encapsulated in the warrior ethos that guides each Marine. Throughout Marine Corps history, many individuals contributed to the advancement of the Marine Corps' warfighting adeptness; however, one individual in particular stands apart as a bold leader who galvanized innovation. General Charles C. Krulak, the 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps, heroically led Marines in combat, established an innovative spirit that fundamentally changed the institution, and cemented a legacy of excellence that led to generations of Marines fighting and winning battles.

Overcoming Adversity and Leading in Battle

As a young Marine, I was directed by my leadership to report to the base theater to hear the 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps speak. Upon arrival, I was astonished by the excitement that buzzed throughout the room and the overall exuberance of the crowd. At that point, I was still trying to find my way and was fascinated by the history and mysticism of the Marine Corps. After everyone was called to attention, an animated general burst into the room. His energy was boundless, and the crowd's exhilaration grew in his presence. To us, he was a larger-than-life figure who captivated the audience, and his inspiring words fostered a sense of pride and belonging. His unique background and ability to inspire were rooted in his battle-tested and servant leadership style, which propelled him to the Marine Corps' highest post.

USMC

Gen Charles C. Krulak
31st Commandant of the Marine Corps

Gen Charles Krulak was born into the Marine Corps family. His father was the great Lieutenant General Victor H. "Brute" Krulak, one of the most distinguishable change-agents in the history of the Corps. Gen Charles Krulak's upbringing and exposure to the Marine Corps culture destined him for a dedicated career in the Marine Corps.

Early in his career, he proved his courage and steadfast leadership in the face of certain death. As a company commander, he earned his place in Marine Corps history by distinguishing himself in battle and was awarded the Silver Star. According to his Silver Star citation, despite being wounded, he courageously led his Marines to safety under heavy fire by maneuvering across fire-swept terrain. He bravely led his Marines out of a harrowing ordeal, a feat that allowed them to fight another day. Gen Krulak's experiences in combat helped to shape his perception of the importance of enlisted leadership.

Gen Krulak's servant leadership style coupled with his early experiences with enlisted Marines contributed to the emphasis he placed on the significance of enlisted small unit leadership. In a speech given at the U.S. Naval Academy in the early 1990s, he told the story of his radio operator and his company's first sergeant. Then-Captain Krulak received orders for his second tour of duty in Vietnam. Upon reporting for his flight, he met and formed a friendly relationship with a young enlisted Marine who ended up becoming his radio operator. In Vietnam, Capt Krulak was leading his company when they came under heavy fire. His radio operator was wounded, and Capt Krulak's initial reaction was to provide first aid and comfort to his friend. However, his first sergeant struck him in the helmet, telling him that he had a company of Marines fighting and needed to be up there with them. After the firefight, the first sergeant apologized for his actions, and Capt Krulak responded by thanking him for having the moral courage to hold him accountable. He acknowledged

Gen Charles C. Krulak greets Sgt Gary L. Hill before presenting him with the Silver Star at the Tuscaloosa Veterans Affairs Medical Center June 7, 2013. Hill received the nation's third highest award for heroism for actions as a fire team leader while deployed to Vietnam in 1967. (Photo by Sgt Raymond Lott, USMC)

that he needed to be up front with his men, leading them; according to Capt Krulak, it "drove into my soul the concept of accountability."

This story exemplifies his humble nature, willingness to receive constructive criticism, and dedication to the servant leadership style. The Marine Corps prides itself on the reliance and capabilities of small unit leaders and has a culture of servant leadership. Gen Krulak's early experience would come to significantly impact some of his key initiatives later in his career.

Bold Actions and Institutional Change

Gen Krulak recognized the importance of developing leaders who can effectively operate in a dispersed and complex environment. Leaders must possess the confidence to make sound decisions during any type of scenario. Furthermore, he sought to cultivate an unbreakable bond among Marines, which would be forged by infusing Marines into the Corps' heritage.

To achieve enhanced leadership, he followed the bold action of reorganizing enlisted recruit training and instituted the Crucible; the Battle of Belleau Wood served as the foundation of this idea. In an article in *Marine Corps Gazette*, he said: "While walking in the wheat fields through which the Marines attacked on the 6th of June 1918, it dawned on me that the battle of Belleau Wood was won before it was even joined. On the eve of their trial by fire, the Marines of the 4th Brigade were supremely confident in their personal abilities to carry the day, and more importantly, they felt an incredible allegiance to their unit and to their fellow Marines. It was these attributes that enabled them to prevail in the crucible of Belleau Wood."

To achieve enhanced leadership, he followed the bold action of reorganizing enlisted recruit training and instituted the Crucible; the battle of Belleau Wood served as the foundation of this idea.

The Marine Corps already had a steep

COURTESY OF MARINE CORPS ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

USMC

The 31st CMC, Gen Charles "Chuck" Krulak, grew up with an appreciation for and an understanding of Marine Corps culture and traditions. His father was LtGen Victor H. Krulak. In the images above, 1stLt Charles Krulak shares a few lighter moments with his famous father.

DOD

Gen Charles C. Krulak, 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps, and his fellow members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in the Pentagon on Dec. 18, 1997. From left to right: Gen Joseph W. Ralston, USAF, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; GEN Henry H. Shelton, USA, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; GEN Dennis J. Reimer, U.S. Army Chief of Staff; Gen Charles C. Krulak, Commandant of the Marine Corps; ADM Jay L. Johnson, Chief of Naval Operations; and Gen Michael E. Ryan, Chief of Staff of the Air Force.

tradition in bravery, valor, and prowess on the battlefield, but Gen Krulak recognized the need to create a program that would cement the transformation. The Crucible would plant a seed of decentralized effectiveness and the concept of living up to the Marine Corps' legacy of winning battles.

Part of what makes Marines fierce warriors is their dedication to the Marines who served before them and upholding the legacy that those Marines established. Gen Krulak recognized the need to institutionalize this mindset into recruit training. He predicted that the battle Marines would face in the future would be violent, chaotic and lethal; as a result, he believed it imperative that the Marines be developed to endure such challenges. He made the point, "They, like their forefathers at Belleau Wood, must have complete confidence in their individual abilities and in those of their unit.

> "The clear lesson of our past is that success in combat, and in the barracks for that matter, rest with our most junior leaders."
>
> —Gen Charles C. Krulak
> 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps

The Strategic Corporal

The Marine Corps is unique in the sense that leadership begins at the lowest level and that Marines of all ranks are expected to both be leaders and followers when necessary. The core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment are critical components of forging the foundation of leadership. They serve as a beacon that all Marines should follow when chaotic situations present themselves. This is likewise the case in complex peacetime matters, which, in some cases, can prove to be much more difficult for a young Marine to deal with. Gen Krulak recognized the need to establish an institutional commitment to professional development, which would begin in Recruit Training and be a continuous process throughout a Marine's career.

The development of the Strategic Corporal is the lifeline of the Marine Corps' future success. Throughout the Marine Corps' history, a high standard of leadership was formed. Gen Krulak recognized the significance of developing the Corps' leaders to meet this challenge. To exemplify this, Gen Krulak stated: "For 223 years, on battlefields strewn across the globe, Marines have set the highest standard of combat leadership. We are inspired by their example and confident that today's

Marines and those of tomorrow will rise to the same great heights. The clear lesson of our past is that success in combat, and in the barracks for that matter, rest with our most junior leaders." Gen Krulak's innovative acumen and ability to clearly visualize the needs of the Corps were instrumental in developing a generation of Marines that would gallantly serve on battlefields such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Legacy of the Marine Corps

Gen Charles C. Krulak's time as the 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps proved to be profound and impacted the trajectory of the Marine Corps. His initiatives and ideals influenced a generation of warfighters that would proceed to win the nation's battles. His experiences throughout his career molded him into the ultimate servant leader who greatly impacted countless Marines. He recognized the need to create an institutional focus on the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. As such, Gen Krulak focused the entire Marine Corps on a core values system, which would serve as a signal fire for all Marines.

One of Gen Krulak's most significant initiatives was the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory. This organization adopts the responsibility of evaluating change, assessing the impact of innovative technologies, and accelerating the launching of new capabilities into the operating forces. This program has resulted in a constant institutional focus on innovation and improved lethality. In particular, the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab leads wargame and experimental efforts that "comprehensively explore solutions and inform the combat development process." The establishment of this program provides a mechanism of enduring innovation and process improvement.

SgtMaj Heider was promoted to his current rank in 2018. He said Gen Krulak's emphasis on core values, legacy and servant leadership have served as guiding principles throughout his career. (Photos courtesy of SgtMaj Daniel N. Heider, USMC)

Gen Krulak's own combat history forged his opinion on the necessity of strong, educated, and capable enlisted leaders. This experience led him down a path of unrelenting focus on enlisted development and education. He identified the notion that training is for preparing for the expected, while education is for preparing for the unexpected. His ability to energize focus on enlisted leader development created a foundation for the Corps' future success.

The legacy of the Marine Corps continues to endure, and the foundation that Gen Krulak helped to lay ensured that the institution can meet the nation's challenge. Gen Krulak captured the importance of the Marine Corps in the following quote: "The Marine Corps has always had a global outlook that transcended any scenario or threat. Instead, we have steadfastly focused on our statutory role to quell disturbances, and first to help, both in the United States and abroad. Our expectation has taught us that the only common denominator for the types of missions expected of a force-in-readiness is an immutable commitment to be ready for worldwide commitment 365 days a year. Anything less is inconsistent with our ethos, our core capabilities, and the expectations of the American people. The Marine Corps has not failed them in the past and it will not fail them in the future. The United States Marine Corps is, and will remain, our nation's premier force-in-readiness."

Author's bio: SgtMaj Daniel N. Heider, originally from Johnstown, Pa., enlisted in 1996. He is currently stationed in Okinawa, Japan, and serves as the squadron sergeant major for MTACS-18, MACG-18, 1st MAW.

Leatherneck Laffs

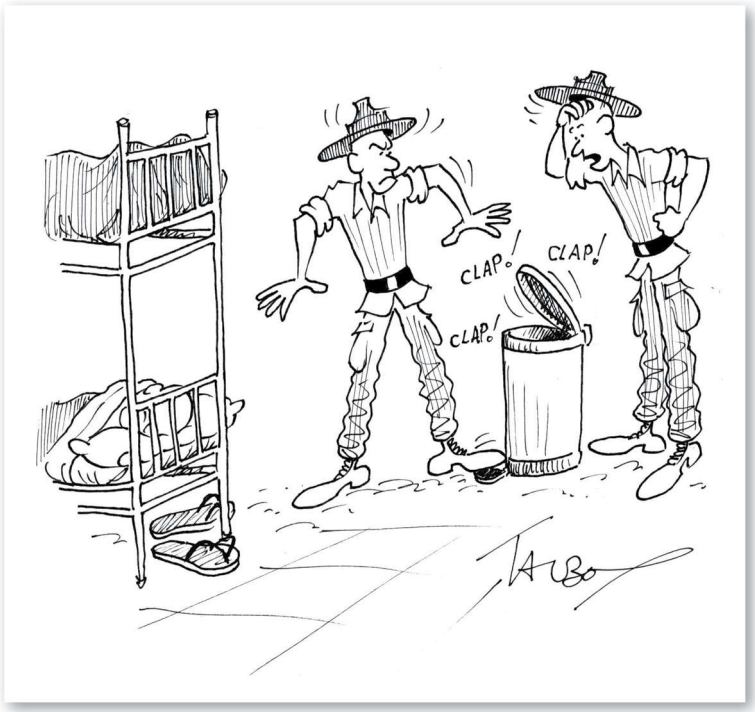
"Oh ... sniff ... nothing dear, just an allergy thing."

"In order to keep Marines from touching their faces during this pandemic, we've suspended saluting."

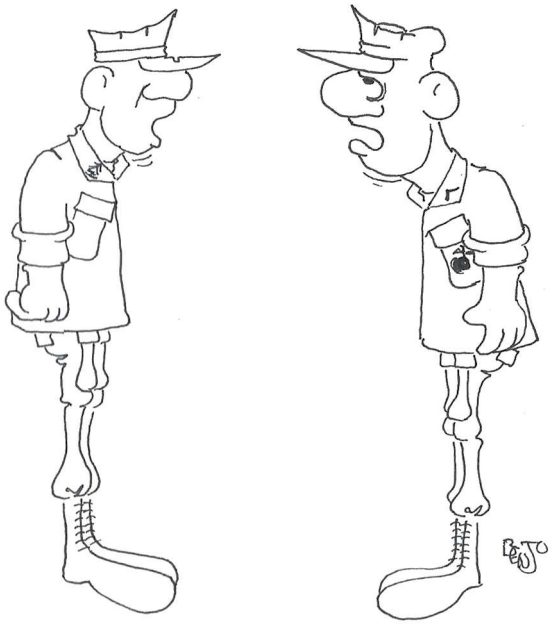
"Sir, the snipers have adjusted well to the new social distancing protocols."

"Not a chance ... we're social distancing here."

Military Match gone wild

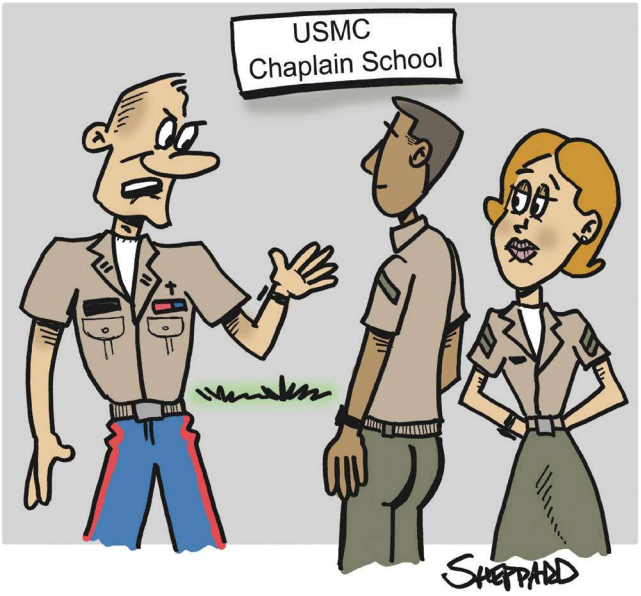


"Looks like someone has tampered with the alarm!"



"I didn't see you at the camouflage class today, PFC Reap."

"Thank you, Gunny."



"Basically, you replace Amen with Oorah."

History of the 3rd Marine Division

By Joel D. Thacker

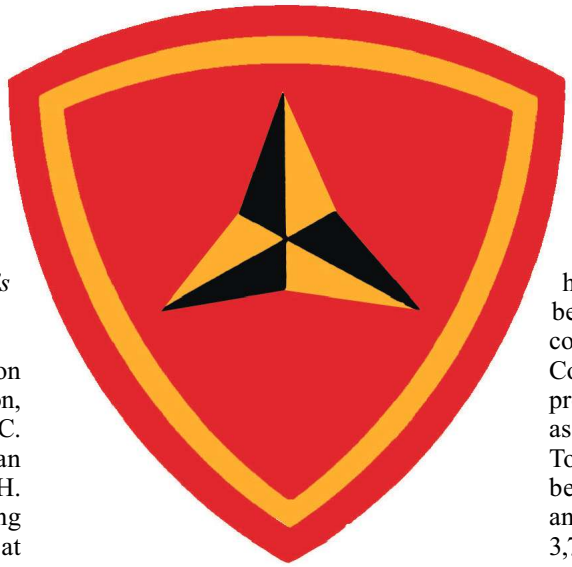
Editor's note: This is the third in a series of articles from the Leatherneck *archives about the Corps' Divisions during World War II. Prepared by what was then known as the Historical Division of the Marine Corps, the article traces the 3rd Marine Division's activities in the Pacific.*

The 3rd Division was organized on Sept. 8, 1942. The advance echelon, commanded by Colonel Lemuel C. Shepherd, was at Camp Elliott, near San Diego, Calif. Brigadier General Allen H. Turnage was assigned as commanding officer of the rear echelon, stationed at New River, N.C. Major General Charles D. Barrett reported at Camp Elliott on Oct. 10, 1942, and assumed command of the Division with BGen Turnage as the Assistant Division Commander.

On Sept. 16, the following units were assigned to the Division: Headquarters Battalion, organized Sept. 16, 1942; Special and Service Troops, Sept. 10; 9th Marines, activated Feb. 12; 12th Marines, activated Sept. 1; 21st Marines, activated July 8, and the 23rd Marines, activated July 12.

The 23rd Marines was detached from the Division on Feb. 15, 1943, making room for the 3rd Marines. The latter regiment had been activated June 16, 1942, for service in Samoa, joining the 2nd Marine Brigade at Tutuila on Sept. 14. It was assigned to the 3rd Division, effective March 1, 1943, but remained in Samoa on temporary detached duty. The 3rd sailed from Samoa on May 23, 1943, and joined the division at Auckland, New Zealand, six days later.

In November 1942, units of the Division commenced active training for combat and during the next month began landing exercises from APAs (attack transports) at Camp Pendleton and North Island.



Progressive training continued until the Division embarked for overseas.

The advance echelon sailed from San Diego, Jan. 24, 1943, on *Mount Vernon*, *Matsonia*, *Wheeler* and *Crawford*, arriving at Auckland on Feb. 7. The rear echelon sailed from San Diego Feb. 15, on *Lurline*, *Bloemfontein*, *Mormacport* and *Robert Stuart*, arriving at Auckland March 13. Intensive training was carried out until June 30, when the Division commenced the movement to Guadalcanal for more training.

Bougainville

On Sept. 27, BGen Turnage, who had succeeded to command 12 days before when MajGen Barrett assumed command of the 1st Marine Amphibious Corps, received instructions outlining a proposed mission with the 3rd Division assigned to "land in the vicinity of Cape Torokina, seize, occupy, and defend a beachhead to include Puruata Island and an adjacent island, the Laruma River 3,750 yards west of Cape Torokina, a line approximately 2,250 yards inland from the beach, and the Torokina River 3,600 yards east of Cape Torokina, and be prepared to continue the attack in coordination with the 37th Infantry Division (upon its arrival subsequent to D-day), to extend the beachhead, establish long-range radar naval base facilities, and construct airfields in the Torokina area."

On Bougainville, two Marines with 3rdMarDiv train their machine gun on Japanese troops retreating from Hill 600. The Japanese found the point too hot to hold and, adding insult to injury, the leathernecks took over the Japanese sand-bogged machine-gun nest and used it against them.

On Nov. 1, elements of the 3rd invaded the Cape Torokina area of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. The landing was preceded by a 15-minute naval and aerial bombardment.

The 2nd Raider Regiment (Provisional), less the 3rd Battalion, landed on the left of the 1st Battalion, and the 2nd and 3rd Battalions landed to the left of the Raiders and encountered little opposition. The 9th Marines had no opposition on beaches to the west of the Koromokina River, but due to heavy surf, most of the boats broached on the initial landing. These beaches were abandoned as landing points for subsequent waves. Thirty-two landing boats were lost during the day.

The 3rd Battalion, 2nd Raider Regiment, which landed on Puruata Island, met determined resistance from an estimated 70 Japanese who were dug in and armed with machine guns and rifles. They were wiped out with the help of two 75 mm half-tracks attached from the Weapons Company, 9th Marines.

On Nov. 3, the forces were reorganized, and the beachhead extended in depth.

During the early hours of Nov. 7, a Japanese force which had been moved from Rabaul in APDs made a counterlanding between the Koromokina and Laruma Rivers. Part of this force infiltrated into the perimeter and attacked the 3rd Division's rear installations, including the Division hospital. Hospital personnel used machine guns taken from wrecked boats along the beach in the defense of the area.

The 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, passed through the 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines and entered action with three tanks Nov. 7, initiating the "Battle of the Koromokina Lagoon." After killing about 125 Japanese, the 1st Battalion withdrew within the

beachhead perimeter just before nightfall and the Battle of the Koromokina Lagoon was resumed and ended the morning of Nov. 8. After a 15-minute artillery preparation, the 1st Battalion, 21st Marines, supported by tanks and artillery, passed through the lines, seized the ground in the vicinity of the lagoon and began mopping up operations.

Meanwhile there was considerable activity on the right flank, which initiated the "Battle of the Piva Trail." The Japanese launched an ineffective counterattack on the roadblock, then dug in west of Piva Village. The next day following an artillery and mortar barrage, three Raider companies attacked the Japanese. The enemy force, estimated to be one battalion equipped with automatic weapons, launched three futile counterattacks.

After bombing and strafing attacks on the morning of Nov. 10, the 9th Marines (less 3rd Battalion) passed through the Raider lines and advanced against the Japanese, meeting no resistance. The 9th occupied Piva Village No. 2 then blocked the Numa Numa Trail. Adequate supply was being maintained under great difficulties. The poor condition of the road leading from the beach to Piva Village prevented the use of any vehicles except half-tracks, Athey trailers and jeep ambulances.

From Nov. 16-21, infantry action was confined to organization of the line occupied on Nov. 15 and combat patrolling as far forward as the phase line to be occupied on Nov. 21. Minor patrol clashes resulted in casualties on both sides.

All regiments of the 3rd Division jumped off in a general advance Nov. 21. The 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, supported by artillery and mortars, advanced against retiring enemy resistance. The 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, also reached the new lines. The 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines attacked

USMC

to the eastward across the east branch of the Piva River following an artillery and mortar barrage. The 9th and 21st Marines advanced to their new lines without opposition. The new positions were consolidated on Nov. 22 and there was little enemy activity except for harassing fire from 75 mm regimental guns and 90 mm mortars.

On Nov. 23, after a 20-minute artillery bombardment and a close-in preparation by mortars and machine guns, the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 3rd Marines advanced abreast on the right and left of the East-West Trail. Severe fighting developed after a 300-yard advance, but the battalions forged ahead.

On Nov. 25, a reorganization of units was effected and an attack launched by the 2nd Raider Battalion and the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines which gained several hundred yards before being stopped by heavy machine gun fire. The attack was continued, and the objective seized with little opposition the next day.

On Dec. 14, the dive-bombing attack was followed by a mortar concentration and an infantry attack. The Japanese, however, were still strongly dug in and progress was slow. Four days later, 12 Grumman TBF aircraft attacked enemy positions on Hill 1000 by dropping 12 100-pound bombs each, and the 1st Battalion, 21st Marines, attacked with flamethrowers. The left flank of the battalion made some advance, but the right was pinned down by heavy crossfire. After a mortar preparation and a second dive-bombing attack, the infantry assault was renewed at 3:30 p.m., and by 5:50 p.m. the enemy positions had been overrun and all organized resistance ended.

The Japanese demonstrated excellent ability to take advantage of and to organize terrain features. Covered foxholes with connecting tunnels had been built deep among the roots of trees, and positions for automatic weapons were well-covered by riflemen, making it extremely difficult to approach within grenade-throwing distance.

Meanwhile the XIV Corps relieved the 1st Marine Amphibious Corps at Empress Augusta Bay Dec. 15, 1943. Gen Turnage was designated 1st Marine Amphibious Corps representative of all Corps troops remaining in the area.

By Dec. 22, the 21st Marines were moving on Hill 600A to which the Japanese had retreated. They had fortified the reverse slope where it was difficult for our guns to reach them, and their automatic weapons were well protected by riflemen. As a result, the assault troops were pinned down by machine guns, mortars and small arms fire. The hill finally was cleared by heavy artillery bombardment and a concentrated air strike.

The 3rd Marines was relieved and left Bougainville for Guadalcanal on Christmas Day. The 9th Marines left for Guadalcanal two days later.

Guam

On April 4, 1944, the Division received a tentative operation plan for an attack against Guam in the Marianas Islands. The 3rd Amphibious Corps was designated as the Southern Landing Force and consisted of the Corps troops, the 3rd Marine Division, the 77th Infantry Division, the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade, and the Guam Garrison Force.

USMC

Marines with 3rdMarDiv break from a clearing in the thick brush on Guam in pursuit of the withdrawing Japanese as Sherman tanks lead the assault. Some Japanese die-hards continued fighting even after the island was secured.

USMC

PFC J.E. Ouellette takes time between attacks to read Ernie Pyle's bestseller, "Here Is Your War."

The 3rd Division (Reinforced), with a total strength of 1,134 officers and 19,190 enlisted, embarked at Guadalcanal and sailed for Kwajalein, Marshall Islands, on June 4.

When the Northern Landing Force (2nd and 4th Marine Divisions and the 27th Army Infantry Division) began landing at Saipan June 15, the Southern Landing Force remained afloat ready to land in support of the attack. The date for the Guam landing was set as June 18 but was postponed when supporting fleet units were withdrawn for a battle with a sizeable Japanese task force which had been reported en route to the Marianas area. The 3rdMarDiv returned to Eniwetok on June 28, where they remained until July 15 when the LST group left for the rendezvous off Guam. On the morning of the 21st the Division began landing on Guam. Naval gunfire and air preparations were delivered as scheduled, and the armored amphibians hit Guam with the first wave of assault troops. The 9th and 21st CTs landed on Beaches Blue and Green respectively, while the 3rd CT landed with two battalions abreast on Beaches Red 1 and Red 2 with the reserve battalion following on Beach Red 1.

Opposition increased steadily as the troops moved inland to high ground. Resistance became extremely heavy on the approaches to Chonito Cliff to the left of Beach Red 1 and was overcome only after a desperate assault. Flame throwers, demolition teams and the massed fires of armored amphibian tanks, LCI gunboats and mortars aided the infantry. Shortly after the initial landings, Japanese on the high ground in the interior of the island began intermittent artillery and mortar fire against the reef, the beaches and the low ground in rear of the beaches.

The 3rd and 4th Battalions of the 12th Marines (artillery) were landed by 11 a.m., and the remainder of the regiment was ashore before nightfall. Artillery reconnaissance parties were ashore only 45 minutes after H-Hour, probably a record in the Pacific war as the earliest time that artillery landed against major opposition and went into action.

By the end of the first day, 3rdMarDiv units had established a beachhead about 4,000 yards long and 1,000 to 1,500 yards deep. Asan Point, Chonito Cliff, and the immediate high ground to the center and right had been taken.

USMC

One of many badly wounded Marines starts the long road back from Iwo Jima as two buddies carry him back to the beach.

Early the second day the enemy attacked in strength, coming from the east along the shore. The assault was broken up with the support of 3rd Division artillery, naval gunfire and air support. The 21st Marines held up its advance to prevent a gap between its left and the 3rd Marines, the latter regiment fighting desperately for the ridges south of Chonite Cliff. Toward nightfall the 3rd Marines reported "a pretty secure position for the night," although in the center they had never quite gained the ridge.

On July 23 units of the 3rd Marines clawed their way up the ridge to ground commanding Beaches Red 1 and 2. Cabras Island was completely occupied by the 9th Marines during the morning and then was turned over to the 14th Defense Battalion. The 21st Marines also ran into considerable resistance. Pillboxes and gun emplacements which blocked their progress finally were cleaned out by demolition squads and flame throwers.

The next morning the 3rd Marines on the left renewed their assault against enemy and terrain alike, meeting heavy resistance from both. Their reward was a few more yards of the high ground overlooking the Mount Tenjo Road and its approaches.

On the morning of the 25th, a combination of infantry, artillery, tanks and mortars pushed the attack all along the line. The 3rd Marines on the left (its battered 1st Battalion replaced by the 2nd Battalion of the 9th Marines) crossed winding Mount Tenjo Road and gained control of traffic on it within the secured sector. The 21st Marines met little resistance and the 9th Marines encountered negligible resistance on its right flank and quickly reached high ground above the Aguanda River.

During the early hours of the 26th, the enemy laid down an intense artillery and mortar preparation on the 3rd Division's left center and beach installations and followed up with a major counterattack. The Japanese 48th Mixed Brigade launched an attack from the Fonte Mountain area against the 3rd Marines, and the Japanese 18th Infantry (less one battalion) hit the 21st Marines' lines. Small enemy groups passed along the Asan and Nidual River bottoms to the 3rd Division rear areas during darkness and attacked artillery positions and the Division hospital. These groups were destroyed by a composite battalion of Pioneers, assisted by artillerymen and detachments of the Division Headquarters Battalion, or driven back into the 21st Marines, where they were wiped out. By nightfall, the enemy had been pushed back by the 3rd Division, a blow which broke the backbone of opposition on Guam.

After brushing aside a number of minor Banzai charges July 28, the 3rd Division launched a coordinated attack which advanced its lines from 1,000 to 2,000 yards. By the end of the day, 3rd Division groups were firmly established on the Mount Fonte-Mount Chachao Ridge line and the massif to Mount Tenjo. Japanese remaining in this area were surrounded.

At 6:30 a.m., July 31, the Division jumped off, initiating the attack to seize the northern half of Guam. The troops encountered little resistance, and by the end of the day, Agana, capital of Guam, had been occupied. The pursuit of the enemy was continued during the next week against light to moderate resistance, and on Aug. 9, 3rd Division units reached the cliff edge overlooking the sea.

On Sept. 1, 1944, the 3rd Marine Division took over the defense of Guam (under operational control of the island commander, MajGen Henry L. Larsen), which included mopping up, and on Sept. 20, the 3rd Division assumed all patrol responsibility on the island.

Iwo Jima

From Feb. 8 to 14, 1945, the Division embarked at Apra Harbor on transports and landing craft of Transport Squadron 11, preparatory to the Iwo Jima operation, in which the 3rd Division had been assigned as Expeditionary Troops Reserve.

The Division (less 3rd and 21st Marines) began debarkation on Iwo Jima at 8 a.m. on the 24th, and at 4 p.m. the two beaches, redesignated as Black Beach, were assigned to the 3rd Division.

The Division attacked on the 25th, bypassing the 9th Marines (3rd Tank Battalion attached), through the lines of the 21st Marines. With the 1st and 2nd Battalions, 9th Marines abreast, right to left, the attack jumped off, with artillery support provided by the 1st Battalion, 14th Marines, in direct support of the 9th Marines and the 4th Battalion, 13th Marines, providing reinforcing fire.

Enemy resistance was well-organized and determined, especially on the left. The terrain was not only favorable to the defense, but thoroughly fortified by pillboxes, caves and covered artillery emplacements. As the 3rd Division zone of action was completely crossed by the runways of Motoyama Airfield No. 2, the advance of troops was necessarily across fire-swept flat stretches of terrain commanded by high ground. Although determined assaults were made up the center of the 3rd Division zone, only limited gains were made.

After a cold and rainy night, the 9th Marines (3rd Tank Battalion attached) and the 3rd Battalion, 21st Marines, continued the attack on the 26th. Three battalions of the 12th Marines (direct support) and the reinforcing fire of the 4th Battalion, 13th Marines, backed them up.

No appreciable gains were made during the day, although there was plenty of action. Enemy defenses consisted principally of a deep band of approximately 50 interlocking bunkers and pillboxes, sited on high ground and reinforced by heavy mortar concentrations. Enemy automatic antiaircraft cannon not only continued to fire upon American aircraft but added their great striking power and rapid rate of fire to those of weapons primarily employed on ground missions.

On the morning of the 27th, the 9th Marines (3rd Battalion, 21st Marines, and 3rd Tank Battalion attached) continued the attack against one of the enemy's main battle positions, situated in the central massif of the island. A second attack was initiated at 1 p.m. behind a heavy rolling barrage of artillery and naval gunfire. Following the barrage closely, the 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, made a rapid advance of approximately 700 yards but at the end of the day, it was still some 500 yards short of the final high.

On the 28th, after an intense artillery and naval gunfire preparation, and behind a rolling barrage, the 21st Marines passed through the lines of the 9th Marines and continued the attack. On the left, the 1st Battalion made an immediate advance of some 500 yards before being halted by heavy mortar and small-arms fire. On the right the 3rd Battalion followed the barrage closely and advanced rapidly. One hour later, after another intense artillery and naval gunfire preparation, the second attack was launched. The left battalion was again pinned down. The 3rd Battalion, however, made substantial gains and by 2 p.m. had crossed the ridge and seized the village of Motoyama and the high ground overlooking Airfield No. 3.

USMC

Cpl Roy Webster and Sgt Dewaine Fisk heat coffee in steam from a sulfur pit on Iwo Jima.

The 3rd Division, with the 4th Division on its right and the 5th Division on its left, continued the attack March 1, following a 30-minute naval gunfire and a 15-minute artillery preparation. Initial resistance was somewhat light, but opposition again stiffened and mortar artillery fire increased. Rivetted enemy tanks enabled the Japanese to take full advantage of their commanding position on the far sides of the natural bowl across which the 3rd Division's attack was to be made.

The 9th Marines spearheaded the Division's attack the next morning, but heavy mortar and small arms fire from the high ground slowed the advance. An all-out attack was launched in an attempt to make a breakthrough but the 9th Marines were pinned down. The day's advance was nullified by the enforced withdrawal of the 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines, and Company G, 2nd Battalion, 21st Marines. Their advance positions had become untenable but an average gain of 300 yards had been made, and the entire area of Airfield No. 3 was controlled by our troops.

The 3rd Division continued the attack on March 3 with the 21st Marines making the main effort, an attempt to turn the formidable center of resistance in front of the 9th Marines. The 9th Marines, its battalions weakened from the continuous fighting, was unable to advance in the face of the heavy flat-trajectory fire from all quarters. Against heavy resistance and harassed by fires from Hill 357, the 21st Marines were able to advance slowly until the nose of that hill had been captured at 11:45. A second coordinated attack was launched at 3 p.m., and although a rapid initial advance was made on the left by the 21st Marines, enemy fire was so intense that only slight gains were made by the 9th Marines in their frontal assault. In spite of the bitter opposition encountered, the 3rd Division had severed the last enemy east-west artery of communication and occupied positions overlooking the sea.

On the 4th, the 9th Marines continued their frontal effort while the 3rd Battalion, 21st Marines attacked Hill 362. Slight gains were registered, but resistance from the highly organized position prevented a complete breakthrough.

March 5 was set aside by Corps order for much needed rest, regrouping and re-equipping.

It was now apparent that Hill 362 must be reduced and that ordinary tactics would not suffice. A night attack was planned. The 3rd Marine Division jumped off at 5 a.m. on the 7th without artillery or air preparation and in a predawn advance bypassed a number of heavy defensive positions. By daylight, Hill 331 had fallen. After mopping up bypassed pockets of resistance, which included savage hand-to-hand fighting, the attack was continued.

USMC

Explosives and a flamethrower wielded by 3rdMarDiv leathernecks brought a quick, if horrible, death to Japanese defenders at this Iwo strong point.

At 1:40 p.m. Hill 362 was carried by the 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines, who had been waging a bitter struggle for its possession since daylight.

The attack was continued the next day, but very little progress was made due to enemy resistance and the extremely rugged terrain. During the next two days, units of the 3rd Division fought through to the beaches, and by nightfall of the 10th, all organized resistance in the center had been eliminated.

The Division continued the attack, March 11, attempting to pinch out the remaining resistance in the right of the Division zone of action.

To the north, meanwhile, the 1st Battalion, 21st Marines, had secured its objective (the high ground about 1,000 yards northeast of Hill 357) and had pinched out the 2nd Battalion, 21st Marines. The only remaining unoccupied ground in the 3rd Division zone was the beach area below the cliffs held by the 1st Battalion, 21st Marines, which was covered by enemy fire from the 5th Division zone of action. This no-man's land was occupied after the 5th Division had overrun enemy gun positions.

After having secured all resistance in its zone except for the no-man's land on the north beaches, the 3rd Division initiated intensive patrolling and mopping-up operations.

On the 16th, the 21st Marines relieved the 27th Marines of the 5th Division, and attacked northward toward Kitano Point. Enemy resistance was light and by noon the enemy defense was definitely broken. By 1:30 all resistance ended.

During the next 10 days the 3rd Division carried out night ambushes and intensive patrolling, killing more than 800 enemy. On March 26, the 3rdMarDiv with the 147th Infantry attached assumed responsibility for patrolling the entire island. On April 4 the 147th Infantry Regiment relieved all elements of the Third Marine Division. By the 18th, all units were back on Guam and preparing for the next operation.

Casualties for the 3rd Division as of April 10 were: 876 killed, 10 missing and 3,211 wounded. Casualties for units attached to the division were 892 killed, 11 missing and 3,299 wounded.

The Division completed a 13-week training program on July 21 and immediately began another eight-week training program. This schedule was maintained until Aug. 3, when the plan for Operation Olympic was received. Olympic was to be an amphibious landing by the Sixth U.S. Army on the island of Kyushu, tentatively scheduled for Nov. 1. The landing was to be made by the I and XI Army Corps on the east and southeast coasts, the V Amphibious Corps (2nd, 3rd and 5th Marine Divisions) on the south and southwest coasts.

While preparations were going forward for the forthcoming operation, an assault that would take the Marines ashore on the enemy homeland, Japan agreed to cease hostilities in accordance with terms of the Potsdam Agreement.

The signing of the surrender agreement aboard the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) brought respite to all those units which had dealt telling blows against the enemy including the 3rd Marine Division, whose efforts at Bougainville, Guam, and Iwo Jima had been in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps.

MARINE CORPS ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION'S INAUGURAL GIVING DAY

The Marine Corps Association Foundation's Inaugural Giving Day will be held on **Tuesday, June 8, 2021.**
MCAF's Giving Day is a 14-hour long campaign that brings together Marines, families, and friends of the Corps to raise funds for the Foundation's mission of supporting Today's Marines and enhancing their **professional development.**

Throughout the day, donors will have the opportunity to make an online gift toward this special fundraising effort. Together, MCAF will continue to provide Marines with the **support** they need to be **successful leaders.**

WE TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN

Learn more at
MCA-Marines.org/
Giving-Day

MARINE CORPS ASSOCIATION
EST 1913

Right: Jim Maddox, right, visits with Marine veterans and family members from Golf Co, 2/9, during a battalion reunion in Washington, D.C., in 2015. Maddox, who was a corpsman attached to the unit in Vietnam, said that reconnecting with the Marines he served with, decades later, has been cathartic for him. (Photo courtesy of Jim Maddox)

"Eternal Fraternity"

Throughout History, Marines, "Docs" Share Unique, Indescribable Bond

COURTESY OF BUMED

Corpsmen treat a wounded Marine during the Battle of Iwo Jima in 1945. After the WW II battle, four Navy corpsmen were awarded the Medal of Honor for their heroism while aiding wounded Marines.

By Sara W. Bock

As the decades went by following Hospital Corpsman Third Class Jim Maddox's return home from Vietnam, the passage of time failed to erase the names and faces of the Marines whose traumatic and gruesome injuries he had treated on the battlefield. What happened to the ones who had still been hanging on when they were loaded into the back of a medevac helicopter to be transported to a higher echelon of care? Had they lived or died?

Time, it seemed, hadn't healed the invisible wounds of war, and plagued by a lack of closure, Maddox struggled to move forward and leave the past behind.

"Did I do enough? Was I a coward?" Maddox recalled asking himself during a recent interview with *Leatherneck*, describing the psychological effects that lingered following his tour embedded with "Golf" Company, 2nd Battalion,

An FMF corpsman cares for a wounded Marine in Vietnam in 1968.

COURTESY OF BUMED

9th Marine Regiment in 1968. The weight of responsibility for saving the lives of the Marines in his unit by providing initial emergency medical treatment in combat stayed with him long after his transition back to civilian life. "I was threadbare with emotions about everything that went on over there and what I saw," he added.

And there was one name in particular that stood out to Maddox—one he could never forget: Bob Murdock, the very first patient he had treated in combat. What had happened to him?

July 20, 1968, was Maddox's second day in the field after arriving in Quang Tri, Vietnam, where he had then been transported by helicopter to meet his unit. It would become a date permanently etched in his memory, even more than half a century later. Golf Company's 3rd Platoon, to which Maddox was attached, had been assigned as the point platoon on a company patrol. They awoke before dawn and marched out, arriving mid-morning at Hill 174, where they were met by a well-entrenched unit of the North Vietnamese Army. The intense firefight that ensued was Maddox's first taste of combat, the moment he had trained for, but that no amount of training could adequately replicate.

Shortly after all hell broke loose, Maddox could hear the screams. "Corpsman up!" He crawled out of the bomb crater in which he had taken cover and made his way down the side of the hill.

COURTESY OF JIM MADDOX

Jim Maddox

Below: From the left, Carl Johnson, Bob Murdock and Jim Maddox reunited in 2001. It was the first time that Maddox had seen the two Marines since they served together in Vietnam in 1968. Maddox had spent decades wondering what happened to Murdock, the first patient he ever treated in combat. (Photo courtesy of Jim Maddox)

Right: HM3 Levitt, a corpsman in Vietnam, administers an IV to a wounded Marine during a medevac from Phu Bai, Vietnam, 1966.

COURTESY OF BUMED

There, he found a Marine crouched down, holding a battle dressing on Bob Murdock's side. Murdock had taken shrapnel through his flak jacket and shirt and had been hit in the back.

As the environment around him became more frenetic by the second, Maddox tried to remain focused as he worked to stop Murdock's bleeding and apply a battle dressing on his wound. As he attempted to start a blood plasma transfusion that he hoped would save Murdock's life, a grenade landed near them. He lay on top of his patient—"what I was trained to do," he recalls—and the explosion knocked him out. When he regained consciousness, another Marine, Private First Class George Gibson, came to his aid and helped him pick up Murdock so they could carry him back to the bomb crater. But within an instant, Gibson began screaming that he'd been hit as well. Seconds later, Maddox was next, hit in the hip with shrapnel that blew a large hole in his utilities.

Pushing aside the searing pain, Maddox managed to crawl back into the bomb crater, where another corpsman applied a battle dressing. Both Gibson and Murdock had been pulled into the crater and Maddox began treating them again. Gibson died from his wounds shortly thereafter, but Murdock was still alive when he was loaded onto the CH-46 Sea Knight that had arrived to transport the wounded out of the field. Maddox helped load more than a dozen wounded Marines before boarding the helicopter himself. But despite his own injuries, he continued to attend to Murdock until they landed in Dong Ha. Maddox was treated for his wounds and sent back to Quang Tri, where he recuperated for a month before rejoining the battalion for the duration of his tour.

For his actions in the firefight on Hill 147, Maddox was awarded a Bronze Star with combat "V." "Observing wounded Marines lying exposed to continuing hostile fire, Hospitalman Maddox completely disregarded his own safety as he maneuvered across the fire-swept terrain to assist his companions," his award citation reads. "Ignoring the intense sniper fire and grenades exploding around him, he resolutely continued to render first aid treatment to the Marines, steadfastly remaining in his exposed position despite a painful fragmentation wound."

Like many others who have received recognition for heroism under fire, the award brought a jumble of emotions for Maddox, including a sense of guilt that his own injury had interfered with his ability to care for Murdock, who he wasn't sure had ultimately survived.

"I felt real strange about it because I had left that guy. It still burns a hole in my soul," Maddox said of the Bronze Star in 1999 while participating in an oral history project with the U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED).

But just two years after that oral history interview, in 2001, the rapidly expanding internet—and a brand-new Apple computer Maddox purchased—led him to a reunion website for the Marines of 2/9. He'd always had a sense of apprehension about reconnecting with the Marines with whom he served back in Vietnam, primarily because he feared the emotional toll of learning what had happened to them, or what feelings talking to them might provoke. But his curiosity overpowered

Right: While supporting Marine units during Operation Iraqi Freedom, a corpsman assigned to the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit provides first aid to an injured Iraqi.

COURTESY OF BUMED

Below: The enlisted Fleet Marine Force Warfare Specialist Qualification, denoted by the FMF pin that corpsmen wear on their uniforms, is an outward symbol of their dedication to serving alongside Marines. To earn the qualification, they must demonstrate their mastery not only of battlefield medical skills, but also Marine Corps history, culture and structure.

LCPL JUAN BUSTOS, USMC

his trepidation, and he reconnected with Carl Johnson, a Marine he had shared a tent with and grown close to during his time with the battalion. To his surprise, he soon learned that Johnson and Bob Murdock—who had indeed survived and was now a wheelchair-bound paraplegic—were still in touch and had for years been trying to track down Maddox, who, using the term of endearment Marines commonly call their corpsmen, they referred to as simply "Doc."

The three arranged to meet at Johnson's home in Kansas, and during their reunion stayed up into the wee hours talking about the attack on Hill 174 and the injuries they all had sustained.

"When I was getting ready to leave, [Murdock] rolled up in his wheelchair and he said, 'Doc, thanks for giving me some extra time," said Maddox. Their reunion put his fears and doubts to rest, and Maddox found it tremendously healing. He soon began attending annual 2/9 gatherings in Washington, D.C., where he found that his shared experiences with the Marines in Vietnam had forged a bond that only those who were there could understand. Even after all the time that had passed, the Marines still considered their corpsmen to be, for all intents and purposes, Marines themselves.

"The corpsmen were as much a part of us as anybody else," said Carl Johnson, who added that every year on July 20, the anniversary of the firefight on Hill 147, he calls Doc Maddox—one of the only people in his life who understands the life-altering impact of that day.

PFC VANIAH TEMPLE, USMC

Sgt Allen Greggs Jr., the great-nephew of PFC George Gibson, one of the first patients Jim Maddox treated on Hill 147 in Vietnam in 1968, accepts on his great-uncle's behalf the Bronze Star with combat "V," which was posthumously awarded to him on Oct. 16, 2013. Maddox attended the award ceremony and was instrumental in helping get the Bronze Star approved.

Through the 2/9 reunion group, Maddox also connected with the daughter of a Marine he treated in the field, who ultimately had died a few years after returning home from Vietnam due to complications from his injuries. He considers her to be like a daughter of his own, and Maddox cherishes the unlikely friendship that formed between them.

"It's miraculous in a way; a silver lining. I've told them that the best part of the Vietnam War was being able to get together," said Maddox of the 2/9 Marines. "I spent years focusing on the negative and finally somebody said along the way, 'You talk a lot about the people you lost, but what about the people you helped?' "

In 2013, Maddox traveled to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., to see the great-nephew of PFC Gibson—the Marine who was killed while trying to help him save Murdock's life—accept a Bronze Star with combat "V" that had posthumously been awarded to his great-uncle. The great-nephew, Sergeant Allen Greggs Jr., was serving as a drill instructor at the recruit depot at the time of the presentation, and Maddox was instrumental in helping get the award approved.

For Maddox, these experiences of reconnection with the Marines with whom he served—or their surviving family members—were integral to his healing process and highlight the inimitable, sacred bond between Marines and their Docs.

Corpsmen, the Navy's enlisted medical specialists, serve as assistants to health care professionals in naval hospitals, clinics and ships, but also are eligible to serve in

"greenside" roles, embedded with Marine units to provide first-response medical care both in garrison and in combat. It's an assignment that affords them the opportunity to wear the Marine Corps utility uniform and to earn the esteemed title Fleet Marine Force (FMF) corpsman, the warfare specialist qualification denoted by the "Fleet Marine Force" pin, which they wear with pride on their uniforms—an outward symbol of their dedication to the history, traditions and culture of the Marines with whom they serve. Hospital corpsmen who meet certain qualifications can be assigned as independent duty corpsmen (IDCs) who are responsible for providing medical care aboard ships and submarines, FMF, Special Forces and Seabee units and at isolated duty stations where no medical officer is available.

Historically beloved and respected by the Marines with whom they serve, Docs have followed Marines into the chaos of battle as noncombatant medics, frequently disregarding their own safety to render first aid while under fire.

Corpsmen have served with Marine units since the formal establishment of the U.S. Navy Hospital Corps on June 17, 1898; however, an argument could be made that the unique partnership began more than a century earlier, said BUMED historian André Sobocinski.

"Prior to this date you did have medical Sailors serving in roles of 'proto-corpsmen' and they were known by names like loblolly boys, baymen and stewards," said Sobocinski, who added that these roles can be traced all the way back to the Continental Navy and Continental Marines during the American Revolution. The early 19th-century name "loblolly boys" came from a porridge known as loblolly the medical Sailors administered to the sick either aboard the ship or at shore stations. But in terms of the beginning of true Marine corpsmen, Sobocinski said you can look back to Haiti in 1915.

These experiences in Haiti would prove vital in the evolution of field medicine, Sobocinski said.

When the United States entered World War I in 1917 and Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., was established, a field medical training program was created there to train the medical personnel that would be embedded in the Marine units serving in France.

"It wasn't a formal course or school, but it was foundational in the development of specialized training," said Sobocinski, adding that the term "FMF corpsman" wasn't used until the 1930s, after the Fleet Marine Force was officially established in 1933. It wasn't until World War II that two Field Medical Service Schools were established to train corpsmen to serve with Marine units: one on the East Coast at New River, N.C., and one on the West Coast at Camp Pendleton.

"These were the first field medical training schools in our history," said Sobocinski. "They would be effectively used for training thousands of corpsmen deployed to the Pacific. After World War II the schools were deactivated and remained so until the start of the Korean War when Navy medical leaders realized that these schools were vital for ensuring that we had properly trained corpsmen with Marine units."

According to Sobocinski, the Field Medical Service Schools trained more than 3,000 corpsmen who would serve in combat in Korea. The schools operated under that name until they were renamed Field Medical Training Battalion-East at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., and Field Medical Training Battalion-West at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., in 2007.

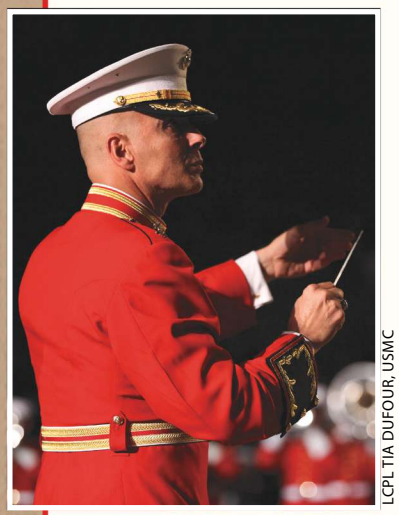
"That corpsman is a Marine's life link," said Sobocinski. "That has not changed over the course of the history of the Hospital Corps and over the course of the history of corpsmen embedded with Marine units. Whether it's Belleau Wood or Fallujah, Chosin Reservoir—those corpsmen have always been by the Marine's side with that sole mission to protect those Marines, to save those Marines' lives. And I think that sacred bond was really born out of those experiences forged over time and forged at these epic battles."

Over the course of the history of the Navy-Marine Corps team, countless corpsmen have sacrificed their lives to save their Marines. The U.S. Navy Hospital Corps—which is the largest rate or specialty in the Navy—also is the Navy's most decorated enlisted rate. According to Sobocinski, 19 of the 22 hospital corpsmen in history who have been awarded the Medal of Honor were

COURTESY OF BUMED

WW I hospital corpsmen are pictured here in France in the summer of 1917, the same year that a field medical training program was established at MCB Quantico, Va., to train those who would serve with Marine units in Europe.

Marine Musician Dedicates March to Corpsmen



LCPL TIA DUFOUR, USMC

CWO-4 Brian Dix leads a performance of the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps during the evening parade at Marine Barracks Washington in Washington, D.C., May 4, 2012 (left). In 2004 he composed "Corpsman Up," a march dedicated to Navy corpsmen. In a 2009 ceremony at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (right), Dix was sworn in as an honorary corpsman by BUMED Force Master Chief Laura Martinez and VADM Adam M. Robinson Jr., the Surgeon General of the Navy. (Photo Courtesy of Maj Brian Dix, USMC (Ret))

Since the establishment of the U.S. Navy Hospital Corps in 1898, corpsmen have been taking care of Marines in every clime and place. The dedication of corpsmen is well-known in the Corps and most Marines have a story to tell about a "Doc" who went above and beyond on the battlefield or in garrison.

It was these stories, one in particular, that inspired musician Major Brian Dix, USMC (Ret) to compose "Corpsman Up," a march dedicated to corpsmen. "Corpsmen are so versatile and show compassion and empathy in everything that they do," said Maj Dix about the inspiration for the composition he wrote in 2004 for the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps.

At the time, Maj Dix was the director of the "The Commandant's Own," at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C. And when the Drum and Bugle Corps wasn't traveling to one of their many performances per year, Dix was spending time volunteering at the National Naval Medical Center (now named Walter Reed National Military Medical Center) in Bethesda, Md., organizing blood and plasma drives. He also regularly visited patients there—including Marines who had been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On one such visit, Dix met Hospital Corpsman Third Class Joe "Doc" Worley, who was recovering from the traumatic amputation of his left leg as the result of an improvised explosive device (IED) blast in Iraq. Worley was a corpsman assigned to 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines in Fallujah, Iraq, when their convoy was hit by a roadside IED. HM3 Worley was running to aid the Marines wounded in the blast, when a second explosion severed his leg.

From his hospital room in Maryland, Doc Worley explained to Dix that he knew his Marines needed him, so he tied a tourniquet around his leg to stop the bleeding, gave himself a shot of morphine for pain, and then gave instructions to those who were still standing about how to save the lives of their wounded brethren.

"The presence of mind of Joe Worley is what struck me, more so than anything else. And I left that room … and I walked into the hallway and I just had to grab a railing because my breath was just taken away—I have met so many wonderful Marines in my day, but none have ever spoken so eloquently … and with such humility as Joe Worley on that afternoon," Dix said. "And that's when I realized I have to do something nice. I have to do something good for [the corpsmen] … I going to write something for our Docs," added Dix, who at the time was planning for "The Commandant's Own" 2005 season.

"The entire piece has a pulse to it," said Dix, explaining that the rhythm of the march mimics that of heartbeat. He also created a bugle call for the piece, which heralds the arrival of the corpsman on the battlefield. The Drum and Bugle Corps debuted "Corpsman Up" in March 2005 during their spring training performances in Yuma, Ariz., to an overwhelmingly positive response from audiences.

Not only did audiences love the song, the Navy medicine community, especially corpsmen, began to consider the piece their anthem, and Dix became somewhat of a folk hero to corpsmen—there's even a question about Dix and his composition on one of the hospital corpsman advancement exams. A painting called "Corpsman Up," which features images of Navy corpsmen at work and Dix conducting, was commissioned, and the artwork now hangs in "Heroes Way" at the hospital. Naturally, the Drum and Bugle Corps, with Dix conducting, played "Corpsman Up" when the painting was officially unveiled. And in what Dix considers one of the great honors of his Marine Corps career, he was sworn in as an honorary corpsman at a ceremony at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in 2009. "It was a great day," said Dix who was completely unaware that the swearing in was being planned and thought his presence had been requested at the event simply to conduct another performance of "Corpsman Up." "It took my breath away and when the performance was over, I gathered my Marines together and I thanked them because if it wasn't for their musical prowess, their musical instincts, the piece would never have lifted off the ground," he said.

Dix retired from the Marine Corps in 2015, but "Corpsman Up" is still a part of his life; he created an orchestral score for the composition, and it was performed several times by the Vancouver Symphony in Vancouver, British Columbia. He's currently creating a score for the march so that other bands will be able to play his musical tribute to Navy corpsmen.

"Music is important to our Sailors and our Marines," said Dix, adding that in his experience, music brings people together. Dix said he is proud to have created a song that means so much to the community of Docs. "I'm grateful to every corpsman that I've ever met who kept me on my feet," he said.

Nancy S. Lichtman

embedded with Marine units at the time of their action. For their heroism and bravery during the World War II battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa alone, seven corpsmen were awarded the Medal of Honor.

From Pharmacist's Mate First Class John Harlan Willis, who posthumously was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism during the Battle of Iwo Jima, to Hospital Apprentice Luis Fonseca, who received the Navy Cross for his bravery during the Battle of Nasiriyah in Iraq in 2003, today's corpsmen strive to uphold the legacy of those who came before them—a legacy that's rooted in the unique bond they have shared with Marines for more than a century.

For retired FMF corpsman Cynthia Lehew, who enlisted in the Navy in 1994 and spent her entire career working with Marines, it was a great honor to be invited to join the Women Marines Association as the first Sailor within the organization's ranks—an indication of just how much Marines value their "docs."

"I felt more at home with the Marines than on the Navy side of the house," said Lehew, now the chief of administration for the nonprofit organization History Flight. "It's very humbling to know that they think highly enough of you."

"The relationship between the Marines, the junior Marines specifically and their 'docs,' and once they prove themselves to their Marines, is probably the most valuable tool the Marine has on the battlefield," said Force Master Chief Michael J. Roberts, the Force Master Chief, BUMED and Director of the U.S. Navy Hospital Corps. "They see the Sailors carry the same gear that they carry, plus their additional gear that they have to do potential lifesaving impacts or treatments on those Marines … from the walking, the hiking, the lack of water, the lack of food, whatever the case may be … everybody is in the same misery."

According to Roberts, there are nearly 27,000 corpsmen currently serving in the Navy today; of those, about 8,000 are serving with Marine units. And in order to prepare them for the battlefield, they are required to undergo additional schooling and continue to learn and train once they join their units.

After completing their "A" school, the Basic Hospital Corpsman School or "Corps School" as it is known, newly minted corpsmen assigned to Marine Corps units attend the Field Medical Service Technician (FMST) course at one of the two Field Medical Training Battalions. It's an eight-week program that's also attended by corpsmen who aren't new to the profession, but who will be serving in greenside billets for the first time. There, both Marines and

Right: On June 25, 1948, President Harry S. Truman presents the Medal of Honor to PhM1c Francis J. Pierce, a corpsman who treated Marines during the Battle of Iwo Jima. After 1948, the Navy eliminated the "pharmacist's mate" rate and replaced it with the "hospital corpsman" rate that is still in use today. (Photo courtesy of BUMED)

Corpsmen transport a wounded Marine during the Battle of Iwo Jima in 1945.

COURTESY OF BUMED

seasoned FMF corpsmen, most of whom have combat experience, "team teach" the students to ensure that they are prepared for their assignments in the fleet.

"We're always evolving," said Navy Captain Brian G. Tolbert, the commanding officer of FMTB-East. "Every class is a little bit different from the previous one because we always see opportunities for improvement."

According to Hospital Corpsman First Class Courtney Dion, an FMF corpsman and instructor at FMTB-West, the FMST course builds on the skills corpsmen learn in Corps School, focusing on preventative medicine; field hygiene; heat and cold injuries; surgical interventions like cricothyrotomy to establish airways; the placement of pressure dressings; and lifesaving needle thoracentesis to remove fluid or air from around the lungs.

In addition to specific medical care skills, Dion said, they also undergo basic infantry training, including learning hand and arm signals, patrolling, individual movements, military operations on urban terrain (MOUT), land navigation and communications.

"They've never had a flak and Kevlar on, they've never had to MOLLE weave their magazine pouches and they've never had a rifle—so they're introduced to those things as well," said Dion.

One of the most challenging parts of the course, according to HM1 John Edstrom, an instructor at FMTB-West, is what he calls the "heavy hitter": casualty assessment, which is perhaps the most crucial skill that corpsmen need to be proficient. The staff takes a hands-on, in-depth approach, and students are graded and evaluated on how well they implement their assessment on a "patient"—a mannequin with lifelike injuries.

COURTESY OF HM1 JOHN EDSTROM, USN

John Edstrom

While nothing in training can truly replicate saving the life of a real patient in a true combat environment, the instructors and staff of both FMTB locations draw from their own real-life experiences to prepare their students for reality.

"We can't simulate combat obviously, and what we do is we try at this school to put them in a stressed environment that simulates combat as best as we can, as safe as we can in order to see how they can effectively execute what they've learned," said Navy Captain Jerry J. Bailey, the commanding officer of FMTB-West, who was an enlisted staff noncommissioned officer and graduate of FMTB-West prior to becoming a Navy Medical Service Corps officer. "We put them through a final exercise here where they're utilizing everything that they've learned to try to save that Marine's life. A little tougher to administer an IV after they've done an 8-mile hike through the hills of Camp Pendleton with a 54-pound load and their hands are shaking. So we try to do that to simulate combat as best we can."

After graduating from FMST and being assigned to Marine units, greenside corpsmen have the opportunity to earn the FMF pin that many proudly wear on their uniform. In addition to proving their proficiency in the medical and infantry training they've received, they also are required to learn about Marine Corps history, traditions and culture and familiarize themselves with the structure of the Marine Corps, its terminology and equipment. They then must pass both a challenging written test and an oral examination conducted by a board before earning the title of "FMF corpsman."

The FMTB instructors all agree that earning that qualification and wearing the FMF pin speaks volumes to the Marines about a corpsman's dedication to serving alongside them.

"I think what makes that bond so special is you're sharing all those experiences together: the highs, the lows, the misery, the good times, you're going through that together," said HM1 Jason Merrithew, an FMF corpsman who deployed to Afghanistan and now works as an instructor at FMTB-East. "As corpsmen, earning

Below: HM1 Alberto Sevillaparra and HM3 Evans Bolton access "wounded" Marines during a training exercise at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, July 5, 2018.

SGT ZAKIA GRAY, USA

COURTESY OF HM1 CYNTHIA LEHEW, USN (RET)

Above: Retired Navy corpsman HM1 Cynthia Lehew was the first Sailor to join the Women Marines Association after spending her entire career serving with Marine units.

COURTESY OF FMTB-WEST

CAPT Jerry J. Bailey, USN

Below: Corpsmen at FMTB-West assess a simulated casualty during the FMST course final exercise at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 19, 2019. Completion of the course is required, even for experienced corpsmen, prior to serving with Marine Corps units.

COURTESY OF LCPL DRAKE NICKELS, USMC

SGT JAMES GUILLORY, USMC

Students at FMTB-East carry a simulated casualty during the endurance course at Camp Johnson, N.C., Aug. 17, 2020. The endurance course helps simulate a combat environment in which corpsmen train to provide medical care in high-stress settings.

that respect from the Marine side because you're going outside of your realm, learning what they do."

Not only do FMF corpsmen learn what it means to be a Marine, but they also have the opportunity to teach and train their Marines in combat lifesaving skills, utilizing the Department of Defense-developed Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) course to prepare Marines for providing trauma care for each other—and for their corpsmen—on the battlefield.

"I don't want my Marine to learn about his skill to save my life at the time that I'm dying. I needed to teach him or her how to do IVs. I need to teach him or her how to do blood products. I needed to teach him or her tourniquets and battle dressings and what to look for," said Force Master Chief Roberts, who spent many years serving on the greenside throughout his Navy career.

According to Hospital Corpsman Second Class Mohannad Sherif, an instructor at FMTB-East, combat lifesaving training is always well-received by the participating Marines.

"They go above and beyond," said Sherif. "When you see somebody from another branch, somebody that has nothing to do with medicine, that passionate about something very small that you're teaching them, something that's going to mean that much more in the future, it's very rewarding."

For HM1 Edstrom, who was going through Basic Hospital Corpsman School on 9/11 and was quickly assigned to the greenside and attended training at FMTB-West prior to deploying to Iraq, the opportunity to use his own experiences as teaching tools for his students gives him the confidence that they'll be more prepared for the future fight than he was. In 2002, when he went through the training, the FMST curriculum was extremely basic and quickly had to evolve to prepare corpsmen for handling injuries from improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

"I remember being in Iraq, driving down one of these main roads in a humvee with zero armor on it," said Edstrom, who was "blown up" seven times during his deployment with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines. "A lot of it was 'learn as you go' medicine, unfortunately."

In one instance, Edstrom was riding in an amphibious assault vehicle that hit an IED, and a Marine's arm was caught under the vehicle's hatch, which snapped his radius and his ulna in his left arm. It wasn't an injury he had been trained to treat, but he used the knowledge he did have to fashion a sling out of a cravat, attached it to the Marine's flak jacket, and gave him some morphine.

"You didn't show that you didn't know what you were doing. You made sure that your Marines felt like no matter what happened they were going to get taken care of, and that's what we were always taught—to give them that invincibility feeling, that they can run into gunfire because Doc has my back," said Edstrom.

"That's part of the culture that we try to breed here," CAPT Bailey added. "If that Marine knows that Doc is competent and Doc has their back, it makes that Marine even more lethal."

A corpsman assigned to Co B, 1st Bn, 4th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 1, hands out candy to Iraqi children in the Andaloos Precinct of Fallujah, Iraq, in December 2008.

LCPL GRANT WALKER, USMC

By 2006, when Jorge Castilleja, now a Chief Hospital Corpsman and course chief at FMTB-West, went through FMST, the training had evolved based on the experiences of instructors who had served with Marine units in Iraq.

"It was a benefit to come through there at that time," said Castilleja. "Now I'm back here as an instructor to provide that feedback to the students, to hopefully build that legacy so they're ready to replace us in the future."

What will the corpsman of tomorrow look like? Today, CAPT Bailey, CAPT Tolbert and their respective staffs at FMTB-West and East are preparing to train the next generation of corpsmen for the future fight. In accordance with the Commandant of the Marine Corps' Force Design 2030, they're trying to conceptualize what skills the "2030 corpsman" will need as the fight shifts from counterinsurgency in the Middle East, in which the airspace wasn't contested and evacuations could be near instantaneous, to potential engagements with near-peer adversaries.

In Iraq and Afghanistan, said Tolbert, the "platinum 15 minutes" and the "golden hour" were the benchmark standard for treating casualties.

"If you were seen by a corpsman or a medic inside that 15 minutes after you got injured … you were probably going to live. At least you were going to reach the hospital," said Tolbert. "So compared to the historic Vietnam era, we had a lot who died by wounds—and then during the most recent war, 'died of wounds' went down significantly.'"

Recognizing that the future corpsman may need to hold a casualty for much longer than 15 minutes or an hour, both Bailey and Tolbert are preparing to develop a training program for what they call "prolonged field care," which they plan to add to the FMST curriculum after testing it in small groups of students this year.

"We are no longer doing dismounted or mounted patrols, and we don't necessarily own the air, evacuation chains can be exponentially longer—1,000 miles will not be an uncommon evacuation lane," said Tolbert of the anticipated future fight. "Those corpsmen that we're producing here may have to hold a casualty for—we're anticipating 72 hours … so that 15 minutes platinum, golden hour stuff sounds really good if you own the air and can move them, but what if you can't?"

While preparing for the future fight, today's corpsmen also will continue to learn from those who came before: who showed bravery and courage from the islands of the Pacific to the jungles of Vietnam and the streets of Iraq and Afghanistan, and even in the moments when they felt ill-equipped or incapable, made sure to never let their Marines know it. As training and warfighting continue to evolve, one thing that will forever remain unchanged is the bond between Marines and their docs.

For Jim Maddox, finding Bob Murdock more than 30 years after that fateful firefight on Hill 147 was one of the defining moments of his life.

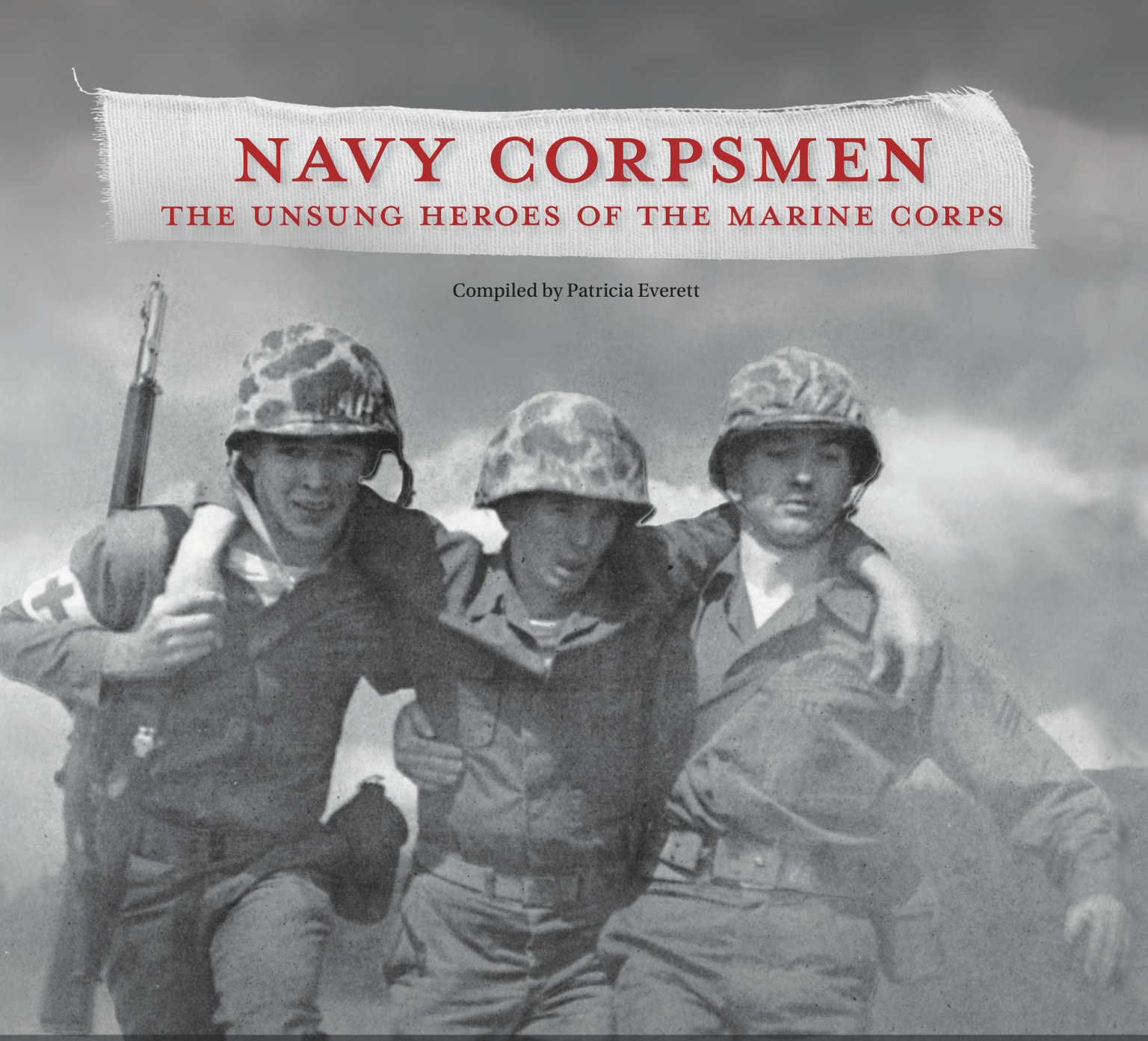
In 2007, Murdock lost his battle with cancer. But the night before he passed, he and Maddox had one last phone call. "We told each other we loved each other," Maddox emotionally recalls.

"It's hard to really explain unless you've lived it," said HMC Castilleja. "No one else really gets to experience that culture and that life and that eternal fraternity that is the Doc and the Marine … you're always going to have their back no matter the situation, no matter how much time has passed or how old you've gotten, they can always reach out to you."

NAVY CORPSMEN

THE UNSUNG HEROES OF THE MARINE CORPS

Compiled by Patricia Everett



There is a unique bond between Fleet Marine Force corpsmen and Marines. Known as "Docs," corpsmen are the unsung heroes of the Marine Corps who will go to hell and back to save the lives of their Marines. All Marines love and are very protective of their Docs, who are often the difference between life and death on the battlefield.

June 17 is the 122nd birthday of the U.S. Navy Hospital Corps. To mark the occasion, we are featuring stories sent in by *Leatherneck* readers about those who answered when they heard the call, "Corpsman, up!"

A VETERAN'S JOURNAL
By LCpl Joseph Barna

This is a story about a Navy corpsman, the man who saved my life on top of a mountain in Korea and who gave me 66 more years of life. His name was John "Jackie" Kilmer. He was just a boy from Michigan who loved Marines and wanted to save as many as he could. His face is forever cemented in my mind and my heart. Jackie was tall, maybe 6 feet, 2 inches, and very thin. He had a high squeaky voice like the Wally Cox TV character Mr. Peepers. I shared a bunker with Jackie, and we became good friends.

The Navy corpsman is a wounded Marine's best hope for survival on the battlefield where there are no doctors or nurses. In my 13 months in Korea, I never saw an ambulance, field hospital or MASH Unit. During the Korean War, more than 100 corpsmen were killed on the battlefield.

I arrived in Korea in June 1952 and was trucked to my unit, 1st Battalion, 1st Regiment, 1st Marine Division. Assigned to Weapons Company, the first weapon given to me was a M2 flame thrower. Fully fueled, the flamethrower weighs 75 pounds—I stood 5 feet, 9 inches tall and weighed about 157 pounds.

We ended up on a road leading to a mountain hundreds of feet over our heads. There was no vegetation or trees left on the mountainsides because of all the shelling. We got off the truck and began to walk up a trench for the final several hundred feet. I thought I was climbing to heaven, but I soon found out I was going to hell. I saw a lot of tired Marines all around the trench at the top of the mountain called Bunker Hill. It was a gateway to Seoul, and if taken by the North Koreans and the Chinese, it would have changed the outcome of the war.

The Battle of Bunker Hill was one of the bloodiest battles of the Korean War. I witnessed courage there that I will never forget. During the battle, I was knocked down by a shell. As I found myself laying on my back, the flame thrower pinning

DOD

HM John E. "Jackie Kilmer

me to the ground, a North Korean came at me with his bayonet. I can still see his face and smell the garlic on his breath. As he lunged at me, I was able to turn, but he stabbed my upper left arm with his bayonet. I had a double-barrel shotgun taped on the arm of my flame thrower and gave him both barrels. I think I blew him in half.

The battle kept going on around me. Weapons fire was all around me, and I heard other boys being hit and falling. I lay there feeling weak as blood from my deep wound seeped out on the Korean dirt. I must have been ready to blackout when I heard that familiar voice say, "Joe, if I don't close up that wound, you'll die." Jackie had found me in the chaos. He took off my flame thrower and carried me into a bunker. He cleaned my wound. I felt no pain as he sewed it closed with the needle and thread he pulled out of his medical kit. After he tightly bandaged my arm, I returned to the ongoing firefight.

Several weeks later, Jackie was called to go to a nearby battle to help with the wounded. During this battle, he was hit with shrapnel and was taken into a bunker to be treated. From inside the bunker, he heard Marines calling out for help. Looking out, he saw two wounded men on the battlefield. The sergeant told him that if he went out there, he would die. Jackie replied, "If I don't go out there, *they* will die!" He crawled out to them and began to treat their wounds. As he did, a heavy round of shelling came in. Jackie threw himself over the two Marines. A shell landed so close that he received 15 pieces of shrapnel into his body. Jackie died, but the two Marines lived. He was six days short of his 22nd birthday.

God makes angels and Navy corpsmen. Jackie Kilmer was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. His medal was presented to his mother. Shortly after I arrived home in 1953, I was able to call Jackie's mother in Flint, Mich. I told her that her son was the bravest man I ever met.

> "GOD MAKES ANGELS AND NAVY CORPSMEN"

Jackie now rests in a grave in San Antonio, Texas. I carry a picture of my hero, John "Jackie" Kilmer, in a pocket, close to my heart.

Left: As shown in this photo from a 1962 issue of *Leatherneck*, when Marines need medical assistance on the battlefield or during a training exercise, they'll call for a Navy corpsman. (USMC Photo)

A Navy corpsman tends to a minor wound during a lull in the fighting during Dewey Canyon, a 56-day operation in Vietnam in 1969.

USMC

RESPECT AND HONOR
By Cpl Ted Decker, USMC (Ret)

In January 1969, the 3rd Marine Division was to begin its last major offensive operation of the Vietnam War—Operation Dewey Canyon. The operation lasted for almost three months. My outfit was "Alpha" Co, 1/9, also known as "The Walking Dead." I was the forward air controller and had the job of calling in air strikes and landing of helicopters. The head corpsman was Chuck Hudson.

On Feb. 22, Co A was sent on patrol for a water run at the bottom of the hill since we had not been resupplied for several days because of bad weather. About 30 minutes into the patrol, the company made contact with the enemy who outnumbered us two to one. We took heavy fire from all sides. About 10 minutes into the battle, I was hit by a rocket propelled grenade which nearly tore my right arm off. As soon as this happened, I yelled for the corpsman. Doc Hudson came running over, somehow avoiding enemy fire, to get to me. After seeing how badly I was wounded, Chuck started to give me aid. He stopped the bleeding, put a tourniquet on my arm, and gave me a shot of morphine.

After making sure the bleeding had stopped and that I was all right, he said he had to go help other Marines who were yelling for a corpsman. To this day, I just don't know how Chuck not only missed getting hit but how he survived that heavy enemy fire. He just kept running from one Marine to another to give them aid. Chuck not only saved my life that day but the lives of several other Marines. After the battle was over, the final count was 11 Marines killed and 75 wounded, 54 of whom were medevacked out, me included. I owe Doc Chuck Hudson my life as do several other Marines.

We kept in touch through the years and talked about our experiences and how lucky we were to get out alive. Sad to say my good friend died a few years ago from cancer. I know for a fact that I'm here today because of him.

I miss my friend dearly. I hold in high regard not only Chuck, but all corpsmen who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. All Marines owe them our respect and honor.

LCDR GEORGE E. PILLOW JR., USN

USS *Sanctuary* was a *Haven*-class hospital ship during WW II and the Vietnam War. Marines who were sick or wounded were transported to the hospital ship when they needed more advanced care than was available in the field.

LIFELONG FRIENDS
By Cpl Rhon D. Parsons

I was with 2nd Platoon, "Lima" Co, 3/5 in Vietnam in 1968. We were in a place called Happy Valley on Hill 10. It was in late July and my squad was given an order to check out a hootch when a booby trap was tripped. Another Marine and I were wounded and one Marine was killed in action. When the corpsman came to take care of me, I was hollering from the pain in my stomach where I had received wounds from the shrapnel. Trying to help me and bring some distraction from the pain the corpsman quipped, "You shouldn't eat shrapnel. It's too hard to digest."

After talking, we discovered that we were both from the Philadelphia, Pa., area. We agreed that when we got home, we would find each other and get together and dive into a snowbank.

I do not remember his name but if anyone recognizes this story or knows if this corpsman made it back to Philadelphia, I would love to have the information to reconnect with him and thank him for taking care of my wounds. I made it back after a couple months care on USS *Sanctuary* (AH-17) and then was sent to the Philippines.

> "YOU SHOULDN'T EAT SHRAPNEL. IT'S TOO HARD TO DIGEST."

Gen Wallace M. Greene, 23rd Commandant of the Marine Corps, visited Cpl Rhon D. Parsons, who was recovering from shrapnel wounds at the hospital located at Clark Air Base in the Philippines. (Photo courtesy Cpl Rhon D. Parsons)

USMC

> "YOU CAN CALL A MARINE'S MOTHER A PROSTITUTE AND HE WILL PROBABLY GET UPSET WITH YOU. IF YOU CALL HIS CORPSMAN A 'SQUID,' HE WILL DEFINITELY HURT YOU!"

USMC

In addition to treating Marines, corpsmen also provide medical care to civilians and captured enemy forces during times of war, as seen in this photo (above left) from *Leatherneck*'s June 1966 issue. A resourceful corpsman will use any vehicle available (above) for evacuation purposes, as demonstrated in a photo published in the December 1962 *Leatherneck*.

FRIENDLY FIRE AND DOC'S HELP

By SSgt Richard C. Klawe

I served with Headquarters Company, 3rd Amphibious Tractor Battalion, 1st Marine Division in Vietnam from early 1967 to mid-1968. Our company had a Navy corpsman whose last name was Mendoza—we just called him "Doc."

When the 3rd Marine Division moved from the Da Nang tactical area of responsibility, the 1stMarDiv moved into the places they vacated. We found ourselves on Hill 35, just a little southwest of Da Nang. Around dusk on our second or third night there, we heard incoming artillery or at least that's what we thought. 1st Tank Battalion was on the small hill next to us, and they had a free fire zone to the east of us. Turns out we didn't get the word about it.

They would fire several rounds into this zone and the fire came directly over Hill 35. The incoming alarm sounded, and we all went to our positions. As the company admin chief, my position was in the combat operations center bunker.

Several minutes after the alarm, we determined the shelling was friendly fire. Just as the word came in, the company gunnery sergeant yelled that someone was bleeding as there were bloody boot prints all over the floor. He ordered everyone to stop walking and he checked all of us. When he got to me, he found me standing in a bloody footprint. Every time I took a step, blood was being forced out through the drain hole in the arch of my boot. They looked at my shin and found a very large gash. I had tripped over a steel pole with a large shard of metal sticking up as I ran for the bunker. That's when I was introduced to Doc.

I went to sick bay and the doctor looked at the injury and told Doc Mendoza to stitch me up. 28 sutures later I was good to go. There was a sizable piece of me hanging out of the sutured area and I remember asking Doc what he was going to do with it. He held it up with a gloved hand and asked, "You mean this? This is what I'm going to do," and he took a scalpel and sliced it off and threw it into a trash can. I heard a "plop" then passed out. I have a very small scar. Way to go, Doc! Sadly, like so many folks I served with, I lost contact with Mendoza shortly after one of us rotated home.

When it comes to Navy corpsmen, I've been using this analogy for more than 50 years. "You can call a Marine's mother a prostitute and he will probably get upset with you. If you call his corpsman a 'squid,' he will definitely hurt you!" Semper Fi, Doc!

CORPSMEN TREAT MORE THAN MARINES

By HMCM Guy J. Preuss, USN (Ret)

No heroics. Just an account from Operation Golden Fleece, I Corps, RVN in September 1966. First off, it's "Doc" if you're offering coffee. It's "Corpsman!" if there is a casualty.

Doc was a hospital corpsman with "Golf" Battery, 3rd Bn, 11th Marines. Operation Golden Fleece was a two-pronged effort to protect the harvest and protect the polls as the Vietnamese were voting for, I believe, a new constitution.

This operation was one of two during 1966 and 1967 that was done by convoy and not helicopter insertion. The first casualty was a Marine who was shot in the left arm while riding in a jeep that was not part of our gaggle that had pulled up to our command post (CP). The skipper passed the word for Doc to come up. The wound was through and through and easy to treat. Morphine was given for pain and a sling was made out of a Marine's shirt, a button, and a safety pin. We saved the real sling for when it was really needed.

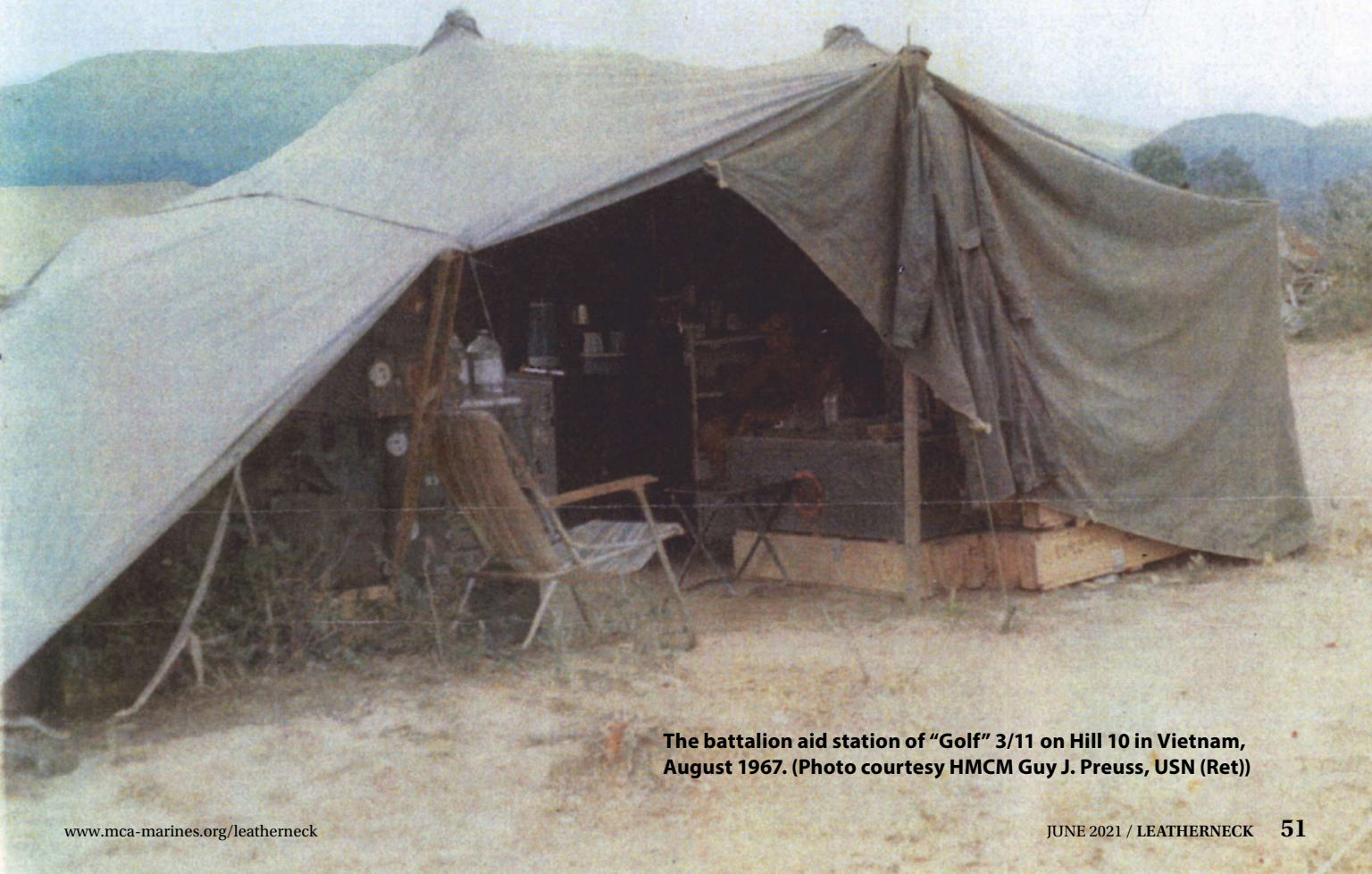
The battery mounted up and drove on. Later that afternoon we reached our destination somewhere south of Quang Ngai and the battery settled at the base of a hill. The top of the hill was occupied by an ARVN 105 mm artillery btry and a battalion aid station. As Golf was setting up the CP, there was an explosion. "Incoming" was the cry. Doc gave a quick look and yelled, "Not incoming. We're in a minefield!" We were in a minefield with trip wires all around meaning there were more mines.

Care was taken not to set more mines off. Help came from somewhere. Medevacs appeared. No one died. The wounded were sent to Chu Lai. We moved out of the minefield onto the fields away from the base of the hill. Doc was tagged, "Eye of an Eagle—Heart of a Lion." As the battery extricated itself from the minefield, it was noted there were scattered signs on sticks in yellow with red letters that said, "MIN" which we assumed meant "mines" in Vietnamese.

Our CP was on flat ground and flooded in heavy rain. One night the rain was so heavy that tarp shelter halves were useless, and Doc ended up getting an ear infection. There's nothing in a "unit one" for that. We requested permission to go to a battalion aid station (BAS) for antibiotics but were denied. Doc had contacts in Chu Lai where he got penicillin. Doc was now deaf in both ears and had a fever of 102-plus. If you had a problem, you had to write it down.

Doc's next task was to make nice with the farmer whose field we were on because there was a very nice well located there. Doc hauled cases of C-rations to the farmer, and we obtained use of the well. We learned he had a daughter with a 6-month-old baby with maggots crawling around her scalp. We borrowed a jeep and took them to the ARVN BAS on the top of the hill which was a waste of time because the doctor wouldn't see the baby. Doc still had the penicillin pills, so he broke them into eight pieces, crushed them into powder and gave it to the baby. Doc would visit the baby each day and clean the opening on the scalp and get rid of the infection.

The battery did well. The operation was a success. The farmer and his daughter appreciated the care. Doc's hearing returned. If there is an after-action report somewhere, I'd love to read it.



The battalion aid station of "Golf" 3/11 on Hill 10 in Vietnam, August 1967. (Photo courtesy HMCM Guy J. Preuss, USN (Ret))

LAST TESTAMENT
By HM3 Jerome "Jerry" Natt

I am a 90-year-old with normal diseases for my age. The doctors and new drugs seem to be working, so life looks good, but I don't know for how long. All I can say is I have very few regrets. I've been blessed with the best wife and friend, Sandra, one could hope for, two loving daughters, Melissa and Susan, and four granddaughters, Dani, Olivia, Amber and Julia. I have had years of experiences and am now comfortably retired enjoying a peaceful life with my wife of 65 years after having traveled the world.

Back in 1948, when I turned 18, the draft started again. Several of my friends and I joined the 69th Infantry Regiment, "The Fighting 69th," of the New York National Guard, so we would not be drafted into the Army. We went for our two weeks' training at Fort Drum, N.Y.

Upon arriving home, I decided the infantry was not for me, so I enlisted in the Naval Reserve for one-year active duty and six years Reserve. In December of 1948, I was sent to boot camp at Great Lakes Naval Training Station. I arrived with the designation Quartermaster Seaman Recruit. Because I was a Sea Scout in my early teens and knew Morse code and Semaphore flags, I wanted to be a quartermaster. I was really enjoying the military life and was made guide for my recruit company.

That lasted until graduation from boot camp when my orders were for Medical Corps School, and not to a ship where I would learn to be a quartermaster. I immediately requested a captain's mast and explained the promises the Navy had made to me. What went on from there is another story that I won't bore you with, but suffice it to say I hated being a corpsman.

I finished out my year of active duty in November of 1949 at the Philadelphia Naval Hospital which was the psychiatric hospital for the Navy and Marine Corps. Maybe that experience was why I got along so well with you Marines.

The Korean War broke out in June 1950 and I was recalled in June 1951. I spent a month processing recalled reservists at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and then was transferred to the St. Albans Naval Hospital in Queens, N.Y. The casualties were coming in from Korea, so I got to know some of the Marines. In December 1951, I received orders for the FMF and reported to Camp Pendleton (Camp Delmar). On Jan. 3, 1952, I completed my training as a field medical tech and advanced infantry training and was shipped aboard USS *General William Wiegel* (AP-119), Military Sea Transportation Service bound for Korea with the 19th replacement draft. We arrived in Korea on April 12, and I was assigned to 2nd Bn, 5th Marines. After hanging around battalion aid until April 15, I got orders to 2nd Platoon, "Easy" Company on OP3. I waited all day for transportation. When we finally arrived at the command post, it was totally dark, but a firefight soon began (see "Korea 1952: Firefight at Outpost 3," in the May 2017 issue of *Leatherneck*). It was a night I would never forget, but wish I could. What happened that night and the rest of my stay in Korea is not really what this is about. It is about the men and boys I served with and how those experiences affected me for the rest of my life.

After OP3, I knew if I was going to survive, I had to keep my mouth shut and listen, watch, and learn. I had some pretty good guys to guide me. The four who come to mind the most are Arty Barbosa, Navy Cross recipient; J.R. Clark, Silver Star recipient; W.P. Johnson, Navy Cross recipient; and most of all, Bobby Bunce, our platoon sergeant. I really liked

"SERVING WITH THE MARINES AS A CORPSMAN WAS ONE OF THE PROUDEST, MOST FORMATIVE AND INSPIRING TIMES OF MY LIFE."

this guy. He was a Marine's Marine. A poster boy. I think he spent more than 30 years in the Corps. He was wounded in Peleliu, wounded in Korea and wounded in Vietnam. I told him to get a new job because he wasn't going to make it in this one.

There were many more. Forgive me if I don't mention them by name, but time and memory are a problem.

A few days after OP3 when I got back to the company, I was assigned to 2nd Plt and was told to bunk with a fire team of Johnny R. Clark, Willie P. Johnson and two others. I immediately told them that I would take my turn on watch. That seemed to break the ice and I was one of them. It's not that I was so smart, but I got that advice from either Barbosa or Bunce. I would do anything for them, and they knew it and in return they would be there for me. We never spoke about it but there was that understanding.

We would be on patrol and I would notice one of the men watching me. Someone always had my back; the feeling was awesome. I know Bunce would say they were keeping an eye on me so I wouldn't get lost. One example was in July, Recon Co was working in our area and lost their corpsman. I was volunteered to go out with them to try to snatch some prisoners. When they heard I was going that night, they volunteered to go with me. They weren't allowed to go with me, but that night they got the hell beat out of them on Outpost Yoke. J.R. and Willie Peter and Bunce were all severely wounded and evacuated. A few days later I was advised I was being replaced and assigned to Battalion Med. I asked the doctor if I could stay with the company as I felt I was running out on them. For the first time in my life, I fully understood the responsibility to take care of others. He let me stay but when the new draft came in, he pulled me out and assigned me to the tank company of the 5th Marines.

In early November I got orders to Charlie Med which was the main collecting and clearing company for the entire division. I did mainly triage so I was busy, and it was interesting. That lasted until March 1953 when I was rotated home and discharged. At discharge I was asked if I wanted to reenlist, and I said only if the Navy would guarantee that I would stay in the FMF for the rest of my time. He responded with yes so quickly I knew it was bull. One experience with Navy promises was enough.

In retrospect going to the Navy to get out of the infantry, becoming a corpsman and going back to the infantry instead of becoming a Quartermaster—the complete opposite of what my goals were—somehow, I wound up on the right path. Being a corpsman made me very proud and I really felt fulfilled as a person. I was big brother at 22 to these 17-, 18- and 19-year-old kids. They learned from me, but I learned so much from them. Never before in my life, did I feel the warmth, respect and inclusion the Marines gave me. Yet I was always on the outside, not being a Marine. I still feel that I am an outsider because I didn't go to Parris Island or because I was issued white underwear instead of green. Someone once accused me of being a wannabe Marine. I had more time with a rifle company than he had on active duty and I resented his comment, but he was right. Serving with the Marines as a corpsman was one of the proudest, most formative and inspiring times of my life. I would have loved to have been able to say I was a Marine.

Attending E/2/5 reunions over the years I always had the respect of the Marines but was never quite accepted as one of them. Yes, that is my one regret, I was never a Marine. So, from one old wannabe to all you grunts, Semper Fi!

Left: As shown in this Korean War photo, dedication and courage were common traits displayed by corpsmen, who often risk their own lives to save their Marines. (USMC Photo)

Above: From the left, Walter P. Johnson, John R. Clark, J. Kirkland and Jerome Natt were all assigned to Easy Co, 2nd Bn, 5th Marines in 1952. PFC Walter P. Johnson received the Navy Cross for smothering a grenade with his body to protect others, and PFC John R. Clark received the Silver Star after stopping Chinese forces from reaching a bunker with wounded Marines despite his own wounds. (Photo courtesy HM3 Jerome "Jerry" Natt)

We—the Marines

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

Israeli Defense Forces Leaders Visit MCB Camp Lejeune

Leaders from the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) visited Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., to tour various simulation facilities, March 10.

Major Graham Hopkins, USMC, with G-37 Training and Simulations, II Marine Expeditionary Force, said the visit was an opportunity for II MEF to strengthen its ties with the IDF.

"This was an opportunity for us to make contact, begin establishing a positive relationship and hopefully build upon it for the future," Hopkins said.

There are simulation centers throughout Camp Lejeune that unit leaders can utilize to conduct scenario-based training and prepare for live-fire exercises.

The IDF leaders' visit included tours of the Infantry Immersion Trainer, Simulator Integration Center, and Range Control Operations Complex, as well as the Gun Fighter Gym. They also observed a Marathon target system field test and met with leaders from Advanced Infantry Training Battalion-East.

SGT JESUS SEPULVEDA TORRES, USMC

Above: BGen Dan Goldfus, Chief of Paratroopers and Infantry Corps for IDF, talks with Capt Caleb Rich, USMC, during a tour of simulation and training facilities at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., March 10.

SGT JESUS SEPULVEDA TORRES, USMC

An employee at the Simulator Integration Center and Range Control Operations Complex helps set up a convoy simulator for IDF leaders during their tour of MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., March 10.

"The simulations were the highlights of their visit, specifically the Gun Fighter Gym where they had a blast using the indoor simulated range and weapons," said Hopkins. "Overall, the tour was a resounding success. They got to spend a lot of time at the places they wanted to see and hopefully we'll receive more requests for visits down the line."

Hopkins said IDF leaders were interested in how Marines integrated the simulation training as part of their overall quest to become better warriors. At each location, representatives showcased technology and provided informed presentations on simulation capabilities.

Brigadier General Dan Goldfus, Chief of Paratroopers and Infantry Corps for Israeli Defense Forces, was the senior leader in attendance during the tour.

"The purpose of our visit was to learn about the simulators and leadership courses, and how they are integrated into training and exercises to create both leaders and fighters for the battlefield," said BGen Goldfus. "During the tour, what stood out to me the most were the simulators and how there were various levels of realism based on those scenarios […] The second highlight was understanding that there aren't many live-fire exercises, that most are done virtually through simulators, and this allows inexperienced commanders to make mistakes and then excel from there to get better."

The Israeli general officer reflected on the things he learned during the visit, especially from his tour of Camp Lejeune's facilities and key conversations he had with Marine Corps leaders like Major General Francis L. Donovan, the commanding general of 2nd Marine Division. He expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to see the installation's advanced training centers and the Marines assigned to them.

"The openness and the kindness to teach and share from the Marine Corps is admirable. I take that with me as well. It was very humbling and I thank everyone for this opportunity," BGen Goldfus said. "The most important thing is the friendship we have with the Marines."

Sgt Jesus Sepulveda Torres, USMC

Female Recruits Make History At MCRD San Diego

Women began serving in the United States Marine Corps in 1918 when Opha Mae Johnson became the first of approximately 300 women who volunteered for temporary clerical duty. In 1948, the Women's Armed Services Integration Act was passed by Congress, permanently allowing women to join and serve in the Marine Corps.

There are two Marine Corps Recruit Depots where recruits train for a grueling 13 weeks before earning the title "Marine:" MCRD Parris Island S.C., and MCRD San Diego, Calif. Male recruits have continuously trained at both locations, but female recruits have historically trained only at Parris Island. Regardless of location, recruits go through the same training, and the Marine Corps recently decided it was time to train female recruits at MCRD San Diego as well.

Among those recruits were Lindsey A. Rodolfich and Teia K. Chutaro. Both Chutaro and Rodolfich entered through the delayed entry program at Recruiting Sub-Station Honolulu, Hawaii, and shipped to recruit training on Jan. 25 to make history at MCRD San Diego.

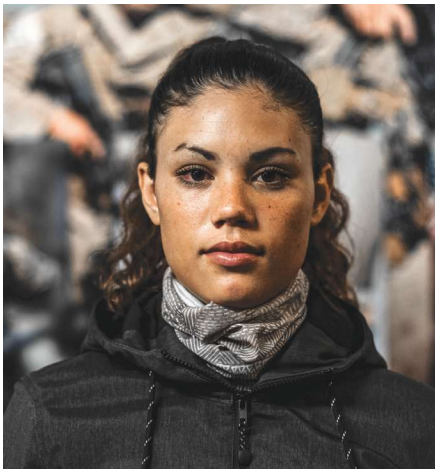
"When I first found out they only sent females to Parris Island, I thought, 'It would be really cool if they actually had females going to the recruit depot in San Diego,' " said Rodolfich during an interview prior to leaving for recruit training.

Females training at MCRD San Diego marks a huge step forward for the Marine Corps and extends the cohesion between male and female Marines from the start. Not only is it a step for the Marine Corps as a whole, but also for the individual women like Rodolfich and Chutaro.

"In high school, there was a lot of sexism and talk of females not being about to do what males can do," Chutaro said before leaving for boot camp. "We're going to San Diego and hiking 'The Reaper.' You get to the top and you earn your Eagle,

SGT TESSA WATTS, USMC

Lindsey A. Rodolfich



SSGT RUBIN TAN, USMC

Teia K. Chutaro

CPL ANA MADRIGAL, USMC

Female recruits with Plt 3241, "Lima" Co, 3rd Recruit Training Bn conduct Marine Corps Martial Arts training at MCRD San Diego, Calif., March 9. For the first time since the recruit depot's opening in 1921, MCRD San Diego integrated training of male and female recruits.

Globe and Anchor. That says a lot about your character—I'll be very proud."

Along with the pride of becoming U.S. Marines, these women will become a permanent part of Marine Corps history as they are among the first to train at MCRD San Diego.

"We're making history and are speechless about it, but at the same time we're proud," Chutaro said. "We have a lot of weight on our shoulders because we're expected to be the best group of females going. We have to prove ourselves."

Even with the excitement and responsibility of making history for women, becoming a U.S. Marine is a once in a lifetime accomplishment in and of itself. Marines learn physical, spiritual and mental fortitude along with the skills and knowledge required to be a warfighter.

"I decided to join the Marine Corps for the sense of belonging, to better myself mentally, physically and emotionally," Chutaro said.

What the Marine Corps has to offer is not the only motivation for enlisting in the Marine Corps. For some, like Rodolfich, it's even more personal. Her father, who supported her goal of becoming a Marine, passed away, and now honoring his memory has become her main motivation.

The Marine Corps teaches young men and women how much they are capable of by pushing them beyond what they ever imagined was possible.

"I'm looking forward to overcoming self-doubt and pushing my limits because I know I can," Rodolfich stated.

Sgt Tessa Watts, USMC

Marines with H&HS, MCIPAC conduct a turret drill with an Oshkosh P-19R Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Vehicle on MCAS Futenma, Okinawa, Japan, April 7. EFR specialist Marines with H&HS provide aircraft rescue and firefighting services in support of airfield operations and respond to any fire-related emergencies and situations with a maximum response time of five minutes. (Photo by LCpl Alex Fairchild, USMC)

At a Moment's Notice: EFR Marines Maintain Readiness

Across the Marine Corps, mission readiness is a topic often addressed, and for expeditionary firefighting and rescue (EFR) specialists with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Installations Pacific, stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Okinawa, Japan, it is a daily practice.

EFR specialists provide aircraft rescue and firefighting services in support of airfield operations and respond to any fire-related emergencies and situations with a maximum response time of five minutes.

"It's all about making sure we are prepared for anything that comes our way," said Lance Corporal Nicklas Martin, an EFR specialist with H&HS, MCIPAC.

LCPL ISAIAH GOMEZ, USMC

GOING FOR GOLD—Marine SSgt John W. Stefanowicz Jr., left, an intelligence Marine stationed at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., will head to Tokyo, Japan, this summer to compete in the 2020 Olympic Summer Games, marking the first time a Marine wrestler has competed in the international event since 1992. Stefanowicz will represent Team USA in Greco-Roman style wrestling, 87-kilogram weight class. He was congratulated for his qualification by Col Amy R. Ebitz, right, the commanding officer of Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Installations East-Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., April 7.

"We respond to all types of emergencies, so maintaining and accounting for every piece of gear and functionality of the vehicles is paramount to our pledge to serve and protect."

At the dawn of each day, Marines conduct visual and physical inspections of every firefighting vehicle they utilize. The examinations conducted ensure that each piece of gear is accounted for and certify the operability of the vehicles themselves.

Martin explained that they routinely conduct training to stay mission ready and prepared for any fire-related emergency. The drills themselves last less than two minutes during which Marines don their bunker gear, enter the firefighting vehicles and shed their bunker gear and are evaluated on their performance. The gear, which weighs up to 60 pounds, consists of fireproof boots, trousers, a jacket, Nomex headgear, a mask with a respirator, a helmet and an oxygen tank.

"The purpose of the bunker drills is to ensure that the Marines can apply and offload their bunker gear from themselves in two minutes or less," said Corporal Calvin Pellegrino, an EFR specialist with H&HS, MCIPAC. "We hold ourselves to a high standard as well as a fast-paced response time, and the bunker drills are critical to maintaining our mission readiness."

LCPL ALEX FAIRCHILD, USMC

LCpl Thomas Diffley, an EFR specialist with H&HS, MCIPAC, stands by for evaluation after a bunker drill on MCAS Futenma, Okinawa, Japan, April 7.

Pellegrino explained that before EFR Marines are assigned to a duty station, they attend a three-month firefighting course at Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. Part of the training they receive ensures that they are proficient in fighting structural, chemical and aircraft fires and have a basic understanding of emergency medical procedures.

The relentless dedication of EFR Marines ensures that MCAS Futenma and its airfield has constant aircraft rescue and firefighting support at any given time.

"Working long hours together truly brings us together as a professional family, and that is what makes us who we are," said Martin. "With the unique teamwork and camaraderie we share with one another, we are truly able to be there for anyone who needs our help."

LCpl Alex Fairchild, USMC

Crazy Caption Contest

Winner

CPL JUSTIN M. MARTINEZ, USMC

"Johnny, now tell the nice Easter Bunny that you would rather have powdered eggs."

Submitted by:
LtGen W. Mark Faulkner, USMC (Ret)
Stafford, Va.

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 email it to us. Send your submission to *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or email it, referencing the number at the bottom right, to leatherneck@mca-marines.org. The winning entry will be published in two months.

This Month's Photo

SGT HAILEY D. CLAY, USMC

(Caption) _____

_____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ **ZIP** _____

6-21

HEY, DUDE, SEMPER FI!

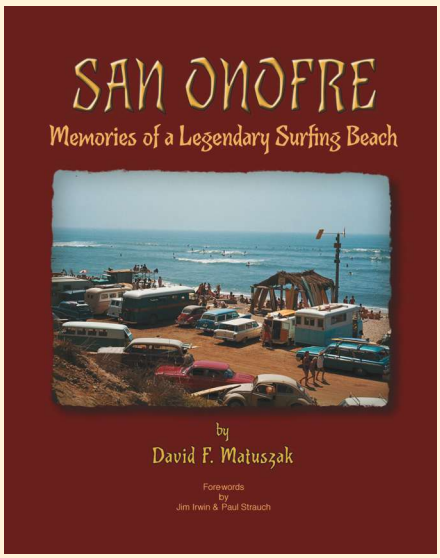
USMC

Camp Pendleton's Surfing History Told in Newly Released Book

By David Matuszak

Anyone stationed at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., is familiar with the prominence of surfing along its shores, but until now, no one has chronicled the fascinating history of surfing there. In "San Onofre: Memories of a Legendary Surfing Beach," the book tells the story of Camp Pendleton from its origins as Native American lands to Spanish colonists to General Pendleton's dream of a West Coast amphibious landing training center, and subsequently the invasion of surfers to its shores.

After digging deep into military and civilian archives, I tied together Camp Pendleton's history and placed it into historical and cultural context in relation to one of the world's most famous surfing beaches, San Onofre, Calif. San Onofre State Park is located on Camp Pendleton, and most of it is operated by California State Parks under a 50-year lease from the Department of the Navy. That



lease expires in 2022 and has already been temporarily extended, pending a negotiated long-term lease. A portion of San Onofre, "Marine Beach," located at the "Church" surfing break, was set aside for the exclusive use of the military personnel and their families.

"San Onofre" is a detailed narrative connecting the various subcultures that coexisted at Camp Pendleton: cowboys, farmers, Marines and surfers. I spent years recording oral histories of members of those sub-groups and the story is often told in the participants' own words. The most colorful chapter of this history is the interaction between Marines and surfers during the early years when surfers wanting to use the "Trestles" and "Church" surfing breaks were prohibited from those waters which were intended for landing craft training sites. The surfers refused to go quietly, thus beginning a decades-long cat and mouse game of evasion, of seek and capture between the two groups.

After recording dozens of surfers' stories about being pursued, captured, and detained by MPs, I wanted to hear the Marine side of the story. So, I posted a notification in *Leatherneck* asking for responses from MPs stationed at San Onofre between 1942 and 1972. I received six responses and chronicled the Marine

Left: A Marine competes in a surf contest hosted by Red Bull at MCB Camp Pendleton, May 13, 2014.

Below: Charles Hitchborn at Camp Pendleton MP headquarters in 1952 or 1953. Hitchborn was one of the military police who chased surfers off the base.

COURTESY OF HITCHBORN FAMILY

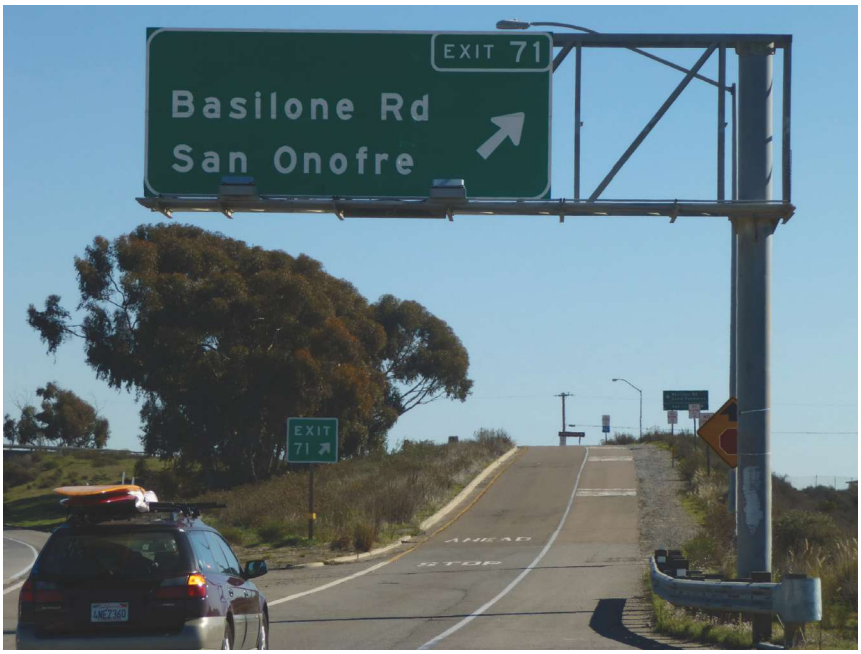
DAVID MATUSZAK

Today the ranch house (above) is the base museum on Camp Pendleton. The Rancho Santa Margarita y las Flores ranch house (below) in 1941.

COURTESY OF CAMP PENDLETON

side of the legendary friction between the surfers and the military. One such story came from legendary surfing artist Bill Ogden, who was brought to the Provost Marshal for possessing a master key to the base padlocks. Ogden was surfing in the 1960s inside the prohibited area with legendary surfer Mike Doyle. The two were chased by MPs who ordered them out of the water with a bullhorn. They evaded capture by mingling in with surfers miles down the beach. When I corroborated the story with Mike Doyle, Doyle replied that Ogden had left out the part about the MPs shooting at them. Doyle insisted they weren't trying to hit them, just scare them into paddling ashore, but he did note that he could see the bullets plinking in the water around them.

The surfing connection to the Marines was not just limited to the MP's control of the beach. Every aspect of Marine culture connected to San Onofre and surfing is explored. For example, I wanted every surfer to know the origins of Basilone Road, the surfing beach exit off Interstate 5 and the north base entrance gate. The contribution of John Basilone to this country should not be taken for granted by anyone. He was a war hero who deserves our thanks and admiration. Basilone received the Medal of Honor for



DAVID MATUSZAK

The Basilone Road exit is the "surfing beach exit" off Interstate 5 that leads to San Onofre and the gate on the northern end of Camp Pendleton.

The Pendleton surf club logo (top) is based on the Camp Pendleton logo (below) which is derived from the rancho cattle brand. (Courtesy of David Matuszak)

Above: PFC Travis K. Nardi, crew chief, Marine Medium Helicopter Training Squadron 164, MCAS Camp Pendleton, breaks through waves as he competes in Pendleton's Fifth Annual Surfing & Body Boarding Competition at Del Mar Beach, July 22, 2009. (Photo by PFC Daniel Boothe, USMC)

Right: Marine Robert Kidd surfed in the Philippines while on leave during the Vietnam War.

COURTESY OF KIDD COLLECTION

his heroism on Guadalcanal in October 1942 and later received a posthumous Navy Cross for his actions on Iwo Jima, where he died on Feb. 19, 1945.

Another fascinating chapter is the story of the Church surfing break namesake. Pioneer surfers used an old San Onofre farm chapel as a landmark to line up with to catch waves. I spent two years attempting to determine the precise location of the old chapel and discover its origins. With a tip from base historian Faye Jonason, I eventually located the first image of the chapel that the surfing world had ever seen. I tracked down Dianna Semintal, a woman whose father was a farmworker there and who attended Mass at the chapel. The chapel had been converted from a base workshop on orders from the base commander in memory of his mother.

Camp Pendleton's history is rooted in the native peoples there, the Acjachemen. Following the 1769 Portolá Expedition, the first Spanish land crossing through Camp Pendleton, the San Onofre Native Americans were colonized and renamed the Juaneños after the Mission San Juan Capistrano. The Spanish named San Onofre during that expedition, and it eventually became one of three Spanish cattle ranches that make up Camp Pendleton today. All three ranches were

NATHAN UGHOC

Members of the Hawaiian Surf Club participate in a paddle-out for Pauu Fa'alafua off San Onofre, Dec. 12, 2010.

merged into the Rancho Santa Margarita that became the largest beef-producing ranch in California during the late 1800s. I also chronicled the evolution of the vaqueros and cowboys who were involved in the eventual creation of the Camp Pendleton rodeo. It became one California's biggest rodeos, frequented by dignitaries and movie stars, including Clark Gable and Marilyn Monroe. A constant reminder of ranching's influence on Camp Pendleton is found on the base logo, derived from the rancho cattle brand.

Following a tour of early Camp Pendleton history, I placed early California history into context with early Hawaiian surfing culture. Many of San Onofre's pioneer surfers in the early 1930s surfed in Hawaii and brought Polynesian culture to Southern California. The most significant Hawaiian import was "aloha." San Onofre surfing beach became famous for its aloha spirit among surfers. The friendly brotherhood of surfing is still alive at San Onofre, unlike most other surfing spots. Because of crowded waves around the world, the 1960s friendliness in the water has disappeared in most locations and been replaced with tribalism and localism.

San Onofre remains the aloha capital of the mainland. In fact, it is the site of the Hawaiian Surf Club at San Onofre. Founded in the early 1990s by Kalani Akui and popularized by legendary Hawaiian big-wave surfer Paul Strauch, San Onofre became a gathering place for native Hawaiian surfers because of its Waikiki-like wave. The club includes native Hawaiian members and is always welcoming new members.

COURTESY OF DAVID MATUSZAK

This illustration, "The Favorite Sport of Surf-Riding" is from Hawaiian Folk Tales 1907.

The San Onofre Surfing Club was founded in 1952 in response to a Marine dictate. San Onofre Surf Beach, located south of Marine beach, was the original gathering site of pioneer surfers. Today it is called "Old Man's Beach." Following the founding of Camp Pendleton in 1942, the Marine Corps allowed surfers to continue to congregate there, but only if they policed themselves. When surfers were unable to control their behavior there, base officials offered them one final solution: develop a private surfing club where membership would be limited, and behavior would be better managed. The club was formed, and membership was limited to 500 surfers. A locked gate was established and monitored by the surfing club. It became the most exclusive club in the world with a five-year waiting list. In the early 1970s, when the California State Parks took control of that beach, San Onofre went public. The San Onofre Surfing Club remains an influential force working with the parks to keep the beach pristine and undeveloped.

I first arrived at San Onofre about 1980,

One of Camp Pendleton's Fifth Annual Surfing & Body Boarding Competition contenders leans back to avoid wiping out during the day-long surfing contest at Del Mar Beach, July 22, 2009. (Photo by PFC Daniel Boothe, USMC)

PFC DANIEL BOOTHE, USMC

Right: Pvt Matthew Kent, corrections personnel, Camp Pendleton Base Brig, sits next to two of his competitors as he prepares to surf in Camp Pendleton's Fifth Annual Surfing & Body Boarding Competition at Del Mar Beach, July 22, 2009.

following its opening to the public. For my first couple of decades surfing there, I remember a strong Marine presence, not just military maneuvers off the coast with ships and helicopters during exercises, but it was not unusual to hear the roar of cannon fire in the distance over San Onofre Mountain. At night when the cannons boomed, the ridgeline from behind San Onofre Mountain would glow orange from the muzzle flashes and explosions. Another memory was the regular sighting of Marines jogging through the Old Man's Beach, dressed in Marine t-shirts and maroon gym shorts. They all sported recruit buzz cuts and were typically sunburned only on their necks and faces from boot camp training. I remember thinking that if I was a young Marine, I'd be jogging along the beach with all the pretty girls in bikinis too. To their credit, they were always true to Marine conduct. I never once saw them stop and talk to the girls. They were all business. After the 9/11 attack, I never saw them jogging on the beach again; a security precaution, I suspect.

The prominence of Marine surfing is featured in "San Onofre" as well. Evidence of the popularity of Marine surfing is demonstrated through photographs of Marine Beach and the historic officers club, the surfing supply section at the base exchange that included everything you'd find in a regular surf shop, Marine surfing teams and the wounded warrior surfing program. An old family friend, Gene

COURTESY OF COTTLE FAMILY

Above left: Christy Bones Landgreen distributes toys to Vietnamese children at Camp No. 5 in 1975. (Photo courtesy of National Archives)

Above right: Gene Peterson at Camp Pendleton during World War II.

Peterson, who was stationed at Camp Pendleton during World War II, and his friend Allen Cottle are the only Camp Pendleton Marines I could document who surfed at San Onofre during the war. Peterson had two duties on the base: base lifeguard and insect control, presumably mosquitos. My childhood friend Christy Bones, an early female surfer, is featured in the book too. She worked for the YMCA with her husband, Mark. The two were co-directors in charge of education, entertainment and assimilation for the children in the Camp Pendleton Vietnamese Refugee Camp No. 5. The camps were another colorful aspect of Camp Pendleton history, where more than 50,000 Vietnamese refugees were temporally housed in five camps following the fall of Saigon. Their story is chronicled in "San Onofre" as well.

The 1,550-page coffee table book with 5,000 illustrations and 200 contributors includes so many Marine related stories that they cannot be all mentioned here. "San Onofre: Memories of a Legendary Surfing Beach" is a thorough examination of Camp Pendleton surf culture and the place called San Onofre.

COURTESY JIMMY MILLER MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

A Wounded Warrior surfer with his coach in the waters off Camp Pendleton.

Author's bio: David F. Matuszak is a retired high school teacher and wrestling coach. For 40 years, he taught "Advanced Weight Training and Fitness," a course he designed for students preparing for military boot camp. "San Onofre" is his ninth book. Next year will mark his 50th anniversary as a surfer. You can find him every week "sliding a roller" at San Onofre's Old Man's Surf Beach. His book is available online at www.pacificsunset.com

Passing the Word

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

Corps Begins Trial Run For New PT Uniform

Marines will soon be testing and evaluating new physical training uniforms, Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) announced in April after awarding four contracts to produce PT uniform sets.

The new PT uniform is modernized with all the latest performance attributes including better form, fit and function, said Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Konicki, MCSC's program manager for infantry combat equipment.

The uniform, which will consist of a shirt and shorts, is designed for Marines to wear while conducting individual or organized PT and will provide a more athletic fit and incorporate anti-microbial, moisture-wicking, stretch, fast-drying and reflective elements.

Made in America, American Fashion Network of East Syracuse, N.Y.; Fit USA of Ormond Beach, Fla.; SND Manufacturing of Dallas, Texas; and String King of Gardena, Calif., will be manufacturing prototypes of the updated uniform.

Konicki said the new uniform will include a design modification to the current general-purpose trunks and undershirt that have been in service for nearly a decade. The PT shirt will be more fitted than the current undershirt and will include side mesh panels for breathability.

Each sleeve will have an eagle, globe and anchor in reflective silver, and the back of the shirt will read "USMC" vertically and have diagonal reflective strips on each side of the letters.

The PT short will be basketball-style and constructed in olive drab green performance fabrics with mesh side panels and a longer inseam than the current general-purpose trunk. It will have a bike-style liner and side seam pockets with zipper closures.

As a planned augment to the uniform, there is an optional running short for those who prefer a shorter inseam. The running short would not be included in the initial clothing allowance issue or on the minimum requirements list but would be authorized for wear during unit PT events.

Reflective attributes for the shorts include the eagle, globe and anchor at the bottom left hem of the left leg and proportional diagonal striping on the right front leg and on the rear of both legs from the hem to the mesh side panels.

"Active wear has come a long way from when the GP trunk was first issued," said Kristine Bealmear, the PT uniform project officer for MCSC. "I feel it's important for our Marines to have these advanced garments to provide them comfort and durability during their PT sessions. They need to look their best regardless of uniform."

TONYA SMITH

Capt Donovan Holloway, an intelligence officer at MCSC, wears a prototype of the new PT uniform. On April 13, MCSC awarded four contracts to manufacture prototypes for an updated uniform, which will be tested and evaluated in the coming months.

A maternity PT shirt and shorts also are being developed and will resemble the new PT uniform in design.

MCSC is procuring a total of 600 uniforms, of which 100 will undergo durability testing in a lab environment and 500 will be issued to a diverse mix of officer, enlisted, junior, senior, male and female Marines for their use and feedback. The evaluation will run for a minimum of 30 days, with testing scheduled to be complete by the beginning of August, allowing for enough time to consolidate the feedback, present the changes to the Marine Corps Uniform Board for decision, and then update the contract to execute funds prior to the end of fiscal year 21.

This timeline supports initial fielding to Marine Corps Recruit Depots and Officer Candidates School as part of the initial clothing allowance issue.

The new PT uniform is expected to be available for purchase at Marine Corps Exchanges in the spring of 2022. The PT shirt will not replace the green shirt that is worn with utility uniforms, which will be renamed "utility undershirt" and will be worn with the utility uniform and only for PT when forward deployed or when tactical requirements dictate per a commander's guidance.

Matt Gonzales

Military Women of Color Exhibit Opens at Women's War Memorial

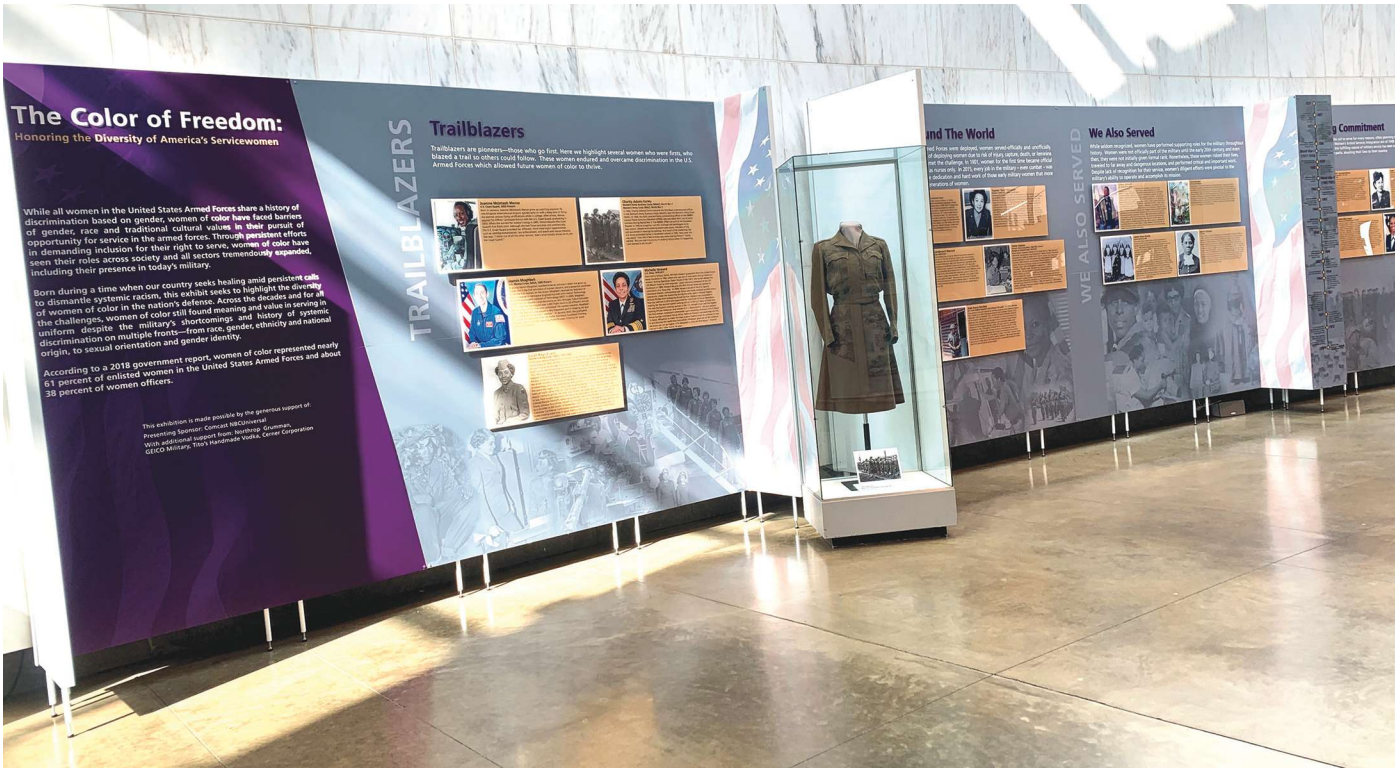
"The Color of Freedom: Honoring the Diversity of America's Servicewomen" exhibit has made its debut at the Military Women's Memorial on the grounds of Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va., to highlight the contributions of military women of color who have served in the U.S. military throughout American history.

The new exhibit was unveiled virtually on March 4 in a partnership between the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation and Comcast NBCUniversal. The exhibit tells the stories of women of color who served in the military and also includes K-12 educational programming, a speakers' forum, and a digital exhibit.

"While the memorial has always worked hard to tell the stories of all servicewomen, we are eager to add a voice to the current discussion of race and to share the extraordinary and enduring contributions of servicewomen of color," said Phyllis Wilson, president of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, at the exhibit's opening.

"In many cases [these were] contributions that have been forgotten, ignored or diminished in our textbooks," she noted.

The exhibit spotlights more than 30 servicewomen of color who have blazed



COURTESY OF MILITARY WOMEN'S MEMORIAL

LISA FERDINANDO

"The Color of Freedom: Honoring the Diversity of America's Servicewomen" exhibit at the Military Women's Memorial in Arlington, Va., is now open to the public. The exhibit, which was unveiled March 4, highlights the contributions of military women of color throughout U.S. history.

trails, broken down barriers and shattered glass ceilings, Wilson explained, adding that the women of color who dared to "lean in" and accomplish their missions created a better U.S. military and a better nation.

"I found that women of color have faced barriers of gender, race and traditional cultural values in pursuit of a right to serve," said memorial curator Britta Granrud, who wanted the stories of the women featured in the exhibit to be told in their own words. "I found that in their persistent efforts … overcoming discrimination has allowed them to thrive and see their roles expand across all sectors. I found these women and many others have been forces within the trajectory of [U.S.] history, women's history and military history. I have found that diversity is our strength … [and] our life experiences and the communities from which we come make us stronger and make us better."

The common denominator of the women of color who have served their country is that they are leaders, said retired Army Command Sergeant Major Michelle Jones, who is featured in the exhibit and is a combat veteran who served for 25 years. Jones was the ninth command sergeant major in the U.S. Army Reserve and the first woman to serve in that position.

The women of color who served have provided a roadmap of selfless service, Jones added.

The memorial and exhibit at Arlington National Cemetery are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays through Saturdays, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays.

Terri Moon Cronk

In Memoriam

Compiled by Nancy S. Lichtman

DPAA Identifies USS *Oklahoma* Marine

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced recently that Private First Class John F. Middleswart, 19, of San Diego, Calif., killed during World War II, was accounted for and is the 300th identification from the USS *Oklahoma* Project.

On Dec. 7, 1941, PFC Middleswart was assigned to the battleship USS *Oklahoma* (BB-37) which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. *Oklahoma* sustained multiple torpedo hits and quickly capsized. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Middleswart.

From December 1941 to June 1944, Navy personnel recovered the remains of the deceased crew, which were subsequently interred in the Halawa and Nu'uanu cemeteries.

In September 1947, tasked with recovering and identifying fallen U.S. personnel in the Pacific theater, members of the American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) disinterred the remains of U.S. casualties from the two cemeteries and transferred them to the Central Identification Laboratory at Schofield Barracks. The laboratory staff was only able to confirm the identifications of 35 men from *Oklahoma* at that time. The AGRS subsequently buried the unidentified remains in 46 plots at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu, Hawaii. In October 1949, a military board classified those who could not be identified, including PFC Middleswart, as non-recoverable.

Between June and November 2015, DPAA personnel exhumed *Oklahoma*'s unknowns from the Punchbowl for analysis. To identify Middleswart's remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used anthropological analysis, mitochondrial DNA, Y chromosome DNA and autosomal DNA analysis.

DPAA

Capt James H. Becker, 82, of Cumming, Ga. He was a Marine pilot who flew the F-4B Phantom II in Vietnam. He later had a 25-year career with IBM.

Diane F. Carothers, 93, of Urbana, Ill. She served during the Korean War.

Michael B. Stuart-Champion, 82, of Portland, Ore. He enlisted after his graduation from high school. He later had a career as a millwright and taught industrial engineering at a local community college.

William "Bill" Ehmann Jr., 85, of Green Bay, Wis. He served in the Marine Corps after his 1954 graduation from high school.

Cpl Richard J. "Dick" Fitzgerald, 82, of Massena, N.Y. He enlisted in 1957 and went to boot camp at MCRD Parris Island, S.C. He served three years and was assigned to 3rdMarDiv. He was the master of ceremonies for numerous MCL Marine Corps Birthday celebrations in Massena and Hogansburg, N.Y., and he hosted a yearly gathering of the Adirondack Leathernecks for 20 years. He was a lifetime member of the MCA.

Capt Ronald G. Garland, 83, of Champaign, Ill. He served for 20 years and later earned a degree in history from California State University.

Nicholas "Nick" F. Hanson, 72, of Saint Helens, Ore. He was a Marine who served in Vietnam as an aircraft maintainer. He later owned and operated his own business.

Skip Hauser, 75, of Greenwood, S.C. During his Marine Corps career, he served three tours in Vietnam.

Julian R. Hood, 86, in Portland, Ore. He was a Marine who served in the Korean War.

LCpl Jerry P. Huck, 72, of Sumner, Wash. He was an infantry Marine who served a tour in Vietnam. His two brothers served in the Marine Corps and his son is also a Marine. He was a successful businessman in Seattle and was a member of the 3rdMarDiv Association.

LCpl Darryl Kassak, 80, of Farmington Hills, Mich. He served from 1959-1963 and was assigned to 1stMarDiv. He later worked in a factory and was a postal worker. He was a member of the MCA and the MCL Downriver Det. #153.

MGySgt Vernon Glen Killian, 81, of New Bern, N.C. He enlisted in the Marine Corps after his high school graduation and served more than 28 years. He was an MSG Marine and served in embassies in Indonesia and Japan. He served two tours in Vietnam as a mechanic for the F-4 Phantom. He later transitioned to working on rotor-wing airframes and eventually was assigned to HMX-1, serving as the crew chief for Marine One. He was a member of the VFW, the American Legion and the Elks.

Lloyd Koester, 93, of Cleveland, Tenn. He left home at age 16 and joined the Marine Corps. He saw action on Iwo Jima.

Ralph J. "Duke" Krabbe, 84, of Kimberly, Wis. He enlisted after his high school graduation and was stationed in Hawaii.

1stLt Nes Kusnierz, 73, of Arcadia, Calif. He served a tour in Vietnam from 1969-1970. He was the air support control officer attached to the Da Nang Direct Air Support Center and later was OIC for the Helicopter Direction Center at Fire Support Base Baldy. His awards include the Navy Commendation Medal.

Cpl Dorothy "Stormy" Legg, 103, of Wapiti, Wyo. She left her teaching career during WW II to serve in the Marine Corps as a radio operator. She later returned to teaching. She was a friend to *Leatherneck* and her photo was published in the magazine when at age 101, she was the oldest Marine at a celebration of the Corps' 243rd birthday.

Col Wayne E. "Smoke" Lewis, 90, of Portland, Ore. His 30-year career included service in Korea and Vietnam. He also worked as an attorney for the U.S. Forest Service.

SSgt Kenneth Maass, 89, of Watertown, Wis. He served in the Marine Corps from 1949-1953 and was a veteran of the Korean War as a member of the 1st Amtrak Bn. He was also stationed at Yokosuka, Japan. He was a member of MCA, VFW, MCL and The Chosin Few.

SSgt Leo Marquez, 90, of Kingsburg, Calif. He enlisted in 1948 and went to boot camp at MCRD San Diego. During the Korean War he was assigned to "Charlie" Co, 1stBn, 1st Marines, 1stMarDiv. He participated in the Inchon landing, the Chosin Reservoir campaign and the Battle of Horseshoe Ridge. He was the recipient of the Silver Star for his actions on April 23, 1951. When the enemy broke through lines of defense, he maneuvered his fire team to repel the enemy while

ASHLEY M. WRIGHT

LAYING A HERO TO REST—A member of the Marine Honor Guard plays "Taps" at the funeral of PFC Raymond Warren, 21, of Silverdale, Kan., in Arlington National Cemetery, April 13. In November 1943, PFC Warren was assigned to Co K, 3rd Bn, 8th Marines, 2ndMarDiv, which landed on Betio Island during the Battle of Tarawa. He received the Silver Star posthumously for his actions on the first day of battle, Nov. 20, 1943. According to the award citation, when he saw that a demolition group attacking a Japanese bomb-proof shelter was being pinned down by hostile fire from within the structure, he "exposed himself to heavy machine-gun and mortar fire in order to divert the enemy to himself and allow the demolition group to advance," and place their charges. PFC Warren was killed in the action that followed and was reported to have been buried in the Division Cemetery, which was later renamed Cemetery No. 27.

In 1946, the 604th Quartermaster Graves Registration Company centralized all of the American remains found on Betio at Lone Palm Cemetery for later repatriation. Almost half of the known casualties, however, were never found. No recovered remains could be associated with PFC Warren, and in 1949, he was declared unrecoverable.

In 2015, History Flight, a nonprofit organization, notified Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency that they discovered a burial site on Betio and recovered the remains of what they believed to be missing American servicemembers who had been buried in Cemetery No. 27.

moving among his men shouting words of encouragement and directing their fire, according to the award citation. "Frequently engaging the enemy in hand-to-hand combat throughout the night-long attack, he aided materially in limiting the hostile penetration and in assuring the security of the position." His other awards include the Purple Heart. He was a member of the MCA.

Philip Phelps, 74, of Urbana, Ill. He enlisted after his high school graduation in 1965. He later had a career as a fire fighter, retiring as a lieutenant.

Henry "Hank" Phillips, 84, of Wilmington, N.C. He was an infantry officer who served from 1959-1962. He was a contributing writer to various publications and was the great-great nephew of John Harris, the 6th Commandant of the Marine Corps. He was a founding member and later the commandant of the Cape Fear MCL Det. 1070. He had a 32-year career with Proctor and Gamble.

BGen Robert S. Raisch, 91, of Detroit, Mich. He was a Marine aviator who served in the Korean War. Twice he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Richard W. Reed, 96, of Lancaster, Ohio. During WW II, he was a tail gunner in the TBF Avenger aircraft. After the war, he returned to his hometown where he was active in local government.

Col Robert P. "Daddy Wags" Wagner, 70, of Stafford, Va. He enlisted in 1969 and served with 1stMarDiv on Hill 327 outside of Da Nang in Vietnam. He also was a DI at MCRD San Diego. After returning home from Vietnam, he earned a degree from The Ohio State University and worked for the Ohio Department of Health for several years. He then completed OCS and was commissioned a second lieutenant and was assigned to 1/6, where he served as rifle platoon and 81 mm mortar platoon commander and Wpns Co XO.

During Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm he was a company commander and the battalion operations officer for 1st Bn, 1st Marines, 1stMarDiv. Other assignments included CO of 2/1, 1stMarDiv and CO of Wpns and Field Training Bn, MCRD San Diego.

His awards include a Legion of Merit and a Bronze Star with combat "V." His oldest son also served in the Marine Corps, and another son works for the MCA.

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, dates of service, units served in, and, if possible a published obituary. Allow at least four months for the notice to appear. Submissions may be sent to *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, Va., 22134, or emailed to leatherneck@mca-marines.org or n.lichtman@mca-marines.org.

and the service shoes. The ones I have observed usually stick close by. I had a chance to talk to one and asked about the assignment. His reply was, "I carry the gun." No other explanation needed.

So, to make a short story long, the PPSU still exists. As far as the crew on Marine One being PPSUs, they may be, but uniformed.

Joseph Clemente
USMC, 1959-1963
Mount Airy, Md.

Marine Advisory Division, 1963-1964

I am sending a photo taken during my tour with the Marine Advisory Division, Navy Section, MAAG, Vietnam from January 1963 to February 1964. Each Division of the Army and Air Force was commanded by a brigadier general except the Navy section as it was headed by a Navy captain. I was told that the Navy was composed of rear admiral upper and lower half and even though the lower half was equal to a brigadier general, he wore two stars and would be equal to the chief of the MAAG who was a major general. The Army and Air Force majors, lieutenant colonels and colonels couldn't get the gist of what a Navy captain was, and Captain Drachnik set them straight. Brigadier General Joseph Stillwell was in the Army division and the son of General "Vinegar Joe" Stillwell of the Burma Campaign. We called the younger Stillwell "Cider Joe" as he was not as tough as his dad.

From the best I can understand, the Vietnamese Marines started a coup, and as they came in from the field, told the advisors they needed to go to their billets. James Pickerell who was a freelance photographer and used to hang out around our division trying to find something to photograph shot the Nov. 15, 1963, cover for *Life* magazine of the coup.

One of the saddest events for me was the loss of Capt Donald Koelper. He saw me off as I left Vietnam and when I got back to the States, I learned he had been killed warning patrons in a theater that sappers were going to strike the theater.

MSgt Monte L. Railsback, USMC (Ret)
Shellsburg, Iowa

Purple Heart

Private William Niader, USMC, was KIA on June 12, 1945, on Kunishi Ridge, Okinawa. I wrote this poem in September 2000, in loving memory of my brother.

In the thick of the battle, I felt the pain;
I thought to myself, this isn't a game.
I staggered forward and then
fell to the ground;
I tried to holler, but there was
barely a sound.
As I lay there, I cried for my mother;
I thought of my dad and my
younger brother.
I talked to God and said a prayer,
"Please, somebody help me!
Doesn't anyone care?"
I opened my eyes and whom did I see,
An angel, a corpsman, who would
take care of me.
His hands were gentle;
his voice was clear;
"You'll make it, son, for I am here."
He gave me such comfort
that I can never forget;
Even years later I think of him yet.
They put me on a stretcher
and carried me away,
Back to the aid station,
where the doctor would say,
"You're badly wounded,
and we'll do our best."
"We'll operate on you and then
let you rest."
When I awoke and opened my eyes
I was in a hospital, and was I surprised.
They took care of me
so I would get better;
Back at home my parents read
the letter.
"Your son is fine, and you'll
see him soon."
A lot of joy filled up that room.
I knew in my mind
that I'd done my part;
I wear on my uniform proudly,
my Purple Heart.

Frank Niader
Wayne, N.J.

COURTESY OF MSGT MONTE L. RAILSBACK, USMC (RET)

Marine Corps advisors in 1962 were: Bottom row, Maj Croft, MSgt Friedman, LtCol Brown, LtCol Moody and Capt Labas. Center row: Unknown, GySgt Rouse, GySgt Loyko, unknown, unknown and Capt Zimolzak. Top row: Sgt Glidden, unknown, unknown and unknown. Can anyone identify the unknowns?

Ranger School

Back in 1959 when I was with F/2/6, my platoon sergeant told me to skip morning mess and report to the noncommissioned officer in charge (NCOIC) in front of H&S Co with complete combat gear, rifle and helmet. My fellow Marines must have thought I was nuts when I left the barracks in full combat gear.

When I reported to the NCOIC, there were a total of four NCOs with clipboards and several Marines in combat gear. We were told to stack our rifles and gear. Without any explanation we were separated into groups. The NCO told us that we were going to be given a series of tests and that it was of the utmost importance that we do our very best. He said, "I want you to do each exercise until failure." We did push-ups, sit-ups, squat thrusts, jumping jacks, etc. Each Marine's score was put down on the clipboards. When they told us to saddle up, we thought we were finished. They told us to buckle our helmets and form a single line on the company sidewalk with rifles at port arms. The sergeant pointed to another NCO about a block away and said, "One at a time and on my signal, I want you to run with your rifle at port arms to the NCO down there, circle him and run back to me at the finish line." The first Marine ran down, circled the NCO, and fell to the ground. The next three in front of me did the same. When I started my run, I felt good but when I circled the NCO my legs turned to rubber. I didn't fall but the NCO came up behind me and screamed, "Don't you quit on me! Get your ass in gear! You can make it!" He screamed at me all the way to the finish line. I don't know how I made it. I was totally exhausted and went head-first into the grass and dirt and got the dry heaves. Then, I heard someone yelling, "Marine, get that rifle out of the dirt!" I looked up and it was Col Lobell.

I limped back to "Fox" Co and cleaned my rifle right away. When I removed my boots, my right foot was black and blue. The corpsman sent me to sick bay, and I was diagnosed as having a "marching fracture." The next day my foot was really sore. My platoon sergeant told me to report to company headquarters on the double. I was sure that I was going to get busted for dropping my rifle in the dirt but instead I was congratulated and told I was going to Ranger School in Fort Benning, Ga. I explained to the commanding officer (CO) about my foot, and he said, "Very well, son. Return to your barracks." All I could think was Ranger School? What the hell?

A few weeks later I had forgotten about the whole thing. I told some of my Marine buddies and one of them knew of a Marine who went to Ranger School. The Marine told him Ranger School was a piece of cake compared to the endurance test we all went through at Lejeune. He said he was congratulated by the CO and proudly showed him his Ranger patch. He said the CO took the patch and threw it in the shitcan. The CO told the Marine, "Son, we don't wear patches in the Marine Corps." If there's any Marines from my era that took the endurance test at Camp Lejeune for Ranger School, please write *Leatherneck*. I would like to hear your experiences.

Dave Yates
USMC, 1958-1961
Sebring, Fla.

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

Reader Assistance

Edited by Sara W. Bock

Reunions

Editor's note: The following reunion information was current as of May 1. Given that the COVID-19 virus is still impacting future events, please continue to check with the reunion points of contact for the most up-to-date information.

• **Marine Corps Engineer Assn.**, Sept. 23-25, Fredericksburg, Va. Contact Maj Charlie Dismore, USMC (Ret), (512) 394-9333, www.marcorengasn.org.

• **USMC Vietnam Tankers Assn.**, Sept. 15, Warwick, R.I. Contact John Wear, 16605 Forest Green Terrace, Elbert, CO 80106, (719) 495-5998, johnwear2@verizon.net.

• **Marine Corps Cryptologic Assn.** is planning a reunion in September, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact Edgar Kitt, 2250 Heavenly View Dr., Henderson, NV 89014, (702) 454-1646, edgarkitt@earthlink.net.

• **Marine Corps Disbursing Assn.**, Aug. 8-12, Reno, Nev. Contact MGySgt Kevin Gascon, USMC (Ret), (760) 458-2655, mojorisin68@hotmail.com, www.usmcdisbursers.com.

• **Marine Air Traffic Control Assn.**, Sept. 19-26, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Steve Harris, (830) 460-0953, sandkh2@gmail.com.

• **11th Marine Regiment, OIF (20th anniversary)**, March 31-April 1, 2023, Camp Pendleton, Calif. Contact Casey Harsh, casey.harsh@gmail.com. Facebook group: The Cannon Cockers of OIF-1 (20-Year Reunion 2023 Group).

• **STA Plt, 2/8 (1989-1993)** is planning a reunion. Contact Mike Moriarty, mmoriarty81@comcast.net.

• **7th Engineer Bn Assn. (RVN)**, Sept. 9-12, Arlington, Va. Contact Norm Johnson, (810) 300-0782, nwgj@outlook.com.

• **1/27 (1968)** is planning a reunion in July, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact Felix Salmeron, (469) 583-0191, mar463@aol.com.

• **2/4 Assn.**, Aug. 4-7, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Contact Pete Gannon, (954) 648-7887, diverplus@aol.com.

• **2/9**, Nov. 8-12, Arlington, Va. Contact Danny Schuster, twoninencoic@aol.com, www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org.

• **"Stormy's" 3/3**, Sept. 27-30, Branson, Mo. Contact Burrell Landes, (303) 734-1458, bhanon@comcast.net, www.stormys33.com.

• **Battery Adjust, 3/11**, Aug. 25-29, Washington, D.C. Contact Brian Seals, (765) 580-2734, bseals2013@gmail.com.

• **C/1/12 (RVN)**, Aug. 25-29, Washington, D.C. Contact Woody Hall, (931) 242-8432, hwoodrow@charter.net.

• **H/2/7 (RVN, 1965-1970)**, June 24-27, Jacksonville, Fla. Contact Steve Cone, (843) 424-8279, scone1948@yahoo.com.

• **Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan, Task Force Leatherneck (2009-2010)**, May 13-15, 2022, Quantico, Va. Contact reunion committee, taskforceleatherneck@gmail.com.

• **Philippine Embassy Marines (1976-1977)**, Nov. 10, North Carolina. Contact Tim Craig, phildream2017@gmail.com.

• **Marine Detachment, U.S. Naval Disciplinary Command Portsmouth,**

N.H., Sept. 20-25, Scranton, Pa. Contact Don Ferry, (972) 334-0609, don.ferry1942@gmail.com.

• **TBS 3-66 & 4-66/38th and 39th OCC**, Oct. 25-28, Las Vegas. Contact Jack Sheehan, (401) 255-0387, jacksheehanjtown@me.com, www.usmc-thebasicschool-1966.com.

• **TBS 4-67, 5-67, 6-67 "Rally at the Alamo,"** Oct. 11-14, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Ken Pouch, (860) 881-6819, kpouch5@gmail.com.

• **TBS, Co F, 6-70**, Oct. 21-24, Quantico, Va. Contact Col Tom Kanasky, USMCR (Ret), (202) 366-3156, tlkanasky@earthlink.net, or Col Mitch Youngs, USMC (Ret), (703) 493-9435, mitchyoungs@verizon.net.

• **TBS, Co C, 3-72**, is planning a 50th-anniversary reunion. Contact Col Joe Mueller, USMCR (Ret), (818) 815-8331, jnm21213@yahoo.com.

• **TBS, Co D, 4-73**, is planning a 50th-anniversary reunion in 2023, Quantico, Va. Contact Col Bill Anderson, USMCR (Ret), (540) 850-4213, binche57@yahoo.com, or Col Bob Donaghue, USMCR (Ret), (614) 840-0267, ip350haven@comcast.net.

• **Plt 1187, San Diego, 1969**, is planning a reunion. Contact T.E. Miller, (618) 520-9646, or Mark Elder, (314) 322-8516.

• **Plt 3028, San Diego, 1966**, is planning a reunion. Contact MSgt Bob Rees, USMC (Ret), (619) 940-9218, bobrees86@gmail.com.

• **USMC A-4 Skyhawkers**, Oct. 21-24, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact Mark Williams, 10432 Button Willow Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89134, (425) 327-6050, usmcskyhawker21@gmail.com.

• **Marine Air Base Squadrons-49**, Sept. 18, Earlville, Md. Contact Col Chuck McGarigle, USMC (Ret), (609) 291-9617, (609) 284-2935, col_of_mar_ret@comcast.net.

• **HMM-165/VMM-165 (all hands, all eras)**, Oct. 21-24, Glendale, Ariz. For details, visit www.165whiteknights.com.

Ships and Others

• **USS *Canberra* (CA-70/CAG-2)**, Oct. 13-17, Pittsburgh, Pa. Contact Ken Minick, 2115 Pride Ave., Belpre, OH 45714, (740) 423-8976.

• **USS *Hornet* and USS *Essex* (CV-8, CV/CVA/CVS-12) and (CV/CVA/CVS-9, LHD-2)**, Sept. 13-18, San Diego, Calif. *Hornet* contact Sandy Burket, P.O. Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673, (814) 224-5063, (814) 312-4976, hornetcva@aol.com. *Essex* contact Tom Ferelli, 19808 N 43rd Ln., Glendale, AZ 85308, (602) 882-0375, tferelli@gmail.com.

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

Saved Round

By Gretchen Winterer

COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

WOUNDED AT BELLEAU WOOD—This British Army Small Box Respirator bag was worn by Colonel Albertus W. Catlin when he was wounded at the Battle of Belleau Wood while commanding the 6th Marines. On June 6, 1918, Catlin was shot in the chest; the bullet penetrated the bag, leaving it stained with his blood. A small paper tag, which accompanied the artifact in 2016 when it was donated to the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va., describes the incident in detail. "This gas mask was worn by Colonel, later Brigadier General, A.W. Catlin, Commanding 6th Regiment U.S. Marines, when he was wounded in action at Bois de Belleau, France, June 6 1918. Catlin was rescued by Captain Laspiere, liaison officer of the French Army. Note: mask had to be cut off in order to be removed."

USMC

Catlin's remarkable Marine Corps career spanned nearly 30 years. Commissioned in 1892, Catlin commanded USS *Maine*'s Marine Detachment when it was sunk in Havana Harbor in 1898. In April 1914, then-Major Catlin led the 3rd Marine Regiment in capturing Vera Cruz. For his "distinguished conduct in battle," he was awarded the Medal of Honor. Vera Cruz was the first action in which Marine officers were eligible to receive the nation's highest military award.

Catlin was promoted to lieutenant colonel in 1915 and to colonel two years later. For his service in France, Catlin was also twice awarded the French Croix de Guerre. Promoted to brigadier general in August 1918, he commanded the 1st Marine Brigade in Haiti and retired from the Corps in December 1919. He died in 1933.

***Author's bio:* Gretchen Winterer is a curator at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, where she has worked for more than 12 years. Gretchen has a bachelor's degree in history from Roanoke College and a master's degree in American history from The George Washington University.**

MARINE RESERVE

IT'S WHO YOU ARE

Stay connected to your purpose.
Stay Marine.

Scan here or contact your
local Prior Service Recruiter.