

JUNE 2019

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

# Leatherneck

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# From the Editor's Desk



**LCpl Kyle Daly, left; *Leatherneck* editor, Col Mary Reinwald, USMC (Ret), center; and Marine veteran Kyle Watts attend the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation awards ceremony at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va., April 27. LCpl Daly, the first-place winner in *Leatherneck*'s 2018 Writing Contest, also won one of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation's awards, as did Watts for his article, "The Flying Ladder."**

NANCY S. LIGHTMAN

For more than 100 years, *Leatherneck* has told the story of Marines—yesterday's, today's and tomorrow's. Many of those stories were written by young enlisted combat correspondents and photographers who served in war zones throughout the world. Occasionally, Marines from other military occupational specialties also contributed to the Magazine of the Marines, but unlike our sister publication, the *Marine Corps Gazette*, *Leatherneck* did not offer incentives or sponsor essay contests to inspire Marines to write for our iconic magazine. That changed a few years ago with the creation of the *Leatherneck* Writing Contest.

The contest was established in 2016 as one of the Marine Corps Association & Foundation's many writing competitions designed to encourage Marines to write—in this case for publication in *Leatherneck*. The contest is focused on enlisted Marines, both active-duty and reserve, and thanks to the generosity of Major Rick Stewart, USMC (Ret), we have been able to provide significant prize money to our winners with \$1,000 for the first-place essay, \$750 for second-place, and \$500 for third-place. Several Honorable Mention entries have also been published in *Leatherneck*.

The response to the contest has been simply outstanding with hundreds of entries received from Marines throughout the Corps. And interestingly enough, the junior Marines have dominated the competition—lance corporals and corporals have won first place in the contest's first three years, writing on topics ranging from our strategy in the Pacific to James Roosevelt and his service with the Marine Raiders in World War II.

This year's winner has again come from the noncommissioned officer ranks. Corporal Taryn Brackett won the 2019 contest with an essay on leadership that highlights her former

squadron commander, LtCol Christopher Browning. Her essay can be found on page 16 of this issue; the other top essays will be featured in upcoming issues of the magazine through the end of the year.

*Leatherneck* readers have appreciated the exceptional essays written for the contest but it has been nice to see that we're not the only ones. We nominated our 2018 winning essay, "The Legacy of Holland M. Smith," by Lance Corporal Kyle Daly, for the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation's Master Sergeant Thomas Bartlett award for Feature Writing by an Enlisted Marine. We were thrilled to learn that the article on one of World War II's most iconic Marines also won that prestigious award. (Daly's essay was one of two *Leatherneck* articles to win a Heritage Foundation award this year. "The Flying Ladder" by Marine veteran Kyle Watts took home the prestigious Robert D. Heinl award for feature writing.)

The young Marines of today continue to follow in the footsteps of those who have gone before, whether serving overseas in the harshest conditions or training at bases throughout the country to fight in future conflicts. *Leatherneck* and MCA&F are proud to support their professional development and education whether through sponsoring writing competitions or publishing articles about the Corps' illustrious history. It's our way of continuing the legacy of MCA&F's founder and our 13th Commandant, LtGen John A. Lejeune, to help preserve the heritage and history of our Corps.

Mary H. Reinwald  
Colonel, USMC (Ret)





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This first-place winning article in the annual *Leatherneck* Writing Contest describes what it takes to be a leader and how the author's squadron commander personified Marine Corps leadership at its best.

**22 “Don’t Be Afraid to Raise Your Hand”:** For Navy Cross Recipient Battle of Fallujah Led to Battle Within *By Sara W. Bock* In observance of PTSD Awareness Month, retired SSgt Jeremiah Workman opened up to *Leatherneck* about his struggle with the mental health condition after returning home from Iraq in 2005 and how it continues to affect him today.

**30 30 Days on the Line** *By Sgt George Doying, USMC* This article from the *Leatherneck* archives is a story of 30 bloody days of hell for 247 Marines in one of the greatest battles in Marine Corps history.

**34 Mexico in Turmoil in 1913—Marines Set Sail for Cuba** *By Nancy S. Lichtman* It was headline-making news in 1913 when President William H. Taft called for Marines to immediately deploy to Cuba in response to the Mexican Revolution. See what that mobilization looked like in this collection of photographs.

**44 World War II: 75 Years Ago: Operation Tearaway: The 4th Tank Battalion D-Day Assault on Saipan** *By Dick Camp* On June 15, 1944, the 2nd and the 4th Marine Divisions landed on the beaches of Saipan where 4th Tank Battalion played a critical role in the Marines' victory.

**54 Conserving Wildlife: One Base at a Time** *By Don Lyman* Bases throughout the Marine Corps are some of the best conservation areas in the country, and although Marines may grumble about training restrictions, the efforts of dedicated biologists and conservation experts have made a difference in ensuring the protection of numerous species.

**40**



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**COVER:** The 4th Marine Division conducted their 2019 Annual Tank Gunnery qualifications in February at Fort Knox, Ky. Tanks have long played a key role on the battlefield. Read about the importance of Marine tankers in the assault on Saipan during WW II on page 44. Photo by Charles Laffler, USA. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to *Leatherneck Magazine*, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.



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RAIDERS



## Letter of the Month

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

As a follow-up to your article "Accounted For": DPAA Strives Never to Leave a Fallen American Behind," by Sara W. Bock in the January *Leatherneck*, I relate the potential for another success story.

My uncle, Private First Class George C. Browning, was assigned to Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marines. He served with that unit in all campaigns the 4th Marine Division was involved in during Pacific operations. After landing on Iwo Jima on Feb. 19, 1945, he was sent from Yellow Beach 1 to Red Beach 2 to obtain communications equipment. He was never seen again.

After reading the article, I sent a letter to the Marine contingent of DPAA in Quantico, Va., seeking information about my uncle. Imagine my surprise when I received a letter, not from DPAA, but from the WFI Research Group asking if I was next of kin to PFC George Coe Browning. I replied immediately in the affirmative and learned that WFI had tracked my uncle from unknown status in the 4th Division cemetery on Iwo Jima to the U.S. military cemetery in the Philippines.

Utilizing existing records and dental charts they identified PFC Browning and forwarded their findings to DPAA for concurrence and approval. Should the approval be confirmed, a disinterment directive will be issued, and, I assume, my uncle will be sent to Hawaii for final identification via DNA samples we will provide. Should those prove successful, PFC Browning will be returned home 74 years after his death.

WFI Research Group has done an incredible job in this effort and has 50 more cases of unknowns in process of which 17 are Marines. They provided me with all the information surrounding my uncle's demise which has provided my family with a large degree of comfort and closure. We are extremely grateful for their efforts on our behalf and those of other families who have loved ones listed as missing in action.

Capt Peter M. Clay  
USMCR, 1965-1973  
Irvington, Va.

## Dumbfounded and Embarrassed

I attended the Military Appreciation Day at Lee University in Cleveland, Tenn. During the presentation of special recognition plaques to representatives of the local military recruiting offices, I was dumbfounded and embarrassed. The Navy representative when called forward was in complete uniform with ribbons and cover. When the Marine was called forward, a supposed staff sergeant walked out in camouflaged trousers, black T-shirt with something written across the back, boots and NO cover.

I do not believe the Marine Corps allows this lack of a uniform at a public event.

Capt Lauren D. Ayers, USMC (Ret)  
Delano, Tenn.

• *The staff sergeant was in the recruiting uniform known as the EAC (Enhanced Area Canvassing) uniform which today's recruiters wear when conducting events at fairs, schools, and other events where they often challenge attendees to do pull-ups or sit-ups or other physical activities. The Marines demonstrate the activity and even compete against those who take up the challenge. These challenges prove very popular and are an outstanding way for the recruiters to get their message out to young people. When a formal event is scheduled, our recruiters wear the Service or Dress Blue uniforms. According to Sergeant Major Christopher J. Lillie, Sergeant Major, RS Cleveland, on rare occasions, recruiters may get the wrong information or misunderstand the nature of the event. I'm guessing that was the case here and the staff sergeant attempted to make the best of the situation.—Editor*

## Chance Meeting

I was a reservist sent to Korea in 1983 for Exercise Team Spirit as a communication electronics watch officer. My civilian job was an assistant to the principal of a high school in New York City. I had a principal's license and served as dean of all students and athletic director supervisor and I certified eligibility for students to graduate.

In Korea, after checking in, I assumed my watch at 8 a.m. In looking over the personnel list, I called my staff noncommissioned officer for a meet and greet. In the course of our conversation a nose and two eyes appeared around a compartment divider and disappeared with a loud exclamation of, "Holy sh--!"

Later, while I checked various compartments and equipment, I introduced myself to the Marines on duty. To our surprise there was a former student who recognized me and was most familiar with my office. He was a shy, soft-spoken and astonished lance corporal. At the end of our watch I invited him to have breakfast with me in town. We reminisced and had a good time. I offered to tell his mother of his well-being when I got back home.

His mother was very grateful and invited me for dinner. She was glad that the Marine Corps discipline had taken root in her son and thanked me for all the guidance prior to his enlistment. It appeared to his mother and me that he was on the right track to become a fine young man, mature without reservation.

CWO-4 David L. Horne, USMC (Ret)  
West Palm Beach, Fla.

## What My DI Taught Me

In the 1950s, the Marine Corps was forced to accept draftees who were not up to Marine Corps standards which, if memory serves, helped create a backlog of more than 24,000 recruits on Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C. This resulted in a severe shortage of drill instructors (DI). It was during that period that I became a senior DI in the 7th Recruit Training Battalion.

When I arrived, the DI who formed my first platoon was anxiously standing in the tent flaps with his seabag already packed. He was being discharged that day. When I relieved him, he broke into a grateful grin and handed me a clipboard with Platoon S-22's roster on it. That clipboard was my only training to become a senior DI. I quickly assembled the platoon on the company street to verify that the recruits listed on the clipboard matched the recruits standing in front of me.

No DI school yet existed. I learned to draw from memories of my own DI, Staff Sergeant Lindsey, an outstanding DI that turned this long-haired civilian into a proud Marine. As situations arose, I did what I thought SSgt Lindsey would do and along the way I even added some of my own improvisations. I adopted SSgt Lindsey's commanding presence to gain respect. And to look sharp, I began to wear three sets a day of the authorized uniform of the day.

The 7th Bn was dubbed "Simple City" because it consisted entirely of recruits who had scored 65 or below on the General



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Classification Test. Although they were given 42 points for writing their name, many scored zero. The training cycle for my platoons was 26 weeks, which was twice as long as it was for normal platoons. It was not because my recruits were stupid, they were really quite bright. They spent half their time learning how to read and write in the John Brown School. The other half was spent learning how to be a Marine.

By reading, my recruits were exposed to vast horizons never seen by them before. Frankly, I was awed by their scholastic enthusiasm. Also, since most of them had hunted to put meat on the table back home, they instinctively knew how to "line 'em up and squeeze 'em off" when firing on the rifle range. Their marksmanship was aided by the superiority of the M1 rifle over the firearms they had back home. If memory serves, all of my recruits in both of my platoons qualified with the M1 rifle on Record Day, a rare event in any platoon.

My recruits taught me valuable lessons that have lasted all my life. Although they had little or no formal education, they had a folksy kind of common sense and their ability to learn was phenomenal. They taught me that the words ignorance and intelligence are not mutually exclusive. They also helped me see the wisdom of Mark Twain when he said, "I never let formal schooling interfere with my education."

On graduation day my recruits had not only earned the title Marine, they could write a letter home.

I trained two platoons, S-22 and S-32, prior to receiving my honorable discharge on July 19, 1952, and I like to think that SSgt Lindsey would have been proud of me.

SSgt Dave Free  
USMC, 1948-1952  
Lake Monticello, Va.

#### Access to Military Bases

I am under the impression that most Marine sergeant majors' words come directly from God but some of the comments in the Sound Off section of *Leatherneck* with regard to former members of the military gaining access to U.S. military bases and using the base facilities may not be completely accurate. The below information comes from the Department of Defense.

Most military bases have multiple gates and each one has armed guards. To enter a military base, you must show a Department of Defense (DOD) ID card or a dependent ID card (if you are a military spouse) or have a military sponsor (an active-duty servicemember). A servicemember can sponsor non-military guests on base.

If you need to enter a base and do not have a DOD ID, or do not have an escort, you will need to visit the base visitor center. Visitor centers are usually located near the main gate. If you are a non-military caregiver, you can get on base accompanied by a child in possession of a valid military identification.

Some bases may require every person in the vehicle to present an ID. If you are a passenger and do not have a DOD ID, you can present a valid driver's license in most cases. Some bases will require scanning your ID. If your ID is not up to date, you will not be able to gain base access.

If you wish to use the exchange, commissary or any other facility on base, you will need to show a military ID. Facilities differ in policy. Some may have you show your ID at the entrance and others will wait until check-out. If you do not possess a valid DOD ID card and/or if you are a non-military caregiver, you are not authorized to shop at the exchange or commissary.

With regard to any and all U.S. military veterans having "free reign" on a U.S. military base, unless you are retired and have a valid military ID and/or if you are rated by the VA as 100 percent disabled and have a valid military ID, then your options are limited but they are not non-existent.

I fully agree with Sergeant Major Neas [April Sound Off] that comparing U.S. military veterans to former civilian employees of Google or Apple is absurd.

Sgt John Wear  
USMC, 1968-1969  
Elbert, Colo.

I was hesitant to write regarding Lieutenant Colonel Craig Covert's letter titled, "Marine Corps Bases Are Not Tourist Attractions" in the January issue. Thank you, Sergeant Major Edward Neas Sr., for addressing this. I was actually sickened to think I was doing a disservice to the Corps by visiting MCRD San Diego in 2017 after reading his letter.

My family had visited MCRD when they were young and was very impressed and proud of their father being a Marine. In 2017 I took my son-in-law and two grandsons with my wife and daughter again to MCRD. We were vetted by the guard thoroughly which impressed my police officer son-in-law greatly. We were on base for almost three hours and went through the museum there. We bought many items in the gift shop. What an impression that trip made on my family. What a coup for the Marine Corps. I shared gifts from the gift shop with many people including the son of a Marine veteran of Tarawa and Iwo Jima. His





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family has become very proud of their Marine heritage through my efforts to educate them. That same family has a Medal of Honor recipient within their family from the Civil War.

After the trip and all of the areas we visited in San Diego, I asked my grandson, Lleyton, what his favorite part of the trip was. He answered the Marine base. Much to my surprise Lleyton had written an essay based on that visit to MCRD and of course his Marine grandfather. His essay was chosen to be read on Veterans Day at his school. At age 10 he stood straight and proud adorned with many of my Marine insignias and read his essay without wavering. His comment on lima beans in the C-rats drew many laughs.

I can't help but feel LtCol Covert missed the point. We aren't civilians visiting Marine bases; we are proud Marines that carry that pride with us every day. I would do what I could to support the Marines even today at 68 years of age. If I had to stand at the front gate of a base and check IDs or wash dishes in the cafeteria, I would in time of need. So, again I have to disagree with the lieutenant colonel's take on Marines visiting Marine Corps bases. I think my grandson would disagree also.

I still get together with several Marines I served with and will again this month

for an MCAS reunion. Please tell LtCol Covert to rethink his comments and come back with his thoughts.

Sgt Howard E. Johnson  
Elk River, Minn.

Sergeant Major Edward Neas Sr. is right on point. We Marines go back to our beginnings. I served in my beloved Corps from 1974 to 1990. I did not retire. I left in 1990 and was hired by the San Diego police department where I served for 23 years.

I decided I wanted to go to a recruit graduation. I was dressed in my VFW post vest with an 8-inch Marine Corps emblem on my right chest opposite the VFW emblem. I also had my U.S. Marine Corps veteran baseball cap on.

I positioned myself behind the reviewing stand so I could watch the parents and loved ones of the soon-to-be Marines. When the commanding officer of Recruit Training Regiment MCRD San Diego arrived right in front of me, I was standing at attention. The colonel got out of the staff car and a very large first sergeant got out of the other side. The first sergeant waited for the colonel and they marched up to me together.

Did they tell me I didn't belong on  
**[continued on page 64]**

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# In Every Clime and Place

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

## HAWAII

### Bougainville I: Small Unit Skills Essential to Readiness

Marines with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment conducted Exercise Bougainville I, a three-part predeployment training exercise in and around Marine Corps Base Hawaii, March 5-22. “Echo,” “Golf,” and “Fox” Companies rotated through the three phases of training, which included various types of small-unit training events in different locations across the island.

The first phase of the exercise was a squad-support live-fire training event. At the Ulupa’u Crater, Marines executed some common yet vital infantry drills such as buddy rushing, obstacle breaching and live-fire support from a wide array of weapon systems.

Following the live-fire training, Marines were sent into an infantry immersion trainer during the second phase at Marine



LCPL JACOB WILSON, USMC

**A Marine with Co E, 2/3 surveys terrain from a UH-1Y Venom during Exercise Bougainville I at Kahuku Training Area, Hawaii, March 20.**

Corps Training Area Bellows (MCTAB), where they conducted contact drills and squad-level events in a simulated urban environment and established a defense in preparation for the raids executed on the urban terrain within the training facility.

The third and final phase took place at Kahuku Training Area, where Marines practiced patrolling and various forms of movement and communication in a remote area, equipping them to work effectively in challenging and unfamiliar terrain.

“[Kahuku Training Area] created an environment where squad leaders had to make decisions while they were both mentally and physically exhausted,” said First Lieutenant Gabriel Knoll, the executive officer of Co E. “It’s an expansive area covered with very thick, jungle-like terrain. Communication in this type of terrain is more difficult, so it forces leaders to have more deliberate plans.”



LCPL JACOB WILSON, USMC

**During Exercise Bougainville I, Co G, 2/3 provides security in a jungle environment defense scenario at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, Hawaii, March 13. Throughout the month of March, Marines with 2/3 participated in the exercise as part of their training for an upcoming deployment.**





LCPL JACOB WILSON, USMC



LCPL JACOB WILSON, USMC

**Above Left: Two leathernecks with Co G, 2/3 clear a wall during an urban assault simulation, part of Exercise Bougainville I at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, Hawaii, March 13.**

**Above right: A Marine with Co E, 2/3 prepares for a notional enemy assault at Kahuku Training Area, Hawaii, March 21. Exercise Bougainville I enhanced the unit's proficiency, cohesion and combat readiness.**

Corporal Johnathon Cole, the company's training NCO, emphasized the harshness of the environment.

"Being able to expose the [Marines] to places like this where you're constantly going up and down in terrain and thick, dense vegetation is absolutely crucial," said Cole.

The overall goal of Bougainville I was to fine-tune the basic infantry skills necessary to accomplish the mission.

"[It is an opportunity to] work on the squad leader and below tactics and unit discipline. In order to operate as a company, we have to first work on the small unit skills," said "Echo" Co Gunnery Sergeant Patrick Hause.

The training that took place during the exercise laid the groundwork for future battalion training events and built unit cohesion and combat readiness as 2/3 prepares for their upcoming deployment.

LCpl Jacob Wilson, USMC

Central Command's area of operations. At that time, commercial drones had a flight time of 15 minutes and therefore were not a substantial threat. It was not until a drone was shot down in 2015 that the U.S. discovered enemy combatants were utilizing drones to conduct intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance against U.S. forces.

Every year, a new generation of drones

hits the shelves, boasting longer ranges, better cameras and intricate features that can be modified, exploited and weaponized. Combatants have even gone as far as modifying consumer drones to be capable of carrying and dropping homemade ordnance to military-grade payloads at specific locations.

The Department of Defense defines CUAS as a system that can detect, track,

## CAMP BUEHRING, KUWAIT LAAD Evolves to Counter Modern Threats

Marines with 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense (LAAD) Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems Detachment, attached to Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command, tested a new counter-unmanned aerial system (CUAS) during a live-fire range using the Marine Air Defense Integrated System (MADIS) at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Feb. 17.

In early 2013, commercial off-the-shelf drones started appearing in United States



LCPL JACK C. HOWELL, USMC

**Cpl Ryan George, a gunner with the 2nd LAAD Bn's CUAS Detachment, SPAMGTF-CR-CC, prepares to pilot a drone-target during a live-fire range in Kuwait, Feb. 17. By adapting from conventional aircraft defense systems to countering unconventional aerial threats like drones, LAAD is putting more Marines in the fight and enhancing regional theater security.**



identify and defeat an unmanned aerial system. The MADIS is the first CUAS with systems in place that are capable of all four objectives. This is an improvement from previous CUAS systems such as the Drone Defender and Drone Buster, both of which are handheld, point-directional systems that rely heavily on the Marine operators. The MADIS was developed specifically to combat the weaponized commercial drone development. It is equipped with state-of-the-art sensors, optics to track and monitor targets at extensive ranges and kinetic capabilities to physically disable a UAS on approach.

“This is the first time that fleet Marines

are going to be utilizing the MADIS to go through the full kill chain from detection to destruction with kinetic and non-kinetic means in a forward location,” said Captain Traver Mayfield, the 2nd LAAD CUAS Detachment officer in charge.

According to Gunnery Sergeant Jermaine Vereen, 2nd LAAD CUAS Detachment staff noncommissioned officer in charge, the MADIS drastically increases the range from which the unit can detect a UAS.

“We can engage hostile drones before they even enter the forward operating base instead of waiting for them to come to us,” said Vereen.



**Above: A Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle equipped with the MADIS was used by 2nd LAAD Bn during a live-fire range in Kuwait, Feb. 18. It is the first vehicle to utilize kinetic and non-kinetic measures to disable CUAS threats.**

**Below: A gunner with 2nd LAAD Bn's CUAS Detachment, SPMAGTF-CR-CC loads ammunition into the MADIS MRAP during a live-fire range in Kuwait, Feb. 18.**



Marines with the detachment provide close-in, low-altitude, surface-to-air weapons fire in defense of forward combat areas in the Central Command area of operations. LAAD is confident and ready to combat the “makeshift air force.”

“Our basis is in fighting conventional aircraft, but we aren’t fighting a conventional enemy,” said Sergeant Brandon Stuart, a gunner with 2nd LAAD.

2nd LAAD’s update from conventional aircraft defense to more unconventional aerial threats enhances regional theater security.

“We haven’t fought conventional aircraft in quite some time—it makes sense and it makes us more relevant,” said Vereen. “It really puts us to good use. The enemy is evolving; it’s only natural that we do too.”

LCpl Jack Howell, USMC

## NORFOLK, VA.

### Security Force Marines Protect Vital Assets Worldwide

An elite force of Marines assigned to Marine Corps Security Force Regiment (MCSFR) protects high-value national assets and serves as a rapid response anti-terrorism security force to combat against emerging real-world threats.

MCSFR organizes, trains and equips Marines to provide specialized security for nuclear and strategic weapons and conduct expeditionary security operations for combatant and naval commanders.

“Marine Corps Security Force Regiment provides a niche capability for the Marine Corps unlike any other Marine Corps regiment,” said Colonel Brian W. Neil, MCSFR Commanding Officer. “We deploy platoons to a myriad of locations and frequently work the Department of State overseas.”

The regiment initially was formed as a Marine detachment in 1920 and later became a battalion in 1987 with Fleet Assistance Security Team (FAST) companies and Recapture Tactics Teams (RTT). In the early 2000s, it was the largest and most mission-diverse Marine Corps battalion and expanded into a regiment to meet increasing global mission requirements.

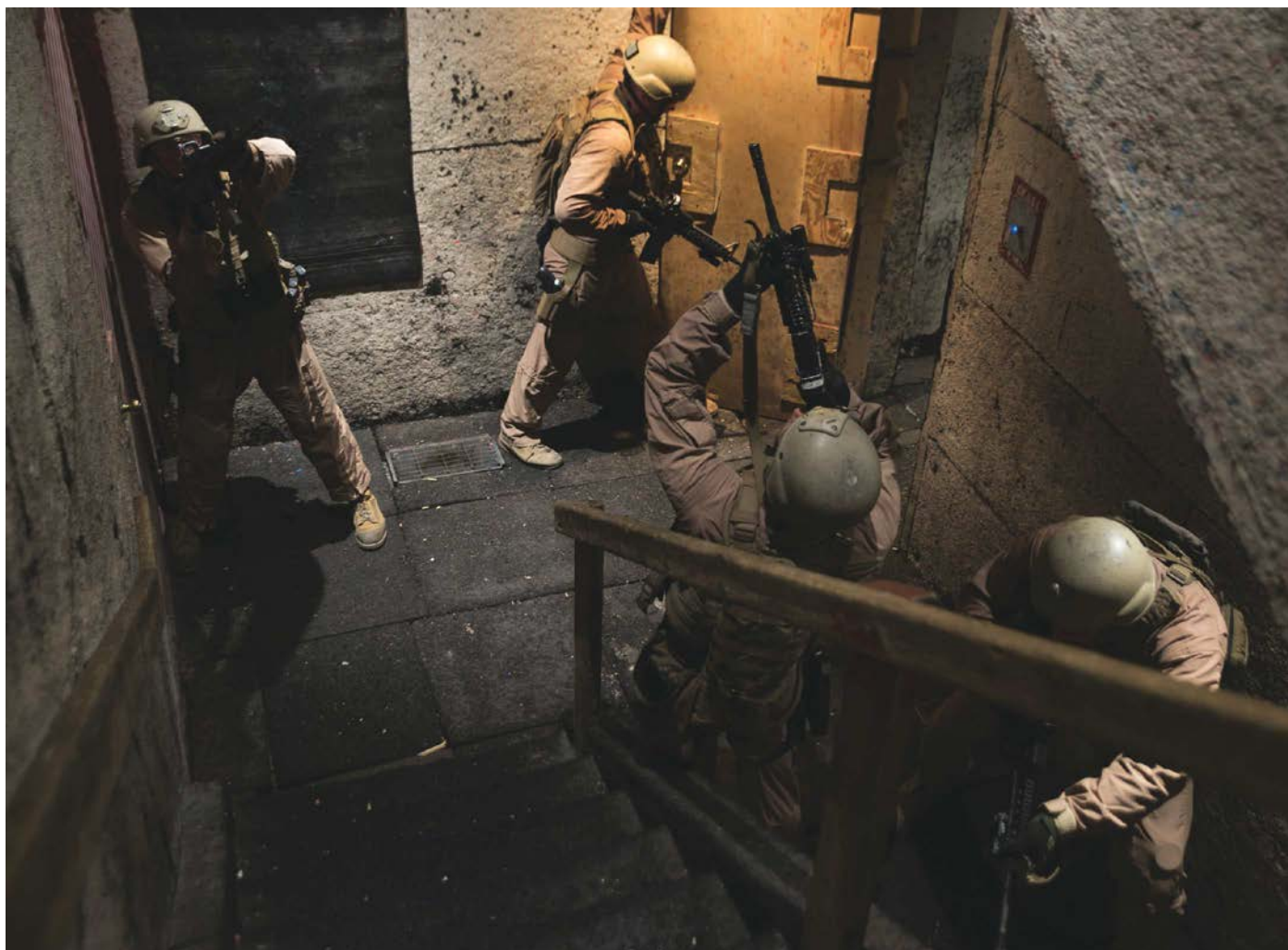
MCSFR is composed of 11 units, with five Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security (FAST) companies in Virginia and four others located in Cuba, Bahrain, Spain and Japan. Two Marine Corps Security Force Battalions are also located in Bangor, Wash., and Kings Bay, Ga.

Unique mission requirements and platoon-sized deployment formations distinguish FAST companies from conventional infantry units that deploy in a larger force. FAST can rapidly respond

LCPL JACK C. HOWELL, USMC

LCPL JACK C. HOWELL, USMC





SGT KAYLA D. RIVERA, USMC

**Close-quarters battle instructors with Training Co, MCSFR, work together as a four-man team to clear a building during Instructor Progression training at Naval Support Activity Northwest Annex, Chesapeake, Va.**

to unforeseen contingencies worldwide while the RTT are prepositioned aboard strategic nuclear weapon facilities providing vigilant 24/7 security.

Diverse team capabilities demand specialized training. Marines sharpen their skills with advanced training to include urban defense, enhanced marksmanship and close-quarter battle drills.

“The MCSFR training pipeline is optimized to ensure the most qualified basic security guard is trained and provided to the appropriate post. Follow-on training at the respective MCSF battalions and FAST companies is oriented to ensure that these Marines are prepared for the specifics of their mission,” said Neil. “With respect to the deploying FAST platoons, because they may be called on to support a variety of missions, their training is oriented towards applications in a wide variety of environments and across a full spectrum of scenarios. Our standardized yet specialized training allows for a consistent, ready force at all times.”

Bilateral training with NATO partners amplifies the force’s readiness.

“MCSFR annually conducts Exercise Tartan Eagle with our Royal Marine counterparts which increases our interoperability and enables us to be better prepared for any future missions which require both MCSFR and Royal Marine personnel,” said Neil.

Advantages gained from joint training include sharing tactics, techniques and procedures, and combining each service’s experience to generate increased mission success capacity.

The Commandant General Royal Marines, Major General Charlie R. Stickland, agrees the mutually beneficial bilateral training is vital to maintaining mission readiness.

“As we develop both Royal Marine and Royal Navy capabilities with the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Navy, each time we undertake a NATO exercise we should seize them as an opportunity and as a building block to develop our capability, our interoperability, and our collective ability to project power,” said MajGen Stickland. “That’s why these NATO events are so key.”

Crisis contingency operations such as

non-combatant evacuations in hostile countries have showcased the demand for the regiment’s specialized capabilities in protecting U.S. personnel and assets.

“Marines and Sailors from this regiment stand post protecting nuclear weapons, providing fence line security in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and [are] on alert throughout the world to respond as tensions escalate geographically in support of geographic combatant commanders,” said Staff Sergeant Michael O’Brien, a platoon sergeant with “Bravo” Company.

Due to diverse mission requirements, MCSFR Marines must prepare themselves to meet escalated regional tensions and accept the challenges and responsibilities needed to achieve mission success.

“Your job holds significant importance and can even be traced back to the original Marines standing watch on Navy ships,” said Lance Corporal Walter Thomas IV, a team leader with Bravo Co. “The regiment can put you through some incredible schools and opportunities as long as you are willing to put in the hard work that comes with it.”

MSgt Ryan O’Hare, USMC





**GySgt Jerry Brumfield, right, and LCpl Cameron Kern, left, check serial numbers for equipment during an MPF offload for Exercise Balikatan aboard USNS *Pililaau* at Subic Bay International Airport in the Philippines, March 22.**

MPF to be executed, said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Amir Golshani, the 3rd Marine Logistics Group MPF officer with 3rd MLG Headquarters.

During Freedom Banner 2019, Marines increased their ability to conduct an MPF offload and provided servicemembers with the equipment and assets required to complete the mission.

“The purpose of the MPF is to ensure that the Marine Corps equipment is readily available to them in any strategically placed location throughout the world,” said Golshani.

Offloading hundreds of pieces of heavy equipment from a ship is no easy task. The Marines were tested in both the preparation and execution phases of the offload, from carefully inspecting every piece of equipment to working day and night below deck where the temperatures and noise can reach uncomfortable levels.

“The Marines faced challenges during FB 19,” said Gunnery Sergeant Jerry Brumfield, the offload preparations party chief with Motor Transport Maintenance

## PHILIPPINES

### Freedom Banner Tests MPF Offloading Capabilities

U.S. Marines from across III Marine Expeditionary Force conducted a maritime prepositioning force (MPF) offload during Exercise Freedom Banner 2019 at Subic Bay International Airport, Republic of the Philippines, March 22-24.

From the moment USNS *Pililaau* (T-AKR-304) pulled into port at the

airport, the Marines had only 48 hours to offload equipment and set conditions for the successful execution of the follow-on Exercise Balikatan 2019.

Freedom Banner is an annual exercise conducted in the Indo-Pacific region that allows Marines to execute a full mission rehearsal and increase their capability to respond rapidly to a crisis or contingency so they are prepared in the event that there is a real-world operation requiring the



**LCpl Johnnie Antonio, a landing support specialist, takes accountability of equipment following the MPF offload in the Philippines, March 23. MPF offloads provide the Corps the ability to distribute equipment and assets to servicemembers in deployed environments at a moment's notice. (Photo by LCpl Mark Fike, USMC)**



Company, 3rd Maintenance Battalion, 3rd MLG. “Through the challenges and hard work, the MPF offload has gone smoothly.”

“I feel like my Marines have done an extremely wonderful job,” said Brumfield. “The Marines have set the tone for the entire operation and I’m confident I have a good batch of Marines here that love doing what they do. They’re extremely motivated and they’re highly capable.”

Freedom Banner 2019 increased deployment flexibility and the capability to respond rapidly to any crisis or contingency in the Indo-Pacific region, further strengthening 3rd MLG’s ability to fulfill its motto and “sustain the Pacific.”

LCpl Mark Fike, USMC

### **BRIDGEPORT, CALIF. 6th Marine Regiment Battles the Cold**

As bone-chilling winds tore through California’s Sierra Nevada Mountains, Marines with 1st and 2nd Battalions, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division participated in Mountain Exercise 2-19 at Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif., Feb. 25-March 28.

Established in 1951 as the Cold Weather Battalion, MCMWTC is one of the Corps’ most remote and isolated posts, providing cold-weather training for personnel who are bound for deployments or further training around the world. With its base camp nestled at 6,700 feet above sea level, and training areas rising above 11,000 feet, MCMWTC is the premier location for this specialized training.

“What Bridgeport offers is, fundamentally, wet, cold conditions that range from 35 to 10 degrees, and this creates a lot of challenges,” said Colonel Kevin Hutchison, the commanding officer of MCMWTC. “Nowhere else does any training area offer altitude, compartmentalized terrain, snow and similar conditions.”

Both battalions, which are stationed at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., received a 12-day crash course on acclimatization and lessons on moving in the snow and keeping warm. They put what they learned to the test by summiting and surviving atop the 12,000-foot mountain.

The units focused on three mission essential tasks: survival, mobility and combat. During the physically demanding exercise, each Marine’s issued main pack weighed up to 103 pounds.

Corporal Graham Blunt said that training in such an unfamiliar environment, altitude, temperature and mountainous terrain brought its fair share of challenges to the units, which normally train in humid,



PFC CHRISTY YOST, USMC

**Above: Marines with Co G, 1/6 communicate with each other using hand and arm signals during MTX 2-19 at MCMWTC Bridgeport, Calif., March 24. The exercise tested their resilience, proficiency and endurance in a snowy, mountainous terrain.**

**Below: Cpl Graham Blunt, a squad leader with 1/6, operates a handheld PRC-152 tactical radio during MTX 2-19. The Marines experienced harsh weather conditions and improved their winter warfare skills during their time at MCMWTC Bridgeport.**



PFC CHRISTY YOST, USMC

flat terrain on the coast of North Carolina.

“We’re all East Coast Marines,” said Blunt, a squad leader with Company C, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division. “Being out here puts us out of our element, only in great ways.”

Col Hutchison said this type of cold-weather package provides an invaluable lesson for the participating Marines.

“On the most basic level, the Marines

are hardened to a degree that they’ve never been hardened before,” Hutchison said. “When you look at the Marines and talk to them after the exercise, you see confidence—a confidence in their ability to overcome any type of environmental or physical challenge.”

Cpl Dallas Johnson, USMC





## Hoover, Ala.



COURTESY OF JOHN O'MALLEY

### MCL Chapter Launches Suicide Prevention Initiative

Marine Corps Leaguers in Alabama are determined to do their part to reduce suicide rates among their state's 362,000 veterans. The Krulak Marine Alliance of Alabama, which was established in July 2018, took the lead and launched its "SPARE a Life" initiative this past January. SPARE stands for Suicide Prevention Awareness Resources and Enrollment, and the initiative is directed toward a triad of "force multipliers" at the grassroots level—libraries, places of worship and firearm retailers—in all of Alabama's 67 counties. The force multipliers are provided a free kit containing VA enrollment information, suicide and opioid awareness posters; plastic business cards for each poster; and other pertinent information. Pictured from the left, Don Lehman, Bruce Watkins,

Patty Lewis, John Pinion, Don Brooks and Jim Wyatt assemble kits to be distributed throughout the state.

The Krulak Marine Alliance of Alabama has raised more than \$18,000 in initial funds to launch the SPARE a Life initiative with another \$20,000 pledged funds in the pipeline. As of April, the organization was confidentially aware of four suicide ideation reversals that can be traced back to their initiative, two of which were Marine veterans. "As the saying goes, 'If you want something done, tell it to a Marine and get out of the way,'" said alliance member John O'Malley. For more information about the SPARE a Life initiative, visit [www.krulakmarines.org](http://www.krulakmarines.org).

Submitted by John O'Malley

## Charleston, S.C.

### Former ACMC Takes New Role as President of The Citadel

General Glenn M. Walters, USMC (Ret), 34th Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps (ACMC), was inaugurated as the 20th President of The Citadel in Charleston, S.C., April 5. A 1979 graduate of the distinguished military college, Gen Walters spoke during the ceremony about his plans to preserve, protect and advance The Citadel while producing principled leaders.

Other speakers during the inauguration included Henry D. McMaster, Governor of South Carolina; John J. Tecklenburg, Mayor of Charleston; and Colonel Julie L. Nethercot, USMC, who served as Gen Walters' executive assistant during his tenure as ACMC.

Submitted by Zach Watson



COURTESY OF THE CITADEL



## Diamondhead, Miss.



### Group Honors Its Members of the "Greatest Generation"

The "Diamondhead Marines," a group of Mississippi Marine veterans from all eras who meet regularly and enjoy the bond that only Marines can share, held a special gathering to observe the 74th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima, Feb. 15. The group was proud to take the opportunity to honor the two Iwo Jima veterans among them, Bob Walker, left, and Leonard Nederveld, right, both of whom were wounded during the World War II battle in the Pacific.

Submitted by SgtMaj Wes Melton, USMC (Ret)

## Camp Lejeune, N.C.



### Ligato, MCA&F Team Up at Marine South

Author and Vietnam War veteran John Ligato, left, shakes hands with a Marine during a "Meet and Greet" event hosted by the Marine Corps Association & Foundation at the Marine South Expo, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., April 11. Ligato spoke with Marines and attendees and signed copies of his new book, "The Gunny: Medal of Honor Recipient John Canley" at the MCA&F booth.

Ligato was instrumental in the effort to present Canley with the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during the Battle of Hue City in 1968, 50 years later. He detailed the process in the December 2018 issue of *Leatherneck* in the article "Operation Gunny: A Marine's Dedication to Honor SgtMaj John L. Canley."

MCA&F

## Polson, Mont.

### Vietnam Veteran Receives Navy Cross for 1967 Ka-Bar Fight

Marine veteran James Stogner, left, received the Navy Cross during a ceremony in Polson, Mont., April 5, on the 52nd anniversary of his actions as a young lance corporal in Vietnam while serving as an ammo technician with "Charlie" Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment.

Lieutenant General Frank Libutti, USMC (Ret), right, who as a second lieutenant served with Stogner in Vietnam, presented the award in front of a large audience, which included fellow members of 1/9—often referred to as "The Walking Dead."

On the evening of April 5, 1967, Stogner's company was tasked with sweeping an area where North Vietnamese Army soldiers reportedly were hiding. Stogner shot three NVA soldiers before his rifle was hit by enemy fire and rendered inoperable. Refusing to leave his fellow wounded Marines behind, Stogner used his Ka-Bar to kill three more NVA soldiers, thereby preventing them from killing the wounded Marines. Ignoring his own wounds, Stogner then came to the rescue of his machine gunner, who had been captured by the enemy. Stogner killed the captors and brought the Marine to safety.



Like many others who displayed extraordinary valor in Vietnam, Stogner's initial award recommendation was lost or misplaced in theater. Decades later, through the efforts of members of his unit, he finally was recognized for his heroic actions.

Submitted by Linda Brown

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



MV-22B Ospreys from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 163 deployed with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit aboard USS *Makin Island* (LHD-8) in the fall of 2016.



LtCol Browning addresses the Marines of his squadron during their deployment to the Pacific in 2017.



# THE LEADER

Story by  
Cpl Taryn M. Brackett, USMC  
Photos courtesy of  
LtCol Christopher A. Browning  
USMC

*Editor's note: The following article is the first-place winner of the 2019 Leatherneck Writing Contest. Major Richard A. "Rick" Stewart, USMC (Ret) sponsored the contest, which is open to enlisted Marines, through the Marine Corps Association & Foundation. Upcoming issues of Leatherneck will feature the second- and third-place winners and honorable mention entrants.*

**T**hink for a moment, if you will, about your mentors. What makes them leaders? Do they set the example and inspire you to be better than they are? Which pieces of their style, ethos, or mindset are you taking with you when you take the reins of management? When they are gone, what caliber of leader will you be?

"Leadership is intangible, hard to measure, and difficult to describe," said General Clifton B. Cates, 19th Commandant of the Marine Corps. The Marine Corps prides itself on its ability to create leaders, but how does one truly know what makes a good leader, or what even makes an effective one? Leadership itself is defined in Merriam-Webster's dictionary as "the capacity to lead," and the truth behind gaining this capacity is that it is grown, not given, and cultivated through experiences, knowledge and failures. Regardless of the path to leadership taken, the Marine Corps wants great leaders. Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Browning is one such leader.

Since his commissioning in 1997, LtCol Browning has had aspirations to be a commanding officer but did not let that define his career path. "I didn't make personal or professional choices based on what I needed to do to become a CO," he said when asked of his goals. "I knew that if I just did my job and took care of those whom I was given the privilege to lead, I may one day get the opportunity to command."

The separation of personal and professional is one that leaders should keep in the back of their minds as it can very often affect a person's judgment. Having a goal to work toward can generate passion and enthusiasm; however, some can be struck with a very selfish attitude when they only focus on their own goals. As far as the bigger picture goes, the Marine Corps is a team above all else. A leader must remain unselfish, even in the face of personal gain.



**LtCol Christopher Browning**

With his juniors beside him, LtCol Browning built a name for himself, accumulating more than 3,000 flight hours—primarily in the CH-46E and MV-22B—and serving multiple combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He worked at Headquarters Marine Corps as the international plans and policy officer and MV-22B requirements officer and attended both Expeditionary Warfare School and the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, where he earned a master's degree in military studies. Building knowledge and experience is one of the cornerstones that cultivates an effective leader. Anyone can point fingers and tell another what to do, but a leader has a broad knowledge base that they utilize for the accomplishment of the mission. A great leader strives to know

more and do more, and is generous about using previous experiences to better their environment.

In April of 2015, LtCol Browning's command opportunity took shape in the form of MV-22B tiltrotor squadron VMM-163, the "Evil Eyes." After the initial excitement of receiving his orders to serve as a squadron commander, as most people thrust into a leadership position do, he reflected very heavily upon himself and his capabilities. "Was I going to be good enough? Am I going to fail? One of my first mentors told me right before I was about to take command, 'If you are worried that you don't know what you are doing or if you are even the right guy for the job, then everything will be OK.'"

Courage is vital for anyone in a leadership position, and despite its cut-and-dry definitions, is very fluid in its applications. A leader must have the courage to take initiative, the courage to do the right thing, the courage to make decisions and the courage to endure. A great Latin saying for this concept is "audentis fortuna iuvat," or "Fortune favors the bold." A leader must have a spine, despite the constant chance of failure, and must remember that indecision kills. As John Wayne once said, "Courage is being scared to death and saddling up anyway."

The combined efforts of the more than 150 Marines in LtCol Browning's command, between the maintenance departments downstairs and the planning, logistics, and administration offices upstairs, kept the countless wrenches turning and the 12 aircraft of VMM-163 spinning. Heavy flight hour demands, an impending Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) deployment, and a building cacophony of setbacks could drive anyone in a command position to micromanage, but not LtCol Browning. "I always preached that VMM-163 was run by the captains and NCOs. Give them the tools, give them the guidance, and get out of their way. The key is not to give someone so much rope they hang themselves."

If you dig past the layers of mission accomplishment, it can be argued that the primary function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers.

“Every Marine a leader” certainly reinforces that, and any self-respecting leader would not jeopardize that statement. If you are a leader in your environment, how are you training your successor? Are you giving them the tools and guidance without giving them too much rope? On the flip side, are you brushing against micromanagement, or are you doing it all yourself without letting them touch anything? “It is imperative that senior leaders set Marines up for success vice failure.” The key question you must ask yourself is this: are you willing to foster an environment to let your juniors become leaders?

LtCol Browning signs a final card, folds it up and tucks it away into an envelope before gathering the rest of them up. At well over 6 feet tall, he strikes an imposing figure as he walks down the hallways of VMM-163. He is out to deliver handwritten, hand-signed birthday cards. In one, he wrote that he hopes the private first class is adjusting to life in the fleet. In another, he asks the lance corporal how his wife is faring with a baby on the way. All the cards are redeemable for a free birthday day off, at the SNCO’s discretion. Some of the cards arrived early, some arrived late, but they always arrived. He made sure of it personally. He knows it is crucial for a leader to show subordinates that their leader cares about them beyond them being a name on a roster or a number in a system.

A leader is a human being before anything else, and becoming a leader does not change that fact. One of the best quotes for this mentality is by retired Army General Colin Powell, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of State. He said, “The day the soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help them or concluded that you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership.” This statement is as applicable to the military today as it was 50 years ago.

In the fall of 2016, with 29 aircraft and more than 550 Marines and Sailors, VMM-163 left on a deployment with the 11th MEU aboard USS *Makin Island* (LHD-8), but all was not “fair winds and following seas,” according to Browning. “The hardest thing was ensuring the squadron stayed focused. It only takes one instance to lose your focus to spell

**LtCol Browning’s father, Col Darryl Browning, USMC (Ret), left, was also a Marine pilot. His mother, Jimmie, and brother, Drew pose with their Marines after LtCol Browning turned over command of VMM-163, June 23, 2017.**







**The entire VMM-163 squadron in formation during their deployment with the 11th MEU onboard USS *Makin Island* during the spring of 2017.**

disaster.” LtCol Browning made a habit of walking around the ship and ensuring the Marines remained focused. Failures were punished accordingly, and aircraft difficulties, personnel injuries and sickness spreading across the ship were addressed as required. Even when an entire aircraft was lost, the efforts of LtCol Browning kept the squadron moving forward. When a Red Cross message arrived for a Marine, it was “heart-wrenching.” Thankfully, the squadron found a way to send the Marine home.

As leaders, it is incumbent to be able to maintain outlook and awareness when going through rough patches. It can be easy to lose morale when things do not go right, and seniors must ensure their juniors stay focused. Likewise, leaders must maintain fairness by appropriately punishing failures when focus is lost

but must accept when they are being punished because of their own failures or the failures of their subordinates. “S--t happens,” to put it eloquently, but leaders cannot let it alter the way forward.

Near the end of the deployment, family members were welcomed aboard the ship to participate in a “tiger cruise,” a week or so of observing life afloat. LtCol Browning did not stop or alter his pattern of leadership just because family members were around. “After the tiger cruise, I received a hand-written letter from a father who was on the cruise, personally thanking me for the leadership/compassion he witnessed.”

And as quickly as it came, the deployment was over. In the late spring of 2017, every aircraft of VMM-163 loaded up every Marine and flew back to MCAS Miramar, landing together in front of

friends, family, and loved ones. “We brought everyone home,” LtCol Browning recalls the moment heartily. “A huge sense of relief and pride that we accomplished our goals.”

The day was all smiles and tears as Marines were welcomed home. The chemistry of a successful mission boils down to the trust the team has in its leader and the willingness of the leader to apply themselves to the mission. Members of any kind of team like to win, and the job of a leader is to make sure the team achieves victory. Marines, young and old, have a natural competitive streak, and the great thing about Marines is that they have an overwhelming capacity to be leaders. If a leader falls, all are willing to pick up the torch.

Looking back, LtCol Browning has a few things he would say to Second Lieu-





**LtCol Browning at the VMM-163 change of command ceremony on June 23, 2017. He assumed command of another Osprey Squadron, VMM-265, the following year.**

tenant Browning if given the opportunity. “1. Marines are always watching ... up and down the chain of command. 2. Not every decision needs to be made immediately. Understand the problem, get as much information and varying perspectives as possible, then make the best decision with the facts that you have in front of you. 3. You have been given an opportunity to lead some of the finest individuals our nation has to offer. Mothers and fathers have entrusted you with taking care of their sons [and] daughters. That is a responsibility you can never take lightly. Don’t ever take it for granted.”

A leader must be aware of what they say and do because someone, somewhere, will notice. Leaders must avoid potential oversights and blind spots and make sure all of their decisions are well-informed and

well-thought-out. Marines are entrusted with leading fellow Marines, which is a great privilege unto itself. But just as a Marine leader might be someone’s son or daughter, husband or wife, father or mother, so too are the Marines under their command. Everyone is human—this is a fact we must never forget.

LtCol Browning is praised by his seniors and his juniors as a great leader and an outstanding commanding officer. His integrity, enthusiasm, unselfishness, courage and endurance show in the faces and work ethic of Marines that have had the honor to serve under him and reflect in the countless successful missions that were left in his wake. Despite it all, LtCol Browning will always remain humble in his achievements. “Service over self should always be at the front of a leader’s

mind,” he said. “The sergeant major and I were just stewards of the flag and proud to be part of a fantastic team.”

Leaders must put themselves in the boots of one of their juniors and ask: Would you follow a leader like you? Would your actions inspire you to go above and beyond? What pieces of you will they carry forward when you are gone and they become leaders? What caliber of leaders will you leave behind?

*Author’s bio: Cpl Taryn Brackett is from Greenville, Calif., and enlisted in the Marine Corps in August 2014. She deployed with 11th MEU in 2016-2017 and currently serves with VMM-362, 3rd MAF, as a flight equipment technician on the MV-22.* 🦋



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During a May 12, 2006, ceremony on the drill field at MCRD Parris Island, S.C., BGen Richard T. Tryon, the commanding general of the recruit depot, presents Sgt Jeremiah Workman with the Navy Cross for his actions on Dec. 23, 2004, in Fallujah, Iraq.



# “Don’t Be Afraid To Raise Your Hand”

## For Navy Cross Recipient, Battle of Fallujah Led To a Battle Within

By Sara W. Bock

*A survey conducted by the Department of Veterans Affairs’ National Center for PTSD found that post-traumatic stress disorder affects eight out of every 100 U.S. military veterans. As some servicemembers returned home from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan exhibiting symptoms of PTSD in the early 2000s, Marine Corps leadership made great strides in reducing the stigma of the mental health condition and encouraging Marines to come forward and get help.*

*June is PTSD Awareness Month, and nearly 15 years after his heroic actions during the Second Battle of Fallujah earned him the Navy Cross, retired Staff Sergeant Jeremiah Workman and his wife, Jessica, sat down with Leatherneck to talk openly about his battle with PTSD—one that he continues to fight today.*



**D**uring his first month back from Iraq in the spring of 2005, Jeremiah Workman, newly promoted to sergeant, racked up more than \$3,000 in bar tabs.

Alcohol was his way of self-medicating. It helped him forget the horrors of combat, numbed the pain of losing his buddies in Fallujah during Operation Phantom Fury—the bloodiest battle of the Iraq War—and suppressed feelings of guilt about the Marines who didn’t make it home. He recalls a specific instance when he picked up his father-in-law at the airport in Southern California and opened the trunk of his car to load up his bags. It was littered with empty liquor bottles.

“You think you’ve got a problem?” Workman remembers his father-in-law saying. “Even after that, it still didn’t really sink in,” he said, noting that it was the first time anyone confronted him about the issue. He continued to drink heavily because it was the only thing that kept the memories of one terrible day in Iraq from flooding his mind.

As a mortar platoon squad leader with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, then-Corporal Workman had been providing mortar fire on insurgent positions until the Marines took control of most of Fallujah. At that point, the platoon’s mission changed to patrolling the city and searching for weapons. On the morning of Dec. 23, 2004, he went out on a routine patrol, unaware that it would very quickly become his worst day in the Marine Corps. After searching a few buildings, his team received word of an ambush in a house on the other side of the street. Heavily armed insurgents on the second floor had trapped another team of Marines from his platoon.

Workman led his squad up the stairs, engaged in a firefight with the insurgents, who had barricaded themselves in a bedroom, and provided cover fire that allowed some of the trapped Marines to escape down the stairs and into the street. Despite being wounded by shrapnel from an enemy grenade, he led his team on two more assault strikes into the building and up the stairs, bringing wounded Marines to safety while exposing himself to heavy fire. During the firefight, he eliminated at least 20 enemy combatants and saved many lives. But he couldn’t save them all, and the loss of his fellow Marines was hard to wrestle with.

A corpsman patched him up after the battle and Workman finished up the deployment, returning to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., with the rest of his unit. He had only been back a few months when he received orders for a tour as a drill instructor.

His arrival at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., came with a realization: the curriculum at DI school was so rigorous and the PT so intense that he couldn’t get drunk every night and still manage to keep up. That’s when he began having nightmares.

He couldn’t sleep at night, was irritable and overly vigilant, always positioning himself where he could see the door so he could escape if necessary. Workman quickly became, in his words, a “monster.” He was still functional, graduating DI school near



COURTESY OF SSGT JEREMIAH WORKMAN, USMC (RET)

**Then a corporal, a young Workman relaxes in a bunker outside Fallujah, Iraq, in 2004. According to Workman, during that time he and other members of his unit could only venture outside the bunker at night due to a large volume of indirect fire on their position.**

the top of his class, but on the inside it was a different story. He was at rock bottom.

In May 2006, during a recruit graduation ceremony on the drill field, Workman was presented with the Navy Cross for his actions that December day in Fallujah. The attention he received for earning the nation’s second-highest award for valor only aggravated his symptoms.

“A lot of people say, ‘He *won* the Navy Cross.’ But it wasn’t a contest or a game. A lot of bad stuff happened. For the longest time, even when I got the award at Parris Island, I didn’t even want to



COURTESY OF SSGT JEREMIAH WORKMAN, USMC (RET)

**On a cold morning in December 2004 in Fallujah, Iraq, Cpl Workman prepares to take out targets during a fire mission as a mortar platoon squad leader with Weapons Co, 3/5.**

**He continued to drink heavily because it was the only thing that kept the memories of one terrible day in Iraq from flooding his mind.**



**Right: Workman and his wife, Jessica, enjoy a boating expedition in Port Alsworth, Alaska, in June 2018, during a weeklong marriage retreat sponsored by Operation Heal Our Patriots.**

**Below: Showing off his catch, Workman enjoys the outdoors in Alaska in June 2018. Although he continues to battle PTSD, he and Jessica say they have come a long way since the trials of his first few years home from Iraq nearly ended their marriage.**



COURTESY OF SSGT JEREMIAH WORKMAN, USMC (RET)



COURTESY OF SSGT JEREMIAH WORKMAN, USMC (RET)

wear it because it reminded me and flooded me with bad, negative stuff," recalled Workman. "One day you're a sergeant and the next day you're still a sergeant but now you have this award and you have a lot of 'friends' now."

Jeremiah's wife, Jessica, is open about the toll that deployment and its aftermath had on their marriage, saying that it nearly brought it to an end. She had moved back home to Ohio to attend cosmetology school, recounting the emotional

disconnect between the two of them and how the Navy Cross presentation amplified all of it.

"It was kind of like a roller coaster," she said. "It was totally up and down, and then having that award on top of it kind of reignited everything again."

The tension continued to build until an incident with a recruit led to a "mental breakdown" for Workman. He sat down with Sergeant Major Scott Booth, his battalion sergeant major, who personally walked him to the clinic.

"I really credit him with getting me the help that I needed. He actually, no kidding, called me into his office. He said, 'I don't really feel like you had any business being a drill instructor. No one should go straight from Fallujah to being a drill instructor,'" Workman recalled.

He remembers sitting and talking with a psychiatrist, who told Workman he believed he was suffering from severe PTSD.

"I remember looking at him and saying, 'What the hell is PTSD?'" Workman said, emphasizing how far the Marine Corps has come since then



in spreading awareness of PTSD, encouraging individuals to seek help and equipping commands to recognize the signs and symptoms and take care of their Marines.

At the time of his diagnosis, he said, it just wasn't something that was talked about like it is today, adding that upon his return from Iraq, he was asked mental health screening questions while he waited in a long line of Marines turning their weapons in at the armory.

"That's when the corpsmen would say, 'Is anyone feeling depressed or anxious?'" Workman said "Oh, hell no!" was the resounding reply. "You didn't want to be the guy to hold the line up ... that's how it was done. I look back and think that is just bizarre."

A delayed onset of PTSD symptoms, as was the case for Workman, is not uncommon, according to the American Psychiatric Association, which defines the disorder as "a clinically-significant condition with symptoms that have persisted for more than one month after exposure to a traumatic event and caused significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning."

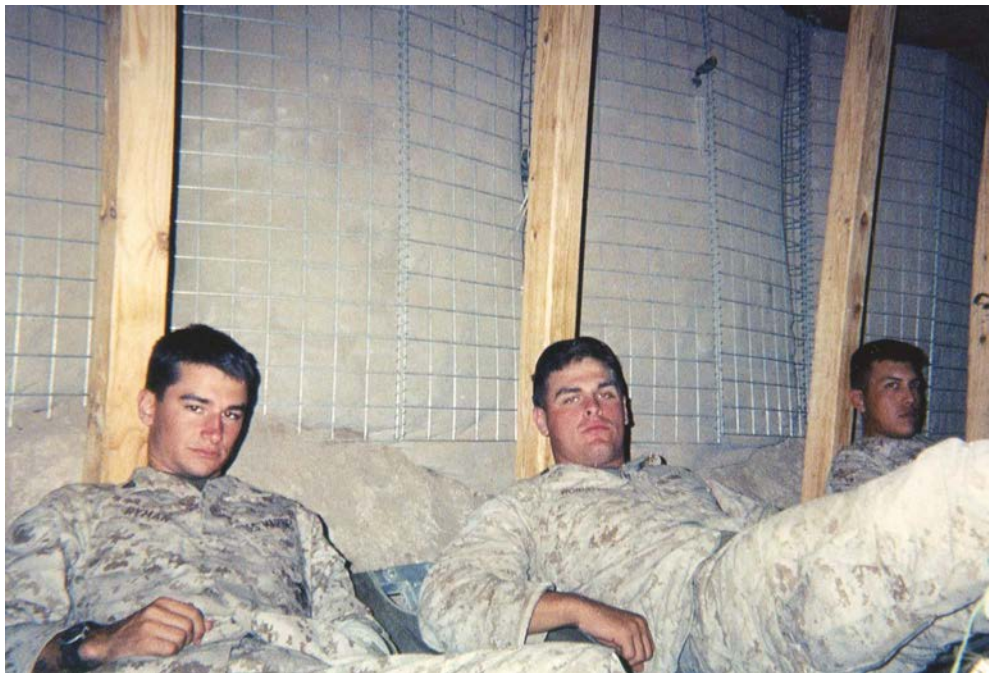
The association's "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders" (DSM-5) establishes the diagnostic criteria for PTSD, which includes an exposure to "death, threatened death, actual or threatened serious injury, or actual or threatened sexual violence" through direct exposure, witnessing a traumatic event or having someone close to you exposed to trauma. It also can include indirect exposure to trauma; for example, a first responder at the scene of a mass shooting or terrorist attack. The individual may re-experience the traumatic event through upsetting memories, nightmares, flashbacks, emotional distress or physical reactivity after being exposed to stimuli that symbolize or resemble the traumatic event. Other symptoms may include overly negative thoughts, feelings of isolation, irritability, risky or destructive behavior, difficulty sleeping and hyper-vigilance, among others.

The VA's National Center for PTSD estimates that between 11 and 20 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans; 12 percent of Gulf War veterans; and approximately 30 percent of Vietnam War-era veterans have had PTSD in their lifetime, either from combat, military sexual trauma or other service-related event.

Workman's diagnosis led to the prescription of numerous mental health medications. At one point he was taking 15 different pills each day, which he says turned him into a walking zombie. "Back then that was the first thing they immediately did," he said. He was relieved of his duty as a drill instructor and sent to Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., in 2006 to give tours at the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

The new job meant wearing his medals and

**Symptoms may include overly negative thoughts, feelings of isolation, irritability, risky or destructive behavior, difficulty sleeping and hyper-vigilance, among others.**



**From the left, Chad Ryman, Workman and Jarrett Kraft are pictured here in their bunker outside of Fallujah, Iraq, in 2004. Kraft also received the Navy Cross for his actions to save the trapped members of their unit on Dec. 23. (Photo courtesy of SSgt Jeremiah Workman, USMC (Ret))**

ribbons daily, which of course included his Navy Cross and Purple Heart. The attention Workman received there because of his awards sent him into a downward spiral.

He recalls regularly being asked by museum visitors how many people he killed.

"It sucked. It was terrible. It was making my symptoms worse," Workman said. "I [was] kind of at rock bottom again."



CWO-2 MICHAEL D. FAY, USMC (RET)

**As a sergeant working at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va., in March 2007, Workman enjoyed the company of Col John Ripley, who was awarded the Navy Cross for his actions in Vietnam.**



From the left, Workman, SgtMaj Carlton Kent and Matthew Hammond, a retired gunnery sergeant, celebrate the Marine Corps Birthday in Las Vegas, Nev., Nov. 10, 2018. Workman and Hammond served together at the Pentagon on the sergeant major's staff.



COURTESY OF SSGT JEREMIAH WORKMAN, USMC (RET)

**“I wanted to leave the impression on all Marines—  
just because you’re going through PTSD  
that’s not the end of your career, that’s not the  
end of your family, that’s not the end of your life.”**

**—SgtMaj Carlton W. Kent**

**The 3/5 Marines  
killed in action  
on Dec. 23, 2004,  
during the Second  
Battle of Fallujah  
were remembered  
at a memorial in  
Iraq by their fellow  
leathernecks. The  
events of that day  
would later trigger  
severe PTSD for  
Workman, who  
despite his heroic  
actions was unable  
to save all of his  
Marines.**



COURTESY OF SSGT JEREMIAH WORKMAN, USMC (RET)

About to break, Workman was given an opportunity that would become a turning point in his life. Sergeant Major Carlton W. Kent, then the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, pulled him from the museum and brought him onto his staff as his personal driver. Having served as the I Marine Expeditionary Force sergeant major in 2004, Kent was in Fallujah during the battle and saw firsthand the horrors of combat that Workman had endured. In fact, he had talked with Workman just after the Dec. 23 firefight, encouraging him to stay strong and focused. The two reconnected twice, once at the request of General James Mattis, and again at Quantico while Workman was assigned to the museum.

Kent realized that if there was any hope of Workman bouncing back, he needed to get out of Quantico. After bringing him on board at the Pentagon, Kent's entire staff rallied around Workman and took him under their wing.

“It just takes people to believe in these Marines, to understand what they went through and say ‘It’s OK.’ You’ve got to tell them that it’s OK to go through this but we’re going to get through this together,” Kent, who retired from the Corps in 2011, said with emotion in his voice.

For Workman, the mentorship of SgtMaj Kent and others was integral to his ability to move forward, as was the opportunity to share his story with others. Kent began taking Workman to events, giving him a platform to speak to Marines about PTSD.

“I got him involved with going around speaking about his PTSD so other Marines would have an opportunity to understand that there shouldn’t be a stigma,” said

Kent. “I used to take him out to town halls with me and I’d talk about it. I’d say, ‘Jeremiah Workman is on my team in my office, he’s not a failure’ ... I wanted to leave the impression on all Marines—just because you’re going through PTSD that’s not the end of your career, that’s not the end of your family, that’s not the end of your life.”

Kent worked tirelessly alongside General James T. Conway, the 34th Commandant of the Marine Corps, to ensure that Marines battling PTSD were taken care of. They instituted an open-door policy for anyone whose command was not assisting or supporting them and released videos discussing mental health and PTSD, determined to put an end to the myth perpetuated by many Marines that coming forward to get help was a sign of weakness.

“The Marine Corps has made leaps and bounds,” said Workman. “Not to take away from any of the services, but I think the Marine Corps has really spearheaded this mental health thing and made it a priority and made it OK to get help ... not that it wasn’t OK before, but nobody really knew what it was.”

In 2007, Workman began a two-year process of



writing his story with the help of author John R. Bruning. “Shadow of the Sword: A Marine’s Journey of War, Heroism and Redemption,” co-written by the two, was released by Presidio Press in 2009.

“The book really helped me,” he said. “It kind of gave me a platform to go out in front of the Marine Corps and tell my story and try to help Marines. I think by helping other Marines it helped me in the process. It helped me tremendously.”

Since he was medically retired as a staff sergeant in 2010, Workman has worked for the VA as a military services coordinator at the Naval Health Clinic aboard MCB Quantico, assisting Marines who are going through the medical board process and transitioning out of the Corps. It’s a unique opportunity for him to use his personal experience to help others through their own time of uncertainty.

He’s tried counseling and various therapies available to him, including Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), a form of psychotherapy that has successfully helped many servicemembers cope with PTSD, but he says that his family, a strengthened dedication to his faith, and a strong support network have been the keys to moving forward and adjusting to his new normal. He also has been able to drastically reduce the number of medications he was originally prescribed.

Becoming a dad to his two children—now 8 and 12—during a point in his life when he didn’t care about anything, he said, changed everything for him.

He and Jessica have attended numerous marriage retreats for veterans and their spouses, and Jessica strongly believes that the difficulties they faced in the past are things they can look back on now and say, “We’ve grown from it.”

Even though today he’s in a much better place, Workman emphasizes that PTSD is still something he deals with every single day. Both he and Jessica are open about the fact that there are still bumps in the road and that PTSD will never be something he is “cured” of.

“I’m a firm believer that PTSD never goes away,



but I believe that you can learn to control it and not let it control you,” Workman said. “I still have bad days, but the good days outnumber the bad.”

On those bad days, he often will pick up the phone and call SgtMaj Kent, who has become like a father to him.

“He has come a long way because he has a lot of support people around him. A lot of people think the world of him and a lot of people know that he has a bright future—he has a focus now,” said Kent of Workman. “He’s always going to have those ups and downs.”

Workman’s symptoms have changed over the years. The nightmares have faded, but he continues to wrestle with insomnia and depression. By sharing his story, he hopes to encourage others to come forward if they are dealing with symptoms of PTSD.

Over the past decade, he has received middle-of-the-night phone calls from Marines who are struggling to make it through. His message to them is this: “Don’t be afraid to raise your hand and get the help you need, because holding it in will not get you anywhere.” 🍷

**Workman says that becoming a dad to his children, Delaney, left, and Devon, right, pictured here in a family photo with his wife, Jessica, was a crucial turning point in his battle with PTSD.**

## Need Help?

*The following resources are among the many available to individuals who may be suffering from PTSD:*

### For Individuals in Crisis

Call (800) 273-TALK anytime to talk to a crisis counselor. The call is confidential and free.

Chat online with a crisis counselor at <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>.

### For Support and Help on the Go

The National Center for PTSD has a variety of mobile applications that offer self-help, education and support (to supplement, not replace, professional medical care). They include “PTSD Coach,” “VetChange,” and “Mindfulness Coach” among many others. For a full list of apps, visit <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/appvid/mobile/index.asp>.

### For Veterans Who Need Care

To see if there is a specialized PTSD program at a VA facility near you, visit <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/appvid/mobile/index.asp>

# Leatherneck Laffs



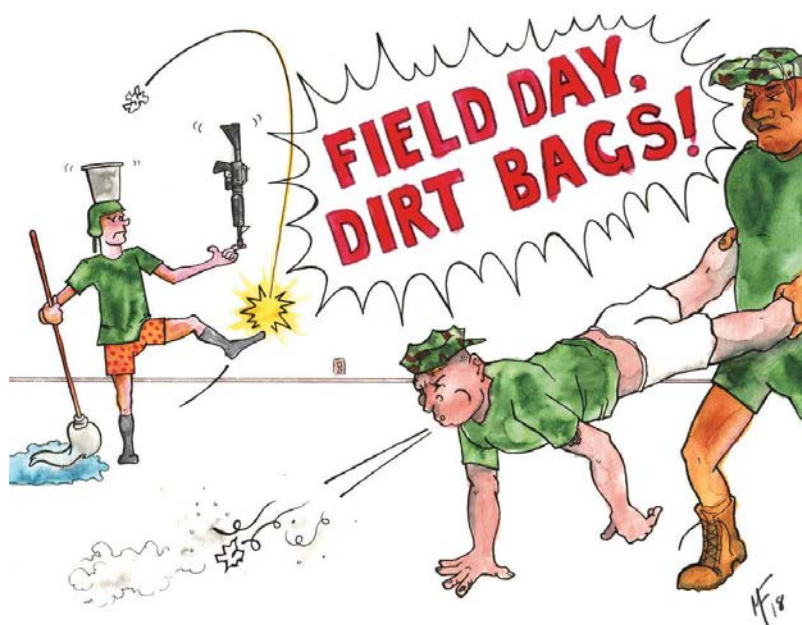
"My summer reading is the same as fall, winter and spring ...  
*Leatherneck* magazine."



"By your leave, Sir."



"It's a tat. I was hoping it would make me look tougher."



Never tell the platoon sergeant you have nothing to do

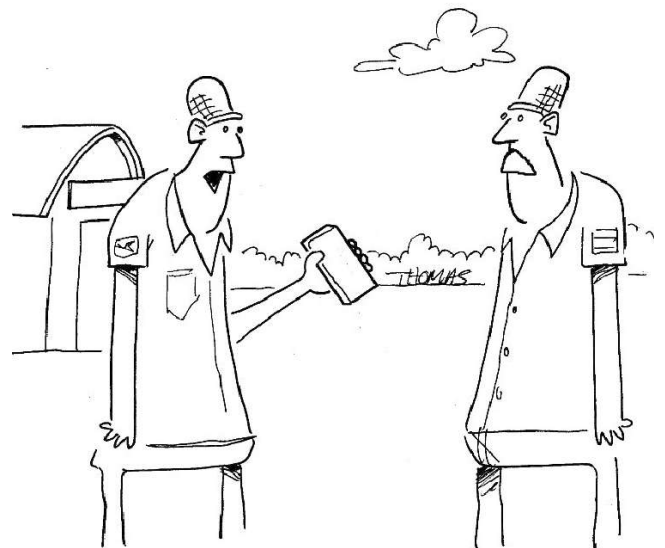




"It's perfectly natural for a new recruit.  
You have 'saluting elbow.'"



"Here's your problem!  
It says here, 'Best if used by 25 Aug. 2017.'"



"Sorry, General.  
I can't find any avatars with stars on them."

# 30 DAYS



There were just 42 men in Company G's line that night  
when the Japanese tanks emerged from their nest.



# on the Line

By  
Sgt George Doying  
USMC

## The story of an outfit that took all the Japanese had during one of the Corps' greatest battles

This is the story of a company of Marines on Saipan—Company G of Colonel (later Brigadier General) Frank Hart's regiment of the 4th Division. It is not a complete story of a battle. Rather, it is a story of 30 days of blood and hell for a little group of 247 men doing their share, and a little extra, in one of the biggest battles in Marine Corps history.

The nucleus of the story is a report by Lieutenant James P. Young Jr., a genial Texan from Dallas who quit a bank clerk's job to enlist in the Marines and who rose through the ranks to become the outfit's "exec."

The interpolations in the Young report are fill-ins of the men of Co G—those who came back—and of Tech Sergeant John Fabion, a Marine combat artist, who is the company's hero because he went along with them when he didn't have to and stayed doing his bit when the going was toughest.

*"D-day. Landed under direct artillery fire. Dug in. Five killed. Ten wounded."*

*"D+1. Withdrew and dug in on the beach and received enemy artillery fire. Afternoon, we moved up to 01 and reinforced --- company for the night. Artillery, mortar, [machine gun] and sniper fire. Three killed. Four wounded."*

*"D+2. Ordered to move to left to support --- in the attack. While making a frontal attack received sniper, mg., mortar fire. One killed. Eight wounded."*

*"D+3. West to left of --- and then across the 02 ridge. Received sniper, mortar, machine gun fire. Ordered to proceed to 03 and hold the ground. While holding same, received tank attack. Three tanks about 350 yards from our position. Cpl Howrigan and gun crew of 60 mm went into action immediately under Lt Ledferd command and proceeded to place direct mortar fire in path of approaching tanks and break up tank attack."*

There were just 42 men in Co G's line on the 03 that night and they were digging holes in the coral when the Japanese tanks emerged from a neat camouflaged nest and attacked. Our own tanks and tracks which had led the company to the 03 line had just left for the night. The first shot from the enemy snipped off the tail of the last LVT as it rounded a corner en route to the bivouac area.

Corporal Raymond J. Howrigan, a Fairfield, La., mortar artist, was acting sergeant of the mortar section that day. The mortars were on the left of the line. They sent shells whistling at the tanks as fast as the sweating crews could load them into the pipe mounts. Howrigan thinks it may have been some kind of a record for rate of fire, but it was enough to discourage the enemy tanks.

*"D+4. No attack. Remained in position. Night received sniper and grenade fire from our rear."*



That had been the day the company had fried chicken a la Fabion for dinner. Some of the lads rounded up stray fryers running wild in the cane behind the 03 and Sergeant Fabion barbecued them over an open fire. It was the same area from which the sniper and grenade fire came after dark. Co G lost its first sergeant, William R. Bennett of York, Pa., as a casualty that night.

*"D+5. Coordinated infantry and tank attack through cane field. Drove to Hill 500. Took two prisoners and killed five*

*of the enemy who were trying to get through our lines carrying gasoline."*

The five Japanese came walking down the road, right out in the open, obviously unaware that they had crossed into our lines. Each carried a can of gasoline. They probably intended to fire a big abandoned Japanese ammo dump at the base of Hill 500.

The prisoners were the first for Co G. One of them was found huddled in the corner of a wrecked house. Captain J.J. McCarthy, the company CO, tried to question him in pidgin Japanese and hand signs. It looked like "Man Mountain Dean" standing over a pigmy; Capt McCarthy, known as "Gus" to the company, is a towering figure who once drove the rear end of a hook and ladder on Chicago's South Side. The prisoner just stood dumb before Gus.

Finally, Lt Young cut in with a question in English. "I've got a shoulder wound and I want water," replied the Japanese in flawless English.

*"D+6. Stayed on Hill 500."*

*"D+7. --- and --- passed through our lines. Went into reserve."*

*"D+8. Went into defensive position on Hill 646, SE slope. Dug in. Sniper fire and attempted infiltration."*

One of the company machine gunners tells this tale about that day; it illustrates how deeply rooted Fabion's position in the company had become. During inspection of the lines, Capt McCarthy came upon one gun which had been moved. "Who told you to set up here?" he thundered. The gunner replied: "Sgt Fabion thought there should be a gun over here." "Oh," said the captain. "Well, okay if 'Fabe' said so."

*"D+9. Took nine prisoners (eight civilians, one soldier). Mortar and sniper fire and attempted infiltration. One [Japanese] killed."*



The Japanese was shot just at dusk. He came smack into the middle of the company area and stooped down to fill a canteen with water. In the gathering dusk he wasn't recognized at once. When he was, he started to run.

*"D+10. Ordered to proceed to take --- company's mission. Found landmines. One tank blown up. Ordered to continue the attack without tank support. Carried out mission. Sent patrols forward, found 2 8-inch gun positions and aid station and ammo dump for 8-inch guns. Ordered back to 05 by battalion CO."*

Co G was in reserve on the morning of D+10, hoping for a day of comparative rest. Up ahead, and to the left, a giant Japanese blockhouse, which had been burning, exploded in front of the line. Blocks of concrete weighing a ton or more sailed through the air and as far back as Co G's line the area was showered with debris.

Headquarters was sure the company in the line must have been wiped out, so Co G was ordered into the breach. The objective was the 05, Kagma Point, and after reaching it, Capt McCarthy sent out patrols to probe the beach area beyond.

But this day was a red-letter day for quite another reason for Co G. It was the day they got their first change of clothes since landing—clean scivvies and socks—and their first 10-in-1 rations, and toothbrushes and paste. "We felt almost human again that night," remarked Sgt John J. Cassidy, a machine gunner from Brooklyn.

*"D+11. Seized battalion objective in our zone of action. Many caves showed signs of recent occupation. Hari-kiri: 10 dead, 3 wounded. Remember—slaughterhouse."*

Slaughterhouse is the name they gave a cave in the Kagma Point area. There they found the Japanese who had committed suicide rather than face the Marines. There also were civilians who had been butchered by their own people. "It was the bloodiest mess I've ever seen," Lt Young described it.

*"D+12. More patrols to the beach area."*

*"D+13. Moved from Kagma Pt. to Cha Cha Village. Dug in. Sniper and mg. fire. Sent out patrols to our front."*

*"D+14. Moved into position in rear of ---. Harassing [machine-gun] and sniper fire continued."*

*"D+15. Remained in position. Machine-gun and sniper fire continued throughout. PFC Bonestell, Sgt J. Fabion and Lt Young removed man from enemy zone. Very unusual circumstances surrounding."*

Fabion was the one who found the wounded Marine. With another Marine, he had started out to catch up with a patrol out in front of the lines. They found themselves in a small pocket of land which narrowed into a gulley from which they drew Japanese fire. The Marine was lying beside a faint trail; he was from another battalion and apparently had been taken prisoner and escaped.

Fabion sent his companion back for help and stayed to aid the wounded man. Lt Young answered the appeal, with Paul Bonestell, his driver. They got the Marine out, under fire, but he died before they could get him to an aid station. Bonestell, telling about that trip into enemy territory, said he never in his life had wanted so much to go over the hill.

*"D+16. Moved out to make a frontal attack in effort to clean up the pocket of known (n) resistance. (G) operating independently. Launched attack at 0905. Reached objective after slight sniper resistance. Discovered obviously a headquarters aid station. About 16 trucks and small vehicles, first aid and general supplies. 48 dead bodies in a bloated condition. Killed 4 who offered to resist. Took 16 prisoners."*

This was strictly a volunteer job. The pocket of "known resistance" was the area in which the rescue had been effected the day before. "It was G Co that uncovered the enemy area and we claimed the right to clean it up," commented Lt Young.

*"D+17. Moved out at 0400 to relieve Army bn. 0800 effected relief under sniper and [machine gun] fire. One shell landed in our line—four casualties. At night harassing sniper and mg. fire continued. Attempted infiltration was repelled."*

*"D+18. Moved forward and up trail to support --- and ---. Notified CO of appearance and condition of approx. 300 and 400 [Japanese] bodies. On ridge of hill more bodies shallow buried and large quantities of ammo, 77 mm fuzes, land mines, anti-personnel mines throughout the area. Covered patrols working forward to hills 600 and 700. Moved back to --- area for rations, then moved out for position abreast --- CT on 06. No resistance."*



That was the day, too, when mail first reached Co G on Saipan. Sgt Jack S. Brown got a letter from his girl in the WACs. Brown, a burly machine gunner from Virginia Beach, Va., was one of the most popular chaps in the outfit and respected by all hands for his common sense and practical mind. He was an easy-going lad, one of an inseparable trio. The others were PFC Harvey C. Walker of Baltimore and Charles B. Medors, a quiet South Charleston, Ohio, sergeant in the mortar section.





*"D+19. Few stray shells throughout the night. Heavy rain all night. Moved into position. Rugged terrain. Moved forward to our objective. Returned two men to the rear shell shocked. Took position on forward slope of 07. Sniper fire heavy. Killed one [Japanese] running up road and away from us. Heavy counter attack 50 yards to right."*

*"D+20. Attack ordered 0730. G alone to close and protect gap on right flank and maintain contact with --- on right. Gap extended and widened to appr. 300 yds. Sniper fire extremely heavy and accurate. Lt Schroeder killed. Corpsman Reardon killed at Schroeder's side. Richards shot at same place. G held her ground. Shortly after dark relieved by Army."*

Saipan is wild country and a place where yards were as important as miles. Co G's role was to maintain contact between two units moving on different levels of ground. Lt Bernhard E. Schroeder of Milwaukee, Wis., was a platoon leader and one of the company's best officers. He had rejoined them only a day or two before, having been twice wounded. He was killed only twice the length of a man ahead of the lines. The others got it in that short space, trying to bring him in.

*"D+21. Discovered [Japanese] field hospital. Capt J.J. McC killed enemy sniper. G committed to close gap on right flank. Resistance in draw was neutralized, approximately 30 [Japanese] knocked out. Moved up high ground on right of --- and dug in for the night."*

*"D+22. Continued attack following on --- right flank. Moved up to high ground. No resistance. Just short of objective—company routed by snipers. G Company plugged gap of --- and ---."*

*"D+23. Moved out and were committed on the battalion right flank to plug gap between --- and ---. Moved through heavy undergrowth for about 900 yards. Took 12 small native children. Walker hit by [Japanese] grenade, evacuated. Maintained contact with --- and --- until 1500. Lost it with ---. Dug in for night. Took six [Japanese] prisoners and tied in with Long front."*

Harvey Walker, known as "Pete," was the first of the Brown-Medors-Walker trio to be hit. It came during the company's attempt to re-establish contact with the outfit on its right flank. Lt Young led the patrol which inched

its way through hostile ground groping for friendly troops. The grenade that got Walker was thrown by one of the six Japanese the patrol rounded up on that trip.

*"D+24. Relieved by ---. Went down [the] hill for breakfast. Back through old position to position on left of ---. Took a patrol into woods, 10 prisoners. 1415 moved out with ---. Killed six snipers. Held up by holed up [Japanese]. Brown and Matthews killed. Young, rifle grenade. Demolition. Infiltration."*

Lt Young was too exhausted that night to write more than key words outlining the events of the day. In many ways this probably was the nastiest day of all. The Japanese were holed up in caves flanking the company's line of movement. Lt Young and a volunteer group were out in a point when they were pinned down by enemy fire. They exhausted their grenades without stopping the Japanese fire. Finally, undercover from the others, Young crawled to one troublesome cave, pointed a rifle grenade inside and let go. The blast silenced that cave but the

*in for night. During night attempted infiltration turned back. Dead [Japanese] littered our lines."*

That 20-yard strip wasn't far, but it was enough to get Co G back behind an open section, out of a strip of undergrowth where the Japanese had massed with his back to the cliff which dropped sheer to the beach. Everyone knew the battle for the Island was now nearing the end.

*"D+26. Remained in position. Dispatched patrols to comb undergrowth in front of our position. Set up defense for the night. Attempted infiltration repelled. 22 [Japanese] found in area 10 to 30 yards from our lines."*

Medors, third of the company's famous trio, was wounded that day on one of the patrols.

*"D+27. Dispatched patrols to beach. Noted hundreds of [Japanese] dead on beach and in rocky caves. 65 prisoners taken and 15 wounded removed. That night again active enemy moving around in company area."*



shooting started up from another spot a few minutes later.

Sgt Brown, one of the day's casualties, was the second of the "Three Musketeers" to go. He was hit from the cave that Lt Young silenced with the rifle grenade.


*"D+25. Continued attack down slope to airfield. Took 20 prisoners out of caves. Moved onto airstrip at 1230. Old Glory went up. Made left turn and continued northeast up strip. Just short of beach ran into estimated 1000 [Japanese]. Two men killed, five wounded. Backed up 20 yards and dug*

*"D+28. Patrols worked in hilly area south of air-strip mopping up snipers."*

*"D+29. Moved to square 169-Q for bivouac!"*

There was considerably less than one-half of G Co's original personnel left to hear those glorious words, return to bivouac. In those 30 terrible days on the line, 32 men were killed and 130 wounded out of 247.

"They even sent six-by-sixes to take us back," remarked Sgt Cassidy, the Brooklyn machine gunner.

For most of them, it was their first ride since leaving the landing craft. 

# Mexico in Turmoil in 1913— Marines Set Sail for Cuba

Compiled by Nancy S. Lichtman • Photos courtesy of Library of Congress

*"Marines Rushed South For Emergency Call"*

—The Boston Globe

*"President Orders 2,000 Marines to Sail At Once for Cuba"*

—San Francisco Chronicle

From New England to the West Coast, banner headlines said it all on Feb. 18, 1913, as U.S. Marines in Philadelphia, Pa., prepared to set sail for Guantanamo, Cuba, where they would be on standby in response to the Mexican Revolution. President William Howard Taft ordered the mobilization after Mexico's President Francisco Madero was deposed, arrested and jailed in a coup led by General Victoriano Huerta.

These photos, taken between Feb. 17-20, 1913, at League Island—part of the Philadelphia Navy Yard—capture the activity surrounding such a massive mobilization of forces. Marines assigned to Marine Barracks Philadelphia were augmented by detachments from Boston, Mass., and

Brooklyn, N.Y. They departed League Island on Feb. 20, 1913, aboard U.S. Army Transport Ship *Meade* and were joined in Cuba by Marines who had sailed aboard USS *Prairie* from Norfolk, Va., on Feb. 19, 1913. The combined 72 officers and 2,097 enlisted Marines made up the 2nd Provisional Brigade commanded by Colonel Lincoln Karmany. Among the officers were future commandants Col George Barnett and Lieutenant Colonel John A. Lejeune.

On April 25, 1913, during their time in Cuba, Lejeune and the other officers formed the Marine Corps Association "for the purpose of recording and publishing the history of the Marine Corps, publishing a periodical journal for the dissemination of information concerning the aims, purposes and deeds of the Corps, and the interchange of ideas of the betterment and improvement of its officers and men ... ."

More than 106 years later, the Marine Corps Association & Foundation is still going strong.







**U.S. Marines stand in formation at League Island, Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, in February 1913 prior to departing for Guantanamo, Cuba, in response to the Mexican Revolution.**







Marines load U.S. Army Transport Ship *Meade* with the supplies they will need in Cuba, in February 1913. The mobilization was headline-making news; note the photographers in the right foreground of the photo.

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Sailors and Marines load crates of ammunition on board *Meade* (also pictured above) at League Island, in February 1913. The printing on the side of the crates reads: "12.14.1912, Pistol Ball Cartridges, Cal. .45." *The Philadelphia Inquirer* reported that the Marines embarked with 40 million rounds of ammunition.





**Above: Eight-inch shells are being transferred to the armored cruiser USS Brooklyn (CA-3) at League Island in February 1913 during the mobilization of Marines to Guantanamo, Cuba, in response to the overthrow of Mexico's president, Francisco Madero.**

**Below: Marine riflemen board *Meade*, bound for Guantanamo, Cuba, February 1913, after being deployed by President William Howard Taft. "There are 120 sharpshooters among the Marines at the local Navy Yard," reported *The Boston Globe* in their coverage of the event.**





The USMC Culinary Arts Team celebrates after their first-ever win for “Team of the Year” at the annual Joint Culinary Training Exercise, held at Fort Lee, Va., March 15.

## Marines Claim “Team of the Year” At Culinary Arts Competition

For the first time in Joint Culinary Training Exercise (JCTE) history, the Marine Corps Culinary Arts Team was called to the stage to accept the event’s “Team of the Year” title at Fort Lee, Va., March 15.

The honor is bestowed on the squad that accumulates the highest point total while demonstrating their culinary skills in team and individual categories throughout the exercise. The Marines are relative newcomers to the competition, having only participated for the last five years.

Most people in attendance at the closing ceremony expected reigning champion Team Hawaii to win for the fourth year in a row, and emotions ran high as the Marine Corps was announced as the winning team.

“When I joined this team two years ago, I was aware that Hawaii was on a winning streak, and beating them became my No. 1 goal,” said Staff Sergeant Chris Hamilton, team captain for the Marines, who works at Fort Lee as a Joint Culinary Training Center instructor. The Marine team showed they are a force to be reckoned with and they plan to come back even stronger next year, he added.

In addition to the Team of the Year win, Lance Corporal Christopher Sanchez, USMC, also earned the title of Armed Forces Student Chef of the Year.

Joint Culinary Center of Excellence coordinators labeled this year’s training exercise as “an unmitigated success” with 293 American Culinary Federation

medals awarded to chefs from each of the services.

Each year, servicemembers use the JCTE as their chance to join the prestigious U.S. Army Culinary Arts team. They serve as the military’s national culinary ambassadors and its members are given the opportunity to compete in international-level events.

Amy Perry

## 3D Printing Enhances Readiness Of Corps’ Main Battle Tank

Marine Corps Systems Command collaborated in December 2018 and into early 2019 with fleet Marines and organizations to review the successful performance of several 3D-printed impellers used on M1A1 Abrams tanks at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.

The Corps plans to use 3D-printed impellers when the original part wears or becomes inoperable and a new part cannot be received in a timely manner.

“Call it a spare tire or a stop-gap solution,” said Joseph Burns, technical lead for MCSC’s Advanced Manufacturing Operations Cell (AMOC). “This can get you through a mission, through your training exercise or whatever may be critical at the time.”

A few years ago, the Marine Corps and the Army ordered a large batch of impellers. As a result, the Defense Logistics Agency—responsible for providing parts for military vehicles—did not have enough parts to satisfy all orders. An impeller expels dust from the tank engine

to keep the filters clean. When an impeller experiences wear and tear, the part may not pull enough air to function properly, which could degrade mission effectiveness.

“At certain times, logistical issues can occur,” said Tony Delgado, research and development program manager for additive manufacturing (3D printing) at DLA. “Sometimes the part is not available right away or something happens with a vendor and a part cannot be provided immediately. This was one of those times where the part wasn’t available.”

DLA can award a contract to a company but it can take from six to 10 months for the Marines to receive the parts. Waiting months for an order can reduce readiness and effectiveness on the battlefield. Consequently, MCSC had to find an alternative solution.

“Around that time the Marine Corps had been provided with 3D-printing additive manufacturing tools,” said Burns. “And Marines were being encouraged to be innovative and develop prototype solutions to real-world problems. A young Marine identified the impeller and began exploring ways to 3D print this part.”

Building on this early success, MCSC collaborated with Johns Hopkins University’s Applied Physics Laboratory and DLA to formally qualify the performance of the 3D-printed impeller and document the design in a technical data package.

The exercise conducted at Twentynine Palms in December and January was the culmination of formal qualification testing and was intended to confirm the performance of a 3D-printed version of an impeller in an operationally relevant environment. After about 100 hours of testing on Abrams tanks during these exercises, Marines at the combat center disassembled the impellers to look for any unusual wear, leakage or other problems. None existed.

“Right now, we don’t see any reason why the 3D-printed impeller is any less reliable than the OEM version,” said Burns. “We plan to continue to collect operational hours on three 3D-printed impellers to better assess the long-term reliability of the part.”

As of April 4, MCSC was in the process of creating a 100-page technical data package (TDP) for the 3D-printed impeller. The AMOC had reviewed two drafts and planned to finalize the first version by the end of the second quarter of fiscal year 2019.





MATTHEW GONZALES

**Marines and civilian acquisition professionals showcase a stainless steel 3D-printed impeller at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., Jan. 15. MCSC recently reviewed the performance of 3D-printed impellers with more than 100 hours of use on Abrams tanks and affirmed that they can be reliable alternatives to the original parts.**

Once the TDP is finalized, the 3D-printed impeller will be fully qualified, tested and certified by the Marine Corps for use in the Abrams tank. Although a more expensive alternative, a 3D-printed impeller can be produced and ready for use in less than a week, said Burns. Once the TDP is certified, a manufacturer, depot or Marine unit with the right equipment can 3D print an impeller for use.

Delgado emphasized the importance of all parties involved in the creation of the 3D-printed impeller, including DLA; Johns Hopkins University; Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Pacific, 1st Marine Logistics Group; 1st Tank Battalion; and the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center.

“We’ve involved engineers from Marine

Corps Systems Command and the Army, and we’ve even had lawyers in some meetings to ensure there’s no intellectual property infringement,” explained Delgado. “In terms of collaboration, this has been a great project.”

Matthew Gonzales

### **PME Seminar Emphasizes Value of Lance Corporals**

If noncommissioned officers are the backbone of the Marine Corps, then lance corporals are the muscles that keep it moving.

Gone are the days of “lance corporal don’t know” and the “lance corporal salute.” Today’s Marine Corps E-3s are smart and tech-savvy members of the “iGeneration” who grew up with smartphones, Snapchat and Instagram rather than cable TV and VHS tapes. They fit uniquely and seamlessly with the Marine Corps’ vision of a connected “strategic corporal,” ready to fight and win America’s battles as much with technology and ingenuity as with bullets and pure grit. The bedrock for tomorrow’s Marine leaders is the ability to make sound and ethical decisions in a world that has experienced significant change during the past two decades.



CPL JOSEPH SORCI, USMC

**LCpl Charles Matte, a machinist with 1st Maintenance Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group mills a vaneaxial impeller fan on a computer numerically controlled lathe machine at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., in 2017. Today, with the option of producing impellers with 3D printers, replacements can be produced and ready to use in less than a week.**



Enter the “Lance Corporal Leadership and Ethics Seminar.”

The weeklong training is required for all lance corporals vying for a blood stripe and a coveted place in the NCO ranks. The Corps’ Enlisted Professional Military Education (PME) branch instituted the program in 2014 to “bridge the gap between the initial training pipeline and resident Professional Military Education,” according to the seminar’s Leader Guide. The seminar prepares junior Marines to face the challenges of an evolving, uncertain and dangerous 21st-century world.

“Our lance corporals are the gears that keep this machine moving,” said Sergeant Major Edwin A. Mota, the senior enlisted Marine with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit in Okinawa, Japan. “The Lance Corporal Seminar is vital to their success this early in their careers. Whether an enlisted Marine stays in for four years or 30, they will never forget the leadership lessons they learned—both good and bad—as a lance corporal.”

Each seminar has a cadre of NCO and staff NCO volunteers who lead small groups through physical training, guided discussions and scenario-based training. The idea is to get lance corporals to think critically, both on and off duty, to help prepare them for a leadership role as a corporal, sergeant and beyond.

“As a lance corporal in the infantry during the ’90s, it was a completely different Marine Corps than it is today,” said Mota. “We took orders and we carried

them out without a lot of questions. Our NCOs, staff NCOs and officers didn’t expect us, as lance corporals, to understand the strategic-level significance of our training and operations back then. But today, the Marine Corps cannot afford for our lance corporals to not know how they affect our mission at the tactical, operational, strategic and diplomatic levels.”

Enlisted PME is a central component for measuring an enlisted Marine’s leadership potential and their fitness for promotion, regardless of rank. The seminar is usually a first-term Marine’s introduction to formal military education and sets the tone for future PME courses as NCOs and staff NCOs. The guided discussions and scenario-based training is designed to help junior Marines think critically before acting instinctively, according to 19-year-old Lance Corporal Dylan Hess, a mass communication specialist with the 31st MEU and a student in a recent seminar.

“As a lance corporal, we are expected to follow orders and get the job done, regardless of our job,” said Hess, who enlisted in 2017. “During the seminar, we were challenged to rethink our role as junior Marines. In today’s Marine Corps, especially here in Japan, everything we do is a representation of all Americans stationed here, and the seminar helped us better understand why the decisions we make, on and off duty, are so important as ambassadors to our hosts here in Okinawa.”

The lessons learned during the seminar will help him and other future leaders

refine their leadership ability, said Hess.

“Today’s generation joins the Marine Corps for many different reasons, but our commitment to the Marine Corps is the same as any other Marine from past generations. Many of the junior Marines today don’t remember 9/11, don’t remember the battles in Iraq and Afghanistan, but we’re still committed to always being prepared for our next battle—and the Lance Corporal Seminar definitely gives us a better understanding of leadership challenges and opportunities as we grow into the NCO ranks.”

GySgt T.T. Parish, USMC

### **Adopted by Handler, Multi-Purpose Canine Retires from MARSOC**

For most servicemembers, a minimum of 20 years of service is required in order to retire from the military. For their furry four-legged counterparts, it takes approximately 30 years to accomplish the same—in dog years, of course.

The Marine Corps has used working dogs operationally since during World War II when 1st Marine War Dog Platoon, based at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., attacked the beach of Bougainville in the Solomon Islands on Nov. 1, 1943. Today, working dogs deploy with units from throughout the Marine Corps. Marine Special Operations Command (MARSOC) working dogs, however, go through much more rigorous training and earn the designation of Multi-Purpose Canine (MPC).

According to Staff Sergeant John Koman, an MPC handler with “Delta” Company, 1st Marine Raider Support Battalion, MARSOC, a dog handler’s tour lasts about five years, and when the handlers leave, the command usually retires their dog.

Koman’s MPC, a German shepherd named Roy, was honored for his five years of faithful service as a specialized force multiplier with MARSOC during a formal retirement ceremony on March 29 at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. After spending 16 weeks developing skills in explosives detection, tracking and controlled aggression, Roy’s amphibious capabilities, such as water insertion and extraction techniques, prepared him to serve in combat. For this accomplishment, Roy received the Military Working Dog Service Award, which is presented to working dogs and MPCs that deploy into combat.

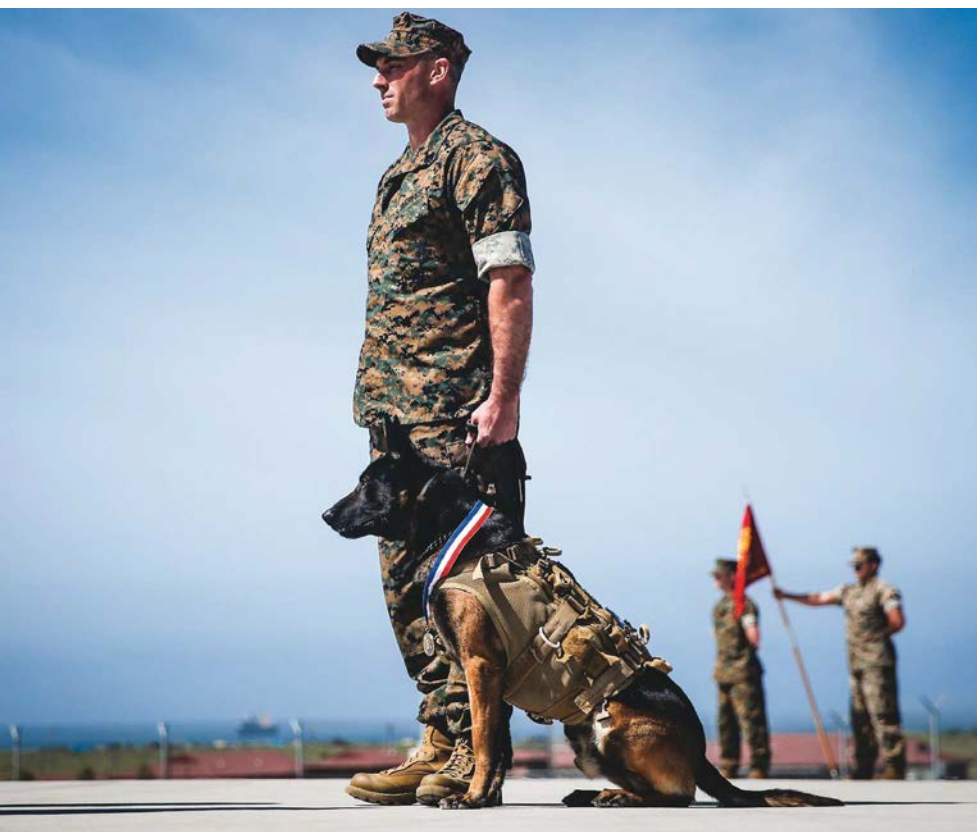
After an MPC retires, the dog is put up for adoption, with priority given to the handler. More than 90 percent of military working dogs and MPCs are adopted by their handlers, according to the Depart-



CPL SCARLET A. SHARP/USMC

**Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 251, 2nd Marine Logistics Group sing “The Marines’ Hymn” during a Lance Corporal Leadership and Ethics Seminar graduation ceremony in Hammersodden, Norway, in November 2018.**





LCPL DRAKE NICKELS, USMC

**SSgt John Koman, a multi-purpose canine handler with Delta Co, 1st MRSB, MARSOC, stands with his multi-purpose canine, Roy, during the dog's retirement ceremony at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 29. After the pair served together for five years, Koman officially adopted Roy.**

ment of Defense Military Working Dog Adoption Program.

"The handler and dog have been through so much together," said an MPC master trainer with MARSOC. "It's a no-brainer for the dog to go to the handlers."

Before Roy was ready to transition into civilian life, the unit was required to ensure that he showed no signs of aggression toward humans or other animals. After the assessment, Koman was able to proceed in filing the necessary paperwork for adoption.

"When I first saw him, I knew he was the dog I wanted," said Koman on the day of the ceremony. "It's just so surreal that he's officially mine today!"

LCpl Drake Nickels, USMC



## Crazy Caption Contest

### Winner



SGT TIMOTHY VALERO, USMC

"I don't care if the other Marines were doing it. Now go to your room!"

Submitted by:  
Ed Falkowski  
Liverpool, N.Y.

### This Month's Photo



SGT AARON HENSON, USMC

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Dream up your own Crazy Caption. *Leatherneck* will pay \$25 or give a one-year MCA&F 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](mailto:leatherneck@mca-marines.org). The winning entry will be published in two months.

An M4A2 Sherman tank and LVTs were knocked out into the surf at Saipan during Operation Tearaway. Several tanks were rendered useless as salt water flooded their electrical systems. (USMC photo)



# Operation Tearaway

## The 4th Tank Battalion D-Day Assault on Saipan

By Dick Camp

**I**n the summer of 1944, the 5th Amphibious Corps under Lieutenant General Holland M. “Howlin’ Mad” Smith set its sights on the Japanese-held island of Saipan in the southern Marianas Islands, one of the “Islands of Mystery,” as its next objective. Smith’s force, designated the Northern Attack Force, would have two veteran Marine Divisions—the 2nd, commanded by Major General Thomas E. Watson, and the 4th, commanded by Major General Harry Schmidt—with the Army’s 27th Infantry Division, commanded by Major General Ralph C. Smith, in reserve. Altogether, this encompassed

71,000 soldiers and Marines. The island was defended by an estimated 32,000 Japanese, including 5,000 sailors of the 1st Yokosuka Special Naval Landing Force (mistakenly referred to as Japanese Marines), and the 9th Tank Regiment, consisting of four companies equipped with Type 95 Ha-Go light tanks and Type 97 Kai Shinhoto Chi-Ha medium tanks.

### Scheme of Maneuver

The scheme of maneuver for Operation Tearaway called for an amphibious landing on June 15, 1944, by the 2nd and the 4th Marine Divisions. They were to land abreast over the western reef on beaches adjacent to the

sugar refinery village of Charan Kanoa and on both sides of Afetna Point. The 2ndMarDiv was to strike across the island while the 4thMarDiv attacked to the south to capture Aslito Airfield.

The landing plan envisioned a simultaneous landing across a reef spanning 250 to 700 yards across with eight Battalion Landing Teams. 8,000 men were expected in the first hour, abreast on the beaches—Red 1, 2, and 3, Green 1, 2, and 3, Blue 1 and 2, and Yellow 1, 2, and 3—covering a front of 6,000 yards. H-hour was initially set for 8:30 a.m. but was rescheduled for 8:40 a.m. to give the boat waves additional time to get into position.



# SAIPAN

## D-Day, June 15, 1944



JASON MONROE

### D-Day June 15, 1944

At 5:42 a.m., Rear Admiral Richmond K. “Terrible” Turner, Commander, Northern Attack Force, gave the command, “Land the landing force.” This time-honored order was transmitted to the 34-ship Landing Ship Tank (LST) flotilla located 1,250 yards behind the line of departure. Ninety-six amphibious tractors carrying the assault units of the 2nd and 4th Divisions disgorged from the LSTs. At the same time, two Landing Ship Docks (LSDs) began launching LCMs (Landing Craft, Mechanized) loaded with light and medium tanks of the 2nd and 4th Tank Battalions. The LCMs proceeded smoothly to their assigned stations at the rear of each Division’s beach. The tanks were in an “on call” wave, meaning they

**Ninety-six amphibious tractors carrying the assault units of the 2nd and 4th Divisions disgorged from the LSTs. At the same time, two LSDs began launching LCMs loaded with light and medium tanks of the 2nd and 4th Tank Battalions.**

would be directed to land on order of the supported unit commander.

The peculiar design of the Landing Ship, Docks (LSDs) were designed to transport loaded landing craft, ballast down to their well decks, lower the stern

gate to the sea, and disembark their craft and vehicles for the assault on a hostile beach.

The 4thMarDiv’s landing beaches, color-coded Blue 1, Blue 2, Yellow 1 and Yellow 2, were located on the lower west coast of Saipan, adjacent to the 2ndMarDiv’s landing beaches.

### 4th Tank Battalion

Major Richard K. Schmidt’s 4th Tank Bn, equipped with 46 freshly delivered M4A2 medium tanks and 18 M3A1 Satan flame thrower tanks mounting the Canadian Ronson flame gun, was tasked to support the assault battalions of the 4thMarDiv.

Company A, led by First Lieutenant Stephen Horton Jr., with the 1st Platoon



**A M4A2 Sherman tank sits on the landing beach of Saipan, June 15, 1944. Heavy artillery and mortar fire welcomed the tanks to Saipan during Operation Tearaway. (USMC photo)**

of Co D, was attached to Regimental Combat Team 25 (RCT-25). The operation plan called for the company to land over Yellow Beach 2; however, the company actually landed on Blue Beach 2 because of a strong northerly current. Co B, commanded by First Lieutenant Roger F. Seasholtz, was attached to Battalion Landing Team (BLT) 3-23 and scheduled to land over Blue Beach 1.

Co C, commanded by Major Robert M. Neiman, was attached to Battalion Landing Team 2-23 and was scheduled to land over Blue Beach 2. Co D, Captain Gorman T. Webb's "Satans" landed over the Blue beaches throughout the day and was designated to support RCT-23. Headquarters and Service Company landed at noon and immediately instituted salvage operations. Maj Schmidt, who was the son of the 4thMarDiv commander, remained aboard the Division command ship functioning as a liaison officer and tank employment advisor.

Based on reports from the Underwater

Demolition Teams, the 4th Tank Bn had two options for getting ashore. The first and most desirable option was by way of the channel off Blue Beach 1 through which LCMs could proceed directly to the beach. The other option was to beach the

**"We found a solution, called  
toilet paper ... we took  
two tankers ... and put one man  
in the water with goggles and  
swim fins and a roll of  
toilet paper, swimming  
face down in front of each tank."**

LCMs on the reef and have the tanks move ashore under their own power.

As it turned out, neither option was satisfactory. The channel was receiving intermittent heavy mortar and artillery fire. The reef option posed a problem because heavy swells made it difficult

to beach the LCMs by early afternoon.

Contrary to expectations, the coral shelf off Yellow Beach 2 proved to be the best place to land; however, all tanks landed under heavy artillery and mortar fire. The prearranged method of guiding tanks to the beach with LVTs did not function because of a lack of communication and coordination. The alternate method, guides on foot, was used and proved fairly successful except for the intense gunfire that posed an extreme hazard.

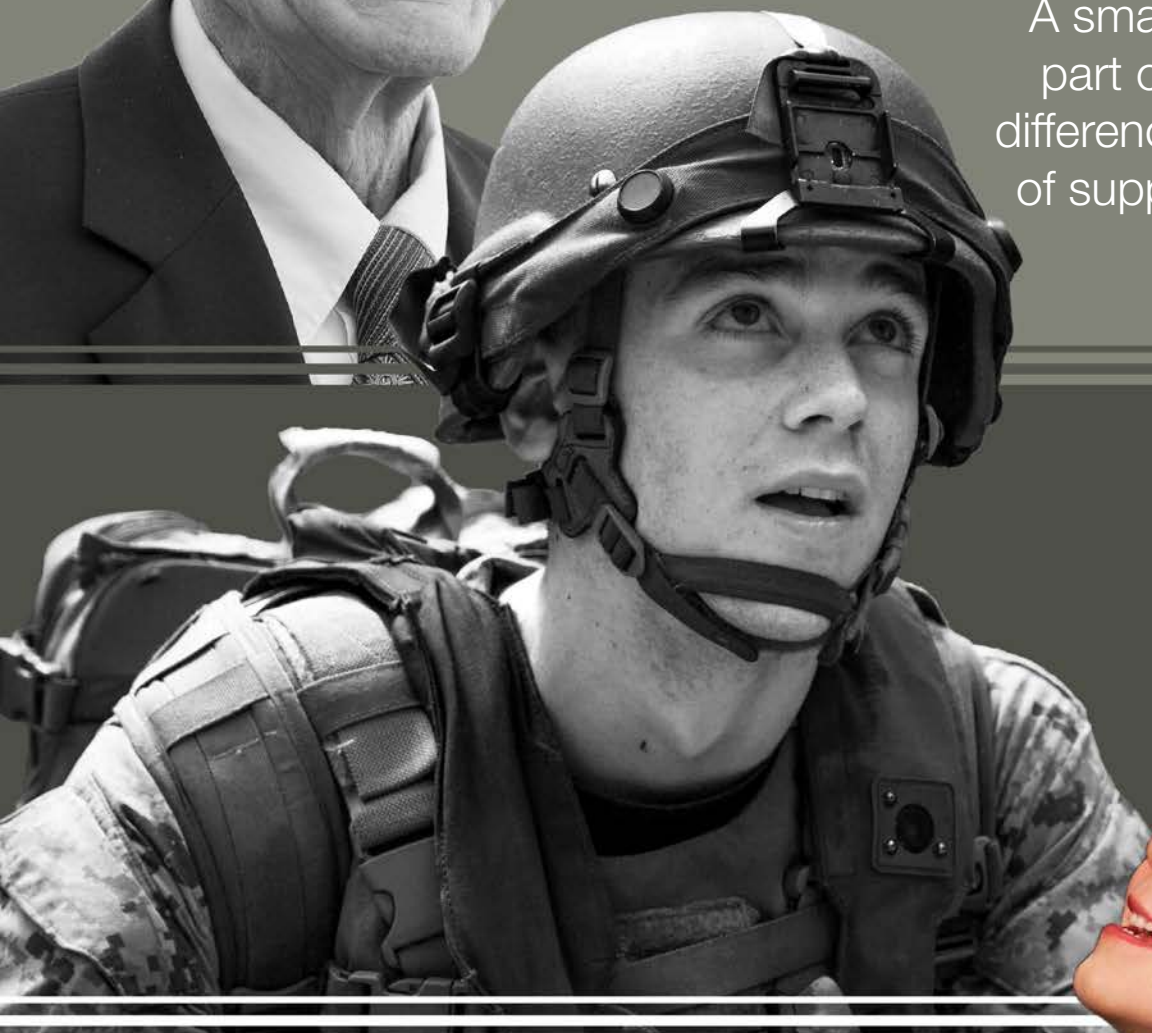
Maj Neiman had a novel approach to locating submerged potholes and craters. "We found a solution, called toilet paper ... we took two tankers ... and put one man in the water with goggles and swim fins and a roll of toilet paper, swimming face down in front of each tank. We put another man on the slope plate of each tank to give hand signals to the driver through his periscope. The guy swimming ... if he came across a pothole, which they did periodically, they would just swim around it and uncoil the toilet paper as





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they went. The water over the reef was very smooth, so the toilet paper would just provide a perfect pathway around the pothole.” One of the volunteers, Private First Class Emmett F. Kirby, was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for volunteering to “lead his tank from the coral reef through the lagoon to the beach ... until mortally wounded [his third wound].”

### D-Day Company Combat Reports

Shortly after noon, Regimental Landing Team 25 requested tank support. LCMs carrying Co A's M4A2s responded, but heavy swells forced the coxswains to jockey their 50-foot landing craft against the reef fringe, slowing the landing. The LCMs dropped their bow ramps, signaling the 30-ton steel monsters to plunge into the reef's shallow water off Blue Beach 2. Almost immediately, two of the tanks “flooded out.” Salt water shorted out their electrical systems. Lieutenant Gerald M. “Max” English in “King Kong” recalled, “We hit a shell hole, and we had water that came bubbling in. It hit the batteries, and started forming [chlorine gas]. We had to open our hatches. We had seawater coming in, but we had to have some way of getting that gas out. We couldn't breathe.”

As Co A's M4s made their way toward the beach, a curtain of artillery and mortar fire erupted around the slow-moving

armored vehicles. Shell geysers erupted close aboard the tanks but none suffered direct hits unlike the troop-carrying amtracs. Several burning hulks littered the reef.

After landing, Co A immediately moved out to support BLT 1/25 on Agangan Point. The two units had practiced tank-infantry tactics after the Roi-Namur operation, including conducting a school for infantry

**“The troops trusted the tank far more than the artillery as a supporting weapon, since the latter could occasionally fire on their own positions. The tanks never posed such a friendly-fire problem.”**

officers to teach them the capabilities, limitations and tactical uses of tanks. In addition, the tank battalion had installed an improvised tank-infantry telephone on the rear of each tank. Ken Estes wrote in “Marines Under Armor, The Marine Corps and the Armored Fighting Vehicle, 1916-2000,” “The troops trusted the tank far more than the artillery as a supporting weapon, since the latter could

occasionally fire on their own positions. The tanks never posed such a friendly-fire problem.”

The infantry assault on Agangan Point sputtered out when the advancing troops received enfilade fire from a maze of weapons positions and the patch of woods adjacent to the promontory, which inflicted many casualties and prevented the survivors from moving forward. Later in the afternoon, the Japanese launched an attack that threatened the narrow beach-head. Co A's tanks joined the infantrymen in wiping out two Japanese companies, totally crushing the counterattack. Following the attack, the tanks surged forward to the point, crushing and destroying Japanese installations without the loss of a single tank.

When the LCMs carrying Co B's 14 medium tanks shoved off from the LSDs and started for the beach, one sank just as it left the LSD. The crew was rescued and re-embarked aboard the LSD. Another M4 had its deep water fording gear smashed in an unexpected shift of weight in the LCM and, as chance would have it, the same craft took a direct hit from a Japanese shell, killing four and wounding five, including a platoon commander. Three tanks made it to shore, but the next three were directed to land on Blue Beach 1 because of heavy artillery fire. One of these “drowned out” when it lumbered into a large depression in the reef.

Six of Co B's tanks were ordered to land on Green Beach 2, a 2ndMarDiv beach 1,000 yards away from its planned landing beach. The tank platoon commander protested, but he was overruled and in they went. They landed on the reef and proceeded shoreward in two columns, each led by a guide, one of whom was killed by shellfire. In the center of the lagoon about halfway to the beach, they encountered very deep water and five tanks were completely submerged and abandoned.

Only one of the six made it to the beach, but it was immediately shanghaied by the 2nd Tank Battalion and did not return to the 4thMarDiv until several days later. So, for all intents and purposes, only four Co B tanks of its original 14 were available to support the 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment.

Co C's 14 tanks were boated just off Yellow Beach 2 waiting for the call to land. When the call came, Maj Neiman had difficulty securing permission. It took him almost two hours and he explained, “I went aboard the control boat and ‘talked’ the Control Officer into letting us go. While we were circling in our landing craft off the reef, a landing craft came off the beach ... with a half dozen UDT men.



**Marines take cover behind “King Kong,” one of the M4A2 Sherman tanks of Co A, 4th Tank Bn, on Saipan, July 8, 1944.**





**Marine infantry and tanks mopping up on Saipan, July 7, 1944. (USMC photo)**

I hailed them and he pulled the boat over to my craft, and I jumped into his boat. I asked him if he knew a good spot where we could be sure there were no underwater obstacles or mine. Just at that point there's a big explosion, near the beach, inland. He says, 'See all that smoke? Head for that and you won't have any trouble at all.' So that's what we did."

Shortly after noon, the LCMs grounded on the reef 800 yards from the beach and unloaded Co A's tanks in about 5.5 feet of water. They proceeded toward the beach in a column of platoons. "There was a long pier that the Japanese had built from the sugar mill at Charan Kanoa," Neiman explained, "where we were supposed to land, out to the edge of the reef ... somebody at Division headquarters decided that it would be an ideal place for the tanks to land, and they could run right up that concrete ramp." The veteran officer was skeptical. "We figured the Japanese

would certainly have the whole channel, especially that ramp, zeroed in with their heavy weapons. Sure enough, the first vehicles that tried it were amphibious tanks, and they got blasted."

Lt English recalled, "They [Japanese] waited until we got on the beach. They were throwing harassing fire out there [on the reef], but nothing heavy until we got on the beach. A lot of the amphibious tanks got pinned down real close to the waterline, but we went inland."

Neiman took his company to an assembly area where he received orders to proceed to the O-1 phase line. He spread the company out in a frontal assault with his right flank on a road running from Blue Beach 1 to Aslito Airfield. After traveling some distance, the tanks not on the road became bogged down and were abandoned under fire. Neiman had the remainder of the company travel on the road until they had outrun the supporting infantry. At

that point, he withdrew, rather than give the Japanese soldiers an opportunity to "plant" magnetic mines on his tanks. Three of Neiman's tanks were partially damaged when an enemy soldier was able to attach a magnetic mine over the engine compartment.

On D+1 the company attempted to reach the O-1 phase line but were rebuffed by Japanese 77 mm antitank guns and heavy caliber dual purpose guns emplaced all along the eastern slope of the phase line. One tank was knocked out and the driver was killed.

There probably would have been more tank casualties except for Neiman's foresight. "Before we went to Saipan we ... studded the side of the tanks with little short pieces of reinforcing steel bar. Then we bolted the [wood] 2-by-12s to the sides and put a 1-by-3 and nailed it to the bottom. We had a perfect concrete form, and we poured concrete in. Now



**A flame thrower tank from 4th Tank Bn in action on Saipan, June 1944. The flame thrower tanks were used primarily against the Japanese still in the caves throughout the island. (USMC photo)**

we had 2 inches of lumber, [and] 2 inches of reinforced concrete that a projectile would have to hit and go through before it even reached the armor plate. We did it for all our tanks. We figured the little added weight was going to bother us as much as the extra protection was gonna help us.”

By 6 p.m., 10 flame-throwing light tanks of Co D landed and were placed in an assembly area 150 yards inland of Blue Beach 2 and ordered to stand by for the night. Three tanks from the 3rd Platoon were held aboard the LSD because there were insufficient LCMs to land them. The entire 1st Plt spent the night in the LCMs, as the channel they were going to use was under heavy shellfire.

The flame tanks were generally attached to Co A and were held in reserve until called to conduct a mission—mostly against Japanese defenders in caves. During the mission, they would be provided cover by medium tanks and when it was completed, they would return to their assemble area.

**D-day had been expensive,  
both in personnel and  
equipment; however, most of  
the 4th Tank Bn's armor  
was recovered, repaired and  
placed back in service.**

By nightfall, the beachhead was only 1,300 yards inland at its maximum penetration. Heavy fire, particularly from Agingan Point, hampered resupply and casualty evacuation. D-day had been expensive, both in personnel and equipment; however, most of the 4th Tank Bn's armor was recovered, repaired and placed back in service, except for three tanks that remained in the water and now serve as a memorial to the battle.

#### **Island Secured**

Gen Smith declared the island secure at 4:15 p.m. on July 9. By that time, all available tanks of the 4th Tank Bn were

committed to the battle. The “History of U.S. Marine Corps Operations in World War II, Central Pacific Drive” noted, “Next to his rifle, the infantryman cherished the tank, which, like a lumbering elephant, could either strike terror into a foe or be a gentle servant to a friend. On the open field, hospital corpsmen, moving behind a tank, could get to the wounded and safely bring them off. In attack, the Marine tank-infantry team felt itself unbeatable, and the Saipan experience added confidence. The medium tank would precede the riflemen who, in return, protected the tank from Japanese anti-tank grenades. Each half of the team needed the other.”

*Author's bio: Dick Camp, a retired Marine colonel, is the former director of operations for the National Museum of the Marine Corps, former deputy director and director (acting) of the Marine Corps History Division and a prolific author. He is a frequent contributor to Leatherneck.*





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## SEA STORY OF THE MONTH

### A Day at the Movies

I was attending a movie at the base theater at Camp Pendleton shortly before being shipped over to Japan in 1957. I don't remember the name of the movie but it was one of those film noirs popular at the time. There was a scene in the movie where the lead actress emptied a full magazine into her unfaithful lover. In a state of shock she exclaimed, "Now what do I do?" Right on cue someone in the theater yelled out, "Police up your brass and move back to the 300-yard line!" It brought down the house as every Marine there recognized the rifle range command.

SSgt Paul Gill  
USMC, 1954-1966  
Shippensburg, Pa.

### You Don't Break Formation

At boot camp in August 1958, initially I was the first fire team leader. One day the drill instructor gave us a column right into another platoon. The right guide was on the other side, and the other platoon's drill instructor grabbed me by my utility jacket and pulled me to him.

"What's the matter with you, maggot?" he asked. "Didn't your drill instructor tell you that you don't break ranks?"

"Sir, no ...," I started to say.

"Shut up!" the drill instructor screamed, cutting me off. "I don't want to hear any of your cheap civilian crap. Next time you break the formation of my platoon I'll unscrew your dumbass head and shit in it. Got that?"

"Sir, yes, sir."

"Now get out of my sight before I puke."

I set off at a sprint with the rank behind me on my heels, caught up with the rest of the platoon and was back in step when the drill instructor called out, "Platoon halt!" No left or right face. Just halt.

"What do you think you're doing, Elliott?" the DI asked. "I gave the platoon a column right."

"I ..." started to say.

"I? Who is I? You talkin' about your eyes? What's that got to do with anything? And what's the first word

**"You don't break  
formation," he said.  
He stood tall and  
hit me with three  
judo chops on each  
side of my neck.  
"You got that?"**

out of your filthy mouth?"

"Sir, sir. The other drill instructor stopped the private."

"You didn't do a column right on my command. I don't care if it's the Commandant of the Marine Corps or Jesus Christ there in front of you. When I give you a column right, you better do a column right or I'll be on your ass like stink on shit. You got that?"

"Sir, yes, sir."

By the time we went to the rifle range at Camp Mathews for three weeks, I was the first squad leader. Waiting in our tents for noon chow one day the drill instructor shouted, "178 on the road!" We barely got in platoon formation when he

said, "Too slow. Back in the tents."

This went on for three or four times. "178 on the road," the drill instructor shouted. "Move! Move! Move!"

We were the first squad out of the tents and hit the road like a herd of stampeding buffaloes. Just as we got to the road another platoon came marching by. We hit them at full speed and knocked them every which way. That platoon formed up down the road, and our platoon was standing tall. Standing in front of my squad I was as proud as I'd been since I got to MCRD.

Our drill instructor got about 6 inches from my face and said, "What do you think you're doing, Elliott?"

"Sir," remembering what he'd told me when I was stopped by the other drill instructor, "the drill instructor said to get on the road."

"You don't break formation," he said. He stood tall and hit me with three judo chops on each side of my neck. "You got that?"

"Sir, yes, sir. The private has got it, sir."

And I did. Understanding the Marine Corps boot camp philosophy, all the teaching was great until you got into a situation—then you did what the situation called for or whatever you had to do to survive. I've never forgotten that and still believe my senior drill instructor was the best drill instructor in the Marine Corps.

Ray Elliott  
Urbana, Ill.

### Following Orders

During an informal meeting behind our barracks in the late 1970s, the sergeant was explaining

how we were to fill out the form he had passed out. The noncommissioned officer (NCO) recognized that he would need to describe each section of the form so that we would fill out the information correctly including the space for "name."

After all the forms were filled out, the sergeant collected and reviewed each one. Suddenly he stopped and addressed us saying, "OK, who is the idiot who filled out 'Your Name' where the form requested name?"

To my surprise one Marine stood up and declared that it was he who had done so. He told the NCO that was what the sergeant had instructed him to put. You can guess the laughter that followed that incident.

Albert Taylor  
Lovelady, Texas

### "Baksheesh, Mate"

During Operation Support Hope in Rwanda in 1994, I was with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 14, attached to Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252 as a communications and logistics representative on a multi-aircraft deployment to Mombasa, Kenya. Upon arriving I was tasked with ordering a replacement KC-130 main mount from our home base at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C. The order was placed and DHL shipping was tasked with delivering the tire to Jomo Kenyatta International airport in Nairobi, Kenya.

Taking off with the commanding officer (CO) and crew, we landed at the Jomo Kenyatta International airport and reported to the DHL office. I presented



the manifest to the clerk who looked up at me with a smile for what seemed an uncomfortably long time and then asked me to wait outside his office.

For approximately four hours I watched as the DHL clerk would leave and return to his office, smiling and nodding each time he passed by. I was finally approached by a British expat who said, "Baksheesh, mate." I replied, "Excuse me, sir?" He replied once more, "Baksheesh," and showed me Kenyan shillings while nodding his head toward the DHL clerk's door.

I re-entered the office and handed the clerk shillings. He pocketed the money and told me to proceed downstairs to the tarmac. I waved the manifest at a passing forklift driver and zoom, he passed me. Then two passes. I was totally ignored. On his third pass I waved shillings at him; he stopped, pocketed the money, grabbed the manifest and went to pick up the tire.

Finally, arriving back at the KC-130, I was approached by a very irate CO. He looked at me and said, "What took you so damn long, Gunny?" All I could do was shrug my shoulders and reply, "Baksheesh, Sir" as I walked back on the aircraft.

GySgt Robert A. Arroyo  
USMC (Ret)  
1974 to 1995  
Livingston, Texas

### The Suspicious Package

While serving as a Marine Security Guard watchstander in Geneva, Switzerland, from 1979 to 1980, we regularly hosted TGIF (Thank God it's Friday) parties at our Marine House. One day out of nowhere, a long package arrived. To our surprise and chagrin the package contained the sword that had previously hung over our Marine House bar.

Included in the box was a helpful note informing us

that someone had stolen it during one of our parties and was returning it in a fit of conscience. The chagrin set in when we realized that none of us had even noticed that the sword was missing.

All us old jarheads really do enjoy and appreciate "our" magazine. Thank you, *Leatherneck*.

Sgt Thomas Ring  
USMC, 1975-1980  
Virac, Philippines

### Stolen Jeep

In April 1970, I was with 2nd Recon Battalion on Vieques Island, Puerto Rico. We often traveled around the island in the only jeep we had. One night our sergeant didn't lock the jeep and it was stolen. In the jeep were two of our M-14s locked to the shift lock with a chain.

Later in the afternoon we located the jeep near the 10th Marines' compound. Two tires were missing and the seats were gone. However, our rifles were still there. Using a spare from the jeep trailer we were able to drive the jeep aboard ship to sail back to Camp Lejeune.

A few months later I was with "Alpha" Company, 1st Recon Battalion in Vietnam. I was friends with one of the company clerks named Larry. I was telling him the story of our stolen jeep which he thought was hilarious. After Larry stopped laughing, he said, "At least we didn't take the rifles!"

Sgt W.R. Wright  
USMC, 1969-1973  
Gillette, Wyo.

### The Regretted Note

It was October 1983 and there I was on the yellow footprints in South Carolina, wondering what I had gotten myself into. Turned out to be the best move I ever made but, of course, I did not figure this out until much later.

After the initial shock of being yelled at constantly, I settled into boot camp life.

I did not find it to be super tough; it was a challenge, but not super tough. I never mentally broke down as I saw many others do. I mention this because one of my drill instructors, Staff Sergeant Blevins, hounded me day and night. At the time I thought he hated me and was just a mean person. He found many reasons to harass me. I had a cold most of boot camp and he was always telling me to shut my mouth but he did this in many exotic and hilarious ways.

The best of these ways was while we were in line at attention in the barracks listening to the senior drill instructor lecture us, I had my mouth open ever so

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**"I'm going to  
carry around a  
bag of dog poop  
and a Popsicle stick,  
and when I find  
your mouth open,  
I'm going to stick it  
into your mouth."**

---

slightly. Blevins came up to me so as not to disturb the senior and said, "Bolio" in a very gruff but low tone. "I've had it with your mouth being open, so this is what I'm going to do. I'm going to carry around a bag of dog poop and a Popsicle stick, and when I find your mouth open, I'm going to stick it into your mouth."

The combination of him saying this so low and so seriously I found it to be the funniest thing I ever heard and started laughing. This was not the reaction he wanted, but he knew he lost when I couldn't stop laughing. He told me to start digging and don't stop. I did mountain climbers for what seemed like hours with tears

streaming down my face.

He continued to mold me. I remembered it as harassing until the last day. On graduation morning I thought I would get even with the staff sergeant so I found a pen and paper and wrote him a note about how mean he was and what a jerk he was. At the time I felt vindicated. I put the note on his vehicle.

Right after we fell out of graduation formation with the mandatory "Aye, Aye," one step back and an about face, I ran to the chapel where our seabags were stored. SSgt Blevins was there yelling at some other recruit. When the recruit got in my way, SSgt Blevins yelled at him, "Stop and get out of that Marine's way!" This was the very first time I was called a Marine and I was shocked and flabbergasted. As I looked at him he smiled and winked. I was still so shocked especially since this was the man who I thought hated me.

I've never felt as low as I remembered the note I had just put on his truck. I tried to go and retrieve it to tear it up, but the bus was leaving for the airport and I couldn't get it back. To this day I regret writing that note. If you are reading this SSgt Blevins, I want to apologize. You were doing your job and a good job you did.

Dan Beaulieu  
San Diego, Calif.

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Do you have an interesting story from your time in the Corps that will give our readers a good chuckle? We would love to hear them. Write them down (500 words or less) and send them to: Patricia Everett, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or email them to [p.everett@mca-marines.org](mailto:p.everett@mca-marines.org). We offer \$25 or a one-year MCA&F membership for the "Sea Story of the Month." 🐾

# Conserving Wildlife

## One Base at a Time

By Don Lyman

I lived at Marine Corps Base Quantico for about five years as a kid when my dad was in the Marines. The approximately 59,000-acre military installation is located in northern Virginia, about 35 miles south of Washington, D.C. The small towns between Washington, D.C., and Quantico have grown a great deal since I lived there in the late '60s and early '70s and have become a contiguous sprawl of shopping malls, fast food restaurants, hotels, and housing developments. MCB Quantico's landscape, however, has remained virtually unchanged.

I've returned to Quantico many times as an adult, and when I leave the traffic jams of I-95 and drive through the main gate of the base, it's like stepping back in time. The same woods, fields and creeks I explored as a boy are still there, and I still find lots of snakes, lizards, frogs, turtles and other animals in the same places I used to find them 50 years ago. Despite training exercises, large numbers of troops, and the use of heavy military equipment and munitions, military bases often make great conservation areas largely because unlike civilian communities, military bases are protected from extensive de-



**Above: Col Michael Scalise, right, deputy commander of Marine Corps Installations East, Camp Lejeune, shakes hands with Representative Walter B. Jones of North Carolina, after planting Longleaf Pine seedlings at the Stone Creek Game Land on Sneads Ferry, N.C., April 30, 2018.**

**Top: A volunteer guide with the Conservation Volunteer Program paddles out into the Chopawamsic Creek to set up a duck blind for wounded warriors participating in a hunt aboard MCB Quantico in January. (Photo by Adele Uphaus-Conner)**

velopment and have restricted access.

Rob Lovich, a biologist and senior natural resource specialist for Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest, helps manage natural resource-related issues on United States Navy and Marine Corps installations. He has been

working on a survey of reptiles and amphibians at MCB Quantico over the past year. Lovich, who is based in San Diego, Calif., said that although his focus is on military bases in southwestern U.S., he and his colleagues sometimes work on bases in other parts of the country as well.



Military installations in the U.S. make good conservation areas for a variety of reasons. “Military lands are generally secure areas, with limited access and have very specific land uses,” said Lovich. “Those factors contribute to healthy wildlands and habitats for species conservation.” In addition to state laws, the military also upholds federal laws such as the Sikes Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act which protect species and habitats. “In upholding and being in compliance with those laws, the military is required to protect species and habitats while at the same time conducting its training and testing mission,” said Lovich. “This means not only providing passive protections for species and habitats, but also providing thorough and active conservation.”

For instance, the Sikes Act, originally enacted in 1960, does exactly that. Every military installation with “significant natural resources” as defined under the Sikes Act is required to complete an Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP). Each plan must be approved by the installation’s commanding officer, the state wildlife agency, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These plans are updated every several years, and the signatories gather annually to review compliance and performance in implementing the plans. “Thus, every conservation action on military lands basically has its roots in these INRMPs,” said Lovich. “These documents and the installation natural resource management programs involve every facet of required and voluntary actions.” The management programs can include regular monitoring of species and habitats, on and off-base land acquisitions to support species and habitats and partnering actions.

The 2015 to 2019 INRMP for MCB Quantico states that in part, its management actions provide for fish and wildlife management, land management, forest management, outdoor recreation management and environmental restoration. The INRMP states that nearly 88 percent of the land area of the base—about 52,000 acres—is forested and approximately 6 percent of the installation is classified as wetlands.

According to Lovich, the military did not set out to be as significant as it is in conservation. “Today, military lands have three times more threatened and endangered species per acre of any U.S. Federal landowner on a per acre basis,” said Lovich. “Basically they have the best of the last of many species and habitats,



**Above: The nesting area of Western Snowy Plover and California Least Tern at Del Mar Beach on Camp Pendleton, Calif. Inset: A California Least Tern prepares to take flight from its nesting area at Del Mar Beach on Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 19, 2017. (Photos by LCpl Brooke C. Woods, USMC)**



**Personnel with the Conservation Natural Resource section of Range Management Department, MCAS Yuma, Ariz., pose for a photo on the air station's ranges Jan. 17, 2017. The conservation staff is responsible for all areas of wildlife management and recreation on the air station's 1.2 million acres of ranges.**





**LCpl David Im, engineer equipment operator, Support Co, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, uses a medium crawler tractor to cultivate the soil in order to improve the tern breeding colony area terrain at Del Mar Beach, MCB Camp Pendleton, March 5. (Photo by Cpl Emmanuel Necoechea, USMC)**

and got there unwittingly because of the secure and protected nature of its lands.”

The Department of Defense has about 25 million acres of land, and about 415 installations with INRMPs, just in the United States, said Lovich. In contrast, the National Park Service manages 84 million acres of land according to Boston University biology professor Richard Primack in the 2014 edition of his textbook, “Essentials of Conservation Biology.” Many military bases have become de facto refuges for hundreds of federally listed threatened and endangered species, many of which have their largest populations on military bases.

Lovich considers Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach in southern California and Patuxent River Naval Air Station in Maryland to be great examples of conservation areas. These bases both also double as national wildlife refuges. “They are true examples of conservation and mission,” said Lovich.

A 2018 Department of Defense Natural Resources Program fact sheet states the number of federally listed plant and animal species on military installations is approximately 450. Threatened and endangered species such as desert tortoises, manatees and red-cockaded woodpeckers have found safe havens on military lands.

To accomplish conservation goals and comply with federal and state laws, the Department of Defense spends a lot on conservation efforts. The DOD Natural Resources Program fact sheet indicates that the Department of Defense invested nearly \$340 million in FY2017 to continue to implement long-term conservation programs on military installations.

Lovich explained that another reason military bases preserve natural habitat is to support the training mission of the troops. “Having large wildlands and open spaces for training is vital to ensuring our troops train how they fight, and accomplish their mission,” said Lovich. “In

this sense, wildland habitats are looked upon favorably by the military, and such landscapes are actually vital to the training mission.”

Of course, there are downsides to conservation on military bases as well. Many bases contain toxic waste dumps and high levels of chemical pollutants. Training exercises can have detrimental effects on the environment. “Military testing and training is not always beneficial to the environment,” said Lovich. “We drop bombs, drive tanks, and maneuver gigantic equipment. But we don’t do it every day, everywhere.” The INRMP for MCB Quantico calls for “No net loss in the



**EVE A. BAKER**

**Training may be changed or delayed due to challenges caused by animals on bases throughout the Corps. Beavers are prevalent aboard MCB Quantico and can change the landscape by felling large trees such as the one seen here.**





COURTESY OF RALEIGH ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

**The endangered dwarf wedgemussel is a small bivalve, rarely exceeding 45 mm in length, and is found on MCB Quantico, Va.**

capability of military installation lands to support the military mission of the installation.”

“The good thing about military lands is that we have enough land to accomplish our mission, and don’t need all of it all the time,” said Lovich. “There is a net benefit to our landscapes such that species generally have enough habitat that is not impacted to survive, and even thrive.” For example, the Air Force uses only about 3,000 acres of its 106,000 acre base in Avon Park, Fla., according to Primack.

Surprisingly, damage caused by military training maneuvers can benefit some organisms, said Lovich. For example, in some cases, the holes left from bombing and ordnance are vital to vernal pool species such as fairy shrimp. Vernal pools are temporary pools of water that form after spring rains and snowmelt. They provide breeding habitats for amphibians like frogs and salamanders, as well as invertebrates, like fairy shrimp and aquatic insects. The holes from explosions also fill with rainwater, and in effect, provide artificial vernal pools. “Same for our ruts from tracked vehicles,” said Lovich. He adds that buffers around firing ranges for human safety can become a virtual “no man’s land” and provide a home to at-risk species and habitats.

The Quantico INRMP states that populations of threatened and endangered species are being protected through the establishment of buffer zones around locations where they have been discovered. One threatened and one endangered plant species—the small whorled pogonia and the harperella—and the endangered freshwater dwarf wedge mussel were found on the base. Bald eagles, which were taken off the endangered species list in 2007, were also found nesting at Quantico. The INRMP states that many more common species of animals, such as red and gray foxes, coyotes, deer, beavers,

otters and wild turkeys are also found on the base.

Lovich explained that the most interesting animals he has found so far on his herpetology survey at Quantico are spotted turtles, which are rare in that area, and had not been found on the base in 24 years. Lovich also caught the first copperhead, a venomous snake species, during the survey at Quantico last spring. “It’s nice to be rewarded with significant finds,” he said.

“Most Americans wouldn’t understand that if you want to see the best of the rarest things in America, don’t go to a national park, go to a military base. That’s simply a fact.” He thinks that most people would be surprised by the overall contribution of military bases to America’s biodiversity heritage.

Access to military bases differs among and within areas on those bases and is fluid. Lovich recommends checking about access with local military installations ahead of time or checking base websites.

“Some are national wildlife preserves under USFWS, like Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, and have considerable opportunities for access,” said Lovich. “Others have nukes or high-tempo operations that are virtually prohibitive to access by the public. The wildlife doesn’t know the difference, of course.”

*Author’s bio: Don Lyman grew up in a Marine Corps family. He is a freelance science and environmental journalist, biologist and hospital pharmacist. He writes regularly for The Boston Globe and has also been published in Undark, The Christian Science Monitor, Southwest Airlines Magazine, High Country News, earthisland.org and elsewhere. He is also a regular contributor to the Living on Earth environmental radio program on National Public Radio. He can be reached at donlymannature@gmail.com.* 🐍



COURTESY OF CHRIS PETERSEN

**Chris Petersen holds spotted salamanders that were found during a recent herpetology inventory at MCB, Quantico, Va.**



COURTESY OF CHRIS PETERSEN

**Rob Lovich displays a copperhead snake found during a herpetology inventory at MCB, Quantico, Va.**



## **“Path to Better Sleep” Offers Insomnia Resources for Veterans**

A new tool, “Path to Better Sleep,” has been added to the Department of Veterans Affairs’ online Veteran Training Portal, focusing on insomnia and sleep. Sleep disorders are highly prevalent among veterans and are linked to serious health conditions like anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and suicidal thoughts.

Sleep disorders include narcolepsy, shift work disorder and sleep apnea, but the most common among veterans is insomnia.

Path to Better Sleep is a free, self-directed, online version of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia, which helps “retrain” your brain by changing sleep patterns and is the recommended standard treatment of chronic insomnia.

The site also includes a sleep disorders screening tool, Sleep Check-Up, and a sleep education tool, Sleep 101. Like all of the Veteran Training resources offered by VA, these programs are free and can be completed anonymously over a six-week period.

The course is accessible on computers and mobile devices and includes a personalized sleep diary.

To access the course, visit [www.veterantraining.va.gov/insomnia](http://www.veterantraining.va.gov/insomnia).

Department of Veterans Affairs

## **New Virtual Health Platform Equips Corpsmen, Improves Care**

“You guys are the Marines’ doctors; there’s no better in the business than a Navy corpsman.” These words, spoken by Lieutenant General Lewis B. “Chesty” Puller, still resonate today. Navy Hospital

Corpsmen have a long and decorated history of serving with the Marine Corps aboard ships and in remote locations. Between deployments, however, capable corpsmen often are relegated to more administrative type roles, such as managing medical records, transporting patients, and taking patients’ vital signs. Hospital corpsmen make up 71 percent of Navy Medicine’s uniformed assets but it is challenging for corpsmen to remain proficient in their clinical skills while serving in Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs).

During the past 18 years, the heroic sacrifices and emergency care provided by corpsmen on the battlefield have resulted in unprecedented survival rates. In future conflicts, corpsmen may need to remain in operational settings for extended periods of time because of the potential for fewer medical evacuations. It is absolutely paramount that corpsmen increase their knowledge, skills, and abilities to support clinical medicine and prolonged field care.

Fortunately, Navy Medicine is undergoing significant changes as mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act of 2017, and Navy leaders are focusing on operational care and readiness. The Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) has responded through the Connected Corpsmen in the Community (CCC) Program.

In 2017, BUMED established a CCC Work Group with experts from the Medical Corps, Nurse Corps, Medical Service Corps, and the Hospital Corps. BUMED, with a panel of 40 experts from Navy Medicine’s two regions and Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab, created the CCC platform in May 2017. It is an innovative endeavor that provides corpsmen with critical hands-on experience that increases proficiencies for deployment and supports readiness. Furthermore, CCC enables Sailors and Marines to be treated outside of the MTF in order to receive timely access to healthcare, which prevents them from being absent from mission-essential training or duties.

CCC was inspired by Navy Medicine’s Sick Call Screeners (SCS) Program, which teaches corpsmen to identify issues that require definitive care during critical shortages of trained medical providers. Similar to the SCS Program, CCC ensures corpsmen are trained in anatomy, physiology, medical diagnosis, and treatment modalities. HMs who successfully complete the didactic and practical portions of training are paired



COURTESY OF BUMED

**A corpsman examines a Marine’s foot at the Area 31 Branch Clinic, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 21. Corpsmen now have a unique opportunity to maintain their proficiency and increase their skill sets thanks to the new CCC virtual health platform.**





KELLY O'SULLIVAN

**School liaison officer Walter Parham hands out water bottles to family members during a “Back to School Bash” at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Aug. 10, 2018.**

with a Licensed Independent Practitioner (LIP) and/or a Navy Independent Duty Corpsman (IDC) to ensure they have a real-time mentor.

Presently, the LIP and IDC mentor corpsmen through the use of rugged laptops, iPads and GlobalMed® Transportable Exam Stations. This technology enables providers to discuss the corpsmen assessment and treatment plans for the active-duty servicemember at the time of care. The provider mentors multiple corpsmen at different sites from any location via an Ethernet or Wi-Fi connection. Such semi-autonomous training is critical for developing the confidence and competence of the corpsmen in a controlled environment in order to be prepared to support operational needs. This prepares them to succeed in the maritime domain and downrange where the ability to reach back for advice may be impossible or could create mission degradation. CCC is proof that BUMED’s number one priority is staying ahead of the next conflict and preparing the next generation of wartime medical providers to care for our warfighters anytime and anywhere.

CAPT Valerie J. Riege, USN

HMC Curtis L. Null, USN

HMCS Banny Lazarenchavez, USN

### **School Liaison Program Helps Children of Servicemembers Adjust When Moving**

Military life can be filled with unique challenges for children who often attend a number of different schools as they move from one duty station to another. The average child in a military family will move six to nine times during their school career.

As permanent change of station (PCS) season is in full swing, parents should be aware of the School Liaison Program, a free resource available at military installations worldwide which focuses its efforts on making transitions from one school to another easier for military children. Each state and school district has different standards of learning and trying to fit in as “the new kid” in school while adjusting to a new normal can sometimes cause a child to feel lost.

“There is that risk that our military students will fall behind,” said Julie Fulton, the school liaison officer at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. “We provide support resources and help to the parents.”

The SLP was established in 2008 as part of the Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission (MCI3), an agree-

ment among states to provide uniform treatment for military children moving to new school districts. The compact helps ensure that military kids are immediately enrolled in their new school after a move, placed in the appropriate academic program and able to graduate on time.

“The MCI3 mainly protects high school students,” Fulton said. “It makes the schools work together and allows the kids to try out for sports mid-season.”

In addition, the SLP offers families information about local school options in their new area and educational opportunities available to them, including homeschool resources.

“We’re the education advocate for the military children,” Fulton said. “We support and represent the best interests of the students and parents in the educational process.”

The school liaison officers are available to help with all K-12 education issues for public and private schools, as well as homeschool, for all branches of the military at all installations. For more information, contact the Marine Corps Community Services office on your base or station.

LCpl Karina Lopezmata, USMC



# Books Reviewed

**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS EAGLE, GLOBE AND ANCHOR EMBLEM: 1868-1963 Pictorial Guide.** By Timothy F. Klie. Published by Bender Publishing. 352 pages. \$71.96 MCA Members. \$79.95 Regular Price.

The author of this book, Tim Klie, takes the reader on a historical adventure from the first emblems in 1868 through the changes in regulations and style. It has excellent photographs in both black & white and color.

Throughout this volume are contemporary photos of various emblems in the appropriate eras. His use of period photographs of Marines, "in every clime and place" illustrates the different eagle, globe and anchor emblems.

Many Marines are not aware of the rich history and variations of the emblem which all those who serve cherish. In the early days of the emblem some of America's most famous jewelry firms including Bailey, Banks & Biddle, Tiffany & Co. and even the United States Mint were makers of the Corps' emblem.

Prior to World War I, individual jewelers had wider latitude in their designing of the eagle, globe and anchor. It was during this pre-war era that regulations were issued that more closely defined how and of what material various emblems were to be crafted.

Klie does a fine job in his detailed illustrations and comments on the various eras and changes that the emblem has transitioned.

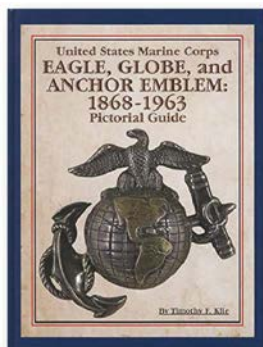
As uniform regulations changed the emblem, the physical appearance morphed as well. How does a "Pasquale" emblem differ from a "droop wing" of the 1930s? You'll know after you read this book.

What makes an enlisted man's emblem different from the officer's EGA? Why did different eras change the beloved eagle, globe and anchor? This book tells it all.

All emblems were not created equal. What was called for in 1875, changed with the uniform regulations of 1892 and again in 1922.

Klie illustrates the changes and variations of emblems designed by the makers such as N.S. Meyer, Vanguard, Officers Equipment Co., and dozens more who supplied to the Corps.

Some eagle, globe and anchor emblems



became known by the maker, others by the Marine who wore them such as the "Pete Ellis" emblem, while still others were recognizable by the country where they were made such as the WW I French emblems and those made in Australia. This volume tells it and shows it all.

The rich detail, even down to the various attachment devices through the decades are presented in a well-researched, easy to follow guide.

This volume quickly will become the standard reference work on the subject. It reads well, has wonderful design and will

be a treasure to any reference library.

There are many surprises for Marines, collectors and researchers alike. Tim Klie's book is outstanding. It says it all, job well done!

Col John A. Driscoll, USMC (Ret)

*Author's bio: Retired Marine Col John A. Driscoll wrote the first published study of the Marine Corps emblem, "Eagle, Globe and Anchor: 1868-1968."*

**SEEDS OF TERROR: How Drugs, Thugs, and Crime are Reshaping the Afghan War.** By Gretchen Peters. Published by Picador Paper. 332 pages. \$17.10 MCA Members. \$19 Regular Price.

"Seeds of Terror" pulls aside the curtain on the war in Afghanistan, looks past ideology and military strategy, and focuses on the opium trade, which enriches Taliban warlords and government officials alike. Rising from the periphery of the economy during the Soviet-Afghan War, opium's marketability paved the way for a Taliban resurgence following initial Western successes in Operation Enduring Freedom. Author Gretchen Peters illustrates the American unwillingness to recognize the role narcotics played in the conflict, and why past efforts to curtail the drug trade failed. In this light, the illusion that the War on Terror and the War on Drugs are separate conflicts melts away, and readers are left to face a horrible truth; these two seemingly separate conflicts

are one and the same, posing a newer security threat.

The book begins with an ending. Writing about the contemporary Afghan War, Peters shows how opium financed a Taliban return to power. Helmand Province alone produces so much opium that, if it were its own country, it would produce more opium than any other country on earth.

The Drug Enforcement Agency estimates that opium provides 70 percent of the Taliban's budget. Starting in the 1980s, drugs provided the Taliban financial independence. This proved essential to the group's resilience following the start of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001.

Following the presentation of today's dilemma, Peters examines the start of the poppy problem during the Soviet-Afghan War. The conflict created perfect incubator conditions for a narco crop to succeed. The lack of central government focus on drugs meant that they were often ignored by Soviet military leaders. Scorched earth tactics compelled millions of Afghans to flee the war zone, leaving land available for cultivation.

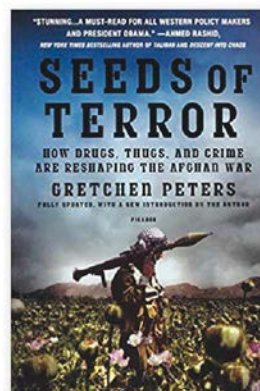
Though the land left was often unusable for the majority of crops, the poppy plant's resistance to rot, pests and drought meant it would survive when other crops would die under similar circumstances.

These factors, combined with a high market value, meant that opium flourished in the chaos surrounding the war.

Unfortunately, the U.S. military did not understand how the poppy trade benefitted the insurgency and ignored the problem as it grew. But Peters also explains that the Taliban that exists today is not the organization it was before 9/11. The group is splintered and more focused on making money than it is on launching attacks against the United States. The original leadership is now mostly dead, and the younger generation has a different set of priorities.

Although the main focus of the book deals with the Taliban, Peters recognizes that this trend of terrorist groups utilizing narcotics is far from rare.

She discusses FARC's (the Revolutionary Army of Columbia) slide into narco trafficking and uses it as a mirror to the Taliban's own descent. She points out





that organizations as diverse as the Irish Republican Army, the Tamil Tigers, and the Kurdistan Workers Party all traffic drugs.

Crime finances terrorist groups, permitting them to become more deadly, and allowing them to continue conflicts that might otherwise have ended. A study conducted by Stanford University examined 128 conflicts around the world. The 17 in which insurgents used crime to finance their operations not only lasted the longest, they lasted five times longer than the rest. Peters reported Lorenzo Vidino, author of “Al Qaeda in Europe” as stating, “Crime is now the main source of cash for Islamic radicals. They do not need to get money wired from abroad like 10 years ago. They’re generating their own as criminal gangs.”

The difference between drug smuggler and terrorist is blurred throughout the world. Peters succinctly captures the difference. “The classic drug smuggler is driven by greed. The terrorist raises money as a means to an end.”

Kevin Johnston

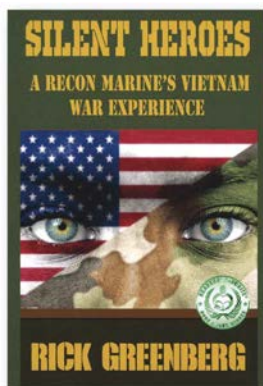
*Author’s bio: Kevin Johnston is a contractor and technical writer working for the Headquarters Marine Corps Personnel Studies and Oversight office. Prior to that, he was a Transportation Corps officer in the Army. The views expressed within this writing are his own.*

**SILENT HEROES: A Recon Marine’s Vietnam War Experience. By Rick Greenberg. Published by Rick Greenberg. 312 pages. Available on Amazon.**

Retired Gunnery Sergeant Rick Greenberg has written a wonderful novel based upon his early experiences as a young Marine during the Vietnam War. His tightly structured narrative, “Silent Heroes,” recalls his first action-packed year as a young Marine.

Private First Class Green, nicknamed “Greeny,” found himself sent to the 1st Recon Battalion. A trained radio operator, with the MOS of 2533, he questioned why he had been sent to serve in such an “elite” recon unit. Simple enough: Recon teams needed trained radio operators.

After checking in, Greeny was promptly sent to attend a Reconnaissance Indoctrination Program (RIP). This feverishly accelerated training program crammed weeks of specialized recon training into an abbreviated 10-day field training course. The training involved



map reading, rappelling from helicopters and mountain tops, combat first aid, ambush tactics, and an assortment of basic hand signals. In short, everything recon. Upon completion, Greeny checked in at his new home, “Alpha” Company, First Recon.

On Oct. 2, 1969, Greeny successfully undertook his first combat mission. Inserted by a CH-46, he followed his team leader out of the helicopter and into the unknown. Finding and following a trail, the team attacked an enemy camp. Above all, he feared letting his team down. Greeny recalled, “My fear is real, but I know what I must do. I will not let my fellow Marines down.” When the trap was sprung, he shot and killed his first enemy soldier.

He reminisced, “My thoughts have gone from running away to killing them all. The taking of human life has brought out an animal in me I didn’t know was there.”

When not on patrol, radio operators were assigned relay duty. They set up radio relay stations which enabled recon teams in the field to communicate with higher-ups in the chain of command. Because teams carry short-range field radios, relay stations were needed to help pass along vital information, i.e., daily contacts, intelligence assessments, air and artillery support, and importantly, the lifesaving ability

to call for extraction from harm’s way.

In the book, Greenberg referenced some problems facing the Marines in the late 1960s and early 1970. For only the second time in Marine history, a draft was needed to fill the ranks.

Also, there was an uptick in Marines using and abusing drugs. Perhaps the most unsettling dilemma arose when tensions between the races flared-up but Greenberg believed that many of these difficulties tended to be the most severe back in the rear between the noncombatants.

On his mission on Charlie Ridge, their extraction helicopter, a CH-46, was struck with an incoming RPG rocket as it landed. Greenberg’s description of this catastrophic event is gripping. And indeed, not for the squeamish. Two of Greenberg’s team members, including his team leader, were killed, as was the entire crew of the helicopter.

He quickly realized that the team now looked to him for direction. As the team’s new leader, Greeny’s first order was: “We do not leave anyone behind.” The following day, at dawn, a reaction team arrived to relieve the battered and dejected recon team.

After 12 months of combat duty, Cpl Greeny boarded the “freedom bird” bound for home. He had become a father while at war, and his wife and his newborn daughter eagerly greeted him upon his return. Nevertheless, in Vietnam, Greeny learned just what it took to be a Marine.

Greenberg’s powerful novel is as fascinating as it is inspiring. We anxiously await his next offering, which will focus on his life after Vietnam and his combat tour during Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Bob Loring

*Author’s bio: Readers will recognize Marine veteran “Red Bob” Loring as a frequent Leatherneck reviewer, who has had more than 100 book reviews published in the magazine.*



## DOD Identifies Marine Casualties

The Department of Defense announced today the death of three Marines who were supporting Operation Resolute Support. The following Marines died April 8 while conducting combat operations in Parwan Province, Afghanistan:

**SSgt Christopher K.A. Slutman**, 43, of Newark, Del.

**Sgt Benjamin S. Hines**, 31, of York, Pa.

**Cpl Robert A. Hendriks**, 25, of Locust Valley, N.Y.

The Marines were assigned to 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve.

"[My] condolences and prayers for the Marines and the families of the fallen," said General Robert B. Neller, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

DOD

## Two Marine Pilots Die Following Helicopter Crash

Two Marine pilots conducting routine training during the Weapons and Tactics instructor (WTI) Course hosted by Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron (MAWTS) 1 were killed as a result of an AH-1Z Viper helicopter crash aboard Marine Corps Air Station Yuma on March 30.

"It is a somber day for the entire Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command (MAGTFTC) as we mourn this tremendous loss. Our thoughts and prayers remain with their families and loved ones during this extremely difficult time," said Brigadier General Robert B. Turner Jr., Commanding General, MAGTFTC, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

**Major Matthew M. Wiegand**, 34, of Ambler, Pa., was a pilot assigned to MAWTS-1, Yuma, Ariz. Wiegand joined the Marine Corps in 2008. He held qualifications in the AH-1W Super Cobra and AH-1Z Viper. His awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with gold star in lieu of second award.

**Captain Travis W. Brannon**, 30, of Nashville, Tenn., was a pilot assigned to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 367, Marine Aircraft Group 24, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. Brannon was attending WTI Course 2-19.

"We join the families of Maj Wiegand and Capt Brannon in mourning the loss of a loved one," said Col Kelvin W. Gallman, commanding officer of MAWTS-1. "Our most valued assets are the individual Marines, and our primary focus is supporting the families during this difficult time," he added.

The cause of the crash is currently under investigation.

USMC

## World War II Marine POW Accounted for

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) recently announced that Marine Corps **Captain Lester A. Schade**, 27, of Abbotsford, Wis., killed during World War II, was accounted for on July 26, 2018.

In April 1942, Capt Schade was assigned to Company I, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment when he was captured by enemy forces and held as a prisoner of war in the Philippine Islands. On Dec. 14, 1944, more than 1,600 Allied POWs were loaded aboard a Japanese transport ship en route to Japan. The ship was attacked by U.S. carrier-based aircraft, killing a number of the POWs. Survivors were transported aboard two other ships to Formosa, present-day Taiwan, where they were loaded onto another ship, *Enoura Maru*, which was also attacked by U.S. aircraft.

According to records, Schade was aboard the *Enoura Maru* when it was attacked Jan. 9, 1945, and was listed as missing, presumed dead.

While survivors of the *Enoura Maru* bombing reported that the bodies of the men killed on the ship were cremated by the Japanese and buried at Takao Harbor, historical evidence indicates that not all the remains were cremated. One survivor stated that the Japanese suspended the cremation prior to completion.

The American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) recovered remains from graves and a cemetery around Takao in

May and June 1946. The remains, which could not be identified, were interred in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu, Hawaii, including one set, designated Formosa-X546A.

On Oct. 31, 2017, following thorough historical research and analysis by DPAA historians, X546A was disinterred from the Punchbowl for analysis and later confirmed to be the remains of Capt Schade.

To identify Schade's remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis, as well as historical and material evidence.

DPAA

**Ralph W. "Bill" Barlow**, 89, of Deland, Fla. He was a Marine who served in the Korean War. His awards include two Purple Hearts.

**Thomas E. Bell**, 73, of Green Bay, Wis. He served in the Marine Corps from 1963-1967 and completed two tours in Vietnam.

**Daniel T. Berkery**, 75, of Cape Coral, Fla. He was a Marine who served in Vietnam.

**Donald J. Blahnik**, 79, of Winter Haven, Fla. He served in the Marine Corps and later had a career with the DMV in Wisconsin.

**Eugene J. Blanke**, 97, of River Ridge, La. During WW II he fought in the Pacific. He was wounded during the Battle of Tarawa. His awards include the Purple Heart. After the war, he had a career in music education and as a musician.

**Scott Breitrick**, 59, of Green Bay, Wis. He enlisted in the Marine Corps after his 1978 graduation from high school and served until 1982.

**Gordon T. Bridger**, 72, of Albuquerque, N.M. He was a corpsman assigned to the Marine Corps in Vietnam during the 1968 Tet Offensive.

**Cpl H.G. "Sonny" Burt**, 75, of Montgomery, Ala. He was an aviation structures mechanic whose duty stations included MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.; MCAS Iwakuni, Japan; and Chu Lai, Vietnam.

**Sgt Richard Cardone**, 72, of North Smithfield, R.I. He was assigned to 3rd Recon Bn during the Vietnam War. His awards include the Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V." He had a career in law enforcement, and later opened a private investigation firm.

**John H. Consorti**, 88, of Ossining, N.Y. He was a Korean War veteran who



served from 1951-1954 and again from 1957-1960. His awards include the Purple Heart. He later had a career with the U.S. Postal Service, and for more than four decades, he was an umpire for high school and college baseball games.

**Cpl Ira L. "Bud" Earle III**, 79, of Rutland, Vt. He enlisted in the Marine Corps after his 1957 graduation from high school. He later worked as a firefighter and eventually became the emergency management director for the city of Rutland.

**CWO-4 Edward H. Horney**, 94, of Milford, Del. He enlisted in the Marine Corps after his 1943 graduation from high school. He served in the South Pacific and saw action on Guam and Iwo Jima. After the war, he attended college and earned a bachelor's degree in education. He was recalled to active duty during the Korean War.

**Sgt Charles E. Hurt**, 75, of Peoria, Ill. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1962 and was an aviation ordnance specialist. His service included assignments to MCAS Iwakuni and a tour in Vietnam. He later had a career as a police officer, serving as a patrolman and a firearms instructor.

**Gerald D. Lentz**, 91, of Redford Township, Mich. Along with his twin

brother, he enlisted in the Marine Corps during WW II. He graduated from boot camp at MCRD Parris Island and was a seagoing Marine and served aboard USS *H.T. Mayo* (AP-125).

**Austin W. Lincoln**, 92, of Newcastle, Maine. He was a Navy Seabee who saw action with the Marines on Iwo Jima.

**Ned R. Locke**, 69, of New Bern, N.C. He was a mortarman who served in the Vietnam War. His awards include the Purple Heart.

**Charles M. Matlock**, 70, of Osteen, Fla. He was a Marine who served in Vietnam.

**Pvt John R. Midgley**, 96, of Spring Arbor, Mich. During WW II he was assigned to Co B, 4th Engineer Bn, 4thMarDiv. He saw action on Kwajalein and Saipan, where he was wounded. His awards include the Purple Heart.

After the war, he had a 30-year career in automotive sales. He was a member of the Masons, a volunteer firefighter and a Cub Scout leader.

**Don J. Mooney**, 89, of Toledo, Ohio. He was a Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War. His awards include the Purple Heart. He was a longtime member of the MCA&F.

**TSgt Harry K. Peterson**, 87, of Russellville, Ark. His 20 years in the

Marine Corps included service during the Korean War, where he fought at the Chosin Reservoir. He also was a veteran of the Vietnam War.

**Charles W. Polston**, 87, of Kokomo, Ind. He was an Eagle Scout who enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1950. His three years of service included the Korean War.

**Maj John R. Shea**, 99, of Myrtle Beach, S.C. He enlisted in the Marine Corps during WW II and later was commissioned.

**Cpl Nathaniel Slone Jr.**, 86, of Cannonsburg, Ky. He was a Marine who served during the Korean War. His awards include the Purple Heart.

**Victor L. Stemple**, 81, of Clarksburg, W.Va. His 20 years in the Marine Corps included a tour in Vietnam.

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](mailto:leatherneck@mca-marines.org) or [n.lichtman@mca-marines.org](mailto:n.lichtman@mca-marines.org). 🐾



Return to I-Corps VN, August 28 – Sep 9

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### AUG 4- 12

WWII- Morocco  
Patton and Op Torch

### AUG 11- 20

75th Anniversary Op Dragoon  
D-Day - Southern France

### AUG 28- SEP 9

50th Anniversary of the  
VN War – 1969 I-Corps

### SEP 7- 15

Evolution of the Western  
Front- WWI 1914-1918

### SEP 10- 22

50th Anniversary of the VN  
War- 1969 I-Corps

### SEP 12- 19

75th Anniversary of the  
Liberation of Peleliu

### SEP 17- OCT 1

Ireland WWII U.S. Marines  
Dublin-Belfast-Derry

### OCT 3- 13

China "Three Jewels"  
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### NOV 2- 13

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MCRD? No. They both snapped a great salute which I returned. They welcomed me to MCRD and said "Semper Fi."

Lieutenant Colonel Covert is way out of line. He needs to re-examine his Marine Corps values. God, country and Corps.

SSgt Robert D. Minton  
USMC, 1974-1990  
Boulevard, Calif.

### **A Call to Return to Monthly Book Reviews in *Leatherneck* Magazine**

The finest examples of America's heritage to fight for its freedom and democracy, as well as that of its Allies, are found on the printed pages of our military histories. Yet, despite the increasing plethora of annual war literature based upon newly discovered hero biographies and forgotten battle subjects, all meticulously researched and brilliantly narrated, *Leatherneck* magazine has reduced its monthly Books Reviewed section to bi-monthly publication.

Instead of its usual 40 to 45 titles in 36 columns, this current 2019 year will feature at best, 18 columns featuring 20 to 24 new books. Sad. So many acts of heroism, selfless service, inspiring valor,

bravery, gallantry, intrepidity, and loyalty will never be introduced, and thus read, by our faithful *Leatherneck* readers, whether enthusiastic buff, serviceman, junior official, or professional, in search of hitherto unknown or long-forgotten role models. Instead of continuing to help maintain our nonpareil military heritage, *Leatherneck* innocently and unknowingly assists in its vanishing.

This plea is made in good faith by a 35-year volunteer book reviewer (Veterans Press and *Leatherneck*) who has never once penned a critical, negative analysis unless the writer's military facts were erroneous. My intent has always been to announce, recommend, and beg readers to read and weigh for edification, satisfaction, and enjoyment. Case in point, no pun intended, is Casemate Publishing, the acknowledged leading distributor of the best researched war books in the world.

With more than 50 military publishers throughout the world offering collectively several thousand titles to select from, one's appetite literally grows upon what it feeds. Hence, the broken heart of a reviewer who wants to read them all, announce them all, and present why each is worth reading.

In short, just when military titles are flourishing unlike any time in American

history, *Leatherneck* magazine is cutting its reviews by half. We read war books not only because we want to know, but also because we desire to feel the emotions of fighting, surviving, losing, and winning, then sharing those thoughts and feelings. The sacrifices paid will never die in our thoughts as long as they are remembered. We thank the new generations of war researchers and war writers who also won't let us forget.

*Leatherneck*, give us back our space for monthly reviews.

Don DeNevi  
Pebble Beach, Calif.

• *The decision to reduce the Books Reviewed section of Leatherneck was not made lightly. It would have been very easy to simply eliminate the column completely, especially since our analytics consistently show its one of the least popular departments and book sales (we carry every book reviewed in The MARINE Shop online) have dropped precipitously. We have eliminated other long-running departments for similar reasons during my tenure as editor; I love history and tradition but also want to ensure the magazine remains interesting, relevant, and informative to our readers. Running Books Reviewed bi-monthly is*



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# SOUND OFF!

Whether you want to share your sea stories, reconnect with buddies, or let us know what is going on in your Marine community, you can use *Leatherneck's* "Reader Input" section on our website at [www.mca-marines.org/magazines/leatherneck](http://www.mca-marines.org/magazines/leatherneck).

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*a good compromise going forward and we'll reassess the decision in the near future.—Editor*

### Dog Tags, Legit or a Scam?

During a trip back to Vietnam I came upon a fellow selling souvenirs alongside the road near Khe Sanh and noticed a dog tag bearing a USMC serial number of the same era as my own. Hoping to return it to the Marine or his family, I purchased it, but lost it before getting back to the states.

Yesterday it reappeared, having been stuck between fabric layers of my suitcase.

Is it possible to locate this fellow Marine and return his ID? Or did I fall victim to a scam pulled on tourists?

Rusty Sachs  
Norwich, Vt.



RUSTY SACHS

**Rusty Sachs came across this dog tag on a trip to Vietnam and is looking to return it to its owner or family member.**

### Reader Enjoys Sea Stories

Thank you, Patricia Everett, for your work to keep the Sea Stories active with great input.

We especially liked the Coming Home Humor from Sgt Edward Heyward in the March *Leatherneck*. The clerks must have been working overtime. We got our own copy of the "Return for Rehabilitation" letter when we got our orders to return to CONUS in September 1966. It is great to know that humor continued well into the war.

Thank you, Sgt Heyward, for sharing the "return" letter.

Something else we received from our clerk was the following poem. He was angered by the protests back home and he wanted us to send the poem on to our friends and family which we did.

#### Who is He?

You sit at home and watch TV.  
You're sipping refreshing  
cold iced tea.  
The news comes on and then  
you hear,  
The All-Star Game is drawing near.

Then you see a far-off land,  
Where men are dying on the sand.  
A frown appears across your face,

You're tired of hearing about  
that place.

Who cares about Vietnam across  
the sea?  
It's far away and doesn't concern me.  
You'd rather hear the Beatles play,  
Than hear about the world today.

But stop and think for a moment  
or two,  
And ask yourself, "Does this  
concern you?"  
It's great to be alive and free,  
But what about the guy across  
the sea?

He's giving up his life for me,  
So that I can live under liberty.  
He's far away fighting a war,  
Instead of fighting at my front door.

This guy who lives in filth and slime,  
How can he do it all the time?  
He's about my age so why should  
he care,  
About a war someone else should  
share.

You call him vile names,  
And make fun of his cause,  
You lucky guy, you laugh and sneer,



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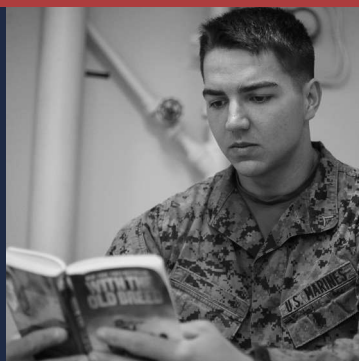
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COURTESY OF KENNETH R. BATCHER

The main gate at Camp Napunja, Okinawa, Japan, shows the shield with the lightning bolt representing the 9th Marine Regiment.

Because you've never really known fear.

This young man faces death each day,  
But he always has something funny to say.  
No mail again? A twinge of sorrow.  
Oh, what the hell—there's always tomorrow.

The morale is low, the tension is high.  
Some even break down and cry.  
He wants to go home,  
And see a loved one.

He works all day and stands guard all night.  
He's tired and sick but he continues to fight.  
The college crowd thinks he's a fool,  
But that's what makes him hard and cruel.

You don't appreciate what he'll do,  
Like giving up his life for you.  
He sacrifices much yet asks nothing in return,  
Just so you can stay in school and learn.

He believes in freedom and the American way of life.  
No parties or dances for this young man, until he comes back again.  
The days are hot and the nights are too,

What wonders a cold can of beer can do.

He thinks of cold beer and a thick juicy steak,  
When someone shouts, "we've got a hill to take."  
Some will be heroes because they are brave,  
And others will get a wreath on their grave.

You'll recognize him as he walks by.  
There's a saddened look in his eye.  
He walks proud yet looks so mean,  
He's called the "world's greatest fighting machine."  
He's a United States Marine.

Anonymous

Thank you again for helping us stay faithful.

Sgt Tom Isenburg  
Livermore, Calif.

### Camp Hansen Story Was Spot On, Mosquitos and All

The story, "Before There Was Camp Hansen," in the April issue of *Leatherneck* brought back many memories. In early 1955, my troop ship arrived in Kobe and I was then taken to Camp Sakai where H&S Company, 9th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division was located. I was assigned as a wireman. In May or June, our unit and others of the division boarded ships for a five-day journey to Okinawa

where we made a practice landing and then moved directly to our new quarters at Camp Napunja, a former Army base. It was in a sorry state of disrepair but we did have running water. I remember very well the mosquitos mentioned in the story. We had no mosquito nets for about a week, and each morning my sheets were peppered with blood dots where I had rolled over and squashed mosquitos full of my blood.

We worked hard to restore the telephone system and soon had it functional again. It also included lines to all the other military bases on the island.

I think my annual M1 rifle qualification was performed at Camp Easley. At that time, we fired from 200, 300, and 500 yards. I loved that rifle.

Kenneth R. Batcher  
USMC, 1954-1957  
Paducah, Ky.

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 🍷





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## Reunions

• **1stMarDiv Assn. (all eras)**, Aug. 3-12, Louisville, Ky. Contact June Cormier, P.O. Box 9000, Box #902, Oceanside, CA 92051, (760) 763-3267, june.oldbreed@fmda.us.

• **3rdMarDiv Assn. (all eras)**, Sept. 17-22, Branson, Mo. Contact Roger Bacon, (215) 822-9094, rogerbacon45@yahoo.com.

• **5thMarDiv Assn. (Vietnam-era Marines who served in 13th, 26th 27th, 28th Marines welcome to join Iwo Jima survivors)**, Oct. 21-27, New Orleans, La. Contact Jimmie Hyde Watson, (504) 481-5028, gypsie\_lotus@yahoo.com.

• **USMC Combat Correspondents Assn.**, Aug. 20-23, Atlanta, Ga. Contact Kate Stark, (352) 448-9167, kate@usmccca.org.

• **USMC Vietnam Tankers Assn.**, Oct. 31-Nov. 4, Seattle, Wash. Contact John Wear, (719) 495-5998, johnwear2@verizon.net.

• **Marine Corps Engineer Assn.**, Sept. 12-14, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Maj Charlie Dismore, USMC (Ret), (512) 394-9333, www.marcorengasn.org.

• **USMC Motor Transport Assn.**, Sept. 15-19, Lake George, N.Y. Contact Gary Cook, secretary@usmcmta.org.

• **West Coast Drill Instructor Assn. (SgtMaj Leland D. "Crow" Crawford Chapter)**, Aug. 1-4, San Diego, Calif. Contact Gregg Stoner, (619) 884-9047, greggstoner22@aol.com, or CWO-3 Chip Dykes, USMC (Ret), (760) 908-2322, www.westcoastdi.org.

• **Men of Chosin (all Marines welcome)**, June 16-18, Reno, Nev. Contact Stan Galewick, 5091 Dapple Grey Dr., Redding, CA 96002, (530) 221-1496.

• **Montford Point Marine Association, Inc.** (open to all veterans and supporters from all branches of the Armed Forces), Aug. 28-31, Charlotte, N.C. Contact MGySgt Ron Johnson, USMC (Ret), (504) 202-8552.

• **1st MAW Assn. Vietnam Veterans**, June 13-16, Crystal City, Va. Contact Frank "PACO" Arce, frankpaco69@aol.com, or Al Frater, teanal@optonline.net.

• **Black Marines Heritage Group**, June 20-23, Alexandria, Va. Contact Bernard Colebrook, (540) 720-2633, Bobby Wallace, (352) 259-2435, or Patricia Mims, (760) 717-2949, www.blackmarinereunion.com.

• **26th Marines Assn. (all eras)**, Aug.

23-25, New Orleans, La. Contact Sonny Hollub, (512) 825-4730, sonnyusmc@gmail.com.

• **Marine Corps Recruiting Service** (all who served in a recruiting command, officer or enlisted), Sept. 11-15, Bluffton, S.C. Contact Larry Risvold, (803) 760-4575, larryrisvold@att.net, http://marinecorpsscruitingsserviceunio.com.

• **Marine Corps Data Processors**, Sept. 22-25, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact John Marslender, (801) 598-5371, johnanddolly@centurylink.net.

• **USMC Postal 0160/0161**, Sept. 29-Oct. 4, Norfolk, Va. Contact MSgt Robert I. Brown, USMC (Ret), (910) 358-7752, cbrown11@ec.rr.com.

• **Marine Barracks Fort Meade (NSA)**, Sept. 19-22, Valley Forge, Pa. Contact Bob Pepin, (508) 831-5575, rpepin@wpi.edu.

• **1/1 (RVN, 1965-1971)**, Oct. 23-26, San Diego, Calif. Contact Bill Kendle, (651) 248-3914, bkendle@comcast.net.

• **1/3 (all eras)**, Sept. 17-22, Branson, Mo. Contact Don Bumgarner, (562) 897-2437, dbumc13usmc@verizon.net.

• **1/5 (1986-1992)**, Sept. 5-8, Macomb, Ill. Contact Scott Hainline, (309) 351-2050, ptimfi@yahoo.com, Facebook: 1/5 USMC 1986-1992.

• **1/7 (1984-1988)**, October 2019, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact Maj Bill Pedrick, USMC (Ret), bill.pedrick@gmail.com, or SgtMaj Dave Jones, USMC (Ret), drjonessgtmaj@gmail.com.

• **"Stormy's" 3/3**, Oct. 20, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Burrell Landes, (303) 734-1458, bhanon@comcast.net.

• **3/4 (all eras)**, Aug. 21-25, Virginia Beach/Norfolk, Va. Contact Travis Fryzowicz, (732) 251-5518, travisjfry@gmail.com.

• **3/26 (RVN)**, Nov. 10-17, Eastern Caribbean Cruise from Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Contact James Sigman, (850) 528-3854, www.funseas.com/26marine.

• **H/2/7 (RVN, 1965-1970)**, June 20-24, San Diego, Calif. Contact Dan Steiner, (618) 567-4077, dsteiner49@yahoo.com.

• **K/3/7 (all eras)**, Sept. 12-16, Nashville, Tenn. Contact Bill Gerke, (631) 433-8575, msggerke@aol.com.

• **3rd 155s, M/4/12, 3rdMarDiv**, Sept. 8-12, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact SgtMaj Gordon Niska, USMC (Ret), (770) 856-1542, sniska@windstream.net.

• **Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan, Task Force Leatherneck (2009-2010)**, May 1-3, 2020, Quantico,

Va. Contact reunion committee, taskforce leatherneck@gmail.com.

• **USMC Launch and Recovery Unit (25th anniversary reunion)**, Sept. 23-28, Branson, Mo. Contact "Alty" Althouse, (760) 741-7629, califyayhoo@sbcglobal.net.

• **Marine Corps Security Forces, Naval Weapons Station Earle**, Sept. 20-23, Colts Neck, N.J. Contact Dusty Wright, (618) 553-2205, slickstuff@nwcable.net.

• **Tri-State Marine Corps League, Detachment #494 (40th annual reunion)**, Aug. 17, Youngstown, Ohio. Contact Chester Kaschak, (330) 533-6084, or Ed Levisieur, (330) 720-4513.

• **38th/39th OCC, TBS 3-66/4-66**, Oct. 7-11, Newport, R.I. Contact Jack Sheehan, (401) 255-0387, jacksheehanjtwn@me.com, www.usmc-thebasicschool-1966.com.

• **TBS 4-67**, Oct. 9-12, San Diego, Calif. Contact Ken Pouch, (860) 881-6819, kpouch5@gmail.com.

• **TBS 3-68**, Sept. 19-22, Quantico, Va. Contact Norm Hapke, 9949 Halo Circle, La Mesa, CA 91941, (619) 249-2281, nhapke@cox.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 H, 8-69 (50th Anniversary)**, June 6-9, Arlington, Va. Contact Dennis Mroczkowski, m4ski@comcast.net, or Thomas Molon, ncmolons@suddenlink.net, www.facebook.com/basicschoolhotelcompany69.

• **Plt 331, Parris Island, 1959**, September 2019, Beaufort, S.C. Contact R.W. Wood, (205) 903-7220, bwood9@bellsouth.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.

• **Distinguished Flying Cross Society**, Sept. 15-19, Dayton, Ohio. Contact Warren Eastman, (760) 985-2810, weastman@dfcsociety.org.

• **Marine Air Base Squadrons-49**, Sept. 7, Earlville, Md. Contact Col Chuck McGarigle, USMC (Ret), (609) 291-9617, (609) 284-2935, mabsreunion@comcast.net.



• **VMO/VMA/VMF/VMFA-251 (all eras)**, Nov. 7-10, Charleston, S.C. Contact Steven Dixon, (404) 944-1268, frenchy@vmfa251.org.

### Ships and Others

• **USS Canberra (CA-70/CAG-2)**, Oct. 9-13, Deerfield, Ill. Contact Ken Minick, 2115 Pride Ave., Belpre, OH 45714, (740) 423-8976, usscanberra@gmail.com.

• **USS Hornet (CVS-12) and Apollo Program 50th anniversary**, July 18-22, Oakland, Calif. Contact Sandy Burket, P.O. Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673, (814) 224-5063, hornetcva@aol.com.

• **USS Wasp (CVS-18) Marine Detachment (1960-1970)**, Sept. 22-25, Niagara Falls, N.Y. Contact Joseph Looker, jsplooker@aol.com.

### Mail Call

• John Fellows, e.hamson@comcast.net, to hear from or about **GySgt Pete HARRIS**, who was stationed at **MCAS El Toro, Calif.**, as the admin chief for **VMA(AW)-242**.

• Norm Doubrava, (361) 318-4165, to hear from **SSgt BRUCKWAY**, who served with **A/1/7, Okinawa, 1960**.

• Anthony Burkett, W8368 State Road 33, Portage, WI 53901, (608) 745-2036, asburkett7584@gmail.com, to hear from

**WO Edward GREEN**, who was assigned to **MAG-13 Group Supply, MCAS El Toro, Calif., 1975**. He also would like to hear from **Capt POLDERDIK**, who was assigned to **MAG-36 Group Supply, Okinawa, 1975**; as well as **MSgt C.B. HARRIS**, who was assigned to **Recruiting Station Kansas City, Mo., 1976**.

• Bob Brooks, 1230 N. Bippy Ln., Eagle, ID 83616, (208) 384-9508, bob.brooks@advantek.com, to hear from anyone who served with his father, **Ted BROOKS**, who was a member of **Plt 262, Parris Island, 1958**, and was stationed at **Camp McTureous, Okinawa, Japan, between 1958 and 1962**.

• SSgt Frank, frank.ctzcc@yahoo.com, to hear from or about **Marines who witnessed an explosive booby trap and medevac incident on Jan. 20, 1970**, at **Hill 119, Quang Nam, RVN**, which injured several members of **HQ Co, "Bravo" Co and "Delta" Co, 1st Recon Bn**, including the battalion CO.

### Wanted

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

• Stephen Orr, 732 SW 153rd St., Oklahoma City, OK 73170, (405) 863-

0555, stephenorr111@aol.com, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 353, San Diego, 1967**.

• Izzy Gonzalez, 22324 Ensenada Way, Boca Raton, FL 33433, ishcontact@gmail.com, wants a **platoon photo for Plt 3062, Parris Island, 1987**.

### Sales, Trades and Giveaways

• Carl Withey, (315) 689-3653, crwithey@twcnny.rr.com, has **recruit graduation books for Plt 142, Parris Island, 1976; Plt 386, Parris Island, 1957; Plt 1970, Parris Island, 1970; and Plt 3313, Parris Island, 1977**, that he will give to anyone who is able to verify they were a member of the platoon.

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



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# Saved Round

By Nancy S. Lichtman



SGT LOU LOWERY, USMC

**NOT YOUR AVERAGE MILK RUN**—Marine Corps aviation played a critical role in supporting the Marines fighting on the islands of the South Pacific, bringing in much-needed supplies and evacuating wounded men.

During the Battle of Saipan, on D+5, a Curtiss R5C Commando loaded with supplies landed at Isely Field, the island's southernmost airstrip. It was the first U.S. transport aircraft to land on the island after the battle began. "The Flying Elephant" of Marine Utility Squadron 252 was piloted by the squadron's commander, Colonel Neil Ross MacIntyre. Other crewmembers included Captain Stewart Engebretson, copilot; Master Technical Sergeant William S. Edler, navigator; MTSgt Earl W. Forsythe, radioman; and Richard Millard, crew chief.

When MacIntyre and his crew were approaching their destination, Japanese forces on nearby Tinian saw the Commando in the sky and flashed a green signal light from their airfield

indicating that the aircraft was cleared to land. "Col MacIntyre ignored this polite invitation to land on Tinian," wrote *Leatherneck* reporter, Sgt Frank X. Tolbert, in the October 1944 issue of the magazine. "He made one of the shortest approaches on record for a big transport and then landed the ship as if it were a fighter plane," Tolbert continued.

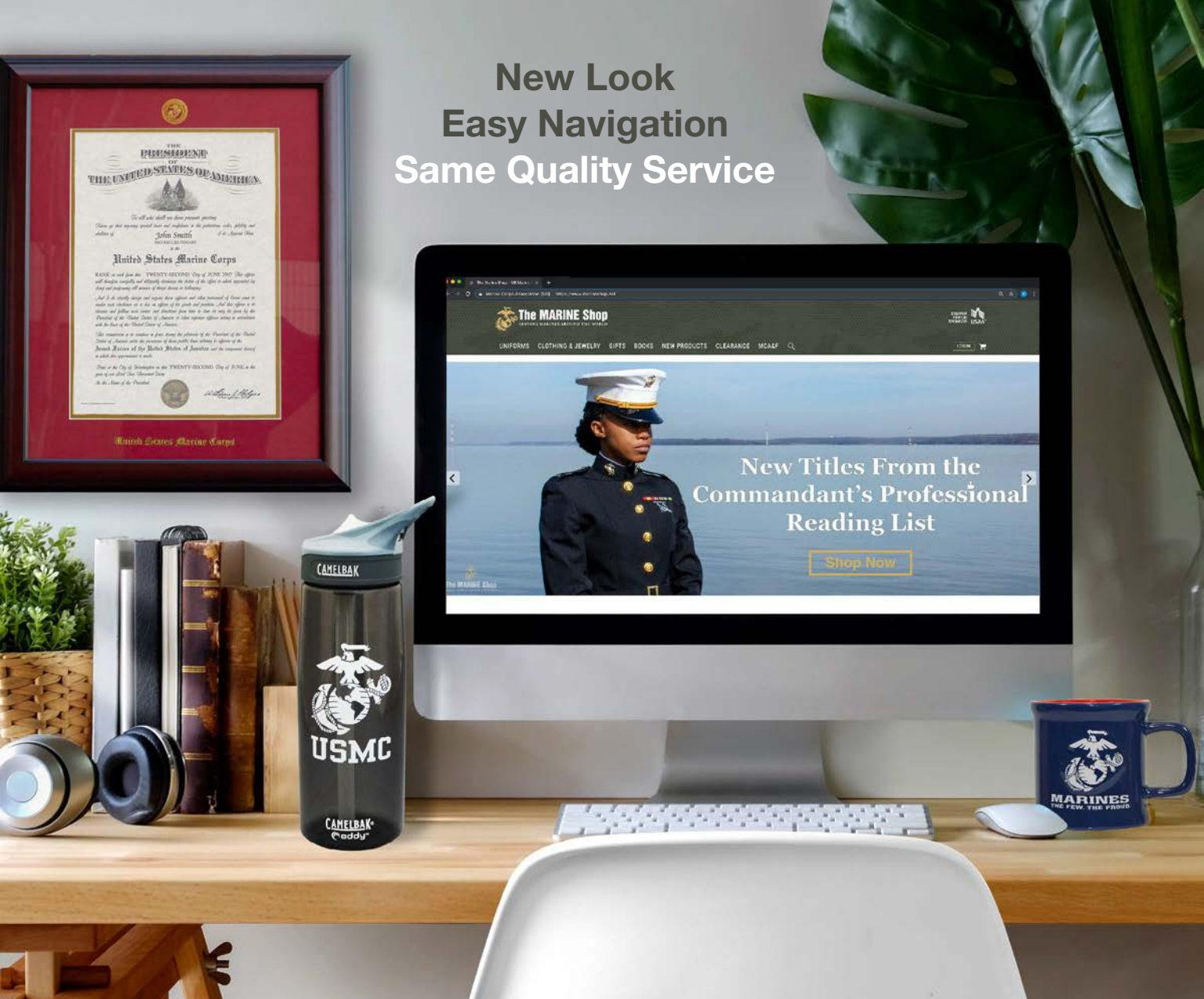
MacIntyre and his crew spent a night on Saipan. "Every foxhole around the airstrip was occupied. The crew of The Flying Elephant decided to sleep in the plane. What with air raids and artillery and snipers prowling about they didn't get much sleep," according to Tolbert. The aircraft took off the following day carrying Marines who had been wounded during the battle.

Read more about the battle of Saipan in the article "Operation Tearaway: The 4th Tank Battalion D-Day Assault on Saipan," on page 44.





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