

MAY 2022

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LEATHERNECK

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES



Historic First: Corps Activates Marine Littoral Regiment



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COVER: Marines with 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment, 3rdMarDiv march during the redesignation ceremony of 3rd Marines to 3rd MLR aboard MCB Hawaii, March 3. The regiment's transition is in accordance with Force Design 2030 and is one of the first major steps as the Marine Corps divests legacy capabilities and builds a force that is optimized for operations envisioned within the Commandant's Planning Guidance. Photo by Cpl Patrick King, USMC. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.

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Sound Off

Compiled by Patricia Everett

Letter of the Month

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

David Epps' Letter of the Month in the February issue brought back a deeply meaningful moment to me from the mid-1990s. I had graduated from MCRD San Diego, Calif., in early March 1960 but had not been back to "The Depot" since then.

My dear wife, Shirley, and I were spending a few days with her youngest daughter, Molly, who then lived in Solana Beach. On Friday they were going to spend the day together shopping. They asked me what I was going to do that day and I told them I thought I would go to MCRD San Diego and see if I could get aboard the depot.

As I drove up to the gate the military police officer, a young female Marine lance corporal, approached the driver's side window of my car. She looked sharp and squared away. She said, "May I help

you, Sir?" I replied, "Ma'am, I graduated from here in March of 1960 and I would like to take a look around the depot if that's possible." She said, "Just a moment, Sir," and turned and walked back to the guard shack.

She returned in less than a minute, reached inside the open driver's door window and affixed a day pass on the inside of my windshield. She stepped back and said, "I assume you know to stay out of the recruit areas." I said, "Yes, Ma'am, I do." She then gave me the sharpest salute I had seen in many years. She held that salute until I returned it from my position behind the steering wheel. I said, "Ma'am, I don't rate that salute. I never got past lance corporal either." She smiled and reached through the window with an open hand and shook my hand. She had one hell of a Marine Corps handshake. She smiled and said, "Welcome home, Sir. After all, we're all family."

As I drove onto the base, wiping an involuntary tear or two from my cheeks, the immortal words of Leon Uris from his

Marine Corps novel, "Battle Cry" came to mind. The protagonist in the novel, Danny Forester, came through that same gate in the 1940s in the van that had brought him from the train station in San Diego and the narrator of Uris's great novel, a master sergeant named "Mac" said, "And the gates of Mercy closed behind them."

I spent several hours aboard MCRD San Diego that day, and the truth of that young lance corporal's words hit me like a sledgehammer. The bottom-line truth is we Marines are indeed a wonderful, deeply committed family. Committed to the goal of becoming United States Marines and if successful in that endeavor, serving our country and the Marine Corps well and upholding the values and traditions of our Corps whenever we served. Those Marine Corps family bonds can never be broken.

In all my 80-plus years, 18 of which were served as a Superior Court Judge in Ventura County, Calif., until my retirement almost 11 years ago, I cannot remember a greeting that has been more meaningful to me than the one I received



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that day from that young female Marine lance corporal. It's what makes our Marine Corps so very different and such a special place to live, even at age 80.

LtCpl David W. Long
USMCR, 1958-1966
Ventura, Calif.

Leatherneck Author

Maj Allan Bevilacqua Remembered

Rest in Peace, Major Allan C. Bevilacqua. I never met you in person, but I read many of your articles. It takes a mighty man to wield both a mighty pen and a mighty sword.

Semper Fi, Brother.

Sgt Joe Doyle
USMC, 1964-1970
Scottsburg, Va.

Hue City Article Raised Questions

In the February issue you featured the story, "Hue." Did any single battlefield action by Marines result in so many general officers later in their careers? My connection to the battle was serving with then-Capt Michael Downs for two weeks after 2/5 suffered several officer casualties including then-Capt George "Ron" Christmas. Afterward I returned to my platoon leader role with "Echo" Co, 2/5 as the company didn't go to Hue City.

Capt Doug Caldwell
USMC, 1965-1979
Plano, Texas

I am a Hue City Marine veteran. I participated in the battle as a tank crewman from Feb. 4 until Feb. 15 after which our

small 3rd Marine Division tank unit was pulled out of the fight when 1st Marine Division was finally able to deploy a platoon of their tanks into their own tactical area of responsibility.

Reading Sgt Paul Thompson's account [February Sound Off] was painful in that, like another combat correspondent, Dale Dye, Sgt Thompson did not seem to have a very firm grasp of the intensity of the month-long battle. He had the temerity to call one extremely deadly incident, "... [it] can best be described as a company-sized scrap." A scrap? How about an insanely intense and bloody battle for the very existence of the U.S. Marines?

Perhaps Sgt Thompson originally submitted his story in a far different light and his superiors changed the tone to lessen the horrors of battle. Whatever the situation, I am of a firm belief that Sgt Thompson's story will not go into the annals of great American literature just like Dale Dye's inaccurate novel, "Run Between the Rain Drops."

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

• *Our decision to publish Sgt Thompson's story from the Leatherneck archives was meant to be a tribute to the Marines who fought so valiantly in one of the Corps' most iconic battles. I believe Sgt Thompson's phrase, "company-sized scrap," was intended to be tongue in cheek vice an intentional trivialization of the scope of that element of the battle. Thompson has been a frequent contributor*



COURTESY OF CAPT DOUG CALDWELL





COURTESY OF CAPT DOUG CALDWELL




Several leaders of 2/5 during the battle of Hue in Vietnam later served as general officers. LtGen Ernie Cheatham, left, was the CO, 2/5 in 1968 and BGen Michael Downs, right, commanded Co F. The Co H commander was Capt Ron Christmas who later retired as a lieutenant general.



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to *Leatherneck* for decades and has consistently done an outstanding job in chronicling various aspects of the Marines' fight in Vietnam.—Editor

The article on Hue in the February *Leatherneck* was very good. The author stated 1st Battalion, 1st Marines came in a few days after 2/5. Not so. He failed to mention that Co A, 1/1 under Capt Batcheller crossed the An Cuu Bridge on the southern edge of Hue on Jan. 31, 1968, under fire by the NVA. They were just north of the bridge on Highway 1 heading north toward the Esco gas station and the traffic circle south of the Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) compound on orders to get to the MCAV compound. They received a large amount of NVA fire, and some Marines were killed including Mike Fitzgerald from Dubuque, Iowa, one of my classmates. I believe A/1/1 was in Hue prior to 2/5.

CWO-4 David Schiel, USMC (Ret)
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Small World, Small Marine Corps

In the January *Leatherneck* [Sound Off] there was a letter from Sgt Mike Skorich entitled "November Article Had Me Reaching for My Yearbook." Sgt Skorich had served in Co G, 2/2 in 1965

and deployed with BLT 2/2 that year. He ended with the statement, "Small world and small Marine Corps." How true. I also served in Co G, 2/2 but from 1975 to 1976 and went on a Med cruise 11 years after Sgt Skorich with BLT 2/2.

Thank you, *Leatherneck* and Semper Fidelis, Sgt Skorich.

Cpl Dan Murray
USMC, 1974-1977
San Diego, Calif.

Readers Respond to Letter About Boot Camp Experience

After reading Sgt Todd A. Kline's letter in the March issue of *Leatherneck*, I want to recount my own experience as a Jewish recruit at Parris Island. When I enlisted in October 1966, my father was concerned about what would happen to me because I'm Jewish.

I took him down to meet the recruiting sergeant in Coral Gables, Fla. After respectfully listening to my father's concerns, the sergeant put his arm around my father's shoulders and said, "Sir, once they have their heads shaved, they're all the same."

In February 1967, the day we formed and went to our barracks, we were all lined up at attention in front of our racks. Sweating in our fully buttoned utilities

with our covers pulled low to cover our eyebrows, the DI walked in, looked over the squad bay and yelled, "Where's my Jewish recruit?" I was the only one. A week or so later he made me the "house mouse" for our DI's hut. He also called me, "Little David" throughout boot camp. On Sundays he would have me march myself to what he called Jewish church. Now it's funny, but then I was worried about being singled out for the rest of boot camp and my future time in the Corps. It didn't happen.

Yes, I was kicked and punched but no more than any other member of our platoon although at times I wondered what I had done. The rest of my time in the Corps I never was subjected to any anti-Semitism. Other than the occasional fool that would say, "You're a Jew?" like I was dropped off from another planet. Since then, I have respect for my DIs because they could have singled me out but didn't.

LCpl Ron Rosenthal
Wilmette, Ill.

There was one Jewish recruit in MCRD San Diego, platoon #3328, in September through December 1966. I believe his name was Feldman. I never witnessed any extraordinary harassment or abuse he experienced, but I do remember that he was allowed off base for religious services

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on Saturdays. He was pretty happy with this arrangement. I guess it was another benefit of being a Hollywood Marine.

Sgt Jeff Davis
USMC, 1966-1970
Yantis, Texas

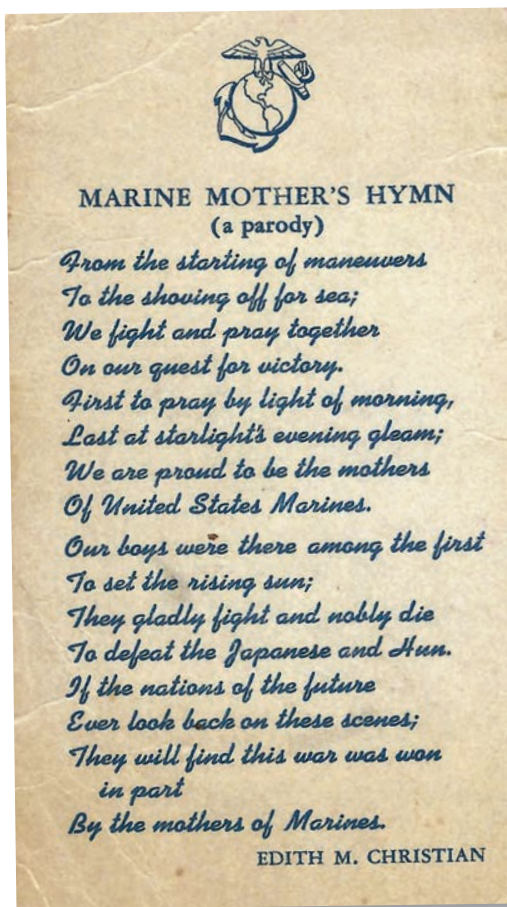
A Mother's Hymn

I recently inherited a card with the Marine Mother's Hymn which my grandmother carried with her through World War II while her son, my uncle, Edward P. Gallagher, fought across the Pacific with the Marines. I had never heard of the Marine Mother's Hymn before, but I think it speaks volumes to the sacrifice and courage that mothers have as they send their sons to war. PFC Edward P. Gallagher served with the 1st Parachute Regiment and with Co D, 2nd Battalion, 26th Marine Regiment, 5th Marine Division. He received one of his Purple Hearts on the island of Iwo Jima.

Sgt Dennis Simpson
USMC, 1977-1981
Ballwin, Mo.

Ted Williams, Combat Pilot

Offered is some clarification to the March Sound Off letter, "Ted Williams, Combat Pilot." Although much of his flying in Korea was with flight leader



Sgt Dennis Simpson's grandmother carried this poem with her while her son fought with the Marines across the Pacific.

Major John Glenn, Glenn had not yet joined VMF-311, so was not on the flight Feb. 16, 1953, when Williams' F9F-5 Panther jet (Bureau #126109) was damaged during a bombing run.

The pilot who recognized Williams' damage, fire, loss of radio and heading dangerously off course for home was 1stLt Larry Hawkins. He intercepted Williams and then led him to a harrowing but successful wheels up fiery landing at Suwon (K-13) Air Base south of Seoul. The plane, after Williams vacated it, was destroyed by fire. It was Williams' third combat mission.

"Ted Williams at War" by Bill Nowlin, is an excellent informative reference covering Williams' baseball, Marine Corps and aviation experiences, plus other Marines and civilians of the era.

LtCol Charles G. "Jug" Gerard
USMC, (Ret)
Brevard, N.C.

COURTESY OF SGT DENNIS SIMPSON

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My Graduation Photo Also Had Mixed Uniforms

Jim Johnson's graduation photograph in the March issue showed his platoon in mixed uniforms at Parris Island, S.C., in November 1965. I was the senior drill instructor of a platoon whose graduation photo also had recruits in those same mixed uniforms. I even had recruits in "Charlies."

I was in Co A, 1st Bn at Parris Island, S.C., in the late 1970s. My platoon was the fourth platoon in the series and some senior officer in the supply hierarchy came up with the idea of "just in time delivery" of uniforms to reduce the number of uniforms in supply. Our company was the experimental series to try out the new program.

All the uniforms didn't arrive in time and because we were the last platoon in the series, it was decided to wait and see if our uniforms made it in time for the photo. They didn't, and my recruit platoon graduation photo looked even worse than Mr. Johnson's.

In the same issue, the Sound Off letter, "Looking Back at the Marine Corps" mentions a SSgt J.R. Mikel who served as a DI at Parris Island in 1965. I believe Mikel was the civilian photographer in the late 1970s when my platoon's picture was

made. I remember the photographer said he had been a Marine. I also remember he was furious that he had to take a picture like that, and I distinctly remember Mikel in his gruff voice saying, "It sure as hell wasn't like this in the old Corps!"

Maybe in the mid-1960s, there was some young officer in supply that came up with the idea of a "just in time delivery" of uniforms and maybe, based on what Mr. Johnson said and the photo he sent, it was like that in the old Corps!"

As a side note, a few years later I returned to Parris Island and was lucky enough to serve in several billets including as the sergeant major of 1st Recruit Bn and later as the sergeant major of Support Bn. After my retirement I had the opportunity to serve as the Marine Instructor of a high school JROTC unit for more than 22 years.

SgtMaj Michael F. Wren, USMC (Ret)
Pearl City, Hawaii

In the March *Leatherneck* there is a picture of a platoon where Marines wore their khaki shirts with no blouses. All the other Marines had blouses on. Jim Johnson who sent the photo in was wondering why there would be Marines with no blouses.

In my Platoon, 1096, we had two Marines who could not attend graduation

through no fault of their own. The reason was that they were too husky, and at that time did not have blouses that fit them.

I looked at the Marines without blouses in the photo and they all seemed to be on the stocky side. That may be the answer.

Cpl Daniel R. Hefner
USMC, 1968-1970
Oak Park, Ill.

Meeting Pappy Boyington

In early November 1980 I was a staff sergeant and the first enlisted Marine to join the first F-18 Hornet squadron, VFA-125 in Lemoore, Calif. A few senior chiefs and master chiefs were under the opinion that a staff sergeant could be called "sarge." They assigned me to my new shop flightline and told me to find an empty space. I also found out that we were not going to get any aircraft until March 1981. About an hour after I checked in, I got nine brand new Marines from "A" School in Memphis, Tenn.

In December we had an F-18 stop by for a day or two and had the honor of meeting Colonel Gregory "Pappy" Boyington. It was a real dog and pony show with admirals down to lieutenant colonels following him.

Col Boyington announced he had books
[continued on page 67]



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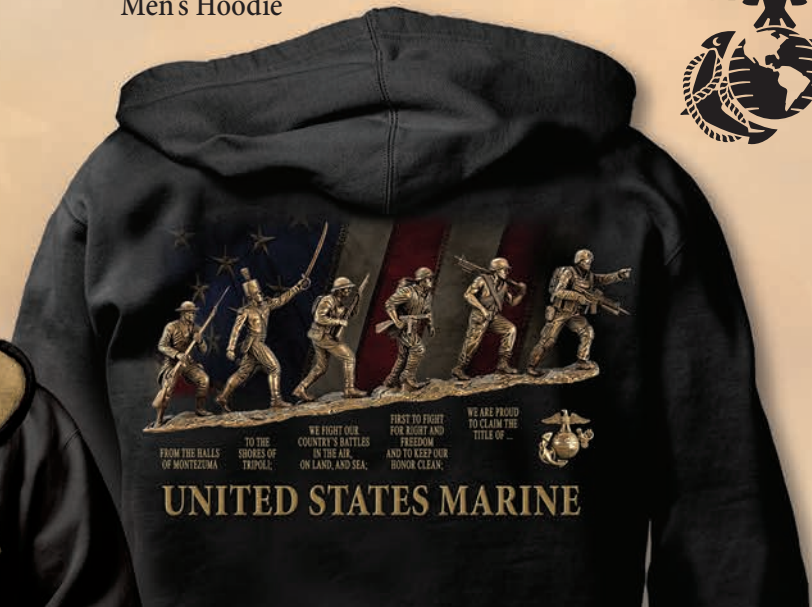
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In Every Clime and Place

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

PATTAYA, THAILAND

Thai Marines Teach Leathernecks How to Survive in the Jungle

Zimbabwean author and philosopher Matshona Dhilwayo famously said, “The fittest animal survives the jungle; the weakest animal dies even if protected.” For the Marines of 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force and their counterparts with the Reconnaissance Battalion, Thai Marine Division, Royal Thai Marine Corps, jungle survival training during Exercise Cobra Gold, held in Thailand Feb. 22-March 4, was about ensuring every Marine present was equipped with the skills and knowledge to endure a hostile environment for prolonged periods of isolation.

The Thai Jungle Warfare Survival Training conducted Feb. 28 in Pattaya, Thailand, brought together international partners from the U.S. and Thailand for realistic lifesaving exercises as part of the larger annual training event, which is now in its 41st year.

“The jungle can be a very nasty, harsh, dangerous place,” said Corporal Bradley Mitchell, USMC, an assault amphibious vehicle crewman with 3rd AAB. “It’s finding food, finding water, staying dry, keeping warm. The biggest things for survival.”

These lessons were paramount as the Thai Marine instructors engaged the troops with real-world scenarios and limited resources, commensurate with the threat of isolation in a jungle environment.

“The forest in Thailand is still full of wild and venomous animals,” said Private Kamon Mteartid, an instructor with Thai Reconnaissance Battalion. “[This training] helps you survive when you are lost in the jungle. You can survive in the jungle even when you are alone.”

Mteartid’s classes centered on identifying threats and employing practical survival methods from cooking to fashioning clothing and building a shelter.

“I would say [this is] a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for anyone,” said Private First Class Aaron Beltran, USMC, an assault amphibious vehicle crewman with 3rd AAB. “Every Marine, no matter their [military occupational specialty], should participate in this wonderful experience. Everything is critical but extracting water from various plants and differentiating what is good water to drink, that’s very important I believe to at least have a fighting chance.”



SPC JOHN REED, USA



SPC JOHN REED, USA

Left: A Marine with 3rd AAB, 1stMarDiv drinks water from a vine during Thai Jungle Warfare Survival Training as part of Exercise Cobra Gold in Pattaya, Thailand, March 1.

Right: A Royal Thai Marine demonstrates how to use a banana tree as a source of water, March 1, at Sattahip Naval Base, Pattaya, Thailand. U.S. Marines participated in Thai Jungle Warfare Survival Training during the 41st iteration of Exercise Cobra Gold, an international exercise that supports readiness and emphasizes coordination on civic action, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.



SPC JOHN REED, USA

During Thai Jungle Warfare Survival Training, a Royal Thai Marine prepares a cooking area for demonstration, March 1. The training was just one facet of Exercise Cobra Gold, which took place at various locations throughout Thailand and increased the interoperability of partnered nations.

This training served as a familiarization experience to augment existing USMC skill sets. Marines operate in austere jungle environments and even have their own Jungle Warfare Training Center at Camp Gonsalves in Okinawa, Japan.

“It’s always really important to seize the opportunity to learn something about different environments,” said Mitchell. “And it’s always useful.”

The success of Cobra Gold relies on cooperation and cultural exchange. U.S. Marines trained their Thai partners on amphibious assault maneuvers before Thai instructors took the lead for jungle survival training. This subject matter expert exchange has been a long-standing element of Cobra Gold since its inception in 1982 and continues to be a cornerstone of the Thai-U.S. alliance.

“It has been a beautiful experience,” said Beltran. “They’re very kind and generous hosts. My Thai brothers have shown us a different side of the world and a different side of how to approach things. This is a great opportunity to strengthen our bond together. They’re just wonderful people.”

MSgt Daniel Griego, USMC

BODØ AIR BASE, NORWAY

II MEF Presents Secure Expeditionary Comms Capability

Marines with 8th Communication Battalion, II Marine Expeditionary Force Information Group, which provided assured command and control to II MEF commanders during Exercise Cold Response 2022 in Bodø, Norway, introduced PacStar Radio over Internet Protocol (RoIP), a critical communication capability which enables instantaneous and simultaneous two-way radio communication using local and worldwide internet networks, March 9.

The first transmission between the Marines participating in Exercise Cold Response in Norway and their counterparts at II MEF Headquarters, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., was as simple as a keystroke from a laptop or the press of a button on a secure phone. According to Chief Warrant Officer 2 Dustin Schuitt, a space and propagation engineer officer assigned to the Camp Lejeune-based 8th Comm Bn, this was the first time any unit within II MEF has utilized this capability since the service retired the previous RoIP solutions, known as TRICS and WAVE Client.

Schuitt, a technical expert in the Corps’ communications community, explained PacStar RoIP is a smaller, lighter, portable and highly secure communication system that enables radio transmissions using existing internet networks. Previous systems relied on large amounts of equipment,



SGT MEGAN ROSES, USMC

LCpl Jared Curtis, left, and LCpl Dylan Shawver, guard force sentries with II MEF, utilize a portable handset enabled with PacStar RoIP during Exercise Cold Response in Bodø, Norway, March 9.

more manpower and assembly time, while RoIP significantly reduces logistical efforts and costs.

Before the implementation of PacStar RoIP, Marines were required to run a system of wires, connectors and junction boxes to facilitate remote radio communications. Now, one Marine can carry a small PacStar kit, a contrast to the multiple large cases of equipment that required the work of several Marines to transport.

A smaller load-out enables a more agile force, able to deploy these capabilities anywhere in the world faster and more easily than ever before.

The Marines of 8th Comm Bn maintain and defend communication networks in order to facilitate II MEF’s ability to command and control forces. PacStar RoIP paves the way for the future of communication within II MEF Information Group, providing commanders a more secure and efficient means of command and control in the information battlespace. Exercise Cold Response, a Norwegian national

readiness and defense exercise with participation from NATO allies and partners, provides a unique opportunity to perform this new capability.

II MEF’s implementation of modern, innovative capabilities aligns with the Marine Corps’ shift towards modernization as outlined in Force Design 2030. In the face of 21st century security challenges, 8th Comm Bn answers this call, displaying its agility in a dynamic security environment.

2ndLt Emily Stewart, USMC

Editor’s note: During Exercise Cold Response an aircraft with VMM-261 crashed, resulting in the death of four Marines. See page 62 for details.

QUANTICO, VA.

MSG Students Conduct Collapsed Structure Training

Marine Security Guard (MSG) students with Marine Corps Embassy Security Group (MCESG) conducted training at

An MSG student crawls through the collapsed structure trainer at Marine Corps Embassy Security Group, MCB Quantico, Va., Feb. 23. The special duty assignment requires Marines to go through extensive background checks and clearances, testing, and training before graduating from MSG school.



ASHLEY BOSTER



ASHLEY BOSTER

A student with MCESG navigates the collapsed structure trainer, designed to teach Marines how to navigate in small, confined spaces. Individuals who complete the school, which is located at MCB Quantico, Va., are then assigned to duty at U.S. consulates and embassies all over the world.

worldwide. This special duty requires watchstanders, sergeants and below, to serve at three detachments for 12 months each, while detachment commanders, staff sergeants and above, serve at two detachments for 18 months each.

The nine-week course is designed to ensure MSGs are capable of responding to situations like intrusions, bomb threats, demonstrations, riots, fires or natural disasters at embassies or consulates. These highly trained Marines are responsible for protecting mission personnel and preventing the compromise of national security information and equipment.

Ashley Boster

the collapsed structure trainer at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Feb. 23. Students attending the MSG school complete in-class instruction prior to putting their skills to the test.

The collapsed structure trainer teaches Marines how to navigate and control their stressors in small and confined spaces. The dark, tight and obstructed wooden maze simulates collapsed buildings between one and five stories tall. During this portion

of the curriculum, students also take part in Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) training, as well as gas chamber training.

MSGs train at the MSG school aboard MCB Quantico and go through extensive background checks, security clearances, psychological testing and physical and academic training.

Upon graduation, MSGs are sent to one of 182 consulates and embassies

PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII
CMC, SMMC Visit Deployed Marines, Sailors With 11th MEU

The Commandant of the Marine Corps, General David H. Berger, and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sergeant Major Troy E. Black, visited the 11th



SGT JENNESSA DAVEY, USMC

Gen David H. Berger, Commandant of the Marine Corps, departs from USS Essex (LHD-2) in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Feb. 19, after visiting with Sailors and Marines of Essex ARG and the 11th MEU.

Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) aboard *Wasp*-class amphibious assault ship USS *Essex* (LHD-2) during a scheduled port visit in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Feb. 19.

While aboard *Essex*, Gen Berger met with 11th MEU commanding officer, Colonel James W. Lively, and spoke to the Marines during an all-hands call on the flight deck.

“It’s a great feeling to know that when I’m sitting in a meeting with the Joint Chiefs and we’re considering options on how to respond to a bad situation, I can tell them that the 11th MEU is not just available, but that you are ready,” Gen Berger said to the more than 1,000 Marines who stood in formation. “When other units might not be there for three days, I can say that the 11th MEU can be there in 24 hours.”

The *Essex* Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) and 11th MEU deployed in August 2021 to conduct operations in the U.S. Central Command and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command areas of responsibility. Throughout the deployment, the ARG/MEU spent the majority of its time operating in two or more separate areas simultaneously, leveraging the flexibility that comes with three amphibious ships to provide a forward presence in one location while conducting bilateral training with key partners and allies in another.

“It’s a great opportunity for the Marines to have the chance [to] hear their Commandant recognize their actions during deployment and emphasize our purpose as an ARG/MEU team,” said Lively after the visit with the Corps’ top-ranking Marine concluded. “Embarking Marines on amphibious vessels and maximizing the flexibility and lethality that both organizations bring to the fight is the epitome of Navy-Marine Corps integration to support maritime deterrence, campaigning and crisis response.”

The 11th MEU consists of a command element; an aviation combat element comprised of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 165 (Reinforced) and Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 214; a ground combat element comprised of Battalion Landing Team 1/1; and a logistics combat element, Combat Logistics Battalion 11.

“The 11th MEU is the most ready unit in the Marine Corps today. You’re deployed, you’re ready and you’re capable of answering America’s call if needed. Thank you and Semper Fidelis, Marines,” SgtMaj Black said in his closing comments.

The 11th MEU and *Essex* ARG remain forward deployed as a flexible, integrated Navy and Marine Corps team capable of conducting amphibious operations, crisis response and limited contingency



SGT ISRAEL CHINCO, USMC

Marines assigned to the 11th MEU listen to remarks by Gen David H. Berger aboard USS *Essex* (LHD-2) in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Feb. 19.



SGT JENNESSA DAVEY, USMC

SgtMaj Troy E. Black, the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, addresses Marines and Sailors assigned to the 11th MEU aboard USS *Essex* (LHD-2), Feb. 19. The MEU was in port at Joint Base Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, while assigned to the U.S. 3rd Fleet area of operations.

operations to maintain a forward presence while upholding U.S. commitment to partners and allies in support of the theater requirements of geographic combatant commanders.

Capt Miraquel Ridenhour, USMC

IWAKUNI, JAPAN CAS Training: Marines Team Up With Army, Navy Special Forces

U.S. Marines with III Marine Expeditionary Force Information Group (MIG), soldiers with U.S. Army 1st Special Forces

Group and U.S. Navy SEALs conducted close air support (CAS) training at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, Feb. 15-16. The training was designed to enhance joint operability in response to possible threats in the Indo-Pacific.

CAS refers to any aviation-delivered strikes, in close proximity to friendly forces, that require careful coordination between pilots and the joint tactical air controllers (JTACs) on the ground. JTACs play a critical role in offensive air operations, acting as the eyes and ears for

Sgt Charles Copeland and Cpl Jeremy Samuel, fire support Marines with 5th ANGLICO, III MIG, use handheld Link 16 radios to conduct simulated CAS at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, Feb. 15. The training focused on the ability of the joint force to integrate and refine tactics of CAS, which requires detailed planning and careful coordination between pilots and ground forces.



LCPL BRIENNA TUCK, USMC

pilots in hostile environments to direct the actions of combat aircraft. Because JTACs need to make time-sensitive decisions in high-pressure situations, CAS training is vital.

“Employing CAS in medium- to high-threat environments to achieve effects on joint integrated prioritized target lists is extremely complex and requires extensive coordination to execute successfully,” said an Army Special Forces JTAC operator with 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group, whose name was withheld for security purposes.

This evolution provided a realistic and dynamic training environment with constantly changing variables, including vehicles traveling at low and high speeds, moving personnel and various types of structures. Each branch was evaluated and given feedback to help lead to better performance in future CAS operations.

“Having the ability to practice CAS on real terrain and learning the latest tactics in order to confirm joint doctrine is the best training opportunity a JTAC can get,” said an unidentified Naval Special Warfare operator who participated in the training.

During the event, each branch alternated guiding several Navy F-18 aircraft with

Right: Cpl Jeremy Samuel conducts simulated CAS at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, Feb. 15. During the training event, Marines with 5th ANGLICO worked with Army special forces and Navy SEALs to enhance joint operability in response to potential threats in the Indo-Pacific.



LCPL BRIENNA TUCK, USMC

Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 27 and Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 102 to provided simulated CAS to specified targets across the base.

The 5th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (ANGLICO), III MIG, provide the Marine element for the exercise. The mission of 5th ANGLICO is to provide the Marine air ground task force commander a liaison capability and to plan, coordinate, employ and conduct terminal control of fires in support of joint, allied and coalition forces. This was a unique opportunity for the Marines as the scenarios were complex in nature and involved other services.

Captain Jacob Rhine, USMC, a team

lead with 5th ANGLICO, stated that his unit is always looking for opportunities to train with joint and allied forces. He expressed how important it is to obtain joint training experience, especially in today’s world, where maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific region remains a top priority.

“We gain not only a proficiency for practicing close air support in an urban environment, but we also gain experience training with our joint partners and are able to take what they know and the way that they train and try to implement it to make us better,” Rhine said.

LCpl Brienna Tuck, USMC



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SPECIAL LANDING FORCE

Story and photos by
Sgt P.L. Thompson, USMC

Not all Marine battalions in Vietnam spend a complete 13-month tour ashore. Some, on a rotating basis, are selected for a special assignment at sea. Known as a Special Landing Force (SLF), the seagoing battalion stands ready to make a surprise helicopter-borne assault when and where it's most needed.

When the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, drew SLF duty, they boarded USS *Valley Forge* (CV-45) and teamed up with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 165 and its CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters which can carry a full squad of combat-equipped Marines.

The battalion, squadron and ship make up a team that can strike terror into the hearts of the Viet Cong (VC) because the VC never know where the SLF will hit next.

Recently, activity along the Cua Viet River, near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), began picking up. The North Vietnamese Army (NVA) had begun infiltrating the area to place mines in the water and shoot at boats along the river. At the same time, the enemy had also increased its activity

near Dong Ha. Other Marine camps had been hit too. Because of this, important positions along the DMZ were beefed up, and the SLF was assigned objectives in an area north of the Cua Viet River.

The river is located just 6 miles below the DMZ and is used to ferry supplies from the Navy's buzzing Cua Viet Port Facility to Dong Ha and other Marine outposts. This waterway is a vital link in the supply chain. It was decided that the increased communist activity around Cua Viet might mean the enemy had plans for the area. The mission of the SLF was to make sure that "Mister Charles," as the NVA are called, changed his mind.

During preparation for the assault inland, the hangar deck of the carrier looks like a storeroom gone mad. There are helicopters being readied on the hangar deck to be kept out of the way until they are needed.

Crates of C-Rations, cases of ammunition, boxes filled with helmets, small mechanical mules stacked on top of each other (some with 106 recoilless rifles mounted on them), and almost everything that goes into the making of an infantry battalion ready for combat.

Also on the hangar deck are Marines

with their gear, staged and ready to go.

Small arms ammunition has been passed out and heli-teams formed. Each man has inspected his own gear. Non-commissioned officers (NCOs), like shepherds with a flock, keep their fire teams or squads out of the way of the men who are moving aircraft or stacking pallets which will also be lifted ashore by the helicopters.

On the other side of the hangar deck, away from all of the activity, is the advanced casualty treatment center. Medical evacuations, when and if they come in, will be treated here first and then sent down to the ship's hospital.

The hangar deck is reminiscent of an ant farm, but what seems to be mass confusion is, in reality, carefully calculated movement. There is no wasted motion.

The Navy chow is far better than most field Marines see for months, and at the ship's fountain, Marines and Sailors can buy ice cream or soda.

Preparations are in the final stages as dusk approaches. The Marines are ready; now there is little for them to do but wait. Many sack out with their gear on the hangar deck to await dawn and "H" hour.

But their wait is cut short. The word is changed; "H" hour is now! With dusk upon them, the Marines scramble onto the flight deck where helicopters are already turning up. Within minutes the men are lined up on deck and, on cue, the heli-teams run to their assigned helicopters.

Aboard the aircraft, a Sailor, in a yellow shirt that identifies him as flight deck personnel, faces the control bridge and gives a "thumbs-up" signal. Other men in yellow shirts, one by one, do the same.

The bridge gives the order to launch planes and the helicopters begin lifting off the carrier. They don't fly off the end of the deck but lift into the air a few feet and move off sideways. Minutes later the entire flight is airborne.

Aboard *Valley Forge* the radio watches await word from the companies in the attack. There is only one company left aboard ship now. It is being held in reserve in case any of the others, now ashore, need help in a hurry.

The remaining men settle down to



SLF Marines from USS *Valley Forge* prepare to launch a strike on NVA forces in 1968.



Marines from 3rd Bn, 1st Marines partnered with HMM-165 and its CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters to bring them ashore as needed.



Unlike most Marines fighting in Vietnam, battalions assigned as SLF conducted heliborne assaults from ships which increases the element of surprise.

An SLF is a seagoing heliborne force, capable of launching a surprise attack when it is most needed and where it will hurt the enemy the most.

Marines from 3rd Bn, 1st Marines, sweep through a village near the Cua Viet River.



Helicopters aboard USS *Valley Forge* stand ready to transport Marines inland to conduct a surprise assault against enemy forces.





The younger troops ask if anyone has been in the area before. When one Marine says “yes,” he is asked how many VC there were. The more experienced troops don’t ask about the VC. They have seen him before. Instead, they ask, “What is the terrain like?”

sleeping on their gear or watching a movie. There is no earthshattering word from the beach. There was no contact; no one has been hurt.

Throughout the night, radio contact with the beach indicates that the situation is secure. The word is passed that the reserve company will go ashore in the morning.

The Marines beat the sunrise by a good two hours. They shave, dress and make their way to the mess deck. After chow the Marines assemble on the flight deck. Each man checks his gear again and again.

The younger troops ask if anyone has been in the area before. When one Marine says “yes,” he is asked how many VC there were. The more experienced troops don’t ask about the VC. They have seen him before. Instead, they ask, “What is the terrain like?” When they are told it is soft sand and hard going, some of the men start to lighten their packs and advise the newer troops to do the same.

The boatswain’s pipe sounds over the speakers, and a voice commands, “Landing party, man your debark stations! Crews, man your planes!” Straps are tightened, packs adjusted, and a last-minute check of ammo and other essentials is made. Once again, Marines head for the flight deck, enplane and head for shore.

The troops in the helicopters are told the landing zone is secure, and there will be no trouble. The helicopters touch down, ramps open and the men are out and running. Positions are set up as the second and third waves of helicopters come in and deposit their troops on the ground.

Heli-teams again become squads,



Tanks support the SLF on its sweep along the Cua Viet River area in search of NVA units.



Above: MajGen Rathvon Tompkins, left, CG, 3rdMarDiv, talks with a young Marine during an SLF assault near the DMZ.



Standby units of 3/1 waited aboard ship for news of what was happening ashore.

Any ideas that the communist North Vietnamese had for this area have become a lost cause. The SLF has seen to that. They will stay in the Cua Viet area until they are no longer needed, or until the enemy has left.

squads become platoons, and platoons a company.

Word is passed that the village along the river is to be swept. Online, the Marines move through the streets, searching houses.

The people seem friendly and offer to show their ID cards. Children watch the Marines warily but soon a Marine smiles at one of the children, and the smile is returned. As the search continues, a few villagers are questioned. Two are found who have no ID cards. They are questioned and held.

Later, while the troops are held up, three tanks with Marines riding on top come across an open space. The tanks stop and the Marines dismount. Word is passed that Major General Rathvon M. Tompkins, the commanding general of the 3rd Marine Division, is one of them.

As he comes closer, the two black stars on the pocket of his flak jacket can be seen. Under his arm is a Thompson sub-machine gun.

He spends some time talking to both the junior enlisted men and the officers, then walks back to his tank, and with an agility that belies his 55 years, climbs aboard and heads for another position.

The rest of the day is uneventful. In the evening some shooting is heard, but it is only a sniper. The Marines eliminate him.

Any ideas that the communist North Vietnamese had for this area have become a lost cause. The SLF has seen to that. They will stay in the Cua Viet area until they are no longer needed, or until the enemy has left.

Then, once again, they will board their helicopters and complete the landing process in reverse. Again, the ships will pull out to sea and steam up and down the coast of Vietnam, waiting for another trouble spot to develop.

And, when "Mister Charles" least expects it, the SLF will again drop in from the sky to foul up his plans. 🐞

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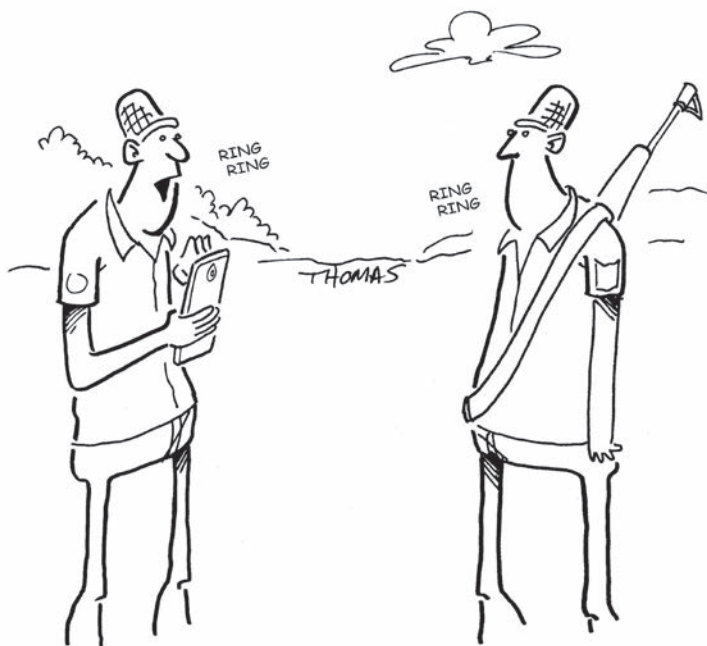
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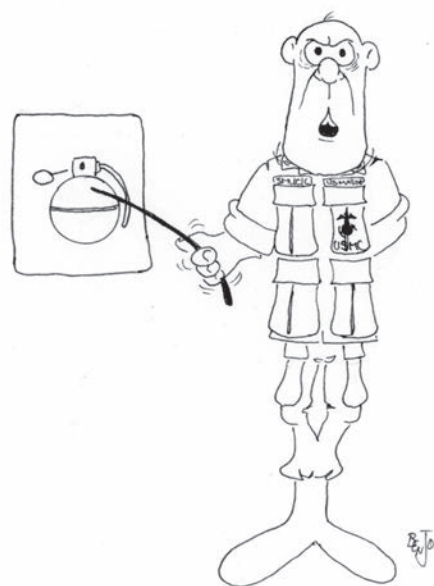
"The helicopter's two hours late. Let's try Uber."



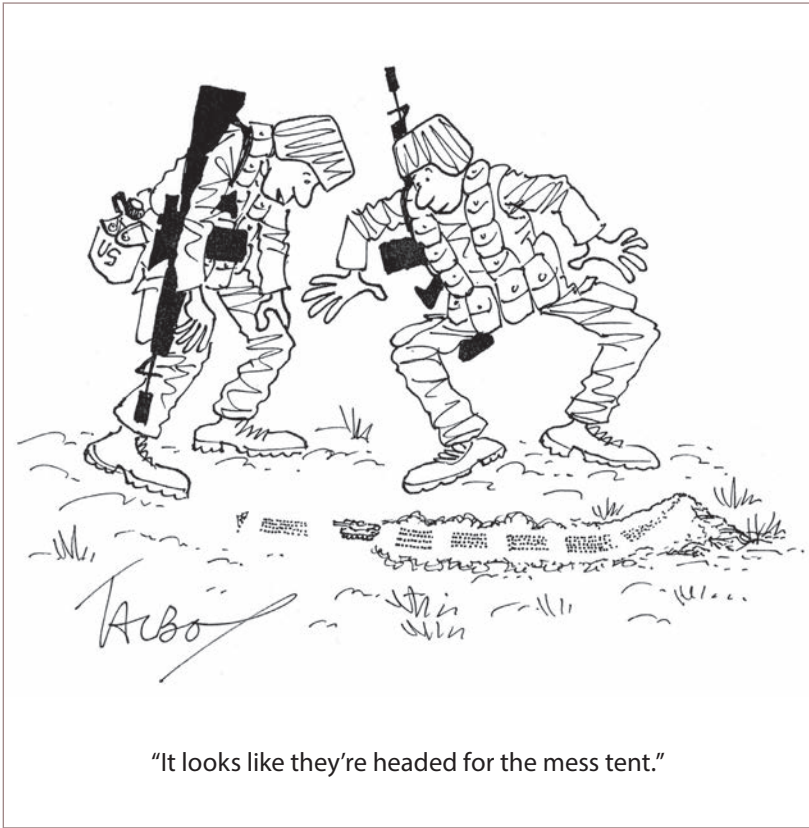
"I don't think I'll need a drill instructor for the wedding march."



"Does anyone speak English?"



"And don't forget that once the pin is pulled, Mr. Grenade is no longer our friend."



"It looks like they're headed for the mess tent."



"Our supplies will be here in no time. I used Amazon Prime."



"I hacked the enemy's credit cards and the war's on them."



"I know, you'll start tomorrow."

Revisiting America's First Marines

By Edward T. Nevglowski, Ph.D.



COURTESY OF MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION, ARCHIVES BRANCH

MajGen John A. Lejeune

Background

It wasn't until 1921 that the Marine Corps acknowledged Nov. 10, 1775, as the date of its official formation. Previously, it recognized July 11, 1798, as its founding date. Why the change? Part of the answer lay in Lieutenant Colonel Hamilton M. Hoyler's November 1950 *Marine Corps Gazette* article "The Legal Status of the Marine Corps" in which he discusses the legal distinction between the Continental Marines and the U.S. Marine Corps. The other part can be found in a memorandum to Major General Commandant John A. Lejeune from the officer in charge of the Historical Section at Headquarters Marine Corps.

In his memorandum dated Oct. 21, 1921, Major Edwin N. McClellan suggested that Lejeune declare Nov. 10, 1775, as the Marine Corps' official anniversary. One

can only speculate why McClellan suggested this date. It perhaps had to do with the country's demobilization following World War I and Lejeune's annual budget testimony before Congress in 1921. It is possible Lejeune rationalized using the Marine Corps' role in America's fight for independence some 146 years earlier as patriotic leverage to secure funding for the Marine Corps and its expanding mission and, quite possibly, to save it from extinction. Regardless of the reason, Lejeune issued Marine Corps Order No. 47 on Nov. 1, 1921, summarizing the service's history, mission and traditions. More importantly, the proclamation was to be read aloud to Marines each subsequent year on Nov. 10 as a means for renewing their faith and pride in the Marine Corps.

Why 1775? If Lejeune intended to associate the Marine Corps' reason for



COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

MajGen John A. Lejeune, 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, issued Marine Corps Order No. 47, which effectively established Nov. 10, 1775, as the birthday of the Corps.



USMC

Maj Edwin N. McClellan

existence with America’s victory in its quest for freedom and independence, then 1775 certainly makes good sense. If he intended to capture the Marine Corps’ most complete record of service, however, a better appreciation for the historiography of Marine Corps history suggests Lejeune could have—and probably should have—gone beyond 1775. Had he done so, he would have found that William Gooch and his American Regiment (in service from 1740 to 1742), or “Gooch’s Marines” as they came to be known, are arguably the nation’s first leathernecks.

Counting Gooch’s Marines in the chronicles of official U.S. Marine Corps history is neither a new nor an original idea. In fact, several of the Marine Corps’ most respected historians, including Edwin McClellan, recognize Gooch’s Marines. In 1903, Marine Corps historian Major Richard S. Collum offered in “History of the United States Marine Corps” that “the first authentic record of Marines in America bears the date of 1740.” John W. Leonard and Marine Major Fred F. Chitty emphasized in their 1919 “The Story of the United States Marines, 1740–1919” that “if one could go back to Colonial times, it would be found that three regiments of American Marines were organized for service with the British Navy on this side of the Atlantic.” More recently, Colonel Robert D. Heintz contends in his 1962 “Soldiers of the Sea: The U.S. Marine Corps, 1775–1962” that the “first American Marines were four battalions raised in 1740 to fight in the War of the Austrian Succession.” In 1974, the Director of the Marine Corps History and Museums Division, Brigadier General Edwin H. Simmons, when describing England’s



COURTESY OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Maj Richard S. Collum

use of Marines during the colonial period recalled how “several regiments of American Marines” helped Britain fight its wars in North America, and that George Washington’s own half-brother Lawrence “served in Gooch’s Regiment of Marines at Cartagena in 1740.” In 1975, Charles R. Smith acknowledged Gooch’s Marines in the Marine Corps’ official bicentennial definitive history “Marines in the Revolution: A History of the Continental Marines in the American Revolution, 1775–1783.” Finally, academic instructors at recruit training on Parris Island and at San Diego as well as at the

**Why 1775?
If Lejeune intended to
associate the Marine Corps’
reason for existence with
America’s victory in its
quest for freedom and
independence, then 1775
certainly makes good sense.**

Officer Candidates School in Quantico acknowledged Gooch’s Marines in their Marine Corps history curriculums until the early 1990s. Upon recent inspection, Gooch’s Marines are no longer included in any entry-level instruction. This is likely the reason the Marine Corps today does not recognize Gooch’s Marines but



COURTESY OF LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Alexander Spotswood

leaves the question of the preceding two centuries unanswered. Why the Marine Corps’ lack of recognition of Gooch’s Marines? Before attempting to answer this question, it is necessary to first assess what we know about Gooch’s Marines.

Colonel William Gooch and the 43rd Regiment of Foot

Who were Gooch’s Marines? What we know from British and early American archival holdings is that they came into existence during Britain’s decade-long feud with Spain over access to trade markets in the West Indies and Caribbean. After the purported severing of British Navy Captain Robert Jenkins’ ear by Spanish sailors searching his ship for trade contraband in 1731, unenforced trade treaties and minor retaliatory acts between the two great sea powers forced Britain’s King George II to order military action against Spain’s Caribbean and northern Latin American possessions. One target of interest was the prized Spanish coastal fort at Cartagena in present-day Columbia. According to Marine Corps historian Joel D. Thacker, among the reasons for attacking Cartagena was to “make good use of the American colonies in the conflict” and for the British Navy to rejuvenate “its Marine regiments which had been allowed to fall into disuse.”

On April 25, 1740, the British Parliament dispatched King George II’s signed orders “for Alexander Spottswood, Esqr., to be a Colonel of a Regt. of Foot to be raised in America for His Majesty’s service, to consist of 30 Companys.” Virginia’s royal governor at the time, King George II, advanced Spotswood to major general and made him responsible



COURTESY OF ROYAL MUSEUMS GREENWICH

Capt Edward Vernon

for coordinating with fellow colonial governors in organizing, recruiting, and training three colonial regiments for service alongside six British Marine regiments assigned to Admiral Edward Vernon's fleet. Given the primary military objectives of his expedition against Spain and potential other European adversaries, Admiral Vernon wrote to the Duke of New Castle that he wanted more than just three colonial regiments of infantry. In his letter, Vernon pondered "If we should come to a general war with France as well as Spain, I believe Your Grace will have already perceived the necessity there may be of converting most of our marching regiments into Marines."

Before raising his regiment, Spotswood suffered a heart attack and died on June 7, 1740. Command of the colonial effort shifted to Spotswood's lieutenant governor, Colonel Gooch, who inherited mostly debtors, criminals, and vagrants in his Virginia ranks. His fellow governors provided much the same in way of soldiers and seaman. According to McClellan, aside from his four Virginia companies, Gooch raised five companies from Massachusetts; two companies from Rhode Island; two companies from Connecticut; five New York companies; three companies from New Jersey; eight companies from Pennsylvania; three Maryland companies; and from North Carolina, four companies of colonists serve in the role of Marines.

After forming the regiment and providing it very modest training, British Parliament recognized the regiment officially as the 61st Regiment of Foot. Wearing their signature "camlet coats, brown linen waistcoats, and canvas trousers" Gooch's Marines of "probably from three to four thousand strong" de-

parted from ports in New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia on board eight transports for staging off Kingston, Jamaica, in the fall of 1740. Admiral Vernon sailed for the West Indies piecemeal with elements of his fleet departing from various locations in Britain and North American and at staggered times. After two months of limited training, Gooch's Marines arrived off Jamaica sometime in December and joined Vernon off Hispaniola on Feb. 25, 1741, but in nowhere near the strength and capacity expected. British Marine historian Colonel Cyril Field in his "Britain's Sea-Soldiers: History of the Royal Marines" lists unsanitary conditions, the poor quality of food and water, scurvy and heat for much of this. Reduced to half its original strength and distributed across 16 of Vernon's ships as he sailed south for Cartagena were 1,381 American Marines (officers and enlisted), of which many were now replacement for the ships' sick and dead crews.

Cartagena and Cuba

Aside from the scant details provided in both British and early American archives, much of what we know about the assault on Cartagena comes from the journal of Scottish poet and author Tobias Smollett, who at the time was a surgeon's assistant in Vernon's fleet. Smollett's journal entries became popular short-stories later and proved to be one of a very few existing firsthand accounts of the expedition.

Arriving off Cartagena on March 4, 1741, Admiral Vernon's council of war recommended he proceed with the assault.

To get to Cartagena, the fleet had to first pass through the small passage at Boca Chica, which the Spanish defended from three sides. Shelling of the fort's surrounding outer defenses at St. Jago, St. Philip, and Chamba began on the morning of March 9. After besieging the fort for more than a week, Colonel Gooch landed with a company of Marines (roughly 200) under Captain Washington in the early morning of March 19 at Barradera and "spiked the Spanish guns of the fascine battery" there. Once complete, Washington's Marines "stormed and carried on the 25th of March Boca Chica Castle (Fort St. Louis)." During the raid, Gooch sustained wounds to both legs from Spanish cannon and musket fire. Washington's company remained ashore the next two weeks. On April 5, Vernon sent British Marines ashore to seize the castle controlling Cartagena's inner harbor. Gooch's Marines "covered the flank of the main attacking column deployed as skirmishers in the jungle" according to historian Lee Offen. Upon taking control of the castle, both British and American Marines returned to their ships late in the same day. Vernon's fleet entered the harbor without issue. The main portion of the fortress and town at Fort St. Lazar was now vulnerable to British naval bombardment.

After meeting with his war council, Vernon set April 16 as the date to land the British and American Marines in preparation for an assault at Fort St. Lazar and the main side of its defenses on April 20. Vernon and his land commander, British General Thomas Wentworth,



COURTESY OF NAVAL MUSEUM OF MADRID

An illustration by Luis Fernández Gordillo shows the engagement during the Battle of Cartagena de Indias, 1741.



COURTESY OF HONOLULU ACADEMY OF ARTS

An ink drawing by Arman Manookian entitled “William Gooch’s American Marines” depicts the attack on Fort San Lazaro at Cartagena in 1741.

debated the fleet’s exposure to Spanish cannon fire during a pre-landing naval bombardment. Unfortunately, Wentworth could not lessen Vernon’s apprehensions and executed the assault without a pre-landing bombardment.

The attack failed. Gooch’s Marines, many of whom carried grenades and ladders for the British Marines to scale the forts’ heavily manned walls, took the brunt of the Spanish cannon and musket fire. Helpless to return fire, many dropped the ladders to find cover or to pick up muskets to return fire on the defenders. Smollett credits the American Marines for their heroism throughout. “Nor could the scaling ladders, wool-packs, or hand-grenades, be of any service in this emergency; for the Americans, who carried them in the rear, seeing the troops falling by whole platoons, refused to advance with their burdens; but though they would not advance as pioneers, many of them took up the firelocks which they found on the field, and, mixing among the troops, behaved very bravely.”

With no hope in overtaking the Spanish defenses and with losses mounting due to casualties and from lingering sickness, the war council recommended Vernon abandon the plan to take Cartagena. Vernon agreed and sailed for Jamaica on April 25. The costs were 39 of Gooch’s

Marines killed in action and another 67 wounded. Combined with those overcome by disease and fatigue, Gooch commanded considerably less than half the number of Marines than when he departed North America.

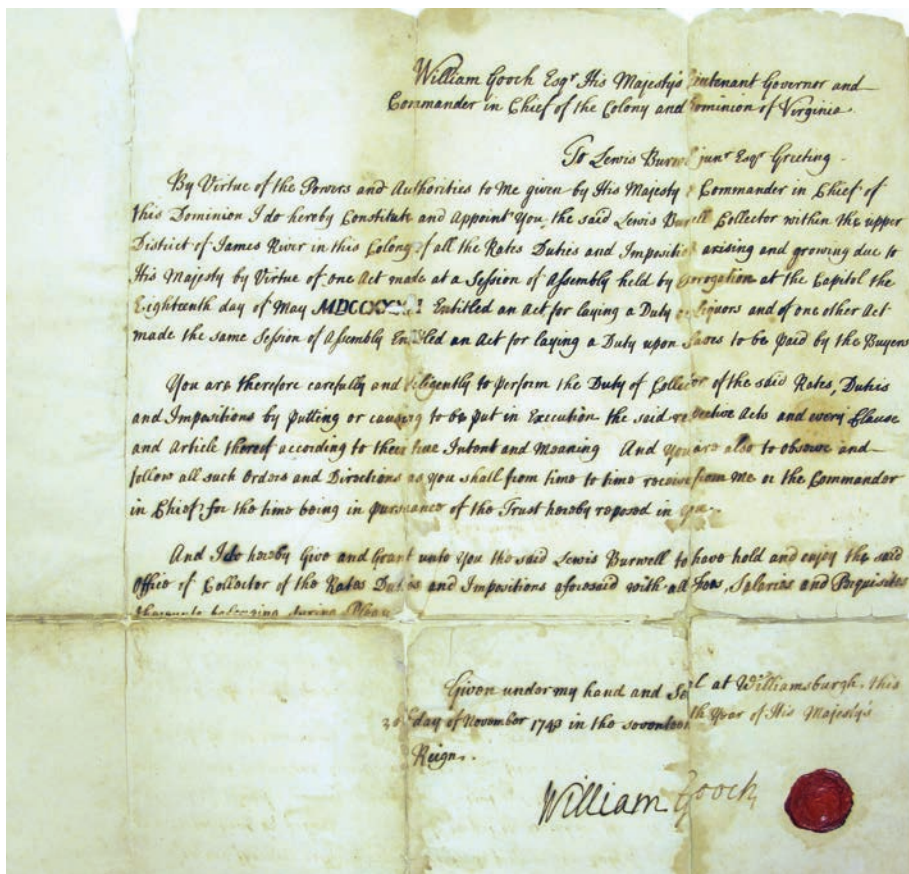
In late June, Vernon’s fleet reassembled off Jamaica where the war council discussed and recommended a follow-on action to seize the Spanish territory

As for whether the Marine Corps today should consider the 61st Regiment of Foot as being British Marines or a distinctly autonomous American Marine regiment, this is more a philosophical argument.

on Santiago de Cuba, present-day Cuba. Colonel Gooch, still recovering from the wounds he received at Cartagena, departed Jamaica for Virginia. His executive officer, Lieutenant Colonel Henry

Cope, took command of the remaining four understrength American Marine battalions. In mid-August, Vernon landed his remaining Marines on the east end of the island opposite Port Santiago, known today as Guantanamo Bay. From there they established a base of operations before pushing west to gain control of as much of the island as possible. The same heat, humidity, and tropical illnesses plaguing the expedition from the start, however, brought the operation to a standstill. The only action on record was minor fighting at Catalina Village between Spanish forces and two American Marine companies. In late November, Vernon back-loaded his disheveled force and sailed for Jamaica, where he sent some 50 American Marines ashore to help build two hasty forts: Frederick and George.

In March 1742, Vernon left Jamaica to attack Spanish forces in Panama, but sickness and fatigue forced the fleet back to Jamaica in May. While transiting to Jamaica, Lieutenant Colonel Cope grew ill and died on July 12. The remaining American Marines garrisoned at their Jamaican forts until General Wentworth disbanded the regiment on Oct. 24, 1742. The Marines quietly returned to their American colonies over the next several months, bringing an end to Gooch’s Marines.



COURTESY OF COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG FOUNDATION

This letter written by Gooch on Nov. 25, 1743, appoints fellow Virginian Lewis Burwell as a member of the governor's council. Gooch was serving as Virginia's lieutenant governor when he assumed command of his regiment. Burwell was an ancestor of Marine Corps legend LtGen Lewis Burwell "Chesty" Puller.

Questions Remain

Two questions worthy of further investigation and debate are whether Gooch's Marines were American, as opposed to British, and whether the regiment was a Marine organization in both function and name, as opposed to soldiers serving as Marines. As to the 61st Regiment of Foot being by function, task, and name *Marine*, Richard Collum does not make any particular distinctions. Edwin McClellan, however, offers in "The American Marines of 1740 to 1742" published by *Marine Corps Gazette* in December 1929, that whether one is a soldier or a Marine "depends upon the character of duty such soldier performs and not upon whether he is actually called Marine." To that end, McClellan suggests historians "accept the statements of all the British Marines' historians that they were real Marines."

As for whether the Marine Corps today should consider the 61st Regiment of Foot as being British Marines or a distinctly autonomous *American* Marine regiment, this is more a philosophical argument, if nothing else. Historically, the colonies were British, and the colonists therefore were British subjects. The colonists

viewed themselves as British initially. In fact, many remained loyal to King George III and the British Parliament during and after the War of Independence. The growing ethnic dissimilarities between colonists and the average British citizen due in part to the tyranny of distance, environ-

Perhaps the best litmus test might come from the British themselves and the justification for raising an American-specific regiment for the expedition against Spain.

mental challenges, and experiences contributed to the development of a separate colonial identity, independence, and life free of British rule. By 1740, an increasing number of Irish, Scottish, Dutch and French immigrants reduced Britain cultural monopoly and gave rise to authentic

American ideals. Within the historiography of Marine Corps history, McClellan's position that "Gooch's Marines were part of the British Marines' organization" does little to support the claim that 61st Regiment of Foot was distinctly American. Nor does Leonard and Chitty's declaration that Gooch's Marines existed "before the Colonies had acquired any desire to be separated from British citizenship or allegiance." In 1775, however, the 13 American colonies and the hundreds of colonists who fought as Continental Marines during the American War of Independence were as well, yet Commandant Lejeune chose to identify them as Americans in Marine Corps Order No. 47. Perhaps the best litmus test might come from the British themselves and the justification for raising an American-specific regiment for the expedition against Spain was, as Leonard and Chitty recalled, because "native Americans were better calculated in the service for this climate than the Europeans." Add that the British Parliament did not require Admiral Vernon and General Wentworth to furnish Gooch's Marines with water, food, uniforms, and weapons and ammunition because they were American and this was a colonial responsibility suggests even King George II did not consider them British.

Conclusion

Marine Corps historian Allan R. Millet wrote in his 1980 "Semper Fidelis: The History of the United States Marine Corps" that the quality and caliber of colonist making up Gooch's Marines "could hardly have given the name "marine" much distinction..." The expeditions to Cartagena, Cuba and Panama would likely not have given Commandant Lejeune much to be proud of in 1921 either. Regardless of their quality and performance, Gooch's Marines were distinctly American. They were American by more than their name and identity; they were American by purpose. They were Marines in every sense of the word. Like the Continental Marines, they too were sailors in the absence of qualified seamen and soldiers of the sea. Perhaps it's time to revisit the discussion on Gooch's Marines and their place in the chronicles of U.S. Marine Corps history.

Author's bio: Dr. Nevglowski is the former director of the Marine Corps History Division. Before becoming the Marine Corps' history chief in 2019, he was the History Division's Edwin N. McClellan Research Fellow from 2017 to 2019, and a U.S. Marine from 1989 to 2017.

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MARINE FLYING FIELD

Miami, Fla., 1918-1919

Compiled by Nancy S. Lichtman

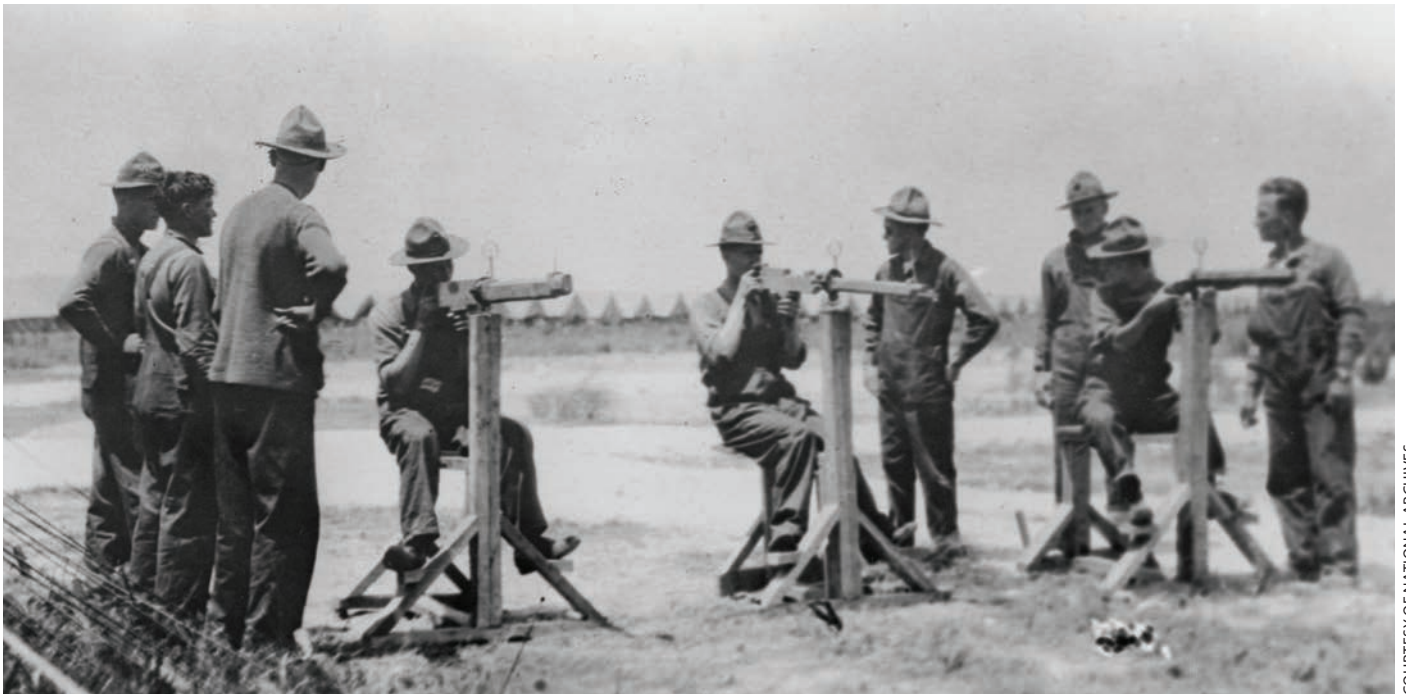
The year was 1918. Europe was at war and Marine Corps aviators were readying to go overseas to help our Allies finish the fight against Germany. But first there was training to be done, and Marine Corps aviation needed a place to prepare air crews.

Old Curtiss Field in Miami, Fla., was leased from aviation pioneer Glenn Hammond Curtiss, and became the home of a new Marine Corps aviation training base. On the base, located just north of the Miami River, the fledgling aviators trained under the command of Roy S. Geiger to fight in the skies over France where they would contribute to the eventual defeat of the Central Powers.

In late September 1919, the installation was closed. “With an impressive ceremony, the flag was lowered for the last time yesterday afternoon at the Marine Flying Field and taps were blown ... and now the Marine Flying Field is no more,” reported the Sept. 26, 1919, issue of *The Miami Herald*. “The officers and men ... left last night for Quantico, Va., where they will be stationed,” the article continued.

Today, the vast Miami International Airport complex has swallowed up the land where the flying leathernecks honed their skills while also practicing bombing and strafing missions. The only evidence that Marines once trained in Miami for aerial combat is a monument located in the middle of a golf course. For photos of the monument, see Saved Round on page 72.





COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Above: In order to train for aerial combat, Marines practice shooting at miniature airplanes at Marine Flying Field, Miami, Fla., June 1918.

Left: After their morning flight, the student aviators line up their airplanes at Marine Flying Field, Miami, Fla., June 17, 1918. According to Dr. Larry Burke, the aviation curator at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, the flying leathernecks in Miami took to the skies in JN-4s and Thomas-Morse Scouts.



COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES



Above: This repair “shed” where aircraft parts were repaired is an example of the austerity of the base’s facilities. (Photo courtesy of National Archives)



COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

A fleet of three Thomas-Morse Scout biplanes circle above the headquarters at Marine Flying Field, Miami, Fla.



Marines repair some of the aircraft at Marine Flying Field, Miami, Fla. The field was built on land leased from aviation manufacturing pioneer Glenn Hammond Curtiss.



COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Marines check the crates on a supply truck at Marine Flying Field, Miami, Fla., 1918.



COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

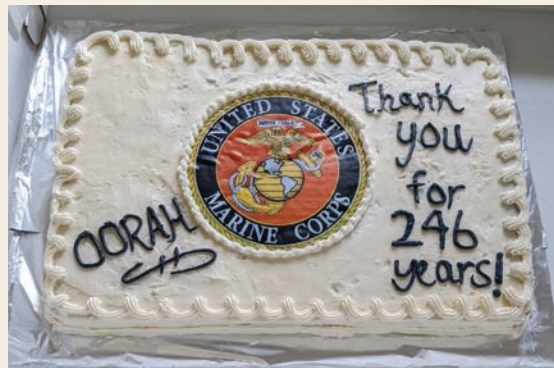
Colome, S.D.



COURTESY OF GEORGE FENTON

Pheasant-Hunting Veterans, Locals Celebrate Birthday of the Corps

When a group of Marine Corps and Army veterans gathered in the small town of Colome, S.D., in November 2021 for a pheasant hunting expedition, they couldn't miss an opportunity to celebrate the birthday of the Corps together, Nov. 10. When booking the trip with pheasant hunting outfitter Triple H Hunting, George Fenton, a member of the Marine Corps League Jack Maas Detachment 1379 in Fredericksburg, Va., asked the owner of Triple H, Marlin "Pete" Haukaas, how he might contact the town baker. But with a



COURTESY OF GEORGE FENTON

population of around 300, Colome, it appeared, had no such person. However, Haukaas suggested he reach out to local resident Lisa Forgey, who stepped up and baked the cake, refusing to accept payment for it.

When Nov. 10 came around, the veterans gathered to celebrate at the Frontier Bar & Grill, the town's only restaurant, where they were joined by a supportive crowd of locals. The Marines present explained the Corps' birthday traditions to their newfound friends, who listened to the reading of Major General John A. Lejeune's birthday message and observed the traditional cake cutting ceremony which honored the oldest and youngest Marines present.

Pictured from the left, George Fenton, Chuck Dowling, Steve Simpson, Stan Ryba, David Hudson and Kent Leonhardt gather to show off their 27 rooster pheasants in Colome, which is considered the "pheasant mecca" of America.

Submitted by Bill Anderson

San Diego

Monument Honors Recruit Depot's WW II-Era Female Marines

A newly dedicated monument at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., pays homage to members of the Women's Reserve Battalion who served at the depot during World War II. Base personnel, female Marine veterans, and guests gathered for a dedication ceremony in front of the current Temporary Enlisted Quarters, Feb. 11., on the site where the original Woman Marine Barracks was located. The construction of the monument was made possible by the efforts of the Women Marines Association and its San Diego chapter. Roberta Tidmore, a member of the association who served at MCRD San Diego during WW II, and Brigadier General Jason L. Morris, the commanding general of MCRD San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region, unveiled the monument together.



LCPL CRISTIAN TORRES, USMC

"It really affected me, and it's important for this monument to be here to show that we were here," said Tidmore of her service at MCRD during a pivotal time in its history.

LCpl Cristian Torres, USMC

Arlington, Va.

Iwo Jima Veterans, Virginia's Lieutenant Governor Honored During Annual Reunion

Battle of Iwo Jima veterans Ivan Hammond, Roy Earle, John DeGenarro and Louis Bourgault were among those in attendance at the Iwo Jima Association of America's 77th anniversary reunion held in Arlington, Va., Feb. 16-19. Events included visits to the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va., and wreath-laying ceremonies at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., and the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington. A commemorative symposium was conducted with military historians Dr. Charles Neimeyer and James Oelke-Farley, who not only thoroughly dissected the iconic battle but also delivered an insightful analysis of the entire Pacific theater during the war.

During the final night of the reunion, the association held its annual gala, which included music provided by the Marine Band from Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., and a detachment from the Young Marines youth program, which presented the colors. The association also awarded its inaugural "Spirit Award" to Marine veteran, Virginia's newly elected Lieutenant Governor, Winsome Earle-Sears, a Marine veteran.

The award was created in honor of Medal of Honor recipient and Iwo Jima veteran Hershel "Woody" Williams, who, while unable to attend the reunion, sent a pre-recorded message of congratulations to Sears, saying: "You bring so much to the table with your experience and dedication to veterans' causes and issues. Virginia can indeed be thankful that it now has a Marine in a position of leadership."

Editor's note: Read a Leatherneck-exclusive interview with Lieutenant Governor Sears on page 36, with a photo of her accepting the award on page 38.

Submitted by Maj Fred Lash, USMC (Ret)



COURTESY OF MAJ FRED LASH, USMC (RET)

Huntersville, N.C.

League Detachment Joins Marine-Led Effort to Support Homeless Veterans

Inspired by the efforts of the Connecticut-based Marine Corps League Peter P. Monaco Jr. Detachment 40 in support of the Backpacks for Life Project, which was featured in "Corps Connections" in the February 2021 issue of *Leatherneck*, members of the League's PFC Bruce Larson Detachment 1242 and the American Legion Post 321 in Huntersville, N.C., decided to join in. Backpacks for Life, founded in 2014 by Marine veteran Brett D'Allesandro, provides military-grade backpacks filled with personal items for at-risk and homeless veterans.

The detachment purchased 50 backpacks, which are designed with homeless veterans in mind, and reached out to individuals and organizations in the local communities of Huntersville, Cornelius and Davidson to ask for their partnership. In fewer than three months, the detachment had received nearly \$12,000 in donations as well as socks, knitted scarves and hats. In November 2021, volunteers filled the backpacks with daily essentials, toiletries, scarves, socks, gloves and fast-food gift cards. With the help of local first responders



COURTESY OF FRANK CHRISTMAS

and veteran service organizations, the backpacks were delivered to homeless veterans in the region in December and January.

"Through this effort, we found a way to say, 'Thank you, and we care,' to each veteran that received a backpack and hope that we make a difference in the veteran's daily life," said Frank Christmas, the judge advocate for Detachment 1242 and first vice commander of American Legion Post 321. "Our team is anxious to get started on our 2022 campaign."

Submitted by Frank Christmas

"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.boat@mca-marines.org. Submission does not guarantee publication, and we cannot guarantee the return of photos. 🇺🇸

Virginia's Lieutenant Governor, Marine Veteran Winsome Earle-Sears:

“Leadership is Not What You Say: It's What You Do”

By Sara W. Bock

In the 1980s, while serving as an electrician at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Corporal Winsome Earle observed a display of leadership that left a distinct and lasting impression. Assigned to their unit's quality control section, Earle and her fellow Marines were working around the clock in preparation for a routine Inspector General inspection and were quickly growing exhausted.

“Our warrant officer came out to our platoon formation after we had come back for the evening and we still had another four or five hours to go after we had worked a long day, and he encouraged us,” she recalls during an exclusive interview with *Leatherneck*, Feb. 18. “I don't remember the words because all I remember is ... He was moving equipment with us, he was inspecting equipment, he was doing all kinds of things. He got more out of us that day than the days before. And I learned that leadership is not what you say: it's what you do.”

It's a memory that the first female lieutenant governor of Virginia, Winsome Earle-Sears, continues to call to mind today and strives to emulate as she finds her footing in the Commonwealth's second-highest office. The affable Republican, who also is the first Black woman to hold statewide office in Virginia, was sworn in Jan. 15, alongside newly elected Governor Glenn Youngkin. Together, they've taken the helm of a state with a strong military presence, home to nearly 700,000 veterans and 27 military bases, including the Defense Department's headquarters, the Pentagon.

Sears served just one enlistment in the Corps, but her identity as a Marine is ingrained in her, and she believes her experiences on active duty prepared her for the responsibilities of her office, which include presiding over the Senate of Virginia where she is responsible for casting tie-breaking votes.

Born in Jamaica in 1964, Sears traveled to New York City as a child to live with her father in the Bronx. She describes an upbringing in which politics and government were frequently discussed—particularly by



COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR WINSOME EARLE-SEARS



COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR WINSOME EARLE-SEARS

The newly elected lieutenant governor of Virginia, Winsome Earle-Sears, served as an electrician in the Marine Corps from 1983 to 1986. She credits the Corps with teaching her important lessons about leadership and self-discipline that she continues to implement today.

her grandmother, who was heavily involved in Jamaican politics and with whom she had a cherished bond.

“We just always talked politics. We read two different newspapers every day so that we could be able to have discussions about things,” Sears said, describing family debates about hot button issues, to which she adds, “Jamaicans are very political.”

Sears attributes this in part to the period of democratic

Winsome Earle-Sears waves to the crowd after being sworn in as Virginia's 42nd lieutenant governor in Richmond, Va., Jan. 15.
(Photo courtesy of the Office of Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears)



“It just so happened that my mother in Jamaica happened to have a *Jet* magazine open to the ad with, ‘The Few, the Proud, the Marines.’ And I thought, ‘Yes, this is what I need. I need some discipline. I need a reason to live. And the Marines can sure do that for me.’ ”

Then-PFC Winsome Earle is pictured here in uniform in 1983. Born in Jamaica, the young Marine became a U.S. citizen while serving on active duty.



COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR WINSOME EARLE-SEARS

socialist rule in Jamaica during her childhood years. “It just destroyed us,” she says. “We understood that you’ve got to get involved in government ... Sometimes it takes you growing up and having a family that you start seeing things and you think, ‘No, this is not the future I want for my children.’ So, you get involved, and you can either light a candle or you can curse the darkness. To light the candle is to find the solution. To curse the darkness is to be a victim. And you know in the Marine Corps we always say there are no problems, only solutions and other options.”

Her grandmother’s influence not only sparked an interest in politics and a responsibility to get involved, but also set her on the path to becoming a Marine. Sears was 18 years old when her grandmother died, and although she was enrolled in college and set to begin classes that coming fall, she found herself flailing.

“It just so happened that my mother in Jamaica happened to have a *Jet* magazine open to the ad with, ‘The Few, the Proud, the Marines.’ And I thought, ‘Yes, this is what I need. I need some discipline. I need a reason to live. And the Marines can sure do that for me.’” Sears recalls. “So that’s what happened.



MAJ FRED LASH, USMC (RET)

Sears, center, accepts the Iwo Jima Association of America’s first-ever “Spirit Award” during its annual gala in Arlington, Va., Feb. 19. The award was created as a tribute to Medal of Honor recipient and Iwo Jima veteran Hershel “Woody” Williams.

As Lieutenant Governor-elect, Sears attended a cake cutting ceremony at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va., in celebration of the Marine Corps Birthday, Nov. 10, 2021. During the event, she had the opportunity to visit with veterans, friends of the Corps, and active-duty Marines.

I joined the Marine Corps, and I got several reasons to live and a lot of discipline. It was one of the best times of my life for sure.”

After stepping on the yellow footprints at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., in January 1983, Sears quickly learned that she would have to lose what her drill instructors referred to as her “New York attitude.”

“One time the drill instructor said to me, ‘Private Earle, you’re not going to make it, you understand me?’ And I thought, ‘Wait a minute. I can’t go home a failure!’” she recalls, referring to the DIs as “masters of psychology,” and adding, “You know, the Marine Corps, they see things in you that you don’t even see in yourself.”

The newly minted Marine, who was raised with the mentality that it’s important to acquire a trade or skill, found her niche as an electrician, attending the Marine Corps Engineer School at Courthouse Bay on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

“Man, was it out there in the boon docks!” Sears says with a laugh, recalling that she was the only female Marine in her class. “Being a woman Marine is one thing, and then being a woman Marine in such a field just really makes you one of the very few.”

After completing her military occupational specialty (MOS) training, Sears was assigned to Camp Pendleton, where she was one of just a few women in her unit. She describes how she quickly realized that she had to prove herself capable of meeting the same standards as the male Marines around her, who she says were more than willing to help her out. The gesture was nice, she said, but she knew she had to rely on her own merit in order to make it.

“You have to dig your own ditch, you have to pull your own weight and you will get the respect that’s deserving of you,” said Sears.

She recalls another instance in which she learned to take responsibility for herself: a formation for which she thought she was well-prepared but soon found out otherwise.

“My boots were spit shined, my cammies were excellently pressed, everything was good,” Sears said. But it turned out that her glasses had a few fingerprints on the lenses that she had missed. “And because of that, I didn’t get the day off like all of the others did. I remember thinking, ‘But they’re glasses!’ Details



COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR WINSOME EARLE-SEARS

matter ... If you’re going to do something right, do it right the first time. No excuses.”

It’s lessons like these that became part of Sears’ leadership philosophy, one that’s to this day heavily influenced by her service in the Marine Corps. She’s also driven by a deep sense of duty to the country that once welcomed her as a young immigrant. Soon after taking the oath of enlistment, she took another oath to become a U.S. citizen.

After leaving active duty in 1986, Sears went on to pursue a wide array of endeavors, including earning a master’s degree; running a homeless shelter; serving as a vice president of the Virginia State Board of Education; starting a small appliance, electric and plumbing business alongside her husband,

It’s lessons like these that became part of Sears’ leadership philosophy, one that’s to this day heavily influenced by her service in the Marine Corps. She’s also driven by a deep sense of duty to the country that once welcomed her as a young immigrant.

Sears believes that it's essential that veterans hold offices at all levels of government—not only to advocate for issues that affect military-connected populations, but also because of the unique skillsets and attributes that veterans bring to the table.



Above: Sears, Governor Glenn Youngkin, and Attorney General Jason Miyares, together with their spouses, join hands after being sworn in at the Virginia State Capitol in Richmond, Va., Jan. 15. (Photo courtesy of the Office of Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears)

Right: As lieutenant governor, Sears, left, is serving the commonwealth of Virginia alongside newly elected Governor Glenn Youngkin, right. During her campaign, she advocated for eliminating a portion of state taxes on military retirement pay as well as the expansion of various programs that serve veterans.



COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR WINSOME EARLE-SEARS

Sears recalls that as a young female Marine, she quickly learned she had to “dig her own ditch” in order to earn the respect of those around her. Even decades later, her identity as a Marine is still an integral part of who she is today.

Terence, who also is a veteran Marine; and receiving presidential appointments to the U.S. Census Bureau and the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans, which reported to the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 2001, she served one term as a state legislator. Her varied experiences have afforded her a unique perspective of government, of service and of what it means to be an American.

“I think sometimes we as Americans take our liberties for granted, and we don’t understand that you have to fight for your liberties. That you are the government,” Sears said. “Government depends on you being involved. Government depends on you demanding that your leaders represent you and represent you well. That they take your phone calls. That they look out for your best interests, that they’re not there for themselves. That the political leaders understand that they represent you.”

When she ran for the office of lieutenant governor of Virginia in 2021, a significant plank of her campaign was veterans’ issues, including a push to eliminate all state taxes on the first \$40,000 of military retirement pay and expand Virginia’s veterans care centers and workforce transition programs. She’s looking forward to tackling issues that are unique to female veterans, adding that while you don’t have to be a veteran to understand how veterans are affected by policy, it makes a difference when you “speak the same language.” She has increasingly been hearing from veterans across Virginia who are seeking help in various capacities.

Sears believes that it’s essential that veterans hold offices at all levels of government—not only to advocate for issues that affect military-connected populations, but also because of the unique skillsets and attributes that veterans bring to the table. Most importantly, perhaps, is an understanding of what really matters, and a shared identity not as Republicans or Democrats but as Americans. She encourages veterans who are interested in running for office to understand the sacrifice and work involved. To them she says, “Give it your all.”

“As veterans, we don’t care if you’re Republican, Democrat, Green Party, whatever party you are,” said Sears. “When we raise our hands to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States, we understand that we’re going to die for everybody. Not a political party. We are willing to give our lives for our country and those in it. So, we have a totally different perspective. We’re not so vitriolic sometimes. We understand that you can disagree without being disagreeable ... not that veterans are without fault, but I think there is something special about a veteran being in office, having already once raised our hand to uphold the Constitution—it’s not something foreign to us. We’ve done it before.” 🇺🇸



COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR WINSOME EARLE-SEARS



COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR WINSOME EARLE-SEARS

Sears and her husband, Terence, who also is a veteran Marine, walk down the steps of the Virginia State Capitol following her Jan. 15 inauguration as lieutenant governor.



3rd Marine Regiment Redesignated 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment

The Marine Corps administratively redesignated the 3rd Marine Regiment as the 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment (MLR) in a ceremony on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, March 3. The occasion marked the establishment of the first MLR in the Marine Corps.

The redesignation of this storied regiment is an important chapter in Marine Corps history and builds on its reputation as a versatile, agile and lethal warfighting organization.

“Marines on the leading edge of change is nothing new,” said Major General Jay Bargeron, the commanding general of 3rd Marine Division. “Adapting and overcoming challenge is part of our history and a critical component of our maneuver warfare philosophy. Marines have always

been at the forefront of change when required, generating innovative solutions to challenging operational problems.”

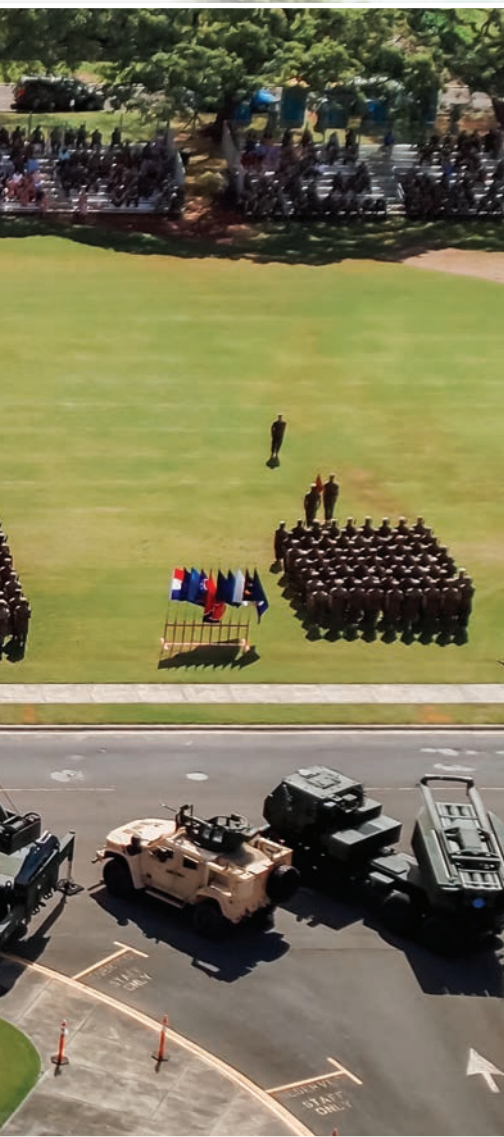
While the 3rd MLR is not expected to be fully operational for several years, its establishment demonstrates progress in the Marine Corps’ Force Design 2030 modernization goals.

“The MLR will be optimized for conducting Expeditionary Advanced Base Operations in support of the joint force, with allies and partners, in austere and distributed maritime environments,” said MajGen Bargeron. “We are honing our capabilities to integrate and coordinate joint and combined fires and effects, extending the reach of and providing more options to our forces.”

As designed, the 3rd MLR is made up of a headquarters element and three subordinate commands. These

subordinate commands are the 3rd Littoral Anti-Air Battalion, which activated Feb. 11; the Combat Logistics Battalion 3; and the Littoral Combat Team 3.

The MLR is tailored to integrate with naval forces and serve as a key enabler for joint forces, allies and partners. Its low signature in the electromagnetic spectrum will help the MLR remain difficult to detect, allowing it to function within range of the adversary’s weapons systems. From there, the MLR will integrate communications, sensor networks, and weapons systems to strengthen joint kill webs and increase the joint force’s ability to detect and target adversary forces. These actions will complicate an adversary’s decision-making process while providing additional options for friendly forces. Further details of how the MLR will operate are still in development



Above: Col Timothy S. Brady Jr., CO, 3rd MLR, and SgtMaj Rodney E. Nevinger, 3rd MLR sergeant major, unveil the newly redesignated regiment’s colors during a ceremony at MCB Hawaii, March 3. (Photo by Cpl Patrick King, USMC)

Left: Marines conduct a redesignation ceremony for 3rd MLR, formerly known as 3rd Marines, at MCB Hawaii, March 3. The 3rd MLR will serve as a key enabler for joint, allied and partnered forces, integrate with naval forces, and enable multi-domain maneuver and fires within contested spaces. (Photo by SSgt Jordan Gilbert, USMC)

and will continue to be informed by experimentation.

“When our partners and allies need us, we will be ready,” said MajGen Barger. “This redesignation reflects the Corps’ continued effort to ensure that Marines remain capable of fighting and winning on the battlefields of the future.”

3rdMarDiv

Col Brady and SgtMaj Nevinger retire the colors of 3rd Marine Regiment at MCB Hawaii, March 3. The transition of 3rd Marines to 3rd MLR is in accordance with Force Design 2030 and one of the first major steps in facilitating a shift as the Marine Corps divests in legacy capabilities and builds a force that is optimized for future operations. (Photo by Cpl Patrick King, USMC)



Pendleton Marine is First on Scene After Small Plane Crashes

A Marine commuting home from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., raced to the scene of a Cessna single-engine airplane crash near the Oceanside Municipal Airport, Feb. 24.

Sergeant Morgan Vohs, an open-water safety craft coxswain with G-7 Expeditionary Operations Training Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, witnessed the aircraft impact just short of the runway while driving home along California State Route 76.

“As soon as it hit, I just immediately pulled over and jumped the 76 and ran over to the crash,” said Vohs, who added that his “fight or flight” response kicked in and his response was to fight—to get in there and help.

When Vohs went to check on the copilot, he found the door was damaged and couldn’t be opened easily.

“I had to pull the [door] handle, and I was able to squeeze my finger underneath it and just kind of yank that door open,” said Vohs. “Luckily it wasn’t too bent up and I could get into it.”

After assessing the pilot and copilot, Vohs provided first response aid and helped keep them calm until emergency medical services arrived on scene.

Looking back, Vohs said he did what anyone else would do in that situation, and he said he values his Marine Corps training, which provided him the knowledge he needed to help.

“Every Marine goes through it in boot camp. It’s called CLS, combat lifesaving,”



SSGT ROYCE H. DORMAN, USMC

Sgt Morgan Vohs, an open water safety coxswain with I MEF, was the first to arrive on scene when a small general aviation airplane crashed in Oceanside, Calif., Feb. 24. Vohs utilized the CLS training he received in the Marine Corps to help render aid until emergency services arrived on scene.

said Vohs. “Every Marine knows the basics of medical training. It’s just second nature.”

2ndLt Katarina Vogel, USMC

Study Tracks Long-Term Effects Of COVID-19 on Marines

A team made up of U.S. Navy medical personnel and civilian technicians based at Naval Medical Research Center in Silver Spring, Md., assembled during the

initial outbreak of COVID-19 to study the short- and long-term effects that the virus has on Marines. The study is known as the COVID-19 Health Action Response (CHARM) for Marines and is now following up with many of those Marines nearly two years after they contracted the coronavirus.

The CHARM study was founded in May 2020 to assist the Marine Corps in managing COVID-19 outbreaks occurring at its recruit depots, as well as to monitor the health of recruits who tested positive for the virus. The second iteration of the study was launched soon afterwards and deployed to more than 15 bases around the U.S. and Okinawa, Japan, to follow up and monitor the symptoms those recruits, who are now in the Fleet Marine Force, may be experiencing.

“The CHARM study is currently continuing its research here in Okinawa to follow up on participating Marines who contracted COVID-19 in the past,” said Captain Charmagne Beckett, USN, a research physician at the Naval Medical Research Center Silver Spring. “It is important that we travel across the globe to continue our research on these Marines and study the long-term effects they may have from contracting COVID-19 in the past.”

Beckett explained that although the Marines being monitored on Okinawa went through the informational brief during recruit training, they were again provided with the same brief and were asked if they wished to continue participating in the voluntary study. The first event of



LCPL ALEX FAIRCHILD, USMC

HMC Jan Marayag, USN, a laboratory chief with NMRC Silver Spring, collects a blood sample Jan. 24, from a Marine stationed at Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan, in support of a COVID-19 Health Action Response study that monitors the long-term effects the virus has on Marines.



LCPL ALEX FAIRCHILD, USMC

HM1 Brian Bryant, USN, a hospital corpsman with NMRC Silver Spring, explains results to a patient participating in the COVID-19 Health Action Response for Marines study on Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan, Jan. 24.



LCPL KAYLA LAMAR, USMC

Sgt Nathaniel Cunningham, a METOC analyst forecaster with MCAF Quantico, Va., checks weather radar images, Jan. 26. METOC forecasters provide meteorological support to pilots, aircrew, training units and base commanders by delivering up-to-date and accurate weather forecasts and conditions, promoting safe operations across the base.

the study consists of the Marines filling out a questionnaire which gives them a chance to identify any symptoms they may have.

After the Marines complete the questionnaire, they are taken through a series of tests that monitor breathing strength, cardiovascular strength, bodily responses to temperature, nasal swabs, saliva samples and a blood draw. These tests are then compared to each Marine's previous results.

Although the CHARM study is far from over, it has so far suggested that it is common for Marines who had COVID-19 in the past to experience symptoms such as loss of taste and smell and recurring nausea.

"Not only does the information from this research benefit Marines, but by extension, it also helps take care of local populations," said Beckett. "We are hoping to see long-term benefits of this study to help answer important questions on COVID-19, such as, 'How does vaccination affect the symptoms and resistance of the Omicron variant?'"

Beckett explained that over the course of the study, the CHARM team continues to

work together to process results efficiently and monitor participating Marines.

"As a laboratory technician, my role in CHARM is to preserve and take care of test results before they are processed at our facility in the U.S.," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Maria Potts-Szoke, USN, a hospital corpsman with the Naval Medical Research Center Silver Spring. "For example, when we receive a blood sample, we go through a process called peripheral blood mononuclear cell isolation to preserve the samples."

Potts-Szoke said that she feels humbled to be a part of a team that studies the effects of COVID-19 on Marines. Through the team's travels around military installations, the study has successfully monitored more than 800 Marines.

"To me, this research is so important because it is giving back to servicemembers and will have a lasting impact on the future," said Beckett. "When we head back to the U.S., we will continue to study these results and monitor the participating Marines to continue making an impact on the studies of the effects COVID-19 has on Marines."

LCpl Alex Fairchild, USMC

Rain or Shine: METOC Marines Ensure Safety, Smooth Operations

"When I tell people that I'm a meteorologist or that I'm a weatherman, I get asked immediately, 'Are you on the news?' Then I tell them that I actually work for the Marine Corps ... I work behind the scenes," said Sergeant Nathaniel Cunningham, a meteorology and oceanography (METOC) analyst forecaster at Marine Corps Air Facility Quantico, Va.

METOC forecaster is one of the many jobs Marines perform behind the scenes. Working around the clock, they collect data, study the atmosphere and forecast the weather. METOC forecasters are crucial to mission success and the overall safety operations of the installations on which they work.

"When you see thunderstorms moving through, to you it's just rain—to us, it's ... thousands of emails, calls and group texts to people and getting the information out as quickly as possible," said Sergeant Matthew Nguyen, METOC analyst forecaster with MCAF Quantico.

Cunningham and Nguyen are seasoned METOC forecasters who provide weather updates to Marine Corps Base Quantico

personnel. Every hour they record weather data and keep a watchful eye on weather patterns. They are responsible for producing multiple daily forecasts for pilots and aircrews, as well as to key leadership.

“At this station we are part of operations in preparing people, to let people know what will be coming towards them. In doing so, it’s going to enhance their safety

and how they operate,” Nguyen said.

Quantico’s forecasters work closely with Colonel Michael Brooks, the base’s commanding officer, to provide weather information that assists in the tactical decision-making process, directly impacting the operations of the base.

“In the Marine Corps planning process, we are generally in the first section of

briefs,” said Cunningham. “Talking with the CO, especially when there’s weather coming up, he will want to know the very specifics, down to the hour and minute of when precipitation and storms are predicted to come on station,” he continued.

During the winter months, forecasters at Quantico stay busy determining amounts of snowfall, predicting how much ice will be on roads and how it will affect Marines coming to and from the base.

“We work closely with HMX [Marine Helicopter Squadron One], that’s our main mission—their safety, helicopters, how they fly and how they operate within the weather,” said Nguyen.

Every Marine Corps air station uses the Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS), which collects weather data. The ASOS transmits meteorological observations every hour and logs the current observations of the station online. Forecasters use this data to provide weather reports to pilots outlining what they can expect throughout the duration of their flights. Forecasters use the Automatic Heat Stress System (AHSS) to determine wet bulb globe temperatures and define the flag conditions for the base. The AHSS is an important tool that assists leadership in determining the duration and types of physical training Marines can perform during given temperatures.

METOC forecasters go through a rigorous 9 to 12 months of training at Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi. Studies include atmospheric physics, atmospheric dynamics, collection of data and weather observations, weather forecasting and job performance at the fleet.

“We don’t just look at the National Weather Service, we don’t just pull out our phones and see what’s on the weather app. It takes a lot of work and a lot of know-how to perform our jobs effectively,” said Cunningham.

Behind-the-scenes Marines report for duty, rain or shine, to the METOC office, which remains open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. These Marines continue to play a vital role in the safety and operations of their bases and stations, and the Marine Corps as a whole.

“Weather can make or break an operation,” stated Cunningham.

Ashley Boster



LCpl Chandler A. Hodge, a METOC analyst forecaster with MCAF Quantico, Va., reads information off a kestrel weather meter, Jan. 26. The device reads the wet bulb temperature, pressure and humidity, and is used in tactical settings or other situations in which weather conditions need to be known on the spot.



LCPL KAYLA LAMAR, USMC



LCPL KAYLA LAMAR, USMC

Cpl Haydon R. King, assigned to MCAF Quantico, Va., uses an anemometer to read wind speed and direction, Jan. 26.



SGT SERVANTE COBA, USMC

Maj Cory T. Jones salutes MajGen Michael Cederholm, CG, 2nd MAW, during a ceremony at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C., Feb. 28. Jones, a KC-130J pilot, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroic actions when an F-35B collided with his aircraft during a routine air-to-air refueling mission in September 2020.

KC-130J Pilot Receives Distinguished Flying Cross



Major Cory T. Jones, a KC-130J Super Hercules pilot with Fleet Replacement Detachment, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, was presented with the Distinguished Flying Cross, the nation's fourth highest award for heroism and highest award for extraordinary aerial achievement, during a ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., Feb. 28.

On Sept. 29, 2020, while conducting a routine air-to-air refueling mission in support of Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) course at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., Jones, who was assigned to Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron (VMGR) 352, heroically landed the Super Hercules in a farm field after an F-35B Lightning II collided into it, causing multiple system failures and significant structural damage. The F-35 pilot safely ejected, but ejection was not an option for

Jones and the seven other Marines—a second pilot and six loadmasters—on board the behemoth transport aircraft.


Over a period of 12 minutes, Jones and his crew worked together, keeping calm under tremendous pressure, and managed to defy the odds by not only landing the airplane but also walking away from the incident relatively unscathed.

“Nobody quit, nobody froze up, everybody remained focused on what they had to do, because we all knew that it was going to take a team effort to safely get that aircraft back on the deck,” said Jones in a video interview released by 2nd MAW.

For Jones, who had returned to the cockpit just that day after taking paternity leave for the birth of his son, his family was on his mind during the harrowing ordeal. He also instantly thought of the friends he had lost during two fatal Marine Corps C-130 mishaps in recent years, one of which occurred under startlingly similar circumstances when an F/A-18 collided

with a KC-130J assigned to Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron (VMGR) 152 off the coast of Japan during refueling operations in December 2018, claiming the lives of all five Marines on board as well as the pilot of the F/A-18.

During the interview, Jones, who now serves as the NATOPS program manager and crew resource management program manager for the Marine Corps KC-130 community, emphasized the importance of training in emergency procedures, which he says aided in the crew's successful and somewhat miraculous landing. He also acknowledged that there was an element of luck involved, stating that if the fighter jet had made impact in another area of the airplane, the day might easily have ended in tragedy.

“Receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross is a huge honor,” said Jones. “I never expected anything out of this event. In all honesty, just being able to sit here and talk today, to be here today, is everything that I could ever want.” 

They called him “Coach!”

By MSgt Jeff Dacus, USMCR (Ret)

Tales of fighter aces dueling in the skies over the Western Front in World War I excited the imaginations of children in the 1920s. “The Red Baron,” “Mad Mick,” “Balloon Buster,” “Flying Circus,” and other nicknames helped make these individuals bigger than life to young people growing up as the world turned from devastating war to an economic depression. These singular pilots, these “aces,” were celebrated for individual actions; but the truly great fighter pilots were those who had excellent flying and fighting skills, were able to teach those skills and also able to lead their men into battle. Few men had all of these abilities. One boy growing up in the 1920s would prove to be capable of being a leader, teacher, fighter and flyer. He was Harold William Bauer.

Born in Woodruff, Kan., on Nov. 20, 1908, Bauer was raised in North Platte,

Neb. He was an excellent student and gifted athlete who thrived on the football field. Although his ancestry was German, his dark, good looks earned him the nickname “Indian Joe.”

Bauer was appointed to the Naval Academy in 1926, graduating as a Marine second lieutenant in 1930. After briefly serving with an infantry battalion, he returned to the Academy and coached basketball and lacrosse in 1932. During this time, he also served as a marksmanship instructor and range officer, developing a keen eye that would serve him well later.

Earning his wings of gold at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., in 1936, Bauer served in several squadrons ashore and aboard ship. He learned bombing and aerial fighting tactics flying scout bombers and fighters. In 1940 he was appointed executive officer of Marine Fighting Squadron (VMF) 221 in San Diego, Calif.

Affable and approachable, he was also serious about any task he was given. He had high expectations for his pilots and did not suffer fools easily.

Serious and contemplative, Bauer wrote in a letter to his wife and son after the attack on Pearl Harbor: “War is a hell of a thing to face, but as long as we must face it, we certainly want to do our share. We have but one life to give to our Country and loved ones.” After the Japanese attack, VMF-221 moved to Marine Corps Air Station Ewa, Hawaii. While awaiting orders to the South Pacific, Bauer became friends with several important naval aviators including James Flatley. Flatley had just returned from action in the South Pacific and written down his thoughts in a paper called “The Naval Fighter.” Essentially it emphasized using the strengths of American airplanes against the weaknesses of the Japanese Zero. It



Wildcats taking off from the airfield known as Fighter One on Guadalcanal. Harold W. Bauer was commander of VMF-212 when he was lost on his final flight.

An exuberant LtCol Harold W. Bauer, right, demonstrates his technique to fellow Marines Pvt Sigmund J. Zatorski and Cpl Herbert Smith. Intensely competitive, Bauer had just returned from a mission in which he downed four Japanese planes, Oct. 3, 1942.

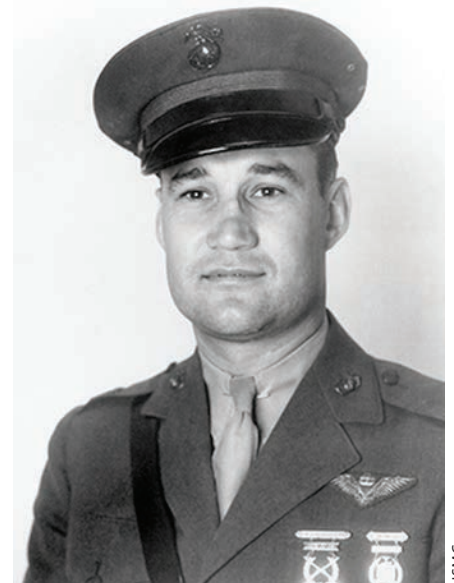
also stressed the use of teamwork in their section and division tactics. Flying F2A Brewster Buffaloes, VMF-221 spent every spare minute flying and Bauer used the time to work his Marines on those lessons the Navy pilots taught him. His methods and personality, as well as his background in athletics, earned him the respect of his young pilots who called him “Coach.”

Appointed commander of VMF-212, Bauer led his Marines to New Caledonia. He continued his strict regime of flying and emphasized teamwork through the tactics he’d learned from veteran Navy and Marine pilots.

Bauer not only took squadron, section, and Division tactics seriously, he also tried to spend one-on-one time with pilots. Lieutenant Robert Flaherty told the famous novelist Max Brand about a training session with Bauer. The encounter was recalled in Brand’s “Fighter



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USMC

Above: Capt Harold W. Bauer, before the Guadalcanal campaign. He was assigned to VMF-221 aboard USS *Saratoga* when the attack on Pearl Harbor took place.

USN



USMC

Lt Harold W. Bauer, before he completed flight training. He had a variety of assignments including service with an artillery unit before he became a pilot.

Squadron at Guadalcanal.” “The first time I went up and dogfought with Bauer, he was in a trainer SNJ and I was in a Grumman [Wildcat], to find out how an inferior plane could fight against one with superior performance ... I should have got up there and started swooping on him the way a hawk does, using the speed of the dives to take me upstairs again after each pass. But he just turned inside me, and after I made that first pass, I found myself flattening out ... right then my old engine got tired and folded up. It was a pretty near thing, but I managed to make a safe landing. Bauer said I did a damn fool job of fighting but a damned good job of landing.” Frustrated, Flaherty wouldn’t give up.

“So I got another plane and took off again. This time I put a lot more sky under me, and of course the more sky you have, the better off you are. I began making passes on him. He kept turning inside me

and had me completely outmaneuvered. I had the better plane, and I knew something about flying it, but nothing compared with the Coach. When we landed he told me off, point by point, and certainly could make himself clear. Nobody minded his tough way of talking, though, because it was better to learn through the Coach than through Japanese gunfire. And there was nothing personal about him. He was simply comparing you with the man he wanted you to be.”

Bauer wasn’t done with the young flyer: “He took me right up in the SNJ against another fellow and showed me my mistakes one by one and how to remedy them. He showed me just what position to get in when you fight a superior plane; behind, below, and always turning so that when he’s shooting at you, you’re shooting at him. And always be aggressive; never hang back; get hold of the other fellow in the air and never let go of him until

he’s dead or gone.” The lessons hit home. Flaherty would shoot down three enemy planes flying as a wingman for other pilots, including ace Major John L. Smith of VMF-223.

Arriving in the South Pacific after the invasion of Guadalcanal, code-named “Cactus,” Bauer and VMF-212 were not sent into combat immediately. Stationed at Efate, small groups of pilots went up to Henderson Field on Guadalcanal for a few days and then returned to Efate. Bauer scored his first victory on Sept. 28, 1942, claiming a Betty bomber while flying with VMF-223. Conditions on Guadalcanal were tenuous. Despite the best efforts of the Cactus Air Force, as the aerial defenders of Guadalcanal were dubbed, the Japanese destroyed the American airplanes in the air and on the ground at an alarming pace. At times the number of aircraft available could be counted on one hand. Pilots were sick or wounded and replaced by Navy pilots or pilots of other Marine squadrons. On the ground, the Marines defeated repeated attempts by the Japanese to dislodge them but the campaign’s success was often in doubt.

The Japanese hit hard on Oct. 3, 1942, with a large raid on Guadalcanal. Bauer had just arrived on the island and asked the commander of VMF-223, John L. Smith, if he could fly with them. Smith referred him to Marion Carl, who was leading the flight that day. Carl quickly acquiesced, “Hell, yes!”

The Marines were at 30,000 feet when they spotted the Japanese planes. Carl led the Marines into a diving attack that decimated the Japanese. Bauer hit one Zero with a fatal blast from his six guns and quickly pulled up behind another. Nearly stalling in an attempt to follow the Zero into a steep climbing turn, Bauer blasted the second Japanese plane. One by one his guns quit firing but he downed the Zero.

Down to only one gun, Bauer stormed after the enemy. The other Wildcats seemed to disappear, leaving him alone with three Zeros. “They all shoved away leaving me to play with the zeros all by myself.” He chased one of the climbing, turning Zeros. With only one gun firing, he scored enough hits to force the Zero to break off and head toward Rabaul spewing smoke. The other two Zeros disappeared.

Calmly, Bauer recharged his guns in an effort to clear them. While skirting in and out of clouds, he spotted two parachutes. The closest to the water appeared to be Japanese but the other was definitely an American. As he viewed the scene, a single Zero “came out of nowhere and fired a very long burst at the dangling pilot. This infuriated me and I went after



COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

the Zero with much gusto. I know I scored several hits on him and chased him away smoking.” Low on fuel, he returned to Henderson and grabbed another Wildcat. He spent the rest of the evening flying cover for the downed Marine, Kenneth Frazier, of VMF-223.

VMF-212 was officially assigned to Henderson Field on Oct. 16. Bauer led 19 Wildcats from Efate to Guadalcanal. They arrived over the field at about 5:30 p.m. and began landing as they were nearly out of fuel. Off in the distance Bauer noticed smoke just off Lunga Point. A ship unloading precious aviation fuel had been attacked and slightly damaged by Japanese dive-bombers. Without hesitation, Bauer cranked up his landing gear and went after the Japanese. High above the ocean but within full view of the Marines and other personnel on Guadalcanal, Bauer went after several of the Japanese. When the action ended, he had downed four of the Val dive-bombers and landed with only fumes in his fuel tanks.

As a senior aviator, Bauer was assigned as the Guadalcanal fighter commander where he continued to tutor the younger pilots. In his book “Joe Foss: Flying Marine,” Foss remembered one session with Bauer. According to Foss, Bauer told the Marines: “Aim for the wing base on

Left: The “scoreboard” of VMF-212 during their tour at Guadalcanal.



USN

Pilots of VMF-212 pose for a photo with Harold W. Bauer standing to the right of the sign. He was the squadron’s commanding officer from March 1 through Nov. 12, 1942.

Right: Japanese air attacks also took their toll on the ground. Here is the wreckage of a Grumman F4F Wildcat fighter destroyed during a Japanese bombing mission in 1942. (USMC photo)

Below: A Grumman F4F-4 Wildcat takes off from Henderson Field, Guadalcanal, to repulse a Japanese aerial bombardment attempt. (USN photo)

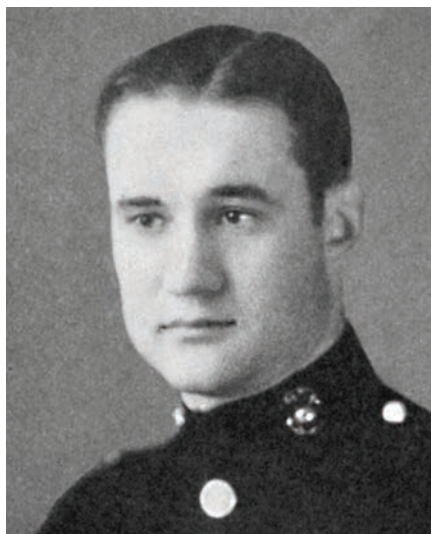


all Japanese planes. That's the best target. None of their planes have armor or self-sealing fuel tanks." In addition to such practical knowledge, he also had tactical advice: "Be an aggressor. Your job is to shoot down Japanese planes. Outsmart the enemy. You should have complete faith in your armor and confidence in your ability to shoot down any plane you see when you get it in your sights. So you want a safe war? There's no way to make war safe. The thing for you to do is to make it very UNSAFE for the enemy."

After a great naval action on Nov. 13, the Japanese tried a desperate attempt to reinforce and resupply their units on Guadalcanal. Unfortunately for them, the convoy was sighted by American reconnaissance planes and attacked by every plane the Allies could muster. Throughout the day, fighters, dive-bombers, Army B-17s, and even a PBY patrol plane attacked the Japanese. The ground crews at Henderson Field worked tirelessly on the planes as they landed, refueled, and took off again. Bauer chafed on the ground as he directed the American fighter effort.

According to John Lundstrom in his book "The First Team and the Guadalcanal Campaign," by the afternoon Bauer could stand it no longer. He jumped into a Wildcat and prepared to lead a couple of other fighters into the air. He saw a flight of Navy Wildcats landing as Marine SBDs and Wildcats took off or taxied into position. As he started his plane, a figure jumped on his wing and smacked him on

Below: Harold W. Bauer graduated from the Naval Academy in 1930. He also coached basketball and lacrosse in addition to being a marksmanship instructor at the Academy.



USN

the shoulder. It was Jimmie Flatley, the famous Navy tactician and good friend of Bauer. "Where are you going, Joe?" shouted Flatley over the roar of the Wildcat's engine. The Coach replied: "That's the trouble. I'm tired of seeing the boys off all day while I stay behind. I'm going to see for myself what the convoy looks like." There were only a few moments to talk.

Despite shells from Japanese artillery striking the field, the Marines took off to

the north, Bauer waving to Flatley "See you when I get back!" In the thick of the action, Bauer and his two companions, Joe Foss and Lieutenant Thomas Furlow, provided cover for SBDs attacking the Japanese ships. Foss remembered Bauer as saying when questioned about his presence in the flight: "I'm not going to let you fellows have all the fun." They attacked a Japanese destroyer and then turned for home. Jumped by a pair of Zeros, Bauer turned into one and Foss and Furlow went after the other. They were able to see the Coach's target catch fire before they were led away by the Zero.

The two Wildcats were forced to back off their target by antiaircraft fire so they returned to the last position where they had seen Bauer. Circling, Foss spotted him in a circle of debris and oil in the sea. The Coach waved and they headed



back to Henderson to organize a rescue. Foss sprinted to the operations shack and shouted, “Coach is down!” Complications on the runway delayed the rescue mission for a half an hour. By the time the J2F amphibian they commandeered was back on the scene, it was dark. Despite the light from burning Japanese ships, no trace of Lieutenant Colonel Harold W. Bauer was ever found. Foss sent a letter to Bauer’s family. Quoted in its entirety in “Fighter Squadron at Guadalcanal,” it describes the last fight in detail but also told about how well Bauer was respected: “To me, Marine Corps aviation’s greatest loss in this war is that of Joe. He really had a way all his own of getting a tough job done efficiently and speedily, and was admired by all, from the lowest private to the highest general. I am certain that wherever Joe is today, he is doing things

the best way—the Bauer way.”

According to the Missing in Action report: “Other members of the flight reported seeing Col Bauer swimming in the water with his life jacket inflated and he appeared not to be seriously hurt.” The next line ominously gave a clue to his eventual fate: “There were also many survivors from sunken enemy vessels in the sea and it is believed possible that Col. Bauer might have been picked up with these survivors.” The reaction of Japanese sailors and soldiers recently attacked by American aircraft to a captured flyer can only be imagined. No other information was found in Japanese sources after the war, and Bauer was eventually declared dead in 1946.

VMF-212 shot down more than 60 enemy planes with Bauer at the helm. He was eventually credited with 10 victories.

For his leadership and personal exploits, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. Bauer’s memory was enshrined in a destroyer escort, USS *Bauer*, (DE-1025). But his true legacy was not the airplanes he shot down or individual glory he reaped from various combat actions. It was the dozens of pilots who learned from him the skills that would ultimately help defeat Japan in World War II. They called him “Coach.”

Author’s bio: MSgt Jeff Dacus, USMCR (Ret) is a retired Marine tanker and public school teacher. He is the recipient of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation 2020 General Roy S. Geiger award. He is the author of the new book, “The Fighting Corsairs: The Men of Marine Fighting Squadron 215.” He lives in Vancouver, Wash. 🇺🇸

RETRIBUTION at Ward Road

By PFC Rodney D. Voigt, USMC

Shanghai's notorious Ward Road jail is a grim, gray pile of cement and rock. It has been the scene of brutalities and injustices and has known the most vicious of criminals as well as the sturdiest of heroes. During the war its cold, high walls held many American servicemen prisoners.

Fittingly, it is here that an American military commission has been calling to account the Japanese war criminals who practiced their bestialities in the China theater. Here were tried 18 Japanese indicted for the Hankow atrocity: the strangling and cremation of three U.S. airmen. Here the slayers of the downed Doolittle fliers have faced retribution. Here Isamu Ishihara, called the "Beast of the East," stood before the commission and was sentenced to a life of imprisonment and hard labor for the beating of Allied servicemen.

The trials were fair, probably the fairest the defendants have ever witnessed and perhaps fairer than they deserved. The charges were read to them both in English and in their own language. Interpreters explained to them every point in the course of the proceedings. They had defense attorneys, both American and Japanese, who worked earnestly to acquit them. The trials were public. Anyone could attend.

Many who came to watch were impatient with the slow often monotonous pace of the courtroom procedure. Particularly from Shanghai civilians did the query come: "Why waste all this time and money? Hang them now."

But the commission was fully aware that it was doing more than trying the losers in a savage and brutal war. It was creating international law, setting precedent by which other men, perhaps Americans, might someday be tried.

Nevertheless, in many respects the trial procedures deviated from what in the United States have come to be regarded as essential requisites of a completely fair trial.

A special set of legal rules was set up. It was somewhere between civil court procedure and courts martial rules. Com-

Judgment day had arrived for the Japanese who were guilty of wartime atrocities.



With hands clasped, these Japanese officers are accused of complicity in the execution of three U.S. servicemen during World War II. (*Leatherneck File Photo*)

mission rules permit introduction of statements taken from defendants before they are warned of their legal rights, introduction of hearsay evidence, and the introduction of affidavits from persons not present to be cross-examined by the defense attorneys. The burden of proof seems to be more on the defendants to prove their innocence than on the prosecution to prove their guilt.

Precedents that perhaps are dangerous to us, should America ever lose a war, are being established. Commanding officers are being held responsible for the individual acts of their men, whether they were aware of the commission of crime or not. Men are being held to account for acts committed under direct order of superior officers.

Frequently this raises weird contradictions to our own accepted military practices. To execute a prisoner of war without trial is illegal. Men who participated in such executions are being tried along with their officers, regardless of whether they knew the victim had been tried fairly or tried at all, or not. To which the defense has raised the question: "Would members of an American firing squad know, or endeavor to find out, whether the man they were to execute had been fairly tried?"

On the question of responsibility for carrying out an order, the defense has brought out that



LEATHERNECK FILE PHOTO

This is the five-man military commission appointed to sit in judgment over indicted Japanese war criminals. Before them sit the interpreters, who translate the proceedings for the Japanese defendants.

American military law permits a man to refuse to carry out an illegal order but warns he does so at his peril. On the other hand, if he carries out the order and the action is later found to be illegal, the officer issuing the order is held responsible and the man carrying out the act is not. The best policy for an American enlisted man, under present military law, would seem to be to do what he is told. Presumably, the defense held, no less is required by the armies of other nations.

Within these limitations the trials are extremely fair and above board. In one instance the defense challenged a member of the Doolittle trial commission for prejudice and the officer was excused from sitting in judgment.

The long trial of the men responsible for the execution of the Doolittle fliers best illustrates, by contrast, the fair treatment being accorded Japanese war criminals. The American heroes of the first raid on Tokyo were sentenced to the firing squad after a one-hour trial.

Each day servicemen and civilians lined up before the outer gate of Ward Road jail in the ugly, sprawling Hongkew district of Shanghai. Their attitudes toward the trials were as different as the clothing they wore. The Americans were merely curious to see some of the Japanese they had read about and had been fighting for years. The Chinese civilians, intensely bitter at the hardships

U.S. defense attorneys confer with two Japanese lawyers as they map out the defense strategy for the Japanese servicemembers accused of war crimes. Left to right: LTC Edmund J. Bodine and CPT C.R. Fellows.

and indignities they had endured, were there to see the hated Japanese sentenced to death.

Just before trial time the spectators were admitted to the prison. They passed through gate after gate, wall after wall, by gun towers from which heavily armed and bearded Sikhs stared impassively down. (Escape from such a place seemed impossible, and yet, during the war, several Marine prisoners had made it over the high walls in which jagged razor-sharp glass is cemented.)

Through the courtyards and in the prison building proper they were directed by American MPs to the third-story courtroom, one of the few heated spots in the prison. The Japanese had taken the heating systems out of most of Shanghai's buildings to feed scrap metal into their ravenous war industry.

At the head of the courtroom, before a huge American



LEATHERNECK FILE PHOTO



LEATHERNECK FILE PHOTO

Above: The four Japanese men seated were charged with taking part in the murder of four American aviators downed over Japan during the first U.S. air raid on Tokyo. The men shown here talk with their lawyers through an interpreter.



LEATHERNECK FILE PHOTO

The notorious "Beast of the East," Isamu Ishihara, is called to answer for his crimes. He was thoroughly hated by prisoners in the Japanese prison camps where he served as a civilian official. Pictured here with his lawyers, he was sentenced to life at hard labor.

Ishihara would have been an interesting case for a psychiatrist, and in fact, his attorney did argue that he was insane.

flag, sat the five-man military commission. To the spectators' left were the defendants, to the right were the representatives of the world press. In mid-room, facing the commission, the attorneys; prosecution to the spectators' right, defense to the left, pursued their tasks. White-helmeted MPs stood around the walls and at the doors.

While there were moments of high drama and intense interest and even, occasionally, of low comedy, most of the trials were pretty dull. The language was legalistic, the questioning and cross-examination repetitious. Argument was long and detailed.

Most of the defendants were small, unhappy, harmless-looking men in ill-fitting uniforms. A lot of the GI spectators found themselves feeling sorry for them until the recital of their crimes got underway and they were shocked into the realization of who and what these men were and what they had done and the ideas they stood for during the war.

The defendants sat stiff and expressionless during the recital of their crimes. They stared straight ahead, with never a flicker of emotion or interest, as witness after witness mounted the stand to point to them and accuse them directly of heinous acts. Major General Masataka Kaburagi, graduate of Japan's "West Point," was one of these. Even when sentenced to hang for failing to prevent the execution of three American servicemen at Hankow, he only bowed stiffly.

All defendants did not fit this pattern. Colorful, dapper Captain Kosaka stroked his short beard and looked about him with interest as the trial proceeded. Warrant Officer Fujii, another defendant sentenced to death for the Hankow atrocity, wept openly at one point in the trial as did two other defendants. A Sergeant Masuda, sentenced to hang, was a giggler.

Perhaps the strangest of all the defendants was Isamu Ishihara, the "Beast of the East." Educated, English-speaking, he talked, argued and gestured at every chance. To the dismay of his own attorneys, he did more to convict himself than any witness against him.

Ishihara would have been an interesting case for a psychiatrist, and in fact, his attorney did argue that he was insane, that his mistreatment of prisoners was his way of compensating for the frustrations of an overpowering inferiority complex. The same might be said for the Japanese nation, and perhaps Ishihara was its symbol.

Ishihara's feelings of inferiority, his attempts to establish himself as mentally unsound to the military men with whom he worked as a civilian interpreter, his soul-searching, his hysterical attempts to explain himself to the world, all offered a partial answer to the question: "How did Japan get where she is?"

He cut off the end of his little finger with a sword after Japan surrendered.

"If I had been a soldier, I would have killed myself," he explained to his captors. "As a civilian I thought cutting off my finger was enough."



LEATHERNECK FILE PHOTO

CPT C.J. Neilsen stands next to the ashes of four of GEN Jimmy Doolittle's flyers who were executed by the Japanese after the first air raid on Tokyo. Neilsen also flew on the famous raid.

Below: An interested spectator at the Japanese war crimes trials was MG Claire L. Chennault, who led the famous air unit, the "Flying Tigers." He sits at the press table with newspapermen on his right and his Chinese aide at his left. The general's feelings seem mirrored in his grim visage. (Leatherneck File Photo)



The members of the military commission had a tough and unpleasant job to do.

Many prominent, even famous persons have sat as spectators during the Shanghai trials. Virtually every correspondent to pass through the theatre has visited Hongkew at least once. General Wedemeyer commander of U.S. forces in China, and General Claire Chennault, formerly of the Flying Tigers, have been among the spectators.

The trials have had their lighter moments. Reporters, often bored by the tedium of courtroom procedure, worked out nicknames for the defendants, based on the sound of their Japanese names. Major Sadasuku Sakai had his name shortened down to "Sad Sak," which, incidentally, he was.

There was a certain amount of grim humor in the spectacle of some of the Chinese witnesses, whose seeming anxiety to convict

the defendants sometimes apparently overcame their desire to tell nothing but the truth.

One prosecution witness, testifying in the Hankow trials, told the commission of watching the defendants strangle the fliers before the crematorium. It was a dark night and he was 150 yards away, he testified. He admitted there was no moon and black-out curtains on the windows of the building kept light from streaming out. Nevertheless, he insisted he saw the small details he testified to.

Then he was handed a picture of one of the murdered flyers for identification. He held it first at arm's length, then up to the tip of his nose. Finally, he handed it back.

"I can't make it out," he said. "My eyes are weak."

For a fraction of a minute there was utter silence in the courtroom. Then everyone roared.

Another laugh came when, during the questioning, a Japanese witness "harrumphed."

"What did he say?" someone queried.

"Harrumph!" the interpreter repeated solemnly.

The members of the military commission have a tough and unpleasant job to do. They are cognizant of the demand of their own people that defendants be punished. They are aware of the hatred those charged earned for themselves, and the desire for revenge they have aroused in the breasts of the millions who suffered under them. Members of the commission themselves are not above prejudice. And they are aware of this.

But above all else, they are acutely aware of the responsibilities that have been thrust upon them. They are aware of the precedents they are setting, and of the long-range effects of their judgments. They are imbued with high purpose and right motives.

They will make mistakes, but to the best of their ability they will mete out justice as Americans understand it. 🍷



LEATHERNECK FILE PHOTO

LtCol Edward Hudgins, defense attorney, questions Masataka Kaburagi, accused of complicity in the execution of three U.S. servicemen in Hankow.



LEATHERNECK FILE PHOTO

Eighteen Japanese war criminals were tried for executions of the American servicemen in Hankow and Masataka Kaburagi, one of the defendants, was sentenced to the gallows.

Ishihara pestered war crimes officials for several weeks before his arrest, trying to convince them he was "wanted." The harried officials, facing a mountain of indictments, documents and arrest warrants at first paid no attention to him. Finally, they discovered he really was a war criminal and tossed him into Ward Road jail.

Full of corny philosophy and semi-literary cliches, Ishihara spent his time in jail writing a book about his experiences.

Strangely enough, Ishihara's trial, though the most interesting and conducted entirely in English, drew the fewest spectators to Ward Road jail.

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SEA STORY OF THE MONTH

In Combat, Why You Have Nothing to Worry About

I was an escort for a female news reporter one day during the Tet Offensive in early February 1968.

She was a good reporter who never asked for much of anything that could not easily be provided. Her name was Beverly Deepe.

We had stayed out too late and did not want to try to make it back to the Marine headquarters area after dark. I spotted a Republic of Vietnam soldier and asked if there were any advisors with his outfit. He pointed to a house across the street. Very quickly we met up with a friend of mine, Australian Warrant Officer Terry J. Egan. Terry knew me, so we gathered in a small area near the dining room and settled in for the cold, wet, rainy night.

Soon, we began hearing mortar rounds. They landed every few minutes with a loud bang. It seemed the enemy gunner was just trying to keep us awake. He was lobbing shells in our general direction every few minutes. However, Beverly was really bothered when the rounds came close. She yelled as one hit near the house.

Terry smiled at her and asked, "Something the matter, Miss?" She answered that the mortar rounds were terrible. They were scaring her.

Terry grinned and leaned back against the wall and said, "Well Miss Beverly, you really have nothing to worry about. It is all very simple really. You see, those rounds will land on the other side of the street or this side of the street. If they land on the other side of the street,

you have nothing to worry about. If they land on this side of the street, one of two things will happen. It will hit this house or one of those on either side of us. If it hits one of those, you have nothing to worry about.

"Now ... if the rounds hit this house, one of two things will happen. Either you will be hit, or you will not be hit. If you aren't hit, you have nothing to worry about.

If you are hit, one of two things will happen. Either you will survive, or you will not survive. If you survive, you have nothing to worry about. If you do not survive, you still have nothing to bloody worry about!"

With that, Beverly laughed, reached for my flask of very good scotch and took a healthy swallow.

Within an hour, Beverly was sound asleep as the rounds continued to hit near the house. None of them ever hit our night's lodging so, in Terry's words, "We had nothing to worry about."

Beverly Deepe Keever spent more time in Vietnam than any American reporter during the war in Vietnam. After the Vietnam War she taught journalism at the University of Hawaii. She also wrote a book about her time in Vietnam, "Death Zones & Darling Spies."

MSgt Paul L. Thompson
USMC (Ret)
1961 to 1982
Lorton, Va.

Milk Goes Better With Cookies

Mail call. A young recruit gets a package. Cookies from home. It's the stuff of a sentimental scene in a Hollywood movie or a Norman Rockwell illustration but not on Parris Island in 1968.

Two weeks into boot camp, I stood at attention

on my real estate—the two squares of linoleum in front of my rack. All the other recruits in my platoon were also on their real estate. This was the drill each evening for mail call. When Sgt Bennett, the duty drill instructor (DI), called my name, I double-timed it to the DI's desk and snapped to attention expecting him to hand me a letter. Instead, Sgt Bennett pointed to a package on

**At Sgt Bennett's
direction, the recruit
with the cookies
began stuffing them
in my mouth.**

the desk addressed to me. The return address was my father's. "Open it," he said. I tore off the brown paper and removed the top from the box. Chocolate chip cookies. I shuddered.

"Pvt Nixon," Sgt Bennett said, "your first night here, didn't the senior drill instructor order you to tell your people not to send you food?" "Yes, Sir." "Did you comply with the senior's order?" "No, Sir." "Why not?" "Sir, the private didn't think anyone would send him food." "Well, you were wrong."

I wanted to explain that since my father had all but thrown me out of his house, the last thing I'd expected from him was a box of cookies but that excuse, I knew, wouldn't fly. The fact was, I'd disobeyed a direct order. Sgt Bennett turned to a recruit next to the DI's desk and said, "Take your canteen to the head and fill it with hot water."

When the recruit

returned, Sgt Bennett summoned another recruit and handed him the box of cookies. "Nixon," he said, "Side-straddle-hops. Begin." Before I could think, my boots were thumping on the deck as my hands clapped above my head. Then, at Sgt Bennett's direction, the recruit with the cookies began stuffing them in my mouth.

As I chewed, the other recruit put the canteen to my lips and I gulped hot water. Each time I swallowed, the recruit with the cookies put another one in my mouth and the other recruit poured in more hot water. Chewing and swallowing cookies and guzzling hot water, I kept up the side-straddle-hops for half an hour throughout mail call and halfway into free time.

At last, Sgt Bennett relented. "Pvt Nixon, do you want to eat the rest of your cookies?" "No, Sir." "I suggest you write your people and tell them not to send you any more food. Dismissed." I wrote the letter that night.

Michael Nixon
Rehoboth Beach, Del.

A Slow Learner

In the fall of 1962, I was transferred from Marine Air Detachment NAS Millington, Tenn., to HMM-264, MAG-26, New River, N.C. I was a structural mechanic, military occupational specialty 6441 (metalsmith). I was due to be discharged June 8, 1963.

I had hardly settled in when the Cuban Missile Crisis occurred. Half of our squadron had gone on a shakedown cruise aboard USS *Okinawa* (LPH-3). We had to load onto USS *Boxer* (CVS-21) and rendezvous with the rest of the squadron on *Okinawa* off the coast of

Florida. Being a new ship, *Okinawa* still had problems, one being foam buttons going off in the cargo area from the vibration of the ship. The Navy was sure it was some bored Marine setting them off, so a detail was assigned to guard the buttons. I was getting a shorttimer's attitude and seemed to always be on the wrong side of the ship sergeant most of the time, so he assigned me to 20 days button guard duty. Luckily, I didn't have to guard them the full 20 days as they figured out the vibration problem.

On another occasion while anchored in the Caribbean, the pilots had a lot of free time on their hands, so they did a lot of fishing on the outside elevators. Being a metalsmith, they hit me up to make spoon lures out of aluminum scrap metal. They had 5- or 6-foot barracudas stacked like firewood in the reefs on the ship to take home and have mounted.

The sergeant told me to quit making the lures, but one pilot asked me to make one more, so I obliged. Someone ratted me out because the next thing I knew I was on 30 days mess duty on a breakout crew. My mess duty would have been over just as we returned to base in time for Christmas but leave for Christmas left us short of men, so I was rewarded with an additional 15 days. The moral of the story is this, don't get on the bad side of your sergeant.

LCpl Donald Wilcox
USMC, 1960-1963
Mulberry, Ark.

The Amphibious Deuce Mishap

Sometime in the summer of 1961, on a beautiful sunny Caribbean day off the coast of the Island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, I was aboard USS *Boxer* (LPH-4), working on a Helicopter Utility Sikorsky (HUS) helicopter, assigned to Marine Helicopter Transport

Squadron (Light) 263. I was working on the inside starboard landing spot of the flight deck. I was standing on the transmission work platform doing a daily inspection and servicing the head. The ship was dead in the water on a calm sea with almost no breeze with temperatures in the 90s. On the spot just aft of the island on the starboard side was a "Deuce" (HR2S) helicopter turning up its two R2800 engines and preparing to fly to the island with a jeep and its loaded trailer on its cargo deck.

This itself was a non-event until I heard the rotors losing lift. When I looked up the rotors were coning up and the helicopter was already light on its landing gear. The pilot set the helicopter down on the deck and again attempted to lift off the flight deck. He cleared the deck by a few feet, but the helicopter again lost its lift. This time there was no getting back on the deck. The helicopter had drifted to the right and over the side in a nose down attitude straight for the water. The most vivid memory for me was the sight of the copilot almost standing with both hands on the collective, pulling up. The rotors were coning up and the engines were maxed out.

In total shock and amazement, I ran off the work platform to the starboard side of the ship, along with every other Sailor and Marine on the flight deck, expecting to see the helicopter on its side in the water. To my surprise, there was the mighty Deuce water taxiing away from the ship with its belly about 2 feet underwater sending up a rooster tail from its tail rotor 20-feet or more in the air and about 70-feet long. The mighty Deuce and its crew were not finished yet.

It continued to water taxi about a half mile from the ship looking to get lift by

building up air speed and some head wind. Finally, like a magnificent, graceful bird, it lifted out of the sea dumping cascades of water from its hull. The cheers rang out from every man on board who could see what was happening. It could not have been any more exciting than watching a World Series-winning grand slam.

The most significant part of the incident is that the pilot flew the helicopter to the airstrip on Vieques and reported that all the helicopter drive systems were put over their red lines. An inspection of the helicopter's main gearbox, rotor system, rotor blades and engine were performed. There was no evidence of damage to the gear assemblies or anything else for that matter, not even to the drive belts (rubber bands) from the engine to the gearbox. It appeared that the mighty Deuce came out of this unusual situation unscathed.

This happened more than 61 years ago so some of my facts may be off. Someone may have a better recollection of these facts. What I am sure of is that the picture of the helicopter going over the side and surviving is as vivid in my mind today as if it had just happened, and I will never forget it.

MSgt Raymond P.
Fitzpatrick, USMC (Ret)
Kunkletown, Pa.

Do you have any interesting stories 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. We offer \$25 or a one-year MCA membership for the "Sea Story of the Month." 🐼

LIBERTY TALES — SEA STORIES SPECIAL EDITION

Leatherneck is looking for your interesting, funny, or crazy stories from when you were on liberty during your time in the Corps. What mischief did you get into? Did something you or your fellow Marines plan go awry? We would love to hear your story and possibly publish it in a future issue.

Stories should be 500 words or less. If you have a photo that enhances your story, please send that also. Do not send original photos as we are unable to ensure their safe return.

Send them to Patricia Everett, *Leatherneck Magazine*, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or email them to p.everett@mca-marines.org.

—*Leatherneck* Editor



Marines Die in Osprey Crash While Training in Norway

Four Marines died in a crash during a training flight south of Bodø, Norway, during Exercise Cold Response 2022, March 18. All four Marines were assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor (VMM) Squadron 261. The names of the deceased are: Captain Matthew J. Tomkiewicz, Capt Ross A. Reynolds, Gunnery Sergeant James W. Speedy and Corporal Jacob M. Moore.

The Marine Corps assisted the Norwegian-led recovery effort. The cause of the crash is currently under investigation.

“The pilots and crew were committed to accomplishing their mission and serving a cause greater than themselves,” said Major General Michael Cederholm, the commanding general of 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, in a letter to his Marines and their families.

“We will continue to execute the mission while keeping these Marines and their service on the forefront of

our minds. We will never allow these Marines’ sacrifice to go unnoticed or unappreciated,” MajGen Cederholm said. “Keep these Marines and their loved ones in your thoughts and prayers.”

Capt Matthew J. Tomkiewicz served as an MV-22B Osprey pilot with VMM-261, Marine Aircraft Group 26, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing on Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C. Tomkiewicz, 27, of Fort Wayne, Ind., joined the Marine Corps June 18, 2015.

Capt Ross A. Reynolds served as an MV-22B Osprey pilot with VMM-261, MAG-26, 2nd MAW, on MCAS New River, N.C. Reynolds, 27, of Leominster, Mass., joined the Marine Corps May 13, 2017.

GySgt James W. Speedy served as an administrative specialist with VMM-261, MAG-26, 2nd MAW on MCAS New River, N.C. Speedy, 30, from Cambridge, Ohio, joined the Marine Corps June 15, 2009. Speedy’s decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with two gold stars, the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal and the Marine Corps Drill Instructor Ribbon.

Cpl Jacob M. Moore served as an MV-22B Osprey crew chief with VMM-261, MAG-26, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing on MCAS New River, N.C. Moore, 24, from Catlettsburg, Ky., joined the Marine Corps Aug. 20, 2018. His decorations include the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal.

II Marine Expeditionary Force

Robert F. “Bob” Altenburger, 92, of Parkville, Md. During the Korean War he saw action at the Chosin Reservoir.

Roger Ballerino, 82, of Hamilton, Ohio. He enlisted after his high school graduation and served with the 3rd Amphibian Tractor Bn.

William D. Davis, 85, of Orange County, Calif. After serving in the Marine Corps, he had a career in banking and financial services.

SgtMaj Gregory W. Embrey, 75, of Jacksonville, N.C. During his 30-year career he served tours in Vietnam and Beirut. He was a seagoing Marine who also served as a recruiter and as a DI.

PFC T. Fred Harvey, 98, Kerrville, Texas. He quit high school during WW II to enlist in the Marine Corps. He was a ParaMarine in the South Pacific who saw action in New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, Vella Lavella and Bougainville.

He was awarded the Silver Star for his actions on Feb. 20, 1945, during the Battle of Iwo Jima, while he was serving with Co C, 1st Bn, 26th Marines, 5thMarDiv. During a patrol to establish contact with another company, his three-man team was ambushed by the enemy and one of the men was seriously wounded. While under heavy fire, PFC Harvey dragged the fallen Marine to shelter and remained with him until aid arrived. According to the award citation, using his rifle and hand grenades, PFC Harvey held off the hostile forces until the arrival of the rescue party. “Then, exposing himself to the enemy fire and directing accurate heavy fire on the Japanese position, he successfully covered the evacuation of the casualty.”

Robert C. “Cal” Hawthorne, 97, in Lexington, S.C. He enlisted in 1942 and served in the Pacific. He was wounded during the fighting on Okinawa. After the war ended, he served in China until his discharge in 1946. He then joined the Navy, serving as a gunner’s mate in USS *Brownson* (DD-868) until 1950. He began a 23-year career in newspapers and advertising, eventually founding a top-ranked ad agency in South Florida. His awards include the Purple Heart.

Thomas I. “Ted” Jarrard Jr., 97, of San Diego, Calif. He was a Marine Corps fighter pilot assigned to VMF-321 in the Pacific during WW II. He flew combat missions during the invasion of Guam.

Lester R. McIlwain, 96, of Leavenworth, Wash. He enlisted at age 17 and served in the South Pacific.

Cpl James J. “Jimmy” Montano, 87, of Albuquerque, N.M. He served in the Korean War.

Richard J. Nolan Sr., 88, of Norfolk, Va. He enlisted after his 1952 graduation from high school and served in the Korean War. He later had a long career in law enforcement and industrial security, including serving as director of corporate security for Revlon.

Sgt Ovie Oman, 94, of Palm Harbor, Fla. After completing his service during WW II, he became a radio engineer for a local radio station.

Robert D. Pruse, 88, in King, Wis. He served from 1953-1957. He later earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in industrial education.

Larry Puckett, 73, of Hamilton, Ohio. He enlisted in 1967 and served in Vietnam.

Robert K. Riggs, 90, of Winchester,

Leatherneck introduces LEGACIES —

a quarterly special section commemorating Marines and other servicemembers.

LEGACIES provides a venue in which individuals can celebrate and recognize the lives of their loved ones by sharing their Marine Corps stories with other Marines, friends and loved ones for a small fee.

Leatherneck will continue to run obituaries at no charge, but for those who want to further memorialize their loved one or themselves, LEGACIES is here to share those memories. This paid feature will run quarterly only in *Leatherneck*.

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Va. He served in the Korean War and later completed two tours in Vietnam.

SFC John S. Ryan Sr., 75, of Loma Linda, Calif. He was a combat correspondent who served in Vietnam. Assigned to the staff of *Leatherneck* magazine, many of his photos appeared in the magazine during the late 1960s.

He later transferred to the Army where he served as a senior jumpmaster. He also was part of the Army Special Photographic Office and had postings in Vietnam, Germany, Central America and South America.

He was the recipient of the Silver Star while serving as an Army photographer. On March 29, 1969, he was part of a reconnaissance platoon during an engagement with the enemy.

“In the initial contact, the point man was severely wounded and lay exposed to the enemy fire. With complete disregard for his personal safety, [he] exposed himself to the intense hostile fire to drag the man 50 yards to safety. Then placing a heavy volume of fire on the enemy positions, Specialist Ryan killed one enemy and pinned the remainder of their forces down, enabling his comrades to maneuver to more advantageous positions,” according to the award citation.

“When an enemy grenade landed

between Specialist Ryan and two fellow soldiers, he picked up the grenade and threw it back at the enemy thereby silencing another enemy position.”

Anthony “Tony” Schlack, 69, of Easton, Pa. He served in Vietnam and later had a career in law enforcement.

Sgt Dustin L. Slovacek, 37, of Cuero, Texas. He enlisted after his high school graduation and served in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom. He also had a career with the Texas Department of Public Safety, where he served as a trooper, a member of the SWAT team and as a special agent in the criminal investigation division.

Sgt Kenneth R. “Kenny” Steffek Jr., 51, of Jarrel, Texas. He served from 1992-1997 and was a calibration technician with MALS-39, MAG-39. He graduated from Texas State University with a bachelor’s degree in computer science. He worked as a test engineer with Cover Fueling Solutions. He was a member of the MCL.

Cpl Marion K. Walravin, 78, of San Angelo, Texas. He served a tour in Vietnam, with the 9th Marines. He earned a degree from Texas A&M University and taught math at the middle school level. He also worked for Union Pacific Railroad. He was a member of the MCL and the DAV. His awards include a Purple Heart.

In Memoriam is run on a space-available basis. Those wishing to submit items should include full name, age, location at time of death (city and state), last grade held, dates of service, units served in, and, if possible, a published obituary. Allow at least four months for the notice to appear. Submissions may be sent to *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, Va., 22134, or emailed to leatherneck@mca-marines.org, or n.lichtman@mca-marines.org.

Leatherneck introduces LEGACIES—a quarterly special section commemorating Marines and other servicemembers. LEGACIES provides a venue in which individuals can celebrate and recognize the lives of their loved ones by sharing their Marine Corps stories with other Marines, friends and loved ones for a small fee. *Leatherneck* will continue to run obituaries at no charge, but for those who want to further memorialize their loved one or themselves, LEGACIES is here to share those memories. This paid feature will run quarterly in *Leatherneck*.

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New DOD Program Invests Funds in Community Infrastructure Projects

In 2020, the Department of Defense enacted the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) under the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to address deficiencies in community infrastructure supportive of a military installation and its adjacent community. The program falls under the DOD's Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC).

Each year, the program reviews proposals submitted by state or local governments or nonprofit, member-owned utilities that own projects proposed for DCIP funding. The proposals must support a community infrastructure project that is not located on the base and demonstrate that it will enhance the military value, resilience or military family quality of life at the local installation.

"Our program defines [installation resilience] as those attributes that are either man-made or based on the environment, that may have an impact on the ability of the installation to operate or that endanger the mission," said Daniel Glasson, OLDCC deputy director of programs. "They could be climate-related or related to the infrastructure that a community has built over the past 30 years that now may not be as suitable to the

environment or to the amount of population that's using it."

In the DCIP's inaugural year, the DOD awarded \$50 million towards proposals submitted that met the criteria for enhancing military family quality of life. Of the 109 submitted proposals, 16 were selected to receive funding.

The Warrior Challenge Course located near Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., was one of two Marine Corps proposals to receive approval in 2020 and officially opened to the public on Aug. 14, 2021. The project received from \$250,000 from the DCIP and \$250,000 from Prince William County, Va., where it is located. The challenge course includes eight "Ninja Warrior"-style obstacles, a children's playground, an outdoor gym, a timed sprinting track and enhancements to remove accessibility barriers for those in wheelchairs.

The other approved project for the Marine Corps is the reconstruction of the Jack Amyette Recreation Center near MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., which received \$1 million in funding. For more than 60 years, the recreation center has served as a gathering place for the town of Jacksonville, N.C., and hosted after-school and community programs. The facility suffered extensive damage from Hurricane Florence in 2019 and its

gymnasium has remained closed since.

"There are many reasons why the program wants to focus on community," said Glasson. "If you look at the authorization for the DCIP, there's a strong theme of resiliency. If we look at where installations are situated in the United States, it's unmistakable the role that communities have in ensuring the resiliency of those local installations, be it related to the environment that they provide military service-members and their families for living there or the infrastructure that they build that allows for that installation to operate and the resiliency of that installation."

For the Fiscal Year-21 DCIP grant review, 13 project proposals were selected and approved to receive \$60 million of appropriated funding. The proposal from MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., was the only Marine Corps proposal that was selected; it supports the construction of Fire Station 1 in the city of Oceanside, Calif. The city will receive \$3.5 million to undertake an \$18 million project to construct the new fire station, which will support the emergency response resources provided to the base.

To be considered for funding, the local community must communicate with the installation or commander to discuss the project and ensure that it's ideal for both the base and the community. Additionally,

During the first year of the DOD's Defense Community Infrastructure Program, MCB Quantico, Va., received funding for a Warrior Challenge Course in its surrounding community of Prince William County. Military installations and their local communities can submit proposals to the DCIP for projects that will enhance the military value, resilience or military family quality of life at the installation.



ERIN ROHN



DOD/COURTESY OF MICHAEL SPIVEY

TEAM USA—Retired Marine Sergeant Michael Spivey, a Paralympic snowboarder, was named to the U.S. snowboarding team and competed in the Paralympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 in March, where he ranked 15th in the banked slalom event and 17th in snowboardcross. After top 10 finishes at the World Para Snow Sports Championships in Norway and a fifth-place ranking in a snowboardcross world cup event in Finland in December 2021, Spivey was invited to the team in the “SB-UL” classification for athletes with impairments of the upper

limbs. Now a two-time Paralympian, Spivey also competed at the Paralympic Winter Games in 2018.

Spivey lost his left arm below the elbow when he was injured by an IED blast in Afghanistan in 2010 and began para snowboarding while he was in the process of rehabilitation.

Other veteran Marines who participated in the Paralympic Winter Games 2022 were Josh Sweeney, in Nordic skiing, and Joseph Woodke, Ralph DeQuebec and Travis Dodson in sled hockey.

requestors must submit a proposal for a plan that is ready for development and construction can begin within 12 months of grant award.

“One thing our office would like to communicate to communities who are looking at DCIP or are interested in the program, is that it really reflects the relationship that exists between local communities and their local installation,” said Glasson. “This should be a reflection of the priorities that communities are discussing with the installation to ensure that both can be successful with what they’re trying to do.”

For more information on the application process and program requirements, visit the DCIP website at <https://oldcc.gov/defense-community-infrastructure-program-dcip>.

Marine Corps Installations Command

Pentagon Exhibit Honors Military Contributions of African Americans

African Americans have served valiantly in military service from the colonial times to present day. Their service has been honored with a Pentagon exhibit that showcases their triumphs and struggles as well as the injustices committed against them.

The exhibit, spanning a corridor of the Pentagon, is titled “If We Must Fight: African Americans in Defense of Our Nation.” Shortly after the 2021 inauguration, newly elected President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris visited the corridor, which honors the “long history of Black Americans fighting for this country, even when their contributions were not always recognized or honored appropriately,” said President Biden at the time of his visit.

The exhibit tells the story within the broader political, social, cultural and economic context, explained the curator of the exhibit and subject matter expert, retired Army Colonel Krewasky A. Salter, Ph.D.

Showing the whole story including the tragedies and triumphs gives the viewer [an] important context into the larger question of “why,” according to Salter.

“I want people when they go through the corridor ... to get a comprehensive story, and hopefully, they will be inspired,” Salter said. “And also, not only see that African Americans have served and always served, but so did all people of different races and ethnic groups and women throughout history.”

The exhibit includes modern-day milestones with the first Black commander in chief, President Barack Obama, and the



LISA FERDINANDO

Marine LCpl Kordell Waklatski serves as a tour guide as President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen Mark A. Milley visit the Pentagon exhibit honoring the military service of African Americans in February 2021. The exhibit remains open on the second floor, corridor 6A of the Pentagon.

first Black chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Army General Colin L. Powell, who also went on to become the first Black U.S. Secretary of State.

Current Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III is featured in a photo taken while he was an Army general overseeing military operations in theater with then-Lieutenant General Vincent K. Brooks and Lieutenant General Dennis L. Via.

These are all powerful examples of the incredible contributions of African Americans in military service to the nation explained Colonel Norvel “Rock” Dillard, USA, (Ret), project manager for the exhibit.

This rich and accomplished history includes men, women, civilians and families, Dillard added. It includes the free and enslaved individuals who fought in the colonial wars and the American Revolution; the black Union regiments that fought for their own freedom in the Civil war; and the courageous service of African Americans during World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

The Buffalo soldiers, Tuskegee Airmen, Montford Point Marines, the Navy’s first

commissioned Black officers known as the “Golden Thirteen,” Medal of Honor recipients, and the African American women who served in WW II in Navy WAVES, Coast Guard SPARS and the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps, later the Women’s Army Corps, are all featured.

But as African Americans accomplished incredible achievements and fought valiantly in wars throughout history, many faced terrible injustices and their own freedom was not fully realized, Dillard said. The exhibit shows the tragedies of slavery, the effects of Jim Crow laws, the impact of segregated military units, and the harsh and unequal treatment of Blacks in America.

The exhibit is extremely powerful because it tells the whole story in the context of American history, according to Erin R. Mahan, Ph.D., the chief historian with the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

The exhibit is designed to show the truth and make people uncomfortable, Mahan said, adding, “it’s that connection that makes the corridor more relatable and ultimately more meaningful in my view.”

The corridor was completed in consultation with the historians of all the

military services, said exhibit designer Kelly Guerrero with the Office of the Secretary of Defense graphics office.

Guerrero sought to include content that would create a connection with visitors.

“In exhibits, I want the viewer to see themselves or see their own family members,” he said, adding he wants people to somehow identify with the content as more than just distant history.

The current corridor is a complete renovation of the original African American in Defense of Our Nation corridor that was dedicated 25 years ago on Feb. 19, 1997, as the brainchild of Claiborne Houghton, who is also featured on the wall as one of the first Black DOD members of the Senior Executive Service, Dillard noted. The grand opening for this revamped exhibit has been put on hold due to the coronavirus pandemic, but organizers hope to have a formal opening someday.

Those with Pentagon access can find the exhibit on the second floor, corridor 6A of the Pentagon.



SOUND OFF
[continued from page 8]

for sale, and he would autograph them. I was first in line. When he asked who it was for, I told him SSgt “Benjo” Spotts. He looked up at me and asked if I knew what “Benjo” meant? I explained that since my name was Ben it was a nickname from an uncle who was a Marine and that my father spent 44 months in a Japanese POW camp in the Philippines, Formosa and Japan.

We talked while he signed books and for an hour after that—an honor for me for sure. He came back to Lemoore two more times and both times asked where “Benjo” was. Lucky for me, the XO knew my nickname.

I also saw him a few times in Fresno, Calif., and he always made sure to come over and say hello. It was great knowing that a Marine who received the Medal of Honor knew me by sight.

MSgt Ben “Benjo” Spotts, USMC (Ret)
Fort Morgan, Colo.

John Edgar Hoover Was Spot On

I read the article, “The Country’s Opportunities” by John Edgar Hoover in the January issue three times, and each time I realized “ol Hooves” was spot on

with his evaluation of the United States situation at that time. I think it’s applicable to this time in history. The thing that I realized is that most politicians and shot callers today have never worn the uniform in war or peace. I think it would be a great thing if America would institute mandatory two-year military service.

One of the best things about boot camp is the turning out of young men and women who are squared away and serve their country proudly. The folks who do not qualify to military standards can be sent back to civilian life. We would have millions employed and paying taxes and having men and women after separation of active duty to run this country correctly. My last thought is why is the U.S. still paying foreign aid?

John Sanchez
USN, 1961-1966
Hanford, Calif.

Stoner Rifle Responded Flawlessly

I would like to respond to Cpl Andrew M. Sabol’s letter “M16 versus Stoner Rifle System” in the March issue. I was with “Kilo” Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines from October 1965 until I volunteered to go to Vietnam in May of 1966.

In November of 1965, our battalion was

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chosen not only to test fire the Stoner rifle, but also to qualify on the range with it. To my knowledge, the rifle responded flawlessly.

In Vietnam I was with “Delta” Co, 1st Bn, 3rd Marines. We were issued the M16

Are You Ready?



Angela Maness
Sr Vice Commandant
Sooner Detachment #559
Oklahoma City, OK



Laura Brown
Adjutant / Paymaster
Alamo Detachment #315
San Antonio, TX

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in April 1967. Anyone that used that rifle could attest to how useless it was.

Ray Kelley
USMC, 1965-1969
Port Charlotte, Fla.

Luzon Article Brought Back Memories for 97-Year-Old Marine

When I saw the article, "The Diving Devil Dogs of Luzon" in the March issue, I said to myself, "Oh boy! I was there!" I am getting on in age as I am 97 years old, and my memory isn't what it used to be,

but I'll pass on to you a few things that I do remember.

At the initial landing at Luzon, I remember sitting in a shelter on the beach that I set up, waiting for the rest of the men and equipment to arrive. When everything arrived and was organized, we moved to the airfield that we were to operate off. I was a rear seat gunner in the SBD dive bomber and put in 34 missions. Unfortunately, on my last mission, I shot up the tail on the SBD and got grounded and finished up my time with the ground crew. With the SBD constructed as it was, the rear seat gunner had to be very careful. Shooting up the tail was not unheard of.

I still have my aviator's flight logbook with all my missions entered and notes of what happened from Feb. 16 to May 6, 1945. As a result of a letter I sent to Headquarters Marine Corps in April 2000, I ended up being awarded five Air Medals and the Distinguished Flying Cross "for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight with Marine Scout Bombing Squadron 133 from 12 to 16 March 1945."

SgtMaj Richard D. Blomgren, USMC
(Ret)
Lake Isabella, Calif.

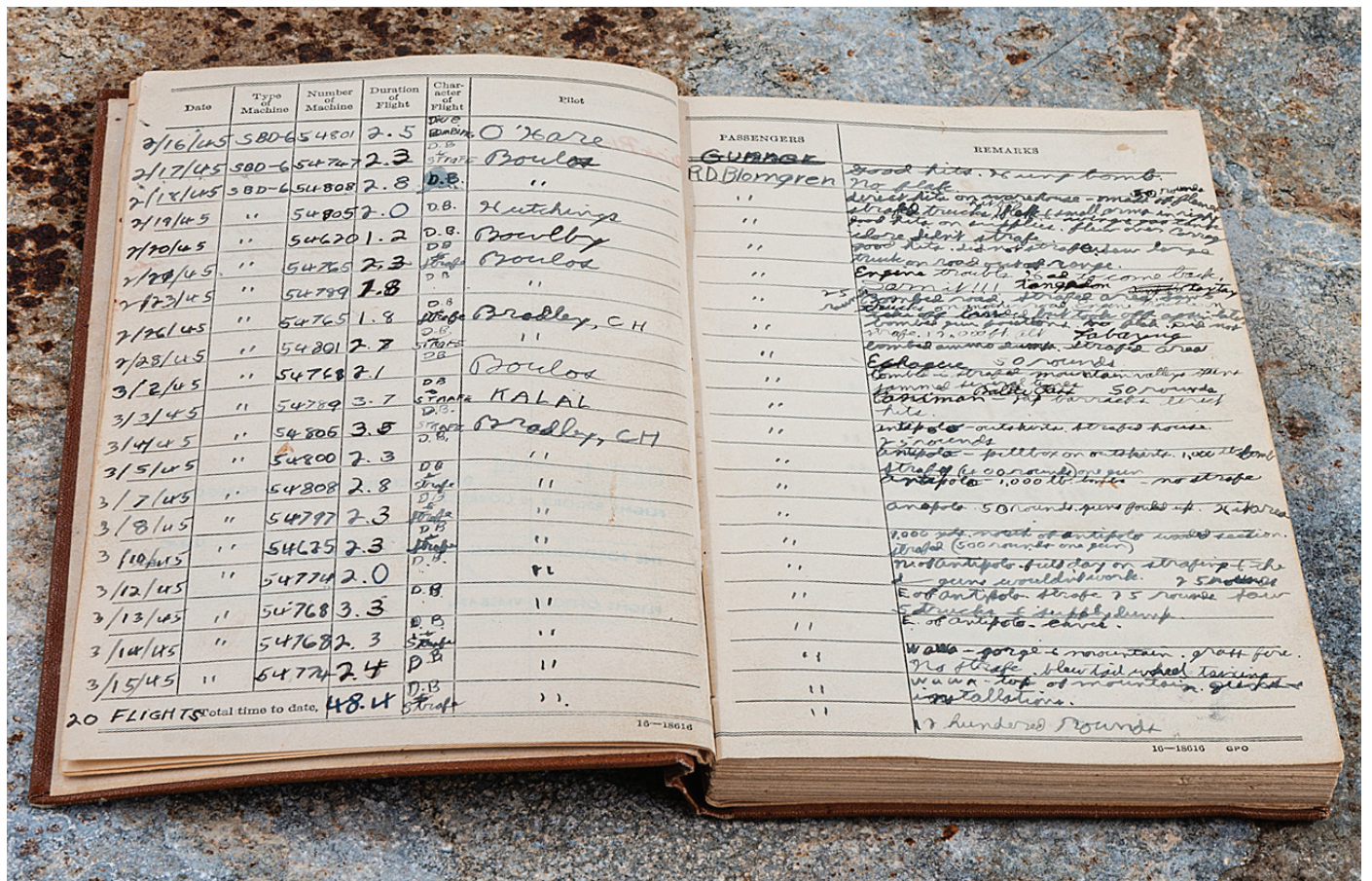
Marines Aren't Issued Army Gloves

I was watching a news show the other day and an Army general was talking about how the Air Force wants it to be OK for them to walk around with their hands in their pockets. What are they thinking? The general stated that he had been all over the world and had seen many servicemembers but the one thing that he has never seen in all his years was a Marine that looked like "joe-shit-the-rag-man" at any airport in the world. He said they all look like they just stepped out of a Marine poster.

After arriving at MCRD San Diego we were put up in Quonset Huts. During the first few days we heard the DI yelling at a private that he was not in the Army and the Marines didn't issue the lady (private) any Army gloves. The few recruits that were around wondered what the DI was talking about. The private had been caught with his hands in his pockets.

The DI had all the recruits gather around and he told us the tale of the "Army Gloves." He said you all have seen an Army guy strutting down the airport walkways, blouse wide open, belt blowing in the breeze and his hands in his pockets. Those are Army Gloves, and we don't wear them here. The DI went on to say


SgtMaj Richard Blomgren has kept his aviator's logbook from his time in Luzon, the Philippines, from Feb. 16 to May 6, 1945. (Photos by Steve Collins)



that if you're going to wear the uniform of the best military in the world, you wear it right or not at all. It was stressed many times throughout boot camp. We got the message.

I had just been discharged and was on my way home. I boarded a plane, and after getting to my seat, I took off my blouse and put it neatly in the overhead. After landing at my destination, I remembered what the DI had told me so many years ago. I got up from my seat and put my blouse back on and got my military alignment and headed for the hatch. No Army Gloves for me. I still wear a field jacket now and then, and to this day before I go out the door, I check to see that the pockets look like they should 50 years later.

Gary Skeim
Jamestown, N.D.

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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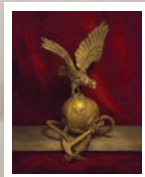
were second only to the infamous

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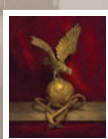
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• **5thMarDiv Assn.**, May 11-15, San Diego. Contact Kathy Tinsley, (619) 770-0257, finally@cox.net.

• **USMC Vietnam Tankers Assn.**, Sept. 17-20, Dubois, Wyo. Contact John Wear, (719) 495-5998, johnwear2@verizon.net.

• **Marine Corps Engineer Assn.**, Sept. 26-29, Las Vegas. Contact LtCol George Carlson, USMC (Ret), (931) 307-9094, treasurer@marcorengasn.org, www.marcorengasn.org.

• **National Montford Point Marine Assn.**, July 12-16, Shreveport, La. Contact Ronald Johnson, (504) 202-8552, vice_president@montfordpointmarines.org.

• **USMC Weather Service**, June 19-24, Overland Park, Kan. Contact Kathy Donham, (252) 342-8459, kathy.donham@hotmail.com, or Dave Englert, engertd@psci.net.

• **11th Marine Regiment, OIF (20th anniversary)**, March 31-April 1, 2023,

Camp Pendleton, Calif. Contact Casey Harsh, casey.harsh@gmail.com. Facebook group: The Cannon Cockers of OIF-1 (20-Year Reunion 2023 Group).

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

• **2nd Force Recon Co**, May 12-14, Bishopville, S.C. Contact Phil Smith, (540) 498-0733, jarhed73@yahoo.com.

• **7th Engineer Bn Vietnam Veterans Assn.**, Sept. 25-28, Colorado Springs, Colo. Contact Norbert Johnson, (810) 300-0782, nwgj@outlook.com.

• **1/27**, Sept. 28-Oct. 1, San Antonio. Contact Felix Salmeron, (469) 583-0191, mar463@aol.com.

• **Battery Adjust, 3/11**, Sept. 20-25, Kansas City, Mo. Contact Brian Seals, (765) 580-2734, bseals2013@gmail.com.

• **C/1/12 (RVN)**, Sept. 20-25, Kansas City, Mo. Contact Woody Hall, (931)242-8432, hwoodrow@charter.net.

• **G/2/7 (RVN)**, Sept. 14-18, San Antonio. Contact Lamont Taylor, (518)

249-7009, cinemscreend@yahoo.com.
• **M/3/7 (RVN)**, May 11-14, Annapolis, Md. Contact George Martin, (443) 822-3597, m37bulldog@aol.com.

• **Marine Security Forces, NWS Earle**, Oct. 7-10, Colts Neck, N.J. Contact Dusty Wright, (618) 553-2205, slickstuff@nwcable.net.

• **Marine Detachment, U.S. Naval Disciplinary Command Portsmouth, N.H.**, Sept. 12-17, Charleston, S.C. Contact Don Ferry, (972) 334-0609, don.ferry1942@gmail.com.

• **MCSFO Puerto Rico, Marine Guard Unit Puerto Rico, Marine Barracks Puerto Rico (all eras)**, May 8-12, Rio Mar, Puerto Rico. Contact Matt Schavel, (949) 212-7851, seaswir170@gmail.com, or Grady Johnston, (404) 432-8223, 2009gj@gmail.com.

• **TBS, Co H and Co I, 5-62**, May 17-20, Quantico, Va. Contact Joe Morrone, (410) 961-7400, or Harvey Ross, (269) 782-3601, usmc.tbs.562@aol.com.

• **TBS, Co D, 4-73**, is planning a 50th-anniversary reunion in 2023, Quantico, Va. Contact Col Bill Anderson, USMCR (Ret), (540) 850-4213, binche57@yahoo.com, or Col Bob Donaghue, USMCR (Ret), (617) 840-0267, ip350haven@comcast.net.

• **LPH Iwo Jima Class: USS Iwo Jima (LPH-2), USS Okinawa (LPH-3), USS Guadalcanal (LPH-7), USS Guam (LPH-9), USS Tripoli (LPH-10), USS New Orleans (LPH-11)**, Sept. 28-Oct. 2, Warwick, R.I. Contact Dena Rice, (615) 585-2088, denaiphone@bellsouth.net.

Wanted

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

• Tracy Roberson, tracystovall@hotmail.com, wants an **October 1966 issue of Leatherneck**, in which her father is pictured.

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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SCHEDULE

Tuesday, 10 May, Day One – Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC

0945 – 1000 Opening Ceremony – Main Entrance to Exhibit Hall
1000 Expo Hall Open & Presentation Schedule Initiated
1630 Expo Hall Close
1830 – 1930 Grand Banquet Reception – Marriott Marquis, Washington, DC (901 Massachusetts Ave, NW)
1930 – 2130 Grand Banquet (CMC GOH)

Wednesday, 11 May, Day Two – Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC

0830 – 1000 Marine Corps League Awards Ceremony & Leadership Breakfast
1000 Expo Hall Open & Presentation Schedule Initiated
1630 Expo Hall Close

Thursday, 12 May, Day Three – Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC

1000 Expo Hall Open & Presentation Schedule Initiated
1200 - 1400 MDM Career Transition Lunch Hosted by MCA
1400 - 1500 Marine Zone Semper Fi Mixer
1530 Expo Hall Close, End of Presentation Schedule & End of show



Saved Round

By Nancy S. Lichtman



LTCOL GARY WARREN, USMC (RET)



USMC

FLORIDA HONORS FLYING LEATHERNECK— To honor the memory of one of the Corps' aviation trailblazers, General Roy S. Geiger, the 1st Marine Aviation Force Veterans Association established and dedicated this monument in Miami Springs, Fla., in 1948. Then-Capt Geiger, a Florida native, commanded the 1st Marine Aviation Force at Miami Flying Field in 1918 and was instrumental in establishing the training base there.

Many of the flying leathernecks who were trained in Miami used their skills in France during the Great War, again under the command of Geiger, who received the Navy Cross for his actions leading bombing raids against German targets. He later led air and ground units during World War II and was the recipient of a Gold Star in lieu of a second Navy Cross for his actions as the commander of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing at Guadalcanal.

The monument is in a picturesque spot located just north of Miami International Airport and was refurbished and rededicated by residents of the South Florida community in 2015.

To see photos taken at Miami Flying Field in 1918, see page 30. To learn more about the distinguished career of Marine aviator No. 5, see "Roy S. Geiger: A Marine for the Ages," in the April 2020 issue of *Leatherneck*. 🇺🇸



LTCOL GARY WARREN, USMC (RET)

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For the ones who gave all,
WE REMEMBER.

The poppy is a symbol of remembrance for all who made the ultimate sacrifice in military service to our nation.

On Memorial Day, we join you in honoring each individual this red flower represents.



usaa.com/memorialday