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COVER: Composite photography comes together to give us this month's cover by Regis Bourne, Wellspring Media, Honolulu. Leathernecks of Third Marine Regiment, recognizing the sacrifices made during the attack on Pearl Harbor, are (from right) Sgt Johnny A. Thompson, LCpl Benjamin J. Rodgers, LCpl Daniel M. Finer and LCpl Omar J. Garcia. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (to cover mailing costs) to Leatherneck Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134.







Sound Off

Edited by R. R. Keene

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 Anonymous letters will not be published.—Sound Off Ed.

Letter of the Month

(*Leatherneck* will pay \$25 for the Sound Off Letter of the Month.)

Although we just celebrated the 231st anniversary of our beloved Corps, I want to take a moment to recall the 229th Birthday of the Marine Corps. In another uneventful day for us here in America, we went about our business without notice to the valor, courage and commitment of a lowly private first class.

PFC Christopher Adlesperger that day in Fallujah, Iraq, did what it is Marines do. This Marine on that day did rise in the blinding chaos of combat to distinguish himself by seeking to protect and save his fellow Marines. Although he survived the events of Nov. 10, 2004, Adlesperger was later killed in action.

This Nov. 10 would have been the 25th birthday of Jason L. Dunham from Scio, N.Y. We better knew Jason as Corporal Dunham, formerly of "Kilo" Company, 3d Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment. On April 14, 2004, in Al Anbar province, Cpl Dunham raced to a checkpoint to be there for his Marines. The events of that day and its resulting combat led directly to his death.

Cpl Dunham's actions saved the lives of his fellow Marines that day. It brings me directly to my own day of infamy when, as we stormed Hill 881 North in a fire team and squad assault, I watched helplessly as Lance Corporal Philip F. Sheridan raced to the hilltop to get a better location to call in the supporting fire that he knew would protect and save his Marines. LCpl Sheridan died that Easter Sunday, on the side of a hill far from his home in Garden City, Long Island, N.Y.

What, then, were the meanings of this Nov. 10 and the ceremonies? I should hope it was to recall that we, who have served in good times and bad, remain ever faithful—that from the inception of our Corps in Philadelphia at Tun Tavern to the present conflicts around this globe, we Marines have always been, and shall



LtCol Mike Leahy's Marine artwork graces an Army calendar.

always be, willing to do that which others could not or will not do.

From the first recruit to earn the title to those Marines who today wear the eagle, globe and anchor, being a Marine should be a joyous and somber event.

The joy of our collective service and sacrifice to God, Country and Corps is, suffice it to say, well deserved. We remember that freedom is not free, and only those who have fought for it understand its price.

These are the emotions that brought me to the 231st anniversary of our Corps. It was another chance for me to recall all who have come before, during and after my time in this greatest of all organizations.

> Cpl Neil J. Kenny USMC, 1967-69 Staten Island, N.Y.

Army Recognizes Good Marine Artwork

With great pride, I wanted the *Leather-neck* readers to know that the Army Helicopter Association chose a UH-34 Sea-

horse from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 361, the "Tar Bush Tigers," for the cover image on its 2007 calendar.

The painting, "Rockpile Resupply," is by Mike Leahy, a retired Reserve Marine lieutenant colonel aviator and combat artist. Not bad when the Army Helicopter Association picks a Marine "bird" for its calendar.

> John Aucella Pompano Beach, Fla.

• To see more of LtCol Leahy's artwork, go to www.thehootch.com.—Sound Off Ed.

Tattoos Pro and Con

I agree with Sergeant [James R.]. Hellmann in his comments ["Regarding Tattoos," "Sound Off," October] concerning the amount of tattoos current Marines have.

However, when I was in Korea in 1954 as a 19-year-old sergeant, we were told that we could get a tattoo, but if it in any way kept us from performing our duty,



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Co B, 9th Marine Corps Reserve Bn, Chicago was activated on Nov. 7, 1940, with Hugh O'Brian's dad and other Marines, such as Col James Donovan and GvSgt Joseph J. McCarthy.

we could be court-martialed. Infection was not uncommon. I don't know if the threat of a court-martial is still there or not. I know that it was real enough that I never got a tattoo.

> Daniel N. Colbert Fort Madison, Iowa

The letter on tattoos brought to mind a little story I heard at a bull session during a brigade reunion some time ago. Lieutenant Colonel "Blackie" Cahill, who retired after 35 years, was a platoon leader with Company G, 2d Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment on the Pusan Perimeter in 1950.

Blackie had Marine Corps emblems tattooed on the back of each hand, anchors inboard of course. As the story goes, a civilian asked him how a man with tattoos could become a colonel of Marines. He answered, "Leadership, sir, leadership."

> David S. Van Dommelen USMC, 1947-57 D/2/5, Korea, 1950 Port Orange, Fla.

Word From Hugh Krampe's Brother And About His Father's Reserve Unit

Hugh shared his story in "Hugh O'Brian: DI, Actor, Humanitarian-He Followed His Own Path" in the September issue. Congratulations on a great story that also promotes HOBY [Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership].

> Former Sgt Don Krampe, Hugh O'Brian's brother Murrieta-Temecula Det. 1057, MCL Murrieta, Calif.

I enjoyed reading the article on Hugh O'Brian. I am from Chicago and was with the Chicago Marine Reserve Battalion the writer refers to in his article.

Unfortunately, the writer has the date of our active duty of 1943 wrong. I was a private first class with Company B, 9th Marine Corps Reserve Battalion, Chicago. We were called to active service by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in late October 1940 and reported for active duty on Nov. 7, 1940.

I did not know Mr. Krampe's dad, but as he was with 9th Bn, I am sure he was called to active duty the same time.

The photo [above] was taken in Grant Park by Lake Michigan on the day we reported for active duty.

We trained and arrived at Marine Corps Base San Diego on Nov. 11, 1940, and most of the enlisted men were assigned to Battery H, 2d Defense Bn. First Lieutenant George H. Cannon was the first and only Marine to receive the Medal of Honor for actions on Dec. 7, 1941. He was an officer from Btry H, 2d Defense Bn, killed in the Japanese attack on Midway Island. He was from Webster Groves, Mo.

Also of interest, our gunnery sergeant, 9th Marine Corps Reserve Bn, Joseph J. McCarthy, received the Medal of Honor as the captain of G/2/24, Fourth Marine Division on Iwo Jima. He was with the Chicago Fire Department before called to active duty with our unit.

Another member of the battalion was an officer by the name of James A. Donovan, who retired as a colonel and also was at one time the editor of Leatherneck.

> CWO-4 George J. Green, USMCR (Ret) Webster Groves, Mo.

• Good letter, sir! Lots of interesting

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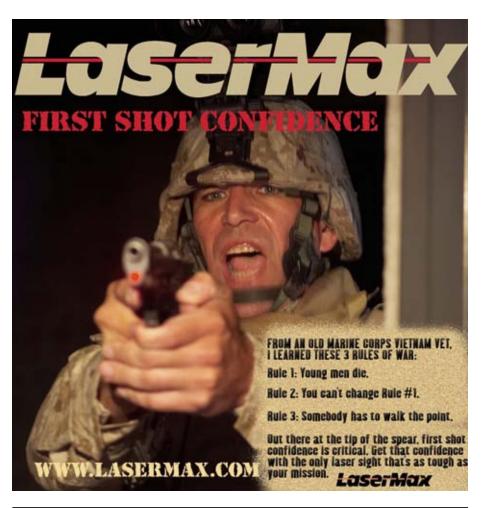
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history. However, if you read our story a little more closely, we did not say that Mr. Krampe's father's unit was activated in 1943; we only said he was a captain when his son went to boot camp in 1943.—Sound Off Ed.

Readers Say Well-Done to October's Flag-Raising Story

In the 30 years that I have been a reader of *Leatherneck* I have never encountered a more inspiring cover, and cover story, than the October 2006 issue with the story of the first flag raising on Iwo, so much so, in fact, that I am about to shove two bucks into an envelope and send it to the Marine Corps Association for a copy of the cover (something I've never done before).

From the parade ground at Parris Island, S.C., to the memorial in Washington, D.C., to Mount Suribachi itself, and through six decades of subsequent history, Marines and average Americans alike have drawn inspiration from the image taken by Joe Rosenthal that day. As much as I appreciate the meaning and significance of that photo, as a Marine and an American, I personally have always preferred Sergeant Louis Lowery's photo. In its own way, it tells as much (and arguably more) about what happened on that patrol as Mr. Rosenthal's image.

Thank you for a great issue. And on the subject, may I say that the magazine has never been better than it is right now. The entire staff is to be commended. The recently introduced new cover design is great, as is everything on the pages that follow it. Keep up the great work.

Former Sgt Larry Butler New York

I was delighted to see the article in the October issue dealing with the identities of the individuals associated with the Lou Lowery photographs of the first flag raising on Iwo Jima.

This subject has been of intense interest to me since I visited Iwo Jima in 1998. I would like to offer the following regarding Pharmacist's Mate Second Class John H. "Doc" Bradley and the raising. I think we are dealing with a semantic issue. It is clear from the photos that Bradley, here-to-fore listed as First Lieutenant Harold "George" Schrier, is the individual holding the flag. To my knowledge, the four individuals with hands on the pole when the first flag was raised were Schrier, Platoon Sergeant Ernest "Boots" Thomas, Sergeant Henry "Hank" Hansen, and Corporal Charles W. "Chuck" Lindberg.

While the Joe Rosenthal photograph and Sgt William H. Genaust film docu-

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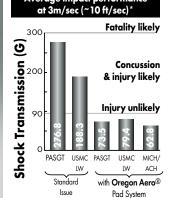
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ment the actual raising of the second flag, Lowery's photos are after the fact and reflect the period when the pole was being stabilized. Thus, while it's true John Bradley did not physically raise the pole, he is indeed the individual in the photos. CAPT Thomas C. Farrell Jr., MC, USN (Ret)

• Captain Farrell is a retired Navy doctor. He was the Marine Forces Pacific surgeon in the late 1990s and early 2000s.—Sound Off Ed.

In 1978, I came across this passage in "A History of Engineering & Science in the Bell System," a 757-page tome detailing in mind-numbing detail the history of Bell Labs between World War II and the mid-1970s.

It read: "When the Marines assaulted Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima Island, they had several objectives: One was to wipe out the Japanese artillery which harassed the men below, another was to plant the flag to let their fellows know they had succeeded, and still another was to get a TPS-1 [radar] on the summit to give very early warning of the repeated attacks by enemy aircraft. The Marines used the radar for the same purposes on Okinawa and elsewhere."

Now that made sense, especially com-

ing from a source such as a Bell Labs, one with no apparent political or revisionist agenda. Plus it makes those men who climbed Suribachi even more admirable, if that's possible. They were saving lives on beaches below and among those tightly packed transports just out to sea that were facing kamikazes.

Perhaps this has all been explored before, but I've never seen it. I believe the average American thinks the only reason the Marines went up Mount Suribachi was to plant the flag.

Incidentally, the TPS-1 portable radar was a follow-on to the Bell SCR-268 radar, which weighed 10 times at much. With input from the Marines, the unit was specifically designed by Bell to be "packaged in small units and hand-carried up a mountain."

> Jim Fisher Stilwell, Kan.

• Thanks for the interesting input. There were a lot of valid reasons for going up Mount Suribachi, not the least of which was to seize the high ground paramount in almost any tactical situation. The fact that Suribachi was honeycombed with tunnels and heavy-gun emplacements was another reason. We can go on. However, I don't believe there is anything wrong with the average American thinking the only reason Marines went up Mount Suribachi was to plant the flag.

A few years later in the Korean War, then-Colonel Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller overheard an Army staff officer complain when Marines raised the American flag in Seoul that "Marines would rather carry a flag into battle than a weapon." Col Puller reminded them that "a man with a flag in his pack and the desire to put it on an enemy strongpoint isn't likely to bug out." Planting the flag on "enemy strongpoints" is a tradition inculcated into that which makes us Marines.

We have received numerous responses, all very favorable comments, about Dustin Spence's feature.—Sound Off Ed.

"Laying-On-of-Hands" Not Uncommon

In reading Gunnery Sergeant John Boring's review of "The Twins Platoon" in "Books Reviewed" in the September 2006 issue, I noticed he seemed to have doubts that the "laying-on-of-hands" experiences of "The Twins Platoon" occurred. Boring writes, "a bit of braggadocio, or how things really were, is left to the reader to decide."

Let me assure you that at least during the mid-1960s through the Marine involvement in the Vietnam War, "layingon-of-hands" was maybe commonplace in recruit training. It happened to a de-

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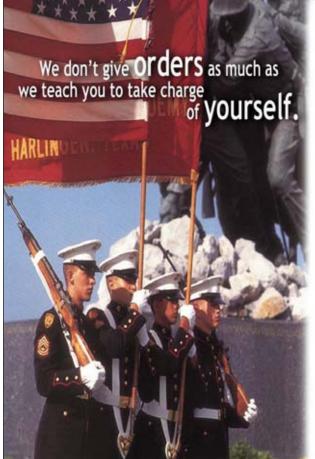
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gree in my Platoon 3096, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, 1968 and to a larger degree in the other platoons from our series.

I'm not criticizing my boot camp training experience. I wouldn't change a thing. I already knew what to expect from drill instructors because of what I was told by childhood friends who joined before me. For better or worse, somewhat harsh treatment from my drill instructors didn't surprise me or upset me. But those "laying-on-of-hands" incidents like the ones described in "The Twins Platoon" did happen during the Vietnam War years.

From the Vietnam years came a new, positive recruit-training attitude, and I think this is a good thing. I saw this for myself upon visiting MCRD San Diego some years back. Our new Marines are better than ever.

Former Sgt Richard B. Ellenberger Normandy Park, Wash.

• Let's be clear about one thing. I know you are telling the truth. But even back then, although drill instructors often chose to ignore the rules and often got away with doing so, "laying-on-of-hands" was illegal and a punishable violation of the Recruit Training Regiment's standard operating procedure.—Sound Off Ed.

"Sir, We Respectfully Disagree With the 'Gunny,' Sir!"

I am a little hesitant to disagree with Gunnery Sergeant Carl I. Greenwood ["And While We're On the Subject," "Sound Off," October] lest I be struck by lightning, but I have some different memories as to saying "sir" before another word.

I started boot camp at Parris Island in June 1951. I have memories still of beating my fist bloody on the "hatch," screaming, "Sir, private s---bird reporting as ordered, sir!"

I promise I will never again contradict a "gunny."

Don Kincart Burlington, Ky.

The October issue's "Sound Off" brought a flood of memories. In the fall of 1946 as "boots," we were threatened with something just short of death should we address our drill instructors as "sir."

1stLt Bob McEwen, USMC (Ret) 1946-67

Indian Shores, Fla.

In "Gunny" Greenwood's October 2006 "Sound Off" letter, he maintains that a recruit's use of "Sir, yes, sir" when speaking to a drill instructor is improper and was never heard when he served as a

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drill instructor in the mid-1950s.

The phrase may well be improper. However, during my 13 weeks of boot camp at Parris Island (beginning in June 1956), our senior drill instructor required all of Platoon 188 to begin and end any address directed toward a drill instructor with "sir." Whether in the form of a request by the recruit such as, "Sir, Private Smith requests permission to speak to the drill instructor, sir!" or in response to a query by the drill instructor, "Sir, no, sir," an attention-getting "thump" could be expected for any deviation from the correct reply. If the gunny served at Par-

ris Island during the summer of 1956, he may have known our senior drill instructor, Staff Sergeant Frazer.

I look forward to reading the gunny's "Once Upon a Lifetime" and hopefully to many more issues of *Leatherneck*.

George N. Collias, Esq. Venice, Fla.

Wrong, wrong, wrong. The Monday after the attack on Pearl Harbor, I went to join our great Corps. At boot camp, all recruits said, "Sir, yes, sir." Additionally, when I was on the field in the 1950s, all recruits said, "Sir, yes, sir." But what's

the big deal? The only possible reason must be that officers are jealous. What a waste of space.

We sure all know of the strong feeling boots had of the drill instructor. Even today, 64 years later, I remember my DI's name: Robert A. Stallings. And did he hate Italians! But he was like a god to us. Even when an officer came to inspect, it was the DI we had in mind. We had to please *him*. Yes, I could go on and on, but I said my three cents' worth.

Hank Riccio Stratford, Conn.

Having retired from the Marines as a private first class, I would ordinarily hesitate to argue with an old salt such as Gunnery Sergeant Greenwood. However, I attended boot camp at Parris Island from December 1958 to March 1959. From the date we first stood on those yellow footprints until graduation, we said (because we were told to say), "Sir, yes, sir!" When we addressed a drill instructor, every sentence did indeed begin and end with "sir." No one, by the way, ever said, "Aye, aye, sir." If we made the mistake of saying just "Yes, sir" there was hell to pay.

Perhaps things were different when the [continued on page 70]

Corrections to the November "Senior Leaders of Our Corps" Insert



BGen Anthony L. Jackson

In the November issue, on page A5 of the special insert, titled "Senior Leaders of Our Corps," *Leatherneck* erroneously inserted the photograph of Sergeant Major Wayne R. Bell for Brigadier General Anthony L. Jackson.

SgtMaj Bell's photograph is correctly listed on page A10, but BGen Jackson's photograph was left out. The general's correct photograph is shown here.

Leatherneck sincerely regrets this error and apologizes to BGen Jackson and SgtMaj Bell for any inconvenience caused by our error.

-Col Walt Ford, USMC (Ret) Editor. *Leatherneck* magazine

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DECEMBER 2006



A MESSAGE FROM THE 34th COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS



Marines, Sailors, Families and Those Invaluable Citizens Who Support Us:

As your new Commandant, I want you to know how proud I am of your perseverance and dedication as we combat the forces of terrorism around the globe. Today's generation of Marines stands shoulder-to-shoulder with those who have worn the eagle, globe and anchor as warriors in the finest fighting tradition. Though we are engaged in a complex war that will not be resolved soon, it is a war we must win! Below are my focus areas for the next few years—however, *our Marines and Sailors in combat are my number-one priority.*

- Achieve victory in the Long War.
- Right-size our Corps to achieve a 1:2 DEPTEMPO [deployment cycle tempo].
- Reset and modernize to "be most ready when the Nation is least ready."
- Provide our Nation a naval force that is fully prepared for employment across the spectrum of conflict.
- Improve the quality of life for our Marines and their families.
- Rededicate ourselves to our core values and warrior ethos.
- Posture the Marine Corps for the future.

You will soon receive my Commandant's Planning Guidance (CPG). Within 30 days, I want commanders at all levels to review this Guidance with their Marines, Sailors and civilians. I plan to visit many of you over the next several months, and I will seek your feedback on the CPG and your ideas on how we can continue to defeat our adversaries, best serve our Nation, and forge the next chapter in the proud history of our Corps.

Semper Fidelis,

James T. Conway
General, U.S. Marine Corps



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ONCE A MARINE. ALWAYS A MARINE.





Corporal Becomes First Marine Awarded Medal of Honor in the War on Terror

Story and photos by SSgt Scott Dunn

corporal who died shielding fellow Marines from an exploding grenade deserves America's highest military decoration, President George W. Bush has confirmed.

Actions by Corporal Jason L. Dunham, who would have turned 25 on Nov. 10, merit the Medal of Honor, said President Bush during the dedication ceremony for the National Museum of the Marine Corps (NMMC) near Quantico, Va., which coincided with the 231st Marine Corps anniversary.

"And on this special Birthday, in the company of his fellow Marines, I'm proud to announce that our nation will

recognize Corporal Jason Dunham's action with America's highest decoration for valor," said a visibly emotional President to approximately 15,000 who were in attendance for the opening of the museum.



Above: Debra and Dan Dunham visit their son's grave Nov. 3 at Fairlawn Cemetery in Scio, N.Y.

Opposite: In honor of Cpl Jason L. Dunham, the Dunhams have keepsakes displayed in their living room and encased in a wooden, 6-foot-tall cabinet.

The announcement prompted a booming "Oorah!"—a spirited cry among Marines from the back of the crowd, and a long applause followed.

On April 14, 2004, in Iraq near the Syrian border, Cpl Dunham used his helmet and his body to smother an exploding British-made Mills Bomb released by an insurgent whom Dunham and two other Marines tried to subdue. The explosion dazed and wounded Lance Corporal William Hampton and Private First Class Kelly Miller. The insurgent stood up after the blast and was immediately gunned down and killed by Marine small-arms fire.

"By giving his own life, Cor-

poral Dunham saved the lives of two of his men and showed the world what it means to be a Marine," said President Bush.

Dunham initially survived the blast and lay unconscious facedown with a shard the size of a button lodged in his head. The

On April 14, 2004, in Iraq near the Syrian border, Cpl Dunham used his helmet and his body to smother an exploding British-made Mills Bomb released by an insurgent whom Dunham and two other Marines tried to subdue.





"We remember that the Marine who so freely gave his life was your beloved son. ... As long as we have Marines like Corporal Dunham, America will never fear for her liberty."

—President George W. Bush

Debra Dunham holds the boot-camp picture of her son, Cpl Jason L. Dunham.

hard, molded mesh that was his Kevlar helmet was scattered and shredded fabric. Dunham never regained consciousness and died eight days later at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. Cpl Dunham's father and mother, Dan and Debra Dunham of Scio, N.Y., were at his bedside.

Dunham's commanding officers from 3d Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment investigated his actions and nominated him for the Medal of Honor. Two years and seven months after making its way to the White House, the nomination now has the necessary approval from the President, who will present the medal and citation on a date to be determined.

Hoping the President would make the Medal of Honor announcement on their son's birthday, Mr. and Mrs. Dunham drove to Quantico from their home in Scio where their son is buried.

The President acknowledged the Dunhams, who received seats of honor in the front row. The parents held each other close as the audience gave a resounding applause.

"The public now knows what Jason did," said Mrs. Dunham. "We still have a loss, but the gift that Jason gave helps us go on.

"The good part is that we get to make new memories and bring new people into the family; the bad news is there will be no new memories with Jason."

She went on to say: "We took [the applause] as a thank-you for us, but it was for Jason. At that point, Dan and I were missing Jason a lot."

Addressing Dunham's parents, President Bush said, "We remember that the

Marine who so freely gave his life was your beloved son. We ask a loving God to comfort you for a loss that can never be replaced.

"As long as we have Marines like Corporal Dunham, America will never fear for her liberty."

Before Dunham, the last Marine in combat action to earn the Medal of Honor was LCpl Miguel Keith on May 8, 1970, in Vietnam. According to Marine Corps History Division records, LCpl Keith inspired a platoon facing nearly overwhelming odds. Wounded twice, Keith ran into "fire-swept terrain." He nonetheless attacked, taking out the enemy in his forward rush. Keith fought until he fell mortally wounded; his platoon came out on top despite being heavily outnumbered.

The awarding of the last Medal of Honor to a Marine was to Major General James L. Day, who distinguished himself as a corporal in the Battle of Okinawa in 1945. His award was pre-



During the NMMC dedication ceremony, President George W. Bush recounts Cpl Dunham's harrowing sacrifice for which he earned the Medal of Honor.

sented on Jan. 20, 1998, more than half a century later. MajGen Day passed away later that year.

Since the war against terrorism began, President Bush has previously presented one Medal of Honor. On April 4, 2003, during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Army Sergeant First Class Paul R. Smith earned the medal for organizing a defense that held off a company-size attack. In the defense, Smith manned a .50-caliber machine gun in an exposed position until he was



Mr. and Mrs. Dunham look through press clippings in a town library room dedicated to their son in Scio, N.Y.

mortally wounded. President Bush presented the medal to SFC Smith's family on April 4, 2005.

Editor's note: SSgt Dunn is a combat correspondent currently assigned to the Division of Public Affairs, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, D.C.

Cpl Dunham "Gallantly Gave His Life. ..."

VALOR

MICHAEL M. PHILLIPS

The story of Corporal Jason Dunham's life and his heroic service to Corps and country is told in the 2005 book, "The Gift of Valor," by Michael M. Phillips. Phillips, a *Wall Street Journal* reporter embedded with Dunham's unit, 3d

Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, on four deployments to Iraq, documents in great detail the young life and the death of Dunham, who was born and grew to manhood in the small village of Scio, N.Y.

An excellent athlete and mature Marine leader, "The twenty-two-year-old Dunham was, in the eyes of his fellow Marines in 'Kilo' Company's Fourth platoon, the poster child for the Corps," writes Phillips. Dunham found a home in the Marine Corps and, as told in "The Gift of Valor," was the leader of the platoon's second squad on a patrol to relieve embattled Marines in the town of Husaybah when he stopped an Iraqi vehicle and became

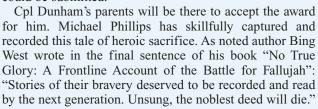
involved in hand-to-hand combat with an Iraqi who managed to pull the pin of a grenade. Knowing his fellow Marines were trying to assist him, Dunham shouted, "No, no, no—watch his hand!" Dunham then pulled his helmet onto the grenade and absorbed the major part of the blast.

Phillips is a master wordsmith and describes not only Dunham's early life but also the minute-to-minute action that culminated in the corporal's efforts to save the lives of his Marines. Phillips recounts the immediate efforts to move the badly wounded Dunham to a secure area; the detailed medical treatment provided through a succession of military treatment facilities in Baghdad, Landstuhl (Germany), and the National Naval Medical Center at Bethes-

da; and the final minutes of his young life as his parents made the most difficult decision of their lives—to take their brain-dead son off life support and watch him slip away on April 22, 2004.

Phillips concludes his book by describing how the Kilo Co Marines sealed remnants of Cpl Dunham's helmet in large plastic bags and placed them in a metal storage locker at the company headquarters in Al-Qa'im, Iraq. When Lieutenant Colonel Matthew A. Lopez heard of how Cpl Dunham gave his life, he directed the company commander, Captain Trent Gibson, to investigate so that, if confirmed, a nomination for the Medal of Honor

could be submitted.



-Col Walt Ford, USMC (Ret), Editor, Leatherneck magazine

www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck DECEMBER 2006 LEATHERNECK 19



A lone Marine bugler sounded "Taps" as the USS Arizona Marine Corps Remembrance was dedicated at Halawa Landing, Pearl Harbor Visitor Center on Nov. 14, 2005.

USS ARIZONA MARINE CORPS REMEMBRANCE

A NEW ADDITION TO THE PEARL HARBOR EXPERIENCE

Story by Bill Bigelow · Photos by Regis Bourne

t was the morning of Nov. 14, 2005. As a part of the Marine Corps' 230th Birthday, about 200 men and women, all veterans and many of them former active-duty Marines, were gathered at Pearl Harbor overlooking the USS Arizona Memorial. They had assembled to dedicate a new flagstaff emblazoned with seven bronze plaques.

The USS Arizona Marine Corps Remembrance commemorates the 73 Marines who were entombed eternally and 15 of their shipmates who were fortunate enough to survive the attack upon the battleship USS Arizona (BB-39) on that ill-fated day of Dec. 7, 1941.

The august presence of General Michael W. Hagee, the 33rd Commandant of the Marine Corps, heightened the significance of the day and was warmly received. His keynote dedication speech was the highlight of the ceremony.

Of the original 15 Marine survivors of the attack, only two are still alive. Former Private First Class Lamar S. Crawford currently lives in Tyler, Texas. Due to health constraints, he was unable to travel to Hawaii to participate in the special event.

Among the attending VIPs was the other survivor, former Marine aviator, Colonel John H. "Jack" Earle Jr., USMC (Ret) of Honolulu. Then a captain, Jack Earle was the Marine Detachment (MarDet) commander aboard USS Arizona on Dec. 7, 1941. Col Earle's extended family was present for the dedication, and as the guest of honor, he was an integral part of the proceedings.

Over the years, several high-ranking Marines have noted that appropriate recognition has never been given to the often forgotten Marine heroes on board USS Arizona. Now, as our nation and the world acknowledge the 65th anniversary of the attack and remember those who were lost. we also recall the dedication of the USS Arizona Marine Corps Remembrance.



AS OUR NATION AND THE WORLD ACKNOWLEDGE THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK AND REMEMBER THOSE WHO WERE LOST, WE ALSO RECALL THE DEDICATION OF THE USS *Arizona* Marine Corps Remembrance.

www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck DECEMBER 2006 LEATHERNECK 2





Gen Michael W. Hagee and Col John H. Earle Jr., USMC (Ret), USS *Arizona* MarDet commander on Dec. 7, 1941 (above left), discuss the memorial dedication on Nov. 14, 2005. Patrick Brent, a Remembrance sponsor (above right), points to the name of then-Capt Earle on one of the seven bronze tablets surrounding the base of the flagpole.

The need for a lasting tribute to the Marines who were on board *Arizona* on Dec. 7 was remedied by way of the non-profit 501(c) (3) organization called The Pearl Harbor Fund, formally established in 2004. Gen Charles C. "Chuck" Krulak, USMC (Ret), the 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps; Lieutenant General Wallace C. "Chip" Gregson, USMC (Ret); Brigadier General Jerry McAbee, USMC (Ret); Col Dick Camp, USMC (Ret); Col John R. Bates, USMC (Ret);

and Patrick T. Brent are on the board of directors. The construction and unveiling of this Remembrance flagstaff is the first project of the Fund.

The flagstaff, vaulting 39 feet skyward, resides in a landscaped setting at the Pearl Harbor water's edge with a clear view of the USS *Arizona* Memorial, the USS *Missouri* Memorial behind it and the USS *Bowfin* Memorial adjacent to it. The flags of the United States, the Navy and the Marine Corps snap crisply in unison as

if saluting those who rest within the remains of the sunken battleship.

The seven-sided, 7-ton concrete flagstaff base displays seven bronze plaques on its sides. Engraved upon the plaques are the names of all the Marines who were on board USS *Arizona* at the time of the attack. Adding to the flagstaff's nostalgic value, reclaimed piping from the superstructure of that great ship is used as reinforcement within its base.

In addition to those leathernecks as-

NEW BOOK HONORS ARIZONA MARINE DETACHMENT

To commemorate the 65th anniversary of the 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the Navy and the National Park Service have planned several events that will highlight those dark hours of that Sunday morning so long ago.

Members of the Pearl Harbor Survivors' Association will be in attendance, albeit in fewer numbers than even five years ago.

One of the events in the overall program honoring those Marine Corps men and women who died on Dec. 7 will be the unveiling of a new book titled "Battleship Arizona's Marines at War: Making the Ultimate Sacrifice, December 7, 1941," written by Colonel Richard "Dick" Camp Jr., USMC (Ret). Zenith Press recently released the book. See page 40 in this issue for an excerpt.

Col Camp wrote the book after visiting the USS *Arizona* Memorial in Pearl Harbor in November of last year. While in Honolulu, Marine veteran Patrick Brent, chairman of the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, introduced him to one of the survivors, retired Col John H. "Jack" Earle Jr., who was the commanding officer of the Marine Detachment in the battleship when she was bombed.

Then-Captain Earle had assumed his command of the 88-man unit on the afternoon before the attack. Interviews with Earle and others among the 15 survivors over the years pro-

vide readers an added glimpse into just how devastating that attack was.

Camp, now the deputy director of the History Division at the Marine Corps University, Quantico, Va., served his country with distinction between 1962 and 1988. He was both an infantry platoon and company commander, including service in Vietnam, where he commanded Company L, 3d Battalion, 26th Marine Regiment. He also served as an aide-de-camp for General Raymond G. "Ray" Davis when the general commanded Third Marine Division in Vietnam, and Camp successfully completed four recruiting tours.

This new book is not Col Camp's first. His initial effort as an author was an autobiography of his time as a company commander in Vietnam. Athenium Press published it in 1989.

His second book, which hit bookstores this fall, is titled "Leatherneck Legends, Conversations With the Corps' Old Breed." It's an oral history of the wartime experiences of Generals Roy S. Geiger, Lemuel C. "Lem" Shepherd Jr., Edward A. "Eddie" Craig, Ray Davis and Robert H. "Bob" Barrow. Published by Zenith Press, the hardcover book is available from Marine Corps Association bookstores. It's also a Military History Book Club featured selection.

-Bill Bigelow

LEATHERNECK DECEMBER 2006 www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck

signed to the MarDet, the Remembrance also is an enduring tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Daniel R. Fox, USMC, the most highly decorated American military man aboard the battleship at the time she sank.

In December 1941, LtCol Fox was a division officer on the staff of Rear Admiral Isaac Kidd, the battleship division commander. Fox's tenacious mettle was proven early in his military career. When he was a sergeant during World War I at St. Etienne, France, in 1918, his unit played a significant role in preventing the Germans from taking Paris.

Fox was awarded a Navy Cross, the Army Distinguished Service Medal and a French Croix de Guerre for his fearlessness under fire from German army units.

Such an act of heroic loyalty epitomizes the unwavering gallantry of all 88 Marines who were assigned to USS *Arizona* on Dec. 7, 1941.

The legacy of the sacrifice made by those valiant Marines on that fateful day now lives on in this Remembrance—an elegantly understated symbol of "Semper Fidelis!"

On April 19, 2006, The Pearl Harbor Fund and the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center (the originators of the Remembrance) passed the ownership and management of the commemorative flagstaff and memorial plaques to Armed Services YMCA-Hawaii.

Instrumental in the "Change of Stewardship" ceremony were RADM S. Frank Gallo, USN (Ret), ASYMCA national executive director, Washington, D.C.; Stanley Long, ASYMCA-Hawaii president; and David Gomez, ASYMCA-Hawaii executive director. Representing the founders of the USS *Arizona* Marine Remembrance were Patrick Brent, Pearl Harbor Visitor Center chairman, and Col John R. Bates, USMC (Ret), Pearl Harbor Visitor Center chief operating officer.

Activities abound these days around the USS *Arizona* Memorial and Pearl Harbor Visitor Center.

The Marine Forces Pacific Band, United States Pacific Fleet Band and other military bands aptly showcase the Remembrance by frequently entertaining and inspiring the general public with concerts at the waterfront alongside the flagstaff.

Now a popular attraction at Pearl Harbor, along with the USS *Arizona* Memorial, USS *Bowfin* and USS *Missouri*, the Remembrance serves as a poignant reminder to us all of what it truly means to be a "leatherneck." Certainly there is no more apt a time to remember all those who endured that "day of infamy" 65 years ago, and now the Marines on board



The Marine Forces Pacific Band frequently performs at the USS *Arizona* Marine Corps Remembrance. The band's musical repertoire includes period songs from the early 1940s.

THE LEGACY OF THE SACRIFICE MADE BY THOSE VALIANT MARINES ON THAT FATEFUL DAY NOW LIVES ON IN THIS REMEMBRANCE—AN ELEGANTLY UNDERSTATED SYMBOL OF "SEMPER FIDELIS!"

USS *Arizona* that day will be forever honored with the USS *Arizona* Marine Corps Remembrance.

Editor's note: Bill Bigelow, a former U.S. Navy officer, Honolulu radio and TV newsman, and author of the fiction work "Red Sky at Night," currently operates a public relations agency in Honolulu. To view photos of the Dedication and Stewardship ceremonies and read more on the USS Arizona Marine Corps Remembrance, visit the Web site: www.PearlHarborVisitorCenter.com.



One man, Patrick Brent, had an idea. He was joined by others. "NO" was unacceptable, and a lasting tribute to the Marines of USS *Arizona* was created.

DECEMBER 2006 LEATHERNECK 23

Colonel Joseph R. "Bull" Fisher A Marine's Marine: "Come on, you Marines."

Story by JoAnna M. McDonald · Photos courtesy of the Jim Mazy Collection, 2/4 Association

ilitary heroes have been lauded since before David was king in Israel, some more than others. But there is one such hero about which little has been written: Colonel Joseph R. "Bull" Fisher, who served America in three wars. This is an oversight soon to be corrected as you are introduced to one of America's most inspirational Marine leaders.

Joseph Fisher was born in Westwood, Mass., in 1921 and attended Dedham High School. He enlisted in the Corps in 1942 and soon found himself fighting in World War II. Fisher was a Marine's Marine, quickly learning battle tactics from practical experience—up front, getting shot at. He saw action throughout the Pacific island-hopping campaigns, where he rose to the rank of platoon sergeant for his leadership skills, courage, expertise in map reading and his finely honed proficiency in using the bayonet.

At 6 feet tall and weighing 200 pounds, the stern, blue-eyed leatherneck received many nicknames, both for his tenacious fighting and his stalwart stature. Early in the war, it was reported that Fisher obtained the name "Old Indestructible" after miraculously escaping Japanese bullets while carrying a fellow wounded Marine to safety.

His nickname followed him to Iwo Jima in February 1945. As a platoon sergeant in Company C, 1st Battalion, 26th Marine Regiment, Fifth Marine Division, Fisher landed across the beach with the regiment near Red 1. Pushing forward in a hail of Japanese fire, the Marines moved closer to Airfield No. 1.

On 21 Feb. at 7:40 a.m., Fisher's battalion, attached to Regimental Combat Team 27, continued its assault on the airfield. A Japanese machine-gun crew in a concrete bunker pinned down the Marines. Fisher grabbed several grenades and shouted, "Cover me!"

He crawled slowly forward as his men poured round after round toward the enemy machine-gun crew. Bullets flew all around him; one smashed into his



By the time Bull Fisher saw action in the Korean War, he was already a blooded and respected Marine leader who earned his spurs in the intense island-hopping campaigns of WW II.

shoulder, breaking it. Despite the terrific pain, Old Indestructible pushed forward. Another round hit him in the chest, but Fisher wouldn't quit. His chest was burning, blood covered his uniform and the ground, and his shoulder was numb. He fought through the pain knowing that the bunker had to be destroyed.

Once close enough to the enemy fortification, he found the strength to lift himself to his knees, pull the grenade pin and toss it into the Japanese bunker. There was a muffled explosion as smoke rose from the small machine-gun firing slit. Two Japanese soldiers staggered out and were instantly shot down by one of Fisher's Marines. The sergeant threw one more grenade into the foul-smelling hole. The gun went silent.

Sgt Joseph Fisher was awarded the Sil-

ver Star for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity ... demonstrating foresight, tactical skill and determination in leading his platoon." The doctors and nurses were astounded that he had survived. Old Indestructible fully recovered by July 1945. When the war ended, Fisher received a field promotion to second lieutenant and participated in the occupation of Japan.

Between the wars, he carried another nickname that would stay with him throughout his career, "Bull." His size and aggressive nature made this a permanent nickname.

Five years later First Lieutenant Bull Fisher found himself in his second war, the Korean War. As a lieutenant, Bull commanded Co I, 3d Bn, 1st Marines under battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas L. Ridge. The legendary warhorse Colonel Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller commanded 1st Marines. The colonel had great confidence in Fisher and rightly so.

When a journalist asked Col Puller why he placed a lieutenant in command of a company instead of a captain, Puller bellowed, "Lieutenant Joe Fisher is one of the best damned company commanders who ever lived. He's equal to the toughest assignment. As long as I'm around, he'll lead 'Item' Company."

Fisher would prove his commander right. In September 1950, as the Marines invaded Inchon and pushed toward Seoul, the capital of South Korea, Item Co held an isolated hill (Hill 105-S) near the city. The height overlooked the new command post. A brisk firefight broke out, but Fisher's men held their ground and captured 10 prisoners. After days of heavy fighting, the Marines recaptured Seoul; Fisher lost one man killed and two

With the North Koreans retreating back across the 38th parallel, the United Nations gave General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, commander of all U.N. troops in Korea, permission to cross the invisible line. GEN MacArthur and his generThe leathernecks of 2/4 first heard themselves described as "Magnificent Bastards" by their new commander (right) in June 1964. Just over a year later, they would find themselves in heavy combat during the early days of the Vietnam War.

als proposed a two-pronged attack up the Korean Peninsula. The Marines would board Navy ships and head for the East Coast at Wonsan.

Major General Oliver P. Smith, commanding the 1stMarDiv, moved 70 miles inland from Wonsan to the Chosin (Changjin) Reservoir. The Americans were dangerously close to China's border. On 2 Nov. 1950, the Chinese entered the war. By late November, four Chinese divisions were thrown at the Marines.

On 25 Nov., Col Puller deployed Fisher's unit at a strategic point overlooking the village of Hagaru-ri. The Marines knew the area as "East Hill." Puller located Fisher and ordered, "Defend it, Lieutenant." Like Stonewall Jackson at the First Battle of Manassas in the Civil War, Fisher knew to "hold at all cost." There was no turning back, no withdrawal. If the Chinese gained the hill, they would dominate the main supply route and block the path that the leathernecks must have in order to escape encirclement and possible annihilation.

With only three machine guns, a few mortars, and small arms, they could use



This snapshot of two legendary Marine warhorses, Lieutenant General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller, USMC (Ret) (left) and Col Joseph "Bull" Fisher, was taken in February 1969 after Bull's retirement from active duty.





By May 1965, the time of this photo, Marine units had established a solid foothold in the Chu Lai and Da Nang areas. Bull's battalion, working alongside South Vietnamese forces against mainly Viet Cong, like the one hog-tied in this photo, was a respected force.

every form of protection. At least Item Co had plenty of ammunition; they would need all of it. Fisher's men tensely waited for the attack. Intelligence had stated a Chinese company-sized assault could be expected around 9:30 p.m. on 28 Nov.

There was an eerie silence as 9:30 p.m. passed without a shot fired. Just as the men began to think it was a false alarm, at 10:30 p.m. red flares shot into the sky and whistles echoed. This was it; every Marine hunkered down watching, waiting for the silhouetted Chinese figures to appear out of the darkness.

The vanguard of the assault tripped the flares, and booby traps began exploding. Now Fisher's men could see their targets. The enemy charged his position three times. The Browning Automatic Rifles, Thompson submachine guns and M1s grew hot as the enemy threw themselves at the stalwart Marines. The leathernecks mowed them down like the Grim Reaper. But the enemy continued their onslaught. Throughout the night, chaos reigned.

Bull paced the lines yelling for mortar fire and shouting encouragement to his men. A Chinese soldier penetrated the perimeter; Fisher fired his .38-caliber pistol point-blank into the assailant's chest. The bullet somehow ricocheted. Fisher, recognizing that the projectile had not penetrated, ordered his men to "fire high or low."

For eight hours the Chinese made a futile attempt to dislodge the Marines. During one tense moment the Chinese, again at the 3d Platoon sector, broke through to the company command post. Bull counterattacked and a grisly hand-to-hand battle ensued. While lobbing

grenades at the enemy, Fisher bellowed, "Grenades and bayonets!" The Marines gave them cold steel and smashed the enemy with butt strokes from their rifles. It was Item Co's hill.

The battle lasted through the night; exhausted and nearly annihilated, the enemy withdrew. Fisher's Marines were too tough. In the morning it was a ghastly sight. Enemy soldiers lay everywhere; approximately 700 Chinese were killed. After the melee, Puller asked Fisher how many enemy soldiers were killed. Fisher frankly answered, "A whole piss pot full, sir." Col Puller replied that he was "glad that he had at least one officer who could count accurately."

For the Battle of East Hill (28-29 Nov.), Bull Fisher was awarded the Navy Cross. An excerpt from the citation reads: "His valiant fighting spirit and selfless devotion to duty throughout were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Col Chesty Puller evaluated Fisher as the "best company-grade tactician" in the United States Marine Corps. This was quite an honor coming from the most highly decorated Marine commander.

After the first year of the Korean War, Captain Joseph Fisher returned to the United States with a Navy Cross and two Bronze Stars. A Marine for nine years, Fisher had earned all of his promotions in the field. Now he received orders to attend an amphibious warfare course at Quantico, Va. His instructors quickly realized that he was proficient in tactics and maneuvers.

Bull then transferred to Seal Beach, Calif., and was assigned as the Inspector-Instructor of a Reserve infantry company, and then went on to the Far East for another operational tour, this time with the 9th Marines, 3dMarDiv, before returning to Quantico as an instructor in 1957.

Now a major, he was in his element teaching tactics to new lieutenants at The Basic School. During one of the graduation ceremonies, Maj Fisher was asked to speak.

One young second lieutenant remembered Bull's remarks. "The Bull stood in the tiny sand amphitheatre and quietly looked at all the faces of Alpha Company. 'Gentlemen, I have tried to teach you everything I know about combat. If someone says they are not afraid, they are either stupid or crazy. If they are junior to you, get rid of them. If they are senior to you, get away from them. And remember, gentlemen, you have a sacred obligation: spend bullets not boys. God Bless.' "The

second lieutenant carried Bull's evocative comments with him throughout his career.

Once his tour at Quantico was complete in 1962, Fisher attended the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Va. He was then promoted to lieutenant colonel and ordered to Headquarters, Fleet Marine Force Pacific, Camp H. M. Smith, Hawaii. He and his family enjoyed living in the serene, tropical Hawaiian climate. But the peaceful times would last for only two years.

In June 1964 LtCol Bull Fisher as-



PFC Jim Mazy (above), Hotel Co, 2/4, saw a great deal of his battalion commander in the field. Senior leaders, such as LtGen Victor H. Krulak (below, right), Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, also visited Bull to see his unit in operation in Vietnam.



sumed command of 2d Bn, 4th Marines, First Marine Brigade at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. Private First Class James Mazy recalled, "For two weeks before Bull took over, every day we were warned that the Marine's Marine was taking over as CO [commanding officer] and that we had better be 'ready.' Almost every single Marine and corpsman was standing tall on the parade field looking better than they ever did before, shaking in their boots waiting for the combination of Attila the Hun, a Roman gladiator, Ben Hur and John Wayne all rolled into one to appear before us.

"When he did [take over the battalion], we all heard his praises of the Corps, Chesty Puller and the exiting CO, Lieutenant Colonel [Donald T.] Doxey. He gave his vow to be one of the best infantry battalion commanders that the Corps could give us. It was during this 'talk' that he made reference to us as his 'Magnificent Bastards.' But even prior to this, as Lieutenant Colonel Fisher entered the parade field area with his wife, Jean, I seem to remember him looking at us and saying something to her like, 'Look at these men; they are Magnificent Bastards aren't they!'"

One year later, on 18 Aug. 1965, Bull Fisher and his Magnificent Bastards were in a new kind of war as they sat in rumbling, deafening helicopters being carried into battle, descending upon the enemy. They were infantrymen. Now his Marines were coming in from the air. Fisher looked out the door and saw the lush, green Vietnamese countryside. This was the Marines' first attack on a Viet Cong regiment by air and from the sea. LtCol Fisher's unit was going in hot. Operation Starlite had begun.

Earlier, a Viet Cong defector informed the Americans that the 1st Viet Cong Regiment was going to attack the Marine base at Chu Lai. Lewis W. Walt, then a major general and commander of III Marine Amphibious Force in Vietnam, learned of the plot and immediately started plans to take the fight to the enemy. That planning came to fruition during Operation Starlite, 18-24 Aug.

MajGen Walt initially ordered two battalions for the operation: 3/1, commanded by LtCol Joseph E. Muir and Bull's 2/4. The 3d Bn would go in as the amphibious force. Bull's Marines would pile into helicopters and land at three separate zones: LZs Red, White and Blue to the west of Van Tuong village. Each landing zone was approximately 2,000 meters from the other. His objectives were to



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take the ridge near the landing zones and pin down the Viet Cong headquarters near Van Tuong.

Co E, 3/1 landed at LZ White, Co G came in at LZ Red, and Co H choppers went in at LZ Blue. Bull's command element touched down at LZ White. As Fisher's helicopter landed, the rugged 44-year-old commander stepped off the aircraft. "Come on, you Marines." The situation was grim when LtCol Fisher arrived. Bull radioed 1stLt Mike Jenkins, panies resumed their attack toward the village. The battalion was two hours behind schedule, but the Viet Cong were holding tight. Inching forward, the Marines took out the hidden VC snipers. Bull's veteran instincts told him the enemy fire was diminishing, and he drove his men hard up the ridge. The enemy, however, gave them no respite.

The VC had registered their weapons on the ridge, and as the VC began their withdrawal, they poured a deadly mortar

> Through the end of his tour in Vietnam, Bull Fisher, and his battalion, worked closely



with the South Vietnamese forces, teaching and leading and remaining in the fight. He and his "Magnificent Bastards" set the bar high for those who joined the battalion in later years.

CO of Co H. The company had only two working radios remaining.

PFC Mazy of Co H remembered that night their company was trapped and not expected to make it out of the predicament. There were only about 40 Marines in fighting shape. In order to secure their area, they set up in the open with a wide field of fire in case the enemy attempted an attack. It was like an old-fashioned Western-style wagon train circle defense. Bull's Marines remained alert and prepared for the enemy to attack.

Through the night, guns and artillery continued to hit the ridge, keeping the enemy at bay from Co H. Companies G and E already had taken their first objective prior to nightfall, but they were not close enough to help their fellow Marines.

In the morning, Echo and Golf com-

fire down on Bull's men. When the Marines hit the dirt, Fisher ordered napalm dropped on the retreating enemy. As the red glow and smoke from the air strike cleared, LtCol Fisher looked down at his last objective, Van Tuong village. It was only a mile away, but he carefully studied the terrain: fortified entrenchments, bunkers and hedgerows.

A tank column came up as reinforcements, but the VC who had escaped the napalm opened fire and took out the lead tank. Bull ordered his battalion forward, trying to turn the VC fire away from the tanks in order to clear a path for the column. Hedgerows near the village created perfect firing positions for the enemy. Bull's Marines dashed forward in small units, taking out the VC hedgerow by hedgerow.

Air support once again dropped napalm, and the Marines continued the fight, surrounding another VC company. Hoping to escape, the Viet Cong attempted to climb down the cliffs toward the sea. The big guns of the Navy cruiser Galveston (CL-93) opened up; the VC could not break away.

Bull's tough Marines had shattered the VC resistance in the hedgerows. It was now nightfall, but as Fisher led his veterans closer to Van Tuong and VC headquarters, they met tough resistance from the enemy survivors still held up in fortifications. But these were just the rear guard, fighting a delaying action against the leathernecks. The remainder of the 1st Viet Cong Regiment escaped into the darkness. Very few VC prisoners were taken captive.

LtCol Fisher's 2d Bn, 4th Marines and the supporting units and Navy had killed 600 Viet Cong. The Americans lost 52 Marines, one corpsman and an Army major killed in action.

Bull Fisher had led his men through their baptism by fire. His Marines loved him. "He was an exquisite leader," noted one of his young lieutenants from Quantico. He instilled in his Marines a brotherhood that not only spanned the Vietnam era but continues for any who served under him.

Mazy recalls that LtCol Joseph R. "Bull" Fisher received the rank of colonel in late 1966 or early 1967.

After 26 years of service to his country and Corps, Fisher retired in 1968 in North Carolina. His family knew him as a gentle giant who loved to work in his garden. Judson Fisher, his son, remembered his father would say, "The key to success in life is to find out what someone wants and to give it to them if at all possible."

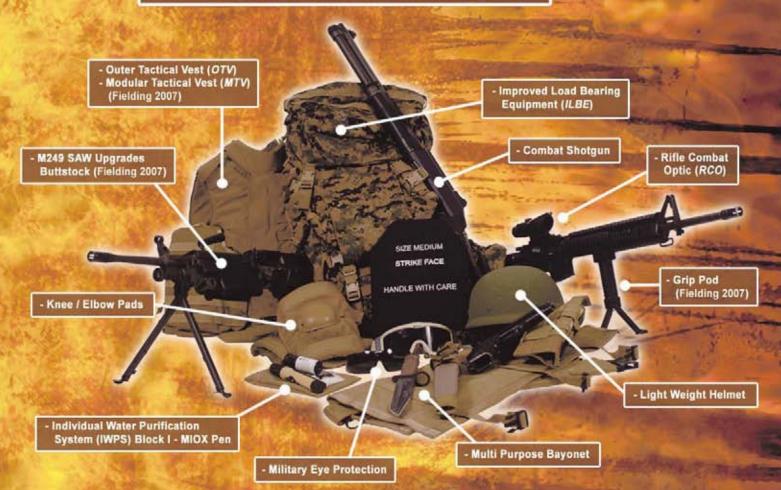
Although Col Fisher passed away in 1981, the Magnificent Bastards honor his legacy and that of the 2d Bn, 4th Marines with their own Association. They are about pride, spirit, love and respect of their country and Corps. Bull's warrior spirit is still with them.

Editor's note: JoAnna M. McDonald attended Dickinson College and received a master's degree from Shippensburg University and the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle, Pa. She has published 10 books (eight on the Civil War and two on WW II) and is currently the Education Specialist for the MCRD Command Museum, San Diego.



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Leatherneck Laffs



"What sign was I born under? Uh, Delivery Room—Keep Out."



"Those artillery guys are always showing off."

BORN HARD



"I'll call her Mo . . . Motivation."



"Outstanding work, Marine, but I think you need to relax a little."



"Have you by any chance been eating a lot of spinach?"



"... and a cartridge in a bare tree."



" 'Gunny' says he was a Marine before the Dead Sea reported to Sick Bay."



"Don't sit there! I found a grenade ring on the ground."

THE WAR ON TERROR

Edited by R. R. Keene

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

Western Al Anbar Province Wounded Iraqi Police Chief Says Key to Safer Iraq Is Securing Province

Despite being wounded during an insurgent attack in October, a prominent Iraqi police chief has vowed to continue his "fight" to keep Iraq's western Al Anbar province safe.

Colonel Shabban Barzan al-Ubaidi of the Baghdadi Police Force said the fact that he survived the attack is "proof the enemy cannot take [his] life away; only God can, and God is not on the enemy's side."

Despite the attack, Ubaidi's police forces remain undeterred and Iraqis in the Al Anbar province are still willing to join his police forces, Ubaidi said.

Baghdadi is a town of about 30,000 people located just miles south of Haditha along the Euphrates River.

In September, another 200 Iraqi men were recruited to join the police forces in western Al Anbar province and were sent to police academies in Baghdad or Jordan.

In August, U.S. military forces recruited more than 500 Iraqis for service in western Al Anbar. Marines deemed it as the "most successful recruiting drive to date" in the region.

Lieutenant Colonel David Little, the Marine in charge of the various U.S. police transition teams in western Al Anbar province, said Ubaidi played a crucial role in recruiting efforts by organizing police recruiting events throughout the Haditha Triad and Baghdadi.

"Colonel Shabban is a person who looks past ethnic, tribal and clan divisions," said Little. "He is a nationalist; he wants Iraq for Iraqis, and he wants security in the Al Anbar province."

Currently, there are more than 2,000 police officers, who are a mixture of Sunnis and Shiites, in Baghdadi and surrounding cities located in the heart of the Sunni-dominated Al Anbar province, where coalition and Iraqi forces have faced arguably the fiercest fighting in Iraq in recent years.

Along with a steady flow of recruits, Iraqi police officers have received muchneeded gear in recent months, to include handcuffs, uniforms, batons and police cars, oftentimes with coalition forces at their side.

Ubaidi said he is anxious to get back to Baghdadi and continue fighting insurgents with coalition forces. The police chief was wounded after insurgents fired at his police vehicle in a neighboring village, just minutes after giving chase to insurgents who, on Oct. 3, lobbed several mortars at a housing complex in Baghdadi.

One police officer was killed in the small-arms-fire ambush. Ubaidi was shot

with an unknown caliber of weapon. Insurgents were going to set fire to his vehicle, believing they had killed him, but Ubaidi said he managed to grab a machine gun and opened fire. He said he killed several insurgents and that several more were arrested.

Rumors and errant press reports quickly surfaced throughout the region that Ubaidi was killed, but he said he squashed those rumors when two of his officers visited him at Al Asad. He instructed them to pass news that he was going to survive and continue his fight against insurgents while continuing to build and train his police force.

Ubaidi, while recuperating at the U.S. military base in Al Asad, also wrote a letter to his policemen to boost their morale. He wrote that he was "just another Iraqi" and "even if I die, keep fighting the enemy."

"Every time I look at these wounds, I thank God for them," said Ubaidi, through a translator. "These wounds are an honor for [my] tribe and the Iraqi people. I built the Iraqi police in Baghdadi with every cell in my blood. No one is going to take it away from me."

Ubaidi said residents in the Haditha and Baghdadi areas have become much more supportive of coalition forces and Iraqi Security Forces.

He said children used to throw rocks at military vehicles, and residents would not speak to Marines or Iraqi soldiers and police. Now, they greet and shake hands with Marines, Iraqi soldiers and police, and many residents are taking oaths to fight the insurgents by volunteering to become policemen—a 180-degree change from just a few months ago.

However, these changes come with a price tag.

This summer, more than a dozen police recruits were assassinated during a drive-by shooting in front of a police station in the province, and more than 20 police officers from the Baghdadi region have been killed sporadically in the past year.

A vehicle-borne suicide bomb killed



Col Shabban Barzan al-Ubaidi, Baghdadi police chief, vowed that his 2,000 cops would continue to fight insurgents and crime in Al Anbar province. Ubaidi plays with fire daily, and even after being wounded, he said, "We will not accept any reason for the enemy to attack us or civilians and police."

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It is a colorful, but potentially deadly marketplace (above) that Marines from Company C, 1/25 patrol, looking for weapons caches and insurgents. Iraqi soldiers (right), who destroy more than posters, rip insurgent propaganda from the market district. On Oct. 2, they uncovered five separate weapons cache sites. (Above photo by Cpl Brian Reimers; inset photo by GySgt Mark Oliva)

one of Ubaidi's brothers, also a police officer, in March.

Ubaidi said that when he took the job as police chief last December he knew he was "playing with fire" and would one day face the enemy.

"We took an oath to eradicate [insurgents]," said Ubaidi. "We will not accept any reason for the enemy to attack us or civilians and police."

Every insurgent attack will be treated as a criminal act, he added.

Ubaidi said he will soon be back on his feet and will continue to try to achieve his dream, which is to have a police force throughout the Al Anbar province that is "strong, thriving and victorious."

> Sgt Roe F. Seigle Combat Correspondent, 1stMarDiv

■ Fallujah's Souk District

Shopping for Weapons in the Market

Iraqi army soldiers discovered five separate weapons caches, including materials to make improvised explosive devices, rocket-propelled grenades, AK47 assault rifles and ammunition. The discoveries were made in early October dur-

ing a search of Fallujah's souk, or market, district.

The operation was conducted by Iraqi soldiers from the 2d Battalion, 2d Brigade, First Iraqi Army Division alongside leathernecks from 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment.

Both units are serving with Regimental Combat Team 5.

"Our goal was to disrupt insurgent activity in that area," said First Lieutenant Jason J. Maraffi from Richmond, Va., who serves as Military Transition Team advisor for the Iraqi battalion.

"These guys don't attack where they live and where they work," added Captain Christopher M. Westhoff from Rifle, Colo., who also advises the Iraqi battalion. "We didn't think we'd find any bad guys, but we were pretty sure we'd find some stuff."

Iraqi soldiers cordoned the market section of the city along with Marines early in the morning, just as business was picking up. Shops were open and Iraqis were busy buying and selling everything from fruit to furniture. This section of the city is where commerce takes place,

and it was suspected of holding a few weapons. It also was an area known to be dangerous.

"The history of the area is that there have been grenade attacks," Westhoff said. "We had to watch the rooftops so no one drops anything on you."

But insurgents wouldn't be able to find much refuge after Iraqis and Marines surrounded the area. The narrow streets were filled with the chocolate-chip patterned uniforms of the Iraqi soldiers in their sector. Armored humvees chugged through the streets.

"Once you've got the cordon set, it's

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the outside of the cordon you have to worry about," Maraffi said. "On the outside, someone could take a shot and run. There's nowhere for them to run on the inside, so it's more likely they'll leave their weapons and walk out."

The flood of Iraqi soldiers and Marines sent many Fallujans to the outlying areas. Some stood and watched from beyond the perimeters and others offered to open their stores.

Iraqi soldiers hammered open locks. For those doors that wouldn't budge, they called in Marine engineers to blast them open. Inside the cavernous maze of shops, back in dark alleys and behind aluminumdoor shops, Iraqi soldiers turned over everything while looking for telltale signs of weapons.

Movement through the area was slow. Doors were double- and sometimes triple-locked. Warnings were called out over radios about controlled blasts needed to cut locks too tough for sledgehammers.

It didn't take long, though, before Iraqi soldiers began to uncover what they suspected. The first discovery came just blocks from the starting point for the operation. Soldiers found electronic parts

known to be used in making improvised explosive devices.

"We're taking their stuff away from them," Westhoff said.

Iraqi soldiers dug deeper, pulling out large spools of wire and an AK47 with a laser sight. Another box they pulled from the small shop contained binoculars, a sniper scope, ammunition, magazines for a sniper rifle and an AK47, explosives and a mortar sight and fuzes.

A used rocket tube was discovered in the back of a furniture store a little later, and just around the corner, Iraqi soldiers uncovered hidden rocket-propelled grenades and a launcher, AK47 assault rifles and other small arms along with the ammunition for them.

Farther down the road, Iraqi soldiers found crates of bulk explosives and cans of machine-gun ammunition.

"We wanted to make sure they were being safe when we were doing the searches," said Staff Sergeant Tyler L. Morgan from Caldwell, Idaho, who serves as an advisor to the Iraqi battalion. "We wanted them to be careful to make sure the doors weren't wired to explode."

Still, he said he was impressed with

what the soldiers found. They went into a dangerous part of the city and pulled weapons away from insurgents. Their ability to find those weapons is indicative, he said, of their ability to operate.

"They're really good at going through a search and being systematic," Morgan said.

With each find, Iraqi soldiers also grew more excited. They knew they were putting a dent in the insurgents' ability to move weapons through Fallujah.

"In past searches, they'd get tired and want to stop," 1stLt Maraffi said. "To-day, they did good. Once we got past the halfway point, they kept up with it."

Having Iraqi soldiers operating effectively largely by themselves was just as beneficial as getting the weapons off the streets. Fallujans are able to see their own army taking security matters into their own hands and realize their forces are capable of putting insurgents on the run.

The successful discoveries also go far in instilling in Iraqi soldiers their own abilities to carry out independent operations. Iraqi soldiers accomplished the mission along with Marines, but they worked their own sector. They searched each and



BLACKHAWK DOWN? NOT A PROBLEM FOR MARINE SUPER STALLION—Helicopter Support Team leathernecks prepare to hook an Army UH-60 Blackhawk to a CH-53E Super Stallion of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361 on Sept. 27. The Army chopper was disabled during a routine mission, and Marines gladly provided a helping hand. The HST Marines were from Combat Logistics Company 111, Combat Logistics Battalion 1, First Marine Logistics Group (Forward).

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Maj Vaughn L. Ward, CO, Charlie Co, 1/25, RCT-5, leads a patrol through the streets of Fallujah, where they received fire from unwelcoming insurgents hiding in the market district.

every shop, provided their own security and left the area without needing major support from Marines.

"Operations like this build confidence," Westhoff explained. "We just spent a day in a very hairy place and didn't lose anybody. They have the tactical ability. They have the leadership. They just need more soldiers."

"They need Iraqi engineers," Maraffi added. "They need Iraqi EOD [explosive ordnance disposal technicians]."

"They like their job," Westoff said. "They commute all the way from Basra to do this for low pay. ... They amaze me."

GySgt Mark Oliva Combat Correspondent, RCT-5

Baqhdadi

It Takes Ammunition and Weapons, But It Also Requires School Supplies

Marines from the 4th Civil Affairs Group, Detachment 4-2, and Iraqi Security Forces teamed up for Operation Benefit Day on Oct. 11 in Al Anbar province, Iraq.

The purpose was to deliver donated backpacks filled with school supplies, according to Master Sergeant James A. Allen, chief of 4th CAG, based out of Naval District Washington (D.C.). Many Iraqi children in western Al Anbar province do not have the proper supplies for school.

More than a dozen Iraqi Security Forces ensured that schoolchildren received the supplies, said Allen. The Marines preferred to have local Iraqi Security Forces hand out the school supplies, he added. It builds the people's trust in the Iraqi Security Forces; they can work with the coalition to distribute school supplies, said Allen. If more backpacks come in during the middle of the school year, the Marines will make sure they go to children who need them.

Similar types of operations are slated to be conducted across the entire area of operations, said Allen.

"We are really helping the children with projects such as this one, and we are trying to do the best for this area," said Dr. Diana Tlemsami, an interpreter for the 4th CAG.

"When the kids receive new things, it shows them someone cares. When they know someone cares, they're more willing to take initiative in preserving their own community," said Sergeant Alexis C. Wilson, Det 4-2.

"It gives you a feeling of satisfaction that you're doing something beneficial, that you're making a difference," said Allen.

The Marines say they will work with the Iraqi people and local authorities in the Al Anbar province to build capacities and political infrastructure in order to support their progress as a community, economy and government.

"It's not always about the adults; the future is a really big deal. These kids could be the ones to put an end to the fighting," Wilson said.

Cpl Virginia K. Lawrence 4th CAG





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We—the Marines

Edited by Isaac D. Pacheco



Marines training with III MEF's SOTG detonate a slider charge Sept. 19 during the Dynamic Entry Course held on MCB Camp Hansen's rifle range.

Dynamic Entry Course Teaches Marines New Way to Play "Knock Knock"

■ Everyone has heard the story of the three little pigs and how the wolf's effort to blow the third pig's house down is thwarted by the strength of solid brick and mortar. The moral of the story has several interpretations, but Marines in the Dynamic Entry Course interpret the story slightly differently than others; they think the wolf should have brought explosives.

The Dynamic Entry Course runs on Marine Corps Base Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, biannually, and according to Master Sergeant Carl Holden, the course's chief instructor, teaches Marines to enter barricaded facilities using explosive devices and simple tools while ensuring minimal damage to targets and using the minimal materials necessary.

"In a training situation, you will never get closer to explosives than during this course," Holden said.

The Special Operations Training Group

(SOTG) of III Marine Expeditionary Force, which operates the two-week course for Marines with explosives experience, graduated one of its classes on Sept. 26. The course instructors, consisting of combat engineers, SOTG instructors, and explosive ordnance disposal and reconnaissance Marines, taught the students several methods of breaching and how to construct various dynamic entry devices.

Holden said students had to keep up with the demands of the fast-paced course, which required them, among other things, to correctly construct charges and calculate two safe distances that correspond to their charge.

"Moving up to the [target] and feeling the concussion [from the explosion] is just a rush to me," said Sergeant Brandon L. Fenstermaker, an explosive ordnance disposal technician with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. "That's why I love this job."

To ensure safety, Marines used a breacher's blanket—a light Kevlar shield

that protects from debris, and instructors looked over devices to ensure they were properly constructed before charges were detonated.

"Constructing the charges is like setting up dominos," Fenstermaker said. "It takes a long time to prepare, and with the push of a button, it's gone in a second."

Along with the explosive devices, Marines also trained to use various tools such as crowbars, sledgehammers and torches to "muscle" their way through doors. With the right tools, even reinforced concrete walls can be breached.

> LCpl Kevin M. Knallav PAO, MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan

Marine Recruiting Goes High-Speed

■ The Marine Corps Recruiting Command (MCRC) recently began initial distribution of more than 3,200 new Tablet PC-style laptop computers primed to aid the recruiting process.

The purpose of the Tablet PCs is not to replace the systematic recruiting process that has made recruiters successful for the past 33 years. The Tablet PC is a tool to enhance systematic recruiting by speeding up the enlistment process of applicants.

"These Tablet PCs will enhance the success of our Marine recruiters," said Brigadier General Richard T. Tryon, Commanding General, MCRC, Quantico, Va.



SSgt Maurice T. James, information assurance officer for Marine Corps Recruiting Command, tests one of the new Tablet PC computers while using the stylus pen feature. The new computer could help speed up the enlistment process of applicants. (Photo by LCpl Kari D. Keeran)

"The systems will help recruiters with speed of execution."

The Tablet PC is a laptop computer with a rotating screen and a stylus pen that enables recruiters to capture digital signatures. The computer has a special feature where the screen folds down and upright so that the keyboard or mouse doesn't have to be used, which allows the Tablet PC to operate entirely with the stylus pen.

"These Tablet PCs will replace a lot of the pen and paper methods currently used by recruiters," said Sergeant Charles J. Fackler, a data network specialist at MCRC. "The tablets will offer an automated enlistment package, the capability to fill out security forms, the ability to show advertisements anywhere, as well as the opportunity to check where a recruit is during their training."

The Tablet PCs are the first step of automating the recruiting process. Two short-term goals that the command has planned to further this initiative are the development of an automated Marine Corps Opportunities Book, as well as automation of the recruiting volumes.

The recruiting command held a three-day conference at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., in August to develop a systematic, integrated deployment and sustainment plan for the delivery of the Tablet PCs.

Officials anticipate complete distribution to all districts and every Marine recruiter by the end of January 2007. Once completed, every production recruiter, recruiter trainer and all information systems support personnel will have their own Tablet PC.

LCpl Kari D. Keeran PAO, MCRC, Quantico, Va.

Quantico Barracks Named After Fallen Warrior

■ The Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy Bachelor Enlisted Quarters aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., was recently dedicated and named in honor of Gunnery Sergeant Phillip A. Jordan, who had been posthumously awarded a Silver Star for his combat heroism prior to being mortally wounded during a firefight in the city of An Nasiriyah, Iraq, March 23, 2003.

The ceremony took place Sept. 20 at the newly constructed Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy barracks with Jordan's wife, Amanda; son, Tyler, 9; family and other guests.

During the ceremony, members of the SNCOA who reside in Jordan Hall stood in a ceremonial formation in the front of the building.

Jordan served as a weapons platoon



ARTIST PRESENTS BRONZE STATUETTES TO CORPS' NEW MUSEUM—The National Museum of the Marine Corps welcomed aboard four more "devil dogs" Sept. 28—bronze replicas, actually. MajGen Donald R. Gardner, USMC (Ret) accepted the bronze sculptures, crafted by Dave Venell and based on illustrations by acclaimed former *Leatherneck* magazine publisher, editor and artist Col Donald L. Dickson. MajGen Gardner accepted the gift on behalf of the NMMC in the Leatherneck Gallery, saying they will make a superb addition to the museum's fine art collection.

sergeant for "Charlie" Company, 1st Battalion, Second Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division, MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., when he was called to action. His unit was part of Regimental Combat Team 2, Task Force Tarawa during Operation Iraqi Freedom. As the team pushed north into Iraq, it came under fire during the assault on the city of An Nasiriyah. Jordan was mortally wounded while resupplying Marines and directing his team to lay down fire on an enemy 60 mm mortar trench. For his actions, Jordan was posthumously awarded the Silver Star.

"He laid down his life for his country," said Brigadier General Ronald L. Bailey, Deputy Director Operations, J-3, National Military Command Center. "In the intensity and chaos, he responded to actions with energy, pride and mental toughness as he risked his life to resupply his Marines."

During the ceremony, Jordan's wife and son were brought to the front and presented plaques, which contained ribbons and badges, including Jordan's Silver Star. The commemorative inscriptions told his story of gallantry and his achievements in the Corps.

"Your father is a hero," said BGen Bailey, as he turned to speak to Jordan's son. "This is your building now, Tyler, and this is your Marine Corps family."

LCpl Justin P. Lago PAO, MCB Quantico, Va.

Depot Marines Delve Into New Field Firing Techniques

■ In October 2005, Marines and recruits began testing the addition of combat marksmanship with rifle qualification as part of the Marine Corps' revamped Combat Marksmanship Program, and range officers throughout the Marine Corps plan to have a successful course of fire and scoring matrix for Table 2 (combat marksmanship) of marksmanship qualification by Oct. 1, 2007.

Table 2 consists of combat marksmanship that teaches several additional drills, including speed and tactical reloads, failure drills, controlled pairs and position changes performed while wearing a flak jacket, helmet and load-bearing vest.

Right now, Table 2 does not count against the marksmanship score that Marines and recruits get from precision marksmanship in Table 1 (Known Distance qualification), due to the lack of an existing scoring matrix, said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Allen M. Young, range officer, Delta Range, Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Once a year range officers sit down and discuss what they can do to improve marksmanship in the Marine Corps. Reflecting directly upon actions in Iraq, the course of fire is constantly evolving to ensure the Marines receive the right training for what they are going to encounter, said Young.



Leathernecks of the HMM-264 (Rein) "Black Knights" gather in front of their CH-46E Sea Knight with members of the Petersburg, Va., Salvation Army's youth group and the Petersburg Fire Department on Oct. 4 during a break from the 26th MEU's training at Fort Pickett, Va.

"The concept of [combat marksmanship] is to teach Marines that they need to use the same fundamentals they learn in precision marksmanship in a combat scenario wearing combat gear," said Young.

Combat marksmanship allows the Marines to take what they already know about marksmanship and apply their skills using a different mindset with less time to react.

Other than the annual sustainment training that Marines receive during their rifle qualification, there is no other regimented, organized means of preparation for combat marksmanship for most Marines. Those who have past combat experience often teach junior leathernecks some of the techniques in the war zone.

All of the ranges in the Marine Corps are currently capable of utilizing and conducting Tables 1 and 2 of rifle marksmanship, which involve Marines and recruits shooting at stationary targets up to 500 yards away and moving targets at

100 yards away. Marines are introduced to Table 3, shooting on the move and pivoting, at Marine Combat Training and the School of Infantry after they attend boot camp. In the operating forces, infantry Marines perform Table 4, involving shooting in the prone position and on one's back for example, as a more advanced course of fire that is used mostly as an introduction to scenarios they may encounter during war.

By using the new skills they find in Tables 2, 3 and 4, range officers believe Marines will be more knowledgeable and capable of acting effectively during combat without having to learn everything through on-the-job training.

If all goes as planned, the new scoring matrix will take effect in October 2007, creating a more difficult, yet more effective course of fire.

PAO, MCRD San Diego

from a Marine's rifle as he shoots from the 25-yard line during the Table 2 course of fire at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif. The new combat marksmanship course will give the Marines the basic tactical skills they need during deployments.





A hot brass cartridge ejects

Youths' Imaginations Take Flight With "Black Knights"

■ Twenty-four Marines from the "Black Knights" of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 264 (Reinforced), 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit took a break from the intensive training being carried out during the Marine Expeditionary Unit Exercise in Fort Pickett, Va., to pay a visit to the Petersburg, Va., Salvation Army youth group.

The Marines flew from the base airfield to the youth center in a pair of CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters, landing on a field outside the center to the delight of area children and teenagers. After touching down, the leathernecks set up static displays featuring flak jackets, M4 carbines, M9 pistols and PRC-117 and -119 radios.

"I thought the whole thing was awesome," said Justin Roy, a Petersburg teen, as he hoisted an M4 carbine. "I think it's great that these [Marines] took the time to come out and see us."

The "devil dogs'" battle gear was not the only military equipment on display at the event. The helicopters the Marines arrived in were a constant source of amazement and excitement for the youth group members as they got up close and personal with the aircraft.

The experience was a great opportunity for the Marines to give a little to the community and show the caring side of the Marine Corps, said Staff Sergeant Lance Gruben, platoon sergeant with the MEU's Low Altitude Air Defense Platoon.

LEATHERNECK DECEMBER 2006 www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck For other Marines, such as Sergeant Joel G. Steinmetz, a crew chief with HMM-264 (Rein), participating in the event was a source of great pride.

"It's great," said the Pottstown, Pa., native. "I know when I was a kid I would have loved to have had a couple of helicopters to climb on."

For the Marines and event coordinators, the event was more than just an opportunity to excite the youth group with military equipment.

The visit was a great help to the group's mission of providing positive influences on young peoples' lives, said Marsha Brown, the Petersburg Salvation Army social services coordinator.

"We see a great need to do things so these youth can see there's more to life than just what they see around here," she said. "This has helped give these kids something to aspire to."

The MEU is scheduled to deploy in support of the global war on terrorism in early 2007.

Cpl Jeremy Ross PAO, 26th MEU





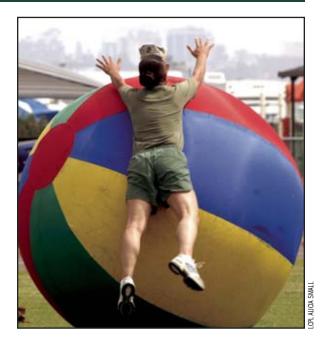
CORPS RELEASES NEW ARMOR—The Marine Corps' newest piece of gear, the Modular Tactical Vest, boasts several significant improvements over the old body armor, including increased coverage for greater protection, quick release straps for emergency egress and medical access, side small arms protective insert (SAPI) plate carriers, integrated communications wiring pathways, cummerbund strap system for more evenly disbursed load-bearing, rifle bolster for improved stock weld and more MOLLE webbing attachment points for increased gear-carry options. The MTV hits the operating forces in February 2007.

Crazy Caption Winner



Thomas Elbert Grafton, Ohio

Submitted by



"Excuse me, Sergeant. Could you direct me to Corpsman School, and what does FMF mean?"

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(Caption)		
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DECEMBER 2006 LEATHERNECK

12-06 39

"And the Band Played The Marine Detachment, USS Arizona

The first notes of
"The Star-Spangled
Banner" echoed
across the fantail,
mixed with the
unmistakable scream
of a diving aircraft.



Story by Dick Camp Photos courtesy of the author

Marine Detachment, USS Arizona, 7 Dec. 1941

SS *Arizona*'s (BB-39) four-man Marine color guard marched purposely toward the fantail beneath the tautly stretched white canvas awning. The leather soles of their highly polished shoes struck the teak deck with a measured cadence. Their noncommissioned officer (NCO) barked a command, and the detail halted crisply at the flagstaff. The field music took several precise steps, turned and raised the bugle to his lips.

The others busied themselves with unlashing the halyard and attaching its snaps to the flag's grommets. The NCO checked to ensure they were attached properly; he was well aware what would happen if the flag were raised upside down. It would be a career-ending event. He glanced at his watch and noted with satisfaction that they were right on time—0755.

All along "Battleship Row," men prepared to raise the Stars and Stripes. However, aboard USS *Nevada* (BB-36), the junior officer of the deck was in a sweat trying to determine if the color guard had the correct-sized flag. He sent a messenger to call over to *Arizona*, which was moored only 20 to 30 feet away (bow to stern) to find out what she was using. Unlike *Arizona's* single bugler, *Nevada's* entire 23-piece band had mustered in formation on the fantail.

Marine Major Alan Shapley was up early, even though he didn't have any official duties. He had been relieved as detachment commander of USS *Arizona* the previous day. However, he was the player-coach—and leading hitter—of the ship's baseball team and was scheduled to play that afternoon. After dressing, he went to the wardroom for breakfast. He helped himself to a large stack of pancakes topped with eggs, his favorite weekend breakfast.

Below decks, Corporal Earl C. Nightingale also was eating a leisurely breakfast. Around him the mess deck was alive with lighthearted banter as sailors and Marines of the off-duty section moved through the chow line.

High overhead, Commander Mitsuo Fuchida, Imperial Japanese Navy, led a mixed strike force of fighters, high-level bombers and torpedo planes toward the unsuspecting Pacific Fleet anchorage. At 0749, he ordered his radio operator to signal: "TO [Charge]! TO [Charge]! TO [Charge]!"

Nevada's bandmaster raised his baton and swept it down. The first notes of "The Star-Spangled Banner" echoed across the fantail, mixed with the unmistakable scream of a diving aircraft. The Marine color guard quickly raised Old Glory to the top of the flagstaff. Suddenly an unfamiliar plane roared low over Arizona, angling sharply upward over the formation. Incredu-

The Navy Fleet was hit hard on the morning of 7 Dec. The dry-docked USS *Shaw* (DD-373) took three bomb hits, with her forward magazine exploding around 0930, sending flames and shrapnel throughout the area. In spite of the dramatic damage, *Shaw* was back in full service by June 1942, fighting on to the end of the war.



"There was Lieutenant Simensen, one of the most popular officers on the *Arizona*, lying in a pool of blood. I said, 'Oh, my God! This is for real!" "

-Sgt John M. Baker

lously, machine-gun bullets spewed from the rear gun, chewing up the teak deck and ripping the flag to shreds. However, the band played on, never missing a beat. Miraculously, not a single member was scratched, but on the last note, the formation scattered for cover.

Maj Shapley said he was just finishing breakfast when, "I heard this terrible bang and crash. I thought it was a boat they had dropped on the fantail, and I ran up there to see what it was all about. When I got up on deck ... I heard a sailor say, 'This is the best damned drill the Army Air Corps has ever put on.' Then I

saw a destroyer being blown up in the dry dock across the way."

Private First Class Lamar Crawford was on the quarterdeck. "I saw a lone plane head my way. It strafed the color guard! Stray bullets hit the gun mount beside me. I ducked back into the Marine compartment."

Cpl Nightingale finished breakfast. "I was just leaving the compartment when the ship's siren sounded 'Air Defense.' I heard an explosion—machine-gun fire and the Marine color guard ran in, saying we were under attack!"

Lieutenant Commander Logan Ram-

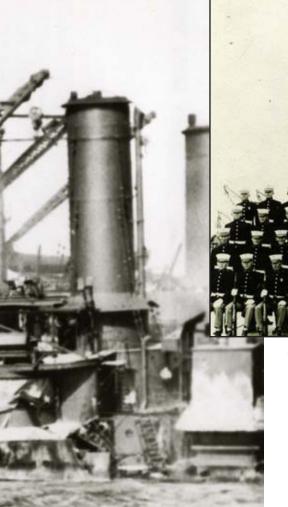


what caused the large column of smoke over Ford Island. Suddenly, stray bullets hit the teak deck, sending fragments and splinters flying. Simensen ran to his airraid station. Private Don E. Hamel, the duty field music, sounded the air-defense call, and seconds later "General Quarters."

As the order "All hands man your battle stations" blared from loud speakers, Cpl Burris Bond raced to his gun in number 10 casemate (compartment for a 5-inch .54-caliber gun). He took the ladder in three gigantic leaps and reached

hind 2dLt Simensen. "Just as the lieutenant reached the first platform of the mainmast, a bomb hit somewhere on the quarterdeck," Baker said. A piece of shrapnel tore into Simensen's midsection, mortally wounding him. He fell back against Maj Shapley, almost knocking him off the ladder.

"Simensen fell back into my arms," Shapley recounted. "I boosted him up to the searchlight platform." PFC Cory was shocked. "There was Lieutenant Simensen, one of the most popular officers on



Above: The 1920 *Arizona* MarDet struck a formal pose with officers and senior noncommissioned officers seated front and center.

Left: A Navy motor launch pulls a survivor from the water alongside the sunken West Virginia. In spite of seven torpedo hits, "the Wee Vee" rose, Phoenix-like, to return to the Fleet in 1944.

the compartment in record time. His crew piled in right behind him.

Despite the fact that his "broadside gun" could not be used against circumft.

Despite the fact that his "broadside gun" could not be used against aircraft, Bond did as he was trained to do—prepare for action. Cpl Nightingale passed through the casemate. "The gun was already manned, and we heard Cpl Bond yell, 'Train out 90.'"

PFC James Cory rushed to his post 100 feet over the ship in "Secondary Aft (Marine gun director station)" on the mainmast. "I started up this inclined ladder on the starboard tripod leg. When I got about two-thirds up, there was a 'slap' aft, and then you felt the deck of the *Arizona* being penetrated." Maj Shapley, 2dLt Simensen and a file of Marines were right behind PFC Cory. They were totally exposed. Bullets and shrapnel filled the air. Cpl Nightingale "could hear fragments whistling past."

Sergeant John M. Baker was close be-

the *Arizona*, lying in a pool of blood. I said, 'Oh, my God! This is for real!' He was too weak to talk; he moved his lips to form the words, 'Leave me. Go on!'"

Maj Shapley and 12 other Marines reached their battle station. All had remarkably close calls and were pretty shaken up. PFC Cory probably spoke for all, when he described his feelings. "By this time I was literally scared out of my wits. There were bullets ringing into secondary aft, and you could feel the impact of them on the metal."

Maj Shapley calmed them down, but was frustrated because "communications had gone out, and we were unable to do anything. I controlled 10 guns of the secondary battery, which were not an antiaircraft battery. We couldn't elevate the guns high enough to do any damage to the planes."

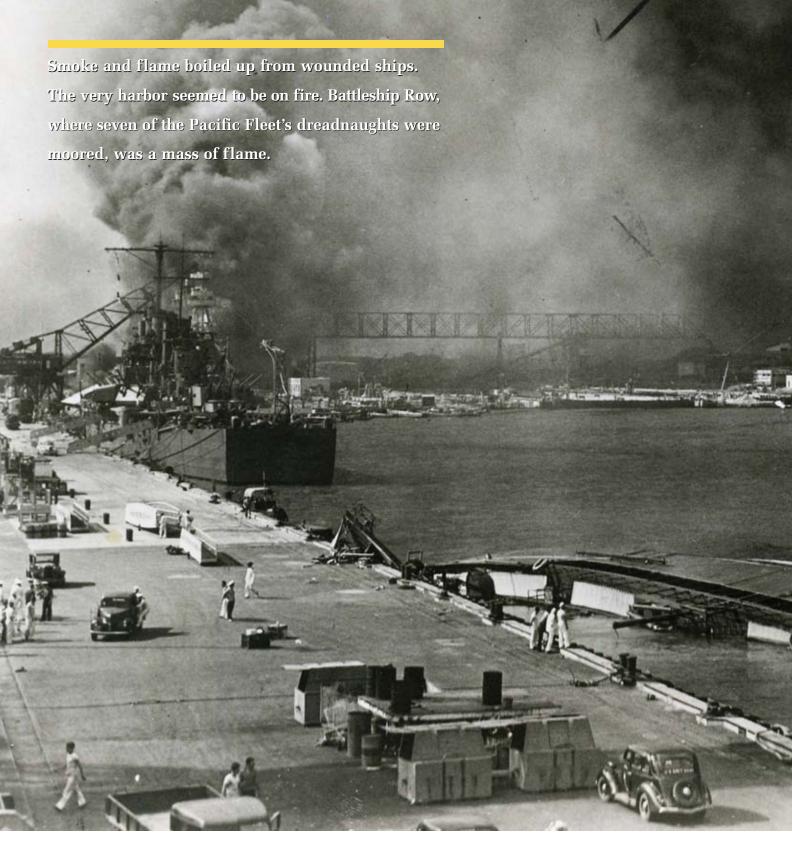
Pvt Russell McCurdy stared with utter fascination at the scene outside second-

sey, Operations Officer, Patrol Wing Two on Ford Island, turned to a fellow officer. Ramsey said, "That was a Jap plane and a delayed-action bomb." He ordered the radioman to send out a plain English message: "Air raid on Pearl Harbor. This is no drill!"

"General Quarters, No S---, Japanese Bombers"

—Capt Chevey S. White, USMC Officer of the Deck, USS *Tennessee* 0755, 7 Dec. 1941

Second Lieutenant Carleton E. Simensen ran to the admiral's gangway to see



ary aft. "I observed torpedo planes in the attack. The planes seemed only an armlength away. I saw the USS *Oklahoma* roll over like a wounded whale."

Smoke and flame boiled up from wounded ships. The very harbor seemed to be on fire. Battleship Row, where seven of the Pacific Fleet's dreadnaughts were moored, was a mass of flame.

Captain John H. "Jack" Earle, Shapley's relief, was home asleep. Earle had

reported on 6 Dec. and was home at Shapley's insistence. "We'll resume the turnover tomorrow," Shapley had told him. When someone banged on Earle's apartment door, he jumped out of bed and found his neighbor shouting, "Pearl Harbor is under attack!" Earle rushed to the lanai, where he saw black puffs of antiaircraft fire over the harbor. He jumped into his clothes, ran into the street, flagged a taxi down and raced to the base.

"A Hateful, Mean-Looking Red Flame"

—Commander Mitsuo Fuchida Imperial Japanese Navy

PFC Richard Fiske, field music in USS West Virginia (BB-48), remembered the shock of watching the path of a slow-moving bomb. "At first I thought it would hit the West Virginia, then watching it draw closer, change direction and fall into the Arizona. I saw the ship trans-



formed into a ball of fire, and men thrown high into the air."

High above, Commander Fuchida saw a terrific explosion. "The flame and smoke erupted skyward together," he recalled. "It was a hateful, mean-looking red flame, the kind that powder produces, and I knew at once that a big magazine had exploded."

PFC Cory described the hit. "The bomb struck forward of us. You could feel it

penetrate the decks, and then there was this big 'Whoosh!'"

Pvt McCurdy remembered, "The terrible explosion caused the ship to toss and shake violently. The ship was shaking, tossing and went up out of the water, and then the bow rose up 40 feet into the air and opened up like the petal of a flower. The main mast quivered and turned our control station into a dice box."

A searing blast of flame tore through

The minelayer USS Oglala, later redesignated ARG-1, lies capsized after being moved from her position alongside USS Helena (CL-50). Helena was hit by a torpedo. Both ships returned to full service during the war.

the ship. Hundreds of men were killed or severely wounded. The Marine gun crews in the casemates were cut down where they stood. Those who survived were more dead than alive. PFC Cory was horrified by what he saw. "These people were zombies, in essence. They were burned completely white. Their hair was burned off; their eyebrows were burned off; the pitiful remains of their uniforms were a charred remnant. They were moving like robots, and they were stumbling along the decks. Cpl Bond, the only man to make it out of casemate 10, was one of those 'walking dead.'"

The men in secondary aft were lucky because, as PFC Cory explained, "the bridge shielded us from the flames coming aft." However, they still were in mortal danger.

Pvt McCurdy remembered, "Part of the ship, flames and bomb fragments flew by, reaching hundreds of feet into the air. The ship's midsection opened like a blooming flower, burning white hot within. Our entire powder magazine and forward oil storage had exploded; tons of TNT and thousands of gallons of fuel oil poured into the water. Black smoke billowed into the sky as the oil caught fire."

Maj Shapley realized the situation was hopeless. "I thought we were all going to get cooked to death because I couldn't see anything but fire below. However, after about 20 minutes or more, one of the tripod legs became clear of flames. 'We'd better go below,' I shouted. 'We're no good here.'"

PFC Crawford remembered Shapley saying, "Well, men, this is it. Abandon ship. It's every man for himself. Good luck and God bless you all!"

Pvt McCurdy recalled, "Shapley's calmness and skilled leadership gave me the courage to remain calm and alert."

The men climbed down the tripod legs. Sgt Baker was one of the first. "We proceeded down the ladder on the port side. The heat was oven temperature, and the flames licked close by at times. Fortunately, a slight breeze from the port quarter protected us. The rails on the ladder were hot, causing slight burns to our hands."

Baker reached the boat deck, which "was a mass of wreckage and fire. Several men who had been killed were lying there."

Pvt McCurdy and Cpl Nightingale were right behind him and saw the same hor-



In November 2005, the USS *Arizona* Marine Corps Remembrance, part of the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, honoring the 73 Marines entombed eternally in *Arizona* and their 15 surviving Marine shipmates, was dedicated by the 33rd Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Michael W. Hagee.

rible sight. "The passageways were a white-hot furnace. There were charred bodies everywhere. The wounded and burned were staggering out to safety only to face death shortly because of their charred condition. Most were blind and had their clothes burned off."

"Abandon Ship!" —LCDR S. G. Fuqua, USN Senior surviving officer USS Arizona

At the start of the attack, LCDR S. G. Fuqua was knocked unconscious by a bomb. When he came to, he organized a firefighting detail that succeeded in keeping the fires from the wounded on the quarterdeck. After finding out that he was the senior surviving officer aboard (*Arizona*'s commanding officer had been killed on the bridge), he ordered all hands to "abandon ship."

Cpl Nightingale was blown into the water. "When I surfaced, I couldn't use my arms and legs. I was suffering from shock." As he started to go under, Maj Shapley swam over and grabbed him by his shirtfront.

"Put your arms on my shoulders," Shapley ordered. "Don't struggle, or I'll bang you!" They made it safely to Ford Island.

PFC Cory dove over the side. "During the swim, there were bomb splashes nearby; there was strafing in the water. You could feel the impact of the bullets. There was a tremendous amount of confusion and noise. Oil was bubbling up from ruptured fuel tanks and congealing on the water. It was a globlike carpet 6 inches thick, which was catching fire and slowly drifting toward me." PFC Cory even-

tually reached safety on Ford Island.

PFC Crawford used the mooring lines to get off the ship. "When I reached the quay [mooring pier], I sat down and removed my shoes before diving into the water. Almost immediately a motor whaleboat pulled alongside me, and a crewman half-pulled, half-dragged me into the boat. I helped them pull other men from the water until the boat was full. The coxswain took us to Ford Island."

The survivors of the Marine Detachment joined hundreds of other sailors and

Maj Shapley was shocked to see "400 to 500 men walking around all burnt, just like charred steak."

Marines on Ford Island. Maj Shapley was shocked to see "400 to 500 men walking around all burnt, just like charred steak. You could just see their eyes and their mouths. It was terrible." He gathered his Marines together and took them to a bomb shelter until after the last Japanese attack.

Capt Earle reached Ford Island and located the members of his new command. "They were a dazed, bedraggled-looking bunch, soaking wet, no shoes, missing parts of uniforms—mentally exhausted." With *Arizona* nothing but a blazing wreck, Capt Earle took them back to his old ship, USS *Tennessee* (BB-43) that was pinned against the quay by sunken USS *West Virginia*. They stayed aboard

the ship for two weeks before being transferred to the Marine Barracks for individual assignments.

The Marine Detachment, USS *Arizona* was officially disbanded 19 Dec. 1941. PFC Crawford prepared the final muster roll. "All the detachment's records were burned," he recalled. "The only official record that was recovered a few days later was the November 1941 payroll. I used that to prepare the official and final December muster roll." Of the detachment's 88 officers [including Lieutenant Colonel Danny Fox, the Fleet Marine officer on board] and enlisted men, 73 were killed in action.

In November 2005, a memorial was dedicated in memory of the detachment. The 36-foot flagstaff is set in a concrete base that holds seven bronze plaques inscribed with the names of the detachment Marines. Appropriately, it is located in Pearl Harbor, adjacent to the National Park Service headquarters, with a clear view of the USS *Arizona* Memorial.

Editor's note: This article is an excerpt from Dick Camp's book, "Battleship Arizona's Marines at War: Making the Ultimate Sacrifice, December 7, 1941." The photos are from the Marine Corps University's History Division reference section.

Retired Col Dick Camp is a contributing editor for Leatherneck. A co-author with Eric Hammel of "Lima-6," a book about a Marine company commander in Vietnam, Camp commanded L/3/26 at Khe Sanh. His books are available from the MCA bookstores.

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• Marine Corps In Lebanon 1983, 60 minutes • Marines and Army on Okinawa, 120 minutes

IN 1953 TAKE A SMOKING BREAK

- Okinawa Uncensored, 120 minutes
- A Day in Vietnam, 50 minutes African Americans In World War II, 70 minutes
- Band's All Here: A Tribute To Marine Corps Post Bands & Field Musicians, 90 minutes
- Battle For Hue, 45 minutes Bougainville 1943-1945, 90 minutes
- Camp J.J. Carroll, The Rock Pile & FSB Charlie One, 1967-1970, 30 minutes
 Camp Pendleton Story WWII Years, 75 min.
- Camp Pendleton Story Korean War, 62 min.
- Carrier Action Off Korea, 75 minutes
- Chesty Puller, John Glenn & Marine Corps Combat Leadership Skills, 100 minutes
- China Marines: Post WWII 1945-1946, 110 min.
- China Marines: Post WWII 1945-1940, 110 min.
 Chu Lai Air Base 1965-1968: Marines, Seabees, Army & Special Forces, 75 minutes
 Combat Conditioning World War II, 100 minutes
 Combat Psychiatry 1950s, 30 minutes
 Crisis In Cuba: Bay Of Pigs, Cuban Missile Crisis And Guantanamo Naval Base, 70 minutes
 Desert Shield/Storm: Liberation Kuwait, 25 min.
 Field Medical Service School, Camp Leieune And

- Field Medical Service School, Camp Lejeune And Medical Support Amphibious Assault, 60 minutes
- First Marine Division: Behind The Scenes On Guadalcanal, 40 minutes
- For Drill Instructors Only: MCRD Parris Island And San Diego 1960s, 55 minutes

 • Guadalcanal: Official USMC Battle Report, 55 min

- Guam & Return to Guam, 80 minutes

 Guam & Return to Guam, 80 minutes

 Harrier Operations Aboard Ship, 20 minutes

 HAWK Missile Battery: USMC, 23 minutes

 Hospital Ship: USS Repose & Corpsmen, 50 min.

 Iwo Jima Uncensored, 100 minutes

 Iwo Jima: Official USMC Battle Report, 70 min.

 Iwo Jima: The Forgotten Stories, 60 minutes

- Iwo Jima: The Forgotten Stories, 60 minutes John F. Kennedy's 1962 Visit to the Atlantic Fleet
- and 1963 Visit To The Pacific Fleet (Includes MCRD, San Diego and Camp Lejeune), 60 minutes • Korea Remembered (C-1-5 USMC), 90 minutes
- Kwajalein USMC Battle Report, 70 minutes • Women Marines In The 1950s and 1960s, 30 min.
- Leatherneck Way: Marines Train WWII, 60 min.
 Lebanon 1958: Summer Incident, 30 minutes
- M-1 Garand Rifle: Operation And Manual Of Arms Close Order Drill & Enfield Rifle, 70 minutes
- M14 & M16 Rifles, 85 minutes Marine Aviation In Vietnam: 1st MAW, 90 min.
- Marine Aviation In Welliam: 18t MAW, 90 min.
 Marine Aviation In WWII Featuring The SBD Dauntless And F4U Corsair, 65 minutes
 Marine Close Air Support 1950s-1960s, 40 min
 Marine Corps & Army Perform With Black Watch
 The 1960s-50 minutes. In The 1950s, 50 minutes
- Marine Corps Amphibious Recon Patrol Then and Now & Notes on Jungle Warfare WWII, 90 min.

- Marine Corps Helicopters In The 1950s, 40 min.
 Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) Parris Island: 1950s Boot Camp, 60 minutes
- Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) San Diego 1950s, 30 minutes
- Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) San Diego 1969 and 1973, 45 minutes
- Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) San Diego 75-Year History, 60 minutes
- Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) San Diego In The 1980s, 55 minutes
 Marine Pilot Training 1950s-1970s, 60 minutes
- Marine Sniper & Marine Reconnaissance (RECON), 40 minutes
- Marines 1965 & Operations Starlite, Piranha & Harvest Moon, 90 minutes
- Marines 1966 With Ops Hastings & Prairie, 70 min.
 Marines 1967 & Operations Buffalo and
- Marines 1907 & Operations Burnare and Independence, 65 minutes
 Marines 1968 With Ops Baxter Gardens and Mameluke Thrust and The Legacy Program, 80 min.
 Marines Who Defended Midway, 60 minutes
- Marksmanship: Army and Marine Corps, 45 min. • New Britain: Arawe/Cape Gloucester and the
- Admiralty Islands Campaign, 75 minutes
 No Deal: Illegal Drugs in the Military 1960s-1970s,
- 110 minutes • Observation Aircraft 1960s (Includes Tactical Air
- Gunnery and FAC), 70 minutes

- Occupation Of Japan In World War II, 80 minutes
 Old Corps (USMC 1930s), 60 min.
 Op. Dewey Canyon & Legacy Program, 45 minutes
 Palau: Official USMC Battle Report on Peleliu and
- Angaur, 80 minutes
 Pickel (Pickle) Meadows. USMC Mountain Warfare
 Training Center, Bridgeport CA, 50 minutes
 Platoon 145 (Vietnam-era platoon returns to
- MCRD, San Diego after 30 years), 60 min.
- Rifle Platoon 1950s & Rifle
- Squad 1960s, 50 min. Saigon: 1965-1972, 60 min. Sailors & Marines Training
- World War I, 20 min. • Saipan Uncensored, 110
- Saipan: Official USMC Battle
- Report, 85 min. •Boom-Boom, Chop-Chop:
- R&R in Vietnam, 100 min. • Scenes Dong Ha Air Base In
- Vietnam, 20 minutes

 Marine Shipboard Detach-

ments 1960s, 30 min.

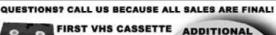
 Seabees & Marine Corps Combat Operations In The Pacific WWII, 70 minutes

- Seabees/Marine Engineers Vietnam, 45 minutes
 Semper Fi!: Marine Corps Drill Instructors, 60 min.
- Siege at Khe Sanh and Air Power at Khe Sanh with Contact, 45 minutes
 • Special Duty: Embassy Marine & Marine Honor
- Guard, 45 minutes
- Steel Knight (Live Fire Exercise 1996), 29 Palms
- California, 85 minutes
 Story of the 1st Marine Division in Korea, 55 min.
- Tailhook Assn. Convention Las Vegas 1968, 30 min.
 This is Parris Island & Your First 80 Days (Boot
- Camp 1960s-70s), 45 min.

 Tinian: Official WWII USMC Battle Report, 50 min.
- USMC Basic School: Marine Corps Officers 1960s &
- 1970s, 45 minutes • USS Boxer CV-21, CVA-21, CVS-21, 70 minutes
- USS Valley Forge CV-45, LPH-8, 60 minutes

- Viet Cong, 100 minutes
 Vietnam From The Air, 70 minutes
 Vietnam War: Universal Newsreels 1967, 76 min.
- Why Vietnam: American Involvement, 92 min. • With the Marines in Korea & Chosin Reservoir To
- Hungnam, 60 minutes Women Reserves (WRs) of WWII, 40 minutes
- You in Vietnam & For Valor, 40 minutes

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Wounded Warrior Barracks: Helping the Healing Process

Story by LtCol Craig Covert, USMCR · Photos courtesy of the author

y hands were in flames, and my whole face was in flames," explained Sergeant Jason Simms, recalling the fateful day in July 2004 when his light armored vehicle was struck by the blast of an improvised explosive device (IED). He was nearing the end of an eight-hour patrol with Company D, 2d Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion when his life changed forever.

"My hands suffered third-degree burns, and my face took second-degree burns. I took three bullets in the right leg, with shrapnel through my tendons and arteries," said Simms, sitting comfortably inside the II Marine Expeditionary Force (II MEF) Wounded Warrior Barracks at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Still recovering from his wounds, the sergeant motioned toward the passageway where Marines began to congregate prior to their afternoon formation. "Everyone here has been wounded. I think the most important thing here is we were all wounded and we can all understand each other."

The Wounded Warrior Barracks is home to more than 40 Marines and sailors of II MEF. Located at Hospital Point aboard Camp Lejeune, the barracks formerly served as a bachelor officer's quarters. In September 2005, however, the BOQ was transformed into a home away from home for Marines and Fleet Marine Force corpsmen returning early from Iraq, their trip the courtesy of an Iraqi sniper or the blast of an IED. The newly renovated barracks provides the sailors and Marines a place to rehabilitate, allowing them to focus on their medical needs rather than their next field evolution or unit training class.

The injured Marines and sailors are officially assigned to the Wounded Warrior Support Section, one of two sections comprised within the II MEF Injured Support Unit, or ISU. Established with the goal of tracking all injured II MEF servicemembers and providing support to them and their immediate families, the ISU was developed in 2005, subsequent to a realization that some injured Marines



Wounded Warrior Barracks have opened on the East and West coasts. The barracks are where Marines do what only they can do: help fellow Marines. The concept and inception have received favorable support. The lieutenant governor of North Carolina, Beverly Perdue, recently visited the facilities at Camp Lejeune and spent a little time talking to wounded Marine LCpl Brandon Wesley.

and sailors were convalescing at home or within a variety of military and civilian medical centers, effectively cutting them off from their Marine Corps family.

Lieutenant General James F. Amos, the former commanding general of II MEF, recognized the need for a program that would track each and every wounded Marine and sailor coming home from the Middle East. Scribbling notes on personalized stationery, LtGen Amos penned the following end state: "We will stay plugged in to every single wounded Marine who has been evacuated to CONUS [the continental United States] for rehabilitation until such time as he no longer needs our assistance."

According to the general's handwritten memorandum, tracking and communication were the key elements that would lead to the successful formulation of the Injured Support Unit.

Later refining his end state by issuing

a formal CG's intent, he wrote: "I intend to develop an all-encompassing program that provides continual support to all injured II MEF servicemembers until such time as the servicemember no longer desires the support. This continual support will also extend to his or her immediate family. The program is designed to be a 'one stop' shop for all injured II MEF servicemembers, staffed with resident experts capable of finding solutions to all inquiries. It will provide continual command care and concern to the injured servicemember and their families throughout their transition to either continued military service or to the civilian community."

And so began the Injured Support Unit. Initially staffed with recalled reservists and active-duty personnel, its dedicated members made numerous liaison visits to wounded Marines in military hospitals and VA centers across the country. Whether tracking the flight status of an injured "We will stay plugged in to every single wounded Marine who has been evacuated to CONUS [the continental United States] for rehabilitation until such time as he no longer needs our assistance."

—LtGen James F. Amos

servicemember from the time of injury until his return to CONUS, or assisting him in separating from active service, the ISU involves itself in every facet of a Marine's rehabilitative process, to include the complicated logistics of family travel, convalescent leave, and follow-on medical treatment and rehabilitation, as well as VA transition and the medical evaluation process.

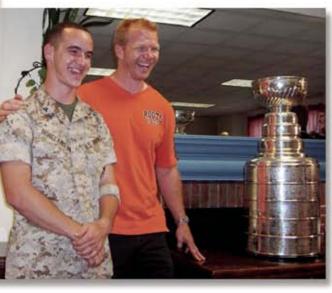
Despite the initial success of the program, the Marines and sailors of I MEF were missing out on the certain benefits provided to their II MEF counterparts. Marine Corps leadership immediately realized the need for an equal but separate program on the West Coast and quickly established the I MEF Injury Support Section at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif. By the spring of 2006, Camp Pendleton's operation was in full swing, and by August, the doors to the West Coast version of the Wounded Warrior Barracks were opened. Today, the West Coast barracks

Institute of San Antonio. Regardless of their location, the men and women of the ISU spend countless hours making telephone calls and personal visits to each and every Marine, ensuring no one falls through the cracks.

According to Major Daniel Hooker, assistant officer in charge of the II MEF support unit, a routine was quickly established and primary points of contact made at every hospital and trauma center known to treat wounded sailors and Marines. Referring to the II MEF ISU as the chief of staff's "hip pocket artillery" when it comes to injured support issues, Maj Hooker emphasized his primary goal: "Whenever we thought about the commander's intent, it was simply: Do we have an accurate list of the present physical location and contact information of all our wounded and are we actively helping them?"

While describing the unit's organization, Maj Hooker stated the East Coast

> National Hockey League star Glen Wesley of the Carolina Hurricanes brought the League's coveted Stanley Cup during his visit to the barracks at Camp Lejeune. Among those there to admire the Cup and talk puck business with Wesley was LCpl Christopher Boreland.



serves as the temporary home for more than 30 Marines who have been wounded in the war against terrorism.

Unfortunately, not all injured Marines or sailors return to Camp Lejeune or Camp Pendleton to rehabilitate alongside their fellow Marines and sailors. Many remain bedridden or continue to receive therapy at other locations, such as the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., or the military burn center at the Trauma

and West Coast versions of the injured/injury support units share the common goal of supporting wounded personnel. Although minor dissimilarities may exist, each unit is organized in a similar fashion.

"We have two main sections of the ISU," said Hooker, referring to the section at Camp Lejeune. "The Injured Support Section, they handle the separate subsets of our wounded, which includes the medically discharged, the very seri-

ously injured, the seriously injured, and the not seriously injured. The other main section is the Wounded Warrior Barracks, also called the Wounded Warrior Support Section.

"In the barracks side, everyone has been wounded except the lieutenant, while in the Injured Support Section, no one has. Part of that was by design, in terms of the staff of the barracks. There could be very effective leadership and mentorship of wounded [Marines and sailors] by officers and staff noncommissioned officers that had also been wounded, in that they could serve as role models and could provide living proof that you can overcome your challenges, even severe wounds such as those Lieutenant Colonel Maxwell sustained. He has served as an inspiration to the men who, in most cases, and as far as the residents of the barracks go, were less severely wounded than he was."

Maj Hooker was referring to LtCol Tim A. Maxwell, the officer in charge of the Wounded Warrior Support Section. As the chief advocate for the development of a medical rehabilitation platoon, a place where Marines and sailors could live in an environment shaped by their experiences in battle and their struggle to recuperate, LtCol Maxwell was himself seriously wounded by an IED while serving as the operations officer for the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) in October 2004.

Shrapnel from the blast tore into his skull, leaving him with traumatic head and brain injuries. Unwilling to give up his struggle to stay a Marine, he learned to walk, then talk, besieged by therapy and rehabilitation. Despite the permanent damage he suffered, his injuries are relatively unnoticeable to the average person. He has since regained his speech, and his health continues to improve with each passing day.

It was LtCol Maxwell who first suggested the central billeting concept, a place of cohabitation for injured personnel. In addition to enhancing the II MEF tracking capability, the central billeting concept reduces the Marines' feelings of isolation and provides an environment for shared experiences, as well as creat-

ing an opportunity for smoother transition back to their unit or when separating from the Corps.

Most importantly, the barracks provides a consolidated location where specialized services, medical oversight and morale enhancements are offered under one roof, for the collective benefit of all wounded Marines and sailors.

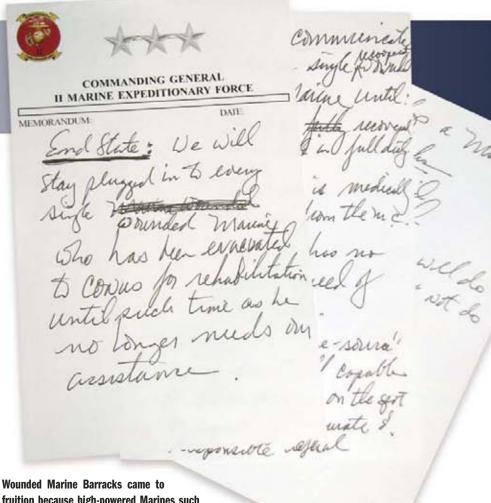
LtCol Maxwell's cadre wear many hats while working in the barracks. They serve as ad hoc parents, mentors and role models, all but one having been wounded in the war on terrorism.

"The units are not set up to help some of these Marines who need long-term care, but [who] are not going to stay in a hospital. It's a full-time job doing that," said Gunnery Sergeant Kenneth Barnes, staff noncommissioned officer in charge of the Wounded Warrior Support Section.

GySgt Barnes stresses the wounded aren't babied at the barracks. "I only give them compassion when they need compassion. I don't feel sorry for them because they got hurt. I got hurt. I don't expect anyone to feel sorry for me, either. If you need help getting your pant leg on, well that's not something you need to feel sorry for anybody for. It's just something you need help with; it shouldn't be embarrassing.

"You're still going to have to look good in your 'Alphas' [service uniform]. They are required to be at work. We have a ton of jobs we get them involved in. The sergeants I've got here are squad leaders; they work around their doctors' appointments. It shows them they can still do it."

Resembling little like the billeting at their parent unit, the II MEF Wounded Warrior Barracks provides its inhabitants with private rooms complete with individual bathrooms and separate living space. The barracks itself is modified with ramps for the handicapped and wheelchair accessible entry points. The barracks personnel were recently provided a stainless-steel propane grill from the Second Marine Division Association. The grill is now permanently installed outside the barracks entrance. More important than its physical features, however, the barracks offers the wounded a place to share their experiences with others who have endured the same hardships.



fruition because high-powered Marines such as LtGen James F. Amos recognized the importance and need for a program that not only helped wounded Marines at the barracks but also tracked each and every Marine and corpsman coming home from the Middle East.

"It's almost like being in Iraq," said Lance Corporal Brandon Love, a squad automatic weapon gunner for 2d Battalion, Second Marine Regiment, who suffered severe shrapnel wounds in Al Karma, Iraq, in September 2005. "You find out about these guys; everybody has seen combat. Most everybody has seen their buddies get injured if not killed, and everybody here was injured. Those three things make us more alike than most people realize, regardless of where we are from [or] what our MOS [military occupational specialty] is. The brotherhood and the camaraderie is the most beneficial thing."

Although the majority of the wounded warriors claim the title "Marine," a few of the residents prefer the nickname "Doc." Hospital Corpsman First Class (HM1) Glenn Minney is one of the few sailors who have come to call the Wounded Warrior Barracks his home. A Navy reservist, Minney enlisted in 1985. Doc Minney was activated and deployed to Iraq in January 2005.

Attached to 3/25, he was wounded by mortar shrapnel while standing atop the Haditha Dam, a 10-story-high facility that serves as a forward operating base for Marines and corpsmen stationed near the Euphrates River Valley.

"It was a typical, hot day in Iraq. I had to go out to one of the [storage] boxes to get supplies for the Battalion Aid Station and the dam came under mortar attack. I was out on the 10th deck on a catwalk and a mortar round went off about 30 feet in front of me."

HM1 Minney remembered running back inside the dam, the unit going to General Quarters as four additional rounds exploded near the dam. At the time, he did not know he was injured. "My vision was a little blurry and I had a severe headache, but I didn't think much of it," Minney stated.

"I started developing tunnel vision, and it was slowly closing in, becoming pinpoint. I talked to my battalion surgeon and sat him down in private and told him, 'I am going blind.'"

"Being around people who've been there, and having the medical facility, that's the benefit to having the wounded warrior program."

-HM1 Glenn Minney, USN

Minney was medevacked to Al Asad, then to Balad. An ophthalmologist recommended immediate evacuation to Hamburg, Germany, for surgery. The corpsman's first surgery lasted three hours, and he received two more operations before heading home to the United States. On Sept. 2, 2005, while convalescing at home, his vision again went black and he required additional emergency surgery. Still on active-duty orders, he was offered the opportunity to move into the Wounded Warrior Barracks in the fall of 2005.

"At times, you can't talk to your spouse, your mother, your father, friends, about things they've never been exposed to. Being around people who've been there, and having the medical facility, that's the benefit to having the wounded warrior program. Care is first priority, whether it be mental, physical or social," Minney said.

Despite the efforts of the Marine Corps and the establishment of the MEF injury support units, General Michael W. Hagee, 33rd Commandant of the Marine Corps, is quick to point out that the key ingredient to the rehabilitative process is the Marine himself.

"Our Marines are just that—Marines to the core. Some have lost limbs or sustained other types of serious injuries, but amazingly they're trying to recover as quickly as possible so they can get back to their units. They don't slow down when thrown a curve ball, and their resiliency and determination are breathtaking. When I talk to one of these Marines and they explain how they want to continue with their service, I want to make sure the Marine Corps takes the right steps to make that happen."

Editor's note: LtCol Covert served as one of two U.S. Marine Corps field historians deployed to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. In his civilian career, LtCol Covert is a supervisory special agent for the Naval Criminal Investigative Service in Norfolk, Va.

Maxwell Hall, a former bachelor officer's quarters, is the Wounded Warrior Barracks at Hospital Point, Camp Lejeune. Cutting the opening ribbon was the barracks' officer in charge, LtCol Tim Maxwell (center), and his family. The barracks is named after LtCol Maxwell who, despite sustaining severe brain damage in Iraq after mortar shrapnel pierced his skull, recovered and came up with the idea of creating the barracks. Also on hand were MajGen Robert C. Dickerson Jr. (left), Commander, Marine Corps Installations East, and LtGen Amos.



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Leading From the Front

Edited by Isaac D. Pacheco



With more than 100 contracts to his name, SSgt Keith A. Sandor has established himself as one of the premier recruiters in the Midwest, earning the coveted title of "Centurion" at Marine Corps RS Chicago. Sandor is preparing to move to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., where he will deploy to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom sometime next year with the Second **Marine Logistics Group.**

Chicago Recruiter's 100-Plus Contracts **Earn Him "Centurion" Honors**

Persuading young men and women to join America's "9-1-1" force has never been the easiest job for Marine Corps recruiters, but for one Chicago-based recruiter, making quota was just a warm-up.

It took Staff Sergeant Keith A. Sandor less than four years to successfully recruit more than 100 men and women into the Marine Corps, netting him the highly coveted title of "Centurion" during an awards ceremony recently.

The title Centurion derives from Roman warriors who commanded 100 men and is bestowed upon Marine recruiters who successfully recruit 100 qualified Marine recruit applicants during their recruiting tour.

"It's not as hard as everyone says. You just need to stay positive. Once you let negativity take over, you're done," said Sandor, staff noncommissioned officer in charge of Recruiting Substation Morris, Ill. "I came out here, hearing that it was the hardest job in the Corps, and that made me want to excel," said the former radio operator with the Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.-based 3d Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment.

Recruiting duty, with its arduous working hours and seemingly nonexistent weekends, can impinge on family life. Sandor made it a point to incorporate his wife of three years, Christina, into his

"My wife knows every kid that I put into the Corps," Sandor said. "Whenever I go to the [poolees'] birthday or graduation parties, she always comes along."

Another person to whom Sandor attributed his success as a recruiter is his former staff noncommissioned officer in charge and current Recruiting Station Chicago recruiter instructor, Master Sergeant Larry S. Pyles.

"He showed me how to protect my Marines, how to reward them, how to get them on their feet if they're having trouble, and the difference between work and play," said Sandor.

With the recent media spotlight on recruiter ethics, Sandor added that it's more important than ever for Marine recruiters to remember their core values and keep their honor clean.

"Always remember never to lose your integrity," said Sandor. "Stick to what you know, which is the Marine Corps. Everyone has slumps. I might have a rough month, but I know that if I bust my butt next month, I'll have a good month, and keep having good months thereafter. [If] you lose your integrity out here, you lose the battle."

> Sgt Luis R. Agostini MPA, 9th MCD

Ingenuity Earns MLG Marines \$5,000: Combat-Zone Up-Armor Project Protects Fellow Leathernecks

Seven Marines were presented with a \$5,000 award for their combat zone ingenuity in designing and creating a protective armor kit for military forklifts and front-end loaders, known as TRAMs, at a ceremony in Camp Tagaddum, Iraq, Aug. 6.

Those awarded—welders and mechanics assigned to Combat Logistics Regiment 15, First Marine Logistics Group (Forward)—were selected for the recognition by the Marine Corps' Beneficial Suggestion Program after fabricating from scratch a steel cover, complete with protective glass windows, that fits over the cab of Tractor, Rubber-tired, Articulated steering, Multipurpose vehicles, or TRAMs.

Awarded were: Staff Sergeant Andrew N. Zabel, the project's team leader, from Batavia, Ill., Corporal James A. Carrillo from Chicago, Cpl Kelsey S. Marshall from Anchorage, Ala., Lance Corporal Jonathan C. Elkins from Moorehead, Ky., Cpl Adam L. Schroeder from Platteville, Wis., Cpl Rogelio De La Graza from Premont, Texas, and Cpl Jonathan M. Rakestraw from Pittsburgh.

In May of this year, as extra forces were being called on to secure Ramadi, the capital of Al Anbar province, Colonel David M. Richtsmeier, 1st MLG (Fwd) commanding officer in Iraq, ordered the men to come up with an armor kit for the TRAMs, which were planned to be used to build new combat outposts throughout the city.

With Ramadi the setting of some of the fiercest fighting in the struggle to stabilize Iraq, the slow-moving TRAMs needed something that would protect the operators if they came under enemy attack while fortifying the outposts, said Richtsmeier, who recommended the Marines for the award after seeing the results of their efforts.

The goal was to create a replicable force protection system with blueprints that other units could use to add armor to TRAMs anywhere in Iraq. Detailed sche-



Seven Marines with Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st MLG (Fwd) successfully up-armored forklifts by creating an armored helmet that helps protect the heavy equipment operators from small-arms fire and other forms of insurgent attack. Awarded were SSgt Andrew N. Zabel, the project's team leader; Cpl James A. Carrillo; Cpl Kelsey S. Marshall; LCpl Jonathan C. Elkins; Cpl Adam L. Schroeder; Cpl Rogelio De La Graza; and Cpl Jonathan M. Rakestraw.

matics were created for each piece of the adapted armor.

Combat Logistics Battalion 7, a 1st MLG (Fwd) unit located at Al Asad Air Base, used the schematics to build an armored protection system for one of its own TRAMs.

The Beneficial Suggestion Program, run by Marine Corps Logistics Command in Albany, Ga., is designed to take advantage of the creativity of military and civilian personnel who contribute practical and innovative ideas for improving and maintaining productivity, economy, efficiency and mission effectiveness for Marine Corps programs and operations.

Cpl Daniel J. Redding PAO, 1st MLG (Fwd)

Marine Sprinter Captures Gold In Masters Outdoor Championships

Sergeant Lisa Rosborough has been running competitively for the past two decades. She started in middle school, setting her first record in the eighth grade and later leading her high school to a state track and field title in 1991. She earned a track and field scholarship to Huston Tillotson University and then later Prairie View A&M University, garnering All-American honors in the 200-



Sgt Lisa Rosborough sprints past her competition in the 200-meter dash during her run for three gold medals in the 30- to 34-year-old division of the 2006 Masters Outdoor Championships.

and 400-meter dashes as well as the 4 x 400 meter relay all four years of her collegiate career.

Rosborough, now an operations clerk with 8th Prior Service Recruiting Com-

mand in Fort Worth, Texas, recently raced down 200 meters of track in Charlotte, N.C., and crossed the finish line 26.8 seconds later as the U.S. Track and Field Association's 2006 Masters Outdoor Champion for her 30-to-34 age group.

The accomplishment is that much more impressive when one considers that the 1,400-strong field of competitors included 43 current world champions and nine Olympians.

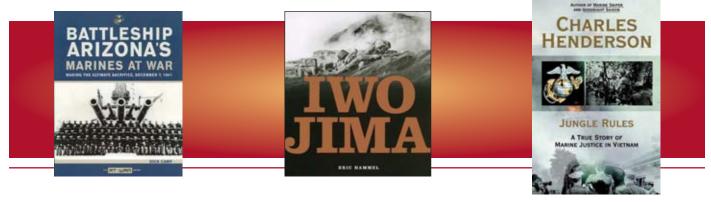
"This past year was just to get me back into the competitive environment and used to racing again. I have run faster than the existing records I want to break. ... So what if it was 10 years ago? As long as I'm getting faster, it'll be a success."

Cpl C. Alex Herron MPR, 8th MCD

Editor's note: If you know of a Marine who should be mentioned in this column, e-mail Leatherneck magazine at leather neck@mca-marines.org, call us toll-free at (800) 336-0291, Ext. 364, or write to "Leading From the Front," Leatherneck Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134.

Books Reviewed

Unless otherwise noted, these books may be ordered from the MCA Bookstore. Subscribers may use members' prices. Include \$6.99 for shipping, plus \$1 for shipping each additional book. Virginia and South Carolina residents add 5 percent sales tax, North Carolina residents add 7 percent and California residents add 7½ percent. Prices may change. Make checks or money orders payable to: MCA, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or call toll-free: (888) 237-7683.



BATTLESHIP ARIZONA'S MARINES AT WAR: Making the Ultimate Sacrifice, December 7, 1941. By Dick Camp. Published by Zenith Press. 128 pages. Softcover. Stock #0760327173. \$17.95 MCA Members. \$19.95 Regular Price.

As the sun came up on Dec. 7, 1941, bombs came whistling down—and the world changed forever. America's date with infamy and the Second World War shook our nation to its very core.

Colonel Dick Camp, USMC (Ret) has truly graced us with a magnificent volume, "Battleship Arizona's Marines at War." A fitting memorial to the grand old battleship USS *Arizona* (BB-39) and her fighting Marines, the book, studded with many never-before-published photographs, proves a gripping read. These unique photos are supported by text that enthusiastically flows with old Corps charisma and charm.

Col Camp skillfully presents a nostalgic glimpse of the glory days of our old battleship Navy and the men-of-steel who



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\$26.96 MCA Members \$29.95 Regular Price

manned those ships. The pride of the prewar Navy, a battleship posting represented promising career possibilities for young Marines—officer and enlisted.

Camp continues his effort with specific details on the Marines in *Arizona* by noting that the men in the detachment included five officers, 18 noncommissioned officers and 64 other enlisted Marines. They formed two platoons and a head-quarters staff. Smartly turned out for drill, the leathernecks also formed the nucleus of the ship's landing party.

The Marine detachment shown brightly during parades and ceremonies, and it undertook a constellation of other shipboard responsibilities. When at battle stations, the Marines manned the ship's secondary 5-inch guns. In those celebrated days, gun captains proudly sported a unique cannon insignia on the sleeve of their dress blue uniform.

Shifting to details on the ship, Camp informs the reader that *Arizona*, a sister ship of USS *Pennsylvania*, launched forth on June 19, 1915, in the presence of 100,000 well-wishers. The ship's main battery consisted of four turrets, each toting three 14-inch, .45-caliber heavy naval guns. With dexterous seamanship, her captain brought these powerful guns to bear on her intended target. The battleship's big guns were the chief reason for her very existence.

Daily maintenance and gun drill kept the crew and her Marines teeming with shipboard tasks. It took demanding exertion to keep her teak decks buffed and all her brass glistening. The Great War passed *Arizona* by, but between wars she served the Fleet with distinction in the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans.

Approximately 17 minutes into the initial Japanese attack, a Japanese high-level bomber released the fatal bomb that broke the back of the proud ship. The projectile penetrated the forecastle and sliced through four decks before finally erupting. The subsequent apocalyptic blast set off the ship's massive magazine, and *Arizona* sank at her berth.

From his airborne vantage point, Japanese Air Commander Mitsuo Fuchida recalled: "The flame and smoke erupted skyward together. It was a hateful, meanlooking red flame, the kind that power produces, and I knew at once that a big magazine had exploded. My plane shuddered in the suction of the after-blast."

Of the 2,117 Navy and Marine deaths from that day's dastardly attack, 1,177 souls were shipmates in *Arizona*. And of her 88 Marines, which included the Fleet Marine Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Danny Fox, only 15 survived to tell the tale. On Dec. 1, 1942, USS *Arizona* was stricken from the Navy's ship registry.

USS *Arizona* was gone but not forgotten. Today the memorial to her 1,177 lost sailors and Marines stands as a fitting reminder to their terrible sacrifice and America's horrific Day of Infamy. And in November 2005, the 33rd Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Michael

W. Hagee, dedicated a new memorial to the Marine Detachment of USS *Arizona*.

If, as leathernecks believe, U.S. Marines guard the Pearly Gates, we are confident that *Arizona*'s guard platoon will greet us at Heaven's Gate, standing tall, spit-shined and, of course, smartly squared away.

Robert B. Loring

Editor's note: "Red Bob" Loring is a frequent reviewer; Marine veteran; founding member of the Sergeant Major Michael Curtin Detachment (Det. 1124), Marine Corps League; and a motivated leader in the East Pasco County, Fla., Toys for Tots program.

IWO JIMA: Portrait of a Battle: United States Marines at War in the Pacific. By Eric Hammel. Published by Zenith Press. 256 pages. Stock #0760325200. \$36 MCA Members. \$40 Regular Price.

"One seeing is worth a thousand tellings!"

—Often misquoted Chinese proverb

"There is no calculation more brutal than the one that is made to justify an exigency of war. The deaths of one group of people are rationalized to justify the lives of another group of people who get to go on living."

So begins notable military historian and accomplished author Eric Hammel in his brief signature chapter, "Justifying Iwo," winding down the latest of his more than 30 books, the pictorially magnificent "Iwo Jima." In this passage, Hammel is addressing the "cruel calculus" of the World War II Battle of Iwo Jima as being "too close to call," comparing actual casualties against possible casualties that never happened.

The 6,821 Americans—5,931 were Marines—who died to purchase that island from as many as 22,000 Japanese killed possibly means more than 26,000 B-29 crewmen's lives were saved. These Army Air Forces crews landed on Iwo on their return from raids over Japan under the rubric of "emergency landing"—shot-up aircraft, seriously wounded aboard, fuel valve failure, spark plug problems, etc.

They may have lived because they did not have to crash in the Pacific Ocean. Of course, as this chapter clearly explains, there is more consideration in play than a ratio. Hammel's book goes well beyond stark numbers into the human aspects of what life and war and death at very personal close quarters were like for Marines and enemy on the eight-square-mile island in the Volcano Islands chain.

Jam-packed with vividly crisp blackand-white images that so dramatically and brutally portray war, hundreds upon hundreds of graphic photos pop out at the reader in this high-quality, state-of-the-art, coffee-table visual history. No muddied photos allowed; all are as clear and sharp as a ship's bell! However, the one major fault with Hammel's quite handsome book is that the vast majority of photos lack identification of the photographers who took them, most all being credited as an "Official USMC Photo."

While the salient point of Hammel's book is, indeed, the vast collection of action photos, the excellent text should never be overlooked.

In our tour of the impregnable island fortress, Guide Hammel tells us the exact reason the Japanese decided to defend the barren, waterless pile of black sand coated with volcanic ash: Mainly, Japanese honor, for then as now, Iwo is true Japanese soil.

Why did America and her Allies want to take Iwo from the Japanese? Back to paragraph one: An exigency of war, for the far-ranging B-29 and B-24 aircraft carrying the war to the Japanese mainland required fighter escorts. Even with external fuel tanks, the escorts' range was far shorter than that of the bombers. Hence, the Pacific Allies opted to invade and establish airfields.

We learn from Hammel that in February 1945, as 23,000 Imperial troops continued to perfect the virtually impregnable defenses, ranging from spider holes to 5-inch gun positions, they were ordered to defend to the death. "There was no dead ground on Iwo Jima," no area to hide from enemy fire, no front, no rear, all battleground. Against that, America would pit three Marine divisions with attachments totaling 70,647 Marines and corpsmen.

Nearly two dozen photos in one chapter reveal the fate of Japanese emplacements. Other photos showing destruction wrought by air bombardment and naval gunfire throughout the summer and autumn preceding the invasion are interspersed in other chapters.

From D-day, Feb. 19, 1945, to D+33, Hammel uses carefully selected photographs as he twists and turns us through the blood-curdling slugfest that Iwo was for its combatants. Photographically documented chapters graphically sustain the concise and well-presented text describing the armada of 495 U.S. ships and 250,000 "Blue Jackets" supporting the beach assault; the initial confusion over the eerie and virtually unopposed landing; and the position by position, cave by cave, enemy snipers and rare banzai attacks overcome or repulsed by Marines

[continued on page 67]



Leatherneck Line

Edited by Mary D. Karcher

Dr. Phil McGraw and Robin McGraw To Be Toys for Tots Spokespersons

Dr. Phil McGraw, noted psychologist and host of the hit syndicated daytime talk show "Dr. Phil," and Robin McGraw, his wife and best-selling author of "Inside My Heart," have been announced as national spokespersons for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's 59th annual Toys for Tots campaign.

"We are excited to welcome Dr. Phil and Robin to the Toys for Tots family," said Marine Toys for Tots Foundation President and CEO, Lieutenant General Matthew T. Cooper, USMC (Ret).

"For almost 60 years, Toys for Tots has collected and distributed toys to needy children. But along with the toys, the campaign strives to bring a message of hope, meant to restore and build their self-esteem, as well as to inspire youngsters to grow into more responsible, productive and patriotic citizens and community leaders."

"Robin and I are happy to do everything we can to bring a little joy into the lives of children of all ages during the holiday season, and we are happy to lend the resources of the 'Dr. Phil' show to do it," said Dr. Phil.

Added Robin McGraw: "We are especially proud to be working with the Marine Corps Reserve in their continuing volunteer effort to help these kids. Last year, 7.5 million children received toys thanks to the generosity of those who donated a toy or made a contribution. This year we are proud to meet the challenge of bringing as many toys as possible to kids who are in need."

The 2006 Toys for Tots campaign will be highlighted in various episodes heading into the holidays. "Dr. Phil" audience members, numbering 1,500 a week, will be invited to meet the challenge, and viewers wishing to participate will be able to go online at www.drphil.com.

On Nov. 5, Dr. Phil and Robin McGraw

appeared on behalf of Toys for Tots at the Texas Motor Speedway. There, approximately 200,000 fans attending the Dickies 500 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Race were invited to contribute toys.

With this commitment, Dr. Phil and Robin McGraw continue their efforts on behalf of disadvantaged children, having previously joined forces with the Alliance for Children's Rights, the J.C. Penney After-School Fund, Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, the Children's Defense Fund "Beat the Odds," Lutheran Family Services of Colorado and the Detroit Youth Foundation.

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, an IRS-recognized 501(c) (3) not-for-profit public charity, is the authorized fund-raising and support organization for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.

Louis DiCenzo Manager, Media Relations The Dr. Phil Foundation



Dr. Phil and his wife, Robin McGraw, joined Marine reservists of 2d Battalion, 23d Marine Regiment, Pasadena, Calif., and Battery N, 5th Bn, 14th Marine Regiment, Pico Rivera, Calif., to film the Nov. 1 broadcast of the "Dr. Phil" talk show. During the show, the McGraws announced their role as the national spokespersons for the 2006 U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots campaign. To donate, access www.toysfortots.org for local drop-off sites or to make a monetary donation.

Heritage Foundation Seeks Nominations For Best Museum Exhibit or Display

The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation is soliciting nominations for the Magruder Award for the best exhibit(s) or display(s) on a subject in Marine Corps history.

The committee will consider entries from small museums, veterans' associations, professional institutions, etc. Nominations should include text and photos describing the exhibit and its institutional context, answering questions about such topics as the provenance of the material, accession and preservation plans, target audience and outreach programs. The exhibit must have been on display during the calendar year 2006.

The deadline for submissions is Jan. 31, 2007. Provide three copies of each package to: Colonel N. E. Reynolds, USMCR (Ret), 36 2nd St., Newport, RI 02840.

Col N. E. Reynolds, USMCR (Ret)

"Art of War" Joins Online Offerings **Available Through Library of Congress**

A selection of 13 collections of materials submitted by war veterans joined the Veterans History Project Web site in November. The collection, titled "Art of War," was added to the Veterans History Project at www.loc.gov/warstories.

"Art of War" demonstrates how various individuals have documented their war experiences with paintbrushes, sketching pens and camera lenses. Many of the collections contain interviews and other documents, but their artwork is the truly eloquent testimony to all facets of war.

To date, more than 45,000 individuals have submitted stories to the Veterans History Project. The Project's Web site includes audio and video interviews, photographs, diaries, letters and other materials. The goal is to collect, preserve and share the stories of all American war veterans with future generations.

Those interested in becoming involved in the Veterans History Project are encouraged to send e-mail to vohp@loc.gov to request a project kit. The kit also is available on the Veterans History Project Web site at www.loc.gov/vets, or by calling the toll-free message line at (888) 371-5848.

Library of Congress

Marathon Runner Races for Charity

One person can make a difference. At least Navy Lieutenant Commander Richard J. "Rick" Ryan thinks so, and he should know.

For the past year Ryan has been running marathons to raise money for charitable causes. By the starting gun of the October 2006 Marine Corps Marathon,



Charles E. Kelly, a Navy pharmacist's mate, was assigned to a Navy beach party that was among the first to land on Iwo Jima on Feb. 19, 1945. He wrote about the moment on Feb. 23 when the flag went up: "There was an immediate cheer from those of us on the beach." His art reflecting that moment is part of the online collection at the Library of Congress.

Ryan had raised \$24,000 for charity, including \$6,000 shared between the Marine detachment at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md., and the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund.

Ryan has served as a helicopter pilot for 16 years and deployed with Marines in several capacities, including the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) and a variety of FAST (Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team) operations. In fact, Ryan said he nearly made the January 2004 cover of Leatherneck. He flew the helicopter that supported members of Captain Marc Rapicault's FAST leathernecks as they fast-roped onto USS Blue Ridge (LCC-19), pictured on the cover. Later Capt Rapicault would be fatally wounded and Ryan would dedicate one of his races to Rapicault's memory.

Ryan's original plan of running 12 marathons during the course of a year evolved into 25 marathons and five ultramarathons in just over a year.

His program is "Marathons for Hope," and he runs every race in memory of a fallen servicemember, most of whom he personally knew. Through his Web site, www.marathonsforhope.org, Ryan documents each race, identifying the person or people to whom he dedicated the race.

Five charities benefit from Ryan's marathons and 100 percent of the donations go directly to the charities since he pays for all of his travel and race expenses. His charities include the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund, which provides assistance to injured Marines, sailors, and their families, and the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, which supports the families of military personnel who have been killed on active duty.

It is possible to donate directly to a charity on his Web site; Ryan just asks that donors send him an e-mail stating the amount of the donation so he can record progress toward his \$30,000 goal. His Web site will be active for another full year, so it's not too late to make a donation.

For more information or to contribute, visit www.marathonsforhope.org.

Leatherneck





LCDR Richard Rvan ran the National Marathon in Washington, D.C., March 25, 2006, one of the 30 marathons he ran for charity in just over a year.

In Memoriam

Edited by R. R. Keene

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

Operation Iraqi Freedom: Marine Casualties, Sept. 1-30, 2006

The following Marines have been listed as killed in action:

Corporal Johnathan L. Benson, 21, of North Branch, Minn., with 3d Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, First Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 9, from wounds received June 17 during combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq.

Lance Corporal James Chamroeun, 20, of Union City, Ga., with 2/3, 3dMarDiv, III MEF, Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, Sept. 28, of wounds received during combat operations in Al Anbar province.

Private First Class Vincent M. Frassetto, 21, of Toms River, N.J., with 1/10, 2dMarDiv, II MEF, MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., Sept. 7, during combat operations in Al Anbar province.

LCpl Cliff K. Golla, 21, of Charlotte, N.C., with 3/2, 2dMarDiv, II MEF, Camp Lejeune, Sept. 1, of wounds received during combat operations in Al Anbar province.

LCpl Shane P. Harris, 23, of Las Vegas with 3d Light Armored Reconnaissance Bn, 1stMarDiv, I MEF, Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Sept. 3, during combat operations in Al Anbar province.

LCpl Philip A. Johnson, 19, of Hartford, Conn., with 3/2, 2dMarDiv, II MEF, Camp Lejeune, Sept. 3, during combat operations in Al Anbar province.

LCpl Howard S. March Jr., 20, of Buffalo, N.Y., with 2/8, 2dMarDiv, II MEF, Camp Lejeune, Sept. 24, during combat operations in Al Anbar province.

LCpl Rene Martinez, 20, of Miami, with 3/2, 2dMarDiv, II MEF,

Camp Lejeune, Sept. 24, during combat operations in Al Anbar province.

LCpl Ryan A. Miller, 19, of Pearland, Texas, with 3/3, 3dMarDiv, III MEF, Kaneohe Bay, Sept. 14, during combat operations in Al Anbar province.

Private Ryan E. Miller, 21, of Gahanna, Ohio, with 3/2, 2dMarDiv, II MEF, Camp Lejeune, Sept. 3, during combat operations in Al Anbar province.

PFC Christopher T. Riviere, 21, of Cooper City, Fla., with 2/3, 3dMarDiv, III MEF, Kaneohe Bay, Sept. 26, of wounds received during combat operations in Al Anbar province.

Cpl Yull Estrada Rodriguez, 21, of Alegre Lajas, Puerto Rico, with 3/3, 3dMarDiv, III MEF, Kaneohe Bay, Sept. 20, during combat operations in Al Anbar province.

Cpl Jared M. Shoemaker, 29, of Tulsa, Okla., with 1/25, 4thMarDiv, Broken Arrow, Okla., Sept. 4, during combat operations in Al Anbar province.

LCpl Eric P. Valdepenas, 21, of Seekonk, Mass., with 1/25, 4thMarDiv, Ayer, Mass., Sept. 4, during combat operations in Al Anbar province.

Hospital Corpsman Second Class Christopher G. Walsh, 30, of St. Louis with 3/24, 4thMarDiv, Bridgetown, Mo., Sept. 4, during combat operations in Al Anbar province.

Sergeant Christopher M. Zimmerman, 28, of Stephenville, Texas, with 2d Reconnaissance Bn, 2dMarDiv, II MEF, Camp Lejeune, Sept. 20, while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province.

James L. Abner, 75, of Lake City, Tenn. He was a veteran of the Korean War.

Wayne T. "Shine" Ailey, 86, of Morristown, Tenn. He was a WW II veteran.

1stLt James D. "J. D." Allen Sr., 82, in Powell, Tenn. He was a veteran of WW II and the Korean War. He returned to college during 1948, and he was a four-year letterman in football and team captain at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn.

Robert H. Alm, 84, of Michigan. He was a WW II veteran who served with H/2/5, lstMarDiv on Guadalcanal and Peleliu.

Sgt Jerry W. Amundson of Kansas City, Kan. He served from 1953 to 1956, which included duty as an ABC warfare instructor, Hq Co, 3dMarDiv in Gifu, Japan. He served in the Ready Reserve until 1961 and, later, became owner of Amundson & Associates and founder of International Design Group with offices in the United States, China, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Leo L. Andracki of Ledgedale, Pa. He was a WW II veteran who served with the 4thMarDiv on Iwo Jima.

Richard E. "Mike" Angevine Jr., 70, of St. Petersburg, Fla.

Robert "Bomber" Archkosky, 66, of Tompkinsville, Pa. He served during the Lebanon Crisis of 1958.

Thomas J. Bennie Sr., 73, of Moosic, Pa. He was a veteran of the Korean War and also served in the Philippines.

Police Officer Nick-Tomasito Birco, 39, in San Francisco. After service in the Corps, he served with the San Francisco Police Department for five years. He died when his patrol car was hit by a van whose occupants were involved in an earlier robbery. The occupants were charged with murder, manslaughter and other charges.

Ralph R. Bohanan, 73, of Sevierville, Tenn. He was a veteran of the Korean War.

Raymond A. Boynton, 66, of Scranton, Pa. He entered the Corps after graduating from high school in 1958 and served at Twentynine Palms, Calif.; Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii; Quantico, Va.; and Camp Lejeune, N.C. Later he served with the Army Corps of Engineers during the 1972 Hurricane Agnes flood. He was a vol-

unteer and coach with Little League and served as a judge of elections in North Scranton.

Police Officer Gary J. Buro, 34, of Chesterfield, Va. He served as an MP for four years in the Corps. He was shot and killed when he and another Chesterfield County police officer responded to a domestic dispute. The second police officer was shot five times but was able to return fire and kill the assailant. Officer Buro had previously served with the New York PD and the Lantana, Fla., police.

Capt Daniel M. "Cub" Callis, 86, of Seal Beach, Calif. He was a WW II veteran. He was the head of School House Planning for Riverside City Schools for 17 years.

Cpl Joseph L. Carcaci, 79, of Conshohocken, Pa. He was a veteran of WW II and the Korean War. He later served as a parole agent and parole supervisor for the State Parole Board in the Philadelphia and Allentown districts and Norristown. His career spanned more than 35 years.

Pat C. Carrillo, 81, of San Francisco. Enlisting in 1941, he served for four years. He

then spent 30 years in the United States Merchant Marine.

Arnold C. Clark, 81, of Kingston, Tenn. He was a WW II veteran.

Officer Brent Clearman, 33, in Oakland, Calif. He served as a sniper in the Corps and had been with the California Highway Patrol for 16 months. He was killed by a hit-and-run driver

Cpl Dennis F. "Frank" Collins, 59, of Naples, Fla. He was a Vietnam veteran who served with 11th Marines, lstMarDiv from 1966 to 1967 as a radio operator. He was a member of the MCL, Staten Island, N.Y., and Naples, Fla., detachments. He also was a retired New York City police officer.

Pamela M. Connell, 50, of Las Cruces,

Herbert R. Cook, 69, of Madisonville, Tenn.

LCpl Stephen J. Curtin Jr., 68, of West Roxbury, Mass. He served from 1957 to 1960 at Camp Lejeune, N.C., and with the MarDet, USS Wasp (CVS-18). He later owned and operated Curtin's Roadside Tavern, Mission Hill, in Roxbury.

Richard J. "Dick" Driscoll, 72, in Murrieta, Calif. He served from 1952 to 1956. He later was with the Treasure Island, Fla., Police Department, was a deputy sheriff for the Montgomery County, Pa., Sheriff's Dept. and was a firefighter with Goodwill Fire Co, Bridgeport, Pa.

1stSgt Herman "Hug" DuPont, 88, in Port Arthur, Texas. He enlisted in 1938 and served in the Pacific during WW II with C/1/9, 3dMarDiv on Bougainville and with 5thMarDiv on Iwo Jima, where he was awarded the Purple Heart. He went on to work for the U.S. Post Office.

Rudy J. Esquer, 69, of El Paso.

PFC John J. Faino, 86, of Brandon, Fla. He served with the lstMarDiv during WW II, and later with the Comm section of FAT Bn, Quantico, Va.

GySgt Jack Fisher, 83, of Stockton, Calif. He served during WW II with the air wing in the Philippines. He later owned and operated an auto parts business in Tracy, Calif.

Brown E. Flowers, 90, in Dallas. He served with the 5thMarDiv from 1944 to 1946 and saw action on Iwo Jima.

Kelly E. Ford, 57, of Sergeant Bluff, Iowa. He was a Vietnam veteran, serving with Co E, lst Recon Bn, lstMarDiv. After 10 years, he joined the 185th Air National Guard for 26 years. He retired as superintendent of Combat Crew Communications.

SSgt Robert P. "Sarge" Fuller, 60, of Scranton, Pa. He served in the Marine Corps and also in the Army's 109th National Guard.

John F. Gallo Jr. of Throop, Pa. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War.

Spencer Gartz in San Diego. He was sports editor with Leatherneck magazine from 1946 to 1949 and served with PIO in Korea from 1951 to 1952. He was a life member of the U.S. Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association.

Sgt A. James Gemignani, 84, of Moline, Ill. He was a WW II veteran who served on the Solomon Islands, New Hebrides, Efate, Munda, Vella La Vella and Bougainville with MAG-23. He later served at El Toro, Calif., and Oak Grove, N.C. He was a life member of the MCL and a charter member of the Gung Ho Marine Club. He also was an owner of the Mr. Quick Restaurant, Clinton, Iowa.

Wilson Gleeson, 85, of Columbus, N.M. He was a WW II veteran.

GySgt Larry J. Glover, 61, of Lathrop, Calif. He served for 20 years and retired in 1988.

Wilton L. "Roy" Goulette, 76, of Farmington, N.M. He served in Korea during the Inchon landing in 1950 and was awarded the Purple Heart. While recovering from his wounds, he taught himself to play the guitar and later formed a band and cut a record. He could sing and yodel and enjoyed his guitar picking well into his 70s.

Benjamin E. Guerrero, 73, of El Paso, Texas. He was a Korean War veteran. He taught English at Gadsden High School, El Paso and was a local Golden Gloves champion.

Sgt Bobby D. "Gunny" Harper, 75, of Roswell, N.M. He served with F/2/5, lstMarDiv in Korea from 1951 to 1952.

George H. Hoker, 79, in New Braunfels, Texas. He was a WW II veteran who fought on Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima, where he was wounded. He later used his public speaking ability as a part-time pulpit minister for congregations in Mason and Lampasas, Texas.

BGen Joseph E. Hopkins, 74, of California, Pa. Serving a total of 34 years, he enlisted in 1952 and served as a drill instructor at Parris Island in 1953; he was commissioned the same year. He went on to become a veteran of three tours in Vietnam.

His awards include the Legion of Merit with combat "V," two Bronze Stars with combat "V," two Navy Commendation Medals with combat "V," the Army Commendation Medal, and Combat Action Ribbon.

He retired in 1984 as the Deputy for Development/Director, Development Center, MCDEC, Quantico, Va. He became active in the Economic Development program at California University of Pennsylvania, where he established the Government Agency Coordinating Office, which proved to be successful in bringing government contracts to businesses in western Pennsylvania.

Freddie J. Ibsen, 65, of Knoxville, Tenn. He served from 1958 to 1962.

Charles C. James, 78, in Loma Linda, Calif. He was a WW II veteran who, in 1981, became an ordained minister.

Cecil W. Johnson, 82, in Land O'Lakes, Fla. He was a WW II veteran who served in the Pacific.

Sgt Billy B. "Bam Bam" Jones, 53, of Rockwood, Tenn. He was a deputy with the Roane County Sheriff's Department. He was on patrol with another person when they were ambushed and killed. He was a Marine veteran of Vietnam and also served as a Ranger with the U.S. Army.

William Kelley in South Weymouth, Mass. He was a veteran of the Korean War and a life member of the lstMarDiv Assn.

Thomas E. Kilonsky of Scranton, Pa. He was a veteran of two tours in Vietnam.



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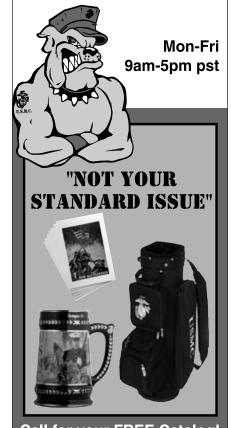




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Jordan "J. M." King Sr., 82, of Gulfport, Fla. He was a veteran of WW II who, for more than 50 years, owned J. M. King Construction Co.

Robert Kuipers, 62, of Old Forge, Pa. He was a Vietnam veteran.

MSgt Milo Lucio. A retired Marine with a great deal of spunk and personality, she died of cancer while serving as the Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., protocol officer.

Sgt William W. Mackert, 59, of Riverside, Calif. He served for four years.

Juan R. Martinez, 20, of El Paso, Texas. He was on active duty and had graduated from MCRD San Diego in December 2005.

Sgt Alexander Massio, 87, of Rupert, Idaho. He was a WW II veteran who saw action at Bougainville, Solomon Islands, Guam, the Marianas and Iwo Jima, where he was

Cpl Alfred "Al" Maturo Jr., 68, of Middletown, Conn. He enlisted in 1954 and served with 2/8, 2dMarDiv. He was on the Marine Corps Rifle and Pistol teams and was trained as a sniper. He later was owner of Alfredo's Riverside Restaurant, Middletown. He was a member of the MCL.

Col Frank G. "Mac" McLenon, 79. He served as an enlisted turret gunner in WW II, flew Corsairs in Korea, and helicopters and KC-130s in RVN. He was the CO of Provisional MAG-39, which extracted the last Americans from Saigon in 1975. He also was a presidential command pilot for Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson.

LtCol Charles D. McPherson, 87, of San

Francisco. He was a veteran of the Pacific during WW II, served in the Marine Reserve and was a founding member of the Marines' Memorial Club, San Francisco.

Cpl Richard G. Merna, 71, of Clinton, Md. He was one of five brothers and a sister raised at St. Dominic's Home for Boys and Girls, Blauvelt, N.Y.

He served two separate tours in the Corps from 1953 to 1958 and from 1961 to 1962. which included 15 months in Korea with the lstMarDiv. He went on to work for the U.S. Postal Service, Statler Hilton Hotels, the Interstate Commerce Commission and the IRS. He was a 100-percent disabled veteran.

His brother George was KIA during WW II. His brother Gerald went on to become a master gunnery sergeant and a commissioned Marine officer, and his brother James left the Corps as a sergeant and then retired from government service as a senior executive. The Mernas are a Marine family.

Margaret (Lybolt) Miller, 82, of Stoneville, N.C. She was a WW II veteran.

Col Walter H. I. "Bud" Moos, 62, of St. Leonard, Md., and Arlington, Va. He became a naval aviator after graduating from Cornell University in 1965. His duty stations included Iwakuni, Japan; Cubi Point; the Philippines; and RVN, where he flew F-4 Phantom fighter-attack jets and CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters. His awards include the Air Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal and basic parachute insignia.

Robert M. "Homer" Moran Jr., 61, of

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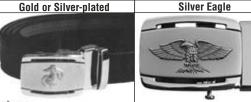
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Leatherneck's Archives using our online search engine, ProQuest, at http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/mca-marines/ for what we've published on your unit or facets of Marine Corps history. An expanded archives search capability is available for issues from 1921 to the present. Scranton, Pa. He was a Vietnam veteran and a member of the Northeast Detachment of the MCL.

Alice O. Munger, 95, of Hemet, Calif. She was a WW II veteran. She taught elementary school for 30 years.

George J. Nestico Sr. of Dorchester, Mass. He was a WW II veteran who fought on Iwo Jima and Guam and was awarded two Purple

Maj David L. Nichols, 54, of El Paso, Texas. He was a former Judge Advocate General. He also was CO of N/5/14, 4thMarDiv during Operation Desert Shield. He was a former District Attorney for Morris County and an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Texas. He prosecuted serious federal criminals who committed drug-trafficking crimes and engaged in extensive alien smuggling. He dismantled several major largescale trafficking organizations.

He recently served in Iraq as a member of the Regime Crimes Liaison Office, assisting in the prosecution of Saddam Hussein and his associates. He retired with 21 years in the Marine Reserve and was a former chairman of the Military Law Section, State Bar of Texas.

His awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, as well as the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. He had a long affiliation with the Boy Scouts of America, including serving as a Scoutmaster and Cubmaster.

Paul R. Nieball. 77. of Alpine. Texas. He served in the Corps and went on to become a teacher, primarily at Odessa College and El Paso Community College, but also in public schools.

Sgt Russell G. "Pop" Orton, 88, in San Bernardino, Calif. He served from 1937 to

James P. Osborn, 70, of Riverside, Calif. CWO James "Jim" Parker, 77, of Mapleton, Iowa. He enlisted after his 1946 graduation from high school. He was a Korean and Vietnam war veteran.

PFC Lincoln F. "Linc" Peck, 87, of Santa Ana, Calif. At 25, he was considered an old man by his fellow and much younger Marines. Nonetheless, he served as a BARman on Iwo Jima with G/2/25, 4thMarDiv. He had a long career as an accountant in Baltimore and, according to his son Col Frederick C. Peck, USMC (Ret), "He was a tough guy, but a loving father."

MSgt John "Jack" Petty Jr., 70, of Las Cruces, N.M. He was a Vietnam veteran, serving in the Corps and Air Force.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Davis S. Piquette, 34, in Anaheim, Calif. He was killed on Highway 91 after colliding with a truck hauling cement. He was a Marine veteran and had served for 10 years with the sheriff's department. He was one of the top athletes in the annual Baker-to-Vegas Relay.

Bert Presson Jr. in Little Rock, Ark. He was a WW II veteran, serving with F/2/3 in 1943 and 1944.

Daniel L. Price, 58, of Sevierville, Tenn. He served with 1st Tanks, 1stMarDiv in RVN and later in the National Guard. He later became a charter member of the Sevier Det.

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Miles G. Proper, 85, of St. Petersburg, Fla. He was a WW II veteran.

SgtMaj Vernon E. "Jake" Querry, 83, of Cleveland. He was a WW II veteran who served with K/3/6, 2dMarDiv on Saipan, Tinian and Okinawa. He later served in the Ohio National Guard during the Korean War. He went back to the Corps as a reservist in Lima, Ohio.

Raul "Tweety" Ramirez, 52, of Corona-Norco, Calif. He served from 1972 to 1977.

Maj John T. Reville of New York. A Mustang officer, he served for 38 years, which included serving in WW II, Korea and Vietnam, as well as in Panama in the late 1940s and Camp Lejeune, N.C., in 1949.

Leo B. Rickmers. He served during WW II in the South Pacific. He later served in China and in the Korean War.

Fred E. Roberts, 69, of Clinton, Tenn. He was a veteran of the Korean War.

Elmer J. Rokita, 86, of Orange, Conn. He was a WW II veteran of the South Pacific. The U.S. Postal Service later employed him.

James "Jimmy" Rossi, 89, of Silvis, Ill. He was a WW II veteran who later served as a foreman with John Deere Harvester in East Moline for 37 years.

Joseph R. Ruddy in Riverside, Calif. He served during WW II and was awarded the Purple Heart. He was recalled during the Korean War. He became a teacher with the Riverside School District.

Sgt Steve Sakoda, 29, of Waiakea, Hawaii. He was a former Marine reservist who served as a warehouse clerk at MCB Kaneohe Bay and later joined the Army National Guard. He was killed by an IED while working as a cavalry scout with the 101st Airborne Div (Air Assault).

John H. Salgado, 72, of Banning, Calif. Edmer E. Scheer, 74, of Moville, Iowa. He was a veteran of two tours in the Korean War.

Douglas C. Searls, 67, of Albion, Mich. He enlisted after graduating from high school in 1957.

David V. Self, 54, of Friendsville, Tenn. He served primarily at Camp Lejeune, N.C. He was an evangelist and biker.

SSgt Frederick A. Serral, 84, of Old Indian Trail, Tenn. He was a WW II veteran and member of the 1st Raider Bn, known as "Edson's Raiders," and later the 5thMarDiv. He saw action on Tulagi, Guadalcanal, Tarawa and Iwo Jima. He later served as a repatriation officer in Japan. He eventually became president of The Austin Company and served as chairman of its executive committee.

Dwight J. Shauger in San Diego. He was a U.S. Navy corpsman who served with I/3/7 in Korea in 1953 during the final weeks of the war.

Thomas F. Shipe, 89, of Halls Crossroads, Tenn. He was a veteran of the Pacific during WW II. He served for 34 years with United Airlines.

Jeff C. Shubnell, 39, of Crestline, Calif. **Capt Thomas S. Simms**, 76, of Dallas. He was commissioned in 1952. He went on to become chief engineer for a national develop-







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Pvt Morris "Mo" Skinner, 91, of Walnut Creek, Calif. He served prior to WW II, during the war, and later as a China Marine. He was a member of the Mt. Diablo Det. #942, MCL in Lafayette, Calif.

William L. "Bill" Smith III, 67, in Riverside, Calif. He enlisted in 1955. In 1961 he went into the Navy, which he retired from

Maj Robert "Bob" Spiker, 70, of Anaheim, Calif. He was a member of the Marine Corps Mustang Assn.

James V. "Jim" Stanley Sr., 62, of Knoxville, Tenn.

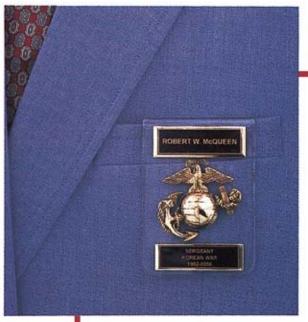
CWO-2 John L. "Jack" Stark, 77, in Dallas. He retired in 1970 with 24 years of service. He was a vice president in banking for more than 20 years. He was a member of the Marine Corps Aircraft Fire Fighting Assn.

SSgt Keith A. Stonesifer, 45, of Knoxville, Tenn. He served for 10 years before being honorably discharged.

Richard S. Strand, 76, in Bullhead City, Ariz. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1947 and served for three years. He then joined the Army and eventually retired from the Air

Jacob R. Taylor of Sun City, Ariz. He was a WW II veteran.

Maj Wilber F. Taylor, 81, of Las Cruces, N.M. He was commissioned in 1946 and



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served in North China until 1949. During the Korean War he earned the Bronze Star as CO of F/2/7 and retired in 1966.

Thomas C. Thompson Jr., 84, of Redington Beach, Fla. He was a WW II and Korean War veteran who served as an enlisted man and officer with the lstMarDiv. He was a professor of business studies at Burlington County College, Pemberton, N.J. In 1981 students selected him Teacher of the Year, and he became professor emeritus of the college.

Edmond J. Tumelavich of Richmondale, Pa. He was a veteran of WW II in the Pacific.

William Umphreyville of Buffalo, N.Y. He served in Panama in the late 1940s and during the Korean War.

Sgt Theodore J. Violissi, 61, of Portland, Conn. He was a CH-46 helicopter crew chief who flew more than 400 missions with HMM-265 in RVN from 1966 to 1967. His awards include Combat Aircrew insignia, Air Medal, and Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V."

Howard F. Wagner Sr., 75, of San Jacinto,

MGySgt George L. Wagoner, 80, of Altamont, Ill. He was a WW II veteran who served with the 6thMarDiv during the battle for Okinawa and later in China. He also served in Vietnam.

He was a life member of the Effingham County Det., MCL in Altamont. He also was a member of the 6thMarDiv Assn. and the Marine Corps Mustang Assn. His awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation

Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and Combat Action Ribbon.

John E. Waring, 85, of Halls Crossroads, Tenn. He was a WW II veteran.

Sgt Kenneth H. Wayman, 83, of Worcester, Mass. During WW II he saw action on Tarawa, Saipan, Tinian and Okinawa. He was awarded the Bronze Star. He once played semipro football for the original Webster,

Melvin A. Wehmueller, 84. He was a pilot during WW II and in the Korean and Vietnam wars. He also flew the "Marine One" helicopter from HMX-1 during the President Dwight D. Eisenhower and President John F. Kennedy administrations. He went on to become a corporate pilot for Southern California Edison Co.

Sgt Robert R. Wheeler, 70, in Cedar Ridge, Calif. He served as an artilleryman with 11th and 12th Marines from 1954 to 1963. He went on to own his own automobile business in San Jose, Calif., and volunteered with the MCL and Boy Scouts. He also was a fire chief for 15 years.

Raymond J. "Ray" "Poppop" White Jr., 58, in Inverness, Fla. He was a Vietnam veteran who raced stock cars. He also coached baseball and softball.

John F. Wolicki Jr., 65, in Corona, Calif. He was a Vietnam veteran who was fluent in the language and worked in intelligence.

Robert Yazzie, 81, in Nashville, Tenn. He was a Navajo Code Talker during WW II.



LEATHERNECK DECEMBER 2006

BOOKS REVIEWED [continued from page 55]

fighting, first, for one another.

"Iwo Jima's" only color photos are in the concluding chapter examining Iwo 60 years after the battle. The clearest marked change in the island since its invasion is the vegetation brought in by the post-war Japanese to prevent erosion. Seed and plants blown in by hurricanes or delivered via bird droppings add to the flora, supported only by rainfall.

"Iwo Jima" is a book worthy of any Marine's coffee table, or that of fanatics of things that are simply Marine. Even those who don't bother with all of the text will still "get it" from reading the captions accompanying the rich array of

Hammel's shining effort is further enhanced by an always-useful glossary of some WW II terminology and even more so by the photos and citations of all the Marines and Navy men—posthumous and surviving-who were awarded the Medal of Honor on Iwo Jima. A truly outstanding tribute!

But, hey! One viewing of Hammel's book is worth a thousand of anyone's tellings!

Bruce Martin

Editor's note: A four-tour Vietnam veteran—two of them for Leatherneck magazine-retired Master Sergeant Bruce Martin penned his first Leatherneck piece in October 1966. He retired from the Corps in 1980 to work the desk for the News Journal in Pensacola, Fla., where he resides with his wife. He completed college to become a middle school teacher, retiring four years ago.

JUNGLE RULES: A True Story of Marine Justice in Vietnam. By Charles Henderson. Published by Berkley-Caliber, a division of Penguin Group (USA). 496 pages. Stock #042521186X. \$22.45 MCA Members. \$24.95 Regular Price.

"Jungle Rules" gets its name from the fast-paced, no-holds-barred, make-it-upas-you-go, full-body contact sports that many Marines enjoy but that few civilians understand.

"Jungle Rules," the book, is as raw and earthy as its title implies. Call it Charles "Bill" Henderson's "coming out party," if you will. You'll find little that is politically correct in this tome of the dark underbelly of life on the run in Vietnam. This is Henderson's gift to the Corps' gritty "grunts," from whom he learned his warfighting skills long before he succumbed to the poet within.

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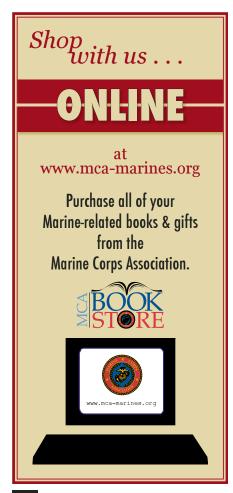


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know Henderson for his intimate, stark portrayals of legendary sniper Gunnery Sergeant Carlos Hathcock in "Marine Sniper" and "Silent Warrior," and for "Marshaling the Faithful," which invites the reader to a close encounter with the life and adventures of Marine "grunts" in the field during the early days of the Vietnam conflict. Last year, Henderson added to these combat classics with a detailed chronicle of South Vietnam's crushing defeat in the pages of "Goodnight Saigon."

Vietnam veterans readily will recognize Henderson's rawboned opening with his portrait of Dog Patch—the rat- and vermin-infested slum separating the Da Nang Airfield from the Freedom Hill PX and recreation area—and Hill 327, upon which the First Marine Division head-quarters resided. The gloves are off! Henderson attacks this story with the bare-knuckled style of a street fighter.

Although the characters are fictional, Henderson writes: "The events described in 'Jungle Rules' are based on true stories supported by courts-martial transcripts and investigation documents that I have in my possession, including interviews of actual Marine lawyers on the ground there."

This tale is not for the faint of heart,

for unsuspecting readers will instinctively reel from the force of the foul language and the depravity of an underworld worse than most can imagine unless you served in Vietnam. "Jungle Rules" is an historic drama told with dramatic flourishes and artistic license that at times drains it of color—a film noir of grit and grime that goes beyond reality, compressing sights, sounds, smells and emotions.

Henderson plays these scenes against the slightly less profane world of Marine "legal beagles" who must deal with defending their clients while contending with prejudice, injustice and occasional firefights as they travel to serve their clients. Through it all, the author weaves a tale of intrigue and deception, punctuated with bits of humor, in a counterculture world where American deserters and renegade Vietnamese ply a deadly drug trade and engage in racketeering and murder amid the chaos of war.

Maj Robert T. Jordan, USMC (Ret)

Editor's note: Bob Jordan is a former Leatherneck staffer and freelance writer based in Longwood, Fla. He served in Vietnam as a Marine Corps combat correspondent in 1968-69 during the time in which this story unfolds.

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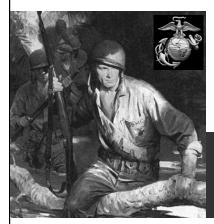


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SOUND OFF

[continued from page 12]

"gunny" was at boot camp in the mid-1940s and when he was a drill instructor in the mid-1950s, just before I became a recruit in 1958. If so, we now know when the change took place.

I am sending a copy of this letter and my Parris Island memoirs to GySgt Greenwood. What can he do to me now? And maybe he'll send me a copy of his book.

> PFC Stanton A. Kessler, USMC (Ret) Chicago

• We received a lot of mail, mostly from Marines who say "Sir, yes, sir" was standard and was the demanded response required of them in boot camp. There were, however, exceptions. And it probably depends on when you went to boot camp as to what you were taught to say. I cannot speak for GySgt Greenwood, but my argument with "Sir, yes, sir!" is that it is a redundant response and is seldom used once Marines graduate from boot camp. Why not teach recruits how to properly respond from day one?—Sound Off Ed.

Recalling Engineers, One in Particular

I was with the 1st Engineer Battalion from 1969 to 1970. I remember some things that were in the September article titled "Vietnam: Fixed Targets for the Enemy: Engineers Risked It All Every Day to Get the Job Done." We did road sweeps between Hill 37 toward Hill 10 (Route 540) and sometimes Route 4 east and west of Dai Loc. Seventh Engineers did most of it, but 1st Engineers went in there to fill in the loose ends. Most of the time we were there and blended in with the rest.

I remember a good friend of mine was [Private First Class Jimmy W. Phipps] with Company B, 1st Engineers. I think he was near An Hoa. While doing a sweep one morning, he noticed an improvised explosive device, warned everyone and took the brunt of the explosion. He was killed in action, but received the Medal of Honor for his courage and bravery. I will never forget that.

Former Sgt Ron Smallwood

• Thanks for reminding us lest we forget.—Sound Off Ed.

Major Louis Cukela Was a Natural

Major Allan C. Bevilacqua's story about Maj Louis Cukela [October] brought back memories.

Kudos to Maj Bevilacqua for collecting those stories about one of the Corps' most colorful characters. I am sure Maj Cukela must have stayed awake at night to dream up some of his weird expressions. There can be no doubt that he was well aware of his reputation as a character and did not fail to use every opportunity to maintain that reputation.

Capt Clyde Sloan, USMC (Ret) Portland, Ore.

• I disagree, Skipper. From what I've read and heard, Maj Cukela was as natural at turning a phrase as he was a born fighter. Maj Ethelred P. Horn III, USMCR (Ret) from Flint, Mich., also wrote comments on Maj Cukela.—Sound Off Ed.

It Was About Edson's Raiders, No Slight to Parachute Battalion

In the September issue, there was an interesting article, "'Edson's Raiders' Storm Quantico," about the Raiders, their reunion and the Battle of Bloody Ridge.

Let's get the records straight. The Raiders were not the only Marines on that ridge. Two battalions of special Marine units defended it: The 1st Raider Battalion and the 1st Marine Parachute Bn. Both battalions suffered heavy casualties, but they held onto the ridge. So let's give credit to the two outstanding units.

By the way, throughout the Solomon Islands campaign, the Raiders and parachutists were used extensively. Their last combined effort was when they reinforced the Third Marine Division on the island of Bougainville; the Raiders and parachute battalions were under one command. In January of 1944 the Raider and parachute battalions were disbanded and sent back to the States to form the new Fifth Marine Division.

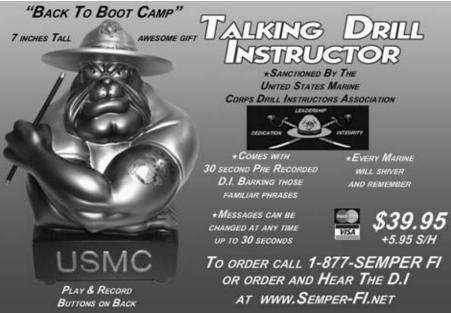
Joseph C. Pagac 1st Marine Parachute Bn H/3/26, 5thMarDiv Seminole, Fla.

Officer Listens to Platoon Sergeant: Good Officer, Great Platoon Sergeant

Reading the September "Sound Off" letter from Gunnery Sergeant R. A. Latona, I'm glad he is still with us and enjoying retirement. He was a platoon sergeant when I reported to Company B, 1st Battalion, Ninth Marine Regiment in August 1968.

In late August, "Bravo" Co was suppressing mortar and machine-gun fire while waiting for helicopter extraction after three days of intense fighting around Hill 366 near Mutter Ridge. I remember then-Staff Sergeant Latona advising Lieutenant Jim Talone to order trenches dug around the small landing zone.





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1-800-392-2400 or www.paladin-press.com As each helicopter approached to pick up a squad of Marines, the leathernecks would scramble into a trench protecting them from incoming mortar fire while the rest of the company maintained a defensive position. Squad after squad went from their positions into trenches and on to a CH-46 helicopter without taking casualties despite heavy mortar fire.

In March of 1969, 1/9 faced the same problem of trying to extract the entire battalion under mortar fire. I approached Lieutenant Colonel George Smith and suggested he order trenches dug to protect Marines waiting for incoming helicopters. As he ordered engineers to start digging, he turned to me and said, "Good thought, Forte." I thought to myself: "Good thought, Latona, and thanks."

Col Vincent Forte, USMCR (Ret) Foxboro, Mass.

If You Do Not Like What the Media Is Saying, Then Tell Them

Newspapers and television people refer to Marines as soldiers. Perhaps your magazine can put a stop to the practice. John C. Whitlock Jr., USMCR

Olathe, Colo.

• We refer to Marines only at times as "soldiers of the sea" or "sea soldiers." Write or e-mail the offending media with

your comments and correct them. If enough of us do it, they may listen, or they may not, but you will have "sounded off."—Sound Off Ed.

Starts at Parris Island and Lasts Forever

I recently attended a mini-reunion of Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., Marines at Parris Island, S.C., where I went to boot camp. Forty-four years went very fast, and this was my first opportunity to visit the depot.

The staff members went out of their way to accommodate us with transportation and Marines to guide us around. We were special guests at the Friday Morning Colors Ceremony and then attended the graduation parade. From there, we were treated to lunch at the rifle range and visited the museum and Post Exchange. The second day we also had transportation and a more extensive tour of the base.

After the tour, I had a chance to visit the parade deck at 3d Recruit Training Battalion and watch current privates at drill. I had my platoon book with me and was able to look at the background of the pictures taken during February, March and April 1962. Much to my surprise the building and grounds are the same as when I was a private. With all the memories and visions of 1962, I was reminded how much the Marine Corps means to me, and what a big part of me came out on that parade deck.

I was assigned to MB Washington and by October I was assigned to security at Camp David, Md., and was part of the Marine Corps Color Guard. I was getting to see President John F. Kennedy occasionally, and in February 1963, I stood guard on the Mona Lisa at the National Gallery of Art. In March 1963, I was part of a detail that guarded President Kennedy during his visit to San Jose, Costa Rica. Of course, we all had a visible part in the funeral of the President after he was assassinated.

In December 1963, I was assigned to the White House Color Guard and did several events, standing beside President Lyndon B. Johnson while he talked with his guests. The Camp David guard duty continued when the President was there.

When my tour of duty was over, I went to Camp Pendleton, Calif., and shortly thereafter on to Vietnam. That was one of the most memorable experiences of my life.

After the Corps, I went to college, got a great job and raised a family. I am now retired very comfortably in Oceanside, Calif.

I can say that a lot of what I am today and have been was a credit to the Marine

Corps. All of it started at 3d Battalion on Parris Island.

I was at a bar one Sunday afternoon in Lakeside, Calif., when a Marine at the bar turned, held up his beer and proclaimed, "I feel sorry for any young man who never took the opportunity to be a United States Marine.

I couldn't agree more. Thank you, United States Marine Corps!

> Sgt Robert F. Neal 1962-66 Oceanside, Calif.

Reunions

Reunions are run on a space-available basis. Information should be submitted no later than four months in advance of the reunion.

- Khe Sanh Veterans, July 3-8, 2007, Arlington, Va. Contact Russ Turner, 3168 Meadowfield Dr., Arnold, MO 63010, (314) 368-5853, rkt88@prodigy .net.
- · USMC Clarksville Base, Tenn. (Birdcage), April 26-28, 2007, Quantico, Va. Contact Jim Shipley, 913 Waterview Dr., Crownsville, MD 21032, (410) 987-4422, jacaship@comcast.net.
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- S. Douglas Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73139, (405) 632-7351, hmuleym@sbc global.net.
- Marine Corps Musicians Assn., April 24-27, 2007, Cathedral City, Calif. Contact Richard Oldenburg, 25101 Bear Valley Rd., Tehachapi, CA 93561-8311, (661) 821-1683, jazjoc@sierratel.com or jazjoc@bnis.net.
- 1/3/7, April 25-28, 2007, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Denny Deibert, 6007 Catherine St., Harrisburg, PA 17112, (717) 652-1695. There is a second 1/3/7 reunion, July 18-21, 2007, San Antonio. Contact Ed Stiteler, 210 Funston Pl., San Antonio, TX 78209, (210) 828-5773.
- Marine Barracks Morocco (1965-69), Jan. 28-Feb. 4, 2007, Carnival Cruise Lines *Valor*, Miami. Contact Bascombe Hughes, 3482 Wilderness Dr., Powder Springs, GA 30127, (770) 424-8165, bascombe@usmcmbkm.com.
- Plt 308, Parris Island, 1971 is planning a reunion. Contact Walter Cook, (601) 543-9182, walt6882@aol.com.
- HMR(L)-261 (1956-60), Spring of 2007, Quantico, Va. Contact Dick Murphy, 4063 N. Sunnyside Ave., Fresno, CA 93727, echomike14@comcast.net.
- HMR(M)-461 is planning a 50th reunion to be held near MCAS New River, N.C. Contact Ed Bowers, aernavsarge@ cox.net.

Ships and Others

• USS Sturtevant (DE/DER-239), May 17-20, 2007, Virginia Beach, Va. Contact John Angst, 635 E. Olson St., Blair, WI 54616, (608) 989-9041, ajack@tri west.net.

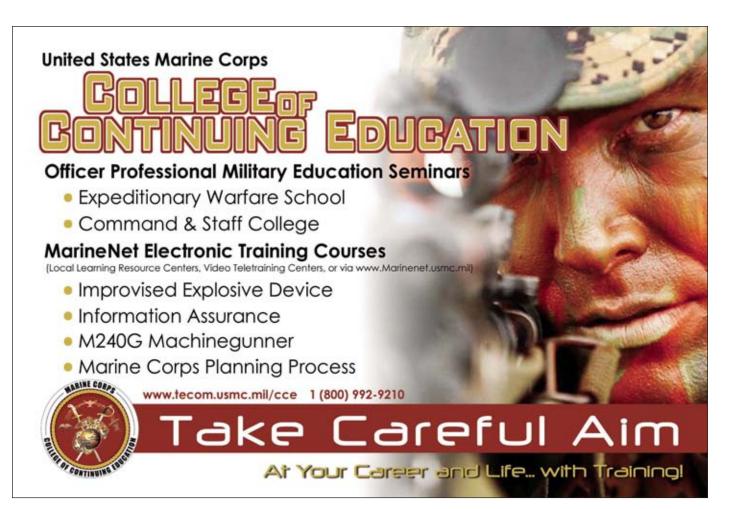
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Wanted:

- Marine veteran Tom Lynch, 8 Scott St., Plains, PA 18705-2103, (570) 824-0564, tombetsy@epix.net, wants Marine memorabilia, such as fighting knives, KaBar knives, 45-caliber pistols, patches, insignia, aviation breast insignia, herringbone and camouflage utilities from WW II or earlier. Also interested in purchasing a WW II samurai sword.
- Marine veteran Joseph E. Wheaton, 2399 Wildcat Rd., Sparta, TN 38583, wants a recruit graduation book for Plt 310, San Diego, 1959.
- Former Cpl Dick Teresi, 2402 Euclid St., Santa Monica, CA 90405, (310) 452-0269, fieldmusic@earthlink.net, wants any information on the **pre-WW II Shanghai smoking jacket** (page 75) made from

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dress blues. Also embroidered on the jacket are "4th Marines, 1937, 1939, Shanghai, China" and the initials MWD.

Sales, Trades and Giveaways:

- Marine veteran C. A. "Tony Gator Bait" Wells, 404 Houma Blvd., Metairie, LA 70001, (504) 833-8657, has a recruit platoon photo for Plt 68, San Diego, 1948 to whoever wants it.
- Marine veteran Jack E. Grant, 5987 Anderson Rd., Grovetown, GA 30813, (706) 541-1015, has the following dog tags found at Khe Sanh and Camp Carroll: ALMADA, G. E.; BASH, D. J.; BOUDREAU, A. A.; BELL, E. T.; GIL-LESPIE, R. A.; HARRISON, R. L.;

SANDIFER, D. W.; SHLEIFER, L. E.; and STARLING, R. J. to the Marines named or their families.

- Marine veteran Steve Toman, P.O. Box 543, Nashville, MI 49073, (517) 852-0334, has lists of Leatherneck magazines (including Pacific editions), USMC-related books, a cribbage board with "Tarawa" on it and a red pamphlet: "The Word." Send three first-class stamps for list.
- Tom G. Balderree, 2401 N. 6th St., Cheney, WA 99004-2172, (509) 235-1688, (509) 599-1733, has a recruit graduation book, Plt 3085, San Diego, 1977, free to the first member of that platoon who contacts him.

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Mail Call

Edited by Isaac D. Pacheco

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- Tom G. Balderree, 2401 N. 6th St., Cheney, WA 99004-2172, (509) 235-1688, (509) 599-1733, to hear from **Ma**rine veteran "Rod" from Lakeland, Fla., who served in the mid-'50s.
- · Marine veteran Richard B. "Moon-Man" Mooney, 25 Park Pl., Floral Park, NY 11001-2105, (516) 352-9203, rmooney 2@optonline.net, to hear from or about T. "Bill" BARONE Jr., originally from Paterson, N.J., who trained in Plt 160, Parris Island, 1966, and served with Co M, 3/7, RVN, during Operation DeSoto, 1967.
- Marine veteran Andy Burch, 326 E. 7th Ave., Tarentum, PA 15084, (724) 224-0408, andy.bklyn@verizon.net, to hear from Marines he served with in 3d LAAM Bn, 1972, or BT-11, 1974-75.



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China Marine **Association**

- Marine veteran Joseph E. Wheaton, 2399 Wildcat Rd., Sparta, TN 38583, to hear from members of Plt 310, San Diego, 1959, or from anyone who served in 2d Bn, Marine Corps Supply Center, Barstow, Calif., 1959-63.
- Robert F. Meenach, 10326 Tarlton Rd., Circleville, OH 43113, RFMeenach @aol.com, to hear from members of **Plt** 3012, San Diego, 1957, from members of 2d ITR, Camp Pendleton, 1958, and from those who served with Comm Section, H&S Co, 2/4, 3dMarDiv, MCAS Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, 1958-1960.
- · Mort Zachter, 541 Lake Dr., Princeton, NJ 08540, (609) 279-9870, mort zachter@msn.com, to hear from anyone who knew or has information about Gil HODGES, who served with the 16th Antiaircraft Artillery Bn, Okinawa, 1943-46.
- Former Sgt Bill Will, 517 Tiller Ave., Beachwood, NJ 08722, sgtbillusmc@web tv.net, to hear from Henry "Red" KEEP-ING or other members of VMF(N)-114, 1950-51, and from members of Plt 26, Parris Island, 1948.
- GySgt Robert Moyer, 441 Hwy. 172, Hubert, NC 28539, (910) 545-4408, robert.moyer@usmc.mil, to hear from anyone who served with his father, Cpl R. H. MOYER, in Ration Plt, H&S Co, Supply Bn, 3d FSR, FMFPac, either before, during or after the Vietnam War.
- Marine veteran John Gibson, 36 Zaca Ln., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401, (805) 528-9730, fax: (805) 528-9731, JohnGib1 @aol.com, Web site: www.gibsonent.com, to hear from or about Gary METZ from Media, Pa., who served from 1969 to
- Marine veteran Bruce Davenport, 10525 E. Pantano Trl., Tucson, AZ 85730, (520) 298-6440, brdavenport@ msn.com, to hear from or about John J. STYERS, author of "Cold Steel," who took him to MCB Quantico, Va., to buy a pistol and fire on the FBI range.
- Kimberly Lawson, 5427 Aurora Ave., #246, Des Moines, IA 50310, kimberly lawson2004@yahoo.com, to hear from

- or about Sgt Andrew WILLIS, who was a recruiter at a mall in Des Moines, 1991, then was stationed in Hawaii, 1993.
- Marine veteran Joseph Motyka, 310 Millbrook Rd., Oxford, NY 13830, joseph _motyka_2000@yahoo.com, to hear from anyone who knows what happened to 2d Bn, 27th Marines, after Motyka was medevacked, 1968.
- Danez E. Collett, 202 Sadler Dr., Douglasville, GA 30134, (770) 489-7388, danezd@bellsouth.net, to hear from or about Steve LILLARD from Hialeah, Fla., who joined the Marines circa 1976-77 and was stationed at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C.
- Marine veteran Wallace L. Podell, 17 Francis St., Wrightstown, NJ 08562, (609) 723-7576, to hear from members of Hq Co, Force H&S Bn, FMFPac, Camp Catlin, Hawaii, 1945-48, or from any Marines who served with him on the I & I staff, 2d AutoFldMaint Co, New Haven, Conn., 1954-58.
- Former Sgt Dale Wilson Sr., 406 Wigginton Rd., Lynchburg, VA 24502, Wzeke35@aol.com, to hear from anyone who served with 3d Guard Plt, Marine Barracks NGF, Washington, D.C., including PFC "4 Life" COLEMAN from Ohio; PFC Bobby THRIFT from Washington, D.C.; Sgt PAYNE from Lynchburg, Va.; Sgt Henry E. FLEM-ING from Lubbock, Texas; Cpl Robert E. Lee DAVIS from North Carolina; GySgt Harvey BARR; GySgt George BAILEY; Sgt Lee GIRTMAN; Cpl WILLIAMS; Cpl MILLER; Cpl BROWN; and Cpl HAND from Waycross, Ga., or from anyone else who remembers when Wilson ran the slop chute at the barracks.
- Former Cpl Chuck Winnicki, 357 Farraday Rd., Durango, CO 81303, (970) 946-4090, to hear from or about LtCol William M. SULLIVAN, USMC (Ret), who graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy, 1955, and was a platoon leader for Co I, 3-3-3, FMFPac, before serving as battalion adjutant, H&S Co, 3-3.

Gyrene Gyngles

Edited by Mary D. Karcher

Please submit copies of original poems with first publishing rights and author's permission to print granted to *Leatherneck*. Poems may be edited or shortened, as necessary. Due to volume received, submissions will not be acknowledged or returned.

The Miracle at Chosin

Eleven days of battle Over perilous mountain tract, Fifteen thousand men Fought their way to Koto-ri. Frozen and exhausted, They were surrounded by the enemy When a blinding snowstorm arose. Reinforcements were grounded, The road to Hungnam blocked, And thoughts of freedom faded to woe. So they waited and prayed For the storm to subside As the enemy held fast to their ground. Then the wind and snow dwindled, And in the clear night sky Emerged one radiant star. Songs and shouts filled the air, Men knelt down in prayer, And hopes were now soaring high. Down the mountain they marched, Then on to Hungnam and liberty, While the nemesis lay defeated to the rear. The Battle of Chosin, an epic triumph, Allowed a small nation to stand tall And its citizens to live without fear. Now that brilliant star That lit the dark Korean sky Is a symbol of honor and bravery. It embodies the spirit of the "Chosin Few" And is known as the Star O'er Koto-ri. Lisa C. Beatty

Highest Tradition

At this time of joy and celebration, As winter comes in, turning to cold, We must never forget the revelation Given to the shepherds of old.

During this year of turmoil and strife,
As we lost more of the best, bravest and brightest,
Remember, for the cause of freedom they gave their life.
In love for others, they passed the ultimate test.

How do we honor these new shining stars Whose fight for right has not ceased? We must in all lands near and far Always, always strive for peace.

Mark O'Neal

A Veteran's Christmas Wish

Each year when Christmas comes around again, I pause on Christmas Eve to take a dram Of whisky, and I think of absent friends And Christmas in a place called Vietnam.

I think of boys who never had the chance To see their kids on Christmas Eve at play. Their lives were spent that freedom might advance, From Valley Forge right up through yesterday.

They fell at Belleau Wood and Normandy, At Gettysburg, at Iwo and at Hue. They gave their lives to keep our people free And never saw another Christmas Day.

So take a moment from your festive joys
To think of soldiers who were young and true,
And say a prayer on Christmas Eve for boys
Who gave up all their Christmases for you.

Robert A. Hall ©2000

Freedom Returns in the Silence of Night

The silence of night, false protection lulls us.

Sound-deadening darkness engulfs us with noise.

Alertness of the watch numbs our feelings.

The unknown runs rampant in our minds.

Senses betrayed, reality of war.

Animal instinct, acting without thought.

Scream of survival, adrenaline to our body.

Soul betrayed, question of courage.

Light, the brightness blinds us.
Noise, a choreographed death unfolds.
Keys to life are vigilance and reaction.
Darkness, we see again.
Dreams, stupor, we must sort it out.
Life moves onward; we have survived.
Passing of time invigorates our soul.
New life to build, families grow.

Horrors of dreams, the past returns.
Fall of survival, minds unraveled.
Dreams, reality, life moves forward.
The compassion of man nurtures the soul.
Silence of the night, trust of those fallen.
Memories cataloged, dreams put aside.
Fears, dreams, a mind runs rampant no more.
Family and friends, a life returns.

Jim Kitson

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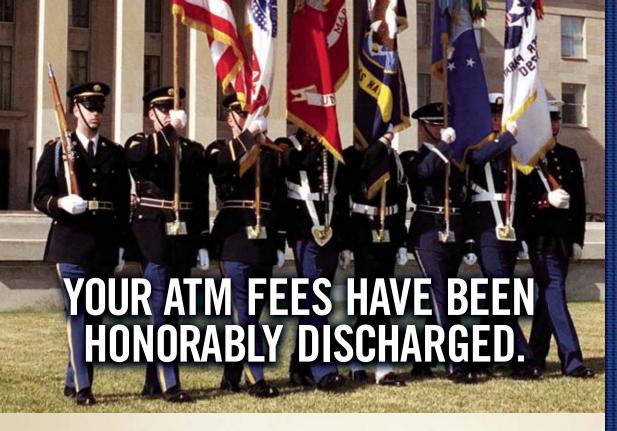
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