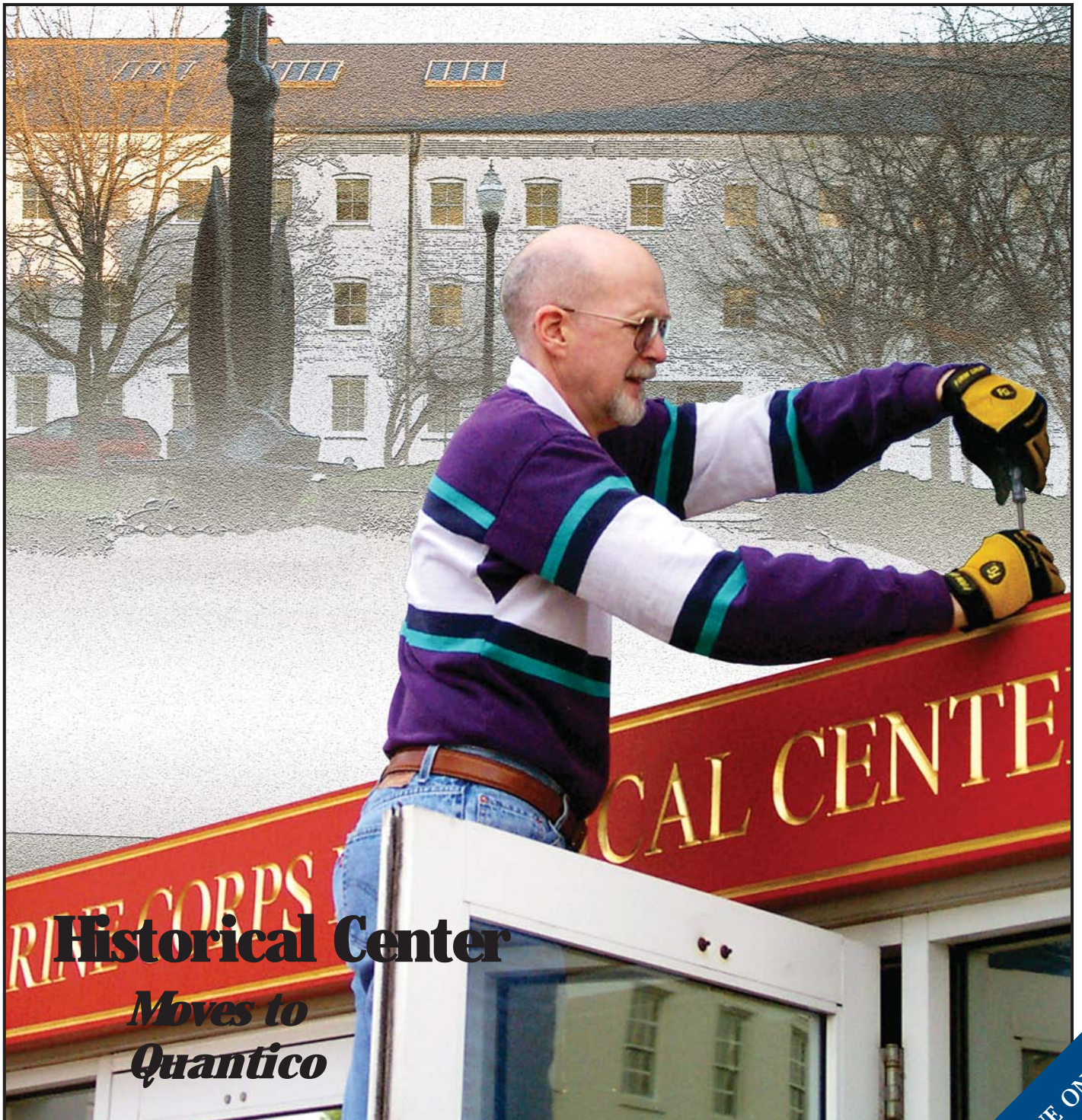


# FORTITUDINE

BULLETIN OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

HISTORICAL BULLETIN VOLUME XXXII, NUMBER 1

2005



## Historical Center

*Moves to  
Quantico*

IT WILL NEVER BE THE SAME... PACIFIC BATTLE SITES REVISITED... HUMANITARIAN SERIES COVERS LIBERIA  
NEW STORAGE FOR ART... ALWAYS FAITHFUL ALWAYS FORWARD... I MEF SUPPORTS IRAQI ELECTION  
PARTING ARCHIVIST URGES PRESERVATION... CROSSROADS OF THE CORPS... HD PACKS FOR QUANTICO

PASS THIS ISSUE ON  
TO ANOTHER MARINE





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# FORTITUDINE

*Motto of the United States Marine Corps in the 1812 era.*

Historical Bulletin Vol. XXXII, No.1

2005

*“We can only know who we are by being certain of who we have been.”*

Gen Leonard F. Chapman Jr.  
24th Commandant of the Marine Corps

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

*Memorandum from the Director: It Will Never be the Same*  
Col John W. Ripley, USMC (Ret) ..... 3

*Pacific Battle Sites Revisited*  
Charles D. Melson ..... 4

*Heritage Center News: Stepping Up*  
Col Joseph C. Long, USMCR (Ret) ..... 6

*Exhibits News: History Division Packs for Quantico*  
Charles G. Grow ..... 7

*Marine Corps Chronology: 2003 Annual Chronology (Part II)*  
Kara R. Newcomer ..... 9

*History Writing: Humanitarian Series Covers Liberian Evacuations*  
Charles R. Smith ..... 11

*Combat Art: New Storage for Art Collection a Real Blessing*  
Charles G. Grow ..... 12

*Ordnance Collection: Ordnance Improves Security and Protection*  
Dieter Stenger ..... 14

*Oral History: Creating the Air-Ground Symbiosis*  
Fred H. Allison, Ph.D. .... 15

*Aviation Collection: Always Faithful, Always Forward*  
Michael E. Starn ..... 16

*Field History: Iraqi Elections: I MEF's Support of Elections in Al Anbar Province*  
LtCol John R. Way, USMCR ..... 17

*Archives: Parting Archivist Urges Expanded Records Preservation*  
Frederick J. Graboske ..... 19

*In Memoriam: Former Commandant Passes*  
Robert V. Aquilina ..... 20

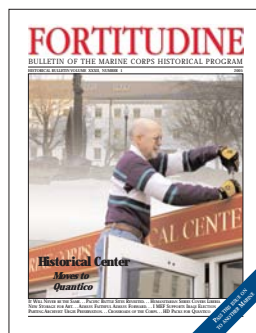
*Historical Quiz: Quantico: Crossroads of the Corps*  
Lena M. Kaljot ..... 21

*Book Notes: Commercial Books by HD Authors*  
Evelyn A. Englander ..... 22

*Answers to the Historical Quiz: Quantico: Crossroads of the Corps*  
Lena M. Kaljot ..... 23

**ABOUT THE COVER**

*Cover Illustration: Mr. Gordon Heim carefully removes the sign above the main entrance to Building 58 on the Washington Navy Yard that had welcomed visitors to the Marine Corps Historical Center for 30 years.*



This quarterly bulletin of the Marine Corps historical program is published for Marines, at the rate of one copy for every nine on active duty, to provide education and training in the uses of military and Marine Corps history. Other interested readers may purchase single copies or four-issue subscriptions from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office. The appropriate order form appears in this issue.

## It Will Never be the Same



*Col John W. Ripley, USMC (Ret)*

For those of us who have been a part of, or around, the Marine Corps we understand that change is the most reliable companion of a Marine. My first experience at this was hearing a Drill Instructor berate a supply clerk trying to issue the follow-on utilities to herringbones. His colorful language describing the change in uniform was memorable, followed by the statement “the Marine Corps will never be the same.” Every Marine has heard variations of this over new weapons, equipment, tactics or units that would replace their venerated predecessor.

Said many ways, change is the one thing you can be absolutely certain of—and often. Thus it should come as no surprise to our readers that as of this writing the History and Museums Division no longer exists; in fact, it ceased to be on 1 July 2005. As you read this, the new counterpart to the old HD now resides at the Marine Corps University in Quantico, Virginia. Further, the venerable Building 58, once the home of HD and of the Marine Corps Historical Center, is empty—devoid of Marines for the first

time since the British burned down its predecessor almost two centuries ago, occupied then by the Navy.

In truth, we have known of all this change for several years and have been preparing feverishly to make the transitions in each area. An extraordinary amount of work has been done in every section; Archives, Combat Art, Reference, Library, staff sections, Field History and so on. The work has been disruptive and in many cases back-breaking. A handful of employees were responsible for deconstructing all of the exhibits, separating the artifacts, constructing the shipping crates and packaging them, and finally, loading them onto the transport. A very conservative estimate of the savings to the Marine Corps because of this, as well as damage avoidance, is \$143,000.

Friends of Marine Corps history—just about everyone—may correctly ask “what about all of the good things we came to expect and appreciate of HD Division?” Please be assured that this will continue, and with the same well established quality

of the past. The most noticeable difference to those we serve will be that they will no longer go to the central organization, the History and Museums Division, but instead to the new Division itself: History, Museums or the Gray Research Center, which is now the location of Archives and the Reference Library. There will also be new faces and names in most of these locations. A number of familiar employees will have left by then and will be replaced.

One cannot avoid a feeling of nostalgia, and certainly pride, as we secure the hatch on Building 58; the long serving home of the Historical Center, the Marine Corps Museum and HD Division. The accomplishments that took place here are too numerous to list, as are the many Marines and employees who contributed to all of this. One, of course, who must be mentioned is our first director, Brigadier General Edwin H. Simmons, whose stamp on our history shall endure forever. Soon after the receipt of this issue you will hear that the Historical Center of the future will be a wing of the Gray Research Center to be constructed and dedicated to General Simmons; a most fitting and appropriate honor.

With the completion of the National Museum of the Marine Corps and its opening next November, and the establishment of History Division just a rifle shot away at the Marine Corps University, our former HD Division will live on in a different venue serving Marines, former Marines, and the American public in the manner they have come to expect. This time it will be in better facilities, surroundings and enhanced by being among a majority of the Marines we serve. Yes, it will never be the same—it will be better. □1775□



*Museum staff members Ronnie Alexander and Gordon Hiem carefully remove the stained glass HD emblem from above the main entrance of Building 58 on the Washington Navy Yard in preparation for HD's move to Quantico, Virginia, in September.*



# Pacific Battle Sites Revisited

by Charles D. Melson  
Chief Historian

Two Pacific island campaigns took on unique significance for the Americans and Japanese toward the end of World War II. The first was the July 1944 landing on Guam that liberated American soil and subjects. The latter was the February 1945 landing on Japanese soil for the first time at Iwo Jima. For the 60th Anniversary commemoration of the assault on Iwo Jima, the Director and Chief Historian of the History and Museums Division were offered an insight into novel and innovative ways to experience Marine history, going as military history tourists. This was the culmination of a series of planned events in February and March 1995, including presentations, ceremonies and a reunion organized by the Combat Veterans of Iwo Jima. Lieutenant General Lawrence F. Snowden offered comments as the senior ranking survivor: "We know that we share a common bond with our experience in this epic battle of World War II 60 years ago. We also share a common bond of hope."



Photo: Charles D. Melson

*One of three Japanese coastal defense guns overlooking Piti in the Piti Unit War in the Pacific National Historical Park. Although positioned to cover the main landing beaches, the guns were never used for that purpose.*

In support of the Commandant of the Marine Corps' participation in the ceremony on Iwo Jima, advantage was taken of the access and audience offered by Military Historical Tours of

Alexandria, Virginia. While the tour focused on Guam and Iwo Jima, side trips were available to Saipan and Tinian, Palau and Hawaii. After gathering in Los Angeles, California, and Honolulu, Hawaii, the Military History Tours group made the flight to Guam, arriving eight hours later in the middle of the night at the international airport. The Tuman Bay Outrigger hotel was a far cry from the sights and sounds of wartime.

Simultaneous bus tours were offered to both the southern and northern ends of Guam. This allowed visits to both the 21 July 1944 3d Marine Division landing beach at Asan and the 1st Provision Marine Brigade and 77th Infantry Division landing beach at Agat. Both of these are part of the National Park Service's War in the Pacific National Historical Park. While the waterfront views were impressive, the perspective from Fonte Plateau and Mount Alifan showed what the Americans had to contend with by having the defenders looking down their throats. A visit to the U.S. Naval Base on the Orote Peninsula included its museum and the former Marine Barracks site. The visit to Anderson U.S. Air Force base ended



Photo: DOD USMC 109634

*The beach in February 1945 was anything but peaceful as this view of the 5th Division's Green Beach shows. Bunched landing craft unload men and material under direct fire from Suribachi in the background, code named "Hot Rock" for good reason. Marines in the foreground try to dig in the volcanic ash beach.*

at the cliffs overlooking Tarague where Japanese organized resistance ended on 10 August 1944. Special events included a breakfast and banquet with the Governor of Guam and a 3d Marine Division Association barbecue. The social interaction these provided made the stay memorable, as remarked by the association chaplain Commander William (Gunny) Appleton, USN: "We have gathered as a band of brothers and sisters to pay tribute to our fellow Marines."

While the most time was spent on Guam, the day on Iwo Jima was the main event. The day began early, but this effort was brushed aside by the excitement of reaching the destination and a fly over to see the "Sulphur Island" for the first time. This set the stage for what followed. On Iwo Jima there were Marines and sailors from today's III Marine Expeditionary Force and Seventh Fleet for a professional military education experience, an American tour group, and a Japanese tour group. All were making the same pilgrimage to this site of a major blood letting for both sides. This was duly recognized at a combined ceremony at the landing beaches with speeches and wreath laying. At this event, General Michael W. Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps, noted: "Regardless of whether you represent the American or Japanese contingent, the battle of Iwo Jima remains a landmark of mass courage and individual honor."

The beaches used by the 4th and 5th Marine Divisions on 19 February 1945 were the center of initial attention for the veterans and the media. This was followed by the trip to Mount Suribachi that was certainly much easier with an all-weather road and humvee ride than it was for the 28th Marines. Even so, some pilgrims made the hike to reach this critical piece of terrain with its flag raising monument and view of the rest of the island. After these events, most resorted to the humvee shuttle service that made a circuit of the island.

Stamina and curiosity allowed cross-country movement through the center of the island to the location of airfield number one. Various bunkers and defensive positions were being dug

up and searched for remains by the Japanese government. The amount of war debris this uncovered was impressive. The heart of the defenses at the northern end of the island was where the 3d Marine Division ended up and maybe more telling than the landing beaches and Suribachi. This was where the stubborn Japanese were located in truly daunting fortifications that had to be taken one by one. Access to the headquarters and hospital caves provided insight into what it must have been like. The remains of the Japanese defenders and missing Americans make this truly hallowed ground for all that come to pay respects.

Colonel Warren H. Wiedhahn, USMC (Ret), runs Alexandria, Virginia-based Military History Tours, with the claim "where history travel comes alive!" While offering a variety of World War II, Korea and Vietnam programs, by far the recurring favorite is the Iwo Jima trip. Aply supported by chartered Continental Micronesia flights, for most this is the only way to get to the island that is a Japanese military base in the middle of the Central Pacific. For those Marines, sailors, soldiers and airmen who served in the Pacific, Guam and Iwo Jima hold a

special meaning. This meaning is reflected by the numbers of veterans returning after 60 years, often accompanied by family members. The media, enthusiasts and academics also went to share in this event.

For those desiring this type of experience, do your homework and read ahead from available maps and references. Keep in mind that natural and man-made changes will often affect what you see and how you will travel. While the orientation presentations and bus tours were informative and an efficient way to cover a lot of ground, you might put aside extra time to explore specific places of interest. Take advantage of your fellow participants who can have personal experience or intensive background that they would be willing to share. Get to know your tour guides and take advantage of their expertise and local knowledge as well. Eat and drink in moderation and get your rest because most of the Pacific battlefields are not developed and can be physically demanding (watch out for sun burn in the tropics). Remember that the veterans have been there before and will move slower. Be alert for medical conditions or situations.

For more information, go to [www.miltours.com](http://www.miltours.com). ☐1775☐



Photo: DOD USMC 93677

*The liberation of Guam in 1944 was especially meaningful because of the long association of Guam with America and its Chamorro population. PFC John F. Sevara listens to this family's ordeal at the U.S. Naval Base. The Japanese forced all adults to work in the fields or on defenses, often leaving the children unattended.*



## Stepping Up

by Col Joseph C. Long, USMCR (Ret)  
Marine Corps Heritage Center  
Project Manager

When I enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1966, instead of the mandatory Physical Fitness Test that we all are used to now, we had a Physical Readiness Test. We climbed a rope in full gear, ran, did a fireman's carry and performed a number of other physically demanding feats. One event required us to step onto an 18-inch-tall bench and back down 60 times in less than two minutes. It was called the "Step Up."

Later that same year I found myself a radio operator with 2d Battalion, 9th Marines, near the Demilitarized Zone of Vietnam. A not uncommon topic of conversation dealt with such-and-such a squad being so decimated they had a private first class as squad leader. The usual term for describing that young Marine's leadership character was that he had been willing to step up.

Stepping up is an attribute strongly instilled in Marines, and the architecture of our new National Museum of the Marine Corps reflects that fine quality. The museum is, of course, a

stylized representation of Joe Rosenthal's famous World War II photograph of the flag-raising on Iwo Jima. But more than that, the mast thrusting skyward seems to be saying, "onward, ever upward ... get moving ... step up!" The ribbed supports shout, "We are in this together ... Marines supporting Marines ... step up!" Even the earthwork rising around the steel structure speaks to the visitor to raise their eyes and see the very ethos of our heritage and training, urging us to step up and up and up.

The mast in the air, the supports in place and countless tasks being performed will make this architectural statement a reality. Designed by Brian Chaffee, a principal with Fentress-Bradburn Architects of Denver, this facility that will house our marvelous



*Construction continues on schedule for the 2006 opening of the National Museum of the Marine Corps.*

exhibitory is still on schedule for a fall 2006 opening.

Runner-up in the architectural competition was a beautifully designed long, low building that had a fort-looking façade. Little discussion was required to relegate it to the list of those that did not win. After all, Marines are not about forts. Marines are about ... well ... stepping up.

Design and Production, Inc. of Lorton, Virginia, continues to plan, fabricate and acquire items needed for the telling of our story. At this writing we are dealing with myriad related issues. Among them is work to ensure all the aircraft hanging points are satisfactory while coordinating the moving of other large artifacts onto the site as early as possible.

The visitor observation point near the entrance to the site has been equipped with a photo-quality rendering of the finished museum. Now the visitor can stand on that deck and literally see how the rising steel and glass fit into the overall picture of the project. We encourage visitors to check our progress. We believe you will find it inspirational. □1775□



*This view of the towering spire of the National Museum of the Marine Corps clearly shows how the Iwo Jima flag raising inspired the design of the new building.*

# History Division Packs for Quantico

by *Charls G. Grow*  
Curator of Art

Last September the president of Marine Corps University, retired Major General Donald R. Gardner, announced his intention to consolidate History Division (HD) assets at Quantico, Virginia, no later than November 2005. Faced with a sharp increase in work directly related to the soon-to-open National Museum of the Marine Corps, we listened to the President's news and inferred a chaotic new schedule, which eclipsed our hope to focus on the museum. After a few stunned moments we did as all good Marines do, our thoughts drifted toward successful mission conclusion. The director of HD, retired Colonel John W. Ripley, required us to support various World War II related activities while planning and executing the move. There was a lot going on and we were missing several key billet holders. Few things work as well as challenge to hone a team.

Moving a museum full of artifacts is not as simple as tossing deuce gear into a 5-ton truck. We broke the Herculean project into small pieces and sequenced them to take advantage of organic manpower assets. We prepared places to stage and store the rare and fragile physical symbols of our Corps' history. We procured packing materials, developed a phased implementation plan, and prepared to retrograde to Quantico in April after most of the bad weather cleared and all of the major public support missions were complete.

Smaller challenges throughout the process kept things interesting. For instance, several team members left the division, which resulted in additional tasks for the remaining curators, historians and exhibit specialists. The number of government credit cards was reduced to one cardholder, which made ordering supplies interesting. Hard-charging Lance Corporal Frederick M. Badke shouldered most of the burden of getting supplies after our budget analyst left. Some HD per-



Photo: USMC History Division

*Museums Division personnel Ronnie D. Alexander (left), Neil B. Abelsma and Gordon H. Heim carefully wheel a cannon from its display in the Marine Corps Historical Center to a waiting truck that will haul this artifact and others to Quantico, Virginia, where many will be placed in the Marine Corps' new museum once it is completed in late 2006.*

sonnel opened their own wallets to procure items necessary for crating and packing. Even after we were closed for weeks, veterans continued to trickle in from around the country, and we always took time to honor their service. In the midst of our hectic schedule, the Navy unexpectedly contracted to replace the windows in Building 58, a situation that significantly changed phase lines, priorities and the ability to secure priceless artifacts. All these issues worked to strengthen our resolve; we were moving to Quantico without injuring persons or property.

Starting in February after supporting the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima, personnel from the Museums Branch constructed temporary walls to limit public access to the Special Exhibits Gallery (SEG).

Artifacts and exhibits were removed from the Korean War exhibit. Items were carefully wrapped, packed and moved to long-term storage or staged for inclusion in upcoming exhibits. Some items were disassembled and transported to other commands for future display; Parris Island, Camp Johnson, the Marine Corps Band and Headquarters Marine Corps were the big recipients. When the SEG was empty of artifacts, it was changed into a staging area for the packing and temporary storage of items such as works of art, artifacts and hundreds of boxes of books from the Research Library.

Additional temporary walls were erected in the Time Tunnel to cordon half the exhibits. Museums Branch personnel constructed braces to keep the heavy top-hinged glass cases open. Curators carefully removed uni-





Photo: USMC History Division

*Uniforms and Heraldry Curator Neil B. Abelsma painstakingly removes a Marine Corps unit flag from its exhibit backing prior to packing the artifact for transport to its new home in Quantico, Virginia, where the National Museum of the Marine Corps is being built.*

forms from manikins, cataloged and packed them, and transported artifacts and weapons to various locales on Quantico. For two weeks HD personnel emptied the north half of the Time Tunnel. Plans to move the temporary barriers to enclose the second half of the Time Tunnel quickly changed when the Navy's window replacement contractors appeared on the scene.

The window contractors needed everything out of the window wells, which included 28 windows that were covered by exhibit cases. Due to safety and security concerns, the museum was closed to the public on 15 April and work shifted from the center of the building to the perimeter. Curators and exhibit personnel separated disparate activities; artifact handling was quarantined from deconstruction work. Hundreds of works of art were moved from locations near windows. Everything from the window exhibit cases was safely stored at Quantico in a matter of weeks and two large roll-off dumpsters were filled with demolition debris.

When the window contractors shifted to the second deck, curators and exhibit personnel focused on removing antique crew-served weapons exhibited along the western corridor.

These items were heavy and some required disassembly. The exhibit restoration crew worked with the ordnance curator and others to load a dozen landing guns, howitzers and rare machine guns for transport to Quantico. After a couple of sweat-soaked days, focus returned to the museum deck.

The north end of the museum deck housed nine large dioramas that were built into the walls. Exhibit personnel carefully removed the half-century-old dioramas from their double-thick dry-wall and wood mounts. Dollies and protective coverings were used to safely stage the dioramas while work was completed at Quantico to prepare a long-term storage space. After two weeks of heavy lifting and surgical deconstruction, the dioramas rested safely in the primary staging area. Work then shifted to crating artifacts. The building smelled of sawdust and mildew, which was uncovered when the windows were cleared of exhibits. The sounds of progress echoed through the increasingly empty halls. The last element of this phase is to remove exhibit furniture and lighting grids from the south end of the Special Exhibits Gallery so the Senate Curator can contract to remove their eighteenth-century heroic-sized Walker

painting titled, Chapultepec.

All the civil servants and young Marines involved in this process were real team players. Everyone dutifully shouldered multiple tasks resultant of their job, the temporary spike incurred by the National Museum of the Marine Corps, and relocation to Quantico. Marines and civilians went above and beyond in a series of months that consistently involved 10- to 12-hour days. However, a couple of people really stood out. Master woodcrafter Gordon Heim was extraordinarily valuable throughout this process. His innovative approach to difficult problems resulted in an outcome that was damage free, ahead of schedule and tens of thousands of dollars under budget. The same must be said for uniform and heraldry curator Neil B. Abelsma. These individuals were key to keeping myriad projects on track.

The next major phase of the project will be the relocation of the art collection, which contains more than 8,500 paintings, drawings and sculptures. With a little luck, a lot of teamwork and some sweat, this project will enjoy the same happy ending.

□1775□



Photo: USMC History Division

*Contractors replaced the windows in Building 58, significantly altering how the History Division mounted out artifacts from the facility.*



## 2003 Annual Chronology (Part II)

by Kara R. Newcomer  
Reference Historian

The “Current Chronology of the Marine Corps” serves as a valuable source of information on significant events and dates in contemporary Marine Corps history. Since 1982, the Reference Section at the Marine Corps Historical Center has compiled the yearly chronology by researching numerous primary and secondary sources each week. The following highlights entries from the second half of the 2003 Chronology.

**11 July** – 2d Air and Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (ANGLICO) was reactivated at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, after being disbanded in 1998. The mission of the company was to provide Marine Air Ground Task Force commanders a liaison capability with foreign area expertise to plan, coordinate, employ and conduct radio communications for air, sea and land support fire for joint, allied and coalition forces. A few months later, on 19 September, 1st ANGLICO was reactivated at Camp Pendleton, California.

**27 July** – Beloved performer and comedian Bob Hope died of pneumonia at the age of 100. Mr. Hope began entertaining U.S. troops early in 1941, first entering a combat area in 1943, and continued to be a mainstay for nearly 50 years.

**27 July** – Korean War veterans converged on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the armistice that brought an uneasy end to the three-year war. Many applauded Deputy Defense Secretary Paul D. Wolfowitz as he announced renewed efforts to locate the remains of more than 8,000 Americans still officially listed as missing in action from the conflict, stating: “The Korean War will not be over for us until every American is brought home or accounted for.”

**22 August** – 13th Marine

Expeditionary Unit (MEU), after earning the special operations capable (SOC) designation 8 August, was the first Marine unit to deploy with the Navy’s new seagoing concept, the expeditionary strike group (ESG). The 13th MEU (SOC) composed the Strike Warfare Component for ESG-1, a seven-ship battle group designed to provide a mobile, agile, lethal and flexible Navy-Marine force.

**28 August** – Marine Tiltrotor Test and Evaluation Squadron 22 (VMX-22) was activated at Marine Corps Air Station New River, North Carolina. The squadron was tasked with the operational testing and evaluation of the MV-22 Osprey aircraft and future tiltrotor-related systems.

**3 September** – I Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) transferred authority for five provinces in southern Iraq to the Polish-led Multinational Division Central-South at a ceremony at Camp Babylon, Iraq. Marines handed control of Najaf to a Spanish-led



Photo: DoD 20037147434

*LtCol John M. Owens, commanding officer, and GSgt Daniel K. Brown, acting sergeant major, both with 2d Air and Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, II Marine Expeditionary Force, unfurl the unit flag at the 2d ANGLICO reactivation ceremony 11 July in front of the II MEF Headquarters Building.*

force on 22 September. The delay in the second transfer was due to a deadly car bombing in the city on 29 August outside a mosque.

**3 September** – Legendary Marine General Raymond G. Davis, who received the Medal of Honor for leading the rescue of besieged Marines at the Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War, died of a heart attack in Conyers, Georgia, at the age of 88. General Davis served in the Marine Corps for 34 years, was a combat veteran of three wars, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps in the early 1970s, and was among the United States’ most highly decorated military officers. He was buried at Forestlawn Memorial Gardens in College Park, Georgia, with full military honors.

**26 September** – Commandant of the Marine Corps General Michael Hagee was among those present for the groundbreaking for the National Museum of the Marine Corps. The museum, with a projected opening date during 2006, would be located outside the main gate of the Quantico Marine Corps Base in Virginia and was expected to eventually draw nearly 500,000 visitors a year.

**30 September** – The last AV-8B Harrier jet was delivered to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point. The newest Harrier was the 360th of the Boeing jets provided to the Corps over the last 18 years. Although the Harrier and its counterparts would still be used for several years to come, plans called for its eventual replacement by the Lockheed Martin-designed Joint Strike Fighter.

**9 October** – The 8th Marine’s regimental headquarters was re-established at Camp Lejeune, 86 years to the day of when it was first established within the 2d Marine Division, after standing down from supporting the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade

(Anti-Terrorism). Three infantry battalions were later re-assigned to the regiment.

**13 October** – Marines of the 13th MEU (SOC) arrived in southern Iraq, setting up on the Al-Faw peninsula. Under the British-led Multinational Division Southeast, the 13th MEU (SOC) was tasked with disrupting illegal activities such as oil smuggling as well as providing humanitarian assistance.

**21 October** – Marines of the 26th MEU returned to Camp Lejeune from an eight-month deployment, which included combat operations on the ground near Mosul in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom and participation in the peacekeeping efforts in the West African nation of Liberia. The return of the 26th MEU, however, left the European and West African areas without a Marine presence for the second time in as many years. The lapse in coverage was a necessary void designed to get East Coast MEU deployments back on track after Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**23 October** – Today marked the 20th anniversary of the bombing of the Marine Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. The 1983 suicide attack killed 241 American servicemen, including 220 Marines, and launched a new era in the Middle East. Although no one knows for sure who was behind the bombing, a federal judge in Washington in a lawsuit filed by 153 families ruled in May 2003 that Iran funded the bombing. The governing body of Iran was ordered to pay restitution to survivors and relatives.

**28 October** – The Marine Corps announced that Marines up for unaccompanied assignments to Japan would begin to receive 24-month orders instead of 12-months starting in the spring of 2004. The intent in changing the service's assignment policy for the more than 17,000 Marines assigned to III MEF and Marine Corps Bases Japan was to increase unit effectiveness and reflected a steady improvement in the living conditions and entertainment options for Marines assigned to Pacific outposts.

**3 November** – I MEF was awarded



Photo: DoD, USMC

*Crews search the devastation that had been the Marine Corps Barracks and headquarters building for Battalion Landing Team 1/8 in Beirut, Lebanon. The 23 October 1983 suicide attack killed 241 American servicemen, 220 were Marines.*

the Presidential Unit Citation, the highest possible unit commendation, for “extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance” during the invasion of Iraq. It was the first time the award had been presented to a Marine unit since the height of the Vietnam War in 1968. Also approved was the awarding of the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation to 22d MEU (SOC) for its participation in Operation Enduring Freedom during 2002.

**5 November** – Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld announced that Marine Corps units would return to Iraq as part of the U.S. troop rotation. The first 20,000 Marines and sailors of the Camp Pendleton-based I MEF were expected to replace the Army's 82d Airborne Division by February 2004. The deployment was expected to last seven months with another 20,000-strong Marine force replacing them after that for another seven months.

**17 November** – Brigadier General (select) Joseph V. Medina, an experienced infantry officer, was the first Marine to take the helm of the Navy's newest strike group, ESG-3, which was scheduled to deploy the following summer. It was the Pacific Fleet's second operational strike group to stand up since the Navy reshaped the composition of its seagoing forces. General Medina, on board his flagship USS *Belleau Wood* (LHA 3), led the

seven-vessel force along with 11th MEU in numerous exercises in preparation for the next year's overseas duty.

**24 November** – The last CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter was delivered to the Marine Corps Air Station New River by officials from the manufacturer, Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation. Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 461, the first squadron to receive the CH-53E in December 1980, was also the last. The Marine Corps received 172 of the second-generation CH-53 helicopters over the past 23 years and has utilized the CH-53E in nearly every operation since Vietnam.

**10 December** – Marine Sergeant Christopher Chandler, who lost his left leg below the knee after stepping on a land mine in Kandahar, Afghanistan, 16 December 2001, jumped into the history books as the first service member retained on active duty with a prosthetic limb to graduate from the U.S. Army Basic Airborne Course.

**3 December** – American soldiers captured former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein after discovering him hidden away in the dark of a tiny, underground burrow near his hometown of Tikrit, Iraq. His identity was confirmed through DNA testing.

**31 December** – The strength of the U.S. Armed Forces was 1,462,779, of whom 177,030 were U.S. Marines.

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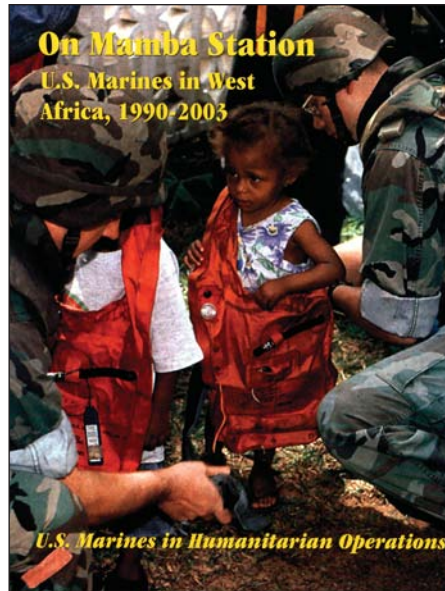
# Humanitarian Series Covers Liberian Evacuations

by Charles R. Smith  
History Writing Head

As the reign of Liberian president Charles Taylor collapsed and rebel forces closed in on the capital city, Monrovia, in the summer of 2003, the neighboring countries in West Africa and the United Nations called on the United States to honor its historical ties to Liberia and intervene to quell the violence. Eventually, a small group of Marines from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit and other Service members arrived and helped African peacekeepers bring order to the beleaguered capital. This was not the first time Marines had intervened in Liberia's troubled history. The story of the Corp's involvement is chronicled in the most recent addition to the History Division's growing U.S. Marines in Humanitarian Operations series, *On Mamba Station: U.S. Marines in West Africa, 1990-2003*, by two of the Division's staff historical writers, Major James G. Antal and Major R. John Vanden Berghe.

For most the county's history, from 1821 when Captain Richard Stockton surveyed the coastline of West Africa looking for land to start a new homeland for freed American slaves until the end of World War II, the United States maintained a "love-hate" relationship with the West African nation. But with the shift in geopolitical tensions, the relationship changed. During the Cold War, the United States, in return for foreign investment, used Liberia as a base of operations and as an intelligence center for all of Africa.

Liberia's changing governments during the period did not diminish the country's strategic importance. In 1980, a low-ranking military officer, Master Sergeant Samuel K. Doe, led a bloody coup that ended the more than a century rule by the descendants of freed American slaves (Americo-Liberian class). The United States accepted the fraudulent Doe government and funneled millions of dollars to Liberia during the 1980s in an effort to stem Soviet expansionism and



Libyan influence in Africa. Even when fugitive Charles Taylor entered Liberia and ignited a ruinous civil war in 1989, the United States, while encouraging the Economic Community of West African States to mediate a peace settlement, initiated a noncombatant evacuation operation but did not intercede.

The Marine Corps' support for the American citizens and the American Embassy in Monrovia in 1990 and during Liberia's 14-year civil war would eventually involve six different Marine Air-Ground Task Forces. Antal's and Vanden Berghe's history begins with the preliminary exchanges between Colonel Granville R. Amos' 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit command element and the embassy staff, and significant actions from May to August, which led to the embassy's 4 August 1990 decision to evacuate and draw down selected sites throughout the country. From the landing on 5 August until mid-February the following year, Amos' Marines conducted security, support and noncombatant evacuations while rebel and government forces battled in the streets of the capital and West African peacekeepers attempted to find a peaceful solution.

A tenuous ceasefire remained in

effect for only eight months following the Marines' departure in February and then the bloodletting began again. With the reintroduction of American forces in April 1996 comes the arrival and deployment of the Marines as a joint task force. Antal and Vanden Berghe examine the deployment, command relationships, political military relationships, the fighting and Marines' actions at the embassy. They follow with an account of the Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force, the last Marine unit in Liberia. Included is a narrative of the unit's deployment, turnover, actions ashore and its final phased withdrawal from the embassy on 3 August 1996. The account of the May 1996 evacuation from the Central African Republic and the May 1997 evacuation from Freetown, Sierra Leone, provides other related examples of Marine responsiveness in noncombatant evacuation operations.

Sick of war, the Liberian people elected Charles Taylor president in 1997, fearing he would continue the fighting if he did not win election. Under Taylor, government security forces beat, tortured and humiliated the Liberian people; there was no change.

When Taylor agreed to step down from power in the summer of 2003 and leave for exile in Nigeria, it again took the physical presence of American Marines to quell the restive capital, end the violence and establish the early stages of a tenuous peace that would allow the warring Liberian factions to establish a transitional government.

Other publications in the Marine Corps History Division's Humanitarian Series include: *Humanitarian Operations in Northern Iraq, 1991: With Marines in Operation Provide Comfort; Angles from the Sea: Relief Operations in Bangladesh, 1991; and A Skillful Show of Strength: U.S. Marines in the Caribbean, 1991-1996.*

□1775□



## New Storage for Art Collection a Real Blessing

by Charles G. Grow  
Curator of Art

For three decades the Marine Corps Art Collection has resided in the basement of Building 58 at the Washington Navy Yard. Despite a concerted and sustained effort by Mr. Jack Dyer and others to improve conditions, change has been slow to come. Multiple floods, heat spikes, air conditioning failures and humidity levels that frequently exceed 80 percent during summer months have all worked to create a hostile environment for the 8,500 works that visually record the Corps' history. Broad tem-

*LtCol Keith McConnell's 1975 line drawings of Vietnamese refugees were water damaged and attacked by mold.*

*This watercolor by renowned Marine Corps combat artist Col Peter Gish sustained advanced mold damage.*





perature ranges and mold threaten many works. A few of the paintings on paper have been irreparably damaged by mold. Other works exhibit water damage. Seventeen heroic-sized works by Lieutenant Colonel J. Joseph Capolino, a World War I and II era artist, have sustained extensive damage due partly to improper storage. In addition, combat artists' sketchbooks and drawings frequently suffer water damage in the field. The environmental controls in Building 58 often cause these preexisting conditions to worsen. In short, the Corps' visual heritage is not in a good place.

After years of planning, this invaluable collection will move to a purpose-built storage facility at Quantico, Virginia. The Heritage Foundation, History Division, Marine Corps University and a very kind donor, Mr. Ansari with MIC Industries, pooled resources to build a new structure during fiscal year 2005. This new building will correct many of the well-documented archival challenges at the art collection's current location.

Until 2003, two small dehumidifiers struggled to stabilize humidity levels in the art storage area. After much documentation, we procured new dehumidifiers, which collectively remove nearly 14 gallons of water



*The basement door of Building 58 was sealed with tape and putty to keep out flood waters during the rainy season.*

from the basement air on a daily basis during the most humid days of summer. The spread of mold has diminished greatly. Two electronic air purifiers helped to reduce the smell of mold and mildew in the main art storage area. All of this will change in the new building, more time will be spent managing the collection and less time plugging leaks in a fatally cracked dike.

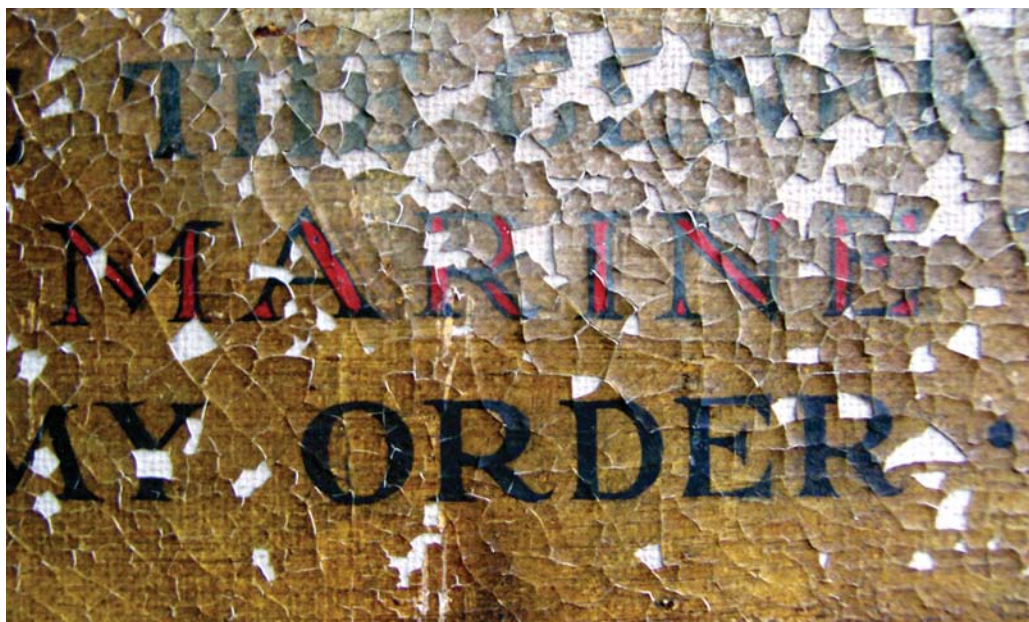
The new Art Storage Facility is designed to maintain industry standard temperature and relative humidity levels for a collection of works on canvas and paper. An industrial strength environmental control system will work independently of the base heating plan to ensure the art enjoys

minimal environmental shifts throughout the year. The new building will have several other benefits, too. Researchers will no longer have to move boxes and files to create temporary work surfaces. They will enjoy a space designed specifically for their purposes. Storage will improve. Currently drawers and wooden bins overflow with work; new metal storage systems will safely store the existing collection and accommodate growth. Workspace will increase. The existing amount of flat workspace for managing projects and assessing artwork is limited to six by nine feet; this will expand significantly to support large research and exhibit projects. For the first time ever we will be able to set up and photograph large images under controlled lighting conditions. The new facility will have a room specifically designed for photographing large works and glossy sculptural patinas. There also will be a special location for artists and conservators to work with paintings.

So what does this mean to the average Marine? Future generations will be able to visit the collection and view images that tell the story of the citizen soldiers who wore the eagle, globe and anchor in places like Tarawa, Vietnam and Iraq. Famous artists who served as Marines will continue to have a legacy in the collection.

A few examples include famed western artists Tom Lovell, John Clymer, Howard Terpning and Harry Jackson. The collection also includes several period pieces from the 18th and 19th centuries that portray Marines in general and a few specific individuals. These invaluable images predate photography. Modern masters such as Peter Michael Gish and Henry Casselli, both of whom served as combat artists, will continue to be represented in the Corps' collection. Your history will be safe, ready for display, and available for serious researchers who want to write about the

Marine Corps, world events, or individual Marines. □1775□



*Close-up image of a painting that records the Marines' bravery at Belleau Woods. The poor surface condition was exacerbated by years of storage in a non-climate controlled warehouse.*

# Ordnance Improves Security and Protection

by Dieter Stenger  
NMMC Assistant Curator

The appropriate storage of artifacts is an essential element of professional curatorial stewardship. Indeed, the Marine Corps Museum's small arms weapons collection, which constitutes the largest segment of the ordnance collection, has unique storage requirements. The museum has collected significant Marine Corps small arms, captured small arms and examples of various weapons systems covering more than 60 years. The collection includes more than 3,000 reportable weapons ranging from the American Revolution to the present.

The automatic weapons collection, arguably the most notable portion of the collection, was acquired from a project headed by retired Lieutenant Colonel George Chinn in the 1950s, which aimed to document the history of the machine gun for the Department of the Navy. Subsequent additions by significant donors include the Maxim machine gun prototype and a unique Maxim .22-caliber submachine gun. The Thomas A. Grant collection was donated in the late 1970s and consists of several extremely rare muskets, all in museum condition. Many experimental weapons, including Garands, Stoners and mid-19th century repeaters, are found in the museum's collection, as are weapons owned by famous Marines such as Major Generals Merritt Edson and John A. Lejeune. Researchers frequent the collection and nearly every contemporary book on U.S. military small arms credits the institution. While some of the weapons will be used in the standing exhibits in the National Museum of the Marine Corps, a comprehensive "armory" exhibit is planned in a future expansion of the museum.

But storing this impressive collection has always presented a problem. The diversity of weapons speaks to the natural variety in size and weight. Standardized government rifle racks, such as the type found in most modern Marine Corps armories, were never

suitable for the full range of weapons in the collection. Lacking funds for creative solutions, the museum originally fabricated non-locking racks, which inadvertently reduced protection against damage and theft and a waiver was required from Headquarters Marine Corps. To further complicate matters, the large number of weapons fragmented the collection throughout two separate buildings and made the required yearly inventory difficult at best.

After the terrorist attack on 11 September 2001, government money became available to upgrade security applications. The curator of ordnance, with help from Gunnery Sergeants Charles A. Pierce (Ret) and Ronnie M. Cross and Mr. James M. Cain from Headquarters' Physical Security, was able to procure \$300,000 for the installation of high-density shelving units that provided greater storage capacity and security. For maximum security, the floor carriage was equipped with anti-tip devices and double-drop floor locks, and 11-gauge steel plating throughout the entire system.

New storage techniques were adopted for the handgun collection. Instead of storing handguns flat in acid-free boxes, an inert resin-coated barrel peg system was adopted.

The installation of the new system eliminated the decade old double-lock waiver and provided enough space to consolidate more of the ordnance collection. Mr. Alfred Houde, Acting Curator of Ordnance, moved the entire explosive ordnance collection, numbering more than 600 items, from the branch offices to the new armory rack system.

The timing for the installation of the new system was a key factor for the smooth transition of many projects that impacted the Museums Division. The space gained during the preliminary phase of the consolidation provided other collections, such as uniforms and flags, the storage space they



Photo: Marine Corps Museum

*The new weapons racks have 11-gauge steel panels for maximum security and features that will help protect the collection from the ravages of time.*

required. The relocation of both ordnance billets to the armory made space available for new hires at the branch offices. The space gained by relocating the explosive ordnance collection also permitted the artifacts selected for the new museum to be segregated into one area for better control and oversight. Finally, the additional armory space provided a secure place to store the hundreds of weapons being returned from both the Air-Ground Museum in Quantico, Virginia, which closed on 15 November 2002, and the Marine Corps Museum on the Washington Navy Yard, which closed on 15 April 2005.

The planned second phase of the new rack system includes storage solutions for the heavy weapons or crew-served weapons. Unfortunately, the first phase system was not strong enough to accommodate numerous samples of weapons that exceed more than 70 pounds, not to mention the height restrictions. The additional racks will accommodate the oversized and super-heavy weapons while providing all the essential Marine Corps and museum requirements for security and storage protection. □1775□



## Creating the Air-Ground Symbiosis

by Fred H. Allison, Ph.D.  
Oral Historian

Quantico has the nickname, “Crossroads of the Marine Corps,” for good reason. Just about every career Marine spent at least one tour of duty there attending one of Quantico’s professional schools. This has tremendous significance beyond just a place of higher learning. Because the Marine Corps is a combined arms team, Quantico provided the essential environment where Marines from all warfighting specialties congregated, trained together and most importantly developed relationships that equaled mutual trust and multiplied combat potential. The trust and confidence established through shared training and experience cannot be underestimated in times of combat when it really pays off.

This was particularly important in cementing a close bond between air and ground Marines throughout the course of the last century and continues even today. Quantico’s role in building an “every Marine a rifleman or company commander” mentality is vitally important in fielding one of the world’s most unique militaries, one in which its aviation arm is fully integrated into ground operations. This phenomenon is often remarked upon in oral history interviews.

The Basic School is often noted as the place where future Marine aviators first learn what the Corps’ priorities are. Indeed, the decision to send budding aviators to The Basic School for a good dose of Marine infantry training came after World War I when some expressed concerns that Marine aviators were not “true Marines.” Thus a tradition and practice was begun that has had a profound effect on not only making aviators Marines in every sense of the word but also enhancing air support. General John R. Dailey, a modern-day Assistant Commandant and Vietnam RF-4 pilot, noted the uniqueness and importance of The Basic School: “The Marine Corps is the only service that does it right in that



Photo: DOD USMC A130949

*Forward air controllers calling in an air strike during the Korean War.*

regard ... I think The Basic School is a great foundation to get people started. I think that’s one of the best things that we do in the Marine Corps. People used to say, ‘Why don’t we just send these pilots straight down to flight school because they don’t need to know this?’ Aviators do need to know it. I mean it was a critical part of their preparation.”

Today’s Marine aviators in particular are quick to point out this characteristic of The Basic School. Most would agree with the F/A-18 pilot who remarked: “The Basic School provides a commonality of training for Marine officers, this leads to trust. You know what you’ve got with a Marine [forward air controller], you’re not so sure when he’s not a Marine.”

In World War II the crunch to train flyers rapidly meant that some Marine aviators skipped The Basic School and other Quantico-based training until later in their careers. Major General Norman J. Anderson flew combat in World War II, but like many World War II aviators he did not attend a formal Marine Corps school until after the war. He had been a Marine 10 years

when he was sent to the Junior School, which is what Expeditionary Warfare School was called in those days. Command and Staff was known as Senior School. He remarked: “The Junior School really opened my eyes to a lot of things. It was really the beginning of my understanding of what the Marine Corps was all about.” He also commented on how it served to bring air and ground Marines together after the exigencies of World War II had created some separation.

“The Junior School was a device for finally bringing the aviation and ground people together. One of the difficulties of the Junior School at that time was the cleavage between the aviation people and the ground people. It was very, very intense in that class.” He continued: “I’m not talking about all of them, but some of the aviation people felt that their contribution to the war effort was being downgraded or submerged by the emphasis upon the ground tactics and ground examples from World War II. The cleavage was so deep that when some of the instructors would take the podium some of the aviators would turn their backs on them, sit facing the back of the room.”

Another World War II fighter pilot, William T. Witt, Jr., who attended the Junior School in 1949, attested to the real-world benefits of his Quantico schooling: “After nine months of studying and interacting with our pedestrian brethren, it generated [the ability] on our part [pilots] to put faces on a large number of people we were supporting. This factor alone made a monumental difference in Marine air support and that of the other services.” Another World War II fighter pilot, Tommy Tomlinson, attended Quantico’s Air-Infantry School during World War II and remarked on the most basic of similarities between ground and air Marines: “a war can get you killed whatever your specialty.”

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## Always Faithful, Always Forward

by Michael E. Starn  
Aviation Curator

During the last few months, the Museums Division has received a DH-4 DeHavilland biplane after a yearlong restoration project completed by Mark Smith and Karen Barrows of Century Aviation. After being displayed without her wings for nearly 30 years, the missing wings have been replicated and attached to the DH-4 fuselage. The remainder of the aircraft underwent a complete inspection, and the entire aircraft has been covered with new fabric. The DH-4 was then painted in the markings of VMO-1 for a future display in the National Museum of the Marine Corps depicting the mail service devised during operations in Nicaragua.

Our A-4E jet aircraft also has recently returned from Blast Off, Inc., with a fresh coat of paint. This aircraft is now ready to assume its place suspended from the ceiling at the entryway of the Vietnam gallery. Featured beneath the A-4 is a display of the Short Arrest and Take-Off System. Illustrating the diversity of Marine Corps aviation history during Vietnam is a film, which will be projected on the underside of the A-4. As visitors make their way through the Vietnam gallery they will enter the fuselage of a CH-46 helicopter. Exiting the helicopter from the rear, visitors will be transported to Hill 881 South by the "Purple Foxes" of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364. The display is complete with a Howitzer firing pit, a communication bunker and sound effects giving the visitor a feeling of what it was actually like on Hill 881 South during the conflict.

Waiting in the wings for renovation are the F4F Wildcat fighter aircraft, the TBM Avenger torpedo bomber, the F9F Panther jet aircraft and a UH-1E helicopter flown by



*The A-4E waiting in the restoration storage area until it can take its place in the Vietnam gallery of the National Museum of the Marine Corps.*

Medal of Honor recipient Captain Stephen W. Pless. All of these aircraft will undergo appropriate restoration work.

With the clock continually ticking toward the planned 10 November 2006 grand opening, some of these projects will be under contract right up to the moment they are installed in their various locations throughout the new museum. In addition, we have added a new aircraft to the Marine Corps Aviation Collection, an F/A-18A jet aircraft from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 321. This aircraft was acquired from the only Marine Corps squadron to fly a combat air patrol

mission over the Washington D.C. area during Operation Noble Eagle in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on 11 September 2001. The aircraft is currently on loan to The Basic School at Quantico, Virginia, where it is on display in front of Ramer Hall as an inspiration to future Marine Corps officers. □1775□



*The F/A-18A proudly displayed at The Basic School at Camp Barrett in Quantico, Virginia.*



## Iraqi Elections

### I MEF's Support of Elections in Al Anbar Province

by LtCol John R. Way, USMCR

Field Historian

Military operations and political objectives are inextricably linked. And so it is with last November's Battle of Fallujah (Operation Phantom Fury/Al Fajr) and the elections held just a few months later. On 30 January 2005, Iraq held its first free elections in more than 50 years. While the city of Fallujah will be indelibly linked to the Corps' long history of combat in every clime and place, perhaps the most significant operation conducted by I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) during Operation Iraqi Freedom II was not the destruction of the insurgent forces in Fallujah, but the support it provided in the Al Anbar province to these first free elections in the post Saddam Hussein era. According to I MEF's State Department representative in Camp Fallujah, John Kael Weston: "If not for the Corps, there would have been no election opportunity at all in the Al Anbar province."

Planning for and implementation of the elections was supposed to be the exclusive domain of the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq, or IECI. Preparations began in late 2004 and went on for months as polling centers were selected, election workers recruited and trained, materials printed and voters registered. November was a critical month for the IECI as it was the month for voters to register and for political parties to get on the ballot. But while these arrangements progressed relatively smoothly throughout most of Iraq's 18 provinces, the IECI completely abandoned Al Anbar province whose capital city, Ramadi, and its neighbor, Fallujah, came under siege in early November during Operation Phantom Fury/Al Fajr.

Some people accepted that in the wake of the heavy fighting, Al Anbar province with its active insurgency and intransigent Sunni population would not be capable of participating



Photo: DoD

*An Iraqi casts his ballot in the country's January 2005 election at a polling station in the Jolan District of Fallujah.*

in the elections. But the commanding general of the multinational forces in Iraq, General George W. Casey, USA, and the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, John D. Negroponte, insisted the elections be a broad opportunity. Even if they chose not to vote, either out of fear or as a form of protest, officials wanted to ensure as many Iraqis as possible would be afforded the opportunity to cast their ballot. To that end, even as I MEF forces remained actively engaged in clearing the neighborhoods of Fallujah, the I MEF staff and its major subordinate commands turned planning efforts to the elections.

The planning paid off. After earlier refusals of assistance for fear of tainting the electoral process, the IECI in mid-December realized it could not pull off elections in Al Anbar without the active participation of the I MEF forces and requested their help. With only 45 days to do it all, Marines identified and secured polling centers, recruited election workers and provided logistical support to the entire process.

Recruiting poll workers was a significant challenge as these people were certain to be marked for execution. Approximately 1,000 workers would be needed throughout the province. In the end, the majority of the poll workers were flown in from Najaf. Marine KC-130s flown by Marine

Aerial Refueling Squadron 452 (VMGR-452), the reserve C-130 squadron known as the Yankees, transported hundreds of Iraqis from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) area of operations to Al Anbar.

Loadmaster Sergeant James V. Forte of Connecticut, a reservist who returned to his squadron from the Inactive Ready Reserve to deploy with his unit and friends, said: "The most meaningful thing we did out here was support the Iraqi elections. It made the entire mission worthwhile." In the weeks following the elections, many Marines expressed these same sentiments in oral history interviews. For many Marines, even those who participated in the worst of the fighting in Fallujah, supporting the Iraqi elections of 30 January was the highlight of their experience in Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

VMGR-452 flew the Iraqi poll workers to Al Taqaddum Airbase, home of the 1st Force Service Support Group, which provided logistical support in training the workers before they were flown to the polling centers. After their training and on the eve of elections, Marine CH-46 helicopters of 3d Marine Aircraft Wing carried poll workers to locations throughout Al Anbar. Nearly all flights in the more populated eastern part of the province went during the night to minimize the threat from ground fire. Unfortunately, those nights had turned cold and rainy and the Marines worried the Iraqis, many of whom had never been on a helicopter before, would be terrified. The squadrons put an extra crewman in the back to assist, comfort and watch over the novice passengers. All went well as the poll workers were dispersed throughout the province.

In addition to providing support for the people being moved throughout the area, the 1st Force Service Support Group mounted a massive effort to



Photo: John K. Weston

*Hundreds of Iraqi citizens lined up on 30 January 2005 outside this polling station in the Jolan District of Fallujah.*

provide the materials, transportation and engineering effort needed to secure the 33 polling sites that had been identified by 1st Marine Division. Certain that the locations would become targets of the insurgents, the exact sites were kept secret until just a couple days before the election. This required a surge of effort by Marines to harden the sites, provide Marine and Iraqi security forces and make the locations known the Iraqi citizens.

All this had to be accomplished in a short time frame while all other ongoing operational requirements were maintained. To augment the security forces from 1st Marine Division, officer and enlisted personnel from the MEF staff, and Navy Seabees from the MEF's engineer group formed a provisional battalion of more than 500. Their primary purpose was to assume the interior guard missions and thus free an infantryman to secure the polling locations. The 1st Marine Division was stretched thin. The relief in place for the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom II had begun, the borders were closed to minimize outside security threats and Marines were conducting operations designed to disrupt insurgent activities

and prevent attacks on the day of the election. All these operations required significant troop movements.

As forces were redistributed throughout the province in support of elections, tragedy struck. On the night of 25 January, Marines of C Company, 1st Battalion, 3d Marines, boarded a CH-53E helicopter for a flight from Al Asad Airbase to Camp Korean Village. They were to reinforce Task Force Naha and provide an airmobile quick

reaction force for the elections. The second helicopter crashed into the desert floor when the flight entered a sand storm just 10 miles from its destination. The 26 Marines and Navy corpsman, as well as the four crewmen of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361, were all killed on impact.

On 30 January 2005, 33 polling stations opened throughout Al Anbar province, including five in Fallujah and 10 in Ramadi. Fallujah, which only two months before was the site of intense urban combat, experienced the highest voter turn out with more than 7,500 men and women turning out. Polling sites had two security cordons around them: an inner cordon provided by Iraqi Security Forces and an outer cordon provided by Marines or soldiers of I MEF. The coalition forces maintained a very low profile. A few polling centers developed lines of people waiting to cast their ballots. However, throughout most of the province, voter turnout was low, not for lack of opportunity, but because the Sunnis chose to stay away from the polls. Only one polling center, in the western part of the province, took any kind of fire, receiving one round of mortar fire. Nationally, the elections were a huge success, and the opportunity to vote provided by I MEF forces reinforced that success; no one could say they were denied the chance to cast their ballot. □1775□



Photo: John K. Weston

*Marines maintained a low profile while providing security to polling stations during the 30 January elections.*



# Parting Archivist Urges Expanded Records Preservation

by Frederick J. Graboske  
Archives Head

By the time you read this, I will have retired from Government service. I have enjoyed my 12 years as head of the Archives Section and have tried to emulate in my own life the values espoused by the Marine Corps. During my tenure, I have seen a number of successes in our archival program, including the digitization of records and the creation of our electronic records database. These successes would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the Marines and civilians who have worked on my staff. There is much yet to accomplish and I offer the following suggestions to the Marine Corps.

## *Desert Storm*

More than 10 years ago, then Deputy Secretary of Defense, Dr. John Deutsch, instructed the military services to digitize records of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. His intent was that the records would be available in a searchable database to be used by the office investigating the alleged "Gulf War Syndrome." We complied, as part of a Department of the Navy (DoN) effort. Approximately 400,000 pages of our records were both scanned and imaged. After the work of the investigating office was completed several years ago, the database remained unused and aging. The Naval Historical Center, which had borne the costs of maintaining it, wanted to divest itself of that responsibility.

With the support of Charley Barth, records manager of the DoN, contractors working for Dr. David Chu, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, have agreed to take physical custody of the database. Dr. Chu has expressed strong interest in improving military record keeping, partly for future health-related investigations. His contractors already have the Army's Desert Shield and Desert Storm database, which is much larger than the

Navy's, so they know how to handle the Unix-based software.

From the Marine Corps perspective, ensuring the preservation of the database is the primary concern. However, it would be wise for the Marine Corps to obtain electronic copies of all USMC documents from Dr. Chu's contractors. These probably will be in the form of classified DVDs (the whole database is classified, even though individual documents may not be).

## *TRIM Electronic Records Management System*

What the History Division has created must not be lost. There are more than 125,000 entries in our database, and it includes the only extant copies of many electronic command chronologies. It should be merged with the TRIM database of the Gray Research Center (GRC) and allocated enough server storage capacity to accommodate the electronic records related to current operations, plus the digitized oral history collection. Second, the GRC should establish the latest version of TRIM Context, service pack five, on a server in a classified environment. That server (or servers) should have sufficient capacity to hold not only the classified Desert Shield and Desert Storm records, but also those from Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Third, after having done the data entry for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom and having loaded those documents into TRIM, do the same for Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Because the archival staff will have to do the data entry and will need ready access to the classified command chronologies, the classified TRIM system should be in the GRC's vault rather than at Marine Corps Combat Development Command, where the classified records will initially be stored. The GRC's vault also should get a SIPRnet connection to facilitate the rapid

movement of classified documents from the field.

## *Declassification*

Contract with the company doing declassification review for the DoN to do a full public release review (declassification and Privacy Act) of all these records, starting with Desert Shield and Desert Storm. TRIM Context has redaction software included in service pack five. As segments of the review are completed, move the releasable documents to the unclassified TRIM dataset that runs at the GRC.

## *Digitization*

The Japanese government microfilmed for us many of the records of World War II, which should be digitized. Those that were not microfilmed (including all aviation records) are now in the National Archives, with which an arrangement should be made to have them imaged. Some Desert Shield and Desert Storm records came to us after the DoN scanning effort ceased. These, and the hundreds of Battle Assessment Team interviews, should be digitized. The III Marine Amphibious Force message traffic from Vietnam now sits in the Washington National Records Center awaiting final declassification review by other federal agencies. Once that review is complete, the declassified pages should be imaged, along with other accessions of records from Vietnam, such as the transcripts of the POW interviews. All digital records should be loaded into an on-line database for use by Marines and by civilian historians. Nearly 90 percent of the documents will be released. They will then form the basis for, and facilitate, the preparation of the comprehensive official histories of these conflicts. The documents also can be made available to the students of Marine Corps University, and ultimately to the general public. The time and money involved in accomplishing the tasks outlined above are both necessary and proper for the Marine Corps to maximize the value of its archival collections. □1775□

## Former Commandant Passes

by *Robert V. Aquilina*  
*Reference Assistant Head*

### **Gen Louis H. Wilson, Jr**

General Louis H. Wilson, Jr., USMC (Ret), a World War II Medal of Honor recipient and 26th Commandant of the Marine Corps, died 21 June 2005 at the age of 85. The Brandon, Mississippi, native was born 11 February 1920. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1941 from Milsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi. He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve and was commissioned a second lieutenant in November 1941, just prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor.



Following officer training, he was assigned to the 9th Marines, serving with the regiment in San Diego, California, and deploying with it to Bougainville. In combat on Guam, while in command of Company F, 2d Battalion, 9th Marines, then Captain Wilson earned the Nation's highest honor for heroism in combat, the Medal of Honor, when he led his company in repelling and destroying a numerically superior enemy force during the bitter fighting for control of Fonte Hill. Because of wounds received in the action, he was evacuated to the U.S. Naval Hospital, San Diego. Post-war tours of duty included Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C.; Assistant Director, Marine Corps Institute; Aide-de-Camp to the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific; Officer-in-Charge, District Headquarters Recruiting Station, New York, New York; and Executive Officer of The Basic School at Quantico, Virginia. During the Korean War, he served as the Assistant G-3, 1st Marine Division, and on the return of the division to the United States, became the Commanding Officer of 2d Battalion, 5th Marines. Following a tour of duty at Headquarters Marine Corps, where he

headed the Operations Section, G-3 Division, he returned in 1958 to Quantico, first as commanding officer of the Test and Training Regiment, and later as commanding officer of The Basic School. During the Vietnam War he served as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, 1st Marine Division, and was awarded the Legion of Merit and the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Gold Star. Returning to the United States, he served as Commanding Officer, 6th Marine Corps District in Atlanta, Georgia. Following promotion to brigadier general in November 1966, he was the Legislative Assistant to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. He then served as Chief of Staff, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, and upon promotion to major general in March 1970, assumed command of the 3d Marine Division and I Marine Amphibious Force on Okinawa. In April 1971, he assumed the duties as director of the Marine Corps Education Center at Quantico. In August 1972, he was promoted to lieutenant general, and on 1 September assumed command of Fleet Marine Force, Pacific. On 1 July 1975, General Wilson became the 26th Commandant of the Marine Corps. It was during his tenure that the Commandant became a full member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in October 1978. He guided the Corps through the turbulent post-Vietnam era and continually stressed modernization of the Corps. General Wilson retired on 30 June 1979.

### **Captain Frederick C. Branch**

Captain Frederick C. Branch, USMCR, the first African-American commissioned officer in the Marine Corps, died 10 April 2005 in Philadelphia, at the age of 82. A native of Hamlet, North Carolina, Captain Branch attended



Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte before transferring to Temple University in Philadelphia. He was drafted into the Army in 1943, but later noted that after reporting for induction at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, he was approached by two Marine sergeants wearing starched khakis who informed him that he was "going to be a Marine." Following training at Montford Point Camp in North Carolina, he served with the 51st Defense Battalion in the South Pacific. He was subsequently selected to attend the Navy's V-12 program (a college-level preparatory program for future military officers) at Purdue University. He was then sent to Marine Corps Base, Quantico, to attend Officer Candidate School.

On 10 November 1945, the 170th anniversary of the founding of the Marine Corps, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserve. He was on active duty for a short period before reentering Temple University, from which he graduated in 1947 with a bachelor's degree in Physics. During the Korean War, he served at Camp Pendleton, California, where he commanded an antiaircraft training platoon. He resigned his commission in 1955, and later returned to Philadelphia to establish a science department at Dobbins High School, where he taught for more than 30 years. Shortly after his death, the United States Senate passed a resolution honoring his life, achievements and contributions as a trailblazer for future African-Americans who now serve in the Marine Corps.

### **Major George H. O'Brien, Jr**

Major George H. O'Brien, Jr., USMCR, who received the Medal of Honor for heroism during the Korean War, died 11 March 2005 in Midland, Texas, at the





age of 78. The Fort Worth, Texas, native was born 10 September 1926. From December 1944 until May 1946, he was a seaman in the United States Merchant Marine. He then entered Texas Technological College where he received a Bachelor of Art degree in Geology in May 1950. While in college, he enlisted as a private in the Marine Corps Reserve. Called to active duty in November 1951, he entered Officer Candidate School at Quantico, Virginia, and completed the course in February 1952. After completion of the Basic Course and further training at Camp Pendleton, he embarked for Korea in September 1952. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism while serving as a rifle platoon commander of Company H, 3d Battalion, 7th Marines, when during the bitter fighting for "the Hook" on 27 October 1952, he rallied his Marines to advance against a well entrenched enemy force, and although wounded, refused to be evacuated until his wounded men received medical attention. He was promoted to major in the Marine Corps Reserve in 1963.

**Major General William G. Johnson**

Major General William G. Johnson, USMC (Ret), died 26 February 2005 in Loyola, California, at the age of 84. He was born in Tyler, Texas, and attended Tyler Junior College, Southern

Methodist University, George Washington University and Chapman College. Designated a Naval aviator in June 1942, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserve on 29 July 1942.



Between 1943 and 1947, he served in numerous capacities with various Marine air units in the United States and overseas. During the Korean War, he saw duty with Marine Fighter Squadrons VMF(N)-542 and VMF(N)-513 in Korea. Following the war, he served in a number of duty stations in the United States. During the Vietnam War, he served as commanding officer of Marine Aircraft Group 36, and following his promotion to brigadier general in 1968, became Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff (Air), at Headquarters Marine Corps. Returning to Vietnam in June 1969, he served as Assistant Wing Commander, 1st MAW, and later became commanding general of 1st MAW (Rear). Following his August 1970 promotion to major general, he served in the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

His final assignment before his retirement on 1 August 1974 was Deputy Commander/Chief of Staff, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific.

**Brigadier General Lloyd W. Smith**

Brigadier General Lloyd W. Smith, USMC (Ret), died 6 March 2005 at the age of 72. The St. Louis, Missouri, native held degrees from Doane College and Auburn University. He served in an active Reserve unit as a sergeant until he was commissioned a second lieutenant in May 1954. In 1958, he attended flight training, and upon completion was assigned to Marine Helicopter Transport Squadron HMR(L)-261. During the Vietnam War, he served a tour in the Western Pacific with MAG-16, which included duty in the Republic of Vietnam. Following a tour of duty at Quantico, Virginia, he returned to Vietnam where he served during 1967 with Marine Observation Unit VMO-6. He served in a variety of assignments throughout the 1970s, including a tour as the first commanding officer of the Marine Corps' first Cobra helicopter squadron, HMA-369. Selected for promotion to brigadier general in February 1981, he was assigned duty as the Assistant Wing Commander, 2d MAW, at Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point. His final duty assignment was as the Director of Intelligence, Headquarters Marine Corps, until his retirement on 1 July 1985. □1775□



*Historical Quiz*

**Quantico: Crossroads of the Corps**

*by Jen Colby  
Reference Intern*

1. In what year was the Marine Barracks, Quantico, established on the land currently occupied by today's Marine Corps base?
2. How much did the Marine Corps pay for the leased land on which Quantico had been established when it was purchased from its previous owners in 1918?
3. The Marine Corps' first two artillery regiments were formed at Quantico during 1918. Which two regiments were these?
4. In 1919, three vocational schools were established at Quantico. What schools were these?
5. In 1920, what commanding general of Quantico gave up his command to become Commandant of the Marine Corps?
6. The first Marine Corps newspaper was created at Quantico and read by Marines around the world. What was this newspaper called and in what year was it first published?
7. The first four women Marines to serve during World War II arrived at Quantico in November 1943. What job did these four Marines perform?
8. Marine Helicopter Squadron 1 (HMX-1), the first helicopter squadron in the Marine Corps, was established at Quantico in December 1947. What was the squadron's primary mission?
9. During the Vietnam War, a reproduction of a Southeast Asian village was built at Quantico for use in training exercises. What did they name this village and when was it completed?
10. In what year did Quantico begin training women lieutenants in the same program as men at The Basic School?

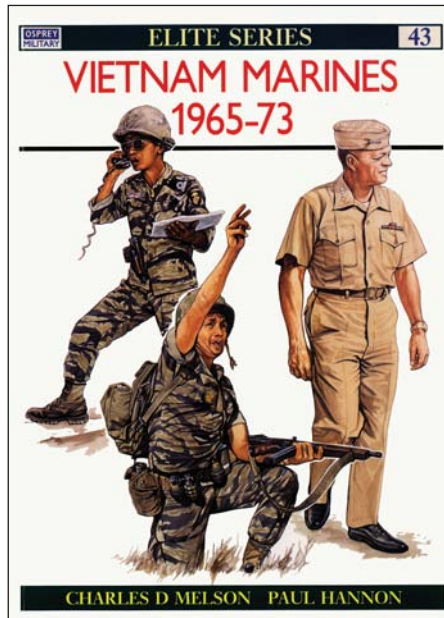
*(Answers on page 23)*

## Commercial Books by HD Authors

by Evelyn A. Englander  
Historical Center Librarian

This is a selection of commercially published books focusing on naval and Marine Corps history. These books have been written by or written about current and former members of the Historical Center's staff. Most of these books are available through brick-and-mortar or online bookstores or through your local bookstores.

***Once a Legend; "Red Mike" Edson of the Marine Raiders.*** Jon. T. Hoffman, Novato, CA: Presidio Press, 1994. 434 pp. Written by Colonel Jon T. Hoffman, USMCR, the former deputy director of the Marine Corps Historical Center, this book details the life of Major General Merritt "Red Mike" Edson. It begins with his experiences in the "Banana Wars" in Latin America in the 1920s, and continues with his World War II experiences, including his creating and leading the 1st Marine Raider Battalion. Once a Legend goes on to describe Edson's post war efforts to preserve the Marine Corps during the service unification debates. Among the books written by Hoffman are *Chesty: the Story of Lieutenant General Lewis B. Puller, USMC* (Random House) and *USMC: a Complete History*



(Hugh Lauter Levin Associates).

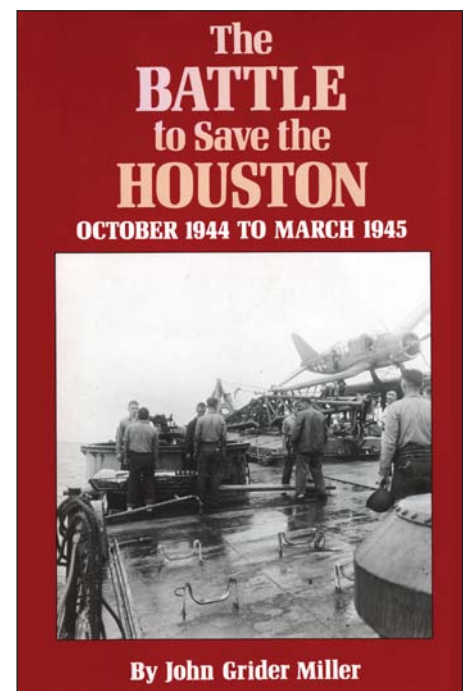
***Vietnam Marines, 1965 - 1973.*** Charles D. Melson. London, England: Osprey Publishing Ltd., 1992. 64 pp. (Osprey Elite Series). Photographs, uniform plates and text together trace the Vietnam Marines during the period of the Vietnamese Conflict from 1965 to 1973. This was written by the Center's chief historian, Charles D. Melson. Among his other commercially published titles are *Ninth Marine Defense and AAA Battalions* (Turner Publishing); *Marine Recon, 1940-1990* (Osprey); and *The Close Combat Files of Colonel Rex Applegate* (Paladin Press).

***The Bridge at Dong Ha.*** John Grider Miller. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1989. 186 pp. Includes drawings and maps. Colonel Miller served as deputy director for Marine Corps history. In *The Bridge at Dong Ha*, he details how Colonel John W. Ripley, now the director of the Historical Center, braved intense fire from the enemy to destroy a strategic bridge and stall a major North Vietnamese invasion.

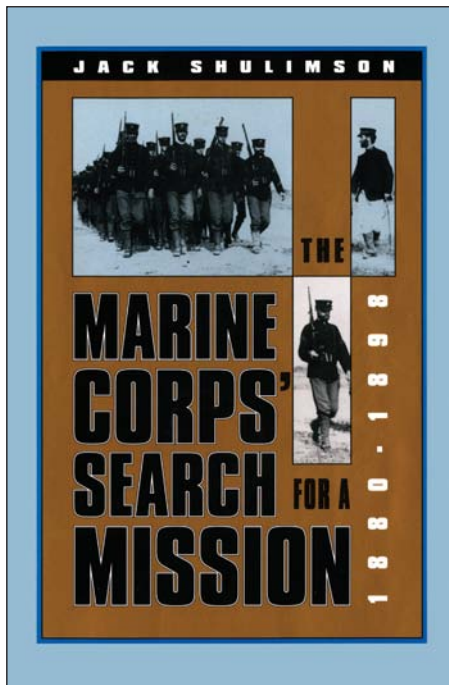
Also by Colonel Miller, the *Co-Vans: U.S. Marine Advisor in Vietnam* (Naval

Institute Press) and *The Battle to Save the Houston, October 1944 to March 1945*. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1985. 226 pp. A story of heroism at sea, and the dedication, loyalty and steadfast courage shown by the men who fought to keep the Houston afloat. The book details their 14,000-mile, six-month journey from Formosa to the Brooklyn Navy Yard on board the severely damaged cruiser. Under the leadership of Commander George Miller, the crew struggled valiantly to return the ship to the U.S. The book describes the extraordinary measures used by the crew to keep the ship afloat and their impact on the Navy's damage control capabilities. Includes photos and maps.

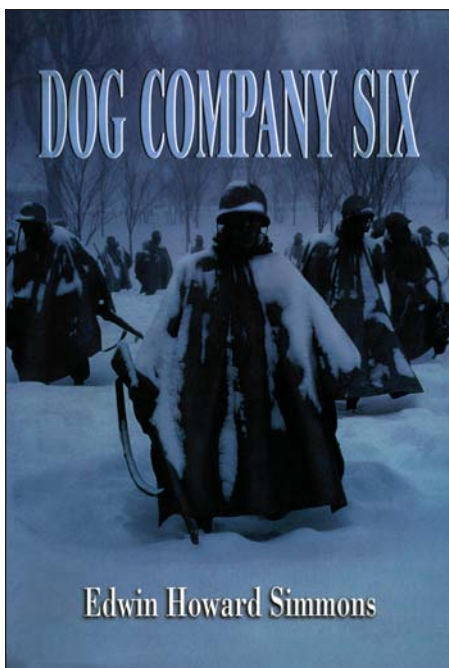
***The Marine Corps' Search for a Mission, 1880-1898.*** Jack Shulimson. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1993. 224 pp. Dr. Shulimson, former head of the history section of the Historical Center, details the Marine Corps' efforts to defend its identity and mission in the period from 1880 to 1898. He describes the processes and personalities involved





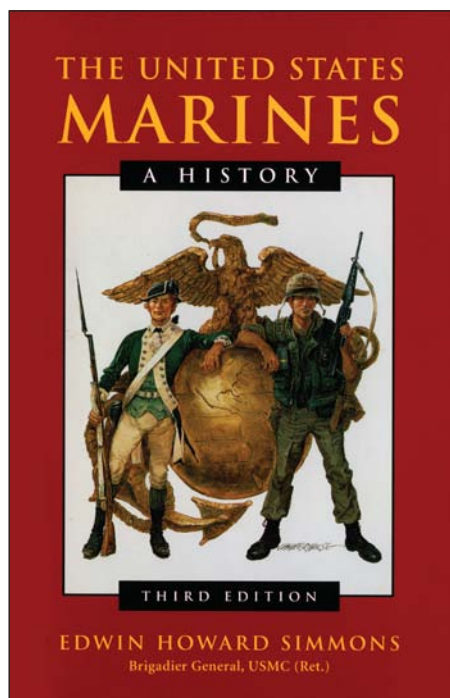


in the effort. Today's Marine Corps is a direct outgrowth of the struggles presented here. He shows there was one group of officers who linked reform for the Corps into forming them into a shipboard guard for the U.S. Navy and wanted all its officers to be Naval Academy graduates. Then there was a second group who wanted to change the very nature of the Corps. They wanted to increase the professionalism of officers assigned to the Corps while simultaneously expanding the Corps' mission.



*Dog Company Six*. Edwin Howard Simmons. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 2000. 300 pp. A novel of the Korean War and the U.S. Marine Corps in that war, by General Edwin H. Simmons, Director Emeritus of the Historical Center. General Simmons focuses on a rifle company and its leadership, loyalty and courage. Also he covers the campaigns at Inchon, Seoul and the Chosin Reservoir on into the spring offensive. Its title signifies the commanding officer of Company D, a Marine rifle company led by Captian George Bayard.

Also by General Simmons is *The United States Marines, a History*, 4th edition, revised. Edwin Howard Simmons. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 2003. 400 pp. The book includes maps and photos. General Simmons' history focuses on the major wars fought by the Corps and the events between, which includes the small wars, the campaigns, the expeditions and the humanitarian missions. He also details the never-ending fight for the Corps' survival at home and its challenges from the other services and from occasionally unfriendly political processes. This latest edition brings the history up to date through 2000, covering Bosnia, West Africa, Kosovo, and events in Iraq and the Middle East. □1775□



## Marine Corps History Division now Located at Quantico

The Marine Corps Historical Center's Museum, located on the Washington Navy Yard in Washington, D.C., closed its doors permanently on 15 April 2005. The History Division and all its holdings are now located on Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, as part of the Marine Corps University. Historical researchers should contact the History Division prior to visiting the new facilities to ensure resource availability prior to visiting.

### *Answers to the Historical Quiz*

#### Quantico: Crossroads of the Corps

(Questions on page 21)

1. 1917
2. \$475,000
3. 10th and 11th Regiments
4. Typewriting and Shorthand, Automotive Mechanics and Music
5. Major General John A. Lejeune
6. *The Quantico Sentry*, 1935
7. Radio Operator
8. To study the aircraft and develop doctrine, maintenance and training requirements for its use
9. Xa Viet Thang, August 1966
10. 1977

