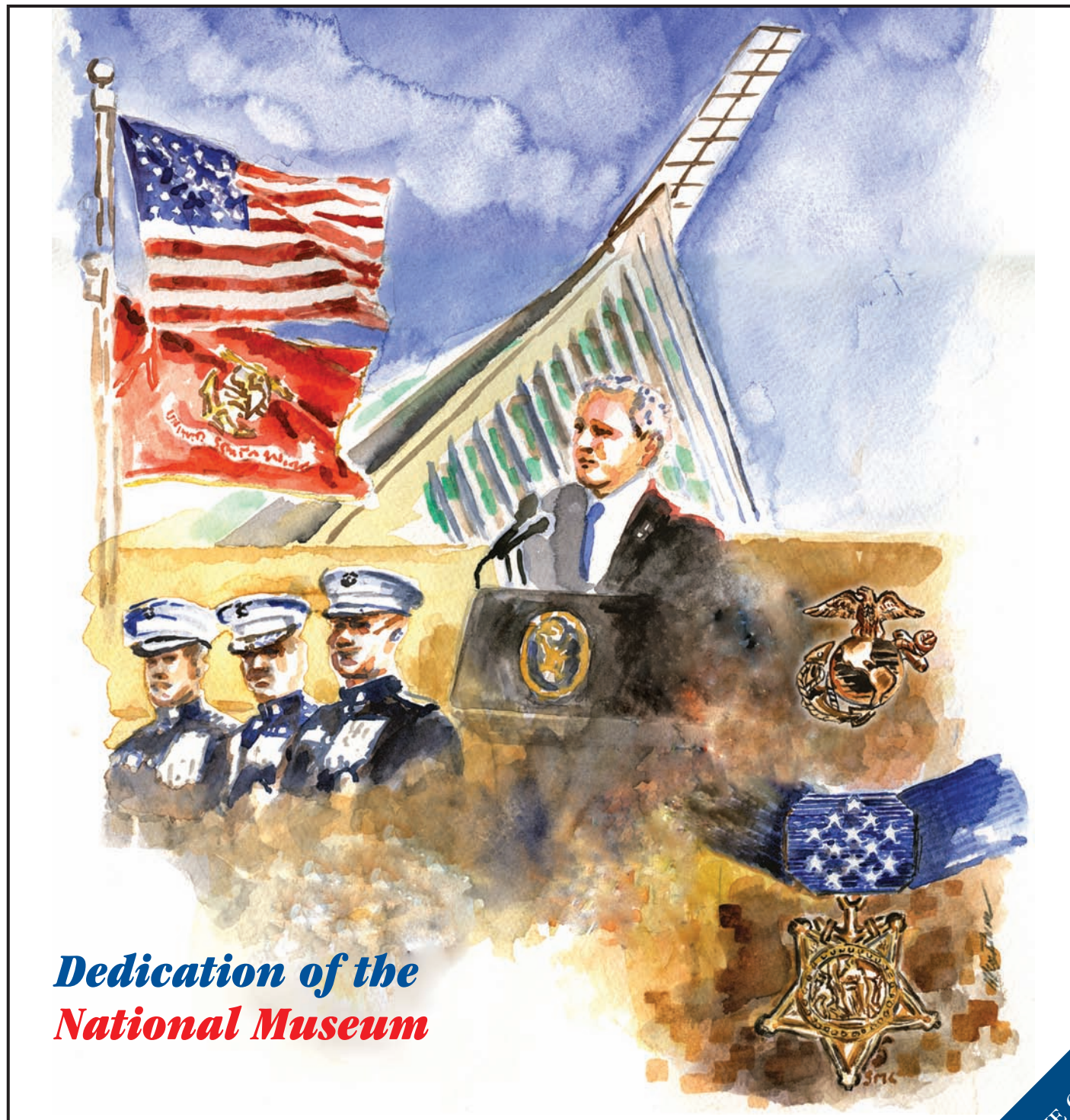


# FORTITUDINE

BULLETIN OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

HISTORICAL BULLETIN VOLUME 32, NUMBER 2

2007



## *Dedication of the National Museum*

REORGANIZATION, RELOCATION, AND REBIRTH...FROM DESIGN TO DEDICATION...IT'S ALL ABOUT HONOR  
PROFILES OF MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS... SOMALIA RELIEF ADDED TO SERIES...CHRONOLOGY 2004  
FIELD HISTORY FOCUSED ON COLLECTION...DISPATCH FROM IRAQ 2007...COMBAT ART PROGRAM

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TO ANOTHER MARINE



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# FORTITUDINE

Motto of the United States Marine Corps in the 1812 era

Historical Bulletin Vol. 32, No. 2

2007

*"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

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## ABOUT THE COVER



**About the Cover:** History Division Combat Artist Major Alex Durr painted a watercolor of the National Museum of the Marine Corps dedication ceremony held on 10 November 2006. During the ceremony, President George W. Bush announced that Corporal Jason L. Dunham would receive the Medal of Honor posthumously. Profiled left to right are Lieutenant General James F. Amos, Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command; General Peter Pace, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and General Michael W. Hagee, 33d Commandant of the Marine Corps.

This 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.



## Reorganization, Relocation, and Rebirth of [REDACTED]



*Dr. Charles P. Neimeyer*

After a hiatus of nearly two years, History Division is pleased to announce the spring issue of its bulletin, *Fortitudine*. Our staff hopes that the re-birth of our traditional Division publication will make it a welcomed arrival for all who honor and revere Marine Corps history.

And just like the revamped *Fortitudine*, the History Division has likewise undergone significant organizational changes since 2005.

First, the Division now operates under the direction of Marine Corps University President, Major General Donald R. Gardner, USMC (Ret). The former organizational structure that consolidated all three components of the historical program (history, archives, and museums) in Building 58 at the Washington, D.C. Navy Yard is no more. The Division relocated near its parent command at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia as a separate entity. The archives section moved to the Alfred Gray Research Center where all of the Marine Corps related archives are retained for easier access to this treasure trove of scholarly historical material. The newly dedicated National Museum of the Marine Corps was built just outside the gates of Quantico and falls under the aegis of the University. In summary, the Division will collaborate with in the education command and will continue its collection, documentation, and promotion of the official history of the Marine Corps.

Second, the Division has a new director—me, Charles P. Neimeyer. Major General Gardner appointed me as Director of the History Division on 11 December 2006. Since my retirement from the Marine Corps in 1996, I have been involved in professional military education more than ten years. I have served as a professor of national security affairs and Dean of

Academics at the U.S. Naval War College and as a professor of government at Regent University following a short stint as Provost of Valley Forge Military Academy and College.

Third, the History Division that I now oversee will transition into a substantially different operation than the one former director, Colonel John W. Ripley, so ably supervised until 2005. In conjunction with our reorganization and relocation, the Division's intent is to focus on additional "history-centric" publications in various media formats to satisfy expanded customer interests. Our five branches—writing, field history, oral history, reference, and editing and design—will strive to balance our historical studies and analysis with an increased relevance on today's active duty Marine.

Over the next several months, the Division plans to expand its repertoire of customers to include liaison with fellow University or training staff who presently use or desire to integrate more history into their curriculum. Our objectives are to produce timely and relevant battle studies, occasional papers, and other assorted historically related material for general use within and outside the Marine Corps.

Due to the highly successful opening of the National Museum of the Marine Corps on 10 November 2006, public interest in the history of our Corps has never been higher. For those of you who have not been able to see the new museum, I highly recommend that you eventually do. In just the first month of operation, the museum has received more than 70,000 visitors—many of whom had heretofore only a cursory knowledge of who we are and what the Marine Corps means to the nation.

The fanfare of our new museum

will most likely renew enthusiasm and interest in Marine Corps history so please also visit our new—but temporary—quarters located across the lawn from Breckinridge Hall in Quantico, Virginia. In a few years, the Division hopes to move into our own wing of the Gray Research Center. The wing will be appropriately named after the father of the modern Marine Corps historical program and History Division Director Emeritus, Brigadier General Edwin H. Simmons, USMC (Ret).

*Dr. Neimeyer holds a M.A. and a Ph.D in American History from Georgetown University and an additional M.A. in national security affairs from the Naval War College. Dr. Neimeyer retired as an artillery lieutenant colonel with 20 years of active service. □1775□*

### Keeping Current

As examples of the newly-focused balance, the Division worked last fall with The Basic School staff to publish a pocket-size *Small Unit Actions* that will serve as a "read-ahead" for all incoming Basic School-bound second lieutenants, while *U.S. Marines in Iraq, 2003: Anthology and Annotated Bibliography* was published in January 2007. The staff is presently working on the study, *The Battle of Khaffi*, and a more general work that will focus on the experience of the Marine Corps during the entire Gulf War (1990-1991) in conjunction with a series of Global War on Terrorism monographs.

## From Design to Dedication A Project Management View

by  Patricia Saint  
Senior Editor

### *A Seven-Year Journey*

The vision to build a museum was explored in 1979. Twenty-seven years later on the 231st anniversary of the Corps, Marines in Dress Blue Alphas eagerly awaited the official opening dedication of the National Museum of the Marine Corps (NMMC) in Quantico, Virginia.

The dedication ceremony was hosted by the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation and was held on Friday, 10 November 2006, on the 135-acre site. It began with the introduction of three senior Marine Corps leaders, (Generals Peter Pace, Michael W. Hagee, and James F. Amos as portrayed on the cover) followed by a 21-gun salute to President George W. Bush. The Marine Corps band played "Hail to the Chief" as the President walked purposefully toward the podium to address about 10,000 dignitaries, guests, sponsors, families, and

fellow veterans. Former Marine Jim Lehrer, Public Broadcast Station broadcaster, was the first speaker. Four Marine FA-18 Hornets screeched across the sky for a fly-over tribute, and the ceremonial rituals and words that followed honored all Marines who served in the past and those who continue to proudly wear the uniform.

For the attendees, the historical event was marked with pride, honor, and personal sentiment. For the museum staff who had worked arduously for years, the reflective moments warranted celebration for the completion of a major milestone, particularly for Director, Lin Ezell, and Deputy Director and NMMC project manager, Colonel Joseph C. Long.

Ms. Ezell was appointed museum director in 2005. Her impressive resume includes 21 years in senior positions with the Smithsonian

Institution's National Air and Space Museum and her most recent expertise as program manager for the planning, design, and construction of the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, which opened near Dulles International Airport in 2003.

Colonel Long began leading the project team in 1999 as a reserve officer who was hand-selected for a three-year "special works" billet that eventually transitioned to his current civilian position. He reported directly to the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps who chaired the museum's Executive Steering Committee. Colonel Long attributes this senior leadership relationship and endorsement as a key factor that contributed to the project's success. The seven-year journey from design to opening would prove to be a project manager's ultimate challenge. As Colonel Long explained: "It was a learning

*Night view of the entrance to the National Museum of the Marine Corps which opened 10 November 2006*

Photo courtesy of NMMC





curve. I joined the museum staff and earned a master's degree in how to build a museum."

### ***Homework, Homework, Homework***

The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation invested in a demographics study prepared by George Mason University that revealed 70 percent of the potential museum visitors would have no former ties to the Marine Corps family and an estimated 250,000 people would tour the facility within the first year. Colonel Long worked with the museum staff to integrate this marketing data into a strategic plan to determine which Marine stories, artwork, and artifacts would be selected from a collection exceeding 60,000 pieces; together the words and visual images would tell the story from a Marine's perspective. Colonel Long traveled extensively with the contract design team to investigate and to learn from other museum experiences before construction began and exhibits were created. His global tour included historical sites spanning from Iwo Jima to Illinois to San Diego boot camp so the design team would gain an understanding and appreciation of the "green culture." During his travels, Colonel Long cultivated a panel of mentors who he referred to as his "kitchen cabinet" which shared their "lessons learned" throughout the project.

### ***A Few Challenges***

After the storylines were crafted,

one of the project's biggest challenges was the transformation of more than 1,800 pieces of text, photos, and artifacts into memorable exhibits from different historical eras. Looking back, Colonel Long would have hired a dedicated exhibit manager for the monumental task. The successful integration of immersion and interactive displays coupled with traditional static "behind the glass" showcases has generated positive public comments that will hopefully inspire patrons for return visits.

The museum's impressive architecture and steep-angled steel spire that illuminates the sky above Interstate 95 at night is definitely an eye-catcher. The spire mirrors the Iwo Jima Island flag-raising by five Marines and a sailor on Mount Suribachi during World War II. As the designers, architects, and contractors resolved how to strengthen the foundation to provide additional support for the glass cone of circular walls that represents the cornerstone of the facility, Colonel Long continued to address, resolve, and manage a multitude of other hurdles. One such hurdle was the development and oversight of an acceptable security plan that would allow for general public access. Since the museum site is located outside Marine Corps Base Quantico's main gate, internal and external security measures demanded an extended walkway to the main doors and a parking lot easement from traffic flow of at

### **Museum Project Timeline**

- 1952 Major John Magruder III, USMCR, under the direction of Marine Corps Commandant General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., created a Marine Corps exhibit at the Smithsonian's Hall of Military and Naval History
- 1979 Marine Corps Historical Foundation explores idea to build museum
- 1980s Congress authorizes each Service to develop a national center to retain service history
- 1999 Marine Corps Heritage Foundation begins planning and fundraising for the National Museum of the Marine Corps and the Marine Corps Heritage Center; Col Joseph C. Long joins the project
- 2001 Fentress Bradburn Architects win design contract and Christopher-Chadbourne and Associates awarded contract
- 2003 Campaign to raise 36.5 million launched and groundbreaking held at Marine Corps Base Quantico; more than 60 million was raised
- 2005 Marines dedicate museum site and Lin Ezell announced as National Museum director
- 2006 Official museum opening dedication; Phase 1 highlights 118,000 square feet; 20,000 yards of concrete used; 1,500 tons of rebar; 1,300 tons of steel; 2/3 acre of glass in the skylight; 210 feet tall; 1,000 used from a collection of 60,000 artifacts; 14 authentic aircraft on display; 11 major ground vehicles

least 150 feet from Route 1 and Interstate 95.

### ***Phased Oversight***

Throughout phase one, the museum staff consisted of eight Marines and 30 civilians with a mix of historical, educational, and artistic backgrounds and talents. Colonel Long used Microsoft Project™ software and continually reviewed management reports to monitor progress. As phase two launches, the museum staff will increase by 10 people and face new challenges. They will forge ahead with new plans, ideas, priorities, and timeline, yet fully realize the National Museum will always be a monumental work-in-progress. Although the project is now in its "operation and maintenance" phase, its genuine measurement will always be the steady stream of new and repeat visitors who will honorably pay tribute to "The Few, The Proud." □1775□

### **Corporal Jason L. Dunham**

The most memorable words spoken by President George W. Bush noted a special tribute to a fallen Marine from Operation Iraqi Freedom. He profiled the courageous acts of Corporal Jason L. Dunham who threw himself on a grenade to save two fellow Marines. As the President continued with the heroic story, he announced that the young 25-year-old New York native would be awarded the military's highest award, the Medal of Honor. Corporal Dunham's parents were honored two months later during a special Medal of Honor flag ceremony in the museum's Leatherneck Gallery. You can learn more about Corporal Dunham on the Headquarters Marine Corps website at <http://www.usmc.mil>.



*Corporal Jason L. Dunham served with Company K, 3d Battalion, 7th Marines, based in Twentynine Palms, California.*

## It's All About Honor, Courage and Commitment

by Lin Ezell

Director, National Museum of the Marine Corps

It takes a monumental structure to preserve the “larger than life” story of U.S. Marines. The National Museum of the Marine Corps invites visitors to walk in the boot prints of Marines: from the sands of Iwo Jima, through the snow of Chosin Reservoir, and on Hill 881 South. During the first 12 weeks, more than 150,000 visitors found the machines, relics, and personal equipment of war, along with stories about epic battles and heralded warriors. The all-pervasive message is that it takes “every Marine” to accomplish any given objective. This museum is not about heroes and giants. It's about every Marine.

The museum's design is evocative of the World War II flag-raising scene on Iwo Jima, and its galleries are dramatic and energetic. The central most space, Leatherneck Gallery, is circular like the building itself. Two concentric outer circles accommodate eight galleries in the 120,000-square-foot first phase.

The architects and exhibit designers chosen for the National Museum team walked the German trenches and wheat fields of Belleau Wood, France. They entered Japanese tunnels and gun emplacement on Guam, Saipan, and Tinian, and they stood atop Mt.

Surabachi on the exact place where the famous flag-raising took place. They experienced boot camp and lived for a few days on board ship. For Marines on the design team, the new museum was about much more than steel, glass, and concrete. It was about capturing the resolve, spirit, and discipline of Marines.

Architects at Fentress Bradburn of Denver translated their experiences into a distinctive design. A gleaming central mast reaches up 210 feet, surrounded by a cone of glass. Christopher Chadbourne and Associates of Boston partnered with the architects and the Marine Corps to create a theatrical exhibit design. In 2003, general contractor Centex Corporation broke ground on 135 acres near Marine Corps Base, Quantico in Virginia.

A dynamic public-private partnership was forged to build the museum. The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation raised the funds needed for building the complex and oversaw construction with the assistance of Jacobs Facilities Inc. The Marine Corps funded the work of the architect and the exhibits designer. Design and Production, Inc., of Lorton, Virginia, was selected by the

Marines to turn the exhibit drawings into immersive reality.

### *Leatherneck Gallery*

The artifacts, vignettes, testimonials, and images in this space honor the contributions of every Marine and highlight core messages of the museum, to include innovation and advances in technology. Suspended overhead are famous aircraft flown by Marines: a “Jenny” biplane, two Corsairs, and a Harrier “jump jet.” On the ground, a Sikorsky helicopter disembarks Marines onto a Korean War position, and an amphibious tractor abuts a log wall at Tarawa. The terrazzo floor paints a picture of oceans, surf, sand, and earth, representing the expeditionary nature of the Marines, while a ship's super structure reminds us of the strong Navy-Marine Corps partnership. On the travertine marble walls, eight large portraits of Marines and 10 famous quotes beckon the visitor to contemplate and explore.

### *The Early Years*

Along “Legacy Walk,” visitors get a quick introduction to Marine Corps history, including the promise of four additional galleries that will be built in 2009-2010 to relate the history of the service from 1775 to 1939. Marines from the colonial period are perched high atop a ship on the “fighting tops,” ready to defend and protect. Two-time Medal of Honor recipient Dan Daily can be seen scaling the Tartar Wall in Peking in 1900. “Every Marine a Rifleman” is the theme captured for the period 1914-1918, but a U.S. Marine locked in hand-to-hand combat with a German soldier reminds visitors that war can be intensely human. Overhead a DH-4 aircraft takes flight into the 1920s.

### *Uncommon Valor:*

#### *Marines in World War II*

This gallery honors the sacrifices and accomplishments of America's “Greatest Generation.” “Uncommon Valor” recalls hard-fought battles

*Leatherneck Gallery features classic aircraft in action.*

Photo by Kelly Turner, NMMC





against a formidable opponent in the Pacific. These gripping stories are told with the help of tanks, artillery pieces, fighter aircraft, small arms, and the everyday “junk on a bunk” that belonged to the individual Marine. Exhibits highlight innovation in tactics, equipment, special units, Women Marines, racial integration, the Code Talkers, and Navy corpsmen.

In one immersive exhibit, visitors are told of their pending mission in a ship’s briefing room just before they board a Higgins Boat for the assault on Iwo Jima. Motion, sound, and video provide a realistic experience. Close by always on exhibit is one of the original flags raised on Iwo Jima. The first and second flags will be rotated, so that one is always on exhibit and one “resting” in storage. In a poignant display, some 6,000 small eagle, globe, and anchor insignias, along with U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard insignias, represent the cost in human lives to take that one island.

*Send in the Marines:  
The Korean War*

The “forgotten war,” fought by thousands of Americans more than 50 years ago against a determined enemy, is recalled in this gallery. The innovative use of helicopters to support the war is demonstrated by the presence of a looming Sikorsky aircraft, but it is General MacArthur’s strategic end run to attack the enemy rear at Inchon that is the first major scene. The floor shakes as visitors ride up to the sea wall with the Marines. A Pershing tank is discovered fighting in war-torn streets of Seoul. On Toktong Pass in the Chosin Reservoir visitors encounter Marines who are cold, tired, and short of ammunition.

In an exhibit that reflects on the uneasy “see-saw” war, visitors can board a landing craft and explore a bunker, while a Panther jet flies overhead. A sobering walk by a prisoner of war cage reminds us of the high price of war.

*In the Air, on Land and Sea:  
The War in Vietnam*

Marines and their Allies fought insurgents and North Vietnamese forces in hamlets, urban areas, jungles, and rice paddies. In a recreated Vietnamese village, weapons and equipment used by



Photo by Eric Long, NMMC

*One of the two flags raised on Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima.*

the combatants are found, from the simple to the sophisticated: artillery, sharpened bamboo stakes, small arms, and booby traps. Stories of compassion at Hue City are scripted next to accounts of firefights. Wall murals and dioramas deliver stories about combat operations, significant contributions to the war, individual Marines, special units, morale, and air support.

An A-4 aircraft and the ever-present Huey helicopter represent the air war. A six-barreled Ontos and a captured Soviet 122mm gun from Dewey Canyon hunker down realistically in the midst of the fighting.

To the sounds of a pilot talking to a Marine on the ground, visitors embark on a trip by CH-46 helicopter to Hill

881 South near Khe Sanh. Small arms fire hits the helicopter, and the crew chief instructs everyone to, “Get out!” Prop wash blows on the passengers’ necks as they enter the hot landing zone.

*Making Marines*

All Marines remember their drill instructors. In “Making Marines,” visitors step inside the process used by drill instructors to transform young men and women into Marines. From the hometown recruiting station to graduation, visitors are immersed in the memorable experiences that forge recruits and officer candidates into privates and lieutenants.

Listen to the thoughts of wary recruits during that first bus ride to the training depot. Stand on the famous yellow footprints and visit the barber-shop where “it all gets taken away.” But the most important experience is learning how to solve problems, not on your own, but as a unit. Before graduation, try your marksmanship skills at the M-16 laser rifle range.

*Combat Art*

During World War I, years before the Marine Corps adopted an official Combat Art Program, Colonel John W. Thomason produced a powerful series of battlefield sketches that laid a groundwork that continues to define a Marine combat artist. Thomason used these field drawings to illustrate *Fix Bayonets!*, his personal recollections from the trenches of France in the “Great War.”

*Inside the Vietnam Gallery immersion exhibit of Hill 881*

Photo courtesy of NMMC





The official Marine Corps Combat Art Program originated in 1942. Its mission was simple: keep Americans informed of their Marines' actions overseas. Several Marine combat artists traded their World War II sea bags for highly successful careers in fine art, including Tom Lovell, John Clymer, and Harry Jackson. During the Korean conflict, Marine and civilian artists went into combat to record the experiences of leathernecks under fire. John Groth's passionately expressive ink drawings helped Americans at home appreciate the frozen hell endured by their Marines in Korea. In 1966, artists went to war in Vietnam. The Marine Corps deployed dozens of Marine and civilian artists to Southeast Asia and in subsequent places such as Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan, Norway, Grenada, Haiti, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Bahrain, Cuba, Somalia, and Peru. Gifted artists continue this tradition today wherever the Global War on Terrorism takes Marines.

The Marine Corps Combat Art Collection includes more than 350 artists and nearly 8,000 pieces of fine art. The Combat Art Gallery at the new Museum exhibits approximately 90 works, including paintings completed just months ago.

**Global War on Terrorism**

Marine Corps photographers capture powerful images that add depth and

*Marines in every clime and place were depicted by Sgt Tom Lovell to illustrate the 1843 parley of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, USN, with a tribal chief in Liberia.*

Marine Corps Art Collection



Marine Corps Art Collection

*Frank Earle Schoonover's depiction of close fighting in Belleau Wood in 1918 was used as an illustration in a time before photography and motion picture could capture battle field action.*

detail, personality and emotion to battlefield scenes. Their work also helps commanders in the field who need images to help them make real-time decisions. Since World War II, photographers armed with rifles and camera equipment have been documenting everything the field units do—from eating in makeshift mess halls to charging through combat zones. At the peak of the program during World War II, 600 Marine combat photographers contributed to documenting the war and Marine Corps life. Today, 400 personnel are assigned to Combat Camera,

working in Afghanistan, Iraq, and wherever else Marines are deployed.

Their work gives visitors a glimpse onto contemporary fields of battle, precipitated by the acts of terrorism suffered by the United States on 11 September 2001. □1775□

*The National Museum also displays more practical art forms, to include this famous James Montgomery Flag painting used as a "First in the Fight" recruiting poster.*

Marine Corps Art Collection





## Profiles of Medal of Honor Recipients

by Fred H. Allison  
Head, Oral History

“No, no, no—watch his hand!” Corporal Jason Dunham yelled to two of his buddies from Company K, 3d Battalion, 7th Marines, as they wrestled with an Iraqi insurgent outside the town of Karabilah in April 2004. In the enemy’s hand was a grenade with the pin already pulled; probably a British-made “Mills Bomb.” When the Iraqi dropped it, Dunham only had that span of time to make a decision. Dunham dove and slammed his Kevlar helmet over the grenade, it exploded, and shrapnel pierced his skull.

Corporal Dunham died four days later at Bethesda Naval Hospital. On 11 January 2007, Corporal Dunham’s parents proudly accepted the Medal of Honor in recognition of their son’s heroic action. Dunham was the 297th Marine who has received this highest award for bravery and valor.

Medal of Honor recipients are distinguished for their exceptional acts of bravery in the face of extreme danger and willingness to jeopardize their personal safety. On rare occasions, the Medal has been awarded to pioneers such as Brigadier General William “Billy” Mitchell, USA, for his significant military aviation contributions.

Not all decisions, like Dunham’s were instantaneous decisions. Other recipients had time to think about it, evaluate the risks, yet they still made a decision that risked life and limb to destroy the enemy and protect fellow Marines. Like Marine Lieutenant Jefferson J. DeBlanc’s decision when he was flying a Wildcat fighter during World War II, escorting Marine dive-bombers flying back to Guadalcanal. He had done his duty; the bombers were safely off target and headed home and the bombers had tail gunners for self-defense. He calculated that his aircraft had just enough gas to make it back to Guadalcanal when over the radio came the call, “Zeros!” They were behind him, barely visible;



*The Medal of Honor is a bronze medallion hanging from an anchor sewn to a sky-blue ribbon.*

nevertheless they were bearing down on the bombers. He saw no other fighters respond. He turned his Wildcat around, knowing he would run out of gas before he reached home base even if he were fortunate enough to survive the dogfight against numerous adversaries. He made a radio call, “I’ll be in a rubber boat between the Russell Islands and Munda, come and look for me in the morning.”

Corporal Hershel Williams of the 23d Marines at Iwo Jima is an example of a Marine subjected to extreme danger for an extended period, who deliberately and repeatedly made life-imperiling decisions. Over a four-hour period on 23 February 1945, Corporal Williams continuously attacked Japanese pill boxes with a flamethrower and demolition charges in the face of hellish machine-gun fire. He returned repeatedly during a three-day span to friendly lines only for more gas for his flamethrower or more demolition charges.

Similarly, Captain Jay R. Vargas, company commander of Company G, 2d Battalion, 4th Marines, at Dai Do, South Vietnam, in 1968 repeatedly exposed himself to withering enemy fire that wounded him three times, while aggressively leading his Marines in attacks against a well-defended and numerous enemy.

Perhaps Marine rifleman Private Hector Cafferata’s, experience puts it in perspective best. At 0100 at the Chosin Reservoir, in bone chilling weather, he was jolted awake when out of the darkness a Chinese assault bounded toward the Marines’ line. He came out of his sleeping bag and immediately was face to face with Chinese soldiers. Unable to hold in that position the Marines fell back. He dropped in a wash, “with a bunch of wounded and dead Marines,” in it. And that’s where he stayed. In socks and a light jacket, until daylight, all he did was, “shoot and shoot and shoot.” It was automatic he said, hesitation meant, “you or your buddy are gonna be dead.” Cafferata continued: “You know, Marines, we have a motto. We take care of our own. If you’re in a situation that I was in, you have wounded with you, you have dead with you, you know you have to hold the line. So that’s what Marines are supposed to do.” Corporal Dunham and the other Medal of Honor Marines

### Heroes Captured on Tape

In August 2006, Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Michael W. Hagee, hosted a two-day event in Washington, D.C., in honor of the 20 living Marines who had received the Medal of Honor. Recognizing their significance for Marine Corps history, General Hagee invited historians from Marine Corps University, supported by Marines and technicians from HQMC’s Audio Visual Section, to record oral history interviews. The historians collected 11 digital video interviews that captured the varying backgrounds and wartime experiences, and most importantly, an understanding of how and why they made the decisions that led to the actions of the Medal of Honor Marines. Edited versions of their interviews will appear as pod casts on the History Division’s website in the near future and Corporal Hershel Williams’ is already featured on *Leatherneck’s* website. The historians also will provide the interviews to the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

would have agreed.

These Marines are not supermen, rather they are humble, dedicated Marines. And like Corporal Dunham,

there was a time in their past, when in the face of daunting odds, they made a decision, a profound decision that placed the well-being of others ahead

of their own. Corporal Dunham's unselfish decision cost him his life, but it saved the lives of two fellow Marines. □1775□

## *New Publications*

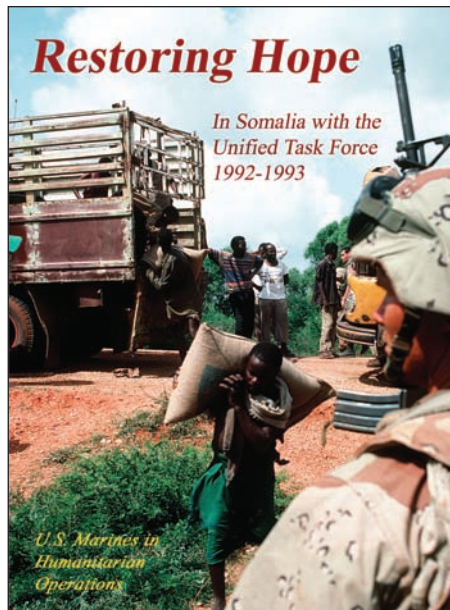
# Somalia Relief Effort Added to Humanitarian Series

by Charles R. Smith  
Head, Histories Branch

Ethiopian-backed government offensive defeats Islamist group; Warlords are back; and U.S. Special Operations forces strike Somalia. Once again stories about this east-African country's struggle with anarchy are on America's front pages. The situation has not changed much in 16 years. The circumstances then and America's response are the subject of the History Division's recent addition to the ongoing U.S. Marines in Humanitarian Operations series, *Restoring Hope: In Somalia with the Unified Task Force, 1992-1993*, by Colonel Dennis P. Mroczkowski, former officer in charge of the Division's field history branch.

In January 1991, as Somalia fell into sectarian and ethnic warfare following the collapse of the central government, regional warlords drawing on clan loyalty established independent power bases. This situation led to a struggle over food supplies with each clan raiding the storehouses and depots of the others. Coupled with a drought, these actions brought famine to hundreds of thousands of the country's poor. Although international relief organizations set up refugee camps to prevent widespread starvation, they could not handle the massive aid and the logistical and security structure needed to distribute it. Food donations never reached the country's poor, because warlords confiscated and distributed or sold it for their own purposes. The general misery was compounded by the continued brutality of the Somali clans toward their rivals and the sporadic outbreaks of fighting. The most visible elements of the suffering – pictures of starving, fly-covered children with bloated bellies – appeared nightly on American television screens.

In early 1992, the United Nations



reacted to the worsening Somalia plight by approving Resolution 751, which authorized United Nations humanitarian relief operations. Almost immediately, a small group of peacekeepers deployed to the country and tried to sort out the confusing array of clans, roving private armies, and relief organizations, all competing over the distribution of relief supplies. While some progress was made in the major towns, significant amounts of the supplies destined for the interior still were being hijacked.

In response to the worsening famine, the United States assisted the relief efforts by airlifting food from nearby Kenya to remote airfields in the interior of Somalia for distribution, thus bypassing congested ports and reducing the need to send out easily looted convoys. The American relief effort was thus a limited attempt to use its logistical expertise without employing its military forces on the ground.

As distribution problems continued,

President George H. W. Bush ordered United States forces to deploy to Somalia. Their mission was to ensure that relief supplies reached the people who needed them thus breaking the cycle of starvation and saving lives.

The operation, codenamed Restore Hope, began on 8 December 1992 under the direction of Unified Task Force Somalia, or UNITAF. I Marine Expeditionary Force formed the bulk of the headquarters, with augmentation from all the Services. Commanded by Marine Lieutenant General Robert B. Johnston, UNITAF included U.S. and allied troops under U.S. rather than United Nations direction. Marine Corps and Navy special operations elements moved into Somalia in the early morning hours of 9 December, with the first 1,300 Marines arriving by amphibious assault vehicles, air-cushioned landing craft, and helicopters directly to Mogadishu airport. Luckily, the diplomatic groundwork had been laid for U.S. troops to arrive without Somali resistance. Thereafter, Somali warlords quickly agreed to cooperate with each other, at least for a time, and work with U.S. troops to establish a relatively secure environment.

The 10th Mountain Division, based at Fort Drum, New York, was the U.S. Army component of UNITAF. Coalition forces included large components from France, Italy, Belgium, Morocco, Australia, Pakistan, Malaysia, and Canada. During the operation, more than 38,000 soldiers from 23 different nations and representatives from 49 different humanitarian relief operations worked together to put food into the mouths of the starving Somali people.

Heavily armed UNITAF units rapidly established security in their assigned



sectors. Although an uneasy truce between the clans was created as a precondition to establishing a military and relief presence in the interior, it was not the U.S. mission to disarm or attack the factions. UNITAF forces were neutral and in Somalia only to ensure that relief supplies flowed. They achieved this mission quickly, and by late December the port and the airport reopened and relief supplies began move ashore and into the interior.

Despite some setbacks and a few violent incidents, the relief mission went well from January until May 1993, when UNITAF turned over responsibilities in Somalia to United Nations forces. It seemed that life for the average Somali was taking on some measure of normalcy. Markets reopened, travel increased, and there was even some hope of restarting a Somali national police force; Operation Restore Hope had succeeded in its goal of bringing an end to

mass starvation. It also provided useful lessons, notes the author. "The men and women, Marines, soldiers, sailors, and airmen who served in Restore Hope were challenged to replace anarchy and fear with order and security. They faced situations that were then novel, but have since become familiar. Their efforts made them...think in new directions to solve the problems of humanitarian operations conducted in support of sometimes obscure and limited national goals." □1775□

## Marine Detachment *Arizona*

*Operational Director, National Museum of the Marine Corps*

On 14 November 2005, the Commandant of the Marine Corps dedicated a memorial to honor the memory of the Marine Detachment *USS Arizona* on 7 December 1941. Of the 88 Marines, 73 were killed in action, 52 of whom remain entombed in the ship. The others are buried in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. The memorial consists of a 36-foot flagpole embedded in a seven-sided concrete base inscribed with the names of the 88-member detachment on seven bronze plaques. It is located on a point of land between the *USS Arizona* Memorial Visitors Center and the *USS Bowfin* Submarine Memorial and Park.

Among the dignitaries attending the ceremony was Colonel John "Jack" H. Earle, Jr., the 91-year-old former detachment commander—and one of only two survivors of that Day of Infamy. The other survivor, former Warrant Officer Lamar S. Crawford, currently lives in Texas.

### Warrant Officer Lamar S. Crawford

Eighty-five-year-old Lamar Crawford is the only survivor who was on the *Arizona* at the time of the attack. He was one of 12 Marine survivors whose battle station was located in secondary aft. Crawford, who worked in the detachment's office, compiled the official muster role of *Arizona's* Marines.



Photo courtesy of the National Archives

*Motor launch rescues a survivor from the water alongside the USS West Virginia during the Pearl Harbor attack.*

Jack Earle assumed command on 6 December 1941. He had received orders weeks earlier but had not been able to carry them out because of the fleet's operational schedule. "Major Alan Shapley met me on the quarter-deck late in the day and formally introduced me to the ship's captain as his relief." However, before the official change of command, the two had to complete the time-honored inventory of the detachment's clothing and property. At 2100, they found themselves in the bowels of the ship, "hot

as hell, working up a powerful thirst." Shapley suggested they go ashore for a beer at the officer's club. Later, Shapley suggested, "Jack, why don't you go home to your wife and come back in the morning." Earle said somewhat tongue in cheek that, "Because Alan Shapley wanted a beer, I'm alive today."

Early the next morning, Earl was awakened by a banging on his apartment door. "I jumped out of bed, hurried to the door and found my neighbor shouting excitedly, 'Pearl Harbor

is under attack!' I rushed to the lanai and saw black puffs of anti-aircraft fire over the harbor." The two rushed into the street, flagged down a cab and raced for naval base. After a frantic ride through the streets of Honolulu, Earle's taxi screeched up to the main gate, where several heavily armed Marine sentries warily scrutinized a frenzied crowd of returning servicemen, many of whom wore civilian clothes. Earle remembered one Navy officer had a great deal of trouble convincing the guards to let him in because of his Asian features. He was an All-American athlete at the Naval Academy, but they still weren't buying his story.

Earle made his way to the fleet landing. "It was a mess," he recalled. "Flames and smoke hung over battleship row. Oil covered the water—some of it on fire. *Arizona* was burning like crazy; a huge cloud of black smoke billowed skyward. *West Virginia*, next to my old ship the *Tennessee*, was burning furiously. One of the first things I saw was a Japanese aerial torpedo lying on the beach. An admiral wandered around in a daze, saying 'Ain't this a mess!' A sailor finally led him away. Many small boats nudged into the pier, calling out the names of their ship to pick up stranded shipmates. I noticed immediately that no boat came in

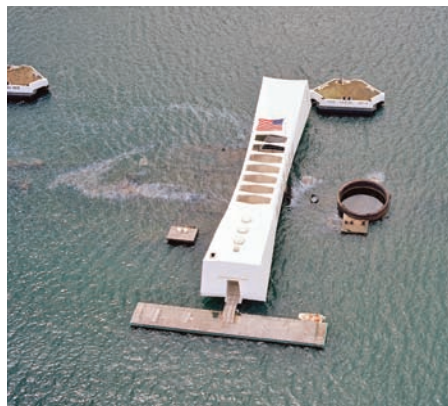


Photo by PO1 Bennett, USN  
USS Arizona Memorial from above in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Notice the oil slick that still leaks from the hull to this day.

from the *Arizona*."

Earle caught a boat to Ford Island, "which the Japanese had bombed the bejesus out of," and made his way to the closest point abreast of *Arizona*. "I found the surviving members of the detachment in a bomb shelter. They were a dazed, bedraggled-looking bunch, soaking wet, no shoes, missing parts of uniforms—and mentally exhausted." By this time the main attack was over, although, "the odd Japanese plane continued to fly over." With the *Arizona* nothing but a blazing wreck, Earle took his men to his old ship, the *Tennessee*, which was pinned against the quay by the *West Virginia*. "We walked across the

fresh-water pipe that fed the battleships. My old shipmates greeted me warmly, because they thought I had been killed." First Sergeant Roger M. Emmons of the *Tennessee* was thankful to see Earle again. "It was a great shock to us when we learned how many of the *Arizona*'s Marines had been killed. Most of the survivors had sore guts caused by the shock of bombs exploding in the water as they swam ashore."

From the *Tennessee*, Earle could see "bodies floating in the harbor and around the ship—lots and lots of bodies—a grisly sight!" Recovery of the remains started almost at once. "Initially, small boats would snare the legs and haul them to the landing. However, after being in the water for a while, the bodies deteriorated so another method was used. A wire scoop was attached to the bow, like a streetcar bumper, which was run underneath the body. It was then lifted and taken ashore." Earle and the survivors remained on board the *Tennessee* for several days before being transferred to the Marine Barracks and reassignment. Jack Earle requested assignment to flight training and, after receiving his wings, flew Douglas SBD Dauntless dive-bomber with Marine Air Group 24 on Bougainville and the Philippines.

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*Pearl Harbor survivors and their family and friends throw flowers into the USS Arizona well during a floral tribute at the USS Arizona Memorial, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The cere-*

*mony took place on 7 December 2006 in honor of the fallen Sailors and Marines of the sunken battleship on its 65th anniversary.*

Photo by SFC James E. Foehl, USA





## 2004 Annual Chronology (Part I)

by Kara R. Newcomer  
Reference Historian

The Annual 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 Historical Reference Branch of the Marine Corps History Division has compiled the yearly chronology by researching numerous primary and secondary sources each week. The following excerpts highlight entries from the first half of the 2004 Chronology including the ongoing Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. To view past annual chronologies as well as the complete 2004 Chronology, please visit the Frequently Requested section of the History Division's website at [www.history.usmc.mil](http://www.history.usmc.mil).

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

**14 January** – The first step of the massive troop rotation in the Persian Gulf region for the next major phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom began as the combat gear for the deploying Marines got underway. Marines were set to replace returning army units and assist in the rebuilding of Iraq. Thousands of Marines from both the I Marine Expeditionary Force and II MEF were scheduled to deploy to the conflicted region by February 2004.

**9 February** – The Korean Defense Service Medal was authorized for any Service member who served in Korea for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days after 28 July 1954 to a future undetermined date. MARADMIN 120/04 spelled out all qualifying criteria for Marines as well as the procedure to acquire the medal.

**23 February** – 50 Marines from a special detachment of the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade landed in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince to



Photo by LCpl Kevin McCall

*Company L, [redacted] Battalion, 8th Marines, secure the perimeter of a school in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, prior to delivering donated school supplies. This effort, known as Operation Homework, was part of the larger Operation Secure Tomorrow.*

secure the U.S. Embassy and help evacuate American citizens from the strife-torn country. Six days later, Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide resigned and President George W. Bush ordered more U.S. Marines into the country to be the leading element of a multinational interim force.

**11 March** – The I Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group completed the longest convoy in the unit's history after traveling over 800 km from staging areas in Kuwait to Forward Operating Base St. Mere, Iraq. The trek to the U.S. Army's 82d Airborne Division's area of operation

took three days. Marines were scheduled to replace the departing Army units in safety and stability operations in Iraq.

**20 March** – Marine Major General James N. Mattis, commander of the Camp Pendleton-based 1st Marine Division, formally assumed responsibility of the Al Anbar and Northern Babil provinces from the Army's 82d Airborne Division. The relief-in-place ceremony bequeathed to the Marine Corps the majority of the volatile Sunni Triangle region north and west of Baghdad, an area where American forces had been under nearly daily attacks from insurgents.

**5 April** – Marines from 2d Battalion, 1st Marines, and 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, shut down access to the volatile Iraqi city of Fallujah in the opening days of Operation Vigilant Resolve. The purpose was to isolate and seek out insurgents holing up in the city following the murder and mutilation of four American contractors. The bitter fighting throughout the month left numerous Marines dead or wounded and with no real peace after the Marines were ordered to scale down attacks and eventually withdraw from the city before an all-out offensive could be launched.

**14 April** – The 22d MEU (SOC) completed its move into Afghanistan. The Marines came under operational control of Combined Joint Task Force 180 and were to assist in operations to help stabilize the country. Sadly, only 10 days later, three Marines were injured when a roadside bomb exploded alongside their convoy near the village of Daylanor in the Kandahar province.

**16 April** – The 4th Marine Regiment celebrated its 90th birthday. The regiment was activated in 1914 at Puget Sound, Washington, but celebrated its birthday in its current location of Camp Schwab, Okinawa.

**26 - 28 April** – Firefights erupted once

again in Fallujah and in Najah after insurgents fired upon Marines ringing the cities and a Marine patrol was ambushed. Most of the insurgents were members of the rebellious cleric Moqtada Sadr's Mahdi Army and were using mosques to hide in. Warplanes and attack helicopters were called in to help destroy suspected strongholds that were not considered sacred sites.

**29 April** – The National World War II Memorial opened to the public. The official dedication took place a month later during Memorial Day weekend with thousands of veterans present to witness the historic moment and partake in the weekend's events. The memorial was built in a prominent space on the National Mall, squarely between the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument.

**7 May** – The Marine Corps suffered its first combat casualty in Afghanistan since Operation Enduring Freedom began in October 2001. Corporal Ronald R. Payne's death came days after the 22d MEU pushed into a region south of Kabul that still harbored Taliban militia and established Forward Operating Base Ripley to support combat and civil-military operations primarily in the Oruzgan province.

**5 June** – Seven Kuwaiti Islamic extrem-

ists were convicted of involvement in the 8 October 2002 attack on Marines participating in urban assault training on the Kuwaiti island of Failaka that left one Marine dead and another wounded. None received more than five years jail time and the lightest sentence was probation. The actual gunmen were killed in the attack and none of those convicted were found guilty of the most serious charges of conspiring with the perpetrators.

**9 June** – Marines from Washington D.C., along with members of the other armed forces, accompanied the body of the 40th President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, to the Capitol Rotunda where he laid in state until 11 June. President Reagan passed away 5 June at the age of 93 at his home in Bel Air, California. In accordance with his wishes, he was flown to D.C. for funeral services before being returned to California for private burial at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum.

**12 June** – Marines killed more than 80 insurgents during a three-week assault in southern Afghanistan. The assault on the Taliban stronghold was a demonstration that there was no refuge for terrorists, especially on the eve of Afghanistan's first free elections that were scheduled for late 2004.

**25 June** – Nearly 2,000 Marines, most from 3d Battalion, 8th Marines, and its regimental staff, officially ended their peacekeeping mission in Haiti and began returning home to North Carolina after a U.N. peacekeeping force began arriving to take over. Two Marines were shot and wounded during the mission.

**28 June** – The U.S. led coalition transferred sovereignty two days early to the interim Iraqi government. The surprise early handover was done in the hopes that it would decrease insurgents' chances to sabotage Iraq's step toward self-rule. Two days later, Marines raised the American flag over the new U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, marking the first time the American flag has flown there in 13 years.

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## Focused on Collection

by LtCol David A. Benhoff  
Field Historian

Since the last issue of *Fortitudine*, Reserve Marines who comprise the History Division's field history branch have maintained an aggressive global deployment schedule to capture Marine Corps "history in the making" in support of the Global War on Terrorism. With trips to Cuba, Horn of Africa, Afghanistan, Bahrain, and Iraq, a rotation of field historians and combat artists teamed up to travel throughout designated area of operations. They conducted interviews and documented the Marine Corps story through a mixed-media collection of words, sketches, paintings, and photos.

The prolonged wartime operational tempo further prompted the Division to expand its collection efforts to write GWOT-focused publications ranging from articles to battle studies and monograph's. Marine Corps University endorsed the History Division commitment by authorizing additional reserve augmentation. The Division deployed members from its Individual Mobilization Augmentee Detachment to collect target interviews and also welcomed 12 additional Individual Augmentees from other Reserve sources who stepped forward with year-long mobilization orders. The temporary flux of reserves will support the short and long-term writing projects and the oral history and combat art programs. During 2006, 16 articles or edited interviews were published in the *Marine Corps Gazette*, *Leatherneck*, and the Marine Corps Aviation Association *Yellow Sheet*, and



*LtCol Timothy Crowley in Iraq*

a series of battle studies and monographs are presently being written for future publication.

A combination of the increased operational tempo, a variety of missions, and an inventory of quickly deteriorating legacy equipment necessitated a major upgrade to support the field history's tools-of-the-trade. These requirements were met through the acquisition of new "ruggedized" laptops, hardened and sealed digital cameras, and a new suite of digital recorders and software. More than ever before, the field history members are fully equipped for the important task of collecting and disseminating history in the digital age. To date, field historians have captured more than 6,000 recorded oral interviews, thousands upon thousands of photographs, more than 3,000 artifacts for

See number placement in side bar



the National Museum of the Marine Corps, and countless documents for the archives that will support the GWOT collection.

The dedication and personal sacrifices levied to collect and document these historic events will ensure the deeds and accomplishments of the deployed and fallen Marines in the Global War on Terrorism will never be forgotten. □1775□

### Historians Around the World

Field Historian LtCol Craig Covert and Combat Artist WO-1 Michael Fay returned safely in March 2006 from approximately six months on-the-ground in Iraq. **1**

Field Historian Maj Jeffrey Riley and Combat Artist Maj Alex Durr departed in June 2006 for a five-month Iraqi **2** tour. Replacements LtCol Kurt Wheeler and Sgt Kris Battles **3** who continued the coverage into 2007.

Other GWOT deployments included CWO3 Bill Hutson's visit to the Horn of Africa **4** as part of Command Joint Task Force Horn of Africa; Capt Cameron Wilson's two-week deployment to Bahrain **5** to document the participation of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Special Operations Capable in the Non-combatant Evacuation Operation of Lebanon; and, finally, LtCol Timothy Crowley's back-to-back deployments that began with a six-week trip to document Marine operations in Afghanistan **6** in October and November, immediately trailed by his trip to cover Marine efforts at Guantanamo Bay, **7** Cuba, with CWO-4 Michael Sears and WO-1 Michael Fay.

# Dispatch from Iraq: February 2007

by LtCol Kurt Wheeler  
Field Historian

Combat Artist Sergeant Kris Battles and I are headquartered at Camp Fallujah in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq where we cover the I Marine Expeditionary Force. Our mission is to conduct oral history interviews, take photos, collect documents and artifacts, and produce works of combat art which capture the experiences and contributions of the Marines here during Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07.

Sergeant Battles has been on deck since October 2006 and will be here until January 2007; I arrived in November 2006 and will remain until March 2007. During our time on the ground here we have covered a significant portion of the Multi-National Force West area of operations in western Iraq. Collectively we have visited nearly every major Marine base and dozens of smaller outposts. Midway through the tour, more than 420 oral history interviews have been conducted, ranging from young Marines on their first deployment to General officers whose careers began back in the Vietnam era. Between the two of us we have taken more than 7,000 photos capturing every aspect of life in Iraq; from fighting positions to chow

halls and from weapons systems to church services. We have gathered hundreds of documents and thousands of electronic files which, on today's "digital battlefield," might otherwise never make it out of Iraq to the Marine Corps' archives.

Much has changed on the modern battlefield. Commanders watch real-time aerial images of their battle space on huge video screens in their combat operations centers and events are tracked via on-line chat sessions instead of on "yellow canaries." Troops are equipped with modern individual equipment such as boots, packs, and clothing that employ 21st century fibers and resins instead of the World War II or Vietnam vintage gear which was issued until recently. Marines are given the latitude to wear their equipment in the way that best supports their individual mission versus a "one size fits all" standardization.

Some things, however, have not changed. The esprit, motivation and will to engage the enemy found among today's Marines would be quickly recognized by Marines of other eras. Everywhere we travel, we are inspired by the morale of the



Combat Artist Sgt Kris Battles in Iraq

Marines we encounter. In unit after unit, their leaders share the same observation; the busier Marines are and the tougher their missions, the higher their morale. Most of today's young Marines joined the service after 9/11 and knew exactly what they were signing up for, and they have gotten it in spades. Vast numbers of troops have done two deployments, three tours are not uncommon, and we have encountered a number who are on their fourth combat tour already. Senior Marine leaders such as MEF G-7 Colonel F. Mark Cancian, whose career spans 36 years describe today's force as, "The best I have ever seen."

The most satisfying part of our mission is the opportunity to capture the individual achievements of Marines and collective accomplishments of the Corps in a difficult and dangerous fight. Relatively little of I MEF's great progress in Al Anbar is being reported to the American people due to the media's fixation on Baghdad. It is a privilege to document the challenges and achievements of the Marine Corps in OIF for the history books and for near-term audiences like *Fortitudine* readers. □1775□

LtCol Kurt Wheeler in action in Iraq





## Combat Art Program

by Maj Alex Durr  
Combat Artist

The Combat Art Program and its artists are actively engaged in portraying how Marines fight, work and honor the deeds of others during the “Long War” against terrorism. Three combat artists are currently mobilized with the Field History Branch to capture and share our Marines’ story visually through their paintings, sketches, sculptures, and photographs. Each combat artist deployed forward this past year, and collectively they visited Afghanistan, Iraq, and Cuba to capture Marines in action.

Combat Art can trace its roots back to prehistoric cave paintings depicting the hunt. Perhaps, it may be part of our nature to draw and paint our most dramatic, life threatening, and horrific scenes and yet the collection is less full of this and more full of portraits of warriors. Between intensities, during the calm, is the time for reflection and remembrance.

The Marine Corps Combat Art Program can trace its roots back to the “Great War.” Some of the earliest pieces in the more than 8,000-item collection include a pen and ink drawing from 1825. Officially, the program was created in 1942 under the guid-

ance of General Robert L. Denig. He deployed artists, both civilian and Marines throughout the Pacific theater to depict the Leathernecks’ experiences in World War II. Although, few in number, Combat Artists were again deployed to the Korean Conflict. During the Vietnam War, the Marine Corps Combat Art Program saw resurgence under the guidance of then Commandant, General Wallace M. Greene, Jr., and through the direction of Colonel Raymond Henri, himself a veteran from World War II.

In the 1980s, Vietnam veteran, Combat Artist and reservist, Major John “Jack” Dyer was deployed to Lebanon, where he documented the destruction caused by a suicide bomber to the Marine Barracks. Major Dyer’s dark, raw and stark watercolors of Marines on duty and the after effects of the bombing reflect on the scale and magnitude of the destruction caused by the terrorist. It is only fitting that this scene was our first in the latest edition of 22 Combat Art Prints published by the Marine Corps University. This current set of prints includes the Marines’ involvement in Somalia, Haiti, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Retired Marine and former combat artist, Charlie Grow, serves as the Curator of Art at the National Museum and he is assisted by Mrs. Joan Thomas. The art collection and Combat Art Gallery at the museum are in extremely “good hands” between the two of them. □1775□

### Profiles of Field History’s Combat Artists

Major Alex Durr took a leave-of-absence from his flying duties as a commercial pilot with American Airlines and deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq in 2006 in support of the Marine Corps Combat Art Program. One of Major Durr’s most challenging assignment while deployed was painting the mural of Iraqi Brigadier General Khodeiri Obeid Abbas Al Janadi, Fallujah’s former Deputy Chief of Police. The chief was gunned down by insurgents June 19. Maj Durr was commissioned to do the piece by Col Larry Nicholson, RCT-5’s commander, to honor a “Son of Fallujah” who was killed protecting the city and people he loved.

Warrant Officer Michael Fay, currently our most experienced combat artist, will be having a one-man show of his artwork entitled: “Fire and Ice” at the James A. Michener Art Museum in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, opening on 7 July 2007. On display will be more than 70 works depicting Marines in the “Long War.”

Recently-deployed Marine combat artist, Sergeant Kris Battles has returned with not only some outstanding artwork, but also has created an informative online journal.

*A painting by combat artist Maj Alex Durr of an AH-1W “Cobra” escorting a “Cas-A-Vac” CH-46 inbound to the field hospital at Balad, Iraq.*

Marine Corps Art Collection, Maj Alex Durr



# Fallen Marines from Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom Honored

*by Robert V. Aquilina*

*Assistant Head, Historical Reference Branch*

A special responsibility of the Historical Reference Branch of the Marine Corps History Division is the administration of the Marine Corps Commemorative Naming Program. The purpose of this program is to honor the memory of heroic and noteworthy Marines and other members of the Naval service by the naming of bases, camps, buildings, streets, and other facilities in their honor. Since 1976, more than 500 Marines have been recognized by the naming of a facility in their honor.

Upon receiving a request from a Marine command to commemoratively name a particular facility, the Reference Branch reviews the submitted letter and accompanying documentation to ensure the appropriateness and completeness of the request. The History Division then prepares a special package, along with a recommended response, for the Commandant of the Marine Corps, who personally reviews and approves every commemorative naming action.

A continuing trend in recent years has been requests from Marine commands to name facilities in honor of Marines and other members of the Naval service who had direct association with the requesting Marine command, most often by virtue of having served in the unit. In this regard, the History Division has noted a sizeable increase in the number of Marine commands wishing to name facilities in honor of fallen Marines from Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

As of January 2007, the Commandant of the Marine Corps approved the following Commemorative Naming actions in honor of Marines who gave their lives for Corps and country in Afghanistan and Iraq:

25 July 2003 – CMC approved the

naming of the Branch Medical Clinic at MCRD San Diego, in honor of Hospital Corpsman Second Class Michael V. Johnson, USN, who was killed in action on 25 March 2003 in Iraq, while serving with the 3d Battalion, 5th Marines.

7 October 2004 – CMC approved the naming of a multiuse facility aboard MCB Camp Pendleton, in honor of Gunnery Sergeant Jeffrey E. Bohr, Jr., who was killed in action on 10 April 2003 in Iraq, while serving with 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

7 February 2005 – CMC approved the naming of a new Amphibious Dive Facility aboard MCB Camp Pendleton, in honor of First Sergeant Edward Smith, who was killed in action on 4 April 2003 in Iraq, while serving with 2d Battalion, 5th Marines.

8 July 2005 – CMC approved the naming of the 31st MEU Headquarters Building at Camp Butler, Okinawa, in honor of Sergeant Rafael Peralta, who was killed in action on 15 November 2004 in Iraq, while serving with 1st Battalion, 3d Marines.

15 August 2005 – CMC approved the naming of a new school at MCB Camp Lejeune, in honor of Sergeant Michael E. Bitz, who was killed in action 23 March 2003 in Iraq, while serving with 1st Battalion, 2d Marines.

15 August 2005 – CMC approved the naming of the Staff Non-Commissioned Officers Academy Barracks at MCU, Quantico, in honor of Gunnery Sergeant Phillip A. Jordan, who was killed in action 23 March 2003 in Iraq, while serving with 1st Battalion, 2d Marines.

30 August 2005 – CMC approved the naming of the Dining Facility at MCAGCC, Twenty-nine Palms, in honor of Private First Class Chance R. Phelps, who was killed in action 9

April 2004 in Iraq, while serving with 3d Battalion, 11th Marines.

5 October 2005 – CMC approved the naming of the Staff Non-Commissioned Officers Club at MCB Camp Lejeune, in honor Gunnery Sergeant Terry W. Ball, Jr., who was killed in action 12 June 2005 in Iraq, while serving with 3d Battalion, 8th Marines.

1 November 2005 – CMC approved the naming of a Military Police Annex at MCAS Miramar, in honor of Lance Corporal Jeffrey C. Burgess, who was killed in action 25 March 2004 in Iraq, while serving with Marine Wing Support Squadron 374.

8 November 2005 – CMC approved the naming of the Marine Corps Intelligence Activity Annex on Marine Corps Base, Quantico, in honor of Lance Corporal James E. Swain, who was killed in action 15 November 2004 in Iraq, while serving with 3d Battalion, 1st Marines.

15 March 2006 – CMC approved the naming of an office suite at the Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center, Norfolk, in honor of Sergeant Bradley J. Harper, who was killed in action on 3 August 2005 in Iraq, while serving with 3d Battalion, 25th Marines.

17 April 2006 – CMC approved the naming of a chapel at MCAS Miramar, in honor of Religious Program Specialist First Class Jose M. Felix, USN, who died of cancer on 1 February 2004. He had deployed twice to the Middle East in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

7 June 2006 – CMC approved the naming of the Marine Corps Reserve Training Center, Pasadena, in honor of Second Lieutenant James P. Blecksmith, who was killed in action on 11 November 2004 in Iraq, while serving with 3d Battalion, 5th Marines.



21 August 2006 – CMC approved the naming of a building in the 25 Area of MCB, Camp Pendleton, in honor of Master Sergeant Brett E. Angus, and Staff Sergeant William D. Richardson. Both Marines were killed in action on 26 November 2005, while serving with Marine Wing Support Squadron 372.

2 October 2006 – CMC approved the naming of the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle Maintenance Facility at Naval Construction Battalion, Gulfport, in honor of Corporal David S. Stewart,

and Lance Corporal Kevin G. Waruinge. Both Marines were killed in action on 3 August 2005 in Iraq, while serving with 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion.

1 December 2006 – CMC approved the naming of a Weapons Testing Facility at MCB Quantico, in honor of Staff Sergeant Abraham G. Twitchell, who was killed in action on 2 April 2006 in Iraq, while serving with Combat Logistics Battalion 7, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

20 December 2006 – CMC approved the naming of a street at MCB Camp Butler, in honor of Captain Sean L. Brock, who was killed in action on 2 February 2005 in Iraq, while serving with the 1st Marine Division.

20 December 2006 – CMC approved the naming of a Communication Training Facility at MCB Camp Lejeune, in honor of Corporal Ramona M. Valdez, who was killed in action on 23 June 2005 in Iraq, while serving with the 2d Marine Division. □1775□

## *Gray Research Center*

# The Library of the Marine Corps

*by Carol E. Ramkey*

*Director, Library of the Marine Corps*

The General Alfred Gray Research Center houses the Library of the Marine Corps, which serves as a valuable source for research on military science and Marine Corps related topics.

The library staff serves the Marine Corps University students, faculty and staff; active, former, and retired Marines; historians; researchers; and the general public from all over the world who are looking for sources on military science, doctrine, operations and heritage. The staff is committed to helping students find answers to questions about military science and military history.

### *Archives and Special Collections Branch*

The Archives and Special Collections Branch is the home of unit command chronologies. Did you ever wonder where those “CCs” went after they left your unit? Well, they live here in the Archives. If you have questions about what a unit was doing at a particular time, this is where you come to find the answers. The Command Chronology collection spans Marine Corps history from Vietnam to the present. Some materials are classified or restricted in some way, but many are not, and can provide insight into the activities and operations of units at battalion-or squadron-level over time or at specific times. They generally do not contain information below the company level.

Command Chronologies are a major source for the preparation of unit lineage and honors, which are researched and prepared by the History Division. Command chronologies record unit commander and unit designation changes, and are a linchpin of historical research about the Marine Corps.

The Archives also maintains the personal papers of Marine Corps Commandants. These collections provide a fascinating glimpse into the lives of the men who have led the Corps. In addition, the Audio-Visual Information Repository holds thousands of photos, slides, filmstrips,

*As well as first-class research and study materials, the Gray Research Center and Library boasts attractive and modern surroundings for students at the Marine Corps University and for outside scholars. Located at the intellectual heart of the Marine Corps, it serves as a focal point for military studies.*



*Inviting interior of the central atrium of the Library*

films and videos. You can view films of Marines’ actions at Belleau Wood, departing for China in 1927, and the amphibious landing at Tarawa, among others on the web site.

The Archives collects the diaries, letters, memoirs and oral histories of Marines of all ranks. Their personal stories show how they served the Marine Corps and how the Marine Corps shaped them and changed their lives.

Do you have letters, diaries, photos, videos or emails about your experiences in the Marine Corps? Would you like to become part of Marine Corps history? If so, please contact the Library at 703-784-4685 or visit the Web site at:

<http://www.mcu.usmc.mil/MCRCweb/library.htm>.

In future editions of *Fortitudine*, specific resources and collections available at the Library of the Marine Corps will be highlighted. □1775□

## Former Assistant Commandant Passes

by Robert V. Aquilina

Assistant Head, Historical Reference Branch

Readers of *Fortitudine* will recognize the “In Memoriam” section of the bulletin, which reports on the passing of some of the more prominent former Marines, or individuals who had a unique impact on Marine Corps history. We regret that space limitations preclude the inclusion of additional worthy entries, and in this regard, our readerships’ attention is directed to the monthly “In Memoriam” section of *Leatherneck* magazine.

**General Kenneth McLennan,**

who served as Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps from 1979 to 1981 under Gen Robert H. Barrow, 27th CMC, died 20 September 2005 in Encinitas, California, at the age of 80. A native of Vancouver, B.C., Canada, he enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in January 1943, and was commissioned a second lieutenant, 18 July 1945.



He participated in combat operations in Korea from January-July 1953, while serving with the 3d Battalion, 5th Marines. By the close of the Korean War, he was the commanding officer of Company I. He was integrated into the regular Marine Corps in March 1953.

Peacetime assignments following the war included tours of duty at Camp Lejeune, Quantico, and Camp Pendleton, where he commanded the 3d Battalion, 7th Marines. He later commanded 1st Battalion, 9th Marines on Okinawa, and 3d Battalion, 5th Marines during a second tour at Camp Pendleton. He was Director, Services Division, and later, Head, Warehouse and Traffic Branch, Material Division, Marine Corps Supply Center, Albany, Georgia, from 1964-1966.

During the Vietnam War, he served as Division Inspector, 3d Marine

Division on Okinawa in 1969, and later was assigned as Chief of Staff, 11th Marine Expeditionary Brigade. In Vietnam, he served as Deputy G-4, and later as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4, III Marine Amphibious Force. In December 1970 he was assigned as the plans officer for Headquarters, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, and later became Commanding Officer, Camp H. M. Smith, Hawaii.

Promoted to brigadier general in September 1972, his assignments as a general officer included duty as the Marine Corps Liaison Officer in the Office of the Chief of Staff of Naval operations; command of the 2d Marine Division at Camp Lejeune in 1976; and in 1978, Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Headquarters Marine Corps. He assumed duty as Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps and Chief of Staff on 1 July 1979. General McLennan retired from the Marine Corps on 1 July 1981.

**Lieutenant General Harold A. Hatch,**

died 19 February 2006, in Atlantic Beach, Florida, at the age of 81. The Avon, Illinois, native enlisted in the active duty Marine Corps Reserve in December 1942. He rose to the rank of master sergeant, before receiving a regular commission as a Marine second lieutenant in 1949.



During the Korean War, he served as Commanding Officer of the Marine detachment aboard the *USS Saint Paul* (CA-73). He had subsequent tours of duty during the 1950s at Quantico, Camp Pendleton, Camp Lejeune, and the Marine Corps Recruiting Station Richmond.

During the Vietnam War, he served first as a battalion executive officer with the 9th Marines. He then was assigned as the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, and

received a Bronze Star. Following his return, he commanded 2d Service Battalion and 8th Marines at Camp Lejeune. As a general officer, he served from 1971-1974 as Deputy Chief of Staff, Headquarters, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific. He then was assigned as Commanding General at Camp Butler, Okinawa. Later, he served as Fiscal Director of the Marine Corps, and in 1977 was appointed as Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations and Logistics, at Headquarters Marine Corps. He was promoted to lieutenant general in 1981, and retired from the Marine Corps on 1 October 1984.

**Major General James R. Davis,**

died 1 August 2005 in San Marcos, California, at the age of 66. The Parkersburg, West



Virginia, native enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1960, and was later selected for commissioning in the Meritorious Noncommissioned Officer Program. Upon completion of Officer Candidate School, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in April 1964.

During the Vietnam War, he served as an advisor to a Vietnamese infantry battalion. He later was assigned as an instructor with the U.S. Army Special Warfare School, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In 1979, he commanded the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, and in 1981, was assigned as executive officer of the 7th Marines. During 1983, General Davis was ordered to Korea, where he became the Officer in Charge of the Marine Detachment, Pohang, Korea under Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Korea. He later commanded Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, and in 1986 assumed duties as the Commanding Officer, Recruit Training Regiment.

He was selected for promotion to



brigadier general in December 1989, and was assigned duty as President, Marine Corps University in Quantico in June 1990. He was promoted to major general in April 1993, and subsequently assumed his final assignment before his retirement later that year, as Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruiting Command, Headquarters, Marine Corps.

**Major General David Barker,**

died 15 January 2006, at the age of 76. The Needham, Massachusetts native was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant on 1 June 1951, and following completion of The Basic School, was ordered to Korea for duty with the 1st Marine Division. He participated in combat operations in Korea as a member of the 1st Battalion, 11th Marines, and was awarded a Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V." He later commanded an artillery battalion with the 2d Marine Division at Camp Lejeune.



During the Vietnam War, he served first as a plans officer, then later as the Commanding Officer of the 3d Battalion, 12th Marines. He was transferred to Headquarters, Fleet Marine Force Pacific in December 1967. From 1974-1975, he commanded the 12th Marines on Okinawa, prior to subsequent assignments in the Operations Division at Headquarters, Marine Corps. He was promoted to brigadier general in April 1977. He was assigned duty as the Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune in June 1978, and was promoted to major general in May 1980. He retired in 1987, following his last assignment as Commanding General, 4th Marine Division (Rein), New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Major General Lowell E. English,** died 26 September 2005 in San Diego, California, at the age of 90. Born in Fairbury, Nebraska, he was commissioned in July 1938 as a Marine second lieutenant. During World War II, he participated in combat operations on Guadalcanal, Bougainville, and Guam,

where he was awarded a Bronze Star with Combat "V." He later commanded 2d Battalion, 21st Marines on Iwo Jima, and was awarded the Legion of Merit with Combat "V." He was wounded during this campaign, and evacuated to the United States for hospitalization.



Post-war assignments included a tour of duty at the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis as Battalion Officer, and later as Head of the Academic Section, Executive Department. He then served for three years at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point as an instructor in Military Psychology and Leadership.

During the Korean War, he commanded 3d Battalion, 1st Marines, and subsequently served as the regiment's executive officer. In July 1953, he was appointed liaison officer to the U.S. Eighth Army and was awarded a second Legion of Merit with Combat "V."

Promoted to brigadier general in 1963, he was assigned two years later to be the Assistant Commander of the 3d Marine Division, in Vietnam. Returning in 1967 to the United States, he was promoted to major general, and assumed his final assignment as Commanding General, MCRD San Diego. General English retired from the Marine Corps in 1967.

**Major General Kenneth J. Houghton,**

died 27 March 2006 in La Jolla, California, at the age of 85. The San Francisco, California, native was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant in September 1942. During World War II, he saw action at Tarawa, the Marshall Islands, and Saipan.



Following the war, he saw a tour of duty as Commanding Officer of the Marine Detachment aboard the *USS Atlanta*. He then served as a rifle company commander and division Reconnaissance Company commander with the 1st Marine Division.

During the Korean War, he earned his first Silver Star Medal and Bronze

Star Medal with Combat "V," and gold star in lieu of a second Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" while serving in reconnaissance units with both the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade and the 1st Marine Division.

Following several post war assignments at Fleet Marine Force Atlantic, Norfolk, and at Quantico, he served from 1959-1961 as Commanding Officer, 3d Battalion, 5th Marines. He then attended the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, before subsequent assignments at Headquarters Marine Corps, and later, with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as an Action Officer, J-3 Division. During the Vietnam War, he commanded the 5th Marines during 1967 in combat operations in the Republic of Vietnam. During the six month period in which he commanded the regiment, he was awarded the Navy Cross, a gold star in lieu of a second Silver Star Medal, and two gold stars in lieu of a second and third Purple Heart. He also was awarded the Legion of Merit with Combat "V."

He was advanced to the rank of brigadier general in August 1968, and assumed duties as Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1, Headquarters, Marine Corps. In March 1970, he was assigned Chief of Staff, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific. He was promoted to major general on 2 April 1973, and later commanded the 1st and 3d Marine Divisions. In the later assignment, he also assumed command of the III Marine Amphibious Force, Okinawa. His last assignment was as Commanding General, MCRD San Diego. General Houghton retired from the Marine Corps on 1 November 1977.

**Colonel Reginald R. Myers,**

a Medal of Honor recipient from the Korean War, died 23 October 2005 in West Palm Beach, Florida, at the age of 85. The Boise, Idaho, native served in the Army Reserve before accepting an appointment in September 1941 as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps.



During World War II, he participat-

ed in numerous combat operations while serving as the Commanding Officer of the Marine detachment aboard the *USS Minneapolis*. He also served with the 5th Marines during the assault on Okinawa, and later in the post-war occupation of Northern China.

During the Korean War, he served as Executive Officer, 3d Battalion, 1st Marines, and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" for heroism during the 15 September 1950 landing at Inchon. He was later awarded a Gold Star in lieu of a second Bronze Star Medal for his actions in helping to rescue two wounded Marines during the same campaign.

He earned the Medal of Honor for actions on 29 November 1950 during the Chosin Reservoir campaign, when, after his Marines successfully assaulted and captured a critical hill, he consistently exposed himself to sustained enemy fire while directing artillery and mortar fire and setting up emplacement to defend the position occupied by his Marines. His beleaguered force killed more than 600 enemy soldiers and wounded numerous others. Colonel Myers retired from active duty in the Marine Corps on 1 May 1967.

*Hospital Apprentice First Class Robert E. Bush, USN*, who received the Medal of Honor for heroism during the Okinawa campaign, died 8 November



2005 in Tumwater, Washington, at the age of 79. After leaving high school at the age of 17 to enlist in the Navy, he completed boot camp and medical training, and joined the 5th Marines in December 1944. On D-Day at Okinawa, he heroically exposed himself to intense enemy fire and grenades, while administering to a wounded Marine officer. Bush fired a pistol and carbine at advancing enemy soldiers, while continuing to aid the wounded officer. As a result, Bush suffered multiple shrapnel wounds, a shattered arm, and a blinding eye injury. After lengthy hospital stays recovering from his wounds, he was discharged in July 1945 from the

U.S. Naval Reserve. Shortly thereafter, he was awarded the Medal of Honor in person from President Harry S. Truman.

*Joseph J. Rosenthal*, whose immortal photograph of the second flag-raising atop Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima during World War II earned him a Pulitzer Prize, died



20 August 2006, at the age of 94. The fifth of six children born to Russian immigrants, he began his photojournalism career as an office boy in San Francisco with the Newspaper Enterprise Association. After gaining darkroom experience, he soon became an accomplished news photographer. Eventually, his considerable talents resulted in his appointment to be the San Francisco bureau manager of Wide World Photos. He attempted to enlist in the Armed Forces at the outbreak of World War II, but failed the physical. After managing to enter the Maritime Service, he spent a year photographing shipboard life in Europe and North Africa. He was then offered an opportunity to cover combat operations in the Pacific for Associated Press, and was present at the invasions of Peleliu, Angaur, and Hollandia.

Landing on D-Day, 19 February

*Joseph Rosenthal's famous second flag raising photo from Iwo Jima.*

Department of Defense Photo (USMC) 113162



1945 at Iwo Jima, he was present four days later at the historic raising of the second flag atop Mount Suribachi, when he took the photo which would become not only the symbol for the most successful war bond drive of World War II, but would also later serve as the model for the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia.

After the war, Rosenthal continued his career as a general assignment photographer for the San Francisco Chronicle, but continued to appear at numerous Marine Corps functions. He was the recipient of many accolades and honors, including a life membership in the Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association. He retired in 1981. In September 2006, he was posthumously awarded a Distinguished Public Service Medal for service to the Marine Corps and his country. □1775□




## Marine Corps History Division now Located at Quantico

The Marine Corps Historical Center located on the Washington Navy Yard in Washington, D.C., closed its doors permanently on 31 August 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.



## Museum Director, Historian, Marine

by  Avery Chenoweth (Ret)

*Our Comrade Brooke Nihart has fought his last campaign and went west this morning at 6:30a.m. If there is a Valballa I am sure that is where he now is.*

BGen Edwin H. Simmons

Retired U.S. Marine Colonel F. Brooke Nihart, of Green Spring Village in Springfield, Virginia, died 30 August 2006, at Fairfax Hospital.

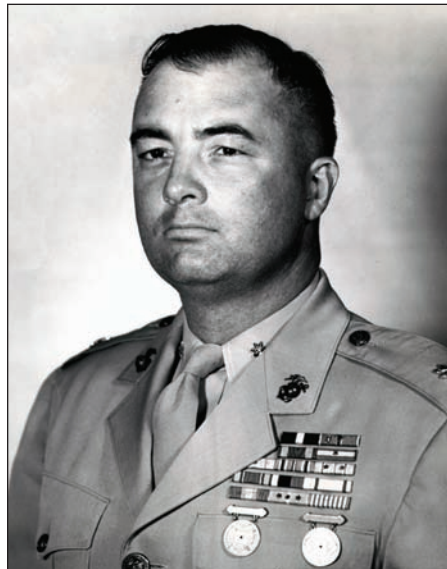
A two-war veteran, Colonel Nihart was a noted military historian, weapons expert, and military museum director. After 26 years of active duty, he became an editor of *The Armed Forces Journal* before assuming the duty of Deputy Director for Museums in the History and Museums Division at the Navy Yard, where he served for another 19 years.

Born in Los Angeles in 1919, Nihart attended public schools before graduating in political science and economics from Occidental College in 1940, and commissioned through the Platoon Leaders Class.

Immediately assigned active duty, he graduated from the Basic School at Philadelphia. Short assignments in infantry units followed before the outbreak of World War II. Lieutenant Nihart then served as a gunnery officer on board the aircraft carrier *USS Saratoga* (CV-3), when it unsuccessfully tried to assist Wake Island immediately after Pearl Harbor. That was followed by other shipboard and infantry-amphibious training assignments and schooling. He taught both U.S. Marine and Army units amphibious landing tactics. In 1945, Major Nihart was executive officer of 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, in the battle for Okinawa. Following that, he was assigned to the forces in North China.

During the Korean War, Lieutenant Colonel Nihart commanded 2d Battalion, 1st Marines, receiving the Navy Cross for a fierce nighttime battle against North Korean forces late in September 1951 at the Punchbowl, in southeastern North Korea.

In 1953, while heading the Personal



Affairs Branch, Personnel Department at HQMC, he was tasked as the Marine member of the Department of Defense's Advisory Committee on Prisoners of War. There, he wrote the basic draft for the Code of Conduct of U.S. prisoners of war, which has been in effect up to the present.

In 1959, he served as military attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Rangoon, Burma, before returning to Camp Pendleton to command the 7th Marines. In 1963, having completed all amphibious and command and staff schools, Colonel Nihart attended the Department of State's top level Senior Seminar in Foreign Policy.

Before he retired in 1966, Nihart had won several gold medals in both pistol and rifle matches, and also earned an international reputation as a military weapons expert.

One of his most prestigious appointments was as American Representative on the executive board of the International Association of Museums for Arms and Military History.

While serving as the Deputy Director for Marine Corps Museums from 1972 to 1991, Nihart oversaw the development of the Marine Corps Museums System, and in 1977 was directly responsible for the establish-

ment of the museum in the Marine Corps Historical Center in the Washington Navy Yard. The following year saw the opening of the Marine Corps Aviation Museum at Quantico, and he guided it through its transition to the Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum. He also nurtured new Marine Corps museums at the Parris Island Recruit Depot in South Carolina, and both the San Diego Depot and the former El Toro Air Station in California. He led the program that provided hundreds of historical exhibits to other museums, commemorations, and Marine units throughout the United States and overseas and directed more than 25 special exhibitions at the museum in the Navy Yard.

Colonel Nihart wrote prolifically, contributing regularly to *Armed Forces Journal*, *Military Collector and Historian*, *Fortitudine*, *Naval Institute Proceedings*, *Navy's Almanac*, *Sea Power*, *CAMP*, *Leatherneck*, and the *Marine Corps Gazette*. With the latter, he became a 60-year club contributor. Most recently, he contributed to *Semper Fi: The Definitive Illustrated History of the U.S. Marines* published in 2005. During the month of his death, his last article was published in the *Marine Corps Gazette*.

Colonel Nihart's personal decorations include the Navy Cross, two Bronze Stars with Combat "V", Air Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and the Navy Commendation Medal. Among other awards are the Distinguished Service Award for his long-time service and assistance in creating the National Museum of the Marine Corps and the Gen O.P. Smith award for *Semper Fi*, both from the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. Colonel Nihart established an award in his own name at the Marine Corps University at Quantico for outstanding military writers.

Colonel Nihart was laid to rest on 7 November 2006 at Arlington National Cemetery. □1775□

