

CHAPTER V

WORLD WAR II AND BEYOND

“PEARL HARBOR HAS BEEN ATTACKED! THIS IS NOT A DRILL!” were the words coming over the military communication systems 7 December 1941 at all Marine Corps posts including Quantico.

Marines were standing by to see what would occur next and what their role in this new war would be. It wasn't long before things started to happen. Within days, many Quantico Marines had their orders in hand and were on their way to the West Coast.

On the eve of the Japanese attack, there was only one air group in each Marine aircraft wing. Quantico was the home of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, and it was imperative that its Marine Aircraft Group 11 leave for the Pacific immediately. Three squadrons were on maneuvers at New Bern, North Carolina, but within two days the first elements were ready. On 9 December the command began the long trip by air and train across the United States. By 21 December Quantico's aviators had arrived at San Diego, California.¹

After the tactical squadrons left Quantico for the Pacific, the airfield became an overhaul and repair facility as well as an advanced training base for aviators. A huge building to house the overhaul and repair functions was built on the site of Field No. 1. Due to the shortage of steel, the entire rear of the building was made of large wood beams. The facility overhauled F4U Corsairs, and did modifications to SB2C Helldivers, Mitchell PBJ bombers, and F6F Hellcats during the war.²

During those first days of World War II, Quantico's air station had another brief but important role to play. In late December 1941, Quantico was cut off from the rest of the world for a time as an event critical to the prosecution of the war was taking place. Captain James P. Berkeley was in charge of the post telephone system at Quantico then, and was responsible for the entire base communication system including a small radio station.

Without advance warning, one day he received top priority and explicit orders from Washington that no telephone or telegraph messages were to come in or leave Quantico until further notice. Even parts of U.S. Highway 1 were closed to all traffic by State Police.

It wasn't until after four hours of no contact with the outside world that Quantico heard on the radio the reason for this seclusion: Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain, had arrived in Washington, D.C., for crucial talks with President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Quantico had been chosen as the alternate landing site for Churchill's arrival.³

Quantico was called upon a number of times during the war to serve as a meeting place, an airfield for important visitors, or as an “alternate” for a variety of other important functions connected with the government's military and civil activities. This frequent and important role—prompted by Quantico's proximity to Washington, D.C.—coupled with nation-wide rationing of food and fuel, and frequent base-wide blackouts caused



The intersection of Barnett and Potomac Avenues at the beginning of World War II. (USMC Photo 31487).

by the threat of German submarines off the East Coast, brought the war to the homefront. But the real evidence of the war was not these peripheral things; it was the role Quantico had assumed years earlier and which now became critical to the nation's success—training Marines for amphibious warfare.

The farsightedness and prophecies of Marines over the previous four decades, plus the pioneering work of the 1920s and 1930s had well prepared the Marine Corps and Quantico in particular for the amphibious role the Corps was to play during the war. Quantico's professional education system, the development of amphibious doctrine and hardware, the testing of techniques and equipment, the integration of development and education—all were crucial prerequisites to the Corps' success in the Pacific. When World War II came, Quantico and the Corps were ready.

Within weeks of the attack at Pearl Harbor, Congress authorized the expansion of the Corps from 60,000 to more than 104,000⁴ and by war's end the Corps reached an all-time high strength of almost 500,000.⁵

Between Pearl Harbor and V-J Day, 15,000 second lieutenants were commissioned and trained at Quantico, and an estimated 20,000 additional Marine officers and officers of other U.S. Armed Forces and Allied nations received specialized training in Quantico's various schools. A few months before the beginning of the war there were fewer than 2,000 Marine officers on active duty. At the end of the war there were nearly 37,000. The job of training these belonged to Quantico, as it had in World War I and the intervening years, and Quantico met the challenge.⁶

From the time the war began until peace in 1945, neither the instructors nor the administrators at Quantico had a moment's rest. Just as the pressure was on in the jungles and atolls of the Pacific, the schools labored under the philosophy that "nothing is impossible" on the home front. The battle being waged at Quantico, though sheltered in civilian comforts, was a crucial one.⁷

To accommodate the vast influx of manpower and increased training demands, additional barracks, classrooms, shops, and warehouses were built at Quantico. Low-cost government-financed housing was built to shelter the growing number of Marine families unable to find other accommodations in the nearby, crowded civilian communities. Training areas had to be expanded. The staff of support personnel, administrators, and instructors had to be increased dramatically. New schools

came and went, and new organizations were formed and shipped out.

Like the barrage ballonists and parachutists of the days just before the war, Quantico became host to another unique unit when the war was just a month old—the Marine raiders.

Also like balloonists and parachutists, the idea of a small, highly trained, hard-hitting unit was not new to the Corps. Lightning-type raids and behind-the-lines reconnaissance patrols had been discussed in the 1935 *Tentative Manual for Landing Operations*, and during many of the Fleet Landing Exercises of the 1930s small units with these missions had been organized temporarily. "Provisional Rubber Boat Companies" had been formed during the landing exercises of February 1941 to give further test to the idea.

The success of British commandos and Chinese Communist guerrillas gave more incentive to those in the Corps who advocated formation of similar units, and in January 1942 a battalion of the 5th Marines was taken away from the 1st Marine Division, given to the Amphibious Force, Atlantic Fleet, and redesignated the 1st Separate Battalion with Quantico as its home. Within a month, a similar organization was formed on the West Coast.

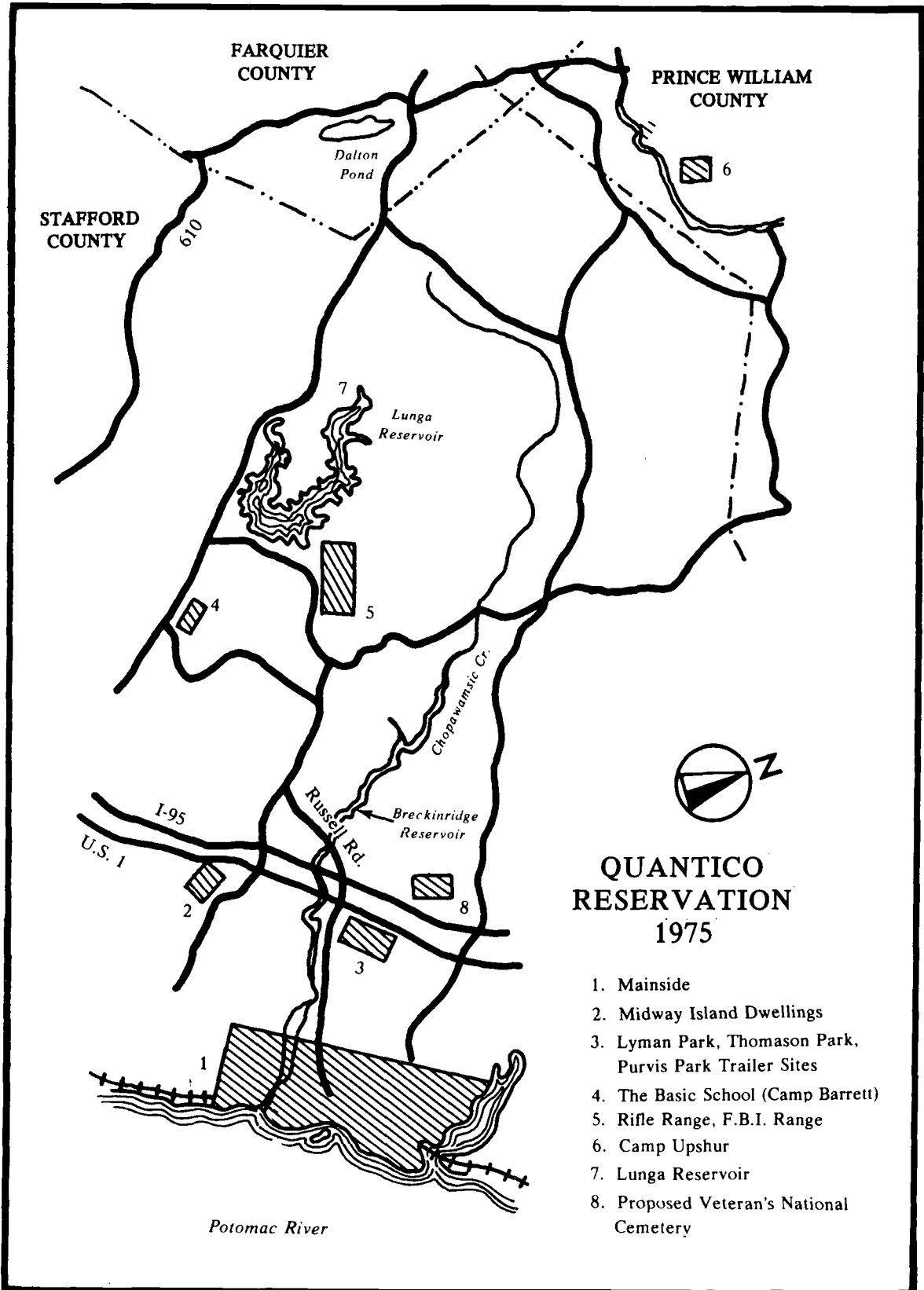
These new organizations were charged with spearheading amphibious landings, conducting raids against the enemy, and performing guerrilla operations behind enemy lines.

On 16 February 1942 Quantico's 1st Separate Battalion became the 1st Raider Battalion under Lieutenant Colonel Merritt A. Edson.⁸

After intense training at Quantico, the bulk of the 1st Raider Battalion left on 1 April for the West Coast and then to Samoa. The remainder of the battalion continued training at Quantico until early June and then also departed for the Pacific. In about two months, the 1st Raider Battalion saw its first action on Tulagi as part of the Guadalcanal landings, along with the Quantico-formed 1st Parachute Battalion.

One of the first new schools of the war was the School of Quartermaster Administration which opened 2 February 1942 with 30 officer students and 200 enlisted Marines. Designed to train supply specialists to meet the demands of an expanding Marine Corps, the school did not last throughout the war.⁹

The largest acquisition of land in the base's history took place in 1942 to meet the need for expanded training areas. Almost 51,000 acres of land west of U.S. Highway 1 were purchased in 1942 and became a permanent part of the base



**QUANTICO
RESERVATION
1975**

- 1. Mainside
- 2. Midway Island Dwellings
- 3. Lyman Park, Thomason Park, Purvis Park Trailer Sites
- 4. The Basic School (Camp Barrett)
- 5. Rifle Range, F.B.I. Range
- 6. Camp Upshur
- 7. Lunga Reservoir
- 8. Proposed Veteran's National Cemetery

in 1943. This vast area, named the "Guadalcanal Area" after the Corps' first offensive success in the war, was ideal for Quantico's needs because it came close to duplicating much of the terrain Marines would encounter in the Pacific.¹⁰

With this new, bigger training area, the Corps' artillery could take part in live firing exercises as part of officer training, and it gave the new officers a chance to see what artillery could really do. Also on the artillery scene, the Marine Corps Ordnance School opened at Quantico in April 1942 with 112 students and a small staff of instructors.¹¹ This unique school had the job of training Marines to keep artillery weapons, fire control instruments, and ammunition functioning properly no matter how tough the going. Artillery weapons, antiaircraft guns, fire control directors, range finders, gasoline-electric power plants, gyro-stabilized guns in light tanks—all came under the maintenance responsibilities of Ordnance School graduates. Within a year, the school had 12 separate courses under three main divisions, Artillery Mechanics, Fire Control Equipment, and Ammunition. There were about 400 students in residence at a time. Officers took special courses that covered all three areas, while enlisted Marines specialized.

The Ordnance School began on a shoestring as the result of the initiative and foresight of a few Marines who saw a need. By begging and borrowing texts and equipment from around the Corps and other Services, enough was eventually assembled to start a school and a repair shop. The syllabus, training aids, charts, and displays were developed from scratch in the shortest possible time to achieve the school's objective—"keep 'em firing."

Artillery officers themselves were trained at Quantico during the war. The organization with this job was the Marine Corps Schools Training Battalion formed 19 August 1943. It contained intelligence, supply, engineer, communications, chemical, infantry, weapons, and artillery sections. Its mission was to support the schools every way possible, but also to train artillery officers.

In April 1944 the Field Artillery Training Battalion was formed as a separate unit for training artillerymen, but was later integrated back into the Schools Training Battalion. By this time the training of artillery officers had become the third largest training function at Quantico after officer candidate training and the Reserve Officers Course.¹³

Needless to say, World War II prompted some changes in Quantico's basic officer training pro-

grams. The Basic School was still at Philadelphia where it had moved in 1923 due to lack of space at Quantico. It remained, however, under Quantico's control. It drew its new officers from the Naval Academy, the Corps' enlisted ranks, the Platoon Leaders Class, and directly from civilian colleges. Classes were tailored to meet the different backgrounds of the students.

Platoon Leaders Classes had been initiated at Quantico and San Diego in 1935. This program, initially under Lieutenant Colonel Clifton B. Cates at Quantico, gave reserve commissions to qualified college graduates after completion of two six-week summer training sessions. Six-week classes for reserve officers were initiated in 1939. These courses, taught by officers of the 1st Marine Brigade, had divisions for Infantry, Field Artillery, and Base Defense Artillery. Students received their commissions through the Platoon Leaders Course, the Marine Corps Reserve program, and—later—through the Officer Candidates Class.

When President Roosevelt declared a limited national emergency in June 1940, the Corps was charged with acquiring and training large numbers of new officers. Colonel Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., headed a special unit at Quantico tasked with training officer candidates, and this unit soon became the Officer Candidates Class.

All the Corps' junior officer training, excluding aviators, was concentrated at Quantico shortly after the war began, including The Basic School functions performed in Philadelphia until the war. The Basic School did not reopen at Quantico during the war as a separate institution, but its important tasks were absorbed by the Officer Candidates Class, Platoon Leaders Class, and the Reserve Officers Class. But only one of these, the Reserve Officers Class, trained young men after they had been commissioned.

To absorb The Basic School subjects, the Reserve Officers Class was quickly extended from six to 10 weeks, with 517 hours of instruction. Classes convened every two weeks with about 250 officer students each.

Subjects covered by the new Marine lieutenants ran the gamut from naval law, topography, camouflage, combat intelligence, aviation, artillery, communications, antiaircraft defense, to tank tactics, infantry tactics through company level, mess management, company administration, terrain appreciation, and amphibious operations.¹³

During the early days of the Reserve Officers Course, training took place at nearby Civil War



Officer students run the obstacle course at Quantico. (USMC Photo A301694).

battlefields as well as on the Quantico reservation. The acquisition of the Guadalcanal Area in 1942 allowed all the training to take place on Marine Corps property and permitted the use of artillery in realistic exercises.

Several tent camps were thrown up in the Guadalcanal area, and vacated farms were scouted and attacked day after day, night after night, as new Marines prepared themselves for the real thing. On the other side of the highway, amphibious exercises took place up and down the Potomac along Marine Corps property.

With these three officer schools, Quantico concentrated on the training of junior officers at the expense of the two higher level, prewar schools. The greatest demand for officers was at the lower end of the rank structure, and this was where the training was needed. Officers above the basic level received most of their training "on-the-job."

Many field grade officers who did return to Quantico during the war for one reason or an-

other were grabbed up by the schools as advisors and instructors where their valuable knowledge and experience could be passed on to those next in line for the Pacific. Shortages of qualified officers to command in the Pacific left the Corps no choice but to temporarily suspend the senior schools. Those senior officers not serving as full-time teachers busied themselves with studying the reports and problems coming back from the war and searching for new ideas and techniques.

Aside from the candidates and basic officers schools, Quantico's main schools during most of the war were the Field Artillery School, Ordnance School, and the Aviation Ground Officers School. A Communications Officers School was organized in late 1944.

The Aviation Ground Officers School, born during the early months of the war and later renamed the Marine Air-Infantry School, had the job of indoctrinating aviators and ground officers in the conduct and coordination of air-amphibious operations. The integrated operations of the battalion landing team and the air squadron was stressed. Of the thousands of pilots who received this advanced amphibious and aviation training at Quantico, 120 became aces during World War II.

On 24 August 1942 the U.S. Army took over from the Marine Corps the command of Amphibious Corps, Atlantic Fleet. The Marine commander, Major General Holland M. Smith, and his staff were reorganized as the Amphibious Training Staff, Fleet Marine Force, with headquarters at Quantico. Later that year General Smith and his staff moved to San Diego, California, where they became part of the Amphibious Corps, Pacific Fleet. At the time of the switch from Marine to Army command, the Corps which had once consisted of the 1st Marine Division and the 9th Army Division, was little more than a skeleton headquarters unit.¹⁴

Out of the Marine Corps' early World War II emphasis on artillery support of the infantry, a need arose for observation squadrons to conduct airborne artillery spotting. Six observation, or VMO, squadrons were employed in the Pacific during the war, and Quantico formed and trained all of them. As part of this program, ground officers were trained as airborne artillery spotters. The first Marine Observation Squadron, VMO-1, was activated 27 October 1943.¹⁵

The Corps got the official approval to form a Marine Corps Women's Reserve on 7 November 1942, which resulted in more than 20,000 women serving in the Marine Corps to "free a man to fight."



Officer students make a landing on the same "Potomac River Beaches" where amphibious doctrine was developed during the 1930s. (USMC Photo 55349).

The first step toward establishing the Women's Reserve was taken by Commandant Thomas Holcomb, who wrote commanders of Marine Corps posts nationwide announcing that an organization of women Marines was on the way and directing commanders to examine all activities under their charge where women could be used to replace male Marines. Clerical duties, communications, transportation, mess and commissary, and mechanics were identified as likely jobs that women could fill.

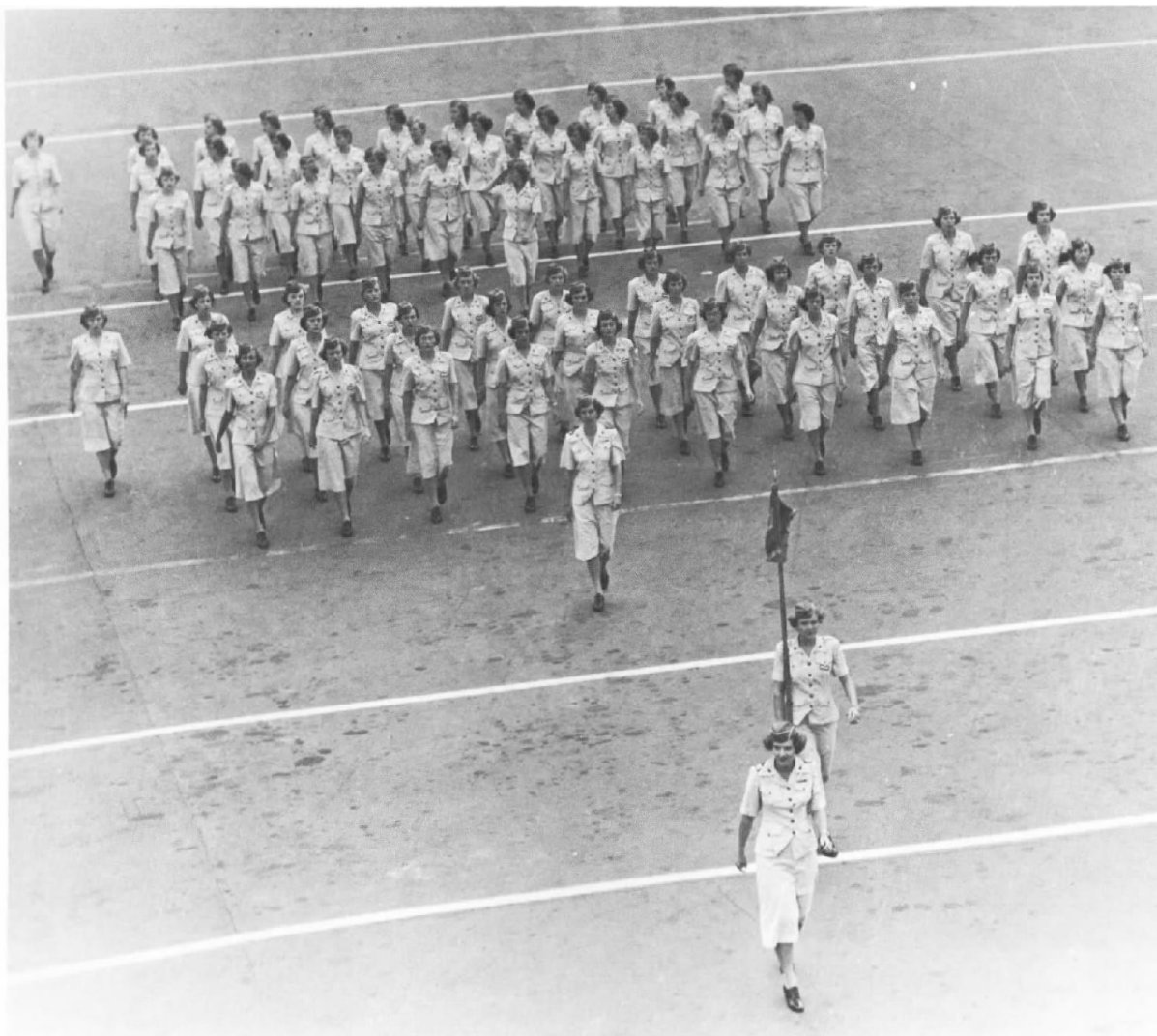
In May 1943 the women Marines began reporting in small groups to Marine bases around the country. The first women Marines, four radio operators, reported to Quantico on the Corps' Birthday in November 1943. Within a week another 60 arrived.

These were not the first women to wear Marine uniforms. During World War I about 305 women wore Marine green and performed a variety of clerical duties, mostly in Washington, D.C. These women received little Marine Corps training, how-

ever. The women of World War II, on the other hand, were Marines in the same sense as their male counterparts.

Within a year of their first arrival, the number of women Marines at Quantico had grown to a battalion-size organization of almost 1,000, and they filled numerous critical administrative and technical billets until the Women's Reserve Battalion was finally disbanded, company by company, beginning in April 1946, and only a relatively small unit remained.¹⁰

In addition to the expansion of Quantico for training purposes, the naval hospital in mid-1942 added a new west wing to the three-year-old main building and to the west of this a combined maintenance building and isolation unit was constructed. A year later there was an exchange of land between Marine Barracks and the hospital that added 20 acres to the hospital's existing 40-acre parcel. The hospital's new land extended south along the old channel of Little Creek, and the barracks received in trade a small segment



Captain Elsie E. Hill leads the first postwar Woman Officer Training Class in a Headquarters Battalion parade in 1949. (USMC Photo 29464).

just south of this. With the new land, the hospital was able to build 13 sets of government quarters.

A unique school, even for Quantico, was the Marine Corps Dog School which opened 23 January 1943 with a student population of 14 Doberman Pinschers. The school had the job of training dogs in scouting and security duties. Within two months, however, the operation moved to Camp Knox, an old Civilian Conservation Corps camp site at Camp Lejeune.¹⁷

After 10 years of important work, the Marine Corps Equipment Board moved out of its quonset huts in October 1944 into more appropriate accommodations. The board's new home was a \$142,000 building with over 16,000 square feet of floor space. Built in a record three months' time,

the structure housed the administrative and experimental sections of the board and was appropriately located beside the post docks on the Potomac. The board consisted of 21 officers and 51 enlisted Marines at the time.¹⁸

But not all war work by Quantico Marines took place at Quantico, nor were all the Marines' amphibious operations in the Pacific.

On 18 November 1944, 170 Quantico Marines "hit the beach" on Foster Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, as part of a Navy-Marine demonstration for the Sixth War Loan Drive. An estimated 100,000 spectators watched the Marines come ashore with flamethrowers and tanks from landing craft and amphibian tractors. A Navy gunboat offshore in Lake Michigan provided the

simulated naval gunfire support. The Marines were scheduled to make daily landings in Chicago over a two-week period before returning home.¹⁹

The 28-man "Marine Bagpipe Band" from Quantico appeared in Chicago at the same time and was featured on a coast-to-coast radio program publicizing the war bond drive.

On 14 August 1945, President Harry S. Truman announced that World War II had ended, and Army General Douglas MacArthur was authorized to accept Japan's unconditional surrender. The peak strength of the Marine Corps at war's end was 485,833.²⁰

The Marine Corps Schools reached its peak in the production of new officers and officer-specialists as the war ended. On 1 September 1945 Quantico's total strength was 10,800, and a demobilization got under way, the number of Marines dropped to under 8,000 by the end of the year. By next May, Quantico population had skidded to 4,600.²¹

Quantico was one of several bases tasked with helping return individual Marines back to civilian life, and, at the same time its missions of education and development were to continue but at a slower pace. It also had important responsibilities in connection with postwar reorganization and planning.

Special units were organized at Quantico to handle the demobilization of 150-plus Marines daily, and the tasks of these units as well as the base mission itself were severely handicapped by Quantico's own personnel losses. Discharges were not uniform over the span of occupations, and administration, operations, communications, and security personnel were hardest hit by losses. In many cases, those occupations hardest hit were the ones sorely needed to keep the base going.²²

Quantico's immediate postwar mission was to reorganize, and to analyze, study, direct, coordinate, and supervise all teaching in the Marine Corps Schools, and to provide necessary facilities for academic records, research, and reference. The developmental mission continued, and the responsibility for demobilizing Marines was added temporarily.

The sudden ending of the war found Quantico with few instructions and few plans to switch immediately to a peacetime environment. Complaints from commanders about critical personnel shortages were so frequent that some Marines had to be held over so that others could be discharged. New education and development programs were hampered temporarily due to the turbulent personnel situation.

On 1 September 1945 the major units at Quantico had included a Service Battalion, Schools Detachment, Field Artillery Training Battalion, Infantry Training Battalion, The Basic School, Marine Air-Infantry School, Guard Battalion, Casual Company, Marine Corps Air Station, Women's Reserve Battalion, and a Rifle Range Detachment, with a total strength just under 11,000.

But even with the end of the war, demobilization and cutting back everywhere, Quantico's education mission continued. In October 1945 Quantico established a two-month-long Adjutants' School for officers from around the Corps. One precipitating factor was the great need for qualified administrative officers to supervise demobilization and reorganization.²³

The mission of the Overhaul and Repair Facility terminated with the end of the war. All flying had stopped on Brown Field at the Air Station although Turner Field continued to be busy. Aircraft Engineering Squadron 12 took on the mission of supporting the Marine Corps Schools and the Equipment Board.²⁴

The 1st Special Marine Brigade was formed at Quantico on 28 January 1946, as a temporary organization under the Commander in Chief, Atlantic Fleet, tasked with maintaining a state of combat readiness for expeditionary service in the Atlantic or Caribbean. The unit was to be maintained on two weeks' readiness.

At this time the Marine Corps had not completed its post-war demobilization, reorganization, and relocation of combat units. Despite the end of war, there still was not total peace in the world and Corps planners felt a need for an amphibious-ready combat unit on the East Coast much as there had been an Advanced Base Force and later an Expeditionary Force at Quantico many years earlier.

The brigade of two battalions and a headquarters at Quantico and a third battalion at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, drew its 1,100 personnel from Marines normally assigned to routine base duties. The brigade conducted a four-day amphibious exercise off the Virginia Capes in mid-April 1946, and took part in only one major training operation outside of Virginia during its short existence. This was a joint Navy-Marine operation in the Caribbean during May 1946. The 1st Special Marine Brigade was disbanded at Quantico in August 1946 as other east coast Marine units assumed its mission.²⁵

The same month the brigade was formed, the Air Observers Training Center moved from Pearl



On 5 May 1949, General Clifton B. Cates, Commandant of the Marine Corps, Major General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., Commandant, Marine Corps Schools, and Mrs. Barnett unveiled the plaque which marked the site where the Quantico Marine Base was founded 32 years earlier. (USMC Photo 026952).

Harbor, Hawaii, to Quantico. This 14-week course handled an average of 20 officer students at a time.²⁶

On 16 July 1946 the Commanding General, Marine Barracks, Quantico, assumed the dual title and authority of Commandant, Marine Corps Schools, and was directed to reorganize all activities so as to orient the major effort of Quantico towards support of education. Previously, the commandant of the schools had been a subordinate commander, and he now became a deputy. Aside from elevating the importance of the schools, this move permitted them to devote themselves exclusively to academic endeavors, while the staff of the new commandant took up all the personnel, administrative, supply, and material chores previously handled by the Marine Corps Schools staff.²⁷

In 1946 the schools themselves were rapidly returning to a peacetime role. The number of Marines going through precommissioning training and basic officer training was cut back drastically, and The Basic School reappeared on the scene as a distinct institution once again. By the fall of 1946, the Junior and Senior Schools were back in full operation after almost six years.

By 1 October 1946, the reorganization had resulted in an Academic Headquarters; the Amphibious Warfare School, Senior Course; Amphibious Warfare School, Junior Course; The Basic School; Field Artillery School; Communication Officers School; Ordnance School; Air Observation School; Extension Division; Schools Regiment

(containing an infantry and an artillery training battalion); a Service Battalion; Medical and Dental Detachments; Marine Corps Air Station; Equipment Board; and a Supply Depot, all with a total authorized strength of about 4,550 Marines and Navy. Actual strength—including students—was 3,126.²⁸

A short time later the Aviation Technical School was opened at Quantico. This school trained officers and senior enlisted Marines in field maintenance of aircraft and related equipment. Graduates were qualified supervisors for aircraft engineering maintenance, aviation ordnance, supply, and accounting.²⁹

The Extension School published a completely revised, updated syllabus in 1947 to parallel the new courses of instruction in the resident schools, and The Basic School assumed responsibility for training officer candidates—including those of the Platoon Leaders Class and the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps—that same year.

Because of this expanded role, Camp Goettge and Camp Upshur were planned as new Basic School training facilities in the Guadalcanal Area. When The Basic School reopened at Quantico after the war, its first home was in D Barracks on Quantico's main street, Barnett Avenue. It moved to Brown Field at the Air Station in 1947 pending completion of the Guadalcanal Area camps.

At about the time of the Marine Corps Birthday in 1947, the statue of the historic Iwo Jima flag-raising was moved from Constitution Avenue in Washington, D.C., where it had been placed on 10 November 1945, to Quantico. The statue had been constructed of Indiana limestone, cement, and sand due to a lack of bronze during the war, and was a miniature replica of the much larger statue to be built at Arlington Cemetery later. The statue had deteriorated due to weather and extensive repairs were needed. Also, heavy coats of paint to give the look of bronze had hidden much detail and had to be removed. The sculptor who had cast the statute in only two weeks' time during off-duty hours while in the Navy was Felix de Weldon who came to Quantico to supervise repairs. The statue was officially dedicated at the main entrance to Quantico on 10 November 1951.³⁰

As Quantico's postwar mission became confirmed and education the dominant activity, the command dropped the Marine Barracks title and became Marine Corps Schools on the 1st day of 1948.³¹ Thus, after 30 years the name of "barracks," which failed to distinguish Quantico and



The old Post Brig as it appeared in 1948. The building is now used to house a portion of the collections of the Marine Corps History and Museums Division. (USMC Photo 25546).

its important work from numerous other Marine Corps commands, was deleted in favor of a unique, appropriately descriptive title.

Shortly after this important redesignation, the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948 made it possible for women to join the military in a regular status. Soon, the Woman Officer Training Program was set up at Quantico under The Basic School, with the first class reporting in June of 1949. This new program had the mission of screening and educating candidates for commissions, of educating new women second lieutenants, of training women Marine noncommissioned officers in their duties, and providing administrative and logistical support for all female Marines on base.

The Woman Officer Training Course consisted of two six-week training periods during the summer, like the male Platoon Leaders Course. The first class of 34 candidates studied drill, naval law, administration, and military courtesy, as well as company-level duties. After commissioning and graduation from college, the women returned to Quantico for six weeks of the Woman Officer Indoctrination Course which corresponded generally to the male Basic School.

During World War II, potential woman Marine officers were trained at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts, and Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts.³²

On 25 August 1948, Second Lieutenant John Earl Rudder, the first regular black Marine

Corps officer, began training at Marine Corps Schools.

The end of World War II ushered in the atomic age. Military and civilian prophets—some within the Corps itself—predicted the end of amphibious operations that Marines had perfected over the previous several decades, and a reappraisal of the methods and even the feasibility of amphibious warfare was called for. In an atomic war, ships of the fleet could no longer group together in relatively small concentrations to spill out Marines, their equipment, and supplies for a landing on a finite beach. Any concentration of ships, men, or aircraft provided a good target to an enemy with atomic weapons.

Because of the great destructive power of atomic bombs, some said the amphibious operation was outmoded and could take its place alongside trench warfare, sieges of castles, and the crossbow. Some even went one step further and concluded that if amphibious warfare was a thing of the past, so might be the Marine Corps.

Such a predicament was not new to Marines. Spurred on by cries that the Corps be disbanded or relegated to an Army unit, John A. Lejeune had realized that the Corps needed a unique mission and a unique organization as early as the end of World War I. From his farsightedness came the amphibious role of the Corps and the modern Fleet Marine Force.

After World War II there were again heated discussions that the Corps be disbanded, reduced



The Hostess House, located in an area commonly known as 'Cinder City.' This and an identical building to the right were formerly utilized as bachelor officers' quarters at mainside prior to the building of Liversedge Hall. (Quantico Photo 012-3523-35-76).

in size or responsibility, or broken up into ground and aviation and integrated with other Services. The studies and hearings resulted in the National Security Act of July 1947, which finally confirmed in law that the Marine Corps had an amphibious mission and the responsibility for development of related tactics, techniques, and equipment.³³

While the defense debates were going on, the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, Lieutenant General Roy S. Geiger was one of the highly impressed spectators at the Bikini Lagoon atomic bomb tests in the summer of 1946. His report to the Commandant prompted General Vandegrift to form a special board at Quantico to look into the role of Marine Corps amphibious warfare in the atomic era.³⁴

By the end of the year the special board recommended that helicopters be used to move Marines from amphibious ships to beaches, and further proposed that a helicopter squadron be formed to study the necessary tactics and procedures.³⁴ The board's recommendations were approved immediately. General Vandegrift, then Commandant, recalled:

I refused to share the atomic hysteria familiar to some ranking officers. The atomic bomb was not yet

adapted for tactical employment, nor would this happen soon. Accordingly, I did not feel obliged to make a sudden, sharp change in our organizational profile.

I did feel obliged to study the problems in all its complexity. For if we believed the basic mission of the Marine Corps would remain unchanged in an atomic age, we knew that the conditions surrounding this mission would change and change radically. The problem, in my mind, divided itself into three major considerations: how to reorganize the Fleet Marine Force to render its units less vulnerable to atomic warfare and at the same time retain the final assault concentration essential to success; how to decrease our reaction time or, conversely, attain and maintain a preparedness by which a large unit could mount out in hours; and, how to put atomic weapons of the future to our own best use.

Practically nothing was deemed too fanciful for consideration. We toyed with the large troop-carrying airplanes as the assault vehicles of the future, and with troop-carrying submarines, and with helicopters then in their infancy.³⁵

In much the same way and in a very similar environment as the 1920s and 1930s, Quantico in late 1947 introduced a new amphibious concept—vertical envelopment—that would circumvent the overwhelming restrictions of amphibious operations in an atomic war. With the concept came the equipment, the helicopter.

The helicopter, which was a new, virtually untried machine in both military and civilian aviation circles, could rapidly move troops and equipment from widely scattered ships to dispersed landing sites on a hostile shore. Marines could land in the rear and on the flanks of enemy positions. Heavily defended beaches could be bypassed. Large concentrations of ships, men, and supplies could be avoided, and a potential enemy's atomic capability could be nullified.³⁶

On 1 December 1947, Marine Helicopter Squadron One (HMX-1) was established at Quantico, initially as part of the Landing Force Development Center, to test this new concept of vertical envelopment and the new flying machine that would make it work.³⁷

The new squadron's tasks were many. It was charged with developing a doctrine in conjunction

with Quantico's other institutions for aviation tactics and techniques for helicopters in amphibious operations. It was to study the operation and maintenance of this new aircraft; pilots and air crews had to become qualified in its operation. Mechanics had to be trained from scratch, and recommendations for the organization and equipping of helicopter units had to be developed. Also, the helicopter was to be evaluated as a replacement for Marine fixed-wing aircraft then used for liaison and artillery and naval gunfire observation.³⁸

Quantico's—and the Corps'—first helicopter squadron was commanded by Colonel Edward C. Dyer, who initially had eight other Marines in his unit and no helicopters. None of the nine Marines had ever flown a helicopter before.³⁹ In February 1948, the first two helicopters, HO3S-1s, arrived



The HRP-1 by Piasecki was the first large helicopter to join the Marine Corps. Called the "flying banana" it became operational in 1948, carried 10 passengers, and cruised at 75 miles per hour. (USMC Photo 529983).

at Quantico from the Navy Helicopter Development Squadron, Lakehurst, New Jersey. Later in the month three more machines arrived from Sikorsky. These first Marine “chopper” pilots and crews had little time to spare during the first months of the squadron’s existence. Pilot, crew, and mechanic training had top priority.

By May 1948, only three months after the first helicopters arrived at Quantico, the squadron was ready for its first real test. During that month, HMX-1 took part in Operation PACKARD II, conducting the Marine Corps’ first ship-to-shore movement with helicopters by lifting a platoon of combat-ready Marines—at a rate of two or three passengers per helicopter per trip—from amphibious ships to a spot behind the beach.

In August that year Quantico received two new helicopters for test and evaluation. These were the Bell HTL-1 and the tandem-rotor Piasecki HRP-1. The HRP-1, nicknamed the “Flying Banana,” was then the world’s largest helicopter. A few months later in November, the Helicopter Board published the military’s first guide for employment of helicopters in amphibious operations.⁴⁰

Still later in December 1948 and January 1949, HMX-1 was on board the USS *Saipan* taking part in a daring rescue attempt of 12 downed U.S. aviators from the Greenland ice cap. Quantico’s aviators left Christmas Day and had three Piasecki, twin-rotor helicopters on board for the job. The aircraft had to be altered while afloat for extreme cold and high winds. Storms, high winds, and heavy seas, however, slowed the rescue ship to a snail’s pace, and the U.S. Air Force reached the flyers while the *Saipan* was still 560 miles away.⁴¹

A spectacular demonstration was put on in May 1949 to show off the capabilities of helicopters. Laying of communication wire, evacuation of simulated casualties, and “flying crane” lifts of 75mm pack howitzers were vividly portrayed to an impressed audience consisting of members of the 81st U.S. Congress.⁴²

The real test, however, of HMX-1’s training and developmental efforts didn’t come until 30 months after it was formed—when Marines were ordered to Korea to stem the advance of North Korean Communists.

On 25 June 1950, Communist armies from North Korea crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded South Korea. Marine Corps strength at the end of that month was 74,279.

Only days before the unexpected outbreak of war in Korea, President Harry S Truman had



Igor Sikorsky (left) visits with General Clifton B. Cates, Commandant of the Marine Corps, during a helicopter demonstration at Quantico on 19 April 1950. (USMC Photo A51676).

visited Quantico on 15 June 1950 to witness combat demonstrations designed to substantiate Marine Corps requests for a bigger budget. The highlight of the demonstration was an assault landing using the Piasecki “Flying Banana” helicopters to show President Truman how men and equipment could be flown from aircraft carriers to objectives behind enemy lines.⁴³ This was the President’s first view of a Marine Corps base.

Korea was the proving ground for the helicopter and much of the Corps’ success with it there can be attributed to the experience of HMX-1 and the doctrine developed at Quantico.⁴⁴ The Corps demonstrated the feasibility of the vertical envelopment doctrine and the value of the helicopter by transporting whole battalions to the front and behind enemy forces, and by supplying whole regiments. During Korea, nearly 10,000 men were evacuated to hospitals or rescued from behind enemy lines by Marine helicopters.

Through the Korean war years, HMX-1 was busy at Quantico evaluating new equipment and helicopters and enabling the officer’s schools at all levels to familiarize their students with the emerging capability. Among the new helicopters were the CH-37, a heavy-lift aircraft, and the UH-34 all-weather helicopter. The addition of these two new machines to the Corps’ inventory gave new capabilities for helilifting troops and equipment.



On 15 June 1950 President Harry S Truman accepted an invitation to visit Quantico for a field demonstration. The former Army artillery captain inspected the honor guard with an experienced eye. (USMC Photo A-51857).

The Korean war years produced the usual expansion of officer training as did previous conflicts, and Quantico readjusted to meet the need. Camp Goettge and Camp Upshur in the Guadalcanal area were completed in 1950 just in time to receive the expanded officer population, and were quickly occupied. A third camp, Camp Onville—later to become Camp Barrett—was built to meet a portion of the need. While The Basic School headquarters remained at Brown Field for the time being, the outlying camps quickly filled up—and expanded. Basic School's nine month course was soon cut to 21 weeks and then to 17 as demands from Korea grew.

During the Korean war The Basic School graduated the largest class in its history up to that point. The 10th Special Basic Class numbering 889 lieutenants finished up on 1 February 1952.⁴⁵

Arising out of the recommendations of a group of 10 generals which met at Quantico in July

1950, a Tactics and Techniques Board was formed and joined with the Equipment Board to form the Marine Corps Landing Force Development Center. Quantico's numerous schools became the Education Center at the same time. This new arrangement established the centers as separate but equal entities under the Commandant, Marine Corps Schools, and more clearly defined the relationships between them. Management of both the education and development programs was enhanced. These changes took place on 1 October 1950.

Later, in March 1952, an Advanced Research Group was formed as part of the Education Center to tie together the work of the two centers through study and research. In essence, this was a 10-month tour for colonels who spent their time analyzing doctrine and relating it to education and development. They were also charged with seeing how well the Marine Corps was living up

to its responsibilities under the National Security Act of 1947.⁴⁶

Elsewhere on the Quantico scene, the Senior Platoon Leaders Class—the second of the two six-week sessions—was temporarily moved to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina, on 12 July 1951 to allow all of Quantico's facilities to be used for other officer training. At the same time other demands of the fighting in Korea were met by establishing at Quantico a 50-hour course for training officers in the use of pack saddles and horses for carrying ammunition and supplies. Classes averaged about 25 students.⁴⁷ This training, incidentally, provided additional justification for maintaining the base stables.

Ellis Hall was dedicated on 13 October 1952, in memory of Lieutenant Colonel Earl Ellis, the Corps' pioneer amphibious prophet and war planner of the 1920s. Ellis had predicted Japan's war aims and developed a plan for the step-by-step conquest of the Pacific by amphibious forces. Appropriately, this new facility that bore his name contained an "amphibious trainer" that allowed students to study the intricacies of amphibious operations with mockups of beaches, model ships, and aircraft that portrayed the entire sequence of ship-to-shore operations.⁴⁸

A year later in 1953, the Marine Corps Schools Training Battalion of World War II vintage was reorganized and retitled Schools Demonstration Troops. This unique organization was structured like a reinforced battalion of infantry complete with artillery, tanks, engineers, amphibian tractors, and trucks, and continued the mission of supporting Quantico's schools, testing and evaluating equipment and techniques, and training artillery officers.

The overhaul and repair facility building that had been built shortly after the outbreak of World War II became the Aviation Technical School in 1946. The school had provided advanced instruction in aviation-related technical subjects and had graduated about 160 students annually except during the Korean war years when this number was almost doubled.⁴⁹ In 1953 the building underwent a drastic facelifting to become Larson Gymnasium and a new home for Quantico's varsity basketball and boxing teams, as well as for intramural sports. The new gym boasted a boxing training gym, a varsity team locker and shower room, conference rooms, a ping-pong and billiards room, and other facilities.

A year and a half after the end of the Aviation

Technical School, the 42 students and staff of the Communication Officers School finally settled down to their studies in a new \$300,000 building not far from Ellis Hall.⁵⁰

Since the school's birth in mid-1944, it had provided specialized training for officers between The Basic School and the Junior Course. The communications syllabus had been 4-5 months long with classrooms in "G" Barracks. This new modern facility allowed larger classes and an increase in course length to nine months to incorporate much of the Junior Course curriculum and more on the growing field of military communications itself. The new syllabus advanced the school to the level of the Junior Course, and students ranged in rank from first lieutenant through major.

As the Korean war was winding down, Quantico's attention was turned once again to study and development.

In late 1952 the Marine Corps and Navy began publishing a wide variety of doctrinal publications under the titles of *Landing Force Manuals* and *Landing Force Bulletins*. These covered the spectrum of Marine Corps activities, including helicopter operations, employment of supporting arms and coordination with Navy agencies, amphibious operations of the future, and even how to operate in an atomic war. This last publication was the first of its kind in the Armed Forces.⁵¹

Numerous study boards were convened either at Quantico or in Washington, D.C., in the middle 1950s to develop proposals for changes in the Corps' organization and methods of operation that would better prepare it for duty in an atomic environment. The whole gamut of Marine activities—from aviation to administration—came under review.

Quantico was called upon in 1955 to host the annual Secretary of Defense Conference for high level military and civilian defense officials to allow them to become better acquainted with what was going on in Washington, D.C., and in the other Services.

The Fleet Marine Force Organization and Composition Board, more commonly called the Hogaboom Board after Major General Robert E. Hogaboom who chaired it, met at Quantico in June 1956 to consider substantial changes in the composition, functions, and equipment of the Fleet Marine Force. Although the board's main job was to figure out how to carry out an amphibious operation under the threat of atomic war, many changes that came out of the board's work were still evident in the Marine Corps of the 1970s.⁵²



Two-hundred years of Quantico construction are revealed in this picture of the area south of the Chopawamsic Creek. The eighteenth century Dipple plantation house stands in the development test area, upper left. The old seaplane hangars near the pier are a contrast to the larger Marine Corps Aviation Technical School hangar that has since been converted to Larson Gymnasium. The Brown Field No. 2 hangars on the right now house the aviation collection of the Marine Corps Museums Branch. (USMC Photo 526143).

On the development scene, Quantico's researchers started work in 1954 on the challenge of devising a portable airfield for jet aircraft that could be transported ashore and quickly erected. Out of this effort came the Short Airfield for Tactical Support (SATS) that was first tested at Beaufort, South Carolina, in 1958. Later tests were conducted in 1960 and 1961, first on Taiwan and then in the Caribbean. The system was set up at Quantico's Air Station in 1962 for further testing, and when the Marines landed in Vietnam in 1965 a SATS was established at Chu Lai.

Work on a bulk fuel system began at Quantico in 1950. This was to be a complex of rubber-like bladders, flexible pipes, and pumps into which

fuel from amphibious ships could be piped, stored, and then distributed to Marine aviation and ground units. The first system was field tested in 1955 in the Caribbean, and it, too, found its way to Vietnam later.⁵³

Lightweight protective body armor was a Quantico developmental project that can be credited with saving many Marine lives in Korea and later conflicts.

The Basic School headquarters left Brown Field in early 1955 and moved to Camp Upshur in the Guadalcanal Area where it could be closer to its training activities. With this move, the training of women officers, Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps candidates, and Platoon Leaders Class candidates was no longer a Basic School



Camp Upshur was established in 1942, and at one time housed The Basic School. It is currently used during the summer months as a training camp for Platoon Leaders Classes. (Quantico Photo 012-3523-63-67).



On 8 March 1958, The Basic School students left the old facilities at Camp Upshur and headed for the new school at Camp Barrett. (USMC Photo A553912).

responsibility. A newly formed unit, Training and Test Regiment, took over the training activities The Basic School left behind at Brown Field.

At Camp Upshur, The Basic School course grew step-by-step to 32 weeks long with a corresponding increase in the scope and depth of instruction. Not long after this move, ground was broken at Camp Barrett, also in the Guadalcanal Area, for the first permanent buildings to be constructed exclusively for The Basic School. The Woman Training Detachment, which was no longer under The Basic School, was made part of Headquarters Battalion of the base and training of women came

under the Marine Corps Schools operations officer. At about the same time, the Communication Officers School added a basic four-week course for new lieutenants just out of Basic School. The plan was for these officers to receive basic schooling in communications, work in the Fleet Marine Force for several years, and then return to Quantico for the more advanced course.

After years of use, the old post chapel was torn down in early 1956. Since World War I a variety of buildings and lawns had been used as places of worship, all being inadequate in one way or another. While a new chapel was being

built, the first at Quantico to be constructed from the ground up as a church, religious services were held in an old rifle range messhall.

The new Quantico chapel was finished in late September 1957, and was dedicated as the U.S. Marine Corps Memorial Chapel on 10 November that year in memory of all Marines and their Navy comrades who died in the service of their country.

Not long after the dedication, it was decided that unique windows would be installed in the chapel to portray the Corps' history. The Commandant of the Corps, General David M. Shoup, approved the establishment of a Chapel Window Fund in April 1960, and through Corps-wide publicity voluntary contributions from Marines, Marine Corps organizations, and friends of the Corps poured in to finance the project.

Each of the chapel's 18 windows is etched glass with a religious motif depicting a scene from Marine Corps history. The first four windows were dedicated on the Corps' 186th anniversary in 1961. Another unique feature of the chapel is that remnants of deck planking salvaged from eight of the battleships and cruisers which supported Marine amphibious operations in World War II have been used to make communion cup holders on the church's communion rail.⁵⁴

At the same time the chapel was finished, in September 1957, Quantico became the host for the annual Marine Corps Squad Competition. This prestigious event drew the top infantry squads from all the Corps' infantry regiments

and pitted them against one another in a rigorous competition that covered all the physical, mental, and military skills imaginable. The winning squad became the Corps' top small infantry unit—appropriately nicknamed the “Super Squad.” Only the Vietnam war years prompted a temporary suspension of this competition which helped foster perfection in the basic skills for which Marines have always been famous.

The same month the squad competition started, HMX-1 got an assignment that soon became one of its most important missions. President Eisenhower, while vacationing in Newport, Rhode Island, had an urgent need to return to the White House. Part of the journey was on board a UH-34D helicopter from Quantico, piloted by Major Virgil D. Olson.

This was the first time a President had flown in a Marine Corps helicopter, and with the discovery of this fast and reliable means of transport, helicopter support of the President, Vice President, Cabinet members, and other dignitaries became a permanent role for HMX-1. Travels in support of the President would take Quantico aviators to Europe, the Azores, Hawaii, and throughout the United States in the next few years.⁵⁵

Three HMX-1 helicopters took part in a dramatic helicopter rescue of the 45-man crew of the Liberian tanker, *African Queen*, in December 1959, after the ship ran aground and broke in two 10 miles off Ocean City, Maryland. The ship was carrying crude oil and was almost at the end



HMX-1's "white topped" helicopters became familiar sights around the Washington, D. C., area when the squadron assumed the mission of providing transportation for the President of the United States. President Eisenhower first traveled in a Marine Corps helicopter in September 1957. (Quantico Photo 012-0747-1-74).

of a 2,100-mile trip from Colombia to New Jersey when it hit an unmarked shoal during a heavy storm. Crew members were taken off the ship five at a time using sling harnesses. Only two hours had elapsed since the wrecked tanker had been sighted and all crew members were safely ashore.⁵⁶

Back at The Basic School, two new permanent buildings had been completed at Camp Barrett, 12 miles from the main base. Described as a university campus amidst a cluster of quonset huts and Butler buildings, the new home of The Basic School was becoming a reality.

Heywood Hall at Camp Barrett boasted four huge, modern classrooms and supporting educational facilities and offices at a cost of \$849,000 and totaling 60,000 square feet. The other new building, O'Bannon Hall, cost over \$2 million and had 450 rooms for live-in lieutenants, a dining hall for 1,000 people, plus lounges, a snack bar, game room, and reference library.⁵⁷ The Basic School completed its move from Upshur to Barrett in early 1958. At the time, the course was about 26 weeks long and graduated about 1,500 lieutenants and 150 warrant officers annually. This was not the end, however, of the expansion of The Basic School at Camp Barrett. Ramer Hall—a swimming pool and gymnasium—was opened in August 1963. An additional wing to O'Bannon Hall was added later, and permanent enlisted quarters and an exchange-cafeteria building were built.

On the other side of the highway a Landing Force War Games Group was added to the Land-

ing Force Development Center in August 1960 and given the missions of coming up with a technology for war gaming landing force operations and conducting war games of Marine Corps operations.

Liversedge Hall, Quantico's first modern, permanent bachelor officers quarters for other than students, opened that same year with 90 male and female tenants. After two years of construction at a cost of \$1,250,000, the new facility replaced a number of old and cramped buildings around the base that had been used as officers quarters for many years. The BOQ was appropriately named for Brigadier General Harry Bluett Liversedge, holder of two Navy Crosses and one of the few bachelor officers in the Corps to attain the rank of brigadier general.⁵⁸

Also in early 1960 the Training and Test Regiment started an annual warrant officer candidate course. The six-week session kicked off with 250 candidates. Previously, warrant officers had received their bars through the work of a selection board only. Training and Test Regiment under Lieutenant Colonel Louis H. Wilson gave the aspiring warrant officers instruction in map reading, Marine Corps history, physical conditioning, leadership, drill, weapons, tactics, and law, among other things. Successful candidates then went on to a 10-week course at The Basic School where they studied the organization and mission of the Fleet Marine Force, amphibious warfare, staff functioning, Marine Corps operations, and Corps policies.⁵⁹

Formal dedication ceremonies marked the



Liversedge Hall, the Bachelor Officers' Quarters constructed in 1959, is named for Brigadier General Harry B. Liversedge, Commanding Officer, 28th Marines at the time that unit raised the U. S. flag atop Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima. He was a bachelor officer. (Quantico Photo 012-0244-9-77).

opening of the new Marine Corps Museum on 12 September 1960. With the opening of this activity in the refurbished old post headquarters building, the Corps finally had an official historical showplace to display its memorabilia and document its history and traditions from the time of the Revolution.⁶⁰

Interest in a museum for the whole Corps dated back to October 1940 when the Corps acquired a vast collection of weapons from the San Francisco World's Fair. Since then a couple of rooms had been used at Quantico for the display of Marine Corps trophies and some other relatively minor items and, although called a "museum," it in fact fell far short of being one. It wasn't until 1958 that a serious effort was undertaken to establish a formal museum in every sense of the word. Quantico was to remain the home of this activity until the opening of the Marine Corps Historical Center in the Washington, D.C., Navy Yard in 1977.

The Woman Officer Training Program underwent some substantial changes in 1962. Effective with the 16th reporting class, the Woman Officer Training Course became the Woman Officer Candidate Course and the Woman Officer Indoctrination Course was changed to become the Woman Officer Basic Course. These title changes, which were accompanied by equally important curriculum changes, more closely paralleled the titles of the corresponding male schools, and more accurately reflected the true purposes and functions of the courses. One of the other changes was that the old system of two summer training periods for candidates was streamlined to one nine-week period.⁶¹

Within a short distance of the candidate training area, the Landing Force Development Center and the Air Station set up one of the Corps' latest innovations, the Short Airfield for Tactical Support, in late 1962. Set up alongside Turner Field, the system consisted of aircraft catapults and arresting wires much like the facilities of an aircraft carrier deck but which could be installed on land. The device permitted high performance jets to land and take off from a small piece of real estate such as Marines might be required use in a combat environment. The first Quantico landing on the SATS was in November 1962, a Douglas A4D-2.⁶²

The agency which had pioneered the development of the new tactical airfield underwent some substantial reorganization in March 1963. Thirteen years after the Tactics and Techniques Board had been partnered with the Equipment Board

to form the Landing Force Development Center, the two agencies were dissolved to form the Marine Corps Development Center.⁶³

Along with a headquarters and the usual administrative and services sections, the new Development Center had functional divisions dealing with plans and operations to coordinate the activities of the other divisions; ground operations concerned with combat operations, psychological warfare, and counterinsurgency; air defense and air support of combat operations; artillery and naval gunfire support; missiles and chemical, nuclear, and biological weapons; ground and amphibian vehicles; supporting services and facilities; communications and electronics; and war gaming to test the effectiveness of new weapons, equipment, tactics, and techniques short of actual combat.

This substantial reorganization was a logical step in streamlining the important functions of the center and improving management to make the center's work far more efficient. Also in 1963 Schools Demonstration Troops took on a second title as the 2d Battalion, 22d Marines, and served as a ready force for the East Coast as well as a training unit for Marine Corps Reserves. The unit's primary mission of supporting Marine Corps Schools, training artillery officers, and testing weapons and tactics remained essentially unchanged, however.⁶⁴

Quantico's Training and Test Regiment, the unit responsible for training officer candidates of the various officer procurement programs, became the Officer Candidates School on 1 June 1963.⁶⁵

The following year a couple of more important name changes came about. After decades of being called the "Junior School" and the "Senior School," Quantico's two most prestigious schools were renamed the Amphibious Warfare School and the Command and Staff College, respectively, on 1 August 1964.⁶⁶

The two schools had been called the "Field Officers Course" and "Company Officers Course" when they were first organized after World War I. By the early 1930s they had become the "Senior Officers Course" and "Junior Officers Course." In the years after World War II when the schools were reopened they became the "Senior School" and "Junior School." To add to the confusion in names, some correspondence of the post-World War II period refers to the schools as the "Amphibious Warfare School, Junior and Senior Course," while still other reports grouped the schools as the "Command and Staff College."



In the 1950s college students line up for their first formation as members of the Marine Corps' Platoon Leaders Class shortly after arriving at the Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, for the first of two annual six week summer training periods leading to Marine commissions as second lieutenants. (USMC Photo A314518).

Nevertheless, the name change in 1964 cleared up the matter once and for all.

These two new school titles more accurately reflected the professional nature, the level of instruction, and functions of the schools. Command and Staff College provided professional education for officers of the rank of major and lieutenant colonel, and its syllabus was tailored to prepare these mid-career officers for command at the regimental and aircraft group level, and for staff duty at the division, aircraft wing, and higher Fleet Marine Force levels. The Amphibious Warfare School provided captains and junior majors professional education in preparation for command at the battalion and air squadron level and staff duty at the regimental and aircraft group level.

Not long after the schools assumed their new titles, Marines landed in force in the Republic of Vietnam in 1965 and Quantico again geared up for its usual wartime role of providing highly qualified officers to lead Marines in combat.

There were no drastic changes at Quantico as the Corps' enlisted strength was increased from

about 193,000 to 223,000, and the number of officers was raised by 3,000. Since the World War II experience of curtailing officers training above the basic level, Quantico had developed a sufficiently flexible education system to continue its primary missions without great disruption. The existing system was merely expanded to pick up the increased load, and adjusted to incorporate the educational and developmental lessons coming out of this new conflict.

Officer Candidates School and The Basic School both substantially increased the number of students handled and The Basic School course was reduced from 26 weeks to 21, while the work week lengthened through Saturday to pick up the necessary hours of training.

On the distaff side, the Woman Marine Detachment became the Woman Officers School in April 1965. The reorganization put the women Marines on a par with their male counterparts in that they now had a formal school organized in regular school fashion under a headquarters with an academics section and appropriate staff. The

change better enabled the women's training program to accomplish its aims and to raise the standards of education for women officers. The candidate course was nine weeks long and included among many other things an eight-hour beauty care session covering hair care and styling, manicuring, nail and skin care, make-up, and poise based on the instruction given stewardesses for major airlines.⁶⁷

The Woman Officers School also ran the Corps' only noncommissioned officer leadership course for women, and a seven-week basic course for newly commissioned women lieutenants.

Quantico's Schools Demonstration Troops dropped its mission of training artillery officers during the opening days of the Vietnam conflict and assumed another highly important assignment as an organization designed to combat civil disturbances. Training in this new job began immediately and the unit was alerted on numerous occasions for service in Washington, D.C.

Troops of this unit helped out with another important task about a year later. One of the more unique additions to Quantico during the

Vietnam years was the construction of the Southeast Asian Village near Camp Barrett. Completed in August 1966 by Basic School and Schools Demonstration Troops personnel, "Xa Viet Thang," Village of Vietnamese Victory, authentically reproduced a small Asian village to provide invaluable training to those who would find themselves in the real thing before long.⁶⁸

A year later Quantico got the first M-16 rifles for testing, and in record time got this new weapon, highly suited for the jungles of Southeast Asia, into the hands of the Marines who needed it most.

Also in 1967 the Physical Fitness Academy came into being at Quantico. The establishment of the academy stemmed from a Department of Defense conclusion that members of the U.S. Armed Forces were behind their foreign counterparts in physical fitness. The academy was to be the Armed Forces school for training officers and enlisted men and women to be physical fitness experts and instructors. The school was not simply a big gymnasium with a rigorous program of calisthenics. It was these things, but more importantly it taught physiology, nutrition, hand-to-hand combat, and the how-and-why of developing sound, scientific physical conditioning programs.

Marine Corps Schools Quantico dropped its 20-year-old title on 1 January 1968, to become the Marine Corps Development and Education Command. Consisting of the Education Center, the Development Center, and Marine Corps Base—which included the Marine Corps Air Station—the command's new title better reflected the dual mission of education and development. The new command's motto, "Semper Progredi," or "Always Forward," was based on John A. Lejeune's own personal motto of almost five decades before. It put into words the Quantico philosophy that had guided the base's efforts since its founding.⁶⁹ Physically, the new title altered little as Quantico Marines continued to provide the right answers to the right questions.

The joy of the New Year was marred in January 1968, when a Marine transport from Quantico's Air Station crashed into a mountain in Nevada killing all 19 on board, including 12 members of the Amphibious Warfare Presentation Team.⁷⁰

The Amphibious Warfare Presentation Team was a traveling group of amphibious warfare experts who gave an oral and visual presentation to military organizations of all Services, military schools, and selected civic groups around the nation. Their presentation was designed to keep



Schools Demonstration Troops at the Southeast Asia Village, completed in August 1966. (Quantico Photo 6-2378-70).

important groups abreast of current landing force doctrine, capabilities, and developments. The team was an important and valuable technique for “spreading the word” about the Corps and the important work taking place at Quantico. All the Corps mourned the loss of this important group.

When riots broke out in Washington, D.C., in April 1968 following the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., two well-trained companies of Marines from Schools Demonstration Troops went there to assist in maintaining order.

Another tragedy in 1968 involved the relatively new Physical Fitness Academy, nine academy students were drowned after their canoe capsized in the Potomac River while on a training exercise.

Finally, in October 1968, the grand institution that had served thousands of Marine officers over the years and had become famous throughout the

Corps for its hospitality and atmosphere—Waller Hall—was closed and later torn down because of structural failures. The Commissioned Officers Mess moved from its traditional Waller Hall location to Harry Lee Hall further up on “Rising Hill.”

On a more positive note Quantico established the Computer Sciences School in 1968 in response to a rapidly developing technology that was finding an important role in the Corps. The school later became an interservice school with students and instructors from other Services.

Unlike 1968, 1969 was a relatively uneventful year at Quantico. A new Reception Center was opened, and Quantico’s Ordnance School earned some distinction by designing and building a “mechanical knee” for Vietnam wounded at the Naval Hospital. A July flood in western Virginia



Chopawamsic Creek area, a portion of which now houses the Marine Corps Staff Noncommissioned Officers' Academy. SNCO club is in the upper right. (Quantico Photo 012-3523-17-76).

brought Quantico Marines into action with men, equipment, and aircraft to aid in search, rescue, resupply, and medical evacuation tasks.

While flood rescue operations were going on, four Marines from Quantico went to Cape Kennedy, Florida, to take part in the nation's space program. These Marines operated the ground station of the communications link that connected Apollo 11 astronauts with earth during the launch and capsule recovery.⁷¹

The Marine Corps' first Staff Noncommissioned Officers' Academy was opened at Quantico in mid-February 1971. Designed to "strengthen the backbone of the Corps," the six-week course had a capacity of 192 students and covered basic drill, oral communication, physical conditioning, techniques of military instruction, effective writing, ceremonies, and leadership. Students came from all Marine commands and the Marine Corps Reserve. Later, women and noncommissioned officers from other Services as well as selected civilians were among the students. By September 1972, the Extension School had a correspondence course paralleling the academy's syllabus.⁷²

May 1971 found Schools Demonstration Troops back in its civil disturbance role as it was deployed to Washington, D.C., again. This time, antiwar groups had threatened the city's order and the safety of government buildings.⁷³

As the Vietnam conflict wound to a close and Marine units returned to the United States, Quantico again became host to a Fleet Marine Force organization, Marine Medium Helicopter

Squadron 263, in May 1971.⁷⁴ The increasing size and weight of jet aircraft had for the most part ruled out the use of Quantico's relatively short runways. HMX-1 was still at Quantico, but the burden of its other missions, the availability of helicopter units returning from Vietnam, and the value of the helicopter so aptly demonstrated in Vietnam, dictated the assignment of another helicopter squadron to Quantico.

With 40 officers and 200 enlisted Marines, Medium Helicopter Squadron 263 with its CH-46 "Sea Knight" helicopters provided advanced training for both aviators and support personnel and the necessary support to Quantico's officer training schools. The squadron remained a valuable member of the Quantico family until 1974 when it returned to its parent unit, the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing.

More than 28 years of service ended in January 1972 as Schools Demonstration Troops retired its Colors to the strains of "Auld Lang Syne." Since 1943 the unit and its predecessors had provided yeoman support to Quantico's schools, taken part in a myriad of special drills and ceremonies, aided in maintaining order during civil disturbances, helped test and evaluate weapons and equipment, trained artillery officers, and performed a wealth of other important tasks as might be handed off to Quantico's only infantry-type organization. For its dedicated service, the Meritorious Unit Commendation was awarded. Postwar personnel reductions coupled with a need for maintaining Fleet Marine Force combat



The new FBI complex in the Guadalcanal Area is a multi-million dollar facility occupied in May 1972. (Quantico Photo 012-3523-30-76).

units in top readiness prompted the deactivation. The unit's missions were divided up among other Quantico organizations.⁷⁵

HMX-1 did not serve in Vietnam, but performed an equally important mission at Quantico during the war years. As in the Korean war, HMX-1 made significant contributions to the success of the Marine Corps operations in Vietnam. The helicopter had proved itself to be one of the most valuable instruments in Southeast Asia, and for this HMX-1 can take much of the credit.

Among other things, HMX-1 pioneered a new armament kit for use on the UH-34 "Stinger," the only Marine gunship in Vietnam until introduction of the UH-1E "Huey." The squadron also was involved in the development of new gun mounts, armored seats, and fixed M-60 machine guns.⁷⁶

These important tasks were accomplished at the same time the squadron continued its support of Quantico's schools, performed lifesaving operations on behalf of civilian communities, and provided transportation for the President and other Washington, D.C., dignitaries.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's academy moved to a new multi-million dollar building in Quantico's Guadalcanal Area in May 1972 from its 30-year location on Barnett Avenue. The old academy building was given back to the base.

The course for FBI Special Agents had increased to 15 demanding weeks, and included firearms training and physical training in Quantico's forested training areas. The academy also held an 11-week course for law enforcement officers from around the nation. About 8,000 students of all types went through the academy each year.

During mid-1972 the Intelligence; Command, Control, and Communications; and Organization, Doctrine, Tactics, and Techniques Divisions of the Development Center moved into the former FBI Academy.

Hurricane Agnes cut a path of devastation along the East Coast in mid-1972 and called out Quantico Marines who rushed to the aid of their civilian neighbors. Marines with trucks, blankets, and medical supplies aided civilian authorities in Prince William and Stafford Counties, and the City of Fredericksburg. Quantico helicopters aided in rescuing many stranded victims. One operation saved an entire troop of 26 Boy Scouts from the Rappahannock River. Civilians forced from their homes and rescued by Marines were brought to Quantico where they were given temporary lodging, food, and medical aid. Emer-

gency services were provided on board the base for Marines living in the civilian communities who were forced from their homes, and helicopters spent days on search and rescue missions looking for people in danger.⁷⁷

Quantico left the arena of big-time varsity football in the autumn of 1972 due to budget cuts. The "Quantico Marines" football team had been reborn not long after the end of World War II, and again made a healthy showing. Although the team never quite enjoyed the publicity and emotional support it once did under Smedley Butler, it was a valuable public relations vehicle and did much to aid Marine Corps officer procurement, and put the Marine Corps and Quantico "on the map."

In the post-Vietnam summer of 1973 the Physical Fitness Academy also closed down because of budget problems. The Amphibious Warfare School and the Communication Officers School courses went from six to nine months long. The extra time allowed the schools to present a more detailed and comprehensive course of instruction to better prepare Marine officers for the more complex demands of a postwar world and increasing technological requirements.

On 26 November 1973 the former FBI Academy building was named "Hochmuth Hall" in honor of the late Major General Bruno A. Hochmuth who had been killed in Vietnam. Four months later, the Director of the Development Center made Hochmuth Hall his headquarters.

Also during 1973, small parcels of the Guadalcanal Area bordering U.S. Highway 1 and Interstate Highway 95 were transferred to Prince William and Stafford Counties as recreation land under the President's Legacy of Parks Program. Julie Nixon Eisenhower came to Quantico to officiate at the transfer ceremony.

In April 1974 the Development Center formed an Operational Test and Evaluation Activity with the task of examining products being developed for the operating forces. The first effort of this new component was to manage Marine Corps participation in the operational evaluation of the LHA-1 amphibious ship, the USS *Tarawa*, and her four sister ships.

In November 1974 some 300 enlisted Marines moved into new living quarters culminating the first step of a \$6,250,000 renovation project that would completely refurbish four of Quantico's stately old mainside barracks built in the late 1920s, providing two- and three-man rooms for approximately 1,200 personnel. The last barracks renovation was completed in August 1976.

May 1975 saw what may have been the last running of the Marine Corps Relays, for 19 years one of the largest track meets for collegiate and club teams on the East Coast. The 1976 renewal was canceled because it was thought world-class athletes would be reluctant to run on a cinder track during an Olympic year. Plans to install an all-weather track at Butler Stadium were later shelved because of the cost.

The Veterans Administration announced in January that it had selected a 624-acre tract at Quantico as the site of a new National Cemetery that would provide burial space for 300,000 persons. The site, which borders U. S. Route 1 and Virginia State Route 619, was no longer needed for training purposes.

Also in January, a new stable was opened at Quantico replacing one that was destroyed by fire in 1972.

Officer Candidates School graduated its last Warrant Officer Screening Course in late February 1976. The course had been shortened to four weeks from seven, to be followed by a 10-week course at The Basic School. Beginning in 1977, warrant officers were commissioned before reporting to The Basic School for an expanded course.

April 1976 was marked by the opening of a new \$1.8 million enlisted dining facility at main-side with all the modern features needed to satisfy up to 2,000 hungry Marines at each meal.

Quantico celebrated the United States' Bicentennial in grand style on 4 July 1976 when an overflow Butler Stadium crowd estimated in excess of 8,000 was thrilled by a spectacular twilight ceremony featuring the massed Regimental Bands and the Pipes and Drums of the Scottish Division and the Buglers of The Royal Green Jackets. They were part of The Scottish Tattoo, sent to the United States at the command of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain, to participate in the American Bicentennial. The British troops were billeted at Quantico during their stay in the United States.

Earlier, Quantico had been designated as a Bicentennial Command for many special projects undertaken in support of the country's 200th Anniversary. For over a year the Official Bicentennial Flag was flown under the National Colors on the command flag pole.

On 10 August 1976, the Marine Corps Base title was dropped as an activity designation at Quantico. Formed as a support organization to the Marine Corps Development and Education Com-

mand in 1967, realignments had diluted its functions over the years until only the title remained.

The Marine Corps Air Station, Quantico—distinguished as being the oldest and smallest in the Marine Corps—was downgraded to air facility status on 15 November 1976. The Station Operations and Engineering Squadron was deactivated and its personnel and propeller-driven aircraft reassigned, leaving Marine Helicopter Squadron One as Quantico's sole flying squadron.

The national news media began to descend on Quantico in January 1977 to cover a major change in the training program at The Basic School, the introduction of women lieutenants to the same training as men. Previously, women officers participated in a separate 12-week program that included some of the classroom training given males but did not include major field exercises or marksmanship training.

Women officers with grease-painted faces, firing weapons, and attacking in combat town became commonplace in newspapers and on television across the nation. There were some sore muscles for a time, but the women were successful in what was a pilot program that became a permanent fixture at The Basic School and ended the separate training courses for male and female lieutenants.

To accommodate the combined training, the former 26-week Basic Officer Course for males was shortened to 21 weeks by eliminating some of the detailed infantry training. This training—and some new subjects—was included in a new Infantry Officer Course for all Basic Course graduates assigned to the infantry. As in the past, the lieutenants assigned to combat support, combat service support, and aviation left Quantico after completion of the Basic Course to attend various schools to prepare them for duty in their occupational fields.

In October 1977 a headquarters realignment resulted in the formation of a Security Battalion that brought the diverse law enforcement, fire protection, and game warden activities under the same umbrella. Department heads became assistant chiefs of staff, some activities merged and others shifted, all to make for a smoother running command.

The last vestige of sex-segregated training at Quantico ended in October 1977 when male and female classes were combined at Officer Candidates School. Women candidates had been attending eight-week classes, compared to 10 for the men, but had not been subjected to the strenuous

physical conditioning needed to prepare them for the tougher training they were to face later at The Basic School. The overnight field exercises, running of the obstacle and confidence courses, trail runs, and expanded time drilling on the parade deck took care of that problem.

On 26 January 1978 a near tragedy hit Quantico when a tornado devastated a section of the Midway Island housing area, leveling multiple family dwellings, snapping off trees, and smashing automobiles. Miraculously there were no deaths or serious injuries among the sleeping residents, but 28 duplex buildings were destroyed in the complex housing lower enlisteds.

Quantico can look back on six decades of progress and contribution. The pace of change

may have slowed somewhat after World War II, but the significance of what was done did not diminish. Instead, postwar years were characterized by a solidifying of Quantico's many important missions and an organizational structure that was both flexible and efficient, permitting the missions to be fulfilled despite changing demands on the Corps. Still, Quantico's postwar years were full of significant advances in equipment development, doctrine, and education.

The question, "where has Quantico been," has been answered in the woods of France, the islands of the Caribbean, the beaches of the Pacific, the mountains of Korea, and the jungles of Vietnam. A question remaining is, "where is Quantico today?"