

# THE 1ST MARINE DIVISION AND ITS REGIMENTS



HISTORY AND MUSEUMS DIVISION  
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. MARINE CORPS  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



*COVER: Marines of the 1st Marine Division march south from Koto-ri in subzero weather during the Chosin Reservoir campaign, December 1950.*  
Defense Department Photograph (MC) A 5372

# The 1st Marine Division and Its Regiments

by

Danny J. Crawford, Robert V. Aquilina  
Ann A. Ferrante, and Shelia P. Gramblin  
Reference Section, Historical Branch



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1999

PCN 190 003148 00

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## The 1st Marine Division

The 1st Marine Division is the direct descendant of the Advance Base Brigade, which was activated on 23 December 1913 at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. During the early years of its existence, the brigade was deployed to a number of troubled areas in the Caribbean. The brigade was employed in a combat capacity in the "Banana Wars" in Haiti and in the Dominican Republic, and also participated in the landing at Vera Cruz, Mexico.

After a number of redesignations, the organization ultimately received its present designation of 1st Marine Division on 1 February 1941, while sta-

tioned at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The unit thus became the first division in Marine Corps history, and its eventual composition included the 1st, 5th, and 7th infantry regiments, and the 11th Marines artillery regiment.

Following the 7 December 1941 outbreak of war between the United States and Japan, the division deployed to the southwest Pacific to participate in the initial American invasion of Japanese-occupied territory. On 7 August 1942, the 1st Marine Division (reinforced), supported by two naval task forces and other escorting naval units, made amphibious landings on Guadalcanal and

*Medal of Honor recipients for heroism on Guadalcanal at a formation at Balcombe, Australia, on 21 May 1943 were, from left, MajGen Alexander A. Vandegrift, Col Merritt A. Edson, 2dLt Mitchell Paige, and PltSgt John Basilone.*





*Above, a Marine throws a hand grenade at a Japanese emplacement on "Suicide Ridge," Peleliu, in September 1944. Below, Marines of the 1st Division assault former Japanese barracks in the town of Shuri, Okinawa, in late May 1945.*



Tulagi in the Solomon Islands. After a hard-fought, six-months campaign, the struggle for Guadalcanal ended with a resounding American victory. The Guadalcanal campaign marked the first ground defeat of the heretofore invincible Japanese legions. In late December 1942, the division was withdrawn to Australia for rest and rehabilitation, having suffered almost 3,000 battle casualties.

After rebuilding for nine months in Australia, the division participated with the Sixth Army in the New Guinea-Bismarcks theater of action. On 26 December 1943, the division landed on western New Britain for the purpose of isolating Rabaul, and protecting the American advance towards New Guinea. After more than four months of sharp conflict in rugged terrain, the Japanese were forced from the western half of the island, and the 1st Marine Division was relieved by Army units. The division then moved to Pavuvu Island in the Russells to prepare for its next operation, the seizure of Peleliu .

On 15 September 1944, the 1st Marine Division landed on Peleliu in a bloody assault against a well-organized, well-led, thoroughly fortified enemy. By aggressive assault and bold maneuver, the division seized the campaign's prize, the Peleliu airfield, then cut the defender's position into localized pockets of resistance. A slow and costly battle of attrition was waged, in which the division suffered some 7,000 casualties before the island was declared secure in October.

The bloody battle for Okinawa was the last campaign for the 1st Marine Division in World War II. The valiant fighting spirit of the division was an important contribution to the successful conquest of Okinawa. As part of the Tenth Army's III Amphibious Corps, the division was one of the assault forces to land on the enemy bastion on 1 April 1945. The invasion of Okinawa marked the end of the "ocean" drive against Japan, a drive that began at Guadalcanal in 1942. Continuous and bloody fighting for the division would persist on Okinawa, however, until the island was secured in late June 1945. The division suffered more than 8,600 casualties in the three-month campaign.

The end of the war, on 14 August 1945, found the 1st Marine Division still on Okinawa, making preparations for the conquest of Japan. The news of the Japanese surrender was welcomed by all the officers and enlisted Marines. The 1st Marine Division was awarded three Presidential Unit Citations for its heroic participation in the Guadalcanal, Peleliu, and Okinawa campaigns. As always, the price of victory was high, as the divi-

sion suffered approximately 20,000 casualties during the course of World War II, including more than 5,000 deaths.

Three weeks after the Japanese surrender, the division was dispatched to China for occupation duty, where it supervised the disarmament and repatriation of Japanese troops in the northern part of the country. While in China, elements of the division had a number of encounters with Chinese Communist forces. In the spring of 1947, the division returned to the United States, where it was stationed at Camp Pendleton, California.

Along with the rest of the Marine Corps, the 1st Marine Division was reduced to peacetime strength during the late 1940s. The outbreak of the Korean War in June 1950 thus found the division badly understrength. Nevertheless, elements of the division left in early July 1950 to help stem the tide of North Korean aggression. In Korea, the 5th Marines participated in the valiant defense of the Pusan Perimeter during July-August 1950. The rest of the 1st Marine Division departed Camp Pendleton in August, and on 15 September 1950, spearheaded the amphibious assault behind enemy lines at Inchon, which caught the enemy completely by surprise. The division went on to participate in the liberation (27 September) of the occupied Republic of Korea capital of Seoul.

After an unopposed landing in late October at Wonsan, on the east coast of Korea, the 1st Marine Division was ordered to advance northwest to the Chosin (Changjin) Reservoir. In late November, the division was assaulted by 10 Chinese Communist divisions, which had charged down from surrounding mountains with the expressed purpose of destroying the 1st Marine Division. In an epic movement, the 1st Marine Division completed a successful fighting withdrawal through 78 miles of mountain roads in northeast Korea, before reaching the port of Hungnam. Although suffering more than 4,000 battle casualties and uncounted instances of frostbite, the division inflicted nearly 25,000 casualties on Communist forces.

The next two and one-half years saw 1st Marine Division participation in many front-line operations in Korea. During 1951, the division took part in United Nations offensive operations against North Korean guerrillas, and later participated in the advance through the mountains of east-central Korea. Hard fighting erupted in the summer and fall of 1951 near the "Punchbowl," a ridgeline overlooking a deep circular valley in the Korean mountains.

During March 1952, the 1st Marine Division was



*Above, 1st Division Marines march down the main street of Tientsin on 11 October 1945, during the occupation of North China. Below, Marines prepare to withdraw from Koto-ri, Korea, during the Chosin Reservoir campaign in December 1950*



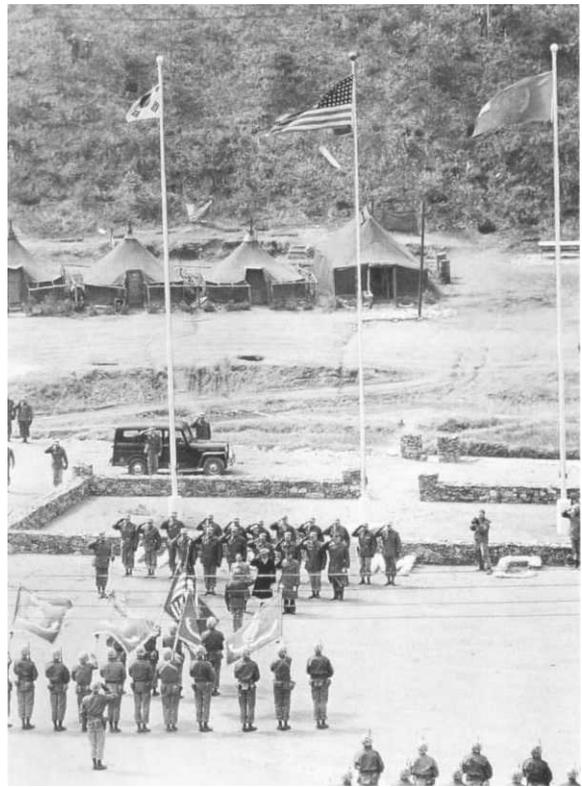
reassigned to the far western end of the Eighth Army line in western Korea, and it was here that the division conducted its successful defense of Outpost Bunker Hill. A winter lull during January-February 1953 brought some relief to Marines at the front, while cease-fire talks at Panmunjom remained suspended. The relative quiet on the front was rudely shattered in late March 1953, when Communist forces mounted a massive offensive across the United Nations front line, which hit 1st Marine Division outposts in their right sector. Particularly bitter fighting ensued during the "Nevada Cities" outposts campaign.

On 27 July, a truce ending three years of fighting in Korea was finally signed at Panmunjom. Although the fighting had ended, the 1st Marine Division remained in defensive positions in South Korea for nearly two more years, before redeployment to Camp Pendleton in the spring of 1955.

The Cuban Missile Crisis in the fall of 1962 caused the deployment of elements of the division to Guantanamo Bay and the Caribbean. Less than three years later, elements of the division were once more deployed for the Far East, this time in connection with the escalating war in Vietnam.

During the summer of 1965, elements of the division began their gradual deployment to the Republic of Vietnam. The following March, division

*Marines from Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, engage the enemy in a fire fight in the streets of Hue, Vietnam, on 19 February 1968.*



*The 1st Marine Division receives the Korean Presidential Unit Citation during ceremonies at the division command post on 25 March 1953.*



headquarters moved from Okinawa to Chu Lai. Its zone of operation was originally in the southern two provinces of I Corps, Quang Tin and Quang Ngai. During 1965, 1st Marine Division units participated in Operations Starlite and Piranha—the first major engagements with the enemy for American ground troops. By June 1966, all of the division was located in South Vietnam. Subsequent major engagements with the enemy included Operation Hastings in the summer of 1966, and Operations Union I and II in 1967.

During the 1968 Tet Offensive, units of the 1st Marine Division were involved in fierce fighting with both the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese Army. Elements of the division played a significant role assisting Republic of Vietnam forces in retaking the ancient Imperial city of Hue from Communist forces. The battle was characterized by bitter street fighting and hand-to-hand combat. Hue was finally captured, however, after the enemy suffered heavy losses. Other major operations in 1968 in which the 1st Marine Division played a significant role included Allen Brook, Mameluke Thrust, and Meade River. During 1969, the division continued to take part in combat operations, as evidenced by the heavy fighting which took place in

Operations Taylor Common and Oklahoma Hills. From late 1969 through early 1971, the 1st Marine Division was the only Marine division operating in the Republic of Vietnam, as a process of “Vietnamization” turned over more responsibility for defending the country to South Vietnamese military forces.

During 1970, the 1st Marine Division began to withdraw its regiments from Vietnam. Redeployment to the United States was completed in the late spring of 1971, thus ending one of the longest combat tours in American military history for an organization of its size. In Vietnam, the division’s units participated in both multi-battalion-size battles, and small-unit, anti-guerrilla operations. It successfully conducted more than 160 named operations and thousands of small-unit actions while deployed in the war zone. The valor and dedication to duty of the Marines of the 1st Division was recognized by the three Presidential Unit Citations which were awarded to the organization for its Vietnam War service.

In 1975, the 1st Marine Division provided assistance in the housing, feeding, and care of Vietnamese refugees in Operation New Arrival. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, the division con-

*Marines of Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, evacuate a wounded comrade to a waiting helicopter during Operation Taylor Common in January 1969.*





*Amphibious assault vehicles of the 1st Marine Division advance toward Kuwait City on 26 February 1991 during Operation Desert Storm.*

ducted extensive training operations in order to maintain its traditional high level of preparedness.

The division's operational readiness was tested during the summer of 1990, when Iraqi forces invaded neighboring Kuwait on 2 August, and positioned assault forces close to the Saudi Arabian border. On 7 August, President George Bush ordered U.S. military forces to the Persian Gulf in Operation Desert Shield as part of a multinational force to defend Saudi Arabia against Iraqi aggression. A major deployment of American military forces, the largest since the Vietnam War, began immediately and included the 1st Marine Division.

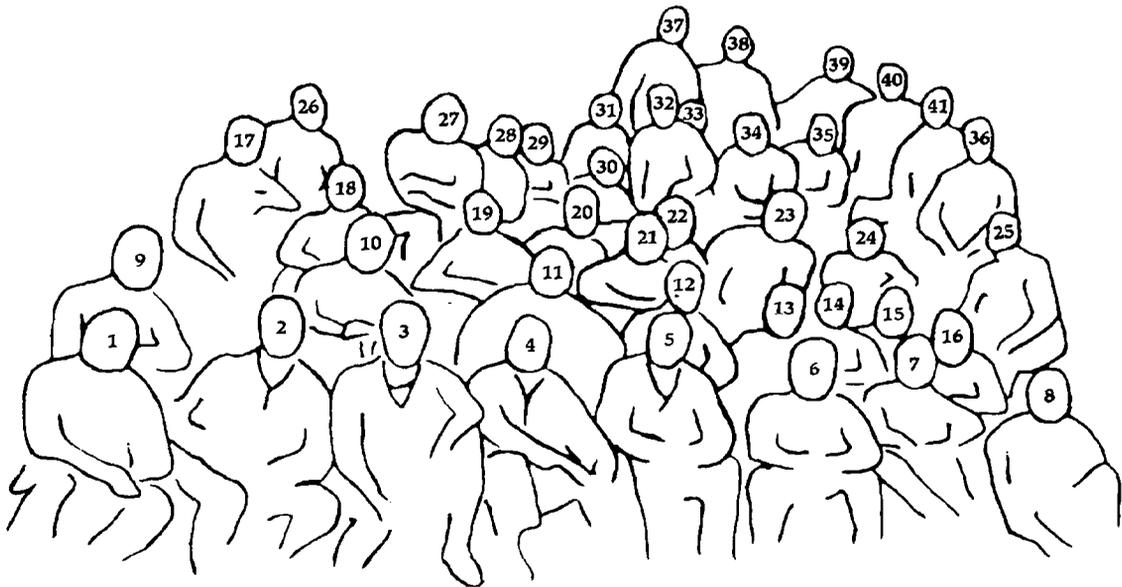
Elements of the 1st Marine Division began deployment during mid-August to Saudi Arabia, and by the first week of September, the division was established as the ground combat element of I Marine Expeditionary Force. Division personnel conducted extensive training in the desert with allied forces, including Arab coalition units.

On 16 January 1991, Operation Desert Shield became Operation Desert Storm, as forces of the allied coalition launched the air assault of the campaign. The first serious ground fighting of Operation Desert Storm began on 29 January, when Iraqi armored columns mounted an attack into Saudi Arabia along a 40-mile front, while simultaneously, an Iraqi brigade assaulted and held the evacuated coastal town of Khafji, farther to the east. The Iraqi armored columns were destroyed by 1st Marine Division units, and Khafji was retak-

en by Saudi and Qatari forces supported, in part, by division artillery and attack helicopters.

On the morning of 24 February 1991, the 1st Marine Division spearheaded the coalition ground assault drive into southern Kuwait, in the final chapter of Operation Desert Storm. The four main task forces of the 1st Marine Division — Papa Bear, Taro, Grizzly, and Ripper — slammed into the teeth of Iraqi defenses, and inflicted substantial damage to enemy forces. In 100 hours, the coalition forces had prevailed, and handed Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein and his forces a humiliating defeat. A cease-fire was declared by President Bush on 28 February. The speed of victory, the light casualties to Marine units, and the totality of the Iraqi defeat contributed to the soaring morale throughout the 1st Marine Division. By the end of March, more than half the division had departed Saudi Arabia, and the division completed its redeployment by late April 1991.

During the post-Desert Storm years, the 1st Marine Division has maintained a high degree of operational readiness, as its units have been called upon to assist in the defense of American interests, both at home and abroad. Elements of the division have participated in military operations and humanitarian missions in Somalia and Bangladesh, and have also assisted in joint task force drug operations in the United States. The 1st Marine Division, oldest of the Marine Corps divisions, stands ready to meet the challenges of a new millennium.



- |                            |                              |                           |                          |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Col G. R. Rowan         | 12. LtCol F. C. Biebush      | 23. Maj W. Chalfant III   | 34. Maj R. B. Luckey     |
| 2. Col P. A. del Valle     | 13. LtCol E. A. Pollock      | 24. Maj D. W. Fuller      | 35. LtCol S. G. Taxis    |
| 3. Col W. C. James         | 14. LtCol E. J. Buckley      | 25. Maj F. C. Thompson    | 36. LtCol E. H. Price    |
| 4. MajGen A. A. Vandegrift | 15. LtCol W. W. Barr         | 26. Maj R. G. Ballance    | 37. LtCol M. B. Twining  |
| 5. LtCol G. C. Thomas      | 16. LtCol R. P. Coffman      | 27. Maj H. W. Buse, Jr.   | 38. LtCol W. A. Reaves   |
| 6. Col C. B. Cates         | 17. LtCol F. R. Geraci       | 28. Maj J. G. Frazer      | 39. LtCol J. D. Macklin  |
| 7. Col R. McC. Pate        | 18. LtCol W. E. Maxwell      | 29. Maj H. H. Crockett    | 40. LtCol H. C. Waterman |
| 8. Cdr W. T. Brown, USN    | 19. LtCol E. G. Hagen        | 30. LtCol L. B. Cresswell | 41. Maj J. C. Murray     |
| 9. Col W. J. Whaling       | 20. LtCol W. N. McKelvy, Jr. | 31. Maj R. O. Bowen       |                          |
| 10. Col F. B. Goettge      | 21. LtCol J. N. Frisbee      | 32. LtCol J. A. Bemis     |                          |
| 11. Col L. P. Hunt         | 22. Maj M. V. O'Connell      | 33. Col K. W. Benner      |                          |

# 1st Marine Division Commanding Generals

MajGen Holland M. Smith ..... 1 February 1941 - 13 June 1941  
 MajGen Philip H. Torrey ..... 14 June 1941 - 22 March 1942  
 MajGen Alexander A. Vandegrift ..... 23 March 1942 - 7 July 1943  
 MajGen William H. Rupertus ..... 8 July 1943 - 1 November 1944  
 MajGen Pedro A. del Valle ..... 2 November 1944 - 8 August 1945  
  
 MajGen Dewitt Peck ..... 9 August 1945 - 9 June 1946  
 MajGen Keller E. Rockey ..... 10 June 1946 - 17 September 1946  
 MajGen Samuel L. Howard ..... 18 September 1946 - 17 June 1947  
 Col Alva B. Lasswell (Acting) ..... 18 June 1947 - 6 July 1947  
 MajGen Graves B. Erskine ..... 7 July 1947 - 25 July 1950  
  
 MajGen Oliver P. Smith ..... 26 July 1950 - 23 February 1951  
 BGen Lewis B. Puller (Acting) ..... 24 February 1951 - 4 March 1951  
 MajGen Oliver P. Smith ..... 5 March 1951 - 26 April 1951  
 MajGen Gerald C. Thomas ..... 27 April 1951 - 10 January 1952  
 MajGen John T. Seldon ..... 11 January 1952 - 28 August 1952  
  
 MajGen Edwin A. Pollock ..... 29 August 1952 - 15 June 1953  
 MajGen Randolph McC. Pate ..... 16 June 1953 - 11 May 1954  
 MajGen Robert H. Pepper ..... 12 May 1954 - 23 July 1954  
 MajGen Robert E. Hogaboom ..... 24 July 1954 - 18 January 1955  
 MajGen Merrill B. Twining ..... 19 January 1955 - 17 August 1956  
  
 MajGen Robert O. Bare ..... 18 August 1956 - 30 June 1957  
 MajGen David M. Shoup ..... 1 July 1957 - 2 January 1958  
 BGen Harvey C. Tschirgi ..... 3 January 1958 - 4 February 1958  
 MajGen Edward W. Snedeker ..... 5 February 1958 - 7 October 1959  
 BGen Thomas F. Riley ..... 8 October 1959 - 13 November 1959  
  
 MajGen Henry R. Paige ..... 14 November 1959 - 6 June 1961  
 BGen Frederick E. Leek ..... 7 June 1961 - 30 July 1961  
 MajGen James M. Masters, Sr. .... 31 July 1961 - 14 June 1962  
 MajGen Herman Nickerson, Jr. .... 15 June 1962 - 9 April 1963  
 MajGen William T. Fairbourn ..... 10 April 1963 - 9 July 1965  
  
 BGen Edward H. Hurst ..... 10 July 1965 - 10 August 1965  
 MajGen Lewis J. Fields ..... 11 August 1965 - 30 September 1966  
 MajGen Herman Nickerson, Jr. .... 1 October 1966 - 31 May 1967  
 MajGen Donn J. Robertson ..... 1 June 1967 - 26 June 1968  
 MajGen Carl A. Youngdale ..... 27 June 1968 - 20 December 1968  
  
 MajGen Ormond R. Simpson ..... 21 December 1968 - 14 December 1969  
 MajGen Edwin B. Wheeler ..... 15 December 1969 - 26 April 1970  
 MajGen Charles F. Widdecke ..... 27 April 1970 - 29 April 1971  
 MajGen Ross T. Dwyer, Jr. .... 30 April 1971 - 10 August 1972  
 BGen Adolph G. Schwenk ..... 11 August 1972 - 30 April 1973

MajGen Kenneth J. Houghton .....1 May 1973 - 12 August 1974  
 BGen William L. McLulloch .....13 August 1974 - 1 June 1975  
 MajGen Charles D. Mize .....2 June 1975 - 29 July 1976  
 MajGen Edward A. Wilcox .....30 July 1976 - 5 July 1977  
 BGen Marc A. Moore .....6 July 1977 - 7 August 1977

MajGen Charles G. Cooper .....8 August 1977 - 8 August 1979  
 MajGen Francis X. Quinn .....9 August 1979 - 31 July 1980  
 MajGen James L. Day .....1 August 1980 - 12 August 1982  
 MajGen Ernest C. Cheatham, Jr. ....13 August 1982 - 13 June 1985  
 MajGen Clyde D. Dean. ....14 June 1985 - 23 April 1986

BGen Matthew T. Cooper .....24 April 1986 - 13 August 1986  
 MajGen James J. McMonagle .....14 August 1986 - 19 July 1988  
 MajGen John P. Monahan .....20 July 1988 - 7 August 1990  
 MajGen James M. Myatt .....8 August 1990 - 8 July 1992  
 MajGen Charles E. Wilhelm .....9 July 1992 - 8 December 1992

Col Jerry C. McAbee (Acting). ....9 December 1992 - 23 March 1993  
 MajGen Charles E. Wilhelm. ....24 March 1993 - 22 June 1994  
 MajGen Frank Libutti. ....23 June 1994 - 6 June 1996  
 MajGen John H. Admire .....7 June 1996 - 24 July 1998  
 MajGen Michael W. Hagee .....25 June 1998

# 1st Marine Division

## *LINEAGE*

*1913-1914*

ACTIVATED 23 DECEMBER 1913 AT PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, AS THE 1ST ADVANCE BASE BRIGADE

DEPLOYED DURING JANUARY 1914 TO CULEBRA, PUERTO RICO

RELOCATED DURING FEBRUARY 1914 TO NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

REDESIGNATED 1 APRIL 1914 AS THE 1ST BRIGADE

DEPLOYED DURING APRIL 1914 TO VERA CRUZ, MEXICO

PARTICIPATED IN THE LANDINGS AND OCCUPATION OF VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, APRIL-NOVEMBER 1914

RELOCATED DURING DECEMBER 1914 TO PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

*1915-1935*

DEPLOYED DURING AUGUST 1915 TO PORT AU PRINCE, HAITI

PARTICIPATED IN THE OCCUPATION OF HAITI, AUGUST 1915 - AUGUST 1934

PARTICIPATED IN THE OCCUPATION OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, JUNE-DECEMBER 1916

DEACTIVATED 15 AUGUST 1934 AT PORT AU PRINCE, HAITI

REACTIVATED 1 SEPTEMBER 1935 AT QUANTICO, VIRGINIA, AS THE 1ST BRIGADE AND ASSIGNED  
TO THE FLEET MARINE FORCE

REDESIGNATED 16 SEPTEMBER 1935 AS THE 1ST MARINE BRIGADE

*1940-1949*

DEPLOYED DURING OCTOBER 1940 TO GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA

REDESIGNATED 1 FEBRUARY 1941 AS THE 1ST MARINE DIVISION

RELOCATED DURING MAY 1941 TO QUANTICO, VIRGINIA, AND PARRIS ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA

DEPLOYED DURING APRIL-JULY 1942 TO SAMOA AND WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

PARTICIPATED IN THE FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II CAMPAIGNS

*GUADALCANAL  
EASTERN NEW GUINEA  
NEW BRITAIN  
PELELIU  
OKINAWA*

PARTICIPATED IN THE OCCUPATION OF NORTH CHINA, SEPTEMBER 1945 - JUNE 1947

RELOCATED DURING JUNE 1947 TO CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA

*1950-1964*

DEPLOYED DURING JULY-SEPTEMBER 1950 TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PARTICIPATED IN THE KOREAN WAR, SEPTEMBER 1950 - JULY 1953, OPERATING FROM

*INCHON-SEOUL  
CHOSIN RESERVOIR  
EAST-CENTRAL FRONT  
WESTERN FRONT*

PARTICIPATED IN THE DEFENSE OF THE KOREAN DEMILITARIZED ZONE, JULY 1953 - MARCH 1955

RELOCATED DURING FEBRUARY-APRIL 1955 TO CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA

ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS, OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1962

*1965-1971*

DEPLOYED DURING JULY 1965 - MAY 1966 TO THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

PARTICIPATED IN THE WAR IN VIETNAM FROM JULY 1965 - APRIL 1971, OPERATING FROM

*CHU LAI  
DA NANG  
DONG HA  
QUI NHON  
HUE  
PHU BAI  
QUANG TRI*

RELOCATED DURING APRIL 1971 TO CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA

*1972-1998*

ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION NEW ARRIVAL, THE RELOCATION OF REFUGEES FROM INDOCHINA, APRIL-MAY AND JUNE-DECEMBER 1975

PARTICIPATED IN OPERATIONS DESERT SHIELD AND DESERT STORM, SOUTHWEST ASIA, SEPTEMBER 1990 - FEBRUARY 1991

ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION SEA ANGEL, BANGLADESH, MAY-JUNE 1991

ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION RESTORE HOPE, SOMALIA, DECEMBER 1992 - APRIL 1993

ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN FIRE-FIGHTING EFFORTS, WESTERN UNITED STATES, JULY-SEPTEMBER 1994

ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN SUPPORT OF HUNTER WARRIOR ADVANCED WARFIGHTING LABORATORY EXPERIMENT, CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA, SEPTEMBER 1996 - MARCH 1997

# 1st Marine Division

## *HONORS*

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION STREAMER WITH ONE SILVER AND TWO BRONZE STARS

WORLD WAR II  
GUADALCANAL-1942  
PELELIU, NGESEBUS-1944  
OKINAWA-1945

KOREA  
1950  
1950  
1951

VIETNAM  
1966-1967  
1967-1968

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

KOREA  
1952-1953

SOUTHWEST ASIA  
1990-1991

MEXICAN SERVICE STREAMER

DOMINICAN CAMPAIGN STREAMER

HAITIAN CAMPAIGN STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY STREAMER

WORLD WAR I VICTORY STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

AMERICAN DEFENSE SERVICE STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN STREAMER WITH ONE SILVER AND ONE BRONZE STAR

WORLD WAR II VICTORY STREAMER

NAVY OCCUPATION SERVICE STREAMER WITH "ASIA"

CHINA SERVICE STREAMER

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE STREAMER WITH TWO BRONZE STARS

KOREAN SERVICE STREAMER WITH TWO SILVER STARS

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY STREAMER

VIETNAM SERVICE STREAMER WITH TWO SILVER AND THREE BRONZE STARS

SOUTHWEST ASIA SERVICE STREAMER WITH TWO BRONZE STARS

KOREAN PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION STREAMER

VIETNAM CROSS OF GALLANTRY WITH PALM STREAMER

VIETNAM MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION CIVIL ACTIONS STREAMER



### THE 1ST DIVISION PATCH

THE 1ST DIVISION SHOULDER PATCH ORIGINALLY WAS AUTHORIZED FOR WEAR BY MEMBERS OF UNITS WHO SERVED WITH OR WERE ATTACHED TO THE DIVISION IN THE PACIFIC IN WORLD WAR II; IT WAS THE FIRST PATCH TO BE APPROVED IN THAT WAR AND SPECIFICALLY COMMEMORATED THE DIVISION'S SACRIFICES AND VICTORY IN THE BATTLE FOR GUADALCANAL. IT FEATURES THE NATIONAL COLORS - RED, WHITE, AND BLUE - IN ITS DIAMOND-SHAPED BLUE BACKGROUND WITH RED NUMERAL "1" INSCRIBED WITH WHITE LETTERING, "GUADALCANAL." THE WHITE STARS FEATURED ON THE NIGHT-SKY BLUE BACKGROUND ARE IN THE ARRANGEMENT OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS CONSTELLATION, UNDER WHICH THE GUADALCANAL FIGHTING TOOK PLACE.

## The 1st Marines

The 1st Marines was activated on 27 November 1913 at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the 2d Advance Base Regiment. On 1 July 1916, the organization was redesignated the 1st Regiment of Marines. During the early years of its existence, the regiment was employed primarily as a combat force during the “Banana Wars” in the Caribbean. The first of these operations took place during April 1914 when the regiment, along with other Navy and Marine units, landed and seized the Mexican port of Vera Cruz in the protection of American interests. The regiment next participated in campaigns in Haiti (1915-1916) and in the Dominican Republic (1916). In December 1918, the 1st Regiment was deployed for approximately six months in Cuba. The regiment was later sent to the Dominican Republic as a garrison force from August 1922 until July 1924.

Following this second tour of duty in the Dominican Republic, the regiment was deactivated, but was subsequently reactivated in March 1925 at Quantico, Virginia. The regiment received

its present designation of 1st Marines on 10 July 1930. The decade of the 1930s was a period of inactivity in 1st Marines history, as the unit remained in a deactivated status. The outbreak of World War II in Europe, along with consequent build-up of American military strength, marked the occasion for the next reactivation of the regiment. On 1 February 1941, the 1st Marines was reactivated at Culebra, Puerto Rico, as part of the 1st Marine Division.

After the 8 December 1941 entrance of the United States into World War II, the regiment moved to the West Coast, and then deployed for operations to the South Pacific. The regiment’s initial operation of World War II was joining in the assault and capture of Guadalcanal in the British Solomon Islands. In this first American land offensive in the South Pacific, the regiment saw combat action against Japanese forces from August-December 1942. The regiment sailed during December 1942 to Melbourne, Australia, for a well-earned period of rest and rehabilitation.

*Marines man an outpost during the occupation of Vera Cruz, Mexico, in 1914.*





*Above, the command post of the 2d Battalion, 1st Marines, located near the Tenaru River, Guadalcanal, in 1942. Below, MajGen Pedro A. del Valle, third from left, commanding the 1st Marine Division, confers with officers of the 1st Marines on Okinawa in May 1945. From left are Capt Richard Boyd; LtCol James C. Magee, Jr., Commanding Officer, 2d Battalion, 1st Marines; MajGen del Valle; and Col Arthur T. Mason, Commanding Officer, 1st Marines.*



The next major encounter with the enemy took place during the December 1943 campaign on New Britain, in which the 1st Marines played a key role in securing the island's airfield, and later, in repulsing a Japanese assault in the "Battle of Coffin Corner." The New Britain operation was followed by the costly battle for Peleliu. On 15 September 1944, assault units of the 1st Marines landed on Peleliu amidst a mortar barrage from Japanese forces. For the next week, the 1st Marines engaged in some of the most vicious and costly fighting of the entire Pacific campaign. The regiment later moved to a rest area on the east coast of the island, in preparation for its final operation of the war, the invasion of Okinawa.

The regiment landed on 1 April 1945 on Okinawa, as part of the 1st Marine Division reserve, and followed the assault regiments of the division across the beach and inland. From 1 April until 15 June 1945, the 1st Marines participated in the bitter, close-in fighting that led to the capture of this strategic island.

Following the 2 September 1945 surrender of

Japan, the 1st Marines deployed to North China, to take part in the garrisoning of the country, and in the repatriation of former enemy personnel. The regiment remained in China until February 1949, when it was withdrawn to the United States. After several months at Camp Pendleton, California, the regiment was deactivated on 1 October 1949.

The sudden outbreak of the Korean War in late June 1950 necessitated an immediate build-up of the Marine Corps. Accordingly, the 1st Marines was reactivated on 4 August 1950, and began intensive training to enter the conflict. On 15 September 1950, the 1st Marines participated in the assault behind enemy lines at Inchon, Korea, in a bold stroke that caught North Korean forces completely off-guard. The regiment went on to take part in the liberation of the South Korean capital of Seoul. From late November to mid-December 1950, the 1st Marines participated in the heroic Chosin Reservoir campaign, where the 1st Marine Division fought its way out from an encirclement of 10 Chinese Communist divisions.

For the next two and one-half years, the 1st

*A Marine machine gun crew guards a train during the occupation of North China in November 1945.*





*Above, air officers and corpsmen of the 2d Battalion, 1st Marines, in Korea, direct a helicopter to a landing strip just behind the front lines. Below, members of the 1st Marines cross Freedom Gate Bridge on their way to Ascom City, Korea, for redeployment to the United States.*





*A helicopter rapidly dispatches combat-ready members of Company C, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, southwest of Quang Tri, Vietnam, in October 1967.*

Marines continued to engage North Korean and Chinese Communist forces. During September 1952, the regiment participated in the 1st Marine Division offensive against enemy forces in the Punchbowl area of Korea. Almost one year later, action along the division's western front increased in intensity, with the most persistent enemy efforts centered around the "Bunker Hill" and "Siberia Hill" complexes in the 1st Marines sector. In the last few months of fighting in Korea in the spring and summer of 1953, the 1st Marines withstood numerous enemy attacks on division positions, which resulted in heavy North Korean casualties. After the signing of the 25 July 1953 armistice, the regiment remained in Korea for several years as a defensive force against possible Communist attempts to rekindle the conflict.

The 1st Marines returned to Camp Pendleton in April 1955, and participated in numerous training exercises over the course of the following decade. The regiment deployed briefly to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.

The intensification of the American involvement in the Vietnam War during the summer of 1965 included the first deployment of Marine combat units to Southeast Asia. Elements of the 1st

Marines began arriving during August 1965 in the Republic of Vietnam. By January 1966, the entire regiment completed its move to Vietnam. The first major operation of the war for the regiment was Operation Harvest Moon in December 1965. In succeeding months, the regiment participated in an increasing number of combat operations, including Utah, Iowa, Cheyenne, and Double Eagle. During July 1966, Operations Hastings witnessed some of the most bitter fighting of the conflict up to that time.

By the fall of 1967, the 1st Marines was operating permanently in the northern sector of the I Corps Tactical Zone. The following winter, during late January 1968, Communist forces launched the Tet Offensive, and overran the ancient imperial capital of Hue. Elements of the 1st Marines took an active role, alongside other U.S. Marine and South Vietnamese units, in recapturing the city. Heavy fighting continued throughout the war, culminating in the regiment's participation in Operation Meade River.

The 1st Marines remained in the Republic of Vietnam for the next two and one-half years. During this period, the regiment participated in numerous combat operations in the I Corps



*A vehicle from 1st Tank Battalion supports Marines from Company L, 3d Battalion, 1st Marines, in an operation south of Marble Mountain, Vietnam, in March 1969.*

Tactical Zone, including bitter fighting in Operations Oklahoma Hills and Pipestone Canyon. Early in 1971, the regiment was ordered back to the United States. All combat activity ceased at the end of May, and redeployment to Camp Pendleton was completed by June 1971.

In the spring of 1975, the 1st Marines provided primary support to Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, for preparation of a camp to house Vietnamese refugees during Operation New Arrival. During the 1980s, the regiment took part in many training exercises, in order to maintain the traditional high standards set by the regiment throughout its history.

On 2 August 1990, Iraqi military forces invaded Kuwait, and threatened the stability of the entire Persian Gulf region. Although not immediately deployed to the Persian Gulf, the 1st Marines at Camp Pendleton, California, initially provided support for the early troop deployments to Saudi Arabia by augmenting the 7th Marines with personnel and equipment. During November the 1st Marines received word that elements of the regiment would deploy to the gulf in support of

Operation Desert Shield. By the end of December, elements of the regiment began arriving at Al Jubayl, Saudi Arabia.

The final 1st Marine Division task organization, on the eve of the coalition ground assault into Kuwait saw the 1st Marines configured as Task Force Papa Bear, a mechanized task force which included assault amphibian, tank, combat engineer, and engineer support units. On 24 February 1991, the ground offensive of Operation Desert Storm began with coalition thrusts into southern Kuwait. Task Force Papa Bear pushed forward on the 1st Marine Division's right flank in support of Task Force Grizzly. Iraqi defenses crumbled under withering fire from Marine TOW missiles, and enemy soldiers soon began to surrender in large numbers. On 28 February, a ceasefire ended all division offensive operations. In early March, Task Force Papa Bear withdrew to Saudi Arabia, in preparation for deployment home, and the 1st Marines returned to Camp Pendleton in April.

Through the 1990s, the regiment has participated in numerous training exercises, and elements of the regiment have taken part in operations in



*Marines move across the Saudi Arabian desert back to their camp following an exercise during Operation Desert Storm in 1991.*

Kuwait and Somalia. More recently, elements of the regiment deployed during February 1998 to the Persian Gulf because of rising tensions with

Iraq. As the Marine Corps approaches a new century, the 1st Marines stands ready to meet any challenge.

# Commanding Officers 1st Marines

LtCol Charles G. Long ..... 27 November 1913 - 5 May 1914  
 Col James E. Mahoney ..... 6 May 1914 - 4 December 1914  
 LtCol Charles G. Long ..... 5 December 1914 - 7 August 1915  
 Col Theodore P. Kane ..... 8 August 1915 - 15 August 1915  
 Col Eli K. Cole ..... 16 August 1915 - 8 May 1916  
  
 LtCol Laurence H. Moses ..... 9 May 1916 - 24 June 1916  
 Col Eli K. Cole ..... 25 June 1916 - 30 June 1916  
 Col Theodore P. Kane ..... 1 July 1916 - 11 August 1916  
 Maj Hiram I. Bearss ..... 12 August 1916 - 17 October 1916  
 Col Theodore P. Kane ..... 18 October 1916 - 31 October 1916  
  
 Col Charles G. Long ..... 25 January 1917 - 4 September 1917  
 BGen Ben H. Fuller ..... 5 September 1917 - 30 August 1918  
 Col Thomas C. Threadwell ..... 31 August 1918 - 20 January 1919  
 LtCol Edward A. Greene ..... 21 January 1919 - 22 February 1919  
 Col Louis M. Gulick ..... 23 February 1919 - 14 April 1919  
  
 LtCol Edward A. Greene ..... 15 April 1919 - 28 April 1919  
 Col Charles S. Hill ..... 29 April 1919 - 6 August 1919  
 LtCol Edward A. Greene ..... 7 August 1919 - 18 September 1919  
 LtCol Alexander S. Williams ..... 19 September 1919 - 25 September 1919  
 Col Harry Lee ..... 26 September 1919 - 14 May 1920  
  
 Maj William P. Upshur ..... 15 May 1920 - 30 September 1920  
 Capt Thomas J. Curtis ..... 1 October 1920 - 17 October 1920  
 IstLt Oliver T. Francis ..... 18 October 1920 - 10 November 1920  
 2dLt Augustus Aiken ..... 11 November 1920 - 5 January 1921  
 Capt Lucian W. Burnham ..... 6 January 1921 - 7 May 1921  
  
 LtCol Frederic M. Wise ..... 8 May 1921 - 11 October 1921  
 Maj Samuel P. Budd ..... 12 October 1921 - 22 October 1921  
 Col Frederic M. Wise ..... 23 October 1921 - 11 April 1922  
 Capt John F. Blanton ..... 12 April 1922 - 22 April 1922  
 Col Charles C. Carpenter ..... 1 August 1922 - 18 July 1923  
  
 LtCol Charles T. Westcott ..... 19 July 1923 - 31 August 1923  
 Col Charles C. Carpenter ..... 1 September 1923 - 11 May 1924  
 Col Harold C. Snyder ..... 12 May 1924 - 1 July 1924  
 LtCol Edward A. Greene ..... 15 March 1925 - 23 March 1925  
 Col Charles C. Carpenter ..... 24 March 1925 - 30 April 1925  
  
 LtCol Edward A. Greene ..... 1 May 1925 - 24 January 1926  
 Maj George H. Osterhaut, Jr. .... 25 January 1926 - 30 April 1926  
 Maj Harry W. Weitzel ..... 1 May 1926 - 31 May 1926  
 LtCol Theodore E. Backstron ..... 1 June 1926 - 17 August 1926  
 Capt Merwin H. Silverthorn ..... 18 August 1926 - 30 August 1926

Col Randolph C. Berkeley .....31 August 1926 - 8 May 1927  
 Capt Merwin H. Silverthorn .....9 May 1927 - 15 June 1927  
 Maj William S. Harrison .....16 June 1927 - 13 November 1927  
 Col Randolph C. Berkeley .....14 November 1927 - 28 December 1927  
 Maj William S. Harrison .....29 December 1927 - 20 February 1928

Maj Maurice E. Shearer .....21 February 1928 - 7 March 1928  
 Col Randolph C. Berkeley .....8 March 1928 - 24 May 1928  
 Capt Emmett W. Skinner .....25 May 1928 - 21 June 1928  
 2dLt Leonard B. Cresswell .....22 June 1928 - 30 June 1928  
 Capt Howard N. Stent .....1 July 1928 - 15 August 1928

LtCol James T. Butterick .....16 August 1928 - 24 June 1929  
 Maj Nedom A. Eastman .....25 June 1929 - 8 August 1929  
 Maj Marion B. Humphrey .....9 August 1929 - 10 September 1929  
 Maj Nedom A. Eastman .....11 September 1929 - 16 September 1929  
 LtCol Charles F. Williams .....17 September 1929 - 20 June 1930

LtCol Andrew B. Drum .....1 July 1930 - 13 November 1930  
 Maj Arthur Kingston .....14 November 1930 - 26 April 1931  
 LtCol Edward W. Sturdevant .....27 April 1931 - 9 August 1931  
 Maj Philip H. Torrey .....10 August 1931 - 26 August 1931  
 Maj John Q. Adams .....27 August 1931 - 1 November 1931

Col David L. S. Brewster .....1 March 1941 - 1 April 1941  
 LtCol James F. Moriarty .....2 April 1941 - 22 March 1942  
 LtCol Julian N. Frisbie .....23 March 1942 - 3 May 1942  
 Col Clifton B. Cates .....4 May 1942 - 9 February 1943  
 Col William J. Whaling .....10 February 1943 - 28 February 1944

Col Lewis B. Puller .....1 March 1944 - 3 November 1944  
 LtCol Richard P. Ross, Jr. ....4 November 1944 - 12 December 1944  
 Col Kenneth B. Chappell .....13 December 1944 - 5 May 1945  
 Col Arthur T. Mason .....6 May 1945 - 19 September 1946  
 LtCol James M. Ranck, Jr. ....20 September 1946 - 7 October 1946

Col John E. Curry .....8 October 1946 - 26 August 1947  
 Col George W. McHenry .....27 August 1947 - 17 February 1948  
 Maj Edwin H. Wheeler .....18 February 1948 - 8 March 1948  
 Col George W. McHenry .....9 March 1948 - 27 April 1948  
 Col Miles S. Newton .....28 April 1948 - 13 April 1949

LtCol Thomas W. Brundage, Jr. ....14 April 1949 - 12 June 1949  
 Col John A. White .....13 June 1949 - 30 September 1949  
 Col Lewis B. Puller .....5 August 1950 - 24 January 1951  
 Col Francis M. McAlister .....25 January 1951 - 18 May 1951  
 Col Wilburt S. Brown .....19 May 1951 - 17 July 1951

Col Thomas A. Wornham .....18 July 1951 - 11 October 1951  
 Col Sidney S. Wade .....12 October 1951 - 7 April 1952  
 Col Walter N. Flournoy .....8 April 1952 - 24 July 1952  
 Col Walter P. Layer .....25 July 1952 - 20 November 1952  
 Col Hewitt D. Adams .....21 November 1952 - 30 April 1953