

FORTITUDINE

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2009

JOHN GLENN: MARINE IN SPACE
OPERATION ALLEGHENY
THE LINEAGE AND HONORS PROGRAM

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FORTITUDINE

Motto of the United States Marine Corps in the 1812 era

Historical Bulletin Vol. 34, No. 3

2009

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

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

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About the Cover: *Color formal portrait of Col John H. Glenn Jr. dressed in his Project Mercury space suit and helmet, January 1962.*

NASA photo

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

History Division on the Move



Dr. Charles P. Neimeyer

Into my third year as director, the History Division is progressing toward its strategic goals. With the establishment of the Marine Corps University Press and the hiring of additional editorial and design staff, the History Division has a nearly complete publishing section that will produce history-related publications and other projects in support of Marine Corps University.

As the evolution of the History Division continues, the division recognizes the enduring support of the outgoing president of the Marine Corps University, Major General Donald R. Gardner. Major General Gardner envisioned the need to collocate all components of the Historical Program at Quantico in 2005. Once the Historical Program moved to Quantico, Major General Gardner was pivotal in establishing the National Museum of the Marine Corps, which in its first two years of operation exceeded everyone's expectations about attendance. Throughout his career of 54 years, Major General Gardner has supported the telling of Corps' history, which explains one of the reasons for the success of the Historical Program. As he leaves for a well-deserved retirement, History Division wishes him well in his future endeavors.

This coming summer, the History Division will finally vacate its temporary facility and move across the street into Building 3078. The division will share the building with other elements of Marine Corps University but will largely occupy the first floor of the building. The new location comes with a nice atrium and will provide the division with a more permanent facility until the General Edwin Simmons History Wing is built. Researchers will still find the division ready to help them with their research

needs during the period of transition into the new building.

Also this summer, the division will lose one of its stalwart members, Mr. Danny J. Crawford, who will retire after 33 years of federal service, all with the History Division. Mr. Crawford was hired by the late Brigadier General Edwin H. Simmons in 1976. Just four years later, General Simmons placed him in charge of the division's Reference Branch. The Reference Branch represents, along with Archives and Special Collections, the corporate memory of the Marine Corps and its value is beyond mea-



MajGen Donald Gardner

sure. Crawford's leadership and focus on maintaining and expanding these important working files has enabled thousands of historians, researchers, and students to produce histories on the Marine Corps these past 33 years. Indeed, it is difficult to imagine a single historical publication published during his tenure in which he did not play at least some sort of role. Until a new branch head is hired, the capable Robert Aquilina, currently the assistant branch head, will lead the branch.

The Histories Branch, ably led by

Charles D. Melson, chief historian, recently hired two PhDs, Dr. Thomas N. Baughn, Catholic University (2007), and Dr. Nicholas J. Schlosser, University of Maryland (2008). Dr. Baughn is tasked to help with the project called 100 Years of Marine Corps Aviation. Dr. Schlosser is completing an anthology on Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2004–2008, and then will begin working on a project documenting Marines in the Cold War period.

The History Division's field historians are completing work this summer on an oral history collection related to the Awakening in al-Anbar Province, Iraq. History Division is producing this manuscript at the suggestion of Major General John F. Kelly, who thoughtfully pointed out that History Division needed to document not only what the Marine Corps has been doing in this strategic province these past two years, but also to document the support and assistance the Corps has received from Iraqi tribal leadership and local officials. History Division expects to publish this book in the fall of 2009.

The History Division continues to thrive at Quantico with increased production of quality historical publications for the Corps and public. In the coming year, the division will hire more staff for the Marine Corps University Press, and hopefully, one more historian. Soon to be published will be a definitive history called the *Marines in the Frigate Navy*, by Charles R. Smith, a comprehensive history of the Marine Corps in Desert Storm by Paul W. Westermeyer, and a history of the early stages of Marine Corps involvement in Operation Enduring Freedom by Dr. Nathan S. Lowrey. It is an exciting time to be writing the history of the Marine Corps. □1775□

John Glenn's Race for Space

by Dr. Thomas M. Baughn
Historian

The final lines of the Marines' Hymn assert that "if the Army and the Navy ever look on Heaven's scenes, they will find the streets are guarded by United States Marines." Amid the threats of the Cold War and the fear that the Soviets were moving ahead of the United States in developing offensive missiles, Marine Colonel John H. Glenn Jr. was one of the first American astronauts to guard American interests in the heavens. Braving the unknowns of outer space, he became the first American astronaut to orbit the earth on 20 February 1962.

Four and a half years before Glenn's flight, the Soviets shocked the world by launching Sputnik 1 into outer space on 4 October 1957. Glenn noted in his memoir that "suddenly the Cold War converged around the next frontier—space—and the Soviets had gotten there first." This development erased American perceptions of technological superiority in tactical nuclear and bomber assets. Bigger and better nuclear bombs were of little consequence if the potential foe had a faster delivery system that was virtually incapable of interdiction once launched.

Two months before Sputnik 1, the Soviets had launched the first successful intercontinental ballistic missile. Americans feared that a powerful Soviet rocket could put nuclear bombs in orbit over the United States as easily as it put Sputnik 1 overhead. By 1957, the Soviets had demonstrated nuclear capabilities (fission and fusion bombs), intercontinental ballistic missiles, and the ability to orbit satellites. After the launch of Sputnik 1, Soviet Secretary Nikita Khrushchev boasted that "the United States now sleeps under a Soviet moon."

Four months after the Sputnik 1 launch, Glenn volunteered to become a test pilot for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, which

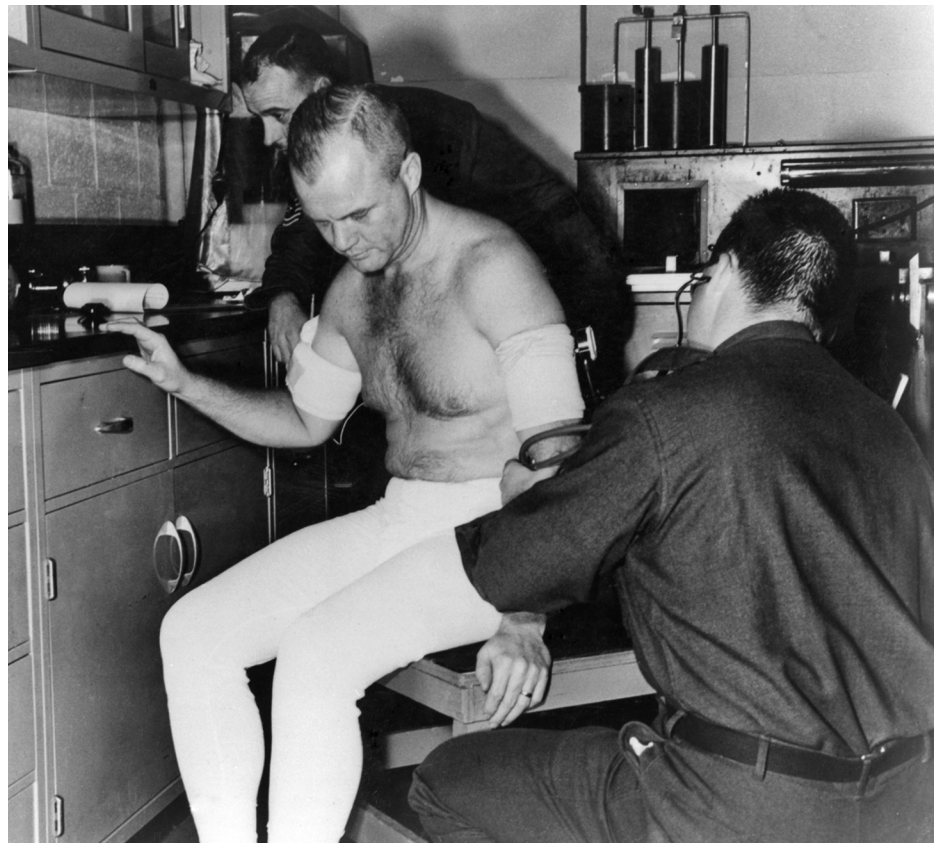


Baltimore Sun
Many felt that American complacency had allowed the Soviets to leap ahead of the U.S. in the "space race."

became the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) when President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the act in July 1958 that established a manned space program. NASA recruited astronauts from the pool of military test pilots, preferring pilots with combat experience in handling dynamic situations. The physical or experience criteria eliminated 80 percent of the pilots who applied. The list of 110 who remained did not include any Marines because the Navy was not specifically asked to include them in the initial selection. The commanding officer at the Patuxent River U.S. Naval Flight Test Center, Colonel James "Jake" K. Dill, remedied that deficiency. Early in 1959, Glenn received orders to report to the Pentagon, where he volunteered

LtCol Glenn was given comprehensive physical and psychological examinations to determine his ability to withstand the rigors of traveling in outer space.

NASA Photo



“without hesitation” for the Mercury program because “the country needed astronauts.” Glenn recounted that NASA required “a new kind of test flying that had never been done, but it was a necessary step in the space race with the Soviets.”

Glenn recognized the connection between the space race and geopolitics and was eager to do his part in assuring America’s leadership, arguing that “we ought to get up there before the Soviets do, if we can.” It took more than patriotism, however, to serve the U.S. as an astronaut. As NASA pared the list of 110 applicants, Glenn’s lack of a college degree resulted in his de-selection. Colonel Dill learned of this development, lobbied the selection committee, and managed to convince NASA that Glenn’s combined academic record amounted to more than a bachelor’s degree. NASA agreed, and Glenn’s name appeared on the short list of 32 candidates. The next obstacle was a battery of physical and psychological tests. Not knowing how the body would react to the conditions in space, doctors and scientists administered a wide array of tests during the final selection process that pushed the test pilots to their physical and mental limits. After all the testing, Glenn was one of the seven men selected to reach for the heavens and to experience “being shot into space strapped on top of a huge bomb,” as missile launches were wryly described at the time.

Glenn was well prepared for such a ride. He had flown 59 missions in World War II and 63 in Korea and been decorated five times with the Distinguished Flying Cross, the fifth one for setting a new transcontinental speed record. He was the first to cross the United States at an average speed exceeding the sound barrier in a Vought F8U-1P Crusader jet fighter on 16 July 1957. As he moved into the Mercury program, Glenn felt that Marine aviators had a responsibility to occupy the “forward positions in a world increasingly defined by the tensions of the Cold War” and wanted to “make sure that if the Cold War turned hot, the edge would be ours.”



Official Department of Defense Photo
Naval Astronaut Wings

When Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human to be launched into outer space on 12 April 1961, the Soviets gained significant global stature. The contrasting image from the United States during the early months of the 1960s was of American rockets exploding in huge fireballs. The mission for Glenn and other early astronauts was to demonstrate that Americans could at least match Soviet accomplishments in outer space and to help reclaim America’s technological leadership and elevate its prestige in the world.

Just four weeks after Gagarin’s mission, Alan B. Shepard Jr., USN, made a suborbital flight, becoming the

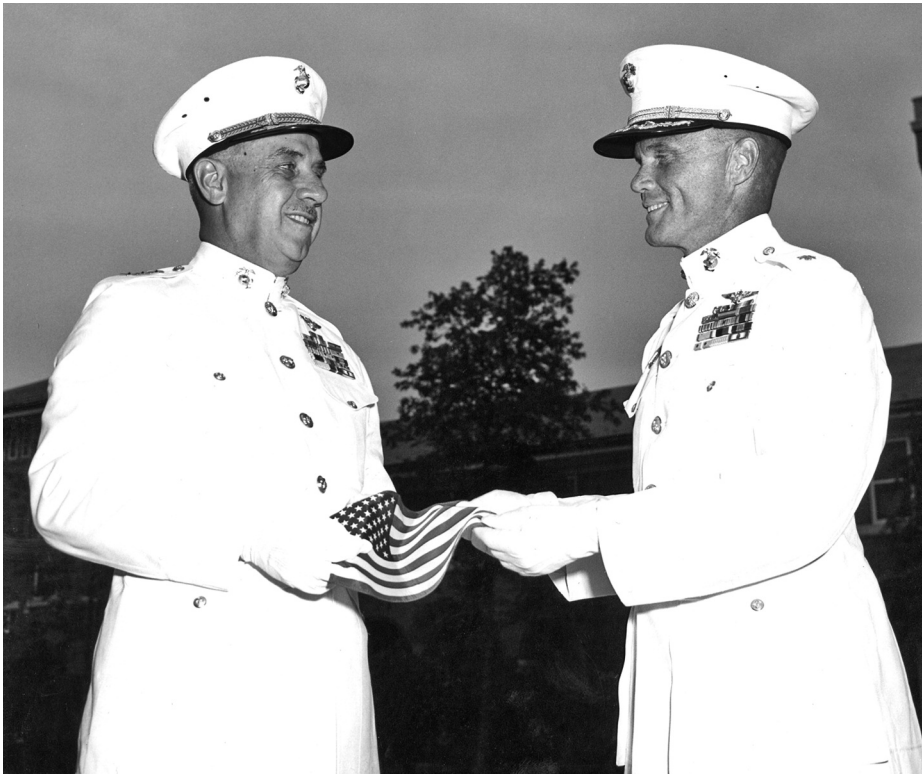
Maj Glenn sitting astride the cockpit of his Vought F8U-1P Crusader after completing his record, breaking transcontinental flight (Project Bullet) in 1957.

Official Department of Defense Photo



first American in space. It took another nine months, however, before the Americans had the more powerful Atlas rocket ready to propel an astronaut into orbit. Glenn was chosen for the flight, which was scheduled for 20 February 1962. NASA planned a minimum of three orbits for his Friendship 7 capsule. After achieving orbit, Glenn was given a “go” for at least seven orbits. True to the drama that attended these first flights, one of the capsule’s maneuvering jets clogged, necessitating that Glenn disengage automatic control and start manual control of the spacecraft. There were also sporadic problems with the gyroscopes. More unnerving was a proposed explanation for the “fireflies” that flew by the capsule window. Glenn realized that ground control was discussing whether the landing bag, reentry shield, and retro-rockets were loose or damaged and might be causing the luminescence that Glenn observed. These concerns caused NASA to countermand the seven orbits and settle for three. The retro-rockets had to fire correctly to slow the capsule enough for Glenn’s return to earth. After firing, the retro-rockets would be jettisoned, and the heat shield would protect Glenn from the searing heat of more than 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

Since visible inspection of the suspect components was not possible, ground control decided to delay the jettison of the retro-rockets until after firing to abate some of the heat before the restraining straps burned away and the retro-rockets separated from the capsule. Ground control hoped that the force of the upper atmosphere would pin a potentially loose



Official Marine Corps Photo

LtCol Glenn presented the flag that he carried with him in Friendship 7 to Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Lieutenant General Charles Hayes. The 50-star flag was donated to the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

heat shield against the capsule long enough to save the mission. Not only did Glenn have to face all of these

potential problems, he also had to manually fly the capsule during reentry, which was an extremely difficult

procedure. If the angle of reentry was too shallow, the capsule would skip off the atmosphere into outer space, stranding Glenn. He knew it would be impossible to prepare and launch another capsule quickly enough to reach a stranded astronaut even in a low orbit. Orbital rendezvous was yet to be attempted, and there was no way to transfer to an unmanned rescue capsule. Modification of existing manned capsules to carry and safely return two astronauts was also not an option. If the reentry angle was too steep, the capsule would be destroyed by extreme heat. Fortunately, the heat shield was not compromised, and Glenn splashed down safely in the Atlantic Ocean approximately six miles from the nearest recovery ship, USS *Noa*.

Glenn forever secured his place in history as the first Marine aviator to fly in space and the first American to orbit the earth. Approximately seven years later, American astronauts landed on the moon on 20 July 1969. No Marine has yet walked the lunar surface—an objective for the current generation of Marine aviators, who continue their astronaut training (currently six) for their time in the heavens.

□1775□

Urgent Fury Succeeded with the Help of a Navy Yachtsman

by Col Jeffrey Acosta
Field Historian

Today's expeditionary strike groups have access to satellite intelligence, unmanned aerial vehicles, and computer information networks to conduct rapid planning for amphibious operations. Prior to the dawn of the information age in 1990s, it took weeks, sometimes months, to gather the intelligence on coastlines and beaches required to conduct an amphibious operation.

On 19 October 1983 on the island nation of Grenada, an army firing squad executed Prime Minister Maurice R. Bishop and some cabinet members after they had been released from imprisonment by Grenadians protesting the arrest of Prime Minister Bishop by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard. Trapped in the middle of this political turmoil were sev-

eral hundred U.S. students attending a medical college on the island. President Ronald W. Reagan, armed with a request for U.S. support from the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, decided to rescue the students.

One of units dispatched to Grenada was Marine Amphibious Ready Group 1-84, consisting of the five-ship Amphibious Squadron 4: USS *Guam*, USS *Trenton*, USS *Fort Snelling*, USS *Barnstable County*, and USS *Manitowoc*. On board the ships was the 22d Marine Amphibious Unit. This grouping of ships and Marines were part of Joint Task Force 120.

On the morning of 25 October, the task force was planning to amphibious assault Grenada in three days, but

it had little or no intelligence information about Grenada's coastline or beaches. Fortunately, Commander Richard A. Butler, USN, a yachtsman and chief of staff of Amphibious Squadron 4, had sailed his yacht around Grenada in 1977. He knew the island's coastline and beaches well enough to provide the information needed to plan and execute the amphibious assault. His information allowed the 22d Marine Amphibious Unit to land at several locations on the island and help with the rescue of the college students. Commander Butler's knowledge of the beaches and coastline was a major reason for the success of Operation Urgent Fury, the first offensive military operation conducted by the United States after the Vietnam War. □1775□

Operation Allegheny and the Search for a Fallen Marine

by Rob Taglianetti
Oral Historian

Charlie Ridge was a jungle fortress in I Corps near An Hoa, Quang Nam Province about 18 miles south of Da Nang, Vietnam. It was here in the Dong Lam Mountains that the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army trained for and staged attacks against the Da Nang corridor. Multiple operations into the Dong Lam Mountains had been launched in 1966 to neutralize the enemy threat against Da Nang and environs. During August 1966, Captain Donald R. Gardner, commanding officer of Company C, 3d Reconnaissance Battalion, 3d Marine Division, and his men probed deep into Charlie Ridge and battled the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army in an operation called Allegheny.

The mission of 3d Reconnaissance Battalion throughout the summer of

1966 was to gather intelligence about the region surrounding Charlie Ridge where the Viet Cong often retreated after engagements with the Marines. Because the composition of the enemy in this region was unknown, the 3d Marine Division planners cautiously prescribed battalion-sized patrols spearheaded by 3d Reconnaissance Battalion reinforced with infantry. One of the reconnaissance members was Lieutenant Lawrence C. Vetter Jr., who wrote in his book *Never Without Heroes* (New York: Ivy Books 1996), that this method was contrary to reconnaissance doctrine because the lack of noise discipline gave away the element of surprise.

The 3d Marine Division planners finally allowed smaller reconnaissance teams, which discovered Viet Cong

training camps that could accommodate hundreds of men. The reconnaissance teams gathered valuable intelligence that indicated probable attack targets were U.S. camps and artillery positions around the Dai Loc District. Lieutenant Vetter wrote how he recommended that the infantry move into the area and destroy probable smaller enemy units. Contrary to his recommendation though, 3d Reconnaissance Battalion inserted smaller four-man teams into the region.

Gunnery Sergeant Edrell L. Myers led one of the four-man teams that included Sergeant Peter M. "Ski" Gorczewski, radioman Lance Corporal Edward J. Rykoskey, and Navy corpsman Manuel N. "Doc" Perez. On 18 August 1966 at approximately 1345, the Viet Cong ambushed Myers' team, killing Rykoskey and silencing the radio. Perez was severely wounded by a gunshot through the back. Subsequently, Myers and Gorczewski decided to evacuate Perez to safety even though both of them had to fight with one hand while dragging the corpsman. They decided to leave Rykoskey's body behind and to retrieve it later after they had eluded their attackers. Though Myers, Gorczewski, and Perez had miles to go, they finally made it out of the triple-canopy jungle safely. However, since they didn't have a radio, 3d Reconnaissance Battalion had no idea of their situation.

LtCol Obanesian, commanding officer of 2/3, demonstrated for the photographer the "correct" method to load a Viet Cong training weapon. The wooden mock-up was remarkable in its detail. This training aid was found by Marines of LtCol Obanesian's battalion during Operation Allegheny, August 1966. LtCol Obanesian was later killed in action on 1 March 1967.

Official Department of Defense Photo



Because the 3d Marine Division's Reserve force was committed elsewhere at the time, Captain Gardner organized a provisional reconnaissance platoon of approximately 20 men. Company H, 2d Battalion, 3d Marine Regiment, assisted Captain Gardner's platoon. Because the status of Lance Corporal Rykoskey's body was still unknown and because of enemy opposition, a battalion com-

mand group along with several other companies of infantry joined Captain Gardner and Company H. Now-Major General Gardner has stated that he owes his life to the decisive actions of Lieutenant Colonel Victor Ohanesian, 2/3's commanding officer, and Major Robert F. Sheridan, 2/3's S-3, and the Marines of 2/3 for their quick deploy-

ment and decisive tactics to neutralize the enemy: "If it wasn't for them, I would not be here today."

Operation Allegheny lasted 10 days, with 117 Viet Cong confirmed killed and 99 probable killed or wounded in action. The Marines suffered 3 killed and 29 wounded in

action. Captain Gardner received the Silver Star for his leadership during this engagement. As the operation came to a close on 27 August 1966, Captain Gardner sat down that evening to recount the tumultuous events of the past two weeks for his after action report. He wrote the following, which has been extracted from his diary.

Diary of Captain Donald R. Gardner, Commanding Officer, Company C, 3d Reconnaissance Battalion, Vietnam

On the 16th of August 1966, a four-man patrol of Charlie Company, 3d Recon Battalion, all volunteers, was inserted deep into enemy territory. The patrol operated clandestinely for three days gaining valuable information about the terrain and enemy troops. On the afternoon of August 18th, Vietcong took the small patrol under heavy automatic weapons fire. In the initial burst, LCpl Edward J. Rykoskey, the radioman, was killed and Doc Perez [Manuel N.], the Navy corpsman, was wounded. The patrol eluded the enemy and escaped their ambush.

On the morning of the 19th when no contact had been made with the patrol, I mounted out a relief platoon of 20 people. The platoon moved into their original landing zone and found no sign of them. That afternoon, we were joined by Hotel Company, 2d Battalion, 3d Marines. Later, I received word that three members of the patrol had walked out of the jungle to friendly lines, after destroying the gear that could not be carried. Our mission now was one of trying to recover the body. Half of the Recon element remained to secure the landing zone and the other half, with myself, set out into the jungle as point for the company and acting as scouts. We tried to move over the patrol route of the old patrol and a thorough search of the area around the first fight produced negative results. It was with deep regret that I reported the body was not there.

The next morning the company and my scouts moved out. That evening, about 1600, we made contact with one of their villages and Hotel took one wounded. The village was large enough for at least 50 people with class rooms, a galley, and tunnels and caves throughout. As the Vietcong were pushed out the other side, several weapons and many documents were policed up.

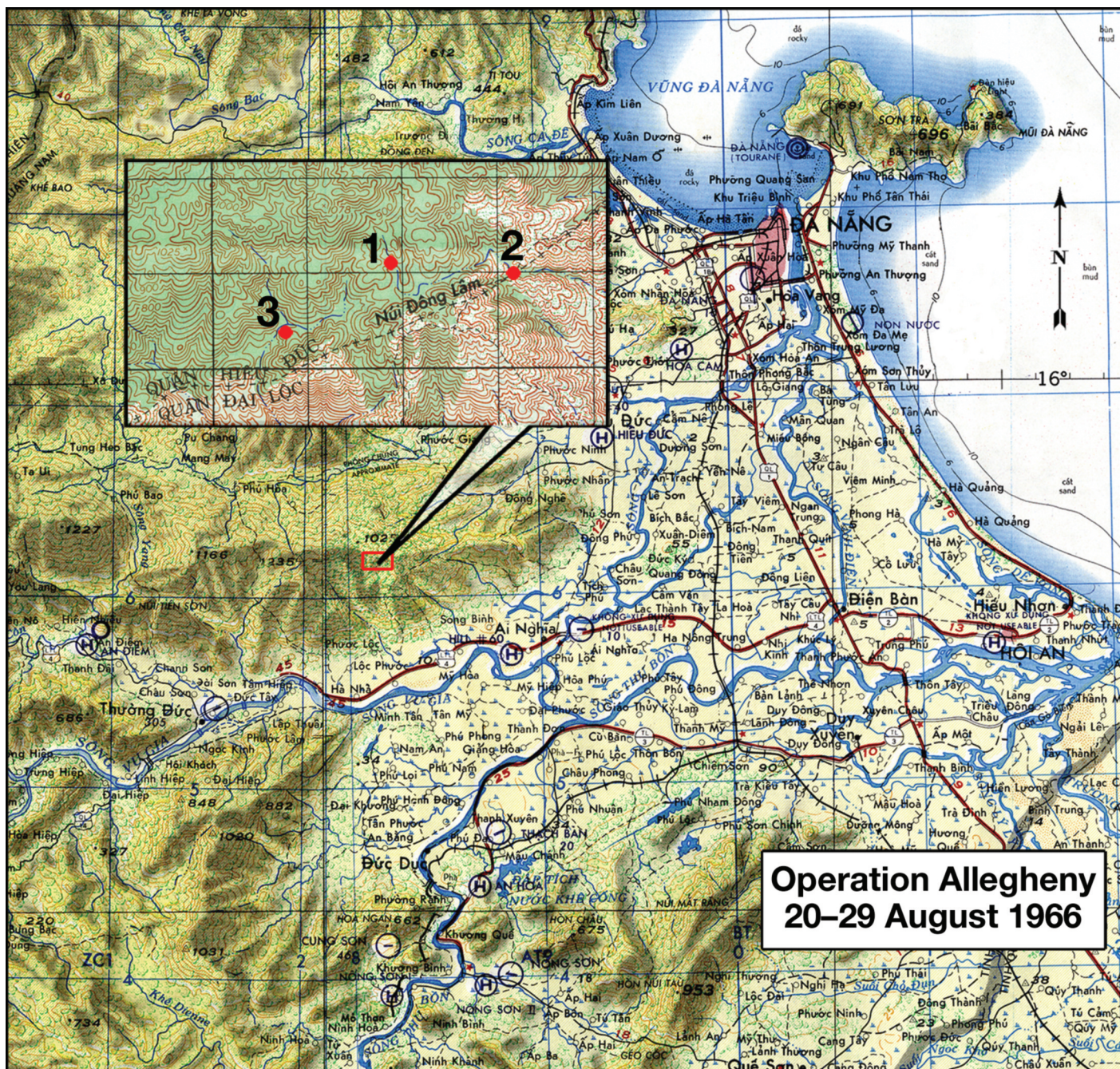
The next morning the battalion command group joined us and the clear and search had become Operation Allegheny. I was instructed to move with Golf Company, 2d Battalion, 3d Marines with my scouting element. In our movement for the next two days, we encountered accurate sniper fire but I did not lose any of my men. On the afternoon of the 22nd, a large village complex was located near a swift running stream. It was like the other with huts that had tunnels and caves under them. One platoon and my Marines moved down into the village that afternoon while the remainder of the company had set up security on the high ground to the south of us.



Courtesy MajGen Gardner

Command post of Capt Gardner at Da Nang, Vietnam.

At about 1400, while near the creek, the patrol was hit by heavy automatic weapons fire and at once, most of us were pinned down. While the platoon was setting in, I had started up the north side of the creek with my radioman, LCpl Philip W. Berry, and my shotgun, Cpl John E. Hamilton Jr. Part way up the hill, seeing I would discover them, the Vietcong opened up on me from about 10 meters. It was only by the grace of God I survived the initial burst. I shouted a warning to the platoon commander to deploy and I opened up with the M-14 I was carrying wounding the nearest Vietcong. While I was changing magazines, I was pinned down by increased fire and my shotgun was down with a wound in his neck. The next closest Charlie dropped three chicom grenades down the hill on top of us. These grenades landed within 6 to 10 feet of myself and my radioman each time and you would think that one of them could have been a dud. When you look up the hill and see one of those grenades coming, it seems



1: Location where GySgt Myers' patrol was ambushed, 18 August 1966. **2:** Location of 2/3's landing zone where Companies G and H launched Operation Allegheny on 20 August 1966. Company H landed at the site on 19 August 1966. **3:** Location where Capt Gardner's patrol and Company G were ambushed at approximately 1400 on 22 August 1966. (Source: 3d Marine Regiment's command chronology, August 1966.)

like a lifetime before it explodes. It was so close; I could see details on the side with its wooden top. We rolled from side to side, under what little cover we had, to get better firing positions. By this time our machine guns had opened up giving us some covering fire while I moved back across the creek into our line to get our perimeter established. The cry for corpsman was sounding up and down the line. That one word will make your heart stand still.

The Marines, even to the lowest rank, deployed with skill, and their brave and courageous fighting spirit in the face of such dangers made me exceedingly proud. There were many cases of complete disregard for the Marine's

own personal safety as wounded were moved and ammo redistributed. By now the VC were taking wounded and dead as well and if we were to be encircled, by damn, we would take a lot of them with us. As I moved down our line, checking my scouts, the wounded number rose to 7 and I only had 10 with me. Except for my three "head wounded" Marines, the remainder stayed in position firing at will with deadly aim. Our wounded had been moved into a sheltered area where they were being treated by several corpsmen. My corpsman, Doc Thomas, had a gunshot wound through the hip but he still performed his duty. My wounds were slight because I had received grenade



LCpl Rykoskey

the remainder of the company was good because Golf Company had deployed on the south ridge. The battalion air officer, 1stLt Robert W. Nichols, performed admirably. At grave personal risk, he worked his way into my position. I won't use the word cover because you could see and hear incoming everywhere. We were way too close for artillery support so I requested gun ships and the Hueys arrived in about half an hour. Nichols marked our front line by burning a Vietcong hut. The machine gun fire of those beautiful gun ships crept down the north ridge into old Charlie. Nichols asked, "How close you want them?" Although you could hardly see the sky and the planes couldn't see us, I took a chance and had him bring them in to 50 meters. At this point there was so much fire that it didn't matter if a little was ours but we would get to take a few of them with us. The gun ships proved their worth and after several strikes, the North Vietnamese Army broke contact except for sniping. We got our wounded up to the LZ and out on a chopper, the crew chief of which was hit by gun fire.

We gave a good account of ourselves and, in all, the fire fight lasted a little over two hours. The actions of my acting First Sergeant, GySgt Edrell L. Myers, Sgt Peter M. Gorczewski, and LCpl W. P. Knight were exceptionally note worthy. Staff Sergeant Crawford's infantry platoon more than held up its end of the job.

On the following day we continued to patrol, and again we were running point with Knight, Myers, and me in the lead. We were ambushed again by an automatic weapon and the Gunny, who was between us, got cut down in the opening burst. The jungle hides them well, and they are masters of camouflage, but they missed the rest of us as we immediately opened fire. Staff Sergeant Edward F. Crawford's platoon [Hotel Company, 2/3] moved up in support, and we got the Gunny back to the LZ by about 1000.

We continued to patrol all that day reaching the rear edge of the company line about 1500. Near the same spot, but from the opposite side, the unit was ambushed again. The North Vietnamese Army just held up in caves during

fragments in the right leg and left arm.

By now it was apparent that a reinforced platoon had engaged us, were well disciplined troops, and had the high ground. Their fire discipline was perfect, and it seemed they were bigger and healthier than the VC. I am convinced that they were North Vietnamese Army. The communications to

the air strikes and hit when it was at their advantage. This unit was not afraid to fight, and we laid down covering fire as the platoon moved off the hill and swept through them. This time the infantry took the lead and cleaned them up. I didn't have any other people wounded, but the infantry lost three, and I had three litter cases with several walking wounded.

We walked out to an open LZ about ten hundred meters out of open canopy getting into Echo's line about 2200. Major J. C. Gonzalez, XO of Charlie Company 3d Recon, had been sent out to relieve me by Major Gary Wilder, CO of 3d Recon Battalion,

because of my leg and he wanted to be briefed. We arrived at Charlie medical battalion at about 0215 because the birds were late, but it was sure good to reach the LZ and mingle around. The battalion surgeon took over the wounded while a chaplain and I knelt and prayed the Lord's Prayer. After a while, LtCol Victor Ohanesian, CO of 2/3, came by and gave us a "well done." The following day I briefed the Battalion S-2, 3d Marine Regiment CO and S-2, 3d Marine Division G-2, and Maj Wilder who was pleased with the job. It still continues now but, for the most part, it's infantry work. I know that had it not been for the prayers of my devoted wife and loving mother I would not be here since there were too many close calls for me not to be receiving God's protection. It's a good thing they don't have our M-26 grenades. Now that contact with the enemy has been made and I have proved myself, we can carry on the war. I guess I reacted like I'd hoped I would, but I didn't have time to be scared. When I think back over it all, I was proud to be a part of it.

I can remember two funny incidents during the two hour fight. The first was that a small pig was in the village, and he ran back and forth during the whole firefight without a scratch—although I suspect a Marine had him for supper. The second one was 1stLt Nichols, during the thick of the fight, when our radios were drawing fire, yelled at me, "What the hell is an aviator doing down here, I can't even see the sky?" He was wounded the following day fighting like infantry; he was the best FAC I have ever worked with. I am putting him in for the Silver Star. There was much personal bravery, so now I am putting four Marines in for awards.

The worst part of the whole thing was writing the



*Courtesy of MajGen Gardner
Capt Gardner, 1966*

Rykoskeys and telling them their son was dead, and his body was not recovered. I would rather return to Hill 886 and the green inferno than sit at this desk, late at night, struggling with a letter of condolence. What a welcome

sight to see the boxes and letters from my love when I returned. We had a memorial service yesterday for Rykoskey. The sound of taps rings a lonely note from this hillside looking over the rice patties. □1775□

Suppression of Piracy

by Annette D. Amerman
Historian

In an episode seemingly plucked from today's headlines, Captain Charles C. Mooars of the whaling brig *Maria* was taken hostage in August 1851 by King Selim on Johanna Island (part of the Comoro Islands near Madagascar). Commander William Pearson's U.S. Navy sloop *Dale* was already in the vicinity on anti-slave patrols, and with a detachment of 27 Marines, immediately proceeded to the island.

Upon the *Dale's* arrival, Commander Pearson informed King Selim of his demands, which were

promptly refused. After receiving the refusal, Commander Pearson ordered his Marines and sailors to open fire on the fort. After six guns had been fired, the fort quickly threw up the white flag. Pearson dispatched Acting Lieutenant Reginald Fairfax in an unsuccessful attempt to win the release of Captain Mooars.

The white flag was lowered, and Commander Pearson opened fire once again. After a battering of 26 round shot and 13 round shells, firing ceased. Again, Pearson dispatched a party to shore. They quickly returned

with the captured American and a payment of \$1,000 from King Selim.

The *Dale* remained in the area and later in the month of August, while at anchor near the American bark *Paulina*, witnessed the nearby ship lowering the American flag. Suspecting something was amiss, Commander Pearson dispatched a party of Marines and sailors to board her. Part of the crew of the *Paulina* were about to mutiny and were quickly, and easily, apprehended by the Marines and sailors of the *Dale* and placed in confinement. □1775□

Chaplains with Marines

by Robert V. Aquilina
Historian

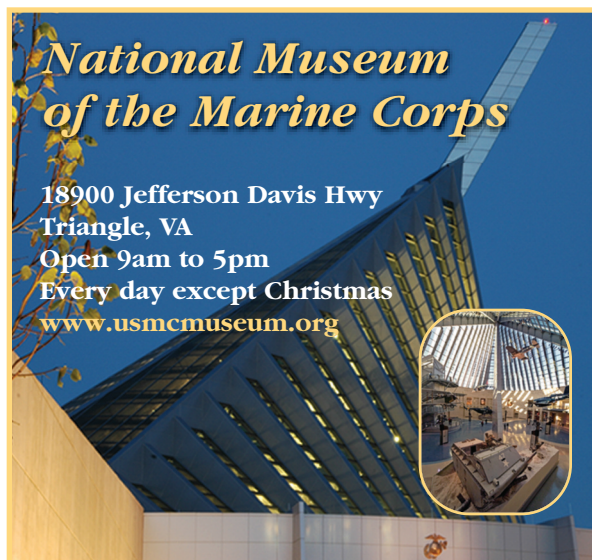
Navy chaplains have a long and distinguished history of administering to the spiritual needs of Marines. One such man was the remarkable Father Vincent R. Capodanno. After his ordination in June 1957, Father Capodanno served from 1958 to 1965 as a Maryknoll Missionary for the Catholic Foreign Mission Society in the Far East. As the conflict in Vietnam escalated in early 1965, Father Capodanno felt the call to enter the Navy. He subsequently accepted an appointment on 28 December 1965 as a Lieutenant, Chaplain Corps, U.S. Naval Reserve, and received indoctrination at the Naval Chaplains School in Newport, Rhode Island.

In April 1966, Lieutenant Capodanno deployed to the Republic of Vietnam and was assigned as a chaplain with the 1st Marine Division. Battle hardened Marines soon came to seek out and appreciate the consolation and understanding they found in the tall, soft-spoken "Grunt Padre." Lieutenant Capodanno always seemed to be on the go, and most of the time he was to be found with Marines in

the field. While serving as chaplain for the 3d Battalion, 5th Marines, on 4 September 1967 in Quang Tri Province, he heard reports that 2d Platoon, Company M, was in danger of being overrun by a strong enemy force. Lieutenant Capodanno immediately requested to leave his secure station and attend to the Marines. In the words of the citation that would accompany his posthumously awarded Medal of Honor, Father Capodanno "ran to the beleaguered platoon through an open area raked with fire . . . and despite painful, multiple wounds to his arms and legs, refused all medical aid, and continued to move about the battlefield and provide encouragement by voice and example to the Marines." Seeing a wounded corpsman directly in the line of fire of an enemy machine-gun, he rushed forward to the man's aid but was struck down by a burst of machine-gun fire. By his

heroic conduct and inspiring example, Chaplain Capodanno upheld the highest traditions of the United States Navy when he gave his life to help a Marine in need.

Today, Lieutenant Capodanno is recognized as having been one of the Navy's most dedicated chaplains. There are monuments in his honor, and both a chapel at Camp Pendleton, California, and a Navy fast frigate bears his name. □1775□



Combat Artist: Sgt Kristopher J. Battles

*by Gregory A. Macheak
Editor for Fortitudine*

Sergeant Kristopher J. Battles, a Marine combat artist, has made two trips to Iraq sketching, taking pictures, and experiencing the daily lives of Marines in a war zone. While on patrol with a unit of the 3d Battalion, 2d Marine Regiment, he traveled across a landscape he described as “desolate and naked.” He felt it all being “surreal” with a “mixture of anxiety, tension, and strange normalcy to it.” Another one of his experiences, which he turned into a painting, was a visit to a patrol base on 18 November 2006 near al-Habbaniyah, west of al-Fallujah, where he found a group of Marines from Lima Company 3/2 sitting around a fire in the crisp morning air. The lighting caught his attention, and the scene was “emotionally and compositionally interesting.” He took picture after picture of this scene. When he got back to Quantico, he created a 48 by 54-inch oil on canvas painting called *A Little Light Reading*, shown below.



Sgt Battles

A Little Light Reading



A Milestone Anniversary: The Marine Corps' Lineage and Honors Program

by Annette D. Amerman
Historian

“No project undertaken by . . . the section . . . is more important than executing the Lineage and Honors Program.” So stated Brigadier General Edwin H. Simmons, then director of the former History and Museums Division, in his “Memorandum from the Director” in the summer 1995 *Fortitudine*. This year, the History Division is celebrating the 40th anniversary of the program staunchly advocated by General Simmons. Despite the coveted nature of the issued certificates, many Marines are unaware of this important program’s history, intent, and guiding principles.

The streamers that Marine units proudly display on their organizational colors depend upon an effective Lineage and Honors (L&H) program, which formally began in 1969. Born out of the need to track the adminis-

trative histories and cumulative honors, the L&H program was modeled slightly after the Army’s program. Before 1969, each unit kept track of its own history and battle honors—sometimes not faithfully or accurately. While the program initially focused almost entirely on Fleet Marine Force units, today there are more than 430 units (including a number of non-FMF units) that are eligible for certificates based on specific criteria outlined in the *Manual for the Marine Corps Historical Program*. Since the inception of the program, the historians of the Historical Reference Branch of the Marine Corps History Division have researched, printed, and issued nearly 1,700 sets of certificates. Each set of certificates receives the signature of the Commandant of the Marine Corps and is intended for framing and post-

ing in the headquarters or other centralized location within each unit. It is hoped that this prominent location will stimulate interest in unit history and aid in building esprit de corps.

The Historical Reference Branch receives thousands of queries from units throughout the Marine Corps each year, and many are specifically related to certificate eligibility requirements. In an attempt to clear up misconceptions and ambiguities, the *Manual for the Marine Corps Historical Program* outlines, in clear terms, the eligibility requirements. Only those units of the operating forces that are of battalion (or squadron) size or larger and that rate Type III, Class 1 colors (Marine Corps flag) are entitled to receive certificates. Bases, air stations, and separate companies (such as ANGLICO) are also

A Marine and a member of the 2d Marine Division Association rededicate one of the division’s battle streamers during their 64th birthday celebration in January 2005.

Official Marine Corps photo



entitled; however, units of the supporting establishment, such as security battalions of bases and schools, are not. Those units established for a temporary period of time (i.e., provisional), such as a “proof of concept” detachment, are also ineligible for L&H certificates because these units have no antecedents or no descendants.

Compiling the history and determining the honors of units for L&H certificates requires historians to examine the command chronologies and other pertinent primary documents submitted by units. In recent years, the ability to quickly “copy and paste” has, unfortunately, created a trend of poor quality command chronology submissions. Command chronologies often are the only document that records the unit’s activities and, without specific details on such items as size of detachments and specific dates or locations of deployments, units may not be given proper campaign or service credit, let alone the corresponding streamers. In an attempt to remedy this situation, in recent years the attendees at the Commander’s Course have been briefed on the Historical Program and the significance of the command chronologies.

Force structure changes obviously affect a unit’s lineage. Throughout their history, units are activated, redesignated, deactivated, reactivated, relocated, mobilized, and demobilized, and they participate as well in numerous operations and deployments. All of these activities are recorded on the unit’s lineage certificate. Working with Total Force Structure Division, Aviation Division, and other agencies of Headquarters Marine Corps, the historians of the Historical Reference Branch ensure that the unit’s history and battle honors are perpetuated throughout various changes to the unit’s structure and organization. A prominent example exists from the Global War on Terrorism expansion of the Corps to 202,000 Marines—the reactivation of the three battalions of the 9th Marines. Instead of creating new infantry battalions, the battalions of the 9th Marines were reactivated after a period of more than 10 years of inactivation. Should the Corps need to increase its infantry capability once again, it would be logical and within the tenants of the L&H Program to reactivate elements of the 5th Marine Division, which last saw action during the Vietnam War. Significant force structure changes, such as that which affected the logistics community in the aftermath of Operations Desert

Shield/Storm and Iraqi Freedom, can significantly impact the L&H program, as historians attempt to sort out the intent, mission, organization, and hierarchical echelon of the new units to ensure each is displaying proper streamers and correct history. The historians of Historical Reference Branch today are still working with the units of the old Force Service Support Groups to determine their history and battle honors rated (if any).

Lineage and Honors certificates go hand-in-hand with streamers. History Division is the authenticating authority for streamers. Each unit that desires streamers must first receive the approval from History Division, which ensures that each requesting unit is displaying only those streamers that are authorized for that unit. In the past year, the Historical Reference Branch has digitized its collection of award (Presidential Unit Citation and Navy and Meritorious Unit Commendation) streamers and made them available to Common Access Card users through the division’s intranet portal. Nearly 5,000 pages of citations and supporting documentation are now available to units, which can use them for changes in command programs, color rededications, and professional military education initiatives. Again, correctness in determining streamer entitlements is dependent upon accurate command chronology submissions.

Marines from 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, uncase the colors during the unit’s reactivation ceremony held 18 April 2008. The uncasing signifies the activation of command by showcasing the colors and battle streamers of the reactivated battalion.

Official Marine Corps Photo



The efficiency of a unit depends not only on its training and experience. Morale also plays a large part in its successful operation. “All Marines know that in battle they will be expected to do the impossible. They will do their duty while ignoring physical hardship, personal danger, and the certainty of no reward. They are motivated by a simple understanding that Marines will always do what must be done, and that Marines of the past in similar situations did likewise.” The late Colonel John W. Ripley’s sage observation sums up what lineage and honors certificates try to capture in just a few pages of parchment—by engaging the individual Marine in the history of one’s unit and traditions, he or she is part of a larger collective and bonded forever. □1775□

The History Division and the World Wide Web

by Kara R. Newcomer
Historian

For the past several years, the Marine Corps History Division has been trying to expand its presence on the World Wide Web. Despite not having a dedicated webmaster, the Historical Reference Branch has worked hard to expand and make our public Web site (www.history.usmc.mil) a convenient, user-friendly place to begin research in Marine Corps history.

Prior to the History Division's relocation during September 2005 from the Washington Navy Yard to its current home at Marine Corps Base Quantico, maintenance of the Web site was an additional duty of a Marine assigned to the History Division. The transfer of the Marine to a new posting, along with other internal adjustments related to the relocation of the division, eventually resulted in maintenance of the Web site being assigned to the Historical Reference Branch.

As with any public Web site, the History Division views its site as a "work in progress," constantly adding new material to the site. Over the last three years, the home page has been redesigned to make it more streamlined and aesthetically pleasing. Each month, visitors find on the home page a new Marine Corps event and image; the home page also provides links to the most popular topic areas: Veterans and Families, Publications, Frequently Requested, Customs & Traditions, and Who's Who.

The link for Veterans and Families is a "must visit" area for anyone trying to piece together a relative's Marine Corps service or help with a Department of Veterans Affairs' claim. The page also has links to appropriate agencies for such items as service record books, muster rolls and unit diaries, operational records for Marine Corps units, and other topics that are often requested. The Publications page offers a collection of Marine Corps History Division publications from its 90 years of operation and also provides details on how to order the books. Recently, we have also begun to add PDF copies

of as many of our books as possible directly on our Web site for those interested in downloading the information.

A major goal of the Web site has always been to bring ease of access to numerous topics that traditionally have been some of our most-requested subject areas. To that end, we have created the Frequently Requested and Customs & Traditions sections. Clicking the Frequently Requested link takes researchers to fact sheets and information on topics ranging from a brief history of the Marine Corps, annual and event chronologies, Medal of Honor recipients, Marines in World War I and II, Navajo code talkers, women Marines, and even dogs who served in wars. The Frequently Requested page receives the most additions. Also, the Customs & Traditions page contains many useful topics, including information on the Marine Corps birthday, parade precedence, and the Marine Corps battle standard. As time and other duties permit, we search for other interesting topics for inclusion on these pages and images to help illustrate the topics already on the site.

The Who's Who section is an area that remains in constant flux. This section includes biographies and photos on approximately 500 prominent Marines, including commandants, assistant commandants, and sergeants major of the Marine Corps, Medal of Honor recipients, and numerous general officers. The Historical Reference Branch keeps this section current, updating when events warrant a change, such as retirements and deaths. Biographies are continuously reviewed and added to this important section.

The History Division has been pleased each year to receive numerous compliments on our public Web site, but we have also received suggestions for improvements. Over the last several years, we have heard concerns from researchers who could not easily find our site by using standard Internet search engines such as Google and Yahoo when searching for specific topics. Unfortunately, this concern stems

directly from the very reason that provides our site with a uniqueness and legitimacy lacking in other personal or private history web pages—we are an official government site.

All government agencies have policies in place that dictate how public Web sites are maintained and what information may be placed on such sites. As a component of the Marine Corps, our site actually falls under three such policies. The first, of course, are the rules the Marine Corps has created for itself. We also must follow the guidelines of the Department of the Navy along with overarching policies established by the Department of Defense.

Specifically, the Department of Defense currently maintains policies that prohibit any search engines from "crawling" their public Web sites, which prevents Google or Yahoo from indexing and cataloging the content of the sites. The best example of this might be a researcher who types "Marine Corps History Division" into Google, and our site appears as the top listing in the search results. However, if the words "Marine Dan Daly" are typed into Google, the Marine Corps History Division Web site will not even appear in the first four pages of search results, despite having his official biography, photo, and Medal of Honor citations. The policy of prohibiting search engines from "crawling" our site has made the content on our Web pages all but invisible to search engine users. And, unfortunately, this is a policy over which we have no control, and which is unlikely to be changed any time soon.

Although the current lack of a trained and dedicated webmaster to maintain and enhance our site makes the future hard to predict, the History Division will continue to promote a user-friendly and up-to-date Web site for all those interested in Marine Corps History.

Please visit us online at (www.history.usmc.mil). □1775□

The 4th Battalion in Action

by Paul W. Westermeyer
Historian

After 27 days of Japanese bombardment by air and artillery, the 4th Marines faced the final Japanese assault on Corregidor, the great fortress of the Philippines, on 5–6 May, 1942. Late in the action, the 4th Battalion conducted a counterattack against Japanese forces. The following excerpt, “The 4th Battalion in Action,” is from Pearl Harbor to Guadalcanal: *History of U.S. Marine Corps Operations in World War II, Volume I*, pp. 197–199, by Lieutenant Colonel Frank O. Hough, Major Verle E. Ludwig, and Henry I. Shaw. Download the PDF file at <http://www.tecom.usmc.mil/HD/General/Publications.htm#1971>.

Major Williams’ 4th Battalion had been alerted early in the night’s action, and he had ordered the issue of extra ammunition and grenades. At about 0100 he got the word to move the battalion into Malinta Tunnel and stand by. The sailors proceeded cautiously down the south shore road, waited for an enemy barrage which was hitting in the dock area to lift, and then dashed across to the tunnel entrance. In the sweltering corridor the men pressed back against the walls as hundreds of casualties, walking wounded and litter cases, streamed in from the East Sector fighting. The hospital laterals were filled to overflowing, and the doctors, nurses, and corpsmen tended to the stricken men wherever they could find room to lay a man down. At 0430, Colonel Howard ordered Williams to take his battalion out of the tunnel and attack the Japanese at Denver Battery.

The companies moved out in column. About 500 yards out from Malinta they were caught in a heavy shelling that sharply reduced their strength and temporarily scattered the

men. The survivors reassembled and moved toward the fighting in line of skirmishers. Companies Q and R, commanded by two Army officers, Captains Paul C. Moore and Harold E. Dalness, respectively, moved in on the left to reinforce the scattered groups of riflemen from Companies A and P who were trying to contain the Japanese in the broken ground north of Denver Battery. The battery position itself was assigned to Company T (Lieutenant Bethel B. Otter, USN), and two platoons of Company S, originally designated the battalion reserve, were brought up on the extreme right where Lieutenant Edward N. Little, USN, was to try to silence the enemy machine guns near the water tower. The bluejackets filled in the gaps along the line—wide gaps, for there was little that could be called a firm defensive line left—and joined the fire fight,

The lack of adequate communications prevented Colonel Howard from exercising active tactical direction of the battle in the East Sector. The unit commanders on the ground, first Captain Pickup, then Major Schaeffer, and finally Major Williams made the minute-to-minute decisions that close combat demanded. By the time Williams’ battalion had reorganized and moved up into the Marine forward positions, Schaeffer’s command was practically nonexistent. Williams, by mutual consent (Schaeffer was senior), took over command of the fighting since he was in a far better position to get the best effort out of his bluejackets when they attacked.

At dawn Major Williams moved along the front, telling his officers to be ready to jump off at 0615. The company and platoon command posts were right up on the firing line and there were no reserves left; every officer and man still able to stand took part in the attack. On the left the Japanese were driven back 200–300 yards before Williams sent a runner to

check the advance of Moore and Dalness; the right of the line had been unable to make more than a few yards before the withering fire of the Denver and water tower defenses drove the men to the deck. The left companies shifted toward Denver to close the gap that had opened while the men on the right tried to knock out the Japanese machine guns and mortars. Lieutenant Otter was killed while leading an attack, and his executive, Captain Calvin E. Chunn, took over; Chunn was wounded soon after as Company T charged a Japanese unit which was setting up a field piece near the water tower. Lieutenant Little was hit in the chest and Williams sent a Philippine Scout officer, First Lieutenant Otis E. Saalman, to take over Company S.

The Marine mortars of 1¼, 3-inch Stokes without sights, were not accurate enough to support Williams’ attack. He had to order them to cease fire when stray rounds fell among his own men, who had closed to within grenade range of the Japanese. Robbed of the last supporting weapons that might have opened a breach in the Denver position, the attack stalled completely. Major Schaeffer sent Warrant Officer Ferguson, who had succeeded to command of Company O when Captain Chambers was wounded, to Colonel Howard’s CP to report the situation and request reinforcements. Ferguson, like Schaeffer and many of the survivors of 1¼ and the reserve, was a walking wounded case himself. By the time Ferguson got back through the enemy shelling to Malinta at 0900, Williams had received what few reinforcements Howard could muster. Captain Herman H. Hauck and 60 men of the 59th Coast Artillery, assigned by General Moore to the 4th Marines, had come up and Williams sent them to the left flank to block Japanese snipers and machine-gun crews infiltrating along the

beaches into the rear areas.

At about 0930 men on the north flank of the Marine line saw a couple of Japanese tanks coming off barges near Cavalry Point, a move that spelled the end on Corregidor. The tanks were in position to advance within a half hour, and, just as the men in front of Denver Battery spotted them, enemy flares went up again and artillery salvos crashed down just forward of the Japanese position. Some men began to fall back, and though Williams and the surviving leaders tried to halt the withdrawal, the shellfire prevented them from regaining control. At 1030 Williams

sent a message to the units on the left flank to fall back to the ruins of a concrete trench which stood just forward of the entrance to Malinta Tunnel. The next thirty minutes witnessed a scene of utter confusion as the Japanese opened up on the retreating men with rifles, mortars, machine guns, and mountain howitzers. Flares signaled the artillery on Bataan to increase its fire, and a rolling barrage swung back and forth between Malinta and Denver, demolishing any semblance of order in the ranks of the men straining to reach the dubious shelter of the trench. "Dirt, rocks, trees, bodies, and debris literally filled

the air," and pitifully few men made it back to Malinta.

Williams, who was wounded, and roughly 150 officers and men, many of them also casualties, gathered in the trench ruins to make a stand. The Japanese were less than three hundred yards from their position and enemy tanks could be seen moving up to outflank their line on the right. The Marine major, who had been a tower of strength throughout the hopeless fight, went into the tunnel at 1130 to ask Howard for antitank guns and more men. But the battle was over: General Wainwright had made the decision to surrender. □1775□

Commemorative Namings

Fallen Marines and Corpsmen to be Honored

*by Robert V. Aquilina
Historian*

Regular readers of *Fortitude* (Vol. 32:2) will recall that the Historical Reference Branch of the Marine Corps History Division has responsibility for the administration of the Marine Corps Commemorative Naming Program, which seeks to honor heroic deceased Marines and other members of the Navy by the naming of bases, camps, buildings, streets, and other facilities in their honor. All Commemorative Naming actions receive the personal attention and approval of the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC). During the period January 2007–December 2008, the Commandant approved (or concurred in the case of naval naming actions in honor of Marines) the following Commemorative Naming actions in honor of the Marines and hospital corpsmen, who died in Afghanistan and Iraq:

19 March 2007 – CMC concurred in the naming of the Marine Barracks at the Naval Submarine Base, Kings Bay, Georgia, in honor of Corporal Jason L. Dunham, who died 22 April 2004 of wounds received in action in Iraq while serving with the 3d Battalion, 7th Marines. Corporal Dunham was a posthumous recipient of the Medal of Honor.

2 April 2007 – CMC approved the

naming of the Parade Deck adjacent to Building FC-285 at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in honor of Lance Corporal Raul Mercado, who was killed in action 7 January 2006 in Iraq while serving with Combat Logistics Battalion 8.

23 April 2007 – CMC concurred in the naming of the new Navy and Marine Corps Human Intelligence Training Center's Human Intelligence Facility at Oceana Naval Air Station, Virginia Beach, Virginia, in honor of Gunnery Sergeant Ronald E. Baum, who was killed in action 3 May 2004 in Iraq while serving as the HUMINT Exploitation Team Chief in support of 2d Battalion, 2d Marines.

14 August 2007 – CMC approved the naming of the new K-9 Facility at Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow, in honor of Sergeant Adam Lee Cann, who was killed in action 5 January 2006 in Iraq while serving with Security Battalion, 2d Marine Division.

1 October 2007 – CMC approved the naming of the new Fire Support Training Facility at Camp Hansen, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, Okinawa, in honor of Captain Robert M. Secher, who was killed in action 8 October 2006 in Iraq while serving with 3d Battalion, 12th Marines.

31 October 2007 – CMC approved the naming of the II MEF Headquarters Group Motor Transport Building at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in honor of Master Sergeant Kenneth N. Mack, who was killed in action 5 May 2007 in Iraq while serving with the 1st Battalion, 2d Marines.

27 February 2008 – CMC approved the naming of the Marine Corps Special Forces Special Operations Command Consolidated Aid Station at Stone Bay, Camp Lejeune, in honor of Hospital Corpsman Second Class Charles "Luke" Milam, USN, who was killed in action 25 September 2007 in Afghanistan while serving on a combined Joint Operation.

30 June 2008 – CMC approved the naming of a Fuel House Pump Building assigned to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in honor of Lance Corporal Daniel M. McVicker, who was killed in action 6 October 2005 in Iraq while serving with Combat Logistics Battalion 2.

19 August 2008 – CMC approved the naming of Building 28 aboard Henderson Hall, Arlington, Virginia, in honor of Major Douglas A. Zembiac, who was killed in action 11 May 2007 in Iraq while serving with 2d Battalion, 1st Marines. □1775□

Passing of Colonel James Leon

*by Robert V. Aquilina
Historian*

The History Division was saddened to hear of the passing of another member of its extended family, Colonel James Leon. He died 29 January 2009 in Alexandria, Virginia, at the age of 86. A native of Boston, Massachusetts, and graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Colonel Leon served in three wars—as a fighter pilot in the Pacific Theater during World War II and as an artillery officer during the Korean War and Vietnam War.

Colonel Leon's service in a wide variety of assignments throughout his Marine Corps career consistently demonstrated outstanding professional competence, initiative, and devotion to duty. His experience as an artillery officer in Korea prompted him to investigate and ultimately create a slide rule that automated and simplified the "call for fire" process. This slide rule was adopted for use as the standard for artillery by the Department of Defense. During the Vietnam War, as Force Ordnance Officer at Headquarters, III Marine Amphibious Force, he ensured a consistent and high level of ordnance support to all Marine units deployed in I Corps. Colonel Leon was also instrumental in the successful inte-



Col Leon

gration of the 175mm gun into the artillery inventory.

Colonel Leon retired in 1974 from the Marine Corps and worked for Raytheon Corporation, where his work was critical in defining the support requirements of the Ohio Class Trident submarine. Upon his retirement in 1985, he began work as a volunteer for the Marine Corps Historical Foundation, where he brought the same zeal and enthusiasm that he displayed as a professional Marine officer. He

researched and drafted a series of proposals outlining the foundation's long-range planning, programming, and budgeting requirements that were subsequently adopted by the board of directors to provide the foundation the basic framework upon which its annual planning program was structured.

The former Marine Corps History and Museums Division was fortunate to have Colonel Leon volunteer in the Personal Papers Collection, which was located in Building 58 of the Washington Navy Yard. His work resulted in a new program to cross-reference and catalog the Personal Papers Collection and was instrumental in him being awarded the prestigious Marine Corps Historical Foundation Heritage Award. It was during this period that many of us at the Marine Corps Historical Center were fortunate to make the acquaintance of this kind and gentle man. His knowledge of the Marine Corps, its history and traditions, was an invaluable asset to the entire staff, and his soothing manner in patiently answering the harried questions of this reference historian will always be fondly remembered and forever appreciated. Colonel Leon will be greatly missed. □1775□

The Marines Defend Iceland, World War II

*By Danny J. Crawford
Historian*

By late spring 1941, with the war in Europe a year and a half old, Britain's back was against the wall and Prime Minister Winston L. Churchill asked President Franklin D. Roosevelt to send American troops to Iceland to replace the British garrison there. Roosevelt agreed, and on 5 June he directed the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Harold R. Stark, to have a Marine brigade ready to sail in 15 days' time.

The 6th Marine Regiment was diverted from joining the 1st Marine Division in the Caribbean to Charleston to be the nucleus of the 1st

Provisional Marine Brigade. The brigade was formed on 16 June, the day following the arrival of the 6th Marines in Charleston, and commanded by Brigadier General John Marston. Admiral Stark's mission statement was simple and direct: In cooperation with the British garrison, defend Iceland against hostile attack.

Six days after the 16 June activation, the 4,095 Marines sailed on 22 June for the North Atlantic. Added to the convoy at Charleston were two cargo ships and two destroyers. It was met outside the harbor by an impressive force of warships and

escorts. When the entire convoy began its move toward the North Atlantic, it consisted of 25 vessels, including two battleships and two cruisers.

The brigade reached the capital city of Reykjavik, Iceland, on the morning of 7 July, where it remained until sailing for home on 8 March 1942. By the end of 1942, some of the Iceland Marines and sailors were battling the Japanese on Guadalcanal in the South Pacific, and many others went on to serve with distinction in the other major Navy/Marine Corps amphibious assaults of the Pacific War. □1775□

Ideas as Weapons

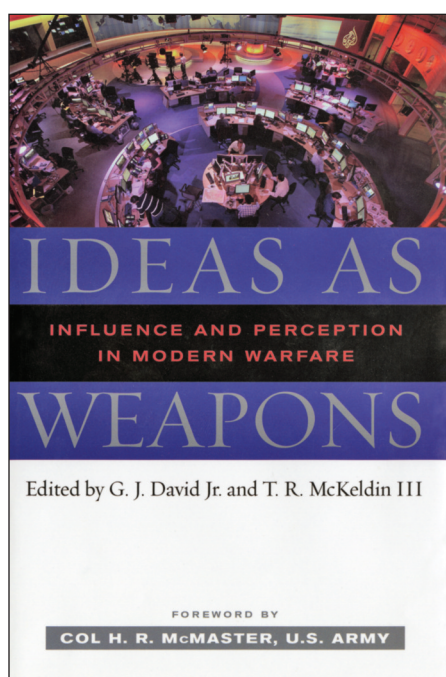
by Nicholas J. Schlosser
Historian

David Jr, G. J. and McKeldin III T. R. eds. *Ideas as Weapons: Influence and Perception in Modern Warfare*. Washington D.C.: Potomac Books, 2009.

Information warfare stands as a critical component of operations for Marines serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Fallujah, Najaf, and Ramadi have all demonstrated the decisive role communications and perception can have on the 21st century battlefield. In this fascinating and timely anthology, G. J. David Jr. and T. R. McKeldin III have assembled a thought-provoking collection of essays discussing the nature and character of information operations. The collection is diverse, extensive, and provides Marines and scholars alike with a thorough overview of this critical element of modern combat.

In all, the anthology includes more than 40 entries addressing a wide number of issues. These range from deploying Internet resources against al-Qaeda to waging effective counterinsurgency operations in Iraq. Despite the breadth and range of the essay topics, this collection is thematically cohesive and presents a number of overarching conclusions. If there is a unifying theme, it is best represented in an observation made by former Ambassador Richard Holbrook cited throughout the work: "How can a man in a cave outcommunicate the world's greatest communications nation?" The confrontation with this paradox is the pervading theme throughout these articles. The editors note that "thus far, the United States has proved inept at quickly adapting the vast, dominant, commercial information infrastructure it enjoys to national security purposes." Whereas al-Qaeda has effectively used modern mass communication, such as the World Wide Web, the United States has often undermined its own efforts. Contributor Tom Fenton notes that when considering what the United States can do better

that "recent U.S. government attempts at planting stories in the Arab media or running government-sponsored television have been inept and not very effective. The problem is not how America sells its message. The problem is that our actions speak louder than our words, and much of the world, rightly or wrongly, disapproves of our country's actions, especially our



recent track record in the Middle East." This problem is addressed in several entries in this collection, as is the overall theme that the United States has consistently failed to understand the importance and nature of information operations and the critical role it plays in the struggle against al-Qaeda.

The anthology is divided into four broad sections, addressing the geopolitical, strategic, operational, and tactical aspects of information operations. The entries range from broad, theoretical studies of information operations to more focused case studies that examine the experience of the Marine Corps in Iraq's al-Anbar Province. The theoretical entries, by authors such as Duncan B. Hollis, Pauletta Otis, and Colonel Philip G. Wasielewski, consider topics

such as the need for a new international law on information operations, expanding efforts to engage adversary cultures, and the need to better define the nature and character of the war on terror. Of particular interest is General David H. Petraeus's entry on counterinsurgency in Iraq, which draws on his own experiences and greatly influenced the conclusions on civil-military operations presented in *Field Manual 3-24*. The case studies include an account of how Marines trained an Iraqi National Police battalion in West Rashid and an analysis by Major Ben Connable of how the story that Marines destroyed a mosque and killed 40 civilians during the first battle of Fallujah was spread across the world media and ultimately proved to be false.

Overall, this is a thorough and comprehensive collection of essays on information operations in the current war against al-Qaeda and the insurgency in Iraq. The one shortcoming of the book is its overwhelming focus on form over content. The essays convincingly argue that the U.S. must develop more innovative tactics and use a wider range of media to deliver its message if it is to counteract the influence and popularity of al-Qaeda and radical Islam. But throughout the book, there is little consideration of what that message should be. What particular ideas and principles should the United States disseminate to confront the ideology of radical Islam? Captain Timothy J. Doorey's specific recommendations for countering al-Qaeda propaganda stands among the notable exceptions.

Despite this minor point, the collection stands as an excellent study. It is a stark reminder that the war on terror is as much about image, influence, and perception as it is about military success. It should serve as an excellent reference for Marines and scholars alike on an increasingly critical element of warfare in the 21st century.

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