
MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL REFERENCE PAMPHLET

**A Chronology Of The
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**

1947-1964



VOLUME III

**HISTORICAL DIVISION
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1971

A CHRONOLOGY OF THE UNITED STATES
MARINE CORPS, 1947-1964
VOLUME III

By
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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

Preface

This is the third volume of a chronology of Marine Corps activities which covers the history of the U. S. Marines. It is derived from official records and appropriate published historical works.

This chronology is published for the information of all interested in Marine Corps activities during the period 1947-1964 and is dedicated to those Marines who participated in the events listed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "W. J. Van Ryzan", is positioned above the printed name.

W. J. VAN RYZAN
Lieutenant General, U. S. Marine Corps
Chief of Staff

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface. iii

The Year:

1947 1

1948 5

1949 8

1950 10

1951 18

1952 22

1953 26

1954 29

1955 30

1956 33

1957 34

1958 36

1959 39

1960 43

1961 48

1962 53

1963 59

1964 64

Bibliography 71

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Volume III

The United States Marine Corps, 1947-1964

1947

- 1 Jan USMC---Additional monthly compensation authorized effective this date for enlisted Marines for proficiency in the use of their weapons (rifles, carbines, automatic rifles, pistols, submachine guns, and revolvers). (HQMC, Letter of Instruction No. 1382, 9 Dec 1946).
- 6 Jan CHINA---President Truman directed that American participation in Peiping's Executive Headquarters be ended. (Shaw, '68 ed., 20). The Committee of Three, consisting of representatives of the U. S., the Chinese Nationalists, and the Chinese Communists, maintained the Executive Headquarters. Most of the U. S. Marines in China supported the Executive Headquarters.
- 13 Jan- USMC---The 2d Marine Division, commanded by Major General Thomas E. Watson, participated
28 Mar in amphibious maneuvers with the Fleet in Caribbean waters. (Globe, 2 Apr 1947, p. 1).
- 18 Jan CONUS---Detailed explanation of President Truman's Army-Navy merger compromise plan disclosed as the beginning of an evolutionary program of unification. Plan provided for Air Force parity as an Armed Forces branch and for a National Defense Secretary with Army, Navy, and Air Force Secretaries. (NY Times).
- 23 Jan USMC---Marine Lieutenant General Roy S. Geiger, 61, died in Bethesda, Md., at the U. S. Naval Hospital. He died eight days before his formal retirement. (1947 FOF, 28G; Globe, 29 Jan 1947).
- 30 Jan CHINA---The United States wrote off the unsuccessful efforts by General of the Army George C. Marshall to end the Civil War in China. The withdrawal of about 12,000 military personnel (including some 2,000 Marines) was ordered. (NY Times).
- 31 Jan CONUS---The Navy Department announced a total of 88,939 dead and missing from all causes from 7 December 1941 to 1 January 1947 (World War II). These figures in the Navy's first published detailed analysis included 62,548 Navy men and women; 24,479 Marine Corps; and 1,912 Coast Guard. (1947 FOF, 32M-N; HRB, Subject File "Casualties - World War II - General").
- 31 Jan WORLD---The United Nations guard, composed of 125 dress-uniformed Marine combat veterans, was officially disbanded. All members received Certificates of Merit from the Honorable Trygve Lie, the Secretary General of the United Nations, in appreciation of their services. (A&N Reg, 1 Feb 1947; Globe, 29 Jan 1947, p. 2).
- 3 Feb CHINA---The 1st Marine Division was directed to provide tactical and logistical support to the Army's Peiping-based forces until their withdrawal was completed and at the same time to finish its preparation for departure from China. (Shaw MS., p. 27).
- 3 Feb USMC---First Volunteer Training Unit (VTU), U. S. Marine Corps Reserve, formed by Major Milton V. O'Connell at Chicago, Illinois. (MC Res Hist, p. 115).
- 10 Feb WORLD---Peace treaties between the Allies on one hand and Italy, Bulgaria, Finland, Hungary, and Rumania ending World War II signed in Paris. (1947 FOF, 46D-E).
- 1 Mar USMC---The Field Music School at San Diego was reactivated under the supervision of CWO F. A. Lock, Base Band Officer. (Chevron, 7 Mar 1947).
- 5 Mar USMC---The 7th Marines was disbanded at Camp Pendleton, California upon its return from China, with most of its personnel and equipment being transferred to the 3d Marine Brigade at Pendleton. (USMC Cal Hist Events, p. 27).
- 6 Mar USMC---The Sixteenth Commandant of the Marine Corps (1934-1936), Major General John Henry Russell, 74, died at Coronado, California. (1947 FOF, 76E).
- 10 Mar CHINA-GUAM---Company B of the 1st Pioneer Battalion was sent from China to Guam where it was to assist in camp construction for the 1st Marine Brigade slated to be based on Guam. (Shaw, MS., p. 32).

1947

- 17 Mar CHINA---The 1st Reconnaissance Company was sent to Chinwangtao to relieve the one 1st Marines company still on duty with the guard detachment at that port. (Shaw, MS., p. 32).
- 17 Mar CHINA---Company E, 2d Battalion, 1st Marines was ordered to Tsingtao, China to augment the 3d Battalion, 4th Marines so that the reinforced battalion could relieve all seamen guards at naval installations. (Shaw, MS., p. 32).
- 17 Mar PELELIU---A detail of 21 Marines from Garrison Forces (Oahu) was airlifted to Peleliu, and 41 Marines were sent from Guam to help subdue 12 Japanese holdouts who had thrown hand grenades at a Marine patrol and had fired upon native villagers. (NY Times; The North China Marine, 12 Apr 1947; Leatherneck, Jul 1947, pp. 3-7).
- 17 Mar USMC---Woman Marine T/Sgt Mary Frances Wancheck of Bobtown, Pennsylvania became the first Woman Marine to rate a "hash mark." She completed four years of service with the Marines this month. (Scout, 13 Mar 1947).
- 19 Mar CHINA---Administrative control of 1st Reconnaissance Company passed from Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division to Commanding Officer, 1st Marines. This move reflected the withdrawal from China of the 1st Marine Division. (Muster Rolls).
- 31 Mar CONUS---The wartime draft law expired. (1947 FOF, 103K).
- 1 Apr CHINA---Operation plans were issued detailing the steps to be taken in the withdrawal and redeployment from China of the 1st Marine Division and the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. (Shaw, '62 ed., 18).
- 2 Apr USMC---The use of specialists to relieve the DIs in classroom instruction for recruits in various parts of the training schedule was introduced at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S. C. (Champie, p. 15).
- 3 Apr PELELIU---Japanese Superior Seaman Tsuchida came out of the jungle and surrendered. Loath to believe the United States had won the war, he furnished information of other holdouts. (NY Times; The North China Marine, 10 May 1947; Leatherneck, Jul 1947, pp. 3-7).
- 4 Apr USMC---Reserve Officer Training Program reactivated; recruits sought. (NY Times).
- 4 Apr-
5 Apr CHINA---Five Marines were killed and eight wounded when attacked by Communist raiders near the Hsin Ho ammunition depot in Northern China. Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines was dispatched from Tangku to reinforce the Marine guards, but the Communists made a successful withdrawal. The reinforcing company had eight Marines wounded. (Shaw, '62 ed., pp. 18-19; The North China Marine, 12 Apr 1947, pp. 1, 8; 19 Apr 1947, pp. 1, 8).
- 5 Apr PELELIU---An additional 25 Marines were sent from Guam to reinforce the 100 moving against the die-hard Japanese soldiers on Peleliu. Japanese Rear Admiral Michio Sumikawa attempted to persuade these last survivors to surrender. (1947 FOF, 105A).
- 15 Apr USMC---Commandant A. A. Vandegrift announced that the Marine Corps was being reorganized into more flexible units and armed with more powerful infantry weapons. Marine units would be able to disperse by air, surface vessels, or submarines without administrative delay or loss of firepower. (1947 FOF, 120P & 121A).
- 20 Apr PELELIU---Lieutenant Yamaguchi and 26 Japanese soldiers and sailors formally surrendered to the Americans, two-and-one-half years after the American occupation. Lieutenant Yamaguchi surrendered his sword and battle flags to Captain L. O. Fox, USN, Commandant of the Palau Islands, backed by 80 Marines in full battle dress. (NY Times; 1947 FOF 128M; The North China Marine, 10 May 1947; Leatherneck, Jul 1947, pp. 3-7).
- 21 Apr PELELIU---Seven additional Japanese holdouts surrendered, ending the last resistance on Peleliu Island. (1947 FOF, 128M).
- 21 Apr CHINA---The Hsin Ho ammunition dump was turned over to the Chinese Central Government on the withdrawal of Marine guards from Company C, 5th Marines. (The North China Marine, 3 May 1947).
- 24 Apr GUAM---The advance command posts of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing and Marine Aircraft Group 24 from China were opened on Guam. (Shaw MS., p. 31).
- 30 Apr USMC---The 11th Marines returned to Camp Pendleton, California on board the Navy transport Cavalier following five years on duty in the Far East. (Chevron, 9 May 1947).

- 1 May CHINA---A new command, Fleet Marine Force, Western Pacific (FMFWesPac) was activated at Tsingtao under Brigadier General Omar T. Pfeiffer. Its principal mission was to provide security for United States naval training activities. The command consisted of the Headquarters and Service Battalion; 3d Battalion, 4th Marines; 2d Battalion, 1st Marines; 12th Service Battalion; and Air FMFWesPac (Wing Service Squadron, VMF-211, and VMR-153). (Shaw, '62 ed., p. 18).
- 7 May CONUS---Fleet Admiral King attacked the Administration's proposed merger of the armed services. (NY Times).
- 9 May CHINA---The rear echelon of Marine Aircraft Group 24 closed out all Marine facilities at South Field, Peiping, China and left for its new base in Guam. (Shaw, MS, p. 31).
- 12 May CHINA---The 5th Marines (less the 1st Battalion) sailed from China for duty in Guam. (Shaw, MS., p. 40).
- 13 May CHINA---Communist forces destroyed several miles of the Peiping-Shanhaikwan railroad shortly after a train carrying 500 Marines had passed. (1947 FOF, 153H).
- 15 May CHINA---A detachment of the 7th Service Regiment, which had remained at the Hsin Ho ammunition depot to clean up the last stocks of serviceable ammunition, was withdrawn to Tientsin, China. (Shaw, MS., p. 40).
- 20 May CHINA---The 1st Marines (less 1/1) left Hopeh for Tsingtao where it joined FMFWesPac, leaving its 1st Battalion as the guard force for the rear echelon of the 1st Marine Division. (Shaw, MS., p. 40).
- 22 May USMC---Marine Corps Aviation celebrated its 35th Anniversary. (NY Times).
- 23 May CHINA--U. S. Marines evacuated a party including 66 Americans from Peitaiho Beach who had fled Chinese Communist troops who had looted nearby Changli on May 18. (1947 FOF, 161F).
- 25 May CHINA---The 1st Battalion, 5th Marines followed the rest of its regiment from Taku, Hopeh, China to Guam. (Shaw, MS., p. 40; Muster Rolls).
- 25 May CHINA---Some 200 Marines were successfully evacuated by ship from Chinwangtao (120 miles northeast of Tientsin) where they had been isolated for a week by Chinese Communists. (1947 FOF, 169K).
- 26 May CHINA---The 1st Pioneer Battalion, serving as the Marine guard detachment at Peitaiho, left for Tientsin. (Shaw, MS., p. 40).
- 6 Jun USMC---Thirty-three graduates of a class of 500 at the U. S. Naval Academy accepted commissions in the U. S. Marine Corps. (MS - Acad Grads in USMC).
- 9 Jun CONUS---A House of Representatives subcommittee recommended that by July 1948 the highest ranking generals and admirals be 4-star officers. Existing 5-star officers would not be affected. (1947 FOF, 185G).
- 15 Jun USMC---A memorial plaque commemorating Brigadier General Archibald Henderson, CMC, was presented to historic Pohick Church, Fairfax County, Va., by Major General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., Assistant CMC. (Globe, 2 July 1947).
- 15 Jun CONUS---Location of Marine Training and Replacement Command, San Diego Area, was transferred from Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, California to Marine Corps Base, San Diego. Marine Barracks, Camp Pendleton, was established the same day. (NY Times; Chevron, 6 Jun 1947).
- 17 Jun CHINA---Chinese Communist amphibious troops secured a beachhead near Tangku as approximately 1,900 U. S. Marines of the 1st Division in China were embarking in Tangku harbor. (1947 FOF, 194C).
- 19 Jun CHINA-WESPAC---The commander of the 1st Marine Division (rear echelon) in China reported to the Commanding General, FMFWesPac for operational control. (Shaw, MS., p. 41).
- 21 Jun CHINA---The 1st Marine Division command post was closed in Tientsin and opened on board the USS Renville. (Shaw, '68 ed., p. 22).
- 30 Jun USMC---President Truman signed a bill providing a posthumous full generalship for Lieutenant General Roy E. Geiger, USMC. (1947 FOF, 208F).
- 30 Jun USMC---The strength of the Marine Corps was 93,053. The strength of FMFPac, including units at Camp Pendleton, the Hawaiian Islands, China, and Guam, was 19,125. ('57 Def Pol, p. 120; Frank and Shaw, p. 468).

1947

- 1 Jul USMC---The Quartermaster General of the Marine Corps was designated to be a major general while serving as head of the new Supply Department by 61 Stat. 235. (MCHRS #11 - USMC Ranks and Grades, p. 8.).
- 4 Jul GUAM---The 1st Marine Brigade camp was officially named Camp Witek in memory of Private Frank P. Witek who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in the recapture of Guam. (ANAF Journal, 12 Jul 1947; The North China Marine, 9 Aug 1947, p. 4).
- 6 Jul USMC---The 1st Marine Division, less the 7th and 11th Marines, landed at San Diego, California from duty in the Far East and moved to its new base at Camp Pendleton. (Scout, 12 Jun 1947, pp. 1-2; 10 Jul 1947, p. 1).
- 7 Jul USMC---First postwar Platoon Leaders Class convened at Quantico for a six weeks course of instruction. (Gazette, Sep 1947, p. 7).
- 16 Jul USMC---The 3d Marine Brigade was disbanded at Camp Pendleton, California with most of its personnel and equipment being transferred to the 1st Marine Division. (Scout, 17 Jul 1947, p. 1).
- 21 Jul CONUS---Assistant Chief Ranger William J. Butler of Mount Ranier National Park discovered on the South Tahoma Glacier the wreckage of a Marine R5C transport lost the night of 10 December 1946 with 32 Marines on board. (Log. 4 Dec 1967).
- 22 Jul USMC---A detachment of 26 Marines, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Robert F. Scott, mounted guard on the Freedom Train which toured the United States. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 55).
- 26 Jul CONUS---The National Security Act became effective, giving the Marine Corps the primary responsibility for the development of amphibious warfare and the mission of seizing and defending advanced bases. Collateral missions were the provision of guards for naval shore activities and men for ships' detachments. (Soldiers of the Sea, p. 518).
- 26 Jul CONUS---President Truman nominated Navy Secretary James V. Forrestal as the first Secretary of National Defense. (1947 FOF, p. 232F).
- 26 Jul USMC---The Commandant (General Alexander A. Vandegrift) released the following statement on unification: "It is now the duty of every Marine to carry out not only the letter but the spirit of the unification law. By virtue of the extensive experience we have had in joint operations, the Marine Corps has a unique and valuable background for cooperation with all services. We are prepared to cooperate to the utmost, and intend to do so wholeheartedly." (Gazette, Sep 1947, inside back cover).
- 27 Jul CONUS---The Senate passed and sent to the White House a bill providing for promotion by merit instead of seniority in the armed forces. A peacetime limit of 14 4-star officers was established providing for 10 generals for the Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps combined, and 4 Admirals for the Navy. Living 5-star officers are exempted from these limitations. (1947 FOF, 240A).
- 7 Aug USMC---The rank of Commandant, U. S. Marine Corps, was permanently fixed at General by 61 Stat. 876. (MCHRS #11 - USMC Ranks and Grades, p. 7).
- 25 Aug USMC---Major Marion Carl, USMC, a test pilot at the Patuxent Naval Air Test Center, set a world 3-kilometer speed record of 650.6 mph in a jet Douglas D-558 Skystreak at Muroc Lake, Calif. (Naval Aviation News, Oct., 1947, p. 10).
- 27 Aug CHINA---The 1st Battalion, 1st Marines left Tientsin for the United States on board the USS Pickaway. (Muster Rolls).
- 1 Sep CHINA---Rear echelon of 1st Division left Tientsin for the United States making Tsingtao the sole remaining Marine duty station in China. (Shaw, '68 ed., p. 23).
- 6 Sep USMC---The originator of dive bombing, Lieutenant General Ross E. Rowell, USMC, 62, died in San Diego, Calif. (1947 FOF, 292E).
- 15 Sep USMC---The reorganization of the Fleet Marine Force to gain mobility and peacetime utility was effected. Under the new "J" Tables of Organization, the new FMF eliminated the infantry regimental echelon within the brigade and division and provided for battalions. The new tables provided for a more economical use of service personnel. (CMCARpt. 1947, pp. 10-11; Gazette, May 1947, pp. 10-14).
- 16 Sep CONUS---U. S. Navy Transport Pickaway docked at Navy Pier, San Diego, with 1825 Marines of 1/1, 1st Marine Division on board. This was the last unit of the division to be withdrawn from China. (North China Marine, 18 Oct 1947).

- 16 Sep CONUS---U. S. Navy Transport Pickaway docked at Navy Pier, San Diego, with 1825 Marines of 1/1, 1st Marine Division on board. This was the last unit of the division to be withdrawn from China. (North China Marine, 18 Oct 1947).
- Sep- USMC---The Fleet Marine Force, Western Pacific, conducted amphibious training. Oct (CMCARpt, 1947, p. 4.).
- 10 Oct CONUS---The first contingent of U. S. war dead was returned on board the Army transport Honda Knot to San Francisco. (Washington Times-Herald, 10 Oct 1947).
- 12 Oct PHILIPPINES---Corregidor was formally turned over to the Republic of the Philippines. (NY Times).
- 24 Oct USMC---The Marine Corps' first jet fighter squadron, VMF-122, was organized at Cherry Point, N. C., commanded by Major Marion E. Carl. It was equipped with McDonnell "Phantom" FH-1s. (Globe, 29 Oct 1947, p. 1).
- 2 Nov USMC---The Marine Corps detachment of Northern Severn at Annapolis, Md. became officially known as Marine Barracks, Severn River Naval Command. (Washington Post, 2 Nov 1947).
- 10 Nov- USMC---Full-scale amphibious operations were conducted by the 1st Marine Division 14 Nov (Camp Pendleton) off the coast of Southern California. (Scout, 24 Oct 1947).
- 14 Nov UN---Despite a Soviet boycott, the United Nations Assembly approved the Korea Commission to hold elections in Korea proposed by the United States. (1947 FOF, 359C).
- 21 Nov USMC---President Truman named Major General Clifton B. Cates as 19th Commandant of the Marine Corps. (1947 FOF, 369K).
- 1 Dec USMC---The first Marine Helicopter Squadron, HMX-1, commanded by Colonel Edward C. Dyer, commissioned at MCAS, Quantico, Va. It was equipped with Sikorsky HO3S-1s and Piasecki ("Flying Bananas") HRP-1s. (USMC Cal Hist Events, p. 91; Sentry, 11 Dec 1947, p. 3; North China Marine, 31 Dec 1947).
- 3 Dec CONUS---The Treasury urged Congress to revoke some of the tax exemptions on disability pensions drawn by more than 32,000 World War II officers (including 738 Marines). The recommendation was a result of an investigation of Major General Bennet E. Meyers, USA, Ret. (1947 FOF, 385B).
- 11 Dec USMC---Lieutenant General Thomas E. Watson was assigned to duty as Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific. (1947 FOF, 393H).
- 25 Dec CHINA---Five Marines disappeared in China on a hunting trip. They were last seen in the vicinity of Wang Tan Yuen and passed into Communist territory at 0930 over the protests of the Nationalist guards on post at Ling Chan. (1948 FOF, 49G; North China Marine, 10 Jan 1948, 3 Apr 1948).
- 31 Dec USMC---General Alexander A. Vandegrift retired as 18th Commandant of the Marine Corps and was succeeded the same day by General Clifton B. Cates. (Washington Star, 31 Dec 1947; Washington Times-Herald, 1 Jan 1948).
- 31 Dec USMC---The Marine Corps strength at the end of the year was 90,486 of an authorized strength of 108,200. (1947 FOF, 410P).

1948

- 1 Jan USMC---Marine Corps Base, San Diego, Calif., was redesignated Marine Corps Recruit Depot, which included the recruit depot, former base activities, and the Camp Matthews Rifle Range. (Champie, (2), p. 16).
- 5 Jan- MEDITERRANEAN---The 2d Marines (Rein) left Morehead City, N. C., on the Navy transports 12 Mar Bexar and Montague for assignment to ships operating in Mediterranean waters. This MOVE initiated the Marine Corps policy of maintaining an air/ground force with the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. (1948 FOF, 1K; Washington Daily News, 3 Jan 1948; Washington Star, 6 Jan 1948; Washington Post, 6 Jan 1948).
- 7 Jan MEDITERRANEAN---Fleet Admiral Chester A. Nimitz implied the Marines sent to the Mediterranean served as a warning to Yugoslavia that the 5,000 U. S. Army troops in the Free Territory of Trieste were not to be molested. The Marines were to be divided among the carrier Midway and the cruisers Portsmouth, Providence, and Little Rock. (1948 FOF, 1K-2A).
- 11 Jan USMC---Marines honor their heroes at Philadelphia in a great rally and celebration to inaugurate "National Marine Corps Reserve Week." The Philadelphia Inquirer was the host for the rally. (Windsock, 9 Jan 1948 and 23 Jan 1948).

1948

12 Jan USMC---Major General W. P. T. Hill was reappointed Marine Corps Quartermaster General. (1948 FOF, 14K).

19 Jan MEDITERRANEAN---Marines sent to reinforce contingents on American warships in the Mediterranean arrived at Malta. (NY Times).

31 Jan CHINA---Marine patrol pinned down by fire from Chinese force of unknown strength at Tsangkou airfield. There were no Marine losses. (Shaw, '62 ed., p. A-2).

12 Feb PAC---Marine Detachment (Provisional) for Eniwetok organized at Pearl Harbor and ordered to Eniwetok 24 February. (Muster Rolls).

13 Feb CHINA---The Chinese Communists confirmed they had captured five U. S. Marines who had disappeared on Christmas day near Tsingtao while on a hunting trip. PFC Charles J. Brayton, Jr., 19, of New York, was fatally wounded, and the four survivors would be held until the U. S. Navy apologized. The five were accused of participating in the civil war. (1948 FOF, 49G).

20 Feb- MEDITERRANEAN---The 8th Marines (Rein) left Morehead City, N. C., to become the landing
28 Jun force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. ("Mediterranean" - Subj File).

11 Mar USMC---The Key West Agreement imposed a wartime four-division ceiling on the Marine Corps, restricted Marine tactical command to corps level, and stated that the Marine Corps was not to create a second land army. (First Report of the Secretary of Defense, 1948, pp. 79-80).

14 Mar CONUS---Provisional Marine Detachment for the amphibious command ship, USS Mt. McKinley, organized at sea under the command of Lieutenant William J. Wagner. (Muster Rolls).

17 Mar CONUS---President Harry S. Truman, before a joint session of Congress, urged a temporary draft, universal military training, and speedy passage of the European Recovery Program to forestall the USSR's expansion in Europe. (1948 FOF, 88JKLM).

25 Mar CONUS---The Commandant of the Marine Corps accompanied the Secretary of Defense, the three service secretaries, and the other service chiefs in appearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee to ask for an immediate stopgap draft and the passage of Universal Military Training. (1948 FOF, 96K).

27 Mar CONUS---Secretary of Defense James Forrestal publicized agreements reached by the JCS at Key West, Florida. Principal decisions were: (1) that the Air Force would get responsibility for strategic air warfare; (2) that the Navy would get primary responsibility for antisubmarine warfare; (3) that the Marine Corps, under Navy Department direction, would get primary responsibility for the development of amphibious warfare; (4) that the Air Force would supply most air transport for all services; and (5) that the Army's functions were land, joint amphibious and airborne operations, intelligence, defense against air attack, and military government. (1948 FOF, 98E).

29 Mar USMC---General Thomas Holcomb (Ret), Commandant of the Marine Corps from 1936 to 1943 and first Marine ever to become a full general, resigned at age 68 after four years as U. S. Minister to the Union of South Africa. (Time, 29 Mar 1948).

1 Apr CHINA---The four U. S. Marines who were taken prisoner by the Chinese last Christmas were freed. The fifth Marine, PFC Charles J. Brayton, Jr., was reported to have been killed. Those freed were PFC Thomas Kapodistria, PFC Carrol W. Dickerson, Pvt Robert Hart, and Cpl William L. Pollard. (Washington News, 1 Apr 1948; North China Marine, 2 Apr 1948).

10 Apr CHINA---Four Marine fliers whose transport plane made a forced landing at Hung Shih Yai were reportedly held by the Chinese Communists. They were 1stLt Harold W. Hawkins, MSgt Thomas J. Shaw, TSgt Robert C. White, and Cpl Robert R. Lewis. (North China Marine, 10 Apr 1948).

12 Apr USMC---Major General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., represented the Marine Corps as the unveiling of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial in London, England. (Globe, 15 Apr 1948, p. 1).

15 Apr USMC---Designation of Marine Barracks, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, was changed to Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Va. (Muster Rolls).

Apr- GUAM---The 1st Provisional Marine Brigade at Guam conducted amphibious training.
May (AnnRpt SecNav, 1948, p. 16).

12 May CONUS---HR 5035, an Act authorizing attendance of the U. S. Marine Band at the 82d Grand Army of the Republic encampment, was passed. (Congressional Record, 12 May 1948).

23 May PAC---Marine Garrison Forces, Pacific, became an administrative command directly under the control of Headquarters Marine Corps. (Frank and Shaw, p. 466).

- 1 Jun- USMC---The 21st Marines (Rein) left Morehead City, N. C., to become the landing force
2 Oct of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. ("Mediterranean" - Subj File).
- 2 Jun CONUS---Congress sent to the President for his signature a bill permitting 20,045 women to enlist in the regular services. The Marine Corps would be allowed 1,100. The number allowed would be increased to 2% (33,112) of the total strength after two years. (1948 FOF, 176B).
- 4 Jun USMC---Twenty-eight graduates of a class of 410 at the U. S. Naval Academy accepted commissions in the U. S. Marine Corps. (MS - Acad Grads in USMC).
- 8 Jun CONUS---The House of Representatives passed a bill delaying until 1 July 1950 a requirement that the Army and Navy reduce the number of 4-star officers to five each. (1948 FOF, 184J).
- 12 Jun CONUS---Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948 authorized 100 regular Women Marine officers, 10 warrant officers, and 1,000 enlisted in a gradual build-up over a two-year period with regular candidates coming from Reserve Women Marines on active duty or those with prior service not on active duty. (MC Res Hist, pp. 121-122).
- 30 Jun USMC---Strength of Marine Corps was 84,988. ('57 Def Pol, p. 120).
- 30 Jun CONUS---Draftees will be called according to the date of their birth and not by lot, Selective Service decided. (NY Times).
- 30 Jun CONUS---The Reserve Retirement Bill was signed by President Truman. (Hglts MCR Hist, p. 3; NY Times).
- 2 Jul CONUS---Four Marine flyers, members of VMR-153, who fell into Communist hands when they made a forced landing on 5 April, were returned to American control this day. (North China Marine, 3 Jul 1948).
- 18 Jul PALESTINE---A provisional Marine Consular Guard was detached from the 21st Marines on board the USS Kearsarge at Tripoli and sent to Jerusalem to protect the U. S. Consul General there. (Log, 13 Jun 1957; Globe, 2 Aug 1948).
- 20 Jul CONUS---A proclamation was issued by the President calling for the registration during the period 30 August - 18 September of all men between the ages of 18 and 25 for military service. The first to register were to be the 25-year-olds who would probably be called up first. The first inductions were to be after 1 October. (1948 FOF, 238GH).
- 22 Jul USMC---The Marine Corps announced that because of increased voluntary enlistments, the Corps would not need any draftees in 1949. (Globe, 29 Jul 1948).
- 26 Jul CONUS---President Harry S. Truman issued an executive order banning color bias in the Armed Services. (1948 FOF, 244JK).
- 9 Aug CONUS---For the first time, all services were represented in the annual CAMID exercises held at Onslow Beach, N. C., as airmen joined Army cadets, Navy midshipmen, and Army and Marine troops in amphibious training. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 58; Globe, 26 Aug 1948 and 2 Sep 1948).
- 25 Aug USMC---Second Lieutenant John Earl Rudder, the first Negro Marine officer to receive his commission in the regular Marine Corps, began training in the Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Va. (Haskins, Washington Star, 25 Aug 1948).
- 30 Aug CONUS---Registration for the second peacetime military conscription in U. S. history began. (1948 FOF, 286B).
- 31 Aug USMC---The Marine Garrison Forces, Pacific, command was deactivated, and the Commanding General, FMFPac assumed administrative control of all Marine security forces and supporting establishments in the Pacific Ocean areas formerly under control of the Marine Garrison Forces, Pacific. (Muster Rolls).
- 13 Sep USMC---The 4th Marines (Rein) left Morehead City, N. C., to become the landing force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. ("Mediterranean" - Subj File).
- 1 Oct USMC---Marine Corps strength was 77,405. Marine Reserve: 116,000 enrolled; 37,742 in training. (1948 FOF, 341JK).
- 4 Oct CONUS---Joint Service maneuvers on both coasts were begun. Instead of the traditional problem of the defense of the United States, the problem was a surprise attack on an enemy. (1948 FOF, 325B).
- 18 Oct USMC---Colonel Katherine A. Towle reported for duty at Marine Corps Headquarters as first Director of the Corps' permanent peacetime component of Women Marines. (Meid, p. 98.).

1948-1949

- 10 Nov USMC---Women Marines as regulars initiated with enlistment of eight former members of the Women's Reserve into the regular Marine Corps by the Commandant on the 173d birthday of the Corps. (MCHRS #11 - USMC Ranks and Grades, p. 8).
- 17 Nov CHINA---It was announced by Secretary of Defense James Forrestal that the 3000-man Marine garrison of Tsingtao in North China would be reinforced by an additional 1,250 men from Guam. (1948 FOF, 370J).
- 17 Nov CHINA---A platoon of Marines was sent to Nanking to protect the American Embassy there when the fall of the city to Communist troops was imminent. The guard was withdrawn on 21 April 1949 when the Communists refrained from looting the city. (Frank and Shaw, pp. 640, 642, 645).
- 18 Nov NEAR EAST---A 62-man Marine Guard was assigned to the U. S. Military Observer Group at Haifa which had been stationed there during the Arab-Israeli War. (North China Marine, 13 Nov 1948, p. 3).
- 23 Nov- CHINA---Increased pressure by Chinese Communists caused the United States to transfer
16 Dec BLT-9 from Guam to Shanghai to aid in the evacuation of American Nationals. BLT-9 (Rein) sailed from Guam on board the USS Bayfield (APA-33) on 23 November; arrived at Tsingtao, 29 November; sailed from Tsingtao on board the Bayfield, 15 December, and arrived Shanghai 16 December. (Frank and Shaw, pp. 639, 640, 642).
- 1 Dec USMC---The strength of the Marine Corps was 85,425 men. (1948 FOF, 406F).
- 10 Dec CHINA---Vice Admiral Oscar C. Badger, U. S. Naval Commander in the Western Pacific, announced in Shanghai that a contingent of Marines would be sent from Tsingtao to Shanghai to protect 2,500 Americans in the city as trapped Chinese Nationalists fought to break Communist encirclement. (1948 FOF, 395D).
- 11 Dec USMC---Quantico, Va., Marines defeated San Diego, Calif. Marines 21-0 for the U. S. Navy Service Championship in football. (Sentry, 16 Dec 1948).
- 16 Dec CHINA---According to Acting Secretary of State Robert A. Lovett, nothing had caused the U. S. Government to change its hands-off policy towards China's civil war. U. S. Marines would not go into action in Shanghai unless Americans were threatened. (1948 FOF, 402F).
- 21 Dec CHINA---The United States suspended long-term reconstruction financial aid to China. (1948 FOF, 411M).
- 31 Dec USMC---Marine Corps active strength was 88,000 with the 1950 goal being 85,800. Women in the regulars or active reserve numbered 24 officers and 300 enlisted. (1949 FOF 30K).

1949

- 3 Jan- MEDITERRANEAN---The 2d Marines (Rein) left Morehead City, N. C. to become the landing
24 May force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. (USMC Cal Hist Events; "Mediterranean" - Subj File; Globe, 14 Apr 1949, p. 8).
- 3 Jan PALESTINE---A Marine guard for the American Consulate General was organized for Jerusalem Palestine. (Muster Rolls).
- 5 Jan CHINA---Reports that United States Marines were being withdrawn from China were denied by Vice Admiral Badger, Commander, Western Pacific Fleet. (NY Times).
- 10 Jan UN---The Honorable Trygve Lie, Secretary General of the United Nations, praised the work of Brigadier General William E. Riley, USMC, attached to the U. N. Mediation Commission in Palestine. (Sentry, 13 Jan 1949, p. 2).
- 20 Jan CONUS---The Marine Band, a Marine band from Quantico, Va., a battalion landing team of the 22d Marines from Quantico, and a company of Women Marines from Headquarters Marine Corps took part in the inaugural parade for President Harry S. Truman. (Globe, 27 Jan 1949, p. 3; Leatherneck, Apr 1949, pp. 26-29).
- 31 Jan USMC---The American Heritage Foundation commended the Marine detachment upon its disbanding after serving aboard the "Freedom Train." (Globe, 10 Feb 1949, p. 8).
- 1 Feb CHINA---The U. S. Marine Corps Air Facility at Tsingtao, China was disbanded. (1949 FOF, 35L).
- 21 Feb- CARIBBEAN---Marine Corps aviation under the command of Major General Field Harris parti-
19 Mar cipated in the Atlantic Command Exercises in the Caribbean. (Hist Dates - Subj File).
- 23 Feb CONUS---The 3d Recruit Battalion at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island was re-activated for training non-veteran Women Marines. (MCHRS #8 - Recruit Depot, Parris Island, pp. 13-14).

- 25 Feb CONUS---A 20,000-man task force disembarked at San Francisco, California after completing Operation MICOWEX, the Navy's month-long amphibious maneuvers in the North Pacific - the first since the end of the war. Kodiak, Alaska was the site of two Marine landings. (1949 FOF, 76J).
- 26 Feb CONUS---Some 2,000 officers and enlisted men from FMF WestPac rejoined the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, California, following duty in China and other parts of the Pacific. (Scout, 4 Mar 1949, p. 1).
- 28 Feb CONUS---The Hoover Commission on the Organization of the Executive Branch of the government recommended that U. S. military forces be brought under the undisputed control of the Secretary of Defense in order to end interservice rivalries and effect unification. (1949 FOF, 74H-N).
- 28 Feb CONUS---Women Marine recruits began arriving at Parris Island to form the first platoon of 50 Women Marine regulars to take a six-weeks' training course. (Hist Dates - Subj File; Boot, 5 Mar 1949, p. 3; 16 Apr 1949, p. 1).
- Mar GUAM---The 1st Provisional Marine Brigade and Marine Aircraft Group 24 left Guam and proceeded to the U. S., where they were disbanded and their personnel incorporated into the 1st Marine Division and the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, respectively. The remaining Fleet Marine Force elements on Guam were placed under the newly established command, Fleet Marine Force, Guam. (FMFPac, pp. 44-45).
- 2 Mar CARIBBEAN---U. S. Marines, soldiers, and three Canadian platoons made a landing on Vieques Island in the Caribbean as part of the largest postwar amphibious exercise. (1949 FOF, 76H).
- 18 Mar- CHINA---Battalion Landing Team 3 arrived from Tsingtao and remained on board ship off
28 Apr Shanghai, prepared to land if necessary to help evacuate U. S. citizens. (Frank and Shaw, pp. 644, 647).
- 1 Apr USMC---General Alexander A. Vandegrift, former Commandant of the Marine Corps, retired. Since he was succeeded as Commandant on 1 January 1948, he was held on regular-duty assignment. (1949 FOF, 126H; "Vandegrift").
- 20 Apr CONUS---Secretary of Defense Louis A. Johnson ordered the Armed Services to end racial discrimination in line with President Harry S. Truman's directive of 26 July 1948. (1949 FOF, 133P).
- 2 May- MEDITERRANEAN---A battalion landing team from the 8th Marines left Morehead City, N. C.,
26 Sep to become the landing force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 39; "Mediterranean" - Subj File; Globe, 6 Oct 1949, p. 3).
- 16 May CONUS---The 9th Marines arrived at Morehead City, N. C., following duty on Guam and in China. (Globe, 26 May 1949, pp. 1, 7).
- 24 May HAWAII---The 3d Marines previously stationed in Shanghai, China, arrived at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. (1949 FOF, 171L).
- 25 May CHINA---Company C, 7th Marines, departed Tsingtao for the United States - the last Marine Corps unit to serve in the waters off Mainland China. (Shaw, '68 Ed., 25; Muster Rolls).
- 27 May CHINA---The U. S. Navy announced the withdrawal of all American fleet and shore units from Tsingtao, in North China. (1949 FOF, 171L).
- 3 Jun USMC---Fifty-five graduates of a class of 790 at the U. S. Naval Academy accepted commissions in the U. S. Marine Corps. (MS - Acad Grads in USMC).
- 7 Jun CONUS---Secretary of Defense Louis A. Johnson accepted a Navy plan for securing racial equality for all Navy and Marine Corps personnel. (1949 FOF, 190K).
- 21 Jun USMC---Secretary of Defense Louis A. Johnson in his first policy address since assuming office promised that the future roles of the Marine Corps and the Marine air arm were "guaranteed." (1949 FOF, 214B).
- 30 Jun USMC---Marine Corps strength as of this date was 85,965. ('57 Def Pol, 120).
- Summer CONUS---Officer Candidate Screening Course established. It was designed to test leadership potential of a small group of talented enlisted men, and was opened to enlisted Marines with a college education or GCT score of 120. After four weeks, those who qualified were commissioned and ordered to Basic School for further training. (Brief History of USMC Officer Procurement, p. 20).
- 11 Aug PALESTINE---Brigadier General William E. Riley, USMC, was assigned to the United Nations' Palestine Truce Mission as Chief of Staff. The UN's Palestine observance staff under General Riley was to be cut from 500 to 40 persons. (Hist Dates - Subj File; 1949 FOF 258L).

1949-1950

- 24 Aug CONUS---A bronze memorial tablet was dedicated in Mount Ranier National Park to 32 Marines lost in a plane crash on the South Tahoma Glacier on 10 December 1946. (Logs, 23 Dec 52 and 4 Dec 67).
- 6 Sep- MEDITERRANEAN---A battalion landing team of the 21st Marines left Morehead City, N. C. to become the landing force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. It was redesignated 26 Jan 1950 2/2 (Rein) on 20 October. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 63; "Mediterranean" - Subj File).
- 30 Sep USMC---Marine Corps strength as of this date was 84,200. (1949 FOF, 342A).
- 1 Oct CONUS---Elements of the 1st, 6th, and 7th Marines were used to form the 1st and 2d Battalions of the 5th Marines under the command of Colonel Victor H. Krulak. (MCHRP (1968 ed.), Brief Hist of the 5th Marines, p. 41).
- 11 Oct CONUS---Brigadier General Vernon A. Megee, Marine Corps aviation assistant director, told the House Armed Services Committee that the Air Force was neglecting tactical aviation and had no "effective air-ground control system." (1949 FOF, 334B).
- 12 Oct USMC---"Career Compensation Act" was enacted which turned the numbering system upside down by placing privates in pay grade E-1 and master sergeants in E-7. (MCHRS #11 - USMC Ranks and Grades, p. 28).
- 17 Oct CONUS---The 2d Marines was reorganized and enlarged to full regimental strength. At the same time, the 6th Marines was also reactivated on the regimental level. (Unit Diaries).
- 17 Oct USMC---Commandant of the Marine Corps General Clifton B. Cates maintained that the Army general staff was attempting to "destroy" the Marine Corps. Marine authorized strength stands at 100,000 men but will be reduced to 67,000 by 30 June 1950. Cates stated that the Army wished to cut this to 50,000 or 60,000. Cates' views were supported by retired Marine Commandant Alexander A. Vandegrift. (1949 FOF, 431M).
- 20 Oct CONUS---General J. Lawton Collins, Army Chief of Staff, and a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, assured the House Armed Services Committee that the Army did not intend to phase out the Marine Corps or assume its amphibious operations or to force the Navy to transfer its air arm to the Air Force. (1949 FOF, 341L).
- 21 Oct CONUS---Defense Secretary Louis A. Johnson indicated he had asked former Navy Secretary John L. Sullivan to resign because he had opposed unification of the armed services. Sullivan, who quit on 26 April over the carrier dispute, denied Johnson's statement and said he had supported unification but was opposed to the abolition of Marine and Navy aviation and the "slow death" of the Marine Corps. Johnson said the Marine Corps would continue. (1949 FOF, 341H).
- 25 Oct- HAWAII---A 35,000-man, 90-ship Army-Navy-Marine task force "liberated" Hawaii from the theoretical enemy "Aggressor" in Exercise MIKI - the largest U. S. postwar amphibious maneuver. (1949 FOF, 348B).
- 26 Oct
- 30 Oct CONUS---Defense Department announced the laying up of various Navy ships in line with announced plans to reduce Navy and Marine manpower by 54,891 men by 1 July. (1949 FOF, 358C).
- 5 Nov CONUS---The first enlisted pilots to fly the Lockheed TO-1 "Shooting Star" jet underwent training at the Marine Corps Air Station at El Toro, California. (ANAF Journal, 5 Nov 1949, p. 2).

1950

- 5 Jan GUAM---The Fleet Marine Force at Guam was removed to California. The only Marines remaining after this move will be those of the security forces. (ANAF Journal, 7 Jan 1950; Scout, 13 Jan 1950, pp. 1, 8; Globe, 12 Jan 1950, p. 3).
- 6 Jan- MEDITERRANEAN---The 1st Battalion, 6th Marines (Rein) left Morehead City, N. C. to become the landing force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. (23 May 1950 5; "Mediterranean" - Subj File).
- 8 Jan CONUS---The Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island began to train Civil Engineer Corps (Seabees) reservists. About 240 will be trained in the first six months. (ANAF Journal, 14 Jan 1950; Boot, 19 Jan 1950, p. 1).
- 9 Jan USMC---President Truman's budget for the fiscal year 1951 provided for a reduction in Marine Corps manpower from 85,700 in 1949-50 to 74,396 in 1951. (1950 FOF, 11P).
- 14 Jan CONUS---Air Force, Navy, and Marine flyers staged their first unified maneuvers at the All-American Air Maneuvers in Miami. (1950 FOF, 24K).

- 3 Feb CONUS-CARIBBEAN---2,000 Marines of the 3d Battalion, 5th Marines and VMF-218 returned to Camp Pendleton and El Toro, California from Guam. (Chevron, 3 Feb 1950, p. 1; 17 Feb 1950, p. 1).
- 25 Feb CONUS-CARIBBEAN---PORTEX, the U. S.' first amphibious-airborne operation, concluded 11 March after the "capture" of Vieques Island near Puerto Rico. 80,000 Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine personnel, 160 ships, and over 700 planes took part in the nation's biggest peacetime amphibious maneuver. It opened 25 February when the first ships of the "invasion" fleet left Norfolk, Va. Confusion of enemy communications by jamming and issuance of false radio orders was found effective. Seven lives were lost due to accidents. (1950 FOF, 84N).
- 1 Mar CONUS---A report of the House Armed Services Committee on its 1949 investigations recommended inclusion of the Marine Corps commandant in the Joint Chiefs of Staff and rotation of the group's chairmanship. It urged more "cross-education" among the services, more combined training, and assignment of important air warfare roles to the Navy and Marines. (1950 FOF, 68E).
- 10 Mar CONUS---The Marine Corps Schools at Quantico, Va., organized into the Marine Corps Development Center and the Marine Corps Educational Center plus supporting units. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 29).
- 25 Apr CONUS---The final elements of the Fleet Marine Force, Guam returned to Camp Pendleton, California to join the 1st Marine Division. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 36).
- 4 May-18 Aug MEDITERRANEAN---The 3d Battalion, 6th Marines (Rein) left Morehead City, N.C. to become the landing force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 39; "Mediterranean" - Subj File).
- 9 May CHINA---The Chinese Communist government announced that it will release two U. S. airmen - M/Sgt Elmer C. Bender of the Marines and William C. Smith, a Navy chief electrician's mate - held since 19 Oct 1948 when their plane was forced down in Manchuria. The men implied that they had to "confess" to charges of espionage in order to be released but said they were not mistreated and saw no Russians while imprisoned in Tsingtao. (1950 FOF, 147E).
- May CONUS---The 1st Marine Division and the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing were engaged in an amphibious demonstration known as DEMON III for students of the Senior Course, Amphibious Warfare School. (FMFPac, pp. 47-48).
- 2 Jun USMC---Forty-eight graduates of a class of 690 at the U. S. Naval Academy accepted commissions in the U. S. Marine Corps. (MS - Acad Grads in USMC).
- 9 Jun CONUS---Defense Secretary Louis A. Johnson announced that the National Air Races would receive no entries from the U. S. Armed Forces due to their training and economy programs and plans for Armed Forces Day. (1950 FOF, 192C).
- 15 Jun CONUS---President Harry S. Truman visited the Marine Corps Base at Quantico, Va. and witnessed combat demonstrations designed to prove that the Marine Corps should be allocated a bigger budget. Highlight was an assault landing using Piasecki "flying-banana" helicopters to show Mr. Truman how men and equipment could be flown from carriers to objectives behind enemy lines. (1950 FOF, 195G).
- 25 Jun KOREA---Seven infantry divisions and an armored division of the North Korean People's Army swept across the 38th Parallel into South Korea with two infantry divisions in reserve. (Montross and Canzona, I, p. 32).
- 27 Jun KOREA---U. S. air and naval forces were ordered into action as the U. N. invoked military sanctions against the North Koreans. (1950 FOF, 217B).
- 27 Jun KOREA---General of the Army Douglas MacArthur established the General Headquarters Advanced Command Group at Suwon under the command of Brigadier General John H. Church, USA, to reorganize the demoralized ROK forces. (Montross and Canzona, I, p. 41).
- 30 Jun KOREA---President Harry S. Truman authorized General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander Allied Powers, to send certain supporting U. S. ground force units to Korea. An American naval blockade of the entire Korean coast was ordered, and Japan-based Air Force planes were given authority to bomb specific military targets north of the 38th Parallel. (Montross and Canzona, I, p. 38).
- 30 Jun USMC---The strength of the Marine Corps as of this date was 74,279 men. ('57 Def Pol, 120).
- 2 Jul KOREA---General of the Army Douglas MacArthur requested an immediate dispatch of a Marine Corps Regimental Combat Team with its own air support for duty in Korea. The Commanding General, 1st Marine Division, received the following message from the Commanding General FMFPac: "This is a warning order. Prepare to embark..." (Hist Dates - Subj File).

1950

- 3 Jul CONUS---The Joint Chiefs of Staff decided to send Marines with their air units to Korea as requested by MacArthur who had only four Army divisions in Japan. The 1st Marine Brigade of about 7,000 men expected to be shipped out by sea from Camp Pendleton. Marine air units are to leave from El Toro, California, where the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1st MAW) is stationed with 144 fighter planes and 59 other craft. Marines fly F4U Corsairs adapted to low-altitude operations. Brigadier General Edward A. Craig, 53, will command all Marine troops and Brigadier General Thomas J. Cushman, 55, the Marine air units. (1950 FOF, 210B).
- 3 Jul KOREA---Major General William F. Dean was named commander of United States forces in Korea. (NY Times).
- 5 Jul KOREA---The first clash between United States and North Korean troops occurred near Osan, Korea when an American force of two infantry companies, reinforced, collided with a North Korean People's Army division; the American force withdrew after a delaying action. (Montross and Canzona, I, p. 45)
- 5 Jul CONUS---The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward Echelon) commanded by Brigadier General Thomas J. Cushman was formed at El Toro, Calif. to become a supporting unit of the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 51).
- 7 Jul USMC---The 1st Provisional Marine Brigade, composed of the 5th Marines, 1st Battalion of the 11th Marines, and Marine Aircraft Group 33 (MAG-33), was organized. (Montross and Canzona, I, p. 49; Gazette, Jun 1951, p. 31).
- 7 Jul UN---The U. N. Security Council authorized the United States to establish a unified command of the United Nations forces in Korea; President Harry S. Truman named General of the Army MacArthur as Commander-in-Chief. (Montross and Canzona, I, p. 45).
- 7 Jul CONUS---President Harry S. Truman authorized the use of the draft by the armed forces if necessary to increase strength to meet the Korean crisis. (1950 FOF, 221D).
- 12 Jul- KOREA---The 1st Provisional Marine Brigade sailed from San Diego on board the USS
14 Jul Anderson, Achenar, Bandoeng Strait (MAG-33); Fort Marion, Gunston Hall, Alshain, Whiteside, Pickaway, Clymer, Henrico (ground forces) for Pusan, Korea. (Montross and Canzona, I, p. 53).
- 12 Jul KOREA---The North Korean Army occupied nearly half of South Korea as four U. S. battalions completed their withdrawal across the Kum River which was the main U. S. defense line above Taejon, U. S. Field Headquarters and provisional South Korean capital. (1950 FOF, 217E).
- 14 Jul CONUS---The sailing of the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade from San Diego was the last publicized troop departure of the Korean War. (1950 FOF, 277H).
- 15 Jul KOREA---R5Ds of two Marine transport squadrons assigned to the Pacific for airlift operations to and from Korea. (Hist Dates - Subj File).
- 16 Jul JAPAN---The Advance Echelon of the 1st MAW (Forward Echelon) departed for Tokyo by aircraft in company with Brigadier General Edward A. Craig, Commanding General, 1st Provisional Marine Brigade and his staff. (Montross and Canzona, I, p. 55).
- 19 Jul USMC---The Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Clifton B. Cates, alerted the Organized Reserve for recall to active duty. (Hist Dates - Subj File; Chevron, 21 Jul 1950, p. 1).
- 19 Jul KOREA---General of the Army MacArthur requested the Joint Chiefs of Staff to provide a war-strength Marine division with appropriate air support for duty in Korea. (L'neck Kor Chron).
- 19 Jul CONUS---President Harry S. Truman called the Organized Marine Corps Reserve to active duty. (Montross and Canzona, I, p. 58).
- 20 Jul- CONUS---All 47,000 men and women of the Organized Marine Ground Force Reserve were
4 Aug called up for duty during the Korean emergency. (1950 FOF, 229H).
- 20 Jul KOREA---The North Koreans launched a major drive spearheaded by tanks against American positions around Taejon and bitter fighting around the key center was in progress. General Dean was reported missing in action. (NY Times).
- 22 Jul CONUS---The Commandant of the Marine Corps directed that sufficient units and personnel be embarked by 10 August to bring the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade, in Korea, to full war strength. (FMPac, p. 51).
- 23 Jul CONUS---Certain air reserve squadrons were called to active duty. (1950 FOF, 236F).
- 25 Jul CONUS---Units from the 2d Marine Division moved from Camp Lejeune, N. C. to Camp Pendleton, Calif. to join the 1st Marine Division. (1950 FOF, 236F).

- 25 Jul CONUS---The Commandant directed that the entire 1st Marine Division be brought to full war strength and embark between 10 and 15 August for duty in Korea. Marine aviation elements in the Far East were to be increased simultaneously from a single group to a wing. (FMFPac, p. 51).
- 27 Jul CONUS---President Harry S. Truman signed a bill lifting the legal limit on the size of the armed forces and extending some enlistments due to expire in the next 12 months for one year. (1950 FOF, 236C).
- 29 Jul CONUS---The first units of Marine Organized Reserve reported for duty. (L'neck Kor Chron).
- 31 Jul CONUS---President Harry S. Truman authorized the Marine Corps to expand two divisions to full wartime strength of about 23,000 each. (1950 FOF, 243K).
- 31 Jul JAPAN---The air arm of the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade (Rein) arrived at Kobe, Japan and disembarked. (Montross and Canzona, I, p. 89).
- 31 Jul CONUS---Secretary of Defense Louis A. Johnson revealed that two squadrons were being added to the Marines' present 16-squadron air force. (1950 FOF, 243L).
- Aug INDOCHINA---A Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) of 35 men was sent to Indochina to advise on the use of American equipment there. (US in VN, p. 5).
- 1 Aug CONUS---The first organized reserve units reported to Camp Lejeune. (MCHRP. Mob MC Res Korea, 30).
- 1 Aug-5 Aug CONUS---More than 9,000 officers and enlisted men of the 2d Marine Division and the newly activated organized reserve units arrived at Camp Pendleton, Calif. to reinforce units of the 1st Marine Division which were assigned to duty in Korea. (FMFPac, p. 52).
- 2 Aug KOREA---The 1st Provisional Marine Brigade (Rein) arrived at Pusan, Korea. (Montross and Canzona, I, p. 91).
- 3 Aug KOREA---The first Marine aviation mission against North Koreans was flown from the USS Sicily by eight Corsairs of VMF-214 in a raid against installations at Chinju and Sadon-ni. (VMF-214 Hist Diary; Montross and Canzona, I, p. 98).
- 3 Aug KOREA---The 1st Provisional Marine Brigade (Rein) moved from Pusan to Changwon where it took up defensive positions astride the Changwon-Masan road. (Montross and Canzona, I, pp. 93-94).
- 4 Aug KOREA---Marine Corps helicopters of VMO-6, commanded by Major Vincent J. Gottschalk, made the first air evacuation of Marine casualties in Korea. (VMO-6 Hist Diary; Cav of the Sky, pp. 114-15).
- 4 Aug KOREA---In the extreme south of Korea, United States and South Korean troops continued their planned retreat to the Naktong River line while Communist units probed the new defenses. American reserves were being rushed into position for the expected battle. (NY Times).
- 6 Aug KOREA---The first Marine aviation missions to be flown from the Badoeng Strait against the North Koreans occurred when Majors Arnold A. Lund and Robert F. Steinkraus led two divisions of F4Us in strikes against areas west of Chinju, along the Namgang River. (MC Aviation Chron HqLts).
- 6 Aug KOREA---The 1st Marine Brigade moved forward to relieve the North Korean pressure in the Chinju area. (Montross and Canzona, I, p. 100).
- 7 Aug USMC---All 80,000 voluntary reservists were alerted for active duty to bring Marine strength up to more than 200,000. The first 50,000 were to go into uniform between 15 August and 31 October. (1950 FOF, 252L).
- 7 Aug-10 Aug KOREA---The Americans staged their first strong counterattack of the Korean War east of Chinju when the North Koreans were driven back about 13 miles. (1950 FOF, 249D).
- 8 Aug KOREA---First night evacuation of wounded made by an HO3S-1 of VMO-6 from field aid station at Chindong-ni to hospital train at Masan. (VMO-6 Hist Diary).
- 10 Aug KOREA---The 1st Marine Brigade reached the coast in the American push to Chingju. (Hist Dates - Subj File).
- 10 Aug-19 Aug CONUS---The 1st Marine Division (-) sailed from San Diego, Calif. for Korea. ("Operations," 10-19 Aug 1950).
- 10 Aug KOREA---The first Marine helicopter rescue in Korea was effected by an HO3S-1 which rescued Captain Vivian M. Moses who was forced to ditch his aircraft when its oil pressure failed. (L'neck Kor Chron).

1950

- 11 Aug KOREA---Captain Vivian M. Moses, the nephew of Major General Emile P. Moses, USMC, was the first Marine Corps aviator to be killed in combat in Korea. (Hist Dates - Subj File; L'neck Kor Chron).
- 12 Aug KOREA---General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, commander of U. N. forces in Korea, announced that the counterattack by Marines and Army troops west of Pusan had "attained its objective" with the taking of hill positions just east of Chingju. The force, known as "Task Force Kean," made a 27-mile advance to turn back the North Korean threat to Pusan. Marines in the Chinju drive were shifted to the Naktong front below Taegu. (1950 FOF, 257F).
- 14 Aug KOREA---Brigadier General Edward A. Craig, USMC, received orders to move the Marine Brigade with all possible speed to Miryang, Korea. (Hist Dates - Subj File).
- 15 Aug KOREA---Marines previously committed in the Chinju attack arrived at Miryang, Korea on their way to block the enemy crossing over the Naktong River. (Montross and Canzona, I, p. 173).
- 15 Aug USMC---All male enlisted members of the Voluntary Marine Corps Reserve in the ranks of sergeant and below were ordered to active duty. (MC Res Hist, p. 168).
- 15 Aug USMC---The 1st Marine Division reached wartime strength (less 7th Marines) 27 days after commencing its build-up from a peacetime table of organization. (L'neck Kor Chron).
- 16 Aug USMC---Principal elements of the Army's X Corps activated with Major General Edward S. Almond in command were 1st Marine Division and 7th Army Infantry Division. (L'neck Kor Chron).
- 17 Aug USMC---7th Marines activated from two understrength battalions of the 6th Marines augmented by more Regulars and Reserves. (L'neck Kor Chron).
- 17 Aug KOREA---Marines stormed a 1,000-foot hill commanding the "Naktong Bulge," a Communist bridgehead across the Naktong River. (1950 FOF, 266C).
- 18 Aug USMC---The Marine Corps lowered the minimum enlistment period from four years to three years in an effort to attract recruits. It also invited enlistments in the Volunteer Reserve for extended active duty which would make discharge possible after less than three years. (1950 FOF, 268K).
- 19 Aug KOREA---The North Korean drive for Taegu appeared to be broken as the defenders counter-attacked to push back twin enemy offensives. The Marines gained more than three miles near Changnyong, southwest of Taegu, and were nearing the Naktong River. (NY Times).
- 20 Aug KOREA---Marines and the 24th Infantry Division, USA, completed the elimination of a bridgehead established by a division of Communists across the Naktong River near Changnyong, 25 miles southwest of Taegu. (1950 FOF, 266C).
- 24 Aug KOREA---The 1st Marine Division (less the 7th Marines and units in Korea with the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade) sailed for Korea. (FMFPac, p. 52).
- 27 Aug KOREA---Twelve U. S. Marines reached Saigon, Indochina from Seoul, Korea to guard the U. S. legation and other American interests. (Hist Dates - Subj File).
- 27 Aug CONUS---Rep. Carl Vinson (D-GA.), Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said that the new goal for Marine combat strength was 4 war-size divisions and 26 air squadrons. (1950 FOF, 277D).
- 1 Sep CONUS---Commanding General of the Marine Barracks, Camp Pendleton was assigned the additional duty of commanding the newly activated Headquarters Fleet Marine Force Pacific Troops. (FMFPac, p. 54).
- 1 Sep MEDITERRANEAN---3/6 embarked for the Far East from the Mediterranean. (FMFPac, p. 52).
- 1 Sep CONUS---President Truman told Americans in a radio and television broadcast that he was planning to expand American armed forces from about one and one half million "to close to three million" and that further increases may be necessary. (1950 FOF, 284L).
- 1 Sep CONUS---Rep. Gordon L. McDonough (R-Calif) inserted President Truman's letter of 29 August in the Congressional Record. In answer to a message from McDonough urging Marine representation on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Mr. Truman said, "The Marine Corps is the Navy's police force and as long as I am President that is what it will remain. They have a propaganda machine that is almost equal to Stalin's." Congressmen and Marine organizations called Mr. Truman's remarks an insult and demanded an apology. (1950 FOF, 284E).
- 1 Sep- KOREA---The 1st Provisional Marine Brigade counterattacked west of Yongsan to contain
5 Sep a second enemy crossing of the Naktong. (L'neck Kor Chron).

- 5 Sep KOREA---The 1st Provisional Marine Brigade was disengaged from active combat with the enemy at midnight on this date and moved to Pusan. (Montross and Canzona, I, pp. 236-37).
- 6 Sep CONUS---President Truman apologized for his "unfortunate choice of language." He handed a letter personally to General Clifton B. Cates, Marine Corps Commandant, in which he praised Marine heroism and service, repeated his belief in the Corps' "vital role" in U. S. defense and said he was "certain that the Marine Corps itself does not indulge in such propaganda." The president also sent a copy of the letter to Clay Nixon, Commandant of the Marine Corps League, to be read at the convention being held in Washington. The convention accepted the apology and agreed to consider the incident closed. (1950 FOF, 284F).
- 6 Sep JAPAN---Itami Air Base designated as the base of operations for the 1st MAW. The Forward Echelon was discontinued. (1st MAW Unit Diary).
- 8 Sep KOREA---The Tactical Air Command was activated and organized from elements of the 1st MAW. Its mission was to provide tactical air support for the X Corps when established ashore in the Inchon-Seoul operations. TAC's higher echelon was X Corps, U. S. Army. (Montross and Canzona, II, p. 71).
- 9 Sep KOREA---The first jet mission ever to be flown against an enemy by a Marine pilot was by Captain Leslie E. Brown, USMC, in an F-80 while attached to an Air Force fighter-bomber squadron in Korea. (L'neck Kor Chron).
- 11 Sep MEDITERRANEAN---Personnel of 3d Battalion, 6th Marines (Rein), used to reactivate 3d Battalion, 7th Marines at Kobe, Japan. ("Mediterranean" - Subj File).
- 13 Sep USMC---The 1st Provisional Marine Brigade in Korea was disbanded and absorbed into the 1st Marine Division. (Unit Diaries).
- 15 Sep KOREA---The 3d Battalion, 5th Marines landed on Wolmi-do Island in Inchon Harbor and secured it prior to the main landing. The 1st Marine Division under the command of Major General Oliver P. Smith landed at Inchon and began the Inchon-Seoul Campaign. (Montross and Canzona, II, p. 88).
- 16 Sep KOREA---The U. S. Eighth Army on the southern front under the command of Lieutenant General Walton H. Walker was reorganized into two corps: The I Corps under Major General Frank W. Milburn (forces north and east of Taegu) and the IX under Major General John B. Coulter (forces south of Taegu). (1950 FOF, 298D).
- 17 Sep KOREA---United States Marines after capturing Kimpo airfield crossed the Han River and captured a hill ten miles southwest of Seoul. The Marines advanced toward the Han River at a point less than two miles from Seoul. (Montross and Canzona, II, p. 163).
- 18 Sep KOREA---Kimpo airfield was made serviceable. The first aircraft to land on the airfield was a helicopter piloted by Captain Victor A. Armstrong, USMC. (Montross and Canzona, II, p. 165).
- 19 Sep KOREA---Waegwan, northwest of Taegu, Korea, was recaptured by American forces in a U. N. offensive all along the southeast Korean front. (1950 FOF, 298D).
- 20 Sep KOREA---American Marines crossed the Han River along a six-mile beachhead, eight miles northwest of Seoul. The Marine column cut the road to Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, and some units were reported in the outskirts of Seoul. (NY Times).
- 21 Sep KOREA---A Marine column approached Seoul, Korea from the southwest and entered Yongdungpo, across the Han River from Seoul. (1950 FOF, 298A).
- 23 Sep- KOREA---The 1st Marines linked with the 5th Marines on their left which had previously
24 Sep entered the western suburbs of Seoul. (Korean Chron - Subj File).
- 25 Sep KOREA---The first casualty sustained by a Marine pilot flying a jet occurred when Captain Leslie E. Brown was hit by enemy antiaircraft fire while destroying a gun position. (L'neck Kor Chron).
- 25 Sep KOREA---U. S. Marines and infantry pushed across the Han River into Seoul. The infantry crossing came after an airlift had brought heavy reinforcements to Kimpo airfield. (NY Times).
- 26 Sep USMC---The Marine Corps reported that all its 138 organized reserve ground units reported for duty within 43 days of the beginning of mobilization. (1950 FOF, 309C).
- 26 Sep CONUS---President Truman's letter in which he compared the Marine propaganda machine with Stalin's was put up for sale by Representative Gordon L. McDonough who had insured it for \$10,000. He said it would go to the highest bidder with the proceeds going to the Marine Corps League. (1950 FOF, 307L).

1950

- 27 Sep KOREA---Marines raised the American flag over the Korean capital, Seoul, and at the United States Consulate. (Montross and Canzona, II, p. 279).
- 30 Sep- KOREA---The 1st Marine Division advanced north of Seoul against Uijongbu still meeting
1 Oct opposition. (Montross and Canzona, II, pp. 286-90).
- 1 Oct CONUS---The letter in which President Truman called the Marines the Navy's police force with a propaganda machine almost equal to Stalin's was purchased by Chicago insurance executive Harry Fraiser, 52, for \$2,500. Rep. McDonough presented the check to the Marine Corps League for welfare work. (1950 FOF, 316C).
- 1 Oct KOREA---South Korean Army crossed the 38th Parallel into North Korea; U. N. troops crossed the parallel the following week. (Korean Chron - Subj File).
- 4 Oct CONUS---Representative Carl Vinson, in a House Armed Services Committee hearing, proposed that the Marine Corps be increased by two divisions (from two to four) and to two air wings. Marine personnel would reach 326,000 from the present 123,000 as compared to the 166,155-man goal the corps itself announced. (1950 FOF, 316J).
- 8 Oct KOREA---The Fifth Air Force assumed operational control of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in Korea. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 71).
- 15 Oct KOREA---The 1st Marine Division embarked for a second amphibious assault on Korea's east coast. (L'neck Kor Chron).
- 15 Oct WAKE ISLAND---President Truman met General MacArthur for the first time and the two men conferred for two hours on Wake Island to reach agreement on United States policy in the Far East. The Chief Executive left for Hawaii immediately afterward. (NY Times).
- 16 Oct CONUS---According to an announcement by the Army, Navy, and Marines, enlisted men in the unorganized reserve who have four or more dependents and are serving in the U. S. will be discharged. (1950 FOF, 332H).
- 23 Oct KOREA---United Nations troops pushed the remnants of North Korea's army into the high mountains and toward Manchuria, only a little more than fifty miles away. (NY Times).
- 26 Oct KOREA---The 1st Marine Division made an unopposed landing at Wonsan, Korea, on the east coast which began operations in Northeast Korea and established security for the port of Wonsan. When joined by other units, the Marines will move northward toward the Manchurian border. (NY Times).
- 28 Oct KOREA---Marines began the drive to the Manchurian border in Korea. (Hist Dates - Subj File).
- 2 Nov KOREA---S/Sgt Archie Van Winkle, Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, was the first of thirteen reservists to win the Medal of Honor in Korea in action near Sudong, Korea. (MC Res Hist, p. 170).
- 3 Nov KOREA---The 1st Marine Division first met Communist Chinese opposition lasting through 7 November. Shortly after midnight, Communist Chinese Forces launched an unsuccessful attack against 1st Marine Division units northeast of Hungnam, Korea. (Montross and Canzona, III, p. 104).
- 3 Nov- KOREA---After four days of fierce fighting, the 7th Marines (34 percent Reservists) at
7 Nov Sudong became the first U. S. unit to defeat the Chinese Communists in battle. (MC Res Hist, p. 170).
- 3 Nov SWEDEN---A detail of 1 officer and 34 enlisted Marines from the Marine Detachment, USS Columbus, was ordered to Sweden to participate in the funeral services of the late King Gustav V. Two Marines and two seaman from the USS Furse were furnished for the color guard. Funeral Services were held 9 November 1950. ("Sweden" - Geog File).
- 5 Nov KOREA---The 1st Marine Division was partly encircled but fought its way out in the north-eastern area of Korea. (RUSI Journal, Feb 1951, p. 148).
- 7 Nov KOREA---After 48 hours of hard fighting, elements of the 1st Marine Division forced Communist Chinese Forces to break contact and retreat northward. (Montross and Canzona, III, p. 119).
- 7 Nov KOREA---U. S. Marines captured a ridge five miles from Changjin reservoir while under fire from Chinese artillery. (RUSI Journal, Feb 1951, p. 148).
- 10 Nov CONUS---In celebration for its 175th Birthday, the Marine Corps opened an exhibit of historical documents and artifacts at the Truxton-Decatur Museum in Washington, D. C. (Washington Star, 9 Nov 1950).

- 10 Nov CONUS---The evening dress uniform for Marine Corps women officers was introduced for the first time by Colonel Katherine A. Towle at the Marine Corps birthday ball at the Sail Loft, Naval Gun Factory, Washington, D. C. The uniform was patterned after the full dress uniform of Marine officers. It will be worn by women Marine officers at all state and diplomatic functions. (ANAF Journal, 18 Nov 1950, p. 310).
- 10 Nov KOREA---U. S. Marines advanced six miles in the Changjin Reservoir area. (Gazette, "Wonsan to the Reservoir," by Lynn Montross, v. 35, no. 10 (Oct 1951), p. 31).
- 14 Nov CONUS---Captain Leonard A. Miller was the first Marine to be assigned to helicopter training at Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 84).
- 14 Nov KOREA---The 7th Marines captured Hagaru at the southern end of the Changjin Reservoir. (Montross and Canzona, III, p. 135; L'neck Kor Chron).
- 15 Nov KOREA---Elements of the 1st Marine Division commanded by Major General Oliver P. Smith reached Chosin (Changjin) Reservoir as enemy resistance increased, and conducted operations to provide security of the Main Supply Route to consolidate positions. (Montross and Canzona, III, p. 132-34).
- 20 Nov KOREA---British Royal Marine Commandos joined the U. S. Marines around Chosin Reservoir. (RUSI Journal, Feb 1951, p. 150).
- 28 Nov KOREA---Overwhelming Chinese Communist forces counterattacked the 5th and 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, near Chosin Reservoir. The Marines were forced to withdraw into a perimeter near Yudam-ni. (Hist Dates - Subj File).
- 28 Nov CONUS---The "Canton Bell" captured in China by the Royal Marines in 1875 was presented by them to the U. S. Marine Corps for preservation in the Museum at Quantico, Va. (Globe, 30 Nov 1950, p. 1; Sentry, 15 Mar 1951, pp. 1-2, 4).
- 29 Nov KOREA---The successful repulse of Chinese Communist forces who threatened to envelop U. S. Marine Corps units at Hagaru-ri, was attributed to Major Reginald R. Myers fearlessly leading 250 UN troops against a vastly superior enemy force. Major Myers and his unit succeeded in restoring the perimeter which proved vital to the defense of Hagaru-ri. Later he was awarded the Medal of Honor. (Chevron, 14 Dec 1951, p. 3; Gazette, Jan 1952, p. 33).
- 1 Dec KOREA-----The 1st Marine Division commenced its fighting withdrawal from the Yudam-ni area over a 56-mile stretch of road through the mountains of northeast Korea. General air support was furnished by Air Force and Navy while close support was provided by the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. (Hist Dates - Subj File).
- 3 Dec KOREA---Units of the 1st Marine Division arrived at Hagaru-ri, Korea in their fighting withdrawal to Hungnam. (ANAF Journal, 9 Dec 1950, p. 386; L'neck Kor Chron).
- 4 Dec KOREA---At the direction of the Chief of Naval Operations, the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, accompanied by key members of his staff, went to the Far East, to consult with Commander, Amphibious Group One, on the Hungnam evacuation. (FMFPac, p. 56).
- 5 Dec KOREA---The 1st Marine Division evacuated wounded by air and then fought through to Koto-ri, Korea in an action lasting through 7 December. (Hist Dates - Subj File).
- 6 Dec KOREA---For the first time in any war a transport-type plane was used as a tactical air direction center (TADC). To continue effective close air support for the 1st Marine Division during the withdrawal from Hagaru-ri, an R5D was pressed into the job of operating the tactical command post in the air over the battle area, a function it maintained for six days. (L'neck Kor Chron).
- 8 Dec KOREA---The 1st Marine Division with the 41st Royal Marine Commando and elements of the 7th Division left Koto-ri and made further headway towards Hamhung and Hungnam. (Montross and Canzona, III, pp. 314-19).
- 10 Dec KOREA---VMF-311 in Korea commenced combat operations. (Montross and Canzona, III, p. 350).
- 11 Dec KOREA---The 1st Marines and elements of the Army's 7th Division with the 41st Royal Marine Commando reached Hungnam. (Montross and Canzona, III, pp. 332-33).
- 12 Dec KOREA---Withdrawal by sea of all UN forces in northeastern Korea through the port of Hungnam commenced. (NY Times).
- 12 Dec KOREA---The U. S. Marine Corps reported that casualties in the 1st Marine Division during the fighting from the Chosin Reservoir trap were between 3,000 and 3,300 including missing. (NY Times).

1950-1951

- 15 Dec KOREA---Last elements of the 1st Marine Division sailed from Hungnam for Pusan, Korea. (Montross and Canzona, III, p. 341).
- 18 Dec- KOREA---The 1st Marine Division was active against enemy guerrillas in Masan-Pohang-
27 Jan Sondong-Ansong areas. Enemy pressure reduced as Marines forced the 10th North Korean Division to abandon guerrilla activity and withdraw northward. (L'neck Kor Chron).
- 23 Dec SE ASIA---United States signed Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement with France, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos for indirect U. S. military aid to Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. (Bkgd Info SE Asia and VN, p. 1).
- 28 Dec JAPAN---The first Bell helicopters arrived in Japan for delivery to a Marine observation squadron in Korea. This marked Marine aviation's first "piggy-back" delivery of a number of planes flown one-third around the world in R5Ds. (L'neck Kor Chron).

1951

- 2 Jan CONUS---Congress passed a \$20 billion supplemental defense appropriation bill. (1951 FOF, 6B).
- 3 Jan USMC---The Joint Chiefs of Staff authorized the Marine Corps to increase the number of fighter squadrons from 18 to 21. (MCHRP, Mob Res Korea, p. 33).
- 4 Jan KOREA---Seoul was abandoned by the United Nations forces to Communist troops attacking the South Korean capital from two sides. Other enemy forces were attacking Allied lines elsewhere. The Communists found Seoul in ruins, all installations and most buildings having been put to the torch. (NY Times).
- 5 Jan KOREA---Communist troops in Korea crossed the Han River in aggressive pursuit of the United Nations forces that had given up Seoul. 120,000 Reds threatened to envelop the Allied right flank. The Kimpo Airport and the port of Inchon were destroyed and evacuated. (NY Times).
- 10 Jan CONUS---Secretary of Defense George C. Marshall asked Congress for a bill enabling 18-year olds to be drafted. (1951 FOF, 7B).
- 12 Jan KOREA---The United Nations cease-fire committee presented a five-point program to end the fighting in Korea and pave the way for peace in Asia. (NY Times).
- 15 Jan CONUS---President Truman asked Congress for \$41,421,000,000 appropriation for the Armed Services. (1951 FOF, 16J).
- 17 Jan KOREA---Red Chinese leaders turned down a U. N. appeal for a cease-fire in Korea. (1951 FOF, 13B).
- 18 Jan KOREA---Marines of the 1st Marine Division began mopping up guerrillas in the Pohang area of Korea. (Montross, Kuokka, and Hicks, p. 44).
- 22 Jan KOREA---Red Chinese offered to agree to a cease-fire as soon as a seven-nation Far Eastern peace conference went into session. The offer was rejected by the U. S. (1951 FOF, 26E).
- 22 Jan KOREA---Inchon was captured by the Communists. United Nations patrols reentered Wonju but retired under fire. (NY Times).
- 24 Jan KOREA---Marine Corsairs from the Bataan flew cover for two Air Force pilots downed behind enemy lines until a helicopter rescue could be effected. (Montross, Kuokka and Hicks, p. 47).
- 27 Jan KOREA---Gains of as much as 15 miles were made by U. N. forces, who attacked in strength on the western front just south of Seoul in Korea. Suwon was captured. (NY Times).
- Jan USMC---Marine Headquarters decided to appoint some 500 master sergeants, warrant officers, and commissioned warrant officers as temporary second lieutenants to speed expansion of the Marine Corps for the Korean Crisis. (MCHRS#7, A Brief History of USMC Officer Procurement, 21).
- 7 Feb KOREA---Marine Ground Control Interceptor Squadron-1 personnel moved from various ships of the Seventh Fleet to a new site at Pusan. (MGCIS-1 Hist Diary for Feb 1951).
- 13 Feb KOREA---Photographic Unit, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing moved from Itami Air Force Base, Japan to Bradshaw Air Force Base, Pusan to work in coordination with the 15th Troop Carrier Squadron in close-support photography. (Photo Unit, HqSq, 1st MAW Hist Diary for Feb 1951).

- 21 Feb KOREA---United Nations troops virtually erased the Chechon salient driven by the Communists in their vain attempt to turn an Allied flank. (NY Times).
- Mar JAPAN---During this month, Marine Service Squadron 1 received the 6th and 7th Replacement drafts and processed the first homegoing draft to depart for the U. S. from 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Mar 1951).
- 1 Mar KOREA---U. S. Marines captured two hills near Hoengsong in Central Korea. (RUSI Journal, May 1951, p. 301).
- 3 Mar KOREA---U. S. Marines were held up north of Hoengsong by enemy reinforcements. (RUSI Journal, May 1951, p. 301).
- 4 Mar KOREA---U. S. Marines advanced to within nine miles of Hongchon. (RUSI Journal, May 1951, p. 301).
- 5 Mar- MEDITERRANEAN---The 2d Battalion, 6th Marines (Rein) left Morehead City, N. C. to become
6 Jul the landing force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 27; "Mediterranean" - Subj File).
- 7 Mar KOREA---Marines advanced to a point five miles north of Hoengsong. (RUSI Journal, May 1951, p. 301).
- 8 Mar KOREA---Marines moved forward to within ten miles of Hongchon. (RUSI Journal, May 1951, p. 301).
- 9 Mar CONUS---The Canton Bell, trophy of the British Royal Marines, was unveiled and enshrined at the Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia. (Sentry, 15 Mar 1951, pp. 1-2, 4).
- 11 Mar KOREA---In central Korea, further ground was gained by the U. S. 2d, 1st Marine, and 1st Cavalry Divisions. (RUSI Journal, May 1951, p. 301).
- 25 Mar KOREA---General of the Army MacArthur had ordered the U. N. forces in Korea to cross the 38th Parallel if it became tactically advisable. (NY Times).
- 31 Mar KOREA---U. S. troops recrossed the 38th Parallel for the first time. (1951 FOF, 105J).
- 1 Apr CONUS---Force Troops, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, to be commanded by Brigadier General Gregon A. Williams, was officially organized at Camp Geiger, N. C. to support with firepower and supplies a division of the corps which was not capable of sustaining itself during long periods of combat. (Globe, 2 Apr 1959, pp. 6-7).
- 7 Apr KOREA---The full air defense responsibility for the Pusan-Pohang area was delegated to the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. In expectation of enemy activity, the Air Defense Section of the Marine Tactical Air Control Squadron 2 engaged in setting up an air-defense system. (MTACS-2 Hist Diary for Apr 1951).
- 10 Apr CONUS---The Defense Department issued an order effective 1 May lowering the intelligence standards for the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps to the level of the Army. The plan called for the receiving of draftees by the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps - for the first time since World War II. (1951 FOF, 117P).
- 11 Apr KOREA---President Truman dismissed General of the Army Douglas MacArthur from all his U. S., Allied, and U. S. commands in the Far East. Lieutenant General Matthew B. Ridgway was chosen to replace him in all his posts: Supreme Commander, Allied Powers in Japan; Commander-in-Chief, U. N. Command in Korea; U. S. Commander-in-Chief, Far East; Commanding General, U. S. Army, Far East. Lieutenant General James A. Van Fleet was named to succeed Ridgway as Eighth Army commander in Korea. (1951 FOF, 113B-C).
- 15 Apr CONUS---First Officer Candidate School since World War II convened at Parris Island, S. C. (Unit Diaries).
- 15 Apr JAPAN---General Ridgway arrived in Tokyo to replace MacArthur and assured the Japanese there would be no change of policy. (NY Times).
- 21 Apr KOREA---Marine carrier-based planes made the first aerial contact with enemy planes over Korea. Captain Philip C. DeLong shot down two Yaks and 1st Lieutenant Harold D. Daigh destroyed one and damaged another. (L'neck Kor Chron).
- 22 Apr KOREA---United Nations forces had worked their way north of the 38th Parallel and on the same day the North Koreans and Chinese Communists started their spring offensive. (Montross, Kuokka and Hicks, p. 104).
- 22 Apr KOREA---The spring offensive of Chinese and North Koreans necessitated withdrawal of the air support section of MCTACS-2 from a location seven miles north of Chunchon to one only a mile north. It withdrew again two days later to a location 4 miles south of Chunchon. (MTACS-2 Hist Diary for Apr 1951).

1951

23 Apr- KOREA---The 1st Marine Division slowed, halted, and finally smashed the Chinese
 27 Apr Communists Forces' attempts to turn the left flank of the IX Corps. Marines established
 a defense line south of Chunchon. (L'neck Kor Chron).

26 Apr KOREA---Major General Gerald C. Thomas relieved Major General O. P. Smith as Commanding
 General, 1st Marine Division in Korea. (L'neck Kor Chron).

4 May CONUS---The U. S. Senate unanimously passed a bill to raise the maximum strength of the
 Marine Corps to 400,000, double its present size. This bill would also make the
 Commandant of the Marine Corps a consultant to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. (1951 FOF,
 149L).

9 May KOREA---Marine Corps Corsair fighters and Panther Jets of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing
 participated in more than 300-plane Sinuiju Raid with the Fifth Air Force. Biggest
 raid of the war to date, it occurred near the Yalu River. (L'neck Kor Chron).

12 May CONUS---Major General Oliver P. Smith was transferred from command of the 1st Marine
 Division in Korea to command of Pacific Fleet Marine Force Troops and Marine Barracks at
 Camp Pendleton, California. (1951 FOF, 173F).

23 May KOREA---The 1st Marine Division counterattacked northward toward Yanggu at the east end
 of Hwachon Reservoir. (L'neck Kor Chron).

26 May- KOREA---U. N. forces drove the Communists back across the 38th Parallel on most of the
 28 May Korean battlefields. (1951 FOF, 169BC).

31 May KOREA---Marine tank-infantry patrols entered Yanggu. (L'neck Kor Chron).

31 May CONUS---The new uniform Code of Military Justice of the Armed Forces took effect. (1951
FOF, 173E).

Jun CONUS---The phase-out plan for Reservists was placed in effect with 2,106 enlisted men
 and 77 officers being released from active duty the first month. (MC Res Hist, p. 174).

1 Jun CONUS---The 3d Marine Brigade was activated at Camp Pendleton, California. (Unit
 Diaries).

1 Jun KOREA---The 1st Marine Division east of Hwachon Reservoir launched a drive against
 fiercely resisting North Koreans. (L'neck Kor Chron).

1 Jun USMC---Forty-nine graduates of a class of 725 at the U. S. Naval Academy accepted
 commissions in the U. S. Marine Corps. (MS - Acad Grads in USMC).

14 Jun- MEDITERRANEAN---The 1st Battalion, 8th Marines (Rein) left Morehead City, N. C. to become
 30 Sep the landing force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 47;
 "Mediterranean" - Subj File).

15 Jun PACIFIC---Amphibious landing exercise conducted by elements of FMFPac was designated as
 Operation LEX. Seventy warships of the Pacific fleet working with elements of FMFPac
 staged a full-scale maneuver aimed at driving a mythical enemy from the southern
 California coast. (Scout, 15 Jun 1951, p. 1).

16 Jun KOREA---The 1st Marine Division reached its objective, a line running northeast from
 the Hwachon Reservoir through the "Punch Bowl," a gigantic volcanic crater. (L'neck Kor
 Chron).

19 Jun CONUS---President Truman signed a bill lowering the draft age to 18-1/2 and making
 possible the institution of Universal Military Service pending further Congressional
 action. (1951 FOF, 196E).

20 Jun CONUS---Eight Marines died and 25 were injured when two defective mortar shells fell
 short and exploded at a battalion command post at Camp Lejeune, N. C. during a 2d Marine
 Division training exercise. (1951 FOF, 200N).

27 Jun CONUS---A House Committee voted 26 to 1 to double the Marine Corps' authorized strength
 with a minimum of 300,000 and to make the Corps' commandant a member of the Joint Chiefs
 of Staff. (NY Times).

30 Jun KOREA---VMF-513, the "Flying Nightmares," a Marine Tigercat squadron, made the first
 kill ever made with an F7F when it knocked down a PO-2 which was seen to crash on the
 bank of the Han River near Seoul. (L'neck Kor Chron).

30 Jun USMC---The strength of the Marine Corps at this date was 192,620 men. ('57 Def Pol 120).

5 Jul KOREA---General Ridgway accepted a Communist offer to establish peace talks in Kaesong
 over 8 July. (1951 FOF, 210A).

- 6 Jul CONUS---President Truman extended by one year the terms of 300,000 to 400,000 servicemen whose terms were to expire between 8 July 1951 and 1 July 1952. (1951 FOF, 221G).
- 10 Jul CONUS---The revised draft call of 35,000 for August included 7,000 for the first Marine Corps draft call since World War II. A slow-up in voluntary enlistments made it necessary for the Marine Corps to draft men in an effort to build up its present strength of 194,000 to the authorized 204,000. (1951 FOF, 221F).
- 10 Jul KOREA---Peace talks began at Kaesong. (1951 FOF 217B).
- 14 Jul KOREA---Exactly 162 years after French Revolutionists stormed the Bastille, a French battalion climbed a Korean hillside to relieve Marines who had been on the front lines several months. (Leatherneck, Dec 1951, p. 59).
- 21 Jul KOREA---A division of three F9Fs from VMF-311 was jumped by a flight of fifteen MIGs while returning from CAP mission and low on fuel. Each time the MIGs commenced a run the F9Fs turned into them and the MIGs would abandon the run. After three or four attempts at runs by the MIGs whose pilots showed little enthusiasm for pressing home the attack, the F9Fs sought cloud cover. Lieutenant Richard Bell failed to return from the flight and was missing in action until he returned from a POW camp in August 1953. (MAG-33, Hist Diary for Jul 1951).
- 18 Aug KOREA---Aircraft of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing were evacuated to Itami Air Force Base due to typhoon "Marge" which threatened the Korean bases. The aircraft returned to Korea 21 August 1951. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Aug 1951).
- 2 Sep-12 Feb 1952 MEDITERRANEAN---The 1st Battalion, 6th Marines (Rein) left Morehead City, N.C. to become the landing force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 62; "Mediterranean" - Subj File; Globe, 21 Feb 1952, p. 1).
- 7 Sep VIETNAM---The U. S. signed an agreement with Vietnam for direct economic assistance. (US in VN, p. 7).
- 16 Sep KOREA---Photo Unit, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing moved from Pusan (K-1) to Yongil Man (K-3) airfield. (Photo Unit Hist Diary for Sep 1951).
- 20 Sep KOREA---The first helicopter-borne combat area landing in history was made 20 September as helicopters were used to transport a company of U. S. Marines to a position on the eastern mountain front. (Montross, Kuokka and Hicks, pp. 207-208).
- 20 Sep JAPAN---VMF-323 arrived at Itami from the USS Sicily. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Sep 1951).
- 21 Sep JAPAN---VMF-212 departed Itami on board the USS Rendova. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Sep 1951).
- 21 Sep KOREA---The 1st Marine Division drove a force of nearly 2,000 enemy from a peak 3,000 feet high. (RUSI Journal, Nov 1951, p. 634).
- 24 Sep KOREA---VMF-323 departed for Pusan, Korea. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Sep 1951).
- 26 Sep CONUS---Assistant Defense Secretary Anna M. Rosenberg announced plans for an increase in the number of women in the armed services, starting 11 November. Women Marines numbering 2,187 enlisted and 63 officers in August are expected to be increased to 2,900 enlisted and 100 officers. (1951 FOF, 309C).
- 29 Sep CONUS---The draft call for November has been raised from 33,700 to 39,000 and a draft call has been issued for 16,900 in December. The Marine Corps will get 10,000 of the November call and 9,900 of the December call. Marine strength has grown from 80,000 to 211,000 in the past two years. The President authorized a further increase to 236,000. The Corps now has two divisions and a brigade and two wings. The Corps announced that it had vacancies for 1,000 more second lieutenants. (1951 FOF, 317J).
- 1 Oct CONUS---The Joint Landing Force Board was activated at the Marine Corps Schools, Quantico Va., and Lieutenant General Franklin A. Hart was named the first president of the board by the CMC. (ANAF Journal, 11 Oct 1952).
- 11 Oct KOREA---For the first time, a Marine battalion (3/7) and its equipment was flown by transport helicopter (HMR-161) to a frontline position in Operation BUMBLEBEE northeast of Yanggu, Korea. (Montross, Kuokka, and Hicks, pp. 213-14).
- 11 Oct KOREA---Marines continued patrol and defensive operations in the east central front, north of the "Punchbowl" in Korea. (Hist Dates - Subj File).
- 21 Oct USMC---Marine Corps Commandant General Clifton B. Cates, 58, announced in Honolulu that he will not retire when his four-year term as commandant expires 1 January. Cates will be the second commandant in Marine history to accept a lower post. (1951 FOF, 342F).

1951-1952

- 25 Oct KOREA---For the first time, a flight of Corsairs from VMF-312 was attacked by eight enemy MIGs as the Marine aircraft attacked a railroad and three trains near Myong-dong. Sixteen other MIGs were observed in the area, but the Red planes were not aggressive and their shooting was inaccurate. A direct hit on a locomotive and two hits on rail cars were scored by the F4U-4Bs. (VMF-312 Hist Diary for Oct 1951).
- 31 Oct KOREA---The Air Defense Section of the Marine Tactical Air Control Squadron 2 was transferred to Pohang and control was passed to the Marine Ground Control Interceptor Squadron 3. The Air Support Section continued to operate as the Tactical Air Direction Section with the 1st Marine Division. (MTACS-2 Hist Diary for Oct 1951).
- 2 Nov CONUS---The Defense Department issued a draft call for January for 59,650 men. 11,650 men went to the Marine Corps. (1951 FOF, 356E).
- 4 Nov KOREA---Captain William F. Guss of VMF-311 became the first Marine pilot to shoot down a Chinese MIG while serving with the USAF 4th Fighter Interceptor Wing. (VMF-311 Hist Diary for Nov 1951).
- 5 Nov CONUS---Lieutenant General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., 55, commanding FMFPac, was appointed to succeed General Clifton B. Cates as Commandant on 1 January. General Cates will be made a lieutenant general and take command of Marine Corps Schools, Quantico. (1951 FOF, 356A).
- 7 Nov JAPAN---The 14th Replacement Draft disembarked from USNS Aiken Victory at Kobe, Japan. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Nov 1951).
- 8 Nov JAPAN---VMF-214 departed Itami to board USS Lenawee (PA-195) at Kobe, Japan. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Nov 1951).
- 9 Nov JAPAN---The 10th Return Draft departed Itami to board the USS Lenawee at Kobe for further transportation to CONUS. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Nov 1951).
- 10 Nov CONUS---Dedication ceremonies for the Marine Corps' newly completed Iwo Jima statue were held at the junction of U. S. Highway #1 at Triangle, Va. Felix de Weldon cut the statue out of Indiana limestone. This is a smaller version of the Marine Corps Monument later dedicated in Arlington, Va. (ANAF Journal 10 Nov 1951, p. 5).
- 21 Nov USMC---A news release by UPI states the Marine Corps recalled some 7,300 officers and 81,700 enlisted reservists by 30 September 1951. (1951 FOF, 381E).
- 1 Dec CONUS---Marine Training Squadron 1 was disestablished and concurrently Marine Training Group 20 was formed and commissioned as a unit of Air FMFLant with its home base at Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, N. C. (Unit File, VMT-1).
- 2 Dec JAPAN---The 15th Replacement Draft disembarked from the USNS General John Pope at Kobe, Japan. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Dec 1951).
- 8 Dec CONUS---The draft call for February was announced as 55,000 men with 14,000 going to the Marine Corps. (1951 FOF, 405M).
- 9 Dec JAPAN---The 11th Return Draft departed Itami to board the USNS General John Pope at Kobe, Japan for further transportation to CONUS. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Dec 1951).
- 29 Dec- KOREA---A deadlock developed in Panmunjom conference as the Communists rejected new UN
31 Dec truce concessions. (1951 FOF, 417G).
- 29 Dec- KOREA---Allied troops attacked on the Western front to regain a lost hill position near
31 Dec Korangop. (1951 FOF, 418A).
- 31 Dec CONUS---General Clifton B. Cates, 19th Commandant of the Marine Corps, remained on active duty as Commandant of the Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Va. with the rank of lieutenant general. (Commandants, p. 196).
- 31 Dec JAPAN---The 16th Replacement Draft disembarked from the USNS William Weigel (AP-119) at Kobe, Japan. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Dec 1951).
- Dec USMC---The Marine Corps increased its strength from about 170,000 to 210,000 in 1951. (1951 FOF, 402L).

1952

- 1952 USMC---Marine Corps announced policies for the selection of both Reserve and temporary officers for integration into the Marine Corps. (ANAF Journal, 5 Apr 1952, p. 946; Leatherneck, May 1952, p. 66).

- 1 Jan USMC---Lieutenant General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., became the twentieth Commandant of the Marine Corps with the rank of general. (Commandants, p. 199).
- 2 Jan USMC---The staff at Headquarters, Marine Corps was reorganized under a general staff system of departmental character. (MCHRS #25, Hist MC Staff Org, p. 28).
- 7 Jan CONUS---The 3d Marine Brigade at Camp Pendleton, California was redesignated the 3d Marine Division consisting of the 3d, 4th, 9th, and 12th Marines and service and support battalions. (Scout, 11 Jan 1952, p. 1; Globe, 17 Jan 1952, p. 3).
- 8 Jan-20 May MEDITERRANEAN---Battalion Landing Team 3/8 (Rein) left Morehead City, N. C. to become the landing force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 6).
- 11 Jan CONUS---The 12th Return Draft departed to board the Sitkoh Bay for further transportation to CONUS. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Jan 1952).
- 31 Jan USMC---MAMS-33 Photo Unit (formerly Photo Unit 1st MAW) received its first two F2H-2P aircraft during January, and all pilots started checking out in the new type of photographic plane. (Photo Unit Hist Diary for Jan 1952).
- 11 Feb JAPAN---VMF-312 departed Itami to board the USS Bairoko. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Feb 1952).
- 12 Feb JAPAN---Forward Echelon of VMF-115 arrived at Itami AFB from the USS Bataan. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Feb 1952).
- 13 Feb CONUS---On the ninth anniversary of the establishment of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve, the Lady Leathernecks participated for the first time in color raising ceremonies at the Marine Barracks, Washington, D. C. (ANAF Journal, 16 Feb 1952, p. 735).
- 18 Feb CONUS---Brigadier General William W. Ashurst, USMC (Retired), 58, died in Bethesda, Maryland. Ashurst, who was commanding officer of the Marine Legation Guard of Peiping, was a Japanese prisoner there from December 1941 until September 1945. (1952 FOF, 60A).
- 25 Feb USMC---VMJ-1 was commissioned as a unit of MAG-33. (MAG-33 Hist Diary for Feb 1952).
- 8 Mar ITALY---Marine Detachment, Headquarters Support Activities of CinCSouth under the command of Captain Raymond B. Spicer, USMC, was activated at Naples, Italy. (Leatherneck, Jul 1953, p. 25).
- 11 Mar USMC---The Marine Corps announced that it would stop drafting after 30 June because it was getting sufficient volunteers. The Corps drafted 73,430 men (including the 8,600-man call in March) since it began drafting in August 1951. It had 225,528 men by 31 January, and wanted 235,320 by 30 June and 243,730 by 30 June 1953. (1952 FOF, 80G).
- 12 Mar JAPAN---The 18th Replacement Draft disembarked from USNS General W. H. Gordon at Kobe, Japan. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Mar 1952).
- 19 Mar JAPAN---The 14th Return Draft departed aboard the USNS General W. H. Gordon at Kobe for further transportation to CONUS. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Mar 1952).
- 22 Mar USMC---Six new Marine battalions and a new Marine air group activated on the west coast will give the Marine Corps the full authorized limit of three divisions and three air wings by June 1952. (ANAF Journal, 22 Mar 1952, p. 881).
- 25 Mar KOREA---1st Marine Division moved from "Punch Bowl" to a line on the western front on the left flank of the Eighth Army and became part of I Corps. There was little action pending the outcome of truce talks. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 31).
- 19 Apr-20 Oct MEDITERRANEAN---The 3d Battalion, 6th Marines (Rein) left Morehead City, N. C. to become the landing force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 35; "Mediterranean" - Subj File).
- 24 Apr KOREA---VMA-312 departed Itami AFB to board the USS Bataan (CVL-29) at Kobe, Japan. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Apr 1952).
- 24 Apr KOREA---Two F2H-2Ps of VMJ-1 piloted by Major Robert R. Road and First Lieutenant Lytton F. Blass were attacked by MIGs while on a photographic mission. Neither was damaged. (MAG-33 Command Diary for Apr 1952).
- 30 Apr KOREA---A flight of seven F9F-2s from VMF-311 were attacked by eight MIGs while on an interdiction mission. The Panther Jet flown by Captain W. E. Daniels claimed damage to a MIG. It was the first air-to-air encounter of 1952. (MAG-33 Command Diary for Apr 1952; Korean War Air Units File, HRS, HQMC: "MIG" - Subj Card #5).
- 30 Apr CONUS---The 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, commanded by Brigadier General Alfred D. Cooley, left Cherry Point, N. C. for its new base at Marine Corps Air Station, Miami, Florida. (Windssock, 2 May 1952, p. 1).

1952

- 1 May CONUS---2,000 Marines huddled in foxholes 7,000 feet from "ground zero" when a bomber dropped an atomic bomb which exploded some 2,000 feet above Yucca Flat, Nevada. This last blast was probably the 27th for the U. S. (1952 FOF, 138D).
- 1 May JAPAN---The 20th Replacement Draft arrived at Itami, AFB, Japan. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for May 1952).
- 6 May KOREA---Major R. R. Reid, Commanding Officer of VMJ-1, flew the squadron's first mission in Korea with an Air Force F86 escort. (VMJ-1 Command Diary for May 1952).
- 30 May JAPAN---The 21st Replacement Draft arrived at Itami AFB, Honshu, Japan. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for May 1952).
- 4 Jun CONUS---The award of the Brazilian Order of Naval Merit was presented to the U. S. Marine Corps at the Marine Barracks, Washington, D. C., following a full dress sunset parade. (Leatherneck, Aug 1952, pp. 68-9).
- 6 Jun CONUS---61 Naval Academy graduates of a class of 783 were commissioned in the Marine Corps. (1952 FOF, 186A).
- 28 Jun USMC---Congress passed the Armed Forces Reserve Act of 1952 which provided the Marine Corps Reserve with a Ready Reserve, Standby Reserve, and a Retired Reserve. The Act also provided for a Reserve Policy Board to advise the Secretary of the Navy on Reserve affairs. (1952 FOF, 209C).
- 28 Jun CONUS---President Truman signed a compromise bill passed by Congress which increased Marine Corps strength to three divisions and three air wings and gave the Marine Commandant "co-equal" status with members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on matters that directly concern the Marine Corps. (1952 FOF, 209C).
- 30 Jun USMC---The strength of the Marine Corps at this date was 231,967 men. ('57 Def Pol 120).
- 1 Jul JAPAN---The 22d Replacement Draft arrived at Starru from aboard the USNS General M. C. Meigs at Kobe, Japan. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Jul 1952).
- 9 Jul JAPAN---The 18th Return Draft departed Itami to board the USNS General M. C. Meigs at Kobe, Japan. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Jul 1952).
- 17 Jul KOREA---Senior ROK advisor with the 1st ROK Corps expressed gratitude for magnificent air support given the ROK troops by Marine aircraft during recent six-day period. (U. S. Pac Flt Opns, Ch 2, Chron, Eval Rep no. 5, Interim 1 Jul 1952-31 Jan 1953, p. 2-6).
- 1 Aug USMC---Brigadier General Melvin J. Maas, former Republican Representative from Minnesota who went blind last year, raised to rank of major general and retired from the Marine Corps Reserve. (1952 FOF, 257E).
- 6 Aug KOREA---Marine aviators of MAG-33 flew 141 sorties which was a new record for the group. (U. S. Pac Flt Opns, Ch 2, Chron, Eval Rep no. 5, Interim 1 Jul 1952-31 Jan 1953, pp. 2-10).
- 11 Aug CONUS---Regulations concerning the Combat Duty Pay Act of 1952 for the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps became effective and were approved by Defense Secretary Robert A. Lovett. (ANAF Journal, 30 Aug 1952, pp. 1602, 1630).
- 11 Aug KOREA---Major General Edwin A. Pollock succeeds Major General John T. Selden as commander of 1st Marine Division in Korea, effective 1 September. (1952 FOF, 269J).
- 11 Aug KOREA---Bunker Hill battle, involving the 1st Marine Division began and continued intermittently throughout the year. (U. S. Pac Flt Opns, Ch 2, Chron, Eval Rep no. 5, Interim 1 Jul 1952-31 Jan 1953, pp. 2-11).
- 13 Aug CONUS---The 19th Return Draft departed for CONUS. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Aug 1952).
- 20 Aug KOREA---U. S. Navy, Marine, and Air Force aircraft teamed together in a mass attack on the large Korean West Coast supply area at Changpyong-ni. Pilots estimated 80% of the assigned area was destroyed. (U. S. Pac Flt Opns, Ch 2, Chron, Eval Rep no. 5, Interim 1 Jul 1952-31 Jan 1953, pp. 2-11).
- 22 Aug KOREA---The Army placed orders for 25,000 armored vests developed by the Navy which were successfully tried out by Marine ground forces and Marine airmen engaged in low-level support of troops in Korea. (1952 FOF, 272H).
- 25 Aug-4 Feb 1953 MEDITERRANEAN---The 3d Battalion, 2d Marines (Rein) left Morehead City, N. C. to become the landing force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 60; "Mediterranean" - Subj File; Globe, 12 Feb 1953, p. 2).

- 30 Aug JAPAN---The 24th Replacement Draft arrived at Itami. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Aug 1952).
- 2 Sep CONUS---The 4th Marines, commanded by Colonel Robert O. Bowen, was reactivated at Camp Pendleton, California. (Scout, 5 Sep 1952, pp. 1, 2).
- 2 Sep USMC---Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing informed the Commanding General, Fifth Air Force that F3D-2 operations were restricted to daylight test flights in the immediate vicinity of airfield K-8 due to the possibility of engine explosions in this type of aircraft. (U. S. Pac Flt Opns, Ch 2, Chron, Eval Rep no. 5, Interim 1 Jul 1952-31 Jan 1953, p. 2-15).
- 9 Sep KOREA---Three F4U-4Bs of VMA-323 were attacked by four MIGs but the Corsairs suffered no casualties in the uneven encounter. (VMH-323 Command Diary for Sep 1952).
- 10 Sep KOREA---Captain Jesse G. Folman of VMA-312 became the first American pilot to shoot down an MIG jet fighter with a propeller-driven aircraft, an F4U-4. (VMA-312 Hist Diary for Sep 1952).
- 10 Sep JAPAN---The 20th Return Draft departed via rail to board the USS General Mitchell at Yokohama, Japan. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Sep 1952).
- 11 Sep KOREA---Six F9F-4s from VMF-115 crashed into a mountain during an instrument letdown in the vicinity of airfield K-2, Korea. All pilots were killed instantly. (U. S. Pac Flt Opns, Ch 2, Chron, Eval Rep no. 5, Interim 1 Jul 1952-31 Jan 1953, p. 2-16; ANAF Journal, 20 Sep 1952, p. 90).
- 15 Sep KOREA---VMC-1 was commissioned. Sole mission of the new squadron was electronic countermeasures. (MACG-2 Command Diary for Sep 1952).
- 20 Sep USMC---General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., CMC, and party arrived at airfield K-3 during a visit to U. S. and Korean Marine Corps installations. (U. S. Pac Flt Opns, Ch 2, Chron, Eval Rep No. 5, Interim 1 Jul-31 Jan 1953, p. 2-18).
- 1 Oct KOREA---During the month of September, U. S. Navy and Marine aircraft expended 6,200 tons of bombs, 6,100 rockets, and 1,700,000 rounds of ammunition. (U. S. Pac Flt Opns, Ch 2, Chron, Eval Rep No. 5, Interim 1 Jul 1952-31 Jan 1953, p. 2-19).
- 1 Oct KOREA---Naval aircraft commenced a trend, which continued throughout the year, away from strategic targets toward tactical targets. This is a reversal of the target policy that prevailed during July, August, and September. (U. S. Pac Flt Opns, Ch 2, Chron, Eval Rep no. 5, Interim 1 Jul 1952-31 Jan 1953, p. 2-20).
- 2 Oct JAPAN---The 25th Replacement Draft arrived at Kobe, Japan aboard the USNS Marine Serpent. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Oct 1952).
- 6 Oct KOREA---Major Alexander J. Gillis, of VMF-311, on his last day as an exchange pilot with the Air Force, shot down two MIGs. During the fray, he, too, was shot down and spent four hours in the Yellow Sea before being rescued. During his 90-day tour with the Air Force he destroyed three MIGs. (Unit File, HRS, HQMC: "A.J. Gillis" - Personnel Card).
- 14 Oct CONUS---Ellis Hall, a new addition to the Marine Corps Educational Center, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia, was dedicated. It was named in honor of Lieutenant Colonel Earl H. Ellis, one of the pioneers of modern amphibious planning. (ANAF Journal, 25 Oct 1952, p. 222).
- 16 Oct JAPAN---The first element of the 21st Return Draft departed Itami to board the USNS General Sultan at Yokosuka, Japan. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Oct 1952).
- 18 Oct KOREA---Rear Admiral Lucien A. Moebus, Chief of Naval Air Reserve Training, stated that two of every three strikes flown from carriers operating off Korea were manned by reserve Navy or Marine pilots recalled to duty. The Navy and the Marines expected reservists to comprise up to 76% of their strike power. (1952 FOF, 363M).
- 26 Oct JAPAN---The second element of the 21st Return Draft departed Itami to board the USS General Breckenridge at Yokohama, Japan. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Oct 1952).
- 29 Oct KOREA---Major General Edwin A. Pollock, Commanding General, 1st Marine Division, extended the appreciation of the division to Navy and Marine aircraft for the "superb demonstration of close air support during engagements of 26-28 Oct" at Sniper Ridge and Triangle Hill. (U. S. Pac Flt Opns, Ch 2, Chron, Eval Rep No. 5, Interim 1 Jul 1952-31 Jan 1953, p. 2-24).
- Nov KOREA---During November, eight additional F2H-2Ps and one F4U-5P were received by VMJ-1. (VMJ-1 Command Diary for Nov 1952).
- 1 Nov KOREA---A new record was set during October by Helicopter Transport Squadron 161 which evacuated 365 casualties during the month. (U. S. Pac Flt Opns, Ch 2, Chron, Eval Rep no. 5, Interim 1 Jul 1952-31 Jan 1953, p. 2-25).

- 1 Nov KOREA---Fliers of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing flew 3,765 sorties during October - the highest number for any month since the 4,004 sorties recorded in June 1951. Close Air Support missions occupied 36 percent of the Marine pilots' efforts during October. (Ibid.)
- 1 Nov KOREA---Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing congratulated VMO-6 on completing its 20,000th combat flight since entering the Korean War. (Ibid.)
- 3 Nov KOREA---Major William T. Stratton, Jr. and Master Sergeant H. C. Hoglin, USMC, of VMF(N)-513 were the first Marines to destroy an enemy jet aircraft through the use of an airborne intercept radar-equipped fighter near Sinjiju, Korea. (VMF(N)-513 Command Diary for Nov 1952).
- 28 Nov KOREA---Major Mervin B. Porter's flight of six Corsairs of VMA-312 was attacked by four MIGs, but the Corsairs out-maneuvered the MIGs. After ten minutes the MIGs broke off the runs, and the Corsairs returned to their carrier. (VMA-312 Command Diary for Nov 1952).
- 29 Nov KOREA---Major James W. Bathrick sighted an enemy train and was responsible for directing fighter-bombers to attack and destroy it. (VMCJ-1 Command Diary for Nov 1952).
- 1 Dec KOREA---November's bad flying weather, which curtailed flying on twelve days, reduced the Navy and Marine airmen to a total of only 7,660 sorties during the month as compared with September's total of 9,438 and October's record 11,004. (U. S. Pac Flt Opns, Ch 2, Chron, Eval Rep No. 5, Interim 1 Jul 1952-31 Jan 1953, pp. 22-28).
- 3 Dec JAPAN---The 27th Replacement Draft arrived aboard the USNS General William Weigel (T-AP-199) at Kobe, Japan. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Dec 1952).
- 3 Dec KOREA---President-elect General Dwight D. Eisenhower, General of the Army Omar Bradley, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark W. Clark, Commander in Chief Far East, General James A. Van Fleet, Commanding General, EUSAK, Lieutenant General Paul W. Kendall, Commanding General I Corps, Major Charles Parsons (Retired), Special Assistant to the President-elect, and Mr. James J. Haggerty, Jr., presidential press secretary-designate, visited the 1st Marine Division Command Post and attended a briefing given by Major General Edwin A. Pollock, Commanding General, 1st Marine Division. (U. S. Pac Flt Opns, Ch 2, Chron, Eval Rep No. 5, Interim 1 Jul 1952-31 Jan 1953, p. 2-28).
- 10 Dec KOREA---The first enemy aircraft to be destroyed by a Marine aircraft through the use of lock-on-radar gear occurred when 1st Lieutenant J. A. Corvi and Master Sergeant D. R. George of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing's all-weather squadron shot down an enemy PO-2 over Korea. (VMF(N)-513 Command Diary for Dec 1952).
- 10 Dec KOREA---It was disclosed that armored shorts for the protection of infantrymen are being tested in combat by U. S. Marines in Korea. (1952 FOF, 395C).
- 11 Dec KOREA---A Marine F3D night interceptor destroyed a PO-2 Russian-built biplane similar to the ones used for propaganda leaflet drops. (U. S. Pac Flt Opns, Ch 2 Chron, Eval Rep No. 5, Interim 1 Jul 1952-31 Jan 1953, p. 2-29).
- 11 Dec CONUS---Brigadier General Dion Williams, 82, USMC (Retired), who as a lieutenant raised the U. S. flag at Manila Bay during Dewey's defeat of the Spanish in 1898, died at Bethesda, Maryland. (1952 FOF, 408B).
- 25 Dec KOREA---In a tragic case of improper combat identification, an F-51 of the South African Air Force was shot down by a flight of ADs from VMA-121. (U. S. Pac Flt Opns, Ch 2, Chron, Eval Rep No. 5, Interim 1 Jul 1952-31 Jan 1953, p. 2-30).
- 29 Dec KOREA---MTACS-2 was moved from the Marine Air Control Group 2 area at Pohang to the Air Support Section in the 1st Marine Division sector of responsibility. Hqsq MACG-2 assumed control of the Tactical Air Control Center on 28 Dec 1952. (MTACS-2 Hist Diary for Dec 1952).

1953

- 4 Jan KOREA---Major Deane M. Barnett was killed this date when his plane failed to pull out of a dive bombing run. His AD crashed and exploded upon impact. He was the first Marine aviation casualty in 1953. (VMA-121 Hist Diary for Jan 1953).
- 5 Jan JAPAN---The 28th Replacement Draft arrived at Itami AFB via rail from Yokosuka, Japan after disembarking from the USNS General M. C. Meigs. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Jan 1953).
- 7 Jan-20 May MEDITERRANEAN---The 2d Battalion, 8th Marines (Rein) left Morehead City, N. C., to become the landing force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. (USMC Cal Hist Events; "Mediterranean" - Subj File).

- 9 Jan CONUS---President Truman asked Congress for \$46,296,000,000 for military services in fiscal 1954, including \$11,986,000,000 for the Navy and Marine Corps. (1953 FOF, 11M,P).
- 13 Jan JAPAN---The first element of the 24th Return Draft departed Itami via rail from Yokohama to board the USS Cape Esperance. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Jan 1953).
- 16 Jan KOREA---U. S. war casualties in Korea totaled 128,971, including 22,735 dead since the outbreak of the conflict. (1953 FOF, 19C).
- 19 Jan HAWAII---The Headquarters Company, 1st Provisional Air/Ground Task Force was activated at Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. (Unit Diaries, Reel 94-53, RUC 1701).
- 23 Jan KOREA---The Army announced that Lieutenant General Maxwell D. Taylor would replace retiring General James A. Van Fleet as Commander of the Eighth Army in Korea as of 3 March. (1953 FOF, 26G).
- 12 Feb KOREA---The first casualties suffered by HMR-161 occurred when an HRS-1 crashed into the sea south of Pusan. The pilot, Captain Allen W. Ruggles, and Technical Sergeant Joe L. Brand, Jr., were missing and presumed dead. (Cav of the Sky, p. 213).
- 14 Feb CONUS---Mrs. Maybelle Cochrane Owen, the first woman to enlist in the U. S. Marine Corps (1918), died in New York. (1953 FOF, 64A).
- 16 Feb KOREA---Marine Captain Ted Williams, Boston Red Sox outfielder, crash-landed his jet fighter-bomber at a forward base after teaming in a massive Allied raid on North Korea. Williams was able to walk away from his wrecked Panther jet. (Washington Post, 16 Feb 1953).
- 26 Mar- KOREA---1st Marine Division troops defeated the Red Chinese in a battle for Vegas Hill
30 Mar on the western front. (1953 FOF, 99B).
- 28 Mar- KOREA---The Communists offered in the Korean truce talks to exchange sick and wounded
30 Mar prisoners immediately and turn POWs who did not want to be repatriated over to a neutral state while the question of repatriation was being debated. (1953 FOF, 97A-98E).
- 4 Apr KOREA---Marine engineers completed a 24-hour construction job on a processing center where prisoner patients returned by the Communists could be received near Munsan. (1953 FOF, 106K).
- 9 Apr KOREA---Marines lost and then regained possession of Carson Hill near Panmunjom. (1953 FOF, 114F).
- 11 Apr KOREA---Allied and Communist liaison chiefs signed an agreement on exchange of sick and wounded POWs at Panmunjom; later, prisoners were exchanged there also. (1953 FOF, 113A).
- 18 Apr CONUS---A nuclear device was set off atop a 300-foot tower at Yucca Flat, Nevada, the 6th in a series of 10 blasts. Two thousand Marines in full battle dress then advanced in the blast area. Two hundred landed by helicopter. Two Marine and six Army officers volunteered to endure the blast from positions in advance of the Marines' main trenches. (2-1/3 miles from the tower.) The Atomic Energy Commission refused to say exactly how far the volunteers were from ground zero. (1953 FOF, 125F).
- 20 Apr KOREA---The exchange of sick and wounded Korean POWs began at Panmunjom. (1953 FOF, 121A).
- 30 Apr CONUS---President Eisenhower submitted to Congress a Defense Department reorganization plan which will give the Secretary of Defense greater control over all areas of defense activity. (1953 FOF, 144A).
- 21 Apr- MEDITERRANEAN---The 2d Battalion, 6th Marines (Rein) left Morehead City, N. C. to become
26 Oct the landing force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 35; "Mediterranean" - Subj File).
- 29 Apr USMC---Colonel Katherine A. Towle, Director of Women Marines, became the first woman line officer to retire from U. S. military service on reaching the mandatory retirement age of 55. (Globe, 30 Apr 1953, p. 3).
- 1 May USMC---Lieutenant Colonel Julia E. Hamblet, 36, became the new Director of Women Marines, succeeding Colonel Katherine A. Towle. (1953 FOF, 145D).
- 1 May JAPAN---The 32d Replacement Draft arrived at Itami via rail from Kobe after disembarking from the USNS N. M. Walker (T-AP-125). (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for May 1953).
- 12 May KOREA---The withdrawal of the 1st Marine Division from the Korean battle line was announced. (1953 FOF, 149L).
- 12 May CONUS---President Eisenhower nominated Admiral Arthur W. Radford to succeed General of the Army Omar N. Bradley as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. (1953 FOF, 152A).

1953

- 19 May JAPAN---The 32d Pilot Replacement Draft of 45 officers and 7 enlisted men arrived at Itami AFB. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for May 1953).
- 20 May JAPAN---The 28th Return Draft departed Itami via rail for Yokohama to board the USNS General Mitchell. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for May 1953).
- 31 May JAPAN---VMA-332 arrived at Itami, Japan from MCAS Miami, Florida. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for May 1953).
- 1 Jun CONUS---Navy Secretary Robert B. Anderson testified that Navy and Marine planes had flown 37 percent of all UN air strikes in Korea. (1953 FOF, 108E).
- 3 Jun JAPAN---The 33d Replacement Draft arrived via rail from Kobe, Japan after disembarking from the USNS Meigs (T-AP-116). (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Jun 1953).
- 5 Jun USMC---Sixty-six graduates of a class of 913 at the U. S. Naval Academy accepted commissions in the U. S. Marine Corps. (MS - Acad Grads in USMC).
- 8 Jun KOREA---UN and Communist delegates signed an agreement on the exchange of prisoners. The Republic of Korea refused to accept the truce terms. (1953 FOF, 185C).
- 18 Jun KOREA---Marines helped stop anti-Red POWs from breaking out of a UN prison camp near Inchon. (1953 FOF, 201C).
- 20 Jun JAPAN---The 29th Return Draft departed via rail for Yokohama to board the USNS General Randall. (MWSS-1 Hist Diary for Jun 1953).
- 30 Jun USMC---The strength of the Marine Corps at this date was 249,219 men. ('57 Def Pol, 120).
- 11 Jul KOREA---President Syngman Rhee of South Korea agreed to an armistice on Allied terms. (1953 FOF, 229B1).
- 11 Jul USMC---Draft deferments based on fatherhood were discontinued. (1953 FOF, 234A1).
- 11 Jul KOREA---Major John F. Bolt became the first jet ace in the Marine Corps when he shot down his fifth and sixth MIGs over Korea. (Flight Jacket, 14 Aug 1953, p. 8.).
- 15 Jul CONUS---The Senate ratified an alteration in the North Atlantic Treaty by which U. S. troops overseas were to be tried in foreign civil courts for off-duty offenses. (1953 FOF, 249B2).
- 17 Jul CONUS---Four Marine crewmen and 38 ROTC college students died when a C-119 transport plane crashed near Milton, Florida. (1953 FOF, 244A1).
- 17 Jul FAR EAST---The 3d Marine Division was alerted to reinforce the UN command in the Far East. ("Operations," No. 9).
- 25 Jul FAR EAST---President Eisenhower announced that he was sending the U. S. 3d Marine Division, led by Major General Robert H. Pepper, to Mark W. Clark's Far East Command. Marine Aircraft Group 11 of the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing was to be sent also. (1953 FOF, 248A1).
- 27 Jul KOREA---An armistice was signed at Panmunjom to halt the Korean hostilities. (1953 FOF, 245B-F1).
- 29 Jul CONUS---Congress passed a \$34,371,541,000 defense appropriation for fiscal year 1954 which provided \$9,438,310,000 for the Navy. The Marine Corps received \$1,097,927,000 of the Navy appropriation. (1953 FOF, 248D3; H.R. Comm on Appropriations Hearings, "Department of the Navy Appropriations for 1954" (GPO, 1954), 94).
- 5 Aug KOREA---Secretary of State Dulles opened a four-day conference in Korea with ROK President Rhee on demands to be made of the Communists at the upcoming political conference on Korea. (1953 FOF, Dulles, 253G2-B3).
- 5 Aug KOREA---The exchange of Korean POWs began in Panmunjom. (1953 FOF, 253D-E1).
- 6 Aug CONUS---Marine Rifle Team #3, composed of Master Sergeant Robert A. Newton, Staff Sergeant Howard Hicks, Staff Sergeant Robert A. Blackett, and Sergeant Robert L. Arnaud, broke the former record of the National Rifle Association Regional High Power Championship Match with the high team score of 978 out of 1000. (Sentry, 13 Aug 1953).
- 6 Aug USMC---The Marine Corps extended its Korean tours of duty from 11 to 14 months. (1953 FOF, 271C1).
- 7 Aug CONUS---Staff Sergeant Barbara O. Barnwell, naval gunfire instructor at Fort Schuyler, N. Y., became the first woman Marine to win the Navy-Marine Corps Medal for Heroism. She saved a fellow Marine, Pfc. Frederick H. Roman, from drowning. (1953 FOF, 363E2).

- 13 Aug CONUS---Headquarters, 3d Marine Division, left Camp Pendleton for Japan. (Unit Diaries, RUC-1302, Aug 1953).
- 14 Aug- GREECE---Battalion Landing Team 2/6 (Rein), afloat with the Sixth Fleet, was employed in
19 Aug rescue and relief missions when an earthquake struck the Ionian Isles of Greece. (Globe, 12 Nov 1953, p. 3).
- 30 Aug FAR EAST---The last elements of the 3d Marine Division arrived in Japan to reinforce the UN command in the Far East. (USMC Cal Hist Events; "Deployments," No. 9, Subj File; Scout, 4 Sep 1953, p. 1).
- 6 Sep KOREA---The exchange of POWs willing to be repatriated was completed in Panmunjon. (1953 FOF, 294D3).
- 10 Sep EUROPE---U. S. Forces began participation in a series of NATO military maneuvers to continue in Western Europe until mid-October. (1953 FOF, 296B1).
- 10 Sep- MEDITERRANEAN---The 1st Battalion, 2d Marines (Rein) left Morehead City, N. C. to become
4 Feb the landing force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 64;
1954 "Mediterranean" - Subj File).
- 11 Sep FAR EAST---President Eisenhower named General John E. Hull to succeed retiring General Mark Clark as UN Commander in Korea and Chief of the U. S. Far East Command. (1953 FOF, 307E-F1).
- 30 Nov USMC---The strength of the U. S. Marine Corps as of this date was 251,770 men. (1953 FOF, 437C1).

1954

- 1 Jan USMC---Reserve Liaison and Training Activity was established at Quantico, Virginia. MAG-31 (Rein), 2d Division, and FMF ground units participated in LANTRAX-2-54 at Vieques Puerto Rico conducted to provide training in the technique of amphibious warfare. This operation was the second in a series of three. (Jet Stream, 26 Jun 1962, p. 2).
- 7 Jan- USMC---The 1st Battalion, 8th Marines (Rein) left Morehead City, N. C. to become the
26 May landing force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. (USMC Cal Hist Events; "Mediterranean" - Subj File).
- 15 Jan TAIWAN---Men of the 3d Battalion, 4th Marines served as guards on board ships carrying some 14,500 Chinese prisoners of war who had asked to become citizens of Nationalist China on Taiwan (Operation BIG COMEBACK). (Triad, 28 Jan 1954, p. 1; 18 Feb 1954, pp. 4-5, 8).
- 21 Jan KOREA---Twenty-seven Marines of Co H, 4th Marines and two naval hospital corpsmen were drowned in the icy waters off Inchon, South Korea. Their landing craft was rammed and sunk by a ship carrying 1,000 anti-Communist prisoners of war to Formosa. (Triad, 28 Jan 1954, p. 1 and 18 Feb 1954, p. 1).
- 13 Apr- SE ASIA---Pilots of Marine Attack Squadron 324, Marine Aircraft Group 12 ferried attack
12 May aircraft from on board the USS Saipan to the field at Tourane, Indochina and turned them over to the French forces. A maintenance detachment served ashore until 10 May. ("Operations," 13 Apr - 12 May 1954).
- 6 May- MEDITERRANEAN---The 1st Battalion, 6th Marines (Rein) left Morehead City, N. C. to become
3 Oct the landing force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 40; "Mediterranean" - Subj File).
- 8 May- WORLD---Geneva Conference with delegates from the United States, United Kingdom, Soviet
21 Jul Union, France, Communist China, Laos, Vietnam, and the Viet Minh met to discuss the problem of restoring peace to Indochina. Agreements were reached for ending hostilities in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. A final declaration was issued, noting these agreements, but it was not signed by the United States or the Vietnamese governments. (US in VN, p. 11).
- 31 May CONUS---President Eisenhower signed a bill establishing a permanent statutory career plan for warrant officers in the five armed services. (1954 FOF, 221C1).
- Jun CARIBBEAN---The 2d Battalion, 8th Marines on board the USS Mellett on Caribbean maneuvers remained afloat off Guatemala prepared to evacuate U. S. nationals and protect American property when Castillo Armas led an invasion from Honduras to overthrow the Communist-inclined Arbenz government. ("Operations," 7 Jun - 1 Jul 1954).
- 4 Jun USMC---Sixty-four graduates of a class of 843 at the U. S. Naval Academy accepted commissions in the U. S. Marine Corps. (MS - Acad Grads in USMC).

1954-1955

- 22 Jun CONUS---President Eisenhower signed an executive order authorizing the use of the first official seal for the Marine Corps. General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., who assisted in designing the seal, was in attendance. (ANAF Journal, 19 Jun 1954, pp. 265, 1285; 26 Jun 1954, pp. 1277 [picture], 1302).
- 30 Jun USMC---The strength of the Marine Corps at this date was 223,868 men. ('57 Def Pol, 120).
- Jul CENTRAL AMERICA---Units of the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing were ordered to stand by off Central America and be prepared to land security forces if necessary. ("Operations," no. 12).
- 12 Jul- JAPAN---The 3d Marine Division was placed in a 48-hour alert, prepared to move to the
17 Jul support of the French in Indochina. The alert was cancelled five days later. ("Deployments," no. 13, Subj File).
- 2 Aug VIETNAM---Lieutenant Colonel Victor J. Croizat, the first U. S. Marine assigned to the U. S. Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG), arrived in Vietnam. ("Croizat", Bioq File).
- 17 Aug- VIETNAM---The U. S. began the evacuation of nearly 200,000 refugees from the Hanoi and
18 Aug Haiphong areas to South Vietnam. (1954 FOF, 274F3).
- 5 Sep TURKEY---Exercise KEYSTONE, an amphibious assault landing by 1/6 (Rein) was carried out at Dikili, Turkey as part of joint NATO training. (Hist Dates - Subj File; Globe, 16 Sep 1954, p. 3).
- 8 Sep- MEDITERRANEAN---The 2d Battalion, 2d Marines (Rein) left Morehead City, N. C. to become
29 Jan the landing force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. ("Mediterranean" - Subj File;
1955 Globe, 9 Sep 1954, p. 1; 3 Feb 1955, p. 3).
- 4 Oct CONUS---Recruits of Platoon 348 landed on Coronado Beach, California from the Convair R3Y-2 (Flying LST) marking the first time the huge flying boat was used for beaching troops and equipment. (Hist Dates - Subj File).
- 11 Oct VIETNAM---The Communist Viet Minh regime formally took over control of Hanoi and North Vietnam. (US in VN, p. 12).
- 24 Oct VIETNAM---President Dwight D. Eisenhower, in a letter to Premier Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam, stated that American assistance would be given thereafter not through the French authorities, but directly to the government of South Vietnam. (US in VN, p. 12).
- 31 Oct USMC---The strength of the Marine Corps at this date was 221,352 men. (1954 FOF, 417A1).
- 10 Nov CONUS---The Iwo Jima statue executed by the sculptor Felix de Weldon was dedicated on the 179th Anniversary of the Marine Corps in Arlington, Virginia. The \$850,000 cost was defrayed by U. S. Marines, former Marines, Marine Corps reservists, and friends of the Marine Corps. ("Memorial - Iwo Jima" - Subj File).
- 24 Nov AUSTRALIA---General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., the 20th Commandant of the Marine Corps, dedicated the Memorial Gate of Camp Balcombe, Melbourne, Australia in commemoration of the close ties between the people of Australia and the United States Marine Corps. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 87; Gazette, Mar 1955, pp. 44-49, "Australia - Memorial Gates" - Subj File).
- Dec USMC---The title of sergeant major was created. It was to take precedence over the rank of first sergeant, which, in turn, was placed above master sergeant. (MCHRS #11 - USMC Ranks and Grades, p. 28).
- 20 Dec KOREA---Defense Secretary Charles E. Wilson announced that the 1st Marine Division would be returned to California from Korea. It will be replaced with an Army division now in Japan. (1954 FOF, 423B3).

1955

- 1 Jan VIETNAM---The U. S. began direct assistance to South Vietnam on the basis of the existing pentilateral agreement of 23 December 1950 for the support of the Vietnamese armed forces. (US in VN, p. 12).
- 7 Jan- MEDITERRANEAN---The 3d Battalion, 6th Marines (Rein) left Camp Lejeune, N. C. to become
26 May the landing force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. (USMC Cal Hist Events; "Mediterranean" - Subj File).

- 26 Jan- CARIBBEAN-CONUS---Elements from FMF Atlantic (RCT 8 (Rein), 3/10, MAG-32 (less VMF-122),
6 May detachments from the 2d Wing, and elements of the 2d Tank Battalion, 2d Shore Party Battalion, 2d and 8th Engineer Battalions, and the 2d 4.5-inch Rocket Battery took part in a joint Navy and Marine amphibious operation (TRAEX-2-55) at Vieques, Puerto Rico and Onslow, N. C. The operation was a simulated surprise raid to destroy guided missile launching sites. ("Operations" no. 3; Globe, 13 Jan 1955, p. 1; 18 Mar 1955, p. 3).
- 27 Jan- ALGERIA---Battalion Landing Team 3/6 participated in a training exercise at Algeria
3 Feb (MEDLANDEX). ("Operations," no. 6).
- 4 Feb HAWAII---The 4th Marines (Rein) arrived at its new duty station at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii after serving at Nara, Japan. (Triad, 27 Jan 1955, pp. 1, 8; 10 Feb 1955, pp. 1, 3).
- 3 Feb- OKINAWA---The 3d Engineer Battalion moved from Japan to its new duty station on Okinawa.
18 Feb (USMC Cal Hist Events, 16).
- 8 Feb VIETNAM---Elements of the 3d Marine Division and the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing assisted in the evacuation of some 300,000 refugees, 68,000 tons of cargo, and 8,000 vehicles from North to South Vietnam in the face of advancing Viet Minh forces after Premier Ngo Dinh Diem asked for an extension of the time limit for civilians to go from North to South Vietnam. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 18; 1955 FOF, 34F).
- 10 Feb- SARDINIA---Battalion Landing Team 3/6 participated in a training exercise (MEDLANDEX) at
13 Feb Porto Scudo, Sardinia. ("Operations," no. 10).
- 12 Feb VIETNAM---The U. S. Military Advisory Assistance Group (MAAG) took over the training of the South Vietnamese army, following the relinquishing of command authority by the French. (LC: VN Chron, p. 2).
- 19 Feb VIETNAM---The Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty (SEATO), with its protocol covering Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos, went into force. (US in VN, p. 12).
- 16 Mar- MEDITERRANEAN---Battalion Landing Team 3/6, serving with the U. S. Sixth Fleet in the
19 Mar Mediterranean took part in an amphibious assault exercise (MEDLANDEX) at Saros Gulf, Turkey. The assault was the 1st phase in NATO exercise RED TRIDENT I. (Globe, 4 Mar 1955, p. 1; 22 Apr 1955, p. 3; 27 May 1955, p. 3).
- 5 Apr CONUS---General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., CMC, told a Congressional subcommittee that a proposed cutback in strength from 215,000 to 193,000 men would not affect the Corps' basic striking forces but would affect some reinforcing combat and logistical units. (1955 FOF, 109G2).
- 12 May CONUS---The House of Representatives approved a cut in the Marine Corps strength from 215,000 to 193,000. (1955 FOF, 168G3, 169B1).
- 13 May- HAWAII---Regimental Combat Team 4, supported by Marine Aircraft Group 13, both from
31 May Kaneohe, Hawaii, conducted an airlift training exercise (AIRFEX) at Bellows, Hawaii. ("Operations," no. 29; Triad, 27 May 1955, pp. 4-5).
- 25 May KOREA---Final elements of the 1st Marine Division departed from Korea for Camp Pendleton, California. (1st Marine Division - Unit File; Scout, 16 Jun 1955, p. 1).
- 31 May CONUS---Marine Aircraft Group 33 returned from Korea to El Toro, California, for duty following five years in the Far East. (Flight Jacket, 3 Jun 1955, p. 1).
- 2 Jun OKINAWA---The 9th Marines (Rein) moved from Japan to Okinawa for duty. (Triad, 3 Jun 1955, pp. 1, 3).
- 3 Jun USMC---Fifty-six graduates of a class of 735 at the U. S. Naval Academy accepted commissions in the U. S. Marine Corps. (MS - Acad Grads in USMC).
- 7 Jun- JAPAN---Regimental Landing Team 3 participated in a training exercise (REX) at Fuji,
9 Jun Japan. (Triad, 10 Jun 1955, p. 1).
- 14 Jun- CONUS---Battalion Landing Team 2/6 conducted a training exercise (FEX) at Camp Lejeune,
16 Jun N. C. (Globe, 24 Jun 1955, p. 2).
- 20 Jun CONUS---U. S. Senate rejected a cut in strength of the Marine Corps and voted to keep strength at 215,000. (1955 FOF, 209C1-D1).
- 30 Jun CONUS---Congress passed a military appropriation bill with Marine Corps strength continued at 215,000. (1955 FOF, 224G2-A3).
- 30 Jun USMC---The strength of the Marine Corps at this date was 205,170 men. ('57 Def Pol 120).
- 1 Jul VIETNAM---The French formally relinquished command authority over the Vietnamese Navy. (LC: VN Chron, p. 3).

1955

- 1 Jul HAWAII---Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii became the permanent duty station of the 1st Provisional Marine Air/Ground Task Force composed of the 4th Marines (Rein) and MAG-13. (Globe, 15 Jul 1955, p. 11).
- 6 Jul- CONUS---Battalion Landing Team 2/2 took part in NARMID I-55 held at Little Creek, Virginia
20 Jul for the benefit of midshipmen of the Naval Academy and the Naval ROTC. (CMCRpt, 1955, pp.6-7; Globe, 8 Jul 1955, p. 1).
- 7 Jul FAR EAST---Red China announced an agreement for economic aid to North Vietnam. (1955 FOF, 232C1).
- 13 Jul- CONUS---Battalion Landing Team 3/2 with Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 261 carried out
14 Jul a training exercise (HELILEX) at Camp Lejeune, N. C. (Globe, 22 Jul 1955, p. 3).
- 18 Jul- JAPAN---Battalion Landing Team 2/3 supported by Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 162
23 Jul participated in a training exercise (NAVMARLEX 2B-55) there. ("Operations," no. 42; Triad, 5 Aug 1955, pp. 4-5).
- 18 Jul FAR EAST---The USSR announced an aid agreement with the North Vietnamese government. (US in VN, p. 14).
- 25 Jul- JAPAN---Battalion Landing Team 3/3 with Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 162 participated
30 Jul in a training exercise (NAVMARLEX 2C-55) there. ("Operations," no. 44; Triad, 5 Aug 1955, pp. 4-5).
- 10 Aug- CONUS---The 3d Marine Aircraft Wing moved from Miami, Florida, to El Toro, California
29 Aug for duty. (Flight Jacket, 26 Aug 1955, pp. 1, 8; 2 Sep 1955, p. 1).
- 13 Aug CONUS---President Eisenhower signed an executive order directing the Army and Marine Corps to begin enlistments under the Armed Forces Reserve Act of 1955. A six-month active duty training program was initiated under this act. (NY Times, 14 Aug 1955, pp. 1, 44).
- 18 Aug CONUS---Helicopters from HMR-261, -262, and Quantico, Virginia assisted in relief work and the evacuation of civilians in Connecticut and Pennsylvania following Hurricane Diane while Marine Reserve units assisted on the ground. (Triad, 23 Sep 1955, p. 2).
- 8 Sep PACIFIC---Lieutenant General William O. Brice assumed command of Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, the first aviator Commanding General in ten years. (Hist Dates - Subj File; Triad, 23 Sep 1955, pp. 1-2).
- 10 Sep USMC---Marine Corps team made a clean sweep of the National Trophy Rifle matches by winning the National Trophy, the Pershing Trophy, the Daniel Boone Trophy, the Rattlesnake Trophy, and the Infantry Trophy. (Triad, 23 Sep 1955, pp. 1, 3; 30 Sep 1955, p. 1).
- 16 Sep- HAWAII---Regimental Landing Team 3/4 from Kaneohe, Hawaii with Marine Light Helicopter
30 Sep Squadron 161 took part in an exercise (FEX) at Kawaiiloa, Hawaii to train in guerrilla warfare and mountain and night attack operations. (Triad, 23 Sep 1955, p. 3).
- 20 Sep CONUS---Some 600 Marines from the 2d Infantry Training Regiment at Camp Pendleton, helped battle fires in the Los Padres National Forest near Santa Barbara, California. (Scout, 20 Sep 1955, p. 1).
- 2 Oct- MEXICO---Helicopters of Marine Aircraft Group 26, Marine Transport Squadrons 153 and 252
13 Oct of Marine Aircraft Group 35, and certain specialists of the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing aided in rescue work at Tampico when the city was inundated by flood waters. (Windsock, 14 Oct 1955, pp. 1, 8; Globe, 28 Oct 1955, p. 3).
- 4 Oct- CONUS---The 11th Marines conducted a night firing exercise (FIREX) at 29 Palms,
13 Oct California. (Scout, 20 Oct 1955, pp.6-7).
- 17 Oct CONUS---President Eisenhower named Lieutenant General Randolph McCall Pate to succeed General Lemuel C. Shepherd as Marine Corps Commandant as of 1 January 1956. (1955 FOF, 344B2).
- 25 Oct CONUS---The 1st Marine Division was redesignated to 1st Marine Division (Rein) and joined all Force Troop units stationed at Camp Pendleton, California. (Scout, 27 Oct 1955, p. 1).
- 7 Nov- CONUS---The 1st Marine Division (-) supported by the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing (-) combined
18 Nov with naval personnel for participation in a major fleet training exercise (PACTRAEX 56L) at Camp Pendleton, California to provide specialized training for commands of the Pacific Fleet. Landings on 15 November were "opposed" by Force Troops Marines stationed at 29 Palms, California. (Scout, 9 Nov 1955, p. 2; Flight Jacket, 4 Nov 1955, pp. 1, 6; 18 Nov 1955, pp. 1, 3).

- 14 Nov USMC---Major General Vernon E. Megee was named Assistant Commandant and Chief of Staff of the Marine Corps effective in January 1956. (Flight Jacket, 18 Nov 1955, p. 1; 23 Nov 1955, p. 1).
- 18 Nov FRANCE---General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., 20th Commandant of the Marine Corps, dedicated the memorial at Belleau Wood in France, honoring the 4th Marine Brigade for World War I service in France. (NY Times, 19 Nov 1955, p. 3; 27 Nov 1955, Sec. 6, (Mag), p. 25).
- 2 Dec CONUS---Marine firefighters from Camp Lejeune and Camp Geiger assisted the Jacksonville, N. C. fire department in quelling a fire in downtown Jacksonville area. (Jacksonville Daily News, 6 Dec 1955; Globe, 9 Dec 1955, p. 3; 16 Dec 1955, p. 1).
- 4 Dec- OKINAWA---The 3d Marines (Rein), supported by Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 162,
6 Dec carried out Operation KIMMU, an amphibious assault on Kin and Yellow Beach 2, Okinawa. (Triad, 9 Dec 1955, p. 1; 23 Dec 1955, pp. 4-5).
- 25 Dec- CONUS---In close cooperation with the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce, Marine
27 Dec Transport Squadrons 152 and 352 from El Toro flew food, clothing, and medical supplies to flood-stricken areas of northern California. (Flight Jacket, 30 Dec 1955, pp. 1, 3).
- 31 Dec USMC---General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., retired as twentieth Commandant of the Marine Corps. (Commandants, p. 199).

1956

- 1 Jan USMC---Lieutenant General Randolph McCall Pate became the twenty-first Commandant of the Marine Corps with the rank of general. (Commandants, p. 201).
- 31 Jan HAWAII---Camp H. M. Smith, the permanent base of Headquarters, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, in Halawa Heights, Oahu, Hawaii, was dedicated. (Scout, 2 Feb 1956, p. 3).
- 6 Mar OKINAWA---The 3d Shore Party Battalion moved from Japan to Okinawa for duty. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 27; Unit Diaries).
- 14 Mar OKINAWA---The 3d Motor Transport Battalion moved from Japan to Okinawa for duty. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 30; Unit Diaries).
- 20 Mar- MEDITERRANEAN---The 2d Battalion, 8th Marines (Rein) left Camp Lejeune, N. C. to become
19 Oct the landing force for the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. (Globe, 23 Mar 1956, p. 1).
- 8 Apr CONUS---Six Marine recruits of Platoon 71, Company A, 3d Recruit Training Battalion at Parris Island, S. C. drowned in Ribbon Creek as a result of an unauthorized disciplinary measure ordered by SSgt Matthew C. McKeon. (MCHRS #8 - Recruit Depot, Parris Island, pp. 16-7).
- 28 Apr VIETNAM---The French Military High Command in Vietnam was dissolved. (LC: VN Chron, p. 5).
- 29 Apr OKINAWA---The 4th Battalion, 12th Marines, left Japan for duty on Okinawa. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 36; Triad, 11 May 1956, pp. 4-5).
- 1 May HAWAII---The 1st Provisional Marine Air/Ground Task Force, consisting of Regimental Combat Team 4 and Marine Aircraft Group 13 at Kaneohe, was redesignated the 1st Marine Brigade. (Globe, 4 May 1956, p. 3).
- 1 May USMC---By orders of the Commandant of the Marine Corps, separate recruit training commands were established at Parris Island and San Diego to be commanded by brigadier generals reporting directly to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. A new post, Inspector General of Recruit Training, was also established at HQMC. (MCHRS #8 - Recruit Depot, Parris Island, p. 17; NY Times, 2 May 1956, pp. 1, 18, 19).
- 14 May- CONUS---Regimental Combat Team 1 from Camp Pendleton, California, took part in FEX III,
18 May an atomic exercise at 29 Palms. (Scout, 24 May 1956, p. 3).
- 1 Jun USMC---Fifty-one graduates of a class of 675 at the U. S. Naval Academy accepted commissions in the U. S. Marine Corps. (MS - Acad Grads in USMC).
- 4 Jun- USMC---The Fleet Marine Force Organization and Composition Board, the Hogaboom Board,
1 Dec met at Quantico to recommend changes in the Fleet Marine Force. (Archives FMF Org and Comp Board Study).
- 30 Jun USMC---The strength of the Marine Corps at this date was 200,780; 17,809 officers and 182,971 enlisted men and women. ('57 Def Pol, 120).
- 5 Jul JAPAN---The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (-) moved from Korea to Japan for duty. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 51).

1956-1957

- 16 Jul- CONUS---SSgt Matthew C. McKeon was court-martialled at Parris Island, S. C. Drill
4 Aug instructor McKeon was acquitted of charges of manslaughter and oppression of troops
and found guilty of negligent homicide and drinking on duty. (MCHRS #8 - Recruit Depot,
Parris Island, 18).
- 25 Jul OKINAWA---The 3d Service Regiment moved from Japan to Okinawa for duty. (USMC Cal Hist
Events, 55; Triad, 27 Jul 1955, p. 1).
- 17 Aug USMC---The title of Marine Gunner was restored for qualified personnel appointed as non-
technical warrant officers. (MCHRS #11 - USMC Ranks and Grades, p. 10).
- 22 Aug MEDITERRANEAN---The 3d Battalion, 2d Marines (Rein) left Camp Lejeune, N. C. to become
the landing force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 60;
Globe, 17 Aug 1956, p. 1).
- 26 Sep- HAWAII---Elements of the 1st Marine Brigade from Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii supported by Marine
5 Oct Wing Service Group 37 and Marine Transport Squadrons 152 and 352 from El Toro, California,
carried out an air/landing exercise at Kaneohe Bay. ("Operations," no. 76; Flight Jacket,
28 Sep 1956, p. 1; 5 Oct 1956, p. 1).
- 29 Oct- CONUS---The 2d Marine Air/Ground Brigade which consisted of Regimental Landing Team 7,
9 Nov the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, and Marine Aircraft Groups 15 and 36 participated in
AGLEX 57E on board the USS Badoeng Straits and the USS Hornet in an exercise at Camp
Pendleton. ("Operations," no. 85; Flight Jacket, 26 Oct 1956, p. 1; 2 Nov 1956, p. 1;
9 Nov 1956, p. 1).
- 29 Oct- MOROCCO---Company E of the 2d Battalion, 2d Marines was flown to Port Lyautey, Morocco
30 Jan to reinforce the Marine Barracks at the Naval Air Station there when friction between
French and Moroccans threatened the security of the base. (Log, 5 Nov 1957).
- 30 Oct- SUEZ---Regimental Landing Team 2 (-) was on alert to reinforce the 3d Battalion, 2d
27 Nov Marines in the Mediterranean during the Suez crisis, but tensions abated and it did not
sail. The regiment returned to Camp Lejeune, N. C. ("Operations," no. 16).
- 1 Nov- EGYPT AND GAZA---Battalion Landing Team 3/2, the NELM battalion afloat with the Sixth
2 Nov Fleet, evacuated over 1,500 persons, mostly U. S. nationals, from Alexandria, Egypt,
and United Nations observer personnel from Gaza, Haifa. (Triad, 22 Nov 1956, p. 3;
Globe, 16 Nov 1956, pp. 1, 11; 30 Nov 1956, p. 7).
- 11 Nov- MOROCCO---Battalion Landing Team 3/3 from Okinawa departed for Port Lyautey, Morocco
7 Feb to reinforce the U. S. Naval Air Station there during the Suez crisis, but it was di-
1957 verted on a goodwill tour of the Far East when the crisis terminated. ("Operations,"
no. 90; Triad, 4 Jan 1957, pp. 1, 3).
- 27 Nov- CONUS---Regimental Landing Team 5 and a composite Marine aircraft group from Camp
7 Dec Pendleton and El Toro, California, respectively, took part in AGLEX 57G, a reconnaissance
in force featuring a night amphibious landing at Camp Pendleton. (Scout, 29 Nov 1956,
p. 1; 6 Dec 1956, p. 1; 13 Dec 1956, p. 6).

1957

- 9 Jan- MEDITERRANEAN---Battalion Landing Team 2/6 from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina was deployed
2 Jun as the Landing Force Mediterranean. (Globe, 7 Jun 1957, p. 1).
- 30 Jan- USMC---Company H, 3d Battalion, 6th Marines from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina was landed
17 May at Port Lyautey to relieve Company E, 2d Battalion, 2d Marines. (Log, 5 Nov 1957).
- 1 Feb CONUS---29 Palms activated as a Marine Corps Base under command of Brigadier General
Thomas G. McFarland. (Scout, 10 Jan 1957, p. 1; 7 Feb 1957, pp. 1, 5).
- 14 Feb INDONESIA---The 3d Marines supported by Marine Helicopter Transport Squadron 162, which
had completed PHIBLINK in the Philippines on 14 December, took up station 550 miles
northeast of Sumatra ready to intervene to protect U. S. nationals during the Indonesian
revolt. ("Operations," no. 19).
- 25 Feb- CARIBBEAN---Regimental Landing Team 8, supported by Marine Aircraft Groups 26 and 31,
17 May took part in TRAEX 1-57 at Vieques, Puerto Rico followed by participation in CARIBEX
with Army and Air Force units. (Globe, 15 Feb 1957, p. 1; 29 Mar 1957, p. 3; 5 Apr 1957,
p. 3).
- 13 Mar OKINAWA---The 1st Battalion, 12th Marines, moved from Japan to Okinawa for duty. (USMC
Cal Hist Events, 29).
- 17 Mar PHILIPPINES---Aircraft of Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 162 assisted in the evacuation
operations when an aircraft carrying Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay and twenty-
four others crashed on a flight from Cebu to Manila. (Unit File; Triad, 22 Mar 1957,
p. 1; 29 Mar 1957, p. 1).

- 12 Apr- TURKEY---Battalion Landing Team 2/6 took part in NATO exercise RED PIVOT at Saros Gulf,
14 Apr Turkey. (Globe, 3 May 1957, pp. 2, 6-7).
- 26 Apr- USMC---Company D, 2d Battalion, 2d Marines from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina was alerted
30 Apr for airlift to Amman, Jordan to protect American interests there but did not deploy.
("Operations," no. 35).
- 30 Apr- MEDITERRANEAN---Battalion Landing Team 1/2 from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina deployed as
1 Oct the Landing Force Mediterranean. (Globe, 12 Apr 1957, p. 11; 19 Apr 1957, p. 3; 3 May
1957, p. 1).
- 15 May- CONUS---The 4th Marine Provisional Exercise Brigade, composed of Battalion Landing Team
5 Jul 2/5, Marine Aircraft Group 26, and Marine Attack Squadron 223, took part in atomic
exercise Operation PLUMBBOB at Desert Rock, Nevada. ("Operations," no. 40; Scout, 5 Jul
1957, p. 5; 11 Jul 1957, p. 1).
- 18 May- MOROCCO---Company D, 2d Battalion, 2d Marines, was landed at Port Lyautey, Morocco, and
1 Oct relieved Company H, 3d Battalion, 6th Marines. (Unit Diaries, RUC 12123, for May 1957).
- 1 Jun SPAIN---Marine Barracks, Rota, Spain was activated with Lieutenant Colonel Roland E.
Geog File).
- 3 Jun- HAWAII---The 1st, 2d, and 3d Marine Aircraft Wings took part in Operation ALERT, an air
19 Jul defense exercise which included EVERSHPARP XVI, held at Kaneohe from 12 to 19 July.
("Operations," no. 43).
- 5 Jun USMC---Sixty-three graduates of a class of 836 at the U. S. Naval Academy accepted
commissions in the U. S. Marine Corps. (MS - Acad Grads in USMC).
- 19 Jun CONUS---The 1st Force Reconnaissance Company was established by redesignation of the 1st
Amphibious Reconnaissance Company at Camp Pendleton, California. (Unit Diaries, RUC
20350, for Jun 1957).
- 30 Jun USMC---The strength of the Marine Corps at this date was 200,861 men. ('57 Def Pol, 120).
- Jul USMC---A directed revision of the manpower program established on 31 December 1957 called
for a ceiling of 190,000 men and an end strength of 188,000 for the fiscal year 1958.
(CMCARpt, 1958, p. 13).
- 10 Jul USMC---A Marine guard consisting of 2 officers and 61 enlisted men was activated for duty
aboard the USS Ranger (CVA-64), the third of the Forrestal class carriers. ("Ships -
USS Ranger" - Subj File).
- 12 Jul- CONUS---The 1st Force Service Regiment (-), Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 362, and
23 Jul Marine Observation Squadron 6 took part in Operation WORKHORSE, a logistics exercise
at Camp Pendleton, California. (Scout, 1 Aug 1957, pp. 1, 5).
- 16 Jul CONUS---Major John H. Glenn, Jr. broke the transcontinental speed record by crossing
from Los Alamitos, California to Floyd Bennett Field, N. Y. in 3 hours and 23 minutes
in a Crusader aircraft. (NY Times, 17 Jul 1957, pp. 1, 5).
- 20 Aug MEDITERRANEAN---Headquarters, 6th Marines (Rein), HMR-261, and HMR-262 left Morehead
City, N. C. for duty with the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. (USMC Cal Hist Events,
60).
- 30 Aug- MEDITERRANEAN---The 6th Marines (Rein), less its Headquarters, left Morehead City, N.C.
18 Nov to serve with the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. The 1st Battalion, 6th Marines
remained with the Sixth Fleet until 6 February 1958. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 61;
"Mediterranean" - Subj File).
- 19 Sep ATLANTIC-MEDITERRANEAN---Regimental Landing Team 8, Marine Light Helicopter Squadrons
261 and 262, and Battalion Landing Team 1/2 took part in Operation STRIKEBACK, an
Atlantic and Mediterranean landing exercise. ("Operations," no. 64).
- 22 Sep- TURKEY---Regimental Landing Team 6, Marine Aircraft Group 26, Marine Fighter Squadron
28 Sep 312, and the 2d Amphibious Reconnaissance Company took part in Operation DEEPWATER, a
landing exercise at Saros Gulf, Turkey. (Globe, 13 Sep 1957, p. 1; 27 Sep 1957, p. 3;
4 Oct 1957, p. 1; 18 Oct 1957, pp. 2, 3, 11).
- 24 Sep OKINAWA---The 3d Tank Battalion moved from Japan to Okinawa for duty. (USMC Cal Hist
Events, 68; Unit Diaries, RUC 13501, Sep 1957).
- 16 Oct SPAIN---Marines of HMR(L)-262 from the USS Lake Champlain aided flood victims at
Valencia, Spain by helicopter evacuation and distribution of emergency supplies. (ANAF
Journal, 2 Nov 1957, p. 6).

1957-1958

- 1 Nov- PHILIPPINES---SEATO joint training exercise, PHIBLINK, held in the Philippines. (Triad,
11 Dec 11 Oct 1957, pp. 1, 3).
- 1 Dec USMC---The position of Assistant Commandant and Chief of Staff were divided into two
separate positions, both held by lieutenant generals. (MCHRS #25 - Hist MC Staff Org,
p. 31; ANAF Journal, 26 Oct 1957, p. 2).
- 8 Dec USMC---The 3d Marine Division was alerted for possible evacuation of U. S. nationals
from Indonesia. ("Operations," no. 85).
- 18 Dec- SE ASIA---The 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, composed of Regimental Landing Team 3 and
6 Jan Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 162 from Okinawa, was deployed to Indonesia to protect
U. S. interests there but did not land. ("Operations," no. 86).
- 26 Dec CEYLON---Twenty helicopters from Marine Helicopter Transport Squadron 162, originally
earmarked for possible deployment to Indonesia, were rushed to Ceylon on board the USS
Princeton to assist flood victims. ("Operations," 26 Dec 1957, no. 87; 1957 FOF, 419E2).
- 31 Dec JAPAN---The only USMC Air Facility in operation in the Western Pacific area was estab-
lished as the Marines assumed command of Naval Air Station Iwakuni. (Flight Jacket, 10
Jan 1958, p. 1).

1958

- Jan CEYLON---Marine helicopter pilots from the USS Princeton delivered food and medical
supplies to victims of floods which struck the area around Ceylon. ("The U. S. Marine
Corps in 1958," p. 4; Flight Jacket, 17 Jan 1958, p. 1; Windsock, 17 Jan 1958, p. 2).
- 10 Jan- MEDITERRANEAN---Battalion Landing Team 1/8 from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina was deployed
5 Oct with the Sixth Fleet as Landing Force Mediterranean. (Globe, 2 Jan 1958, p. 1; 9 Jan
1958, p. 1).
- 13 Jan- USMC---Regimental Landing Team 7 from Camp Pendleton, California and Marine Aircraft
24 Jan Group 15 from El Toro participated in PHIBLEX 58-1. (Scout, 16 Jan 1958, p. 1).
- 16 Jan OKINAWA---The 3d Anti-Tank Battalion, equipped with Ontos, was activated at Camp Hansen,
Okinawa. (Triad, 7 Feb 1958, p. 1).
- 21 Jan- VENEZUELA---When mob violence erupted in Caracas, Venezuela during the overthrow of
28 Jan Dictator Perez Jimenez, a provisional company from Marine Barracks, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
was embarked on board the USS Des Moines prepared to protect American interests there.
The troops remained on station off Venezuela but did not land. ("Operations," No. 6).
- 25 Jan OKINAWA---Brigadier General Charles H. Hayes, Commanding General of the 1st Marine
Aircraft Wing, broke ground to begin construction of Camp Futema, the new base for men
and helicopters of Marine Aircraft Group 16, which at the time was based at the Naval
Air Facility, Oppama, Japan. (Triad, 31 Jan 1958, p. 1).
- 28 Jan- CARIBBEAN---Regimental Landing Team 2 and Marine Aircraft Group 24 (-) from Camp Lejeune
17 Mar and Cherry Point, North Carolina, respectively, took part in PHIBTRAEX 1-58 at Vieques.
(Windsock, 10 Jan-21 Mar 1958, passim; Globe, 9 Jan-27 Mar 1958, passim).
- 3 Feb HAWAII---The 4th Marines (Rein), supported by helicopters of Marine Helicopter Squadron
161 and FJ-4 Furies of Marine Fighter Squadron 232, took part in a week-long field
exercise, highlighted by a night airlift operation, in the Kahuku area on the northern
shore of Oahu, Hawaii. (Windward Marine, 14 Feb 1958, p. 1).
- 11 Feb- PHILIPPINES---Regimental Landing Team 3, supported by Marine Aircraft Group 16, with
13 Mar the 3d Battalion, 1st Marines acting as aggressor, took part in PHIBLEX 58M, STRONGBACK
in the Philippines. (Triad, 21 Feb 1958, p. 1; 28 Feb 1958, pp. 1, 4-5; 14 Mar 1958,
passim; Scout, 23 Jan 1958, p. 1).
- 14 Feb CONUS---The 6th Truck Company, USMCR, from Scranton, Pennsylvania assisted in the rescue
of people stranded by a severe blizzard on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. (Log 1 Jun 1960).
- 9 Mar- INDONESIA---Company C, 1st Battalion, 3d Marines supported by Marine Attack Squadron 332
30 Mar and Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 163 and a detachment of VMO-2 deployed with elements
of the Seventh Fleet off Indonesia prepared to protect United States citizens and
interests. ("Operations," no. 18).
- 13 Mar- CONUS---The 2d Marine Division and the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing from Camp Lejeune and
30 Mar Cherry Point, respectively, took part in PHIBEX 1-58 at Onslow Beach. (Globe, 13 Mar
1958, p. 1; 20 Mar 1958, pp. 6-7; 27 Mar 1958, p. 1; 3 Apr 1958, p. 1).

- 1 Apr- USMC---General Randolph McCall Pate, CMC, ordered a streamlining program for the 2d and
30 Sep 3d Marine Divisions, the 1st and 2d Marine Aircraft Wings, and the 1st Marine Brigade. This reorganization created faster, lighter, and more mobile combat units equipped to carry out modern amphibious operations. (Gazette, v. 42, no. 4 (Apr 1958), p. 30).
- 10 Apr- HAWAII---Regimental Landing Team 4 from Kaneohe carried out an anti-guerrilla field
12 Apr exercise at Kahuku training areas. (Windward Marine, 4 Apr 1958, p. 1).
- 13 Apr- CONUS---The 10th Marines (Rein) from Camp Lejeune, N. C. participated in FIREX and FEX
27 Apr at Fort Bragg, N. C. (Globe, 24 Apr 1958, p. 3; 8 May 1958, pp. 6-7).
- 21 Apr- CONUS---The 1st Marine Division from Camp Pendleton, California took part in Operation
25 Apr DRY BEACH, a fleet exercise, at Pendleton. (Scout, 17 Apr 1958, p. 1; 24 Apr 1958, pp. 1-2; 1 May 1958, pp. 1, 6).
- 23 Apr USMC---General Randolph McCall Pate, CMC, ordered the formation of 12 Marine air reserve
helicopter squadrons to enable large ground and air reserve units to train in the new vertical assault combat doctrine of the regular corps. (MC Res Hist, p. 200).
- 25 Apr CONUS---Company M, 3d Battalion, 2d Marines from Camp Lejeune, N. C. fought grass and
forest fires which burned almost 10,000 acres in Hyde County, N. C. (Globe, 1 May 1958, p. 1).
- 1 May- MEDITERRANEAN---Battalion Landing Team 2/2 (Rein) and Marine Light Helicopter Squadron
17 Oct 262 from Camp Lejeune, N. C. were deployed as Landing Force Mediterranean. (Globe, 1 May 1958, p. 1; Windsock, 2 May 1958, p. 1).
- 7 May- KOREA---Marine Aircraft Group 11 from Japan took part in MARLEX 1-58, part of Operation
9 May HAPPY LION. ("Operations," no. 33)
- 13 May VENEZUELA---The 1st Battalion, 6th Marines (Rein) and elements of MAG-26 and -35 deployed
with a naval task force off Venezuela to protect Vice-President Richard M. Nixon and party. (Windsock, 16 May 1958, p. 1; Globe, 22 May 1958, p. 1).
- 14 May MEDITERRANEAN---At the time of the scheduled relief of the 1st Battalion, 8th Marines
as Landing Force Mediterranean by the 2d Battalion, 2d Marines, the political situation in Lebanon had so deteriorated that it was decided to retain both battalions in the area. (CMCARpt, 1958, p. 10).
- 1 Jun CONUS---The 2d Force Reconnaissance Company was established at Camp Lejeune, N. C. by
redesignation of the 2d Amphibious Reconnaissance Company. (Unit Diaries).
- 4 Jun USMC---Seventy-one graduates of a class of 883 at the U. S. Naval Academy accepted
commissions in the U. S. Marine Corps. (MS - Acad Grads in USMC).
- 16 Jun- OKINAWA---Regimental Landing Team 3 and Marine Aircraft Group 16 from Okinawa partici-
20 Jun pated in readiness exercise OP HABU II. (Triad, 20 Jun 1958, pp. 1, 3; 3 Jul 1958, pp. 1, 5).
- 26 Jun- MEDITERRANEAN---Battalion Landing Team 3/6 (Rein) and a detachment from Marine Light
15 Dec Helicopter Squadron 262 from Camp Lejeune and New River, North Carolina, respectively, were deployed as the Landing Force Mediterranean. ("Operations," no. 49; "Mediterranean" - Subj File; Globe, 26 Jun 1958, p. 1).
- 27 Jun- CUBA---Sailors and Marines returning from liberty inside Cuba were kidnapped by Cuban
18 Jul rebel forces headed by Raul Castro, brother of Fidel, and detained in the hills as hostages until released. (Varner and Koze, pp. 59-60).
- 30 Jun USMC---Reorganization of the 1st Marine Division and the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing as part
of the Fleet Marine Force was completed. (1st Marine Division - Unit File).
- 30 Jun USMC---The strength of the Marine Corps at this date was 189,495 men. ('58 Def Pol, 123).
- 1 Jul CONUS---The Miami Marine Corps Air Station was closed. (Windsock, 11 Jul 1958, p. 8).
- 8 Jul- CARIBBEAN---Marine Attack Squadron 533 from Cherry Point, North Carolina was deployed
7 Aug to Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico as a Caribbean standby. ("Operations," no. 5; Windsock, 4 Jul 1958, p. 1).
- 12 Jul CONUS---Some 1,500 1st Marine Division and Marine Corps Base troops from Camp Pendleton,
California, joined Forest Service personnel in fighting brush fires in the Cleveland National Forest of California. (Scout, 17 Jul 1958, p. 1).
- 14 Jul LEBANON---President Chamoun of Lebanon appealed to the United States and Great Britain
to intervene within 48 hours to stop Syrian infiltration and to prevent internal strife between Christians and Moslems. (MCHRP - Marines in Lebanon, 1958, p. 6).

1958

- 14 Jul MEDITERRANEAN---President Eisenhower ordered into Lebanon three reinforced battalions from the 2d Marine Division which were afloat in the Mediterranean with the U. S. Sixth Fleet. (MCHRP - Marines in Lebanon, 1958, pp. 6-7).
- 15 Jul LEBANON---Marines of 2/2 landed at Beirut, Lebanon. (MCHRP - Marines in Lebanon 1958, p. 12).
- 15 Jul LEBANON---Brigadier General Sydney S. Wade, USMC, assumed the title of Commander, American Land Forces, and remained such throughout the initial phases of the operation. (Wade, p. 15).
- 15 Jul LEBANON---The airlift of the 2/8 began from Cherry Point, N. C. to Lebanon. Eight hundred men were airlifted in 26 transports in a total time of 54 hours. (MCHRP - Marines in Lebanon, 1958, p. 25).
- 15 Jul CONUS---The 2d Marine Division (-) from Camp Lejeune, N. C. was alerted for movement to Lebanon but did not deploy. (MCHRP - Marines in Lebanon 1958, p. 24).
- 16 Jul LEBANON---The 3d Battalion, 6th Marines went ashore at Beirut, Lebanon. (MCHRP - Marines in Lebanon 1958, p. 18).
- 18 Jul LEBANON---Battalion Landing Team 1/8 landed in Beirut. (MCHRP - Marines in Lebanon 1958, p. 23).
- 19 Jul LEBANON---A reinforcing Army element, the 24th Airborne Brigade under the command of Brigadier General Gray, USA, completed landing in Lebanon via air. (Wade, p. 15).
- 19 Jul-15 Aug LEBANON---Landing Team 2/8 (-) and Marine Transport Squadron 252 from Camp Lejeune and Cherry Point, N. C., respectively, landed in Lebanon to support the government. (MCHRP - Marines in Lebanon 1958, pp. 25, 50).
- 21 Jul LEBANON---Battalion Landing Team 3/3 from Okinawa was deployed to Lebanon but did not land. (MCHRP - Marines in Lebanon, 1958, pp. 25, 50).
- 26 Jul LEBANON---Brigadier General Sydney S. Wade was relieved as Commander American Land Forces in Lebanon by Major General Adams, USA. (MCHRP - Marines in Lebanon, 1958, p. 28).
- 29 Jul LEBANON---The 29th Airborne Brigade relieved BLT 3/6 at Beirut International Airport. BLT 3/6 was redeployed in Beirut to the southern flank of 1/8. (MCHRP - Marines in Lebanon, 1958, p. 29).
- 14 Aug LEBANON---Following a relaxation of tension in the Middle East, the 2d Battalion, 2d Marines was withdrawn from the country but remained in the Mediterranean to reconstitute the amphibious striking power of the Sixth Fleet until it could be relieved by a regimental landing team. (MCHRP - Marines in Lebanon, 1958, p. 34).
- 23 Aug-13 Sep SCOTLAND---A special detachment of 150 Marines participated in the annual Edinburgh Tattoo, a military ceremony held in Edinburgh. The detachment included the Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps from Washington, D. C., a band from the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C., and a special ceremonial troop unit. (Scrapbook, Edinburgh Tattoo, 1958, HRB, HistDiv, HQMC; Gazette, Nov 1968, pp. 55-6).
- 2 Sep-14 Sep CONUS---Regimental Landing Teams 1 and 5, 3d Battalion, 7th Marines, and Marine Aircraft Groups 33 and 36 took part in PHIBLEX 2-59 (Operation DOUBLE HAT) at Camp Pendleton, California. (Scout, 4 Sep 1958, p. 1; 11 Sep 1958, pp. 1, 6; 18 Sep 1958, pp. 1, 4, 5).
- 5 Sep USMC---The Memorandum of Understanding between the Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Corps was published as an order. The memorandum pertains to Navy and Marine Corps participation in the joint staff of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense. (MCHRS #25 - Hist MC Staff Org, 31).
- 8 Sep TAIWAN---Marine Aircraft Group 11 from Japan established its command post on Taiwan. The group was moved there to reinforce the island's air defenses after Chinese Communists began a bombardment of the islands of Quemoy and Little Quemoy in Amoy Harbor. (CMCARpt, FY 1959, pp. 7-8).
- 10 Sep LEBANON---A joint Marine-Army amphibious exercise was held near J'Bail, Lebanon, 20 miles north of Beirut. The landing was on a small scale, involving a reinforced Marine rifle company in amphibious assault and a helicopter-borne company from the Airborne Battle Group, utilizing both Army and Marine helicopters. (MCHRP - Marines in Lebanon, 1958, p. 35; Wade, p. 18).
- 10 Sep-17 Dec MEDITERRANEAN---Headquarters, 6th Marines (Rein) and 2/6 (Rein) from Camp Lejeune, N.C. were deployed as part of the landing force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean in LANFORMED. (Globe, 18 Sep 1958, p. 1).

- 12 Sep- JAPAN-TAIWAN---Marine Aircraft Group 13 (-) from the Naval Air Station, Kaneohe Bay,
8 Oct Hawaii was deployed to the Naval Air Station, Atsugi, Japan to replace Marine Aircraft Group 11 which had been transferred to Taiwan. (CMCARpt, 1959, pp. 7-8; Windward Marine, 19 Sep 1958, p. 1; 3 Oct 1958, p. 1; 10 Oct 1958, p. 4).
- 14 Sep- HAWAII---The 1st Marine Brigade from Kaneohe participated in PHIBLEX 5-59 (Operation
13 Oct CLEAR RIDGE) at Pohakuloa. ("Operations," no. 73; Windward Marine, 19 Sep 1958, pp. 1, 3, 4).
- 15 Sep LEBANON---The 1st and 2d Battalions, 8th Marines were withdrawn from Lebanon and returned to the U. S. (MCHRP - Marines in Lebanon, 1958, p. 35).
- 29 Sep LEBANON---RLT-6, composed of BLT 2/6 and a regimental headquarters staff, arrived in Beirut, Lebanon on board the ships of TransPhibRon 8. (MCHRP - Marines in Lebanon, p. 35).
- 30 Sep MEDITERRANEAN---The last Marine of BLT 3/6 boarded ship and the RLT staff completed the relief of Brigadier General Wade's staff, allowing the Marines to return home after almost three-month Mediterranean tour. (MCHRP - Marines in Lebanon, 1958, p. 35).
- 9 Oct OKINAWA---The 9th Motor Transport Battalion, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, left Camp Pendleton, California for duty with the 3d Marine Division on Okinawa. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 71; Triad, 21 Nov 1958, p. 1).
- 13 Oct USMC---Two Marine jet fighter attack squadrons of Marine Aircraft Group 13 (VMAs 212 and 214), in a demonstration of readiness, mobility, and range capability, flew 4800 miles from Hawaii to Japan on the first trans-Pacific crossing of Navy and Marine fighter aircraft in squadron strength. (Windward Marine, 3 Oct 1958, p. 1; Flight Jacket, 17 Oct 1958, p. 1).
- 18 Oct LEBANON---RLT-6 departed Lebanon. (MCHRP - Marines in Lebanon, p. 35).
- 15 Oct- CONUS---Marine Attack Squadron 211 from Edenton, North Carolina, was deployed to El Toro,
3 Nov California for duty. (Unit Diaries).
- 30 Oct- CUBA---Marine Fighter Squadron 122 from Beaufort, S. C. was deployed to the Naval Air
6 Dec Station, Leeward Point, Cuba. (Unit Diaries).
- 10 Nov USMC---The first permanent Marine aviation detachment afloat was activated on board the USS Boxer (LPH) at Norfolk, Virginia to provide supply, maintenance, and flight deck control to Marine helicopter squadrons and troops assigned to the Boxer. (Flight Jacket, 14 Nov 1958, p. 1).
- 25 Nov USMC---The Commandant of the Marine Corps ordered changes in enlisted grade structure to be effective 1 Jan 1959. Ranks of corporal through master sergeant were upgraded one pay grade each which made room for an additional private rank. (MCO 1223,1, dtd 25 Nov 1958; MCHRS #11 - USMC Ranks and Grades. 29-30).
- 2 Dec- CONUS---Regimental Landing Team 5 from Camp Pendleton, California, and Marine Light
5 Dec Helicopter Squadron 362 from Santa Ana took part in HELILEX 5A-59 at Camp Pendleton. (Scout, 4 Dec 1958, p. 1; 18 Dec 1958, pp. 1, 6).
- 2 Dec CONUS---Some 650 Camp Pendleton Marines of the 2d Infantry Training Regiment assisted fire department and forestry service personnel in fighting a forest fire in the Malibu area of California. (Scout, 11 Dec 1958, p. 1).
- 6 Dec CONUS---Some 64 Marines of the 3d Battalion, 8th Marines joined state forestry service personnel and civilian volunteers in fighting a 3,000-acre forest fire near Pungo Lake, North Carolina. (Globe, 18 Dec 1958, p. 3).
- 9 Dec- OKINAWA---The 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, composed of Regimental Landing Team 3 and
19 Dec Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 162 from Okinawa, participated in EX PHIBLINK. ("Operations," no. 91).
- 14 Dec CONUS---About 700 Marines from the 2d Infantry Training Regiment at Camp Pendleton, California assisted local firemen and forestry personnel in fighting a brush fire in the San Juan Capistrano area of California. (Scout, 24 Dec 1958, p. 1).
- 30 Dec USMC---Marine Corps strength at this date was 187,741 men. ('58 Def Pol, 73).

1959

- 1 Jan CONUS---Marines from the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines and the 1st Force Service Regiment at Camp Pendleton assisted civilian fire fighters in putting out forest fires in the Topanga Canyon area about 10 miles north of Santa Monica, California. (Scout, 8 Jan 1959, p. 1).

1959

- 1 Jan CONUS---The Marine Corps Auxiliary Air Station, Edenton, N. C. was deactivated. (Flight Jacket, 31 Oct 1958, p. 1).
- 1 Jan CUBA---When Cuban territory was declared off limits to U. S. servicemen and civilians, the security of the fenceline enclosing the U. S. Naval Station was emphasized, Marine security guard posts were increased, and refined security measures were enforced. (Varner and Koze, p. 60).
- 1 Jan USMC---In a Marine Corps reorganization of grade structure, the title of lance corporal was made a permanent rank. In addition, the ranks of Gunnery Sergeant and Master Gunnery Sergeant were revived. (MCHRS #11 - USMC Ranks and Grades, p. 30).
- 10 Jan CONUS---Vincent Air Force Base, Yuma, Arizona was transferred to the Navy and redesignated Marine Corps Auxiliary Air Station, Yuma, Arizona with the mission of serving as a tactical training base for squadrons of the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing from El Toro, California. (Flight Jacket, 9 Jan 1959, p. 1; 16 Jan 1959, p. 12).
- 11 Jan- JAPAN---Battalion Landing Team 2/3 supported by Marine Aircraft Group 13, Marine Light
26 Jan Helicopter Squadron 163, and 3d Tank Battalion from Okinawa participated in PHIBLEX 6-59B, part of Operation FRIGID, at Fuji, Japan. (Triad, 30 Jan 1959, pp. 1, 4-5).
- 27 Jan- JAPAN---Battalion Landing Team 1/2 from Okinawa took part in Operation FRIGID II at
10 Feb Fuji, Japan. (Triad, 13 Feb 1959, pp. 4-5).
- 27 Jan CARIBBEAN---Navy Fast Landing Force (8th Provisional Marine Brigade) landed from heli-
copters in exercises at Vieques, Puerto Rico. (Globe, 12 Feb 1959, p. 6).
- 2 Feb- CONUS---The 9th Provisional Marine Brigade consisting of Regimental Landing Team 5,
13 Feb Battalion Landing Team 3/7, and Marine Aircraft Groups 15 and 36 took part in PHIBLEX 12-59 at Camp Pendleton, California. (Flight Jacket, 30 Jan 1959, pp. 1, 10; 13 Feb 1959, pp. 1, 10; Scout, 29 Jan 1959, p. 1; 5 Feb 1959, pp. 1, 2; 12 Feb 1959, pp. 1, 2, 6, 7; 19 Feb 1959, pp. 2, 6-7).
- 12 Feb CARIBBEAN---The Marine Corps training camp at Vieques, Puerto Rico was named for Private
First Class Fernando Luis Garcia, USMC, a Puerto Rican-born Medal of Honor winner. (Globe, 12 Feb 1959, p. 7).
- 25 Feb- MEDITERRANEAN---Battalion Landing Team 3/2 (Rein) from Camp Lejeune, N. C. was deployed
23 Aug with the Sixth Fleet as Landing Force Mediterranean. (Globe, 20 Aug 1959, p. 1; 27 Aug 1959, p. 1).
- 3 Mar- CARIBBEAN-CONUS---BRIGALEX 2-59, the second in a series of three amphibious landing
30 Apr exercises with Amphibious Squadron 10, scheduled to end in mid-June, featured an assault by the 10th Provisional Marine Brigade on Vieques, Puerto Rico, followed by a landing of 8th Provisional Marine Brigade troops across Onslow Beach, N.C. (Globe, 5 Mar 1959, p. 1; 12 Mar 1959, p. 1; 26 Mar 1959, p. 1).
- 17 Mar USMC---The 1st Battalion, 1st Marines (Rein), left Camp Pendleton, California, as the
first infantry battalion to replace a similar battalion of the 3d Marine Division on Okinawa. This was for a one-year tour of duty. This was the start of the transplacement program which continued until Vietnam. (Scout, 19 Mar 1959, p. 6; Flight Jacket, 5 Dec 1958, p. 3).
- 1 Apr- CONUS---The 1st Marine Brigade, Kaneohe, Hawaii and a detachment from the 1st Marine
10 Apr Division, Camp Pendleton, California, participated in PHIBLEX 15-59 at Camp Pendleton as part of Operation BIG LAND. (Scout, 29 Mar 1959, pp. 2, 11; 2 Apr 1959, p. 1; 9 Apr 1959, pp. 1, 2; 16 Apr 1959, p. 3; Windward Marine, 6 Mar 1959, pp. 1, 4; 13 Mar 1959, pp. 1, 5; 27 Mar 1959, p. 3; 10 Apr 1959, p. 1).
- 7 Apr- CONUS---Force Troops, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, reinforced by units from the 2d
24 Apr Marine Division from Camp Lejeune, N. C. and Marine Helicopter Squadron 162 of the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, Cherry Point, N. C. participated in TRALEX 2-59 at Onslow Beach to train Fleet and Marine units in amphibious operations with the emphasis on heavy combat and combat service support to a Marine air/ground task force by Force Troops units. (Globe, 9 Apr 1959, p. 1; 23 Apr 1959, p. 3).
- 10 Apr USMC---Lieutenant Colonel John H. Glenn, Jr., was one of the first seven pilots selected
for space training. (Scout, 16 Apr 1959, pp. 1, 2; Globe, 16 Apr 1959, p. 3; Flight Jacket, 17 Apr 1959, pp. 1, 2).
- 13 Apr- MEDITERRANEAN---Marine Attack Squadron 225 from Cherry Point, N. C. was deployed with the
26 Apr Sixth Fleet as Landing Force Mediterranean on board the USS Essex as part of LANFORMED.
1960 ("Operations," no. 28; Unit Diaries).
- 14 Apr- CARIBBEAN---The 12th Provisional Marine Brigade from Camp Lejeune, N. C. staged air-
4 Jun amphibious assaults during BRIGALEX 3-59, the third and final exercise of the BRIGALEX series, at Vieques, Puerto Rico and over Onslow Beach, N. C. (Globe, 21 May 1959, p. 2; 4 Jun 1959, p. 1).

- 18 Apr- KOREA---The 3d Marine Expeditionary Force composed of Regimental Landing Team 3, Marine
9 May Aircraft Group 12, and Korean Marine Corps Regimental Landing Team 2 from Okinawa and
Japan carried out PHIBLEX 13-59, a part of Operation SEATURTLE in Korea. (Triad, 1 May
1959, p. 1; 8 May 1959, p. 5).
- 4 May USMC---Two Marine Corps A4D-2 "Skyhawk" jet attack bombers of 2d MAW flew non-stop
2270 miles from Argentia, Newfoundland, to Rota, Spain. The flight was the first of
single-engine jets to cross the ocean using the "buddy system" of in-flight refueling.
(Windward Marine, 15 May 1959, p. 3; Triad, 22 May 1959, p. 3).
- 8 May CONUS---Elements of the 8th Marines from Camp Lejeune, N. C. responded to a call for
assistance from the North Carolina Forest Service in extinguishing a forest fire in
Camden County, N. C. (Globe, 14 May 1959, p. 1).
- 18 May- CONUS---The 1st Marine Expeditionary Force consisting of the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing
12 Jun and the 1st Marine Division from El Toro and Camp Pendleton, California, carried out
PHIBLEX 17-59 at Camp Pendleton, a part of Operation TWIN PEAKS. (Scout, 21 May 1959,
p. 2; 28 May 1959, p. 7; 4 Jun 1959, pp. 1, 5-8, 12).
- 18 May- INDONESIA---Regimental Landing Team 9 consisting of Battalion Landing Team 1/1, 1st Force
12 Jun Service Regiment elements, Marine Aircraft Group 16(-), and Marine Light Helicopter
Squadron 362 from Okinawa and Japan participated in a PHIBLEX in British North Borneo
as part of Operation SADDLE UP. (Triad, 5 Jun 1959, p. 1; 3 Jul 1959, pp. 4-5;
Leatherneck, Sep 1959, pp. 64-65).
- 19 May- USMC---Battalion Landing Team 1/2, supported by Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 262,
4 Jun was alerted for movement to Berlin but did not deploy. ("Operations," no. 37).
- 25 May- CONUS---The Junior and Senior School from Quantico, Virginia carried out training exer-
29 May cise PACKARD at Onslow Beach, N.C. (Globe, 7 May 1959, p. 2).
- 2 Jun CONUS---The 2d Battalion, 6th Marines (Rein), boarded ship at Morehead City, N.C. for a
two-month cruise (Operation INLAND SEAS) through the newly opened St. Lawrence Seaway
and on the Great Lakes. (Leatherneck, Sep 1959, pp. 64-65).
- 3 Jun OKINAWA---The 2d Battalion, 1st Marines (Rein) left Camp Pendleton, California to become
the transplacement element of the 3d Marine Division on Okinawa. (Scout, 4 Jun 1959,
p. 2; 11 Jun 1959, p. 7; Triad, 19 Jun 1959, p. 1).
- 3 Jun USMC---Sixty graduates of a class of 803 at the U. S. Naval Academy accepted commissions
in the U. S. Marine Corps. Also seven graduates of the U. S. Military Academy and one
from the Air Force Academy became Marine Corps officers. This was the first time that
all three Academies furnished graduates to the Marine Corps. (MS - Acad Grads in USMC;
Scout, 25 Jun 1959, p. 7).
- 14 Jun CONUS---More than 100 Marines from the 2d and 6th Marines, joined by North Carolina
Forestry personnel, battled a fire which burned over 700 acres of Camp Lejeune's forests.
(Globe, 18 Jun 1959, p. 1).
- 20 Jun- MEDITERRANEAN---Battalion Landing Team 3/2, Landing Force Mediterranean took part in
26 Jun landing exercise WHITEBAIT with British Royal Marine Commandoes in Gufo di Bomba, Libya.
("Operations," no. 43; Unit Diaries, BLT 3/2).
- 30 Jun USMC---The Marine Corps' actual active duty strength was 175,571. ('58 Def Pol, 73).
- Jul CUBA---U. S. and Cuban relations began to deteriorate when Fidel Castro openly declared
himself in favor of the Marxist line and began mass jailing and executions of the Cuban
people. (Varner and Koze, p. 60).
- 11 Jul CONUS---The first Marine aviation cadets in 18 years began pre-flight training at the
Naval Air Training Station, Pensacola, Florida. This new program was designed to fill
the need for new pilots that had surpassed the backlog of World War II veterans. It
was found that NAVCAD could not meet the demand for pilots. All trainees held the grade
of Marine Aviation Cadet. (DOD Rel no. 786-59; Globe, 16 Jul 1959, p. 2; Triad, 24 Jul
1959, p. 1; Leatherneck, Oct 1959, pp. 16-23).
- 4 Jul- CONUS---The 2d Battalion, 6th Marines (Rein), supported by Marine jet attack bombers and
25 Jul Marine helicopters, cruised the Great Lakes in a training and goodwill tour dubbed
Operation INLAND SEAS, made possible by the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway in June.
The battalion landed in five amphibious demonstrations at major port cities.
(Leatherneck, Sep 1959, pp. 16-21, 23-27, 70).
- 6 Jul OKINAWA-JAPAN---It was announced that a Marine Corps air facility would be opened at
Futema, Okinawa around the first of the year. Marine Corps aviation units (a helicopter
group and an observation squadron) will be moved from Oppama, Japan to the new facility.
('59 Def Pol, 28).

1959

- 12 Jul- CARIBBEAN---The 14th Provisional Marine Brigade composed of Battalion Landing Team 1/2,
26 Nov Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 162, and Marine Attack Squadron 533 carried out a
BRIGADELEX. ("Operations," no. 48)
- 13 Jul- CONUS---The 1st Reconnaissance Battalion started a 175-mile march from Death Valley to
14 Aug the top of Mount Whitney, California. (Operation LO-HI). (Scout, 16 Jul 1959, pp. 1,
3; 23 Jul 1959, pp. 1, 5; 30 Jul 1959, pp. 1, 6-7).
- 27 Jul- CONUS---Force Troops, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific from Camp Pendleton and 29 Palms,
4 Aug California, carried out PHIBLEX 1-60 as part of Operation FOOTHILLS at Camp Pendleton.
("Operations," no. 55).
- 29 Jul JAPAN---The 9th Marines (-) supported by Light Helicopter Squadron 261 from Okinawa
carried out HELILEX 8C-60 at Fuji, Japan. ("Operations," no. 57).
- 30 Jul- MEDITERRANEAN---Battalion Landing Team 3/8 (Rein) with Marine Attack Squadron 225 and a
8 Feb detachment of Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 262 from Camp Lejeune, Cherry Point, and
1960 New River, N. C., respectively, were deployed as Landing Force Mediterranean.
("Mediterranean" - Subj File; Globe, 30 Jul 1959, p. 1; 3 Sep 1959, p. 6).
- 12 Aug USMC---Major General David M. Shoup was named to succeed General Randolph McCall Pate
as Commandant of the Marine Corps on 1 January. (Scout, 13 Aug 1959, p. 1; Globe,
13 Aug 1959, p. 1).
- 20 Aug OKINAWA---The 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (Rein) left Camp Pendleton, California to become
a transplacement battalion of the 3d Marine Division on Okinawa. It arrived on 4
September. (Scout, 20 Aug 1959, p. 2; Triad, 4 Sep 1959, p. 1).
- 5 Sep SE ASIA---The 3d Marine Expeditionary Force composed of the 9th Marines (Rein) and
elements of MAG-16 left Okinawa to become the landing force of the Seventh Fleet in Far
Eastern waters. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 63).
- 10 Sep USMC---The title of Marine Gunner was again eliminated from the Marine Corps, except
for those who already held it. (MCHRS #11, USMC Ranks and Grades, p. 10).
- 13 Sep- HAWAII---The 1st Marine Brigade from Kaneohe participated in PHIBLEX 5-60 a part of
26 Sep Operation CLEAR RIDGE at Kauai, Hawaii. (Windward Marine, 4 Sep 1959, p. 4; 11 Sep 1959,
pp. 1, 4; 18 Sep 1959, pp. 1, 4; 25 Sep 1959, pp. 4-5).
- 14 Sep- CONUS---Regimental Landing Team 6 tested new amphibious techniques during TRALEX 3-59
1 Oct at Onslow Beach, N. C. (Globe, 24 Sep 1959, p. 1).
- 19 Oct CONUS---The 3d Provisional Marine Brigade, composed of Regimental Landing Team 7 (-),
and Marine Aircraft Group 36 from Camp Pendleton and Santa Ana, California, respectively,
carried out PHIBLEX 2-60, a part of Operation EAGLE EYE, at Camp Pendleton. (Scout,
15 Oct 1959, p. 1; 22 Oct 1959, p. 1; 29 Oct 1959, pp. 5-7; 5 Nov 1959, p. 3).
- 26 Oct- CONUS---Highlighting TRALEX 4-59, the largest amphibious training exercise of the year
9 Nov involving east coast Marines, the 2d Marine Division landed over Onslow Beach, N. C.
to test battle readiness and efficiency of the Fleet Amphibious Force and Fleet Marine
Force, Atlantic. (Globe, 29 Oct 1959, p. 1; 5 Nov 1959, p. 1; 12 Nov 1959, pp. 1, 6, 7).
- 2 Nov- ALASKA---Battalion Landing Team 1/9, the 1st Force Reconnaissance Company, and Company H,
10 Dec 2d Battalion, 9th Marines from Camp Pendleton, California took part in PHIBLEX 6-60
(Operation TOTEM POLE). (Leatherneck, Feb 1960, pp. 22-29).
- 2 Nov OKINAWA---The 2d Battalion, 5th Marines (Rein) left Camp Pendleton, California to become
a transplacement battalion of the 3d Marine Division on Okinawa. (Scout, 29 Oct 1959,
p. 1).
- 5 Nov CONUS---Some 200 Marines from the 5th Marines joined Camp Pendleton firemen, forest
service personnel, and civilian volunteers in combatting a forest fire in the Roblan
Canyon of the Cleveland National Forest in California. (Scout, 12 Nov 1959, p. 1).
- 20 Nov CONUS---Some 300 Marines from the 1st Infantry Training Battalion and the 7th and 5th
Marines at Camp Pendleton, California, joined civilian fire fighters in battling fires
in the Las Pulgas and Aliso Canyon areas of Southern California. (Scout, 25 Nov 1959,
p. 1).
- 20 Nov- CARIBBEAN---The 2d Marine Ground Task Force (4th Provisional Marine Force) from Camp
15 Feb Lejeune and Cherry Point, N. C. was deployed to protect U. S. nationals during the Cuban
1960 crisis. ("Operations," no. 84).
- 30 Nov- CUBA---Some 100 Marines from Camp Lejeune, N. C. landed at the Naval Base Guantanamo Bay
15 Jan to reinforce the troops there. ("Operations," no. 88).
1960

- 1 Dec OKINAWA---Marine Corps Headquarters announced that a Marine Barracks would be activated on or about 4 January 1961 at the U. S. Naval Facility, Naha, Okinawa. The complement was to be three officers and 52 enlisted Marines. (Scout, 10 Dec 1959, p. 3; Triad, 18 Dec 1959, p. 1).
- 3 Dec- PACIFIC---Flight elements of Marine Aircraft Group 13 returned from the Far East to the
7 Dec U. S. by way of Hawaii, marking the first time that naval single-engine jets (FJ4Bs) had flown from Hawaii to the U. S. (Windward Marine, 11 Dec 1959, pp. 1, 4).
- 31 Dec USMC---General Randolph McCall Pate retired as the twenty-first Commandant of the Marine Corps. (Commandants, pp. 200-201).
- 31 Dec USMC---The number of Marine Corps battalion landing teams was cut from 27 to 21 with strength reduction to 175,000 in fiscal year 1959. ('60 Def Pol, 87).

1960

- 1 Jan USMC---Lieutenant General David M. Shoup became twenty-second Commandant of the Marine Corps, with the rank of general. (Commandants, p. 204).
- 2 Jan OKINAWA---Marine Corps Air Facility, Futema, Okinawa, commissioned under command of Colonel L. S. Reeve. (Triad, 8 Jan 1960, p. 1).
- 12 Jan- CONUS---The 1st Marines (-); supported by Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 163 from
14 Jan Camp Pendleton, California, carried out a HELILEX at Camp Pendleton. (Scout, 14 Jan 1960, p. 4).
- 13 Jan- MEDITERRANEAN---Battalion Landing Team 1/6 and a detachment from Marine Light Helicopter
14 Jun Squadron 262 from Camp Lejeune and Cherry Point, N. C., respectively, were deployed with the Sixth Fleet as Landing Force Mediterranean 1-60. (Globe, 14 Jun 1960, pp. 1-2).
- 18 Jan- CARIBBEAN-CONUS---The 8th Provisional Marine Brigade, composed of Battalion Landing Team
20 Mar 3/6, Marine Attack Squadron 224, Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 264, and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 461, carried out BRIGADELEX 1-60 at Vieques and Onslow Beach, N.C. (Leatherneck, Apr 1960, p. 68; Windsock, 22 Jan 1960, p. 1; 26 Feb 1960, p. 1; 11 Mar 1960, p. 1; 25 Mar 1960, p. 1).
- 20 Jan- CONUS---Battalion 1/5 participated in SNOWFLEX II-60 at the Cold Weather Training Center,
11 Feb Bridgeport, California. (Scout, 7 Jan 1960, p. 1; 14 Jan 1960, p. 2; 18 Feb 1960, pp. 4-5).
- 21 Jan CONUS---MAG-26 helicopters were instrumental in recovering the nose cone of the fourth space shot of Project Mercury from Wallops Island, Virginia. VMH(L)-262 and VMH(M)-461 participated. (NY Times, 22 Jan 1960, pp. 1, 4; Globe, 24 Mar 1960, pp. 1-2).
- 30 Jan OKINAWA---The personnel of 3d Battalion, 5th Marines (Rein) left Camp Pendleton, California, to become a transplacement battalion of the 3d Marine Division on Okinawa. (Scout, 28 Jan 1960, p. 8; 4 Feb 1960, p. 1).
- 30 Jan- CARIBBEAN---The 8th Provisional Marine Brigade assaulted Vieques, Puerto Rico, during
19 Feb BRIGADELEX 1-60, the first of a series of exercises to be conducted through the spring and summer months, to test new techniques in helicopter assaults resulting from modifications in the amphibious assault ship USS Boxer and from studies of similar exercises conducted in 1959. (Globe, 28 Jan 1960, p. 12; 3 Mar 1960, p. 2).
- Jan- PUERTO RICO---Company C, 8th Engineer Battalion reconstructed a landing strip, built
Aug a new taxi strip and a 500-man HMR camp site for aviation elements at Camp Garcia, Vieques, Puerto Rico. (Leatherneck, Dec 1960, p. 33).
- 8 Feb- CONUS---Regimental Landing Team 1 (-) with the 7th Marines as aggressor from Camp
19 Feb Pendleton, California, took part in PHIBLEX 30-60 (Operation SWANDIVE) at Camp Pendleton. (Scout, 4 Feb 1960, p. 8; 11 Feb 1960, p. 1; 18 Feb 1960, pp. 1, 8; 25 Feb 1960, p. 1; Gazette, Mar 1960, p. 3).
- 10 Feb CUBA---Marine Fighter Squadron 122 from Beaufort, S. C. was deployed to the Naval Air Station, Leeward Point, Cuba. (Unit Diaries).
- 12 Feb- CUBA---Marine Fighter Squadron 312 from Beaufort, S. C. was deployed to the Naval Air
10 Mar Station, Leeward Point, Cuba. (Unit Diaries).
- 15 Feb OKINAWA---The fifth transplacement battalion, 3/5, landed on Okinawa from the USS General J. C. Breckinridge. (Triad, 19 Feb 1960, p. 1).
- 22 Feb- HAWAII---Battalion Landing Team 1/4 supported by Company B, 3d Reconnaissance Battalion
26 Feb and VMA-212 and HMR-161 from Kaneohe participated in a FEX (Operation HATCHETT) at Kauai. (Windward Marine, 19 Feb 1960, pp. 1, 5; 4 Mar 1960, p. 4).

1960

- Feb USMC---General David M. Shoup, CMC, announced that increased personnel stability due, in part, to the success of the 4-year enlistment program, had made it possible to reactivate two of the six discontinued landing teams. ('60 Def Pol, 87; Globe, 4 Feb 1960, p. 1).
- 27 Feb USMC---The designation "NELM" battalion for the reinforced battalion serving with the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean was changed to "Landing Force Mediterranean" (LANFORMED). (Log, 21 Mar 1960).
- 1 Mar MOROCCO---Marines from Marine Barracks, U. S. Naval Activities, Port Lyauzey, aided in rescue and relief operations following an earthquake at Agadir. (Windsock, 25 Mar 1960, p. 8; 29 Apr 1960, p. 1).
- 1 Mar CONUS---The Beaufort, S. C. Auxiliary Air Station was redesignated as a USMC Air Station. (Boot, 4 Mar 1960, p. 1).
- 4 Mar USMC---General Lyman L. Lemnitzer, Army Chief of Staff, today presented the Marine Corps with its first M-14 rifle. Commandant David M. Shoup accepted the rifle. (Boot, 11 Mar 1960, p. 5).
- 7 Mar- TAIWAN---BLUE STAR, a combined Seventh Fleet Amphibious Exercise, was participated in by
10 Apr the 3d Marine Division, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, units of the 1st Marine Brigade, and other Fleet Marine Force, Pacific units and supported by all elements of the Seventh Fleet. It also involved the Nationalist Chinese Navy and Marine Corps. The exercise demonstrated the vertical envelopment capability of Western Pacific Marine Forces and included the first helicopter lift of a Nationalist Chinese Marine force and the early establishment of a Short Expeditionary Landing Field (SELF). (CMCARpt (1960), p. 8, 9).
- 14 Mar- CONUS---The 5th Marines (less the 3d Battalion) (Rein) supported by a detachment of
30 Mar Marine Observation Squadrons from Camp Pendleton, California, took part in a desert field exercise, a 150-mile march at 29 Palms. (Scout, 3 Mar 1960, pp. 1, 3; 10 Mar 1960, pp. 1, 4).
- 18 Mar- CARIBBEAN-CONUS---The 10th Provisional Marine Brigade, composed of Battalion Landing
11 May Team 2/6, Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 264, and Marine Attack Squadron 533 from Camp Lejeune and Cherry Point, N. C., executed BRIGADELEX 2-60 at Vieques and Onslow Beach, N.C. (Windsock, 25 Mar 1960, p. 1; 27 Mar 1960, p. 1).
- 21 Mar- CARIBBEAN-CONUS---The 2d Marine Air/Ground Task Force, composed of Regimental Landing
6 Apr Team 2 and the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing (-) from Camp Lejeune and Cherry Point, N. C., took part in LANTPHIBEX 1-60 (Operation AMICUS) at Vieques and Onslow Beach, N. C. (Leatherneck, Jun 1960, "D-Day in Amicus," pp. 16-21, 69; Windsock, 1 Apr 1960, p. 1).
- 22 Mar- CONUS---LANTPHIBEX 1-60, the largest Marine Corps-Navy exercise of the year, featured
5 Apr a landing on 28 March of the Amphibious Striking Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet, from the 2d Marine Division and 2d Marine Aircraft Wing on Onslow Beach, N. C. The exercise was designed to test force capabilities to seize, occupy, and defend key points, evacuate personnel, protect U. S. interests, and support or reestablish a friendly government. (CMCARpt (1960), pp. 9, 10; Globe, 17 Mar 1960, p. 1; 31 Mar 1960, pp. 1, 2, and 4; 7 Apr 1960, pp. 6, 7).
- Apr USMC---The Marine Corps will be the first branch of the Armed Services to have a helicopter-carried electronic air defense system. The system electronically coordinates split-second firing of Terrier and Hawk guided missile batteries. (Globe, 21 Apr 1960, p. 2).
- 1 Apr OKINAWA---The personnel of 1/7 left Camp Pendleton, California, as a transplacement battalion for 1/1 of the 3d Marine Division on Okinawa. (Scout, 31 Mar 1960, p. 1).
- 7 Apr CONUS---A mobilization training exercise (RESMOBEX), one of a series of such exercises to be conducted periodically to test the readiness of the Marine Corps Reserve took place. In seven U. S. cities the Corps physically activated mobilization stations, and members of Organized Reserve units in those cities reported to the stations for administration processing and simulated transfer to combat units. The exercise basically involved the paper selection, assignment to active duty, and transfer to FMFs of individual Marine Corps reservists. (MC Res Hist, p. 214; Leatherneck, Sep 1960, pp. 54-57).
- 7 Apr CONUS---Battalion 1/1 assaulted the Camp Pendleton beaches from aircraft carrier-based helicopters to start PHIBLEX 32-60. Air support was supplied by HMR(L)-163 and a detail of six HR25s from MCAF Santa Ana. (Scout, 7 Apr 1960, p. 1).
- 13 Apr- HAWAII---Regimental Landing Team 4, supported by Marine Aircraft Group 13 from Kaneohe,
3 May took part in TRAEX 1-60 at Pohakuloa. (Windward Marine, 22 Apr 1960, p. 1).
- 2 May CONUS---The 1st Light Antiaircraft Missile Battalion, Force Troops, FMF, Pacific was activated at Marine Corps Base 29 Palms, California, as the Corps' first Hawk missile battalion. The battalion was to increase the air defense capability of Marine divisions in amphibious operations. (Globe, 10 Mar 1960, p. 1; Windward Marine, 18 Mar 1960, p. 5).

- 2 May- CONUS---Operation BIG TOP, participated in by the 1st Marine Division and the 3d Marine
13 May Aircraft Wing from El Toro, marked a "first" for the West Coast-based 1st Division for using helicopters to land troops at night from an off-shore aircraft carrier. (Scout, 21 Apr 1960, p. 1; 28 Apr 1960, pp. 1, 4; 5 May 1960, p. 1; 12 May 1960, pp. 4-5; 19 May 1960, p. 3).
- 5 May VIETNAM---United States announced that at the request of the Government of South Vietnam, the U. S. Military Assistance and Advisory Group will be increased by the end of the year from 327 to 685 members. (Bkgrd Info SE Asia & VN, p. 6).
- 6 May- CONUS---Marine Aircraft Group 24 (Rein) from Cherry Point and Camp Lejeune took part in
11 May LOGEX 1-60 at Onslow Beach, N. C. (Gazette, Jun 1960, p. 3; Windsock, 13 May 1960, p. 4; 20 May 1960, p. 3).
- 17 May- MEDITERRANEAN---The 1st Battalion, 8th Marines (Rein), supported by Sub Unit 1, Marine
29 Nov Light Helicopter Squadron 262 and Marine Attack Squadron 224 from Camp Lejeune, Cherry Point, and New River, N. C., respectively, became the landing force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. (Globe, 12 May 1960, p. 1; 8 Dec 1960, pp. 6-7).
- 18 May- CARIBBEAN-CONUS---The 12th Provisional Marine Brigade, composed of Regimental Landing
20 Jul Team 2, Marine Attack Squadron 331, Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 264, and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 461, from Camp Lejeune and Beaufort, respectively, executed BRIGADELEX 3-60 at Vieques and Onslow Beach, N. C. Battalion Landing Team 3/2 remained in the Caribbean until 2 August. (Gazette, Jul 1960, p. 3; Windsock, 29 Apr 1960, p. 4; 12 Aug 1960, p. 4; Globe, 4 Aug 1960, p. 10).
- 6 Jun- KOREA---The 9th Provisional Marine Brigade, composed of Regimental Landing Team 9 and
23 Jun Marine Aircraft Group 12 from Okinawa and Korean Regimental Landing Team 3, took part in PHIBLEX 34-60 (Operation SEAHAWK), a helicopter assault by 4,600 troops. (Triad, 24 Jun 1960, pp. 1, 6; 1 Jul 1960, pp. 4-5; Gazette, Jul 1960, p. 3; Sep 1960, p. 8).
- 8 Jun USMC---Sixty-three graduates of a class of 799 at the U. S. Naval Academy accepted commissions in the U. S. Marine Corps. Six graduates from the Air Force Academy also accepted commissions in the Marine Corps. (MS - Acad Grads in USMC).
- 10 Jun JAPAN---White House Press Secretary James C. Hagerty and Ambassador Douglas MacArthur II were besieged by a stone-hurling crowd in Tokyo for over an hour, until a U. S. Marine Corps helicopter rescued them from their auto. ('60 Def Pol, p. 136).
- 10 Jun- CARIBBEAN---The 2d Marine Expeditionary Brigade, composed of Battalion Landing Teams
25 Sep 2/6, 3/6, 3/2, 3/8, Marine Attack Squadron 225, and Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 30, was deployed to the Caribbean for participation in TRAEX 4-60. ("Operations," no. 118).
- 12 Jun CONUS---Eighteen hundred Marines of the reinforced 1/6 returned to Camp Lejeune after 5 months in the Mediterranean. (Globe, 16 Jun 1960, p. 12).
- 21 Jun OKINAWA---The 2d Battalion, 7th Marines sailed for Okinawa to replace the 2d Battalion, 1st Marines which had been there since June 1959. (Scout, 23 Jun 1960, p. 1).
- 30 Jun CONUS---The Department of the Pacific, an administrative headquarters located at San Francisco, California, was deactivated. Most administrative functions were assumed by HQMC and some lesser functions were transferred to the MB, USNC, Treasure Island, and to headquarters of the 12th Marine Corps Reserve and Recruitment District in San Francisco. The Department of the Pacific had been a major headquarters with the principal mission to assist HQMC in the administration of areas geographically far removed from Washington. (Globe, 21 Apr 1960, p. 12).
- 30 Jun CONUS---Marine Barracks, U. S. Naval Ammunition Depot, Bangor, Bremerton, Washington, deactivated. The deactivation did not involve Marine Barracks, U. S. Naval Base, Bremerton. (Globe, 12 May 1960, p. 4).
- 30 Jun USMC---The Marine Corps active duty strength was 170,621. ('63 Def Pol, p. 157).
- 1 Jul CONUS---The headquarters of FMFLant and Air FMFLant, both located at Norfolk, Virginia, were consolidated as FMFLant, commanded by Lieutenant General Joseph C. Burger. The purpose of the consolidation was to achieve greater command staff efficiency. (Globe, 30 Jun 1960, p. 2; Fleet Marine Force - Subj File).
- 9 Jul AFRICA---Company L, 3d Battalion, 2d Marines with a detachment of Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 261, based in the Mediterranean on board the USS Wasp, were deployed to the Congo. ("Deployments" - Subj File).
- 16 Jul OKINAWA---Replacement battalion 2/7 arrived at Okinawa on board the USS Henrico to relieve 2/1. (Triad, 15 Jul 1960, p. 1).

1960

- 25 Jul CONUS---The 2d Battalion (1st Marines), 7th Marine Regiment, completed the second cycle of the Marine Corps unit rotation program, debarking from the USS Navarro (APA-215) at the Long Beach Naval Station. The cycle began in June 1959 when the 2d Battalion sailed for Okinawa to replace a similar unit of the 3d Marine Division. This unit followed the 1st Battalion that departed from San Diego, 17 March 1959. (Scout, 28 Jul 1960, p. 1).
- 25 Jul-
27 Jul CONUS---Over 2,000 East Coast Reserve Marines participated in a three-day exercise, Operation WHIPSAW, at Camp Lejeune, N. C. (Leatherneck, Oct 1960, pp. 54-59; Globe, 14 Jul 1960, pp. 1, 6-7; 21 Jul 1960, pp. 1, 10; 28 Jul 1960, pp. 6-7).
- 27 Jul GREECE---Operation NAVPLION by 1/8 at Navplion, Greece, highlighted the night evacuation of a company by helicopter. The operation was designed to perfect across-the-beach and vertical assault. (Globe, 11 Aug 1960, p. 12).
- 1 Aug USMC---Data Processing Division established at Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps, to centralize the data processing functions of the Supply Department, the Personnel Department, and the Administrative Division. (MCHRS #25, Hist MC Staff Org., 31).
- 4 Aug-
8 Oct SE ASIA---BLT 2/5 of the 3d Marines embarked on board APA Lenawee and LPD Thomaston as a special landing force afloat with the Seventh Fleet in the Southeast Asia area. The force is designated Operation SHEARHEAD. Landing force elements will be rotated from 3d Marine Division every two or three months. A squadron of attack aircraft from the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing was assigned to operate from carriers of the fleet. (Gazette, Sep 1960, p. 3; Triad, 26 Aug 1960, p. 1; 7 Oct 1960, pp. 4-5).
- 8 Aug-
13 Aug OKINAWA---The 3d Force Service Regiment on Okinawa participated in Exercise FUEL PUMP. ("Operations," no. 139).
- 9 Aug-
12 Sep CUBA---Marine Attack Squadron 225 from Key West, Florida was deployed on Cuba alert to the Naval Air Station, Leeward Point. ("Operations," no. 141).
- 13 Aug USMC---General David M. Shoup, CMC, announced that plans to reactivate all six landing teams deactivated in Fiscal Year 1959 were progressing on schedule. Five would be reestablished by the end of June 1960. ('60 Def Pol, p. 88; Leatherneck, Jan 1961, p. 76; Scout, 18 Aug 1960, p. 1).
- 15 Aug-
29 Nov CARIBBEAN---The 8th Marine Expeditionary Unit, composed of Battalion Landing Team 3/8, Marine Attack Squadron 331, Marine Fighter Squadron 122, Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 261, and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 461, from Camp Lejeune and Cherry Point, respectively, carried out PHIBULEX 4-60 at Vieques during standby in the Caribbean. (Globe, 22 Sep 1960, p. 10).
- 22 Aug-
24 Aug USMC---Operation CHARGER, the largest Marine Corps Reserve maneuver ever staged, was conducted at 29 Palms. Thirteen ground units, nine squadrons of Reserve aircraft, plus regular units from the base, Force Troops, First Marine Division, and Third Marine Aircraft Wing participated. (Leatherneck, Nov 1960, pp. 24-29; 85-87).
- 2 Sep OKINAWA---The 1st Battalion, 1st Marines (Rein) left Camp Pendleton, California to become a transplacement battalion of the 3d Marine Division on Okinawa. (Scout, 1 Sep 1960, p. 4; Triad, 23 Sep 1960, p. 1).
- 11 Sep CONUS---Hurricane "Donna" caused more than a half-million dollars of damage to Camp Lejeune. The year-old recreation fishing pier at Onslow beach was virtually destroyed. (Globe, 15 Sep 1960, pp. 1, 6-7).
- 12 Sep USMC---The Marine Corps Museum at Quantico, Virginia, was officially opened. (Gazette, Sep 1960, p. 5; Globe, 15 Sep 1960, p. 12).
- 14 Sep-
11 Jun
1961 CARIBBEAN---Marine Fighter Squadron 122 from Beaufort, S. C. was deployed to Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. (Gazette, Oct 1960, p. 3).
- 19 Sep OKINAWA---1/5 embarked on board USS General W. A. Mann at Naha in preparation for return to the U. S. The battalion was relieved by 1/9. (Triad, 23 Sep 1960, p. 1).
- 19 Sep-
30 Sep HAWAII---Regimental Landing Team 4 supported by Marine Aircraft Group 13 from Kaneohe took part in TRAEX 2-60 at Pohakuloa. The 2d Battalion, 4th Marines remained there until 20 October. (Windward Marine, 16 Sep 1960, pp. 1, 3; 7 Oct 1960, p. 4).
- 19 Sep-
21 Oct CONUS---Force Troops, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, Marine Fighter Squadron 451, Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron 15, a detachment from Marine Transport Squadron 252, and Marine Air Control Squadron 1 from 29 Palms and El Toro, California, took part in PHIBLEX 40-60 (LONG HAUL) at San Clemente Island, California. (Gazette, Nov 1960, p. 3; Scout, 6 Oct 1960, p. 5).

- 21 Sep- CARIBBEAN---The 8th Marine Expeditionary Unit (composed of Battalion Landing Team 3/8,
30 Nov Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 261, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 461, and Marine
Fighter Squadron 122, from Camp Lejeune and New River, N. C., respectively, took part in
a PHIBULEX at Vieques. (Globe, 22 Sep 1960, p. 10; 1 Dec 1960, p. 12; 8 Dec 1960, p. 12).
- Sep USMC---The first Navy officer in modern time to serve as Navy aide-de-camp to the
Commandant of the Marine Corps, Commander Alan Dougall, has assumed duty. (Globe,
29 Sep 1960, p. 2; Sentry, 30 Sep 1960, p. 8).
- 2 Oct- SE ASIA---Battalion Landing Team 3/5 with a detachment of Marine Light Helicopter
28 Nov Squadron 163 from Okinawa was deployed as the Afloat Landing Force of the Seventh Fleet.
(Triad, 28 Oct 1960, p. 1; 2 Dec 1960, p. 1).
- 6 Oct USMC---Overseas tours with FMF units in the Far East, without dependents, have been
reduced from 15 to 13 months effective with personnel who arrived on overseas stations
after 1 July 1960 (MCBul 1300). (Globe, 6 Oct 1960, p. 1; Triad, 7 Oct 1960, p. 1).
- 12 Oct OKINAWA---Sub Unit #1 of the 1st Force Reconnaissance Company was activated at Camp
Pendleton, California, to embark some five weeks later for Okinawa in the transplacement
program. On 13 December it became part of the 3d Marine Division. (Unit Diaries).
- 19 Oct- CONUS---A brigade of the 1st Marine Division supported by the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing
30 Oct from Camp Pendleton and El Toro, California, respectively, took part in PHIBLEX 2-60
(Operation EAGLE EYE) at Pendleton. (Operation EAGLE EYE - Subj File).
- 20 Oct- CARIBBEAN---Battalion Landing Team 2/2, Marine Attack Squadron 331, and Marine Light
17 Jan Helicopter Squadron 261 were deployed to Vieques as Caribbean standby and participated
1961 in TRALEX 5-60 there. (Globe, 5 Jan 1961, p. 12; 19 Jan 1961, p. 2).
- 22 Oct MEDITERRANEAN---The sixth and last scheduled Mediterranean landing exercise was completed
by 1/8 (Rein) at Dikili, Turkey. (Globe, 17 Nov 1960, p. 12).
- 24 Oct- CONUS---The 3d Marine Expeditionary Brigade composed of Regimental Landing Team 7,
4 Nov Battalion Landing Team 3/5, Marine Light Helicopter Squadrons 361 and 363, and Marine
Medium Helicopter Squadron 462, from Camp Pendleton and El Toro, California, carried
out PHIBLEX 42-60 (Operation PACKMULE) at Camp Pendleton. (Scout, 27 Oct 1960, p. 1;
3 Nov 1960, pp. 1, 3).
- 2 Nov- MEDITERRANEAN---Battalion Landing Team 1/2 (Rein) from Camp Lejeune, N. C., and a heli-
17 Jun copter unit from HMR-262 attached, were deployed with the Sixth Fleet as Landing Force
1961 Mediterranean. (Globe, 27 Oct 1960, p. 1; 22 Dec 1960, p. 1; 5 Jan 1961, p. 2; Gazette,
Dec 1960, p. 4).
- 11 Nov- OKINAWA---The 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, composed of Regimental Landing Team 3
22 Nov and Marine Aircraft Group 16 (Rein) from Okinawa and Japan, executed PHIBLEX 43-60
(Operation PACKBOARD) on Okinawa. (Triad, 25 Nov 1960, pp. 1, 4-5).
- 15 Nov USMC---The 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit was organized at Cherry Point, N. C. The
MEU consisted of a battalion of infantry from the 2d Division and a Provisional MAG
consisting of a light helicopter transport squadron and an ordnance-laden attack or
fighter section. (Windsock, 18 Nov 1960, p. 1).
- 19 Nov OKINAWA---The 2d Battalion, 1st Marines (Rein) left Camp Pendleton, California to become
a transplacement battalion of the 3d Marine Division on Okinawa. (Scout, 18 Nov 1960,
pp. 7, 11).
- 30 Nov- AFRICA---Company G, 2d Battalion, 6th Marines (Rein), commanded by Major Harold R. Kurth,
15 May Jr., with Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 264 from Camp Lejeune and New River N. C.,
1961 respectively, were deployed on Operation SOLANT AMITY, a goodwill tour of Africa.
(Globe, 19 Jan 1961, p. 3; 9 Feb 1961, p. 2; 16 Feb 1961, p. 6-7; 23 Feb 1961, p. 1; 16
Mar 1961, p. 2; 6 Apr 1961, p. 2; 11 May 1961, p. 1).
- 30 Nov CONUS---1/8 (Rein) returned to Camp Lejeune after a six-month goodwill and training
cruise in the Mediterranean. Other 2d Division elements and VMA-262 accompanied the
battalion. (Globe, 3 Dec 1960, pp. 6-7).
- Dec USMC---During 1960, Marines provided security guards for 93 embassies, consulates, and
legations. (Leatherneck, Oct 1960, p. 33).
- 2 Dec OKINAWA---1/9 left Sukiran, Okinawa, for duty on board ships of the U. S. Seventh Fleet
in the landing force in the Far East. (Triad, 2 Dec 1960, p. 1).
- 2 Dec- CONUS---Battalion Landing Team 3/2 from Camp Lejeune, N. C. was alerted for airlift to
9 Dec Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. ("Operations," no. 222).
- 11 Dec OKINAWA---Troops of 2/9 arrived on Okinawa on board USS McGoffin as a replacement
battalion for 2/5 as part of the 3d Marine Regiment. (Triad, 16 Dec 1960, p. 1).

1960-1961

- 12 Dec SARDINIA---The 1st Battalion, 2d Marines (Rein) landed on the beach at Port Scudo, Sardinia under simulated combat conditions and accompanied by heavy wind and rain. The BLT was a part of the U. S. Sixth Fleet operating in the Mediterranean. (Globe, 5 Jan 1961, p. 2).
- 12 Dec OKINAWA---3/3 debarked from USS Montrose at White Beach, Okinawa, after a 10-week cruise aboard ships of the U. S. Navy's 7th Fleet. (Triad, 16 Dec 1960, p. 1).
- 15 Dec USMC---ALMAR 29 abolishing the eight-man drill and reestablishing the Landing Party Manual drill effective this day. (Triad, 25 Nov 1960, p. 1; Scout, 25 Nov 1960, p. 1,5; Boot, 25 Nov 1960, p. 1).
- 23 Dec USMC---The first Marine Corps F8U-2N "Crusader" supersonic aircraft, an all-weather fighter, was delivered to El Toro and turned over to VMF-334. (Flight Jacket, 6 Jan 1961 p. 1).

1961

- 1 Jan USMC---All Marine infantry battalions, except the 1st Battalion, 3d Marines, were designated by the name of the table of organization slot they were actually filling; when a battalion joined the 3d Marine Division, the battalion would change names with the battalion it replaced. (Gazette, 1 Jan 1961, p. 1; Triad, 6 Jan 1961, p. 1; Globe, 12 Jan 1961, p. 1).
- 3 Jan CONUS---The United States formally terminated diplomatic and consular relations with Cuba. ('61 Def Pol, 151).
- 4 Jan CONUS---President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued a statement when the formal break of U.S.-Cuban relations took effect that the status of the U. S. Naval Station at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba was unchanged. (Varner and Koze, p. 60).
- 7 Jan PHILIPPINES---MAG-12 moved from Iwakuni, Japan, to Cubi Point, Philippine Islands, for temporary duty. (USMC Cal Hist Events).
- 10 Jan- CARIBBEAN---The 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Battalion Landing Team 3/2, Marine
4 Mar Fighter (All-Weather) Squadron 114, Marine Attack Squadron 533, and Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 263) was deployed to Vieques and participated in PHIBULEX 1-61. (Gazette, Mar 1961, p. 51; Globe, 9 Feb 1961, p. 12; Windsock, 10 Feb 1961, p. 1).
- 11 Jan CONUS---PHIBLEX 1A-61 took place as helicopters began transporting 1,400 Marines of BLT 1/1 and supporting units from the USS Thetis Bay to Camp Pendleton's Case Springs and Las Pulgas areas. (Scout, 13 Jan 1961, p. 1; 20 Jan 1961, pp. 6-7).
- 13 Jan- CONUS---Eleven hundred Marines of 2/5 participated in SNOWFEX 1-61, a cold weather
31 Jan training exercise conducted at the Sierra Nevada Mountain cold weather training center, near Bridgeport, California. (Scout, 3 Feb 1961, pp. 6-7).
- 18 Jan USMC---Sergeant Major Bertha L. Peters was the first Woman Marine appointed to the top non-commissioned officer post of Sergeant Major established in April 1960. (Scout, 10 Feb 1961, p. 5; Windsock, 27 Jan 1961, p. 3; Globe, 26 Jan 1961, p. 2).
- 20 Jan AFRICA---Elements of SOLANT AMITY task force in East African waters assisted in famine relief work at Matadi, Congo. Sub-Unit No. 1, HMR(L)-264 unloaded foodstuffs from the USS Hermitage (LSD-34). (Globe, 9 Feb 1961, p. 2; 16 Feb 1961, pp. 6-7).
- 20 Jan CONUS---The combat-clad 2d Battalion, 8th Marines, the Marine Band and Drum and Bugle Corps combined, as well as a 150-Woman Marine Company, participated in the inaugural parade for President John F. Kennedy. (Gazette, Jan 1961, p. 3; Sentry, 20 Jan 1961, p. 1; 27 Jan 1961, pp. 4-5).
- 20 Jan CONUS---Some 400 Marines from the 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, California, assisted civilian firefighters in battling brush fires in southern Orange County, California. (Scout, 27 Jan 1961, p. 1).
- 25 Jan- CONUS---Force Troops Reserve, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic and Marine Light Helicopter
31 Jan Squadrons 261 and 263 from New River, took part in Operation PENTAMOS, an atomic exercise, at Camp Lejeune, N. C. (Globe, 1 Feb 1961, p. 3).
- 29 Jan VIETNAM---Radio Hanoi praised establishment of the "National Front for Liberation of South Vietnam (NFLSV)." (LC: VN Chron, p. 12).
- 31 Jan USMC---The active duty strength of Women Marines was 124 officers and 1,486 enlisted women. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 14).

- 31 Jan- MEDITERRANEAN---Marine Attack Squadron 225 from Cherry Point, N. C., the first 2d MAW
15 May squadron to be equipped with the new A4D-2N aircraft, was deployed on board the USS Shangri-La (CVA-38) with the Sixth Fleet as part of Landing Force Mediterranean, relieving VMA-224. (Windssock, 10 Mar 1961, p. 1; Gazette, Mar 1961, p. 4; Unit Diaries).
- 1 Feb CONUS---President Kennedy revoked existing order limiting dependents accompanying servicemen overseas. ('61 Def Pol, 152).
- 1 Feb OKINAWA---The personnel of the 3d Battalion, 1st Marines (Rein) left Camp Pendleton, California, to become a transplacement battalion of the 3d Marine Division on Okinawa. (Scout, 20 Jan 1961, p. 5).
- 1 Feb- AFRICA---Sub Unit One, HMR(L)-264, part of Landing Force SOLANT AMITY aboard the USS
8 Feb Hermitage, helped evacuate United Nations troops (Guineans) from Matadi, Congo to their home country. Arriving at Matadi on 1 February, the troops were embarked on board LSD-34 on 2 February, and disembarked at Conakry, Guinea, 8 February. (Globe, 23 Feb 1961, p. 1; Unit Diaries).
- 6 Feb CARIBBEAN---Lieutenant Colonel W. D. Patterson, commanding officer of VMF(AW)-114, landed his F4D-1 jet on the Short Expeditionary Landing Field at Vieques. This was the first jet landed by the Marine Corps on Vieques. (Globe, 23 Feb 1961, p. 2).
- 7 Feb OKINAWA---The 2d Battalion, 9th Marines (Rein) and HMR-163 left Okinawa to become the landing force of the Seventh Fleet in Far East waters. (Triad, 17 Mar 1961, pp. 4-5; 2 Jun 1961, p. 4; 9 Jun 1961, p. 4).
- 15 Feb- CARIBBEAN---The 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Battalion Landing Teams 3/8 and 1/6
10 Mar and Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 261) was deployed to the Caribbean and took part at Vieques there and at Onslow Beach, N. C., in LANTPHIBEX 1-61 (Operation AXLE GREASE). (Gazette, Apr 1961, pp. 4-5; Globe, 16 Feb 1961, p. 1; 2 Mar 1961, p. 12; 9 Mar 1961, p. 3; 16 Mar 1961, p. 1; 22 Jun 1961, p. 12; Windssock, 10 Feb 1961, p. 1).
- 1 Mar USMC---Marine Corps Emergency Actions Center established. It was designated as a separate office of the Headquarters under cognizance of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3. (Condit and Johnstone, pp. 31, 33).
- 1 Mar USMC---The 3d Marine Aircraft Wing's VMR-352 became the Marine Corps' first in-flight refueling squadron on receiving its first GV-1 Hercules aerial tanker. (Gazette, Feb 1961, p. 2).
- 5 Mar CARIBBEAN---The 1st Battalion, 6th Marines (Rein), HMR-263, and VMA-533, already in the Caribbean, took part in TRALEX 1-61 at Vieques. (Globe, 9 Mar 1961, p. 1).
- 5 Mar CONUS---Battalion 3/1 arrived at San Diego from Okinawa, completing 13 months' duty with the 3d Marine Division as a transplacement unit. (Scout, 3 Mar 1961, p. 1).
- 8 Mar- SE ASIA---The 3d Marine Division (-) from Okinawa, took part in SEATO Exercise RAJATA,
19 Mar an air-transported ground command post exercise conducted in Thailand over a 10-day period. (Triad, 24 Mar 1961, p. 3).
- 15 Mar USMC---The 3d MAW at El Toro received two new GV-1 Hercules prop-jet propelled aerial tankers manufactured by Lockheed. (Flight Jacket, 10 Mar 1961, p. 1; 17 Mar 1961, pp. 1, 6-7).
- 18 Mar JAPAN---VMA-311, the first Marine Corps squadron to fly jet aircraft in combat, left El Toro to join the 1st MAW in Japan. (Flight Jacket, 17 Feb 1961, pp. 1, 2; 17 Mar 1961, p. 1).
- Mar SE ASIA---Battalion Landing Team 3/9 embarked as the floating battalion for the Seventh Fleet serving on board the USS Thetis Bay, Paul Revere, Magoffin, Monticello, and the Fort Marion. (Triad, 30 Jun 1961, p. 1).
- 3 Apr- CONUS---Operation GREENLIGHT, a series of amphibious exercises held off Southern
8 Jun California, involved more than 50,000 men, 150 ships, and 300 Navy and Marine aircraft. (Scout, 17 Mar 1961, p. 1; 12 May 1961, pp. 1, 3; 19 May 1961, pp. 1, 2; and 26 May 1961, pp. 4-5).
- 12 Apr MEDITERRANEAN---Headquarters, 16th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, and BLT 3/6 from Camp Lejeune, N. C., were deployed with the Sixth Fleet as Landing Force Mediterranean 2-61. BLT 1/2 joined on arrival. (Globe, 13 Apr 1961, p. 1; 8 Jun 1961, p. 6).
- 14 Apr OKINAWA---The personnel of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (Rein) left Camp Pendleton, California, to become a transplacement battalion of the 3d Marine Division on Okinawa. (Scout, 21 Apr 1961, pp. 1, 7).

1961

- 14 Apr- BORNEO---The 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, consisting of Regimental Landing Team
4 May 9, Battalion Landing Teams 3/9 and 1/3, and Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 162 from Okinawa, took part in Operation PONY EXPRESS, a SEATO exercise, on Borneo. (Ann Rpt CMC 1961, pp. 10-11; Triad, 21 Apr 1961, p. 1; 28 Apr 1961, p. 1; 4 May 1961, p. 1; 19 May 1961, p. 5).
- 17 Apr CUBA---Anti-Castro forces landed in Cuba in an unsuccessful attempt to overthrow the Castro regime. This became known as "Bay of Pigs" incident. ('61 Def Pol, p. 154).
- 17 Apr CARIBBEAN---During the Bay of Pigs invasion several hundred miles northwest of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the U. S. Naval Base took precautionary security measures. (Varner and Koze, p. 60).
- 18 Apr AFRICA---Company F, 2d Battalion, 2d Marines and a detachment of HMR-262 left Morehead City, N. C., on a goodwill tour of North Africa ports, as SOLANT AMITY II. (Globe, 15 Jun 1961, p. 12; 29 Jun 1961, p. 12; 3 Aug 1961, p. 2).
- 19 Apr- CARIBBEAN---The 8th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Battalion Landing Team 2/6 and Marine
17 Jun Light Helicopter Squadron 263) was deployed to the Caribbean where it took part in TRALEX 2-61 at Vieques. (Globe, 20 Apr 1961, p. 1).
- 27 Apr- SARDINIA---The 16th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Battalion Landing Teams 1/2 and 3/6,
30 Apr Marine Attack Squadron 225, and a detachment of Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 262) in the Mediterranean took part in a landing exercise at Porto Scudo, Sardinia. (Globe, 11 May 1961, p. 3).
- 29 Apr CONUS---The 1st Battalion, 4th Marines arrived at Long Beach, California, from Hawaii on board the troop transport Navarro (APA-215) to participate in Operation GREENLIGHT. (Scout, 5 May 1961, p. 1).
- 30 Apr CONUS---VMA-343 deactivated at El Toro. The squadron had been recommissioned on 1 October 1960 and assigned to MAG-15. (Flight Jacket, 21 Apr 1961, p. 1; 5 May 1961, p. 1).
- 3 May OKINAWA---The 1st Battalion, 9th Marines boarded the USS Breckinridge for return to the 1st Division at Camp Pendleton, ending its transplacement tour. (Triad, 21 Apr 1961, p. 1).
- 3 May- PHILIPPINES---The 2d Battalion, 12th Marines with a detachment of the 3d Pioneer
5 May Battalion conducted a FIREX on the beach near Zambales, Philippine Islands. (Triad, 14 Jul 1961, p. 5).
- 5 May CONUS---President Kennedy declared at a press conference that consideration was being given to the use of U. S. forces, if necessary, to help South Vietnam resist Communist pressures. (LC: VN Chron, p. 13).
- 5 May CONUS---First Lieutenants Wayne E. Koons and George F. Cox, pilot and copilot of HMR-262 of MAG-26, retrieved America's first astronaut, Commander Alan B. Shepherd, after his journey into space and deposited him and his capsule on the deck of the USS Lake Champlain. (Gazette, Jun 1961, p. 5; Globe, 11 May 1961, p. 3).
- 6 May USMC---It was reported in recent Congressional testimony that the Marine Corps had approximately 60 officers and 400 enlisted qualified parachutists but only 34 officer and 313 enlisted parachutist billets. (ANAF Journal, 6 May 1961, p. 14).
- 11 May- CONUS---The 5th Marine Expeditionary Force, composed of the 1st Marine Division (-), from
5 Jun Camp Pendleton, California, the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing (-) from El Toro, Force Troops, Pacific from Twentynine Palms, and elements from the 1st Marine Brigade from Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, took part in PACPHIBLEX 3-61 (Operation GREENLIGHT), at Camp Pendleton. (Scout, 17 Mar 1961, p. 1; 12 May 1961, pp. 1, 3; 19 May 1961, pp. 1, 2; 26 May 1961, pp. 3, 4-5; 2 Jun 1961, p. 1).
- 12 May CONUS---Defense Secretary Robert McNamara attended a full-scale demonstration at Camp Lejeune, N. C. This was the first visit he had made to a Service installation. (ANAF Journal, 20 May 1961, p. 12).
- 15 May- SE ASIA---Battalion Landing Team 3/9 with Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 162 from
12 Jun Okinawa was deployed as the Special Afloat Landing Force of the Seventh Fleet in South-east Asian waters. (USMC Cal Hist Events, p. 41; Triad, 19 May 1961, p. 11).
- 18 May CONUS---The 1st Battalion, 9th Marines was scheduled to arrive at San Diego on board the USS Breckinridge, returning from a 13-month Far East tour. The unit had departed from Okinawa on 3 May. (Scout, 12 May 1961, p. 1).
- 20 May CONUS---Brigadier General George R. E. Shell, USMC, Ret., a 1931 graduate of VMI, was installed as the 9th Superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute at Lexington, Virginia. (ANAF Journal, 8 Apr 1961, p. 14; 3 Jun 1961, p. 31).

- 20 May TURKEY---Elements of HMR-262 and the 3d Battalion, 6th Marines serving with the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean, assisted in relief work following an earthquake at Marmaris, Turkey. (Globe, 22 Jun 1961, p. 3).
- 20 May USMC---As a result of a trial training program, six Marine Corps Reserve privates were to attend an eight-month Russian language course at the Naval Intelligence School in Washington, D. C. (ANAF Journal, 20 May 1961, p. 19).
- 25 May CONUS---President Kennedy requested funds to increase the Marine Corps to 190,000 following an earlier request to raise strength from 175,000 to 178,000. This would permit manning the Fleet Marine Force at a high level, particularly the aviation wings, and the forming of the nucleus of a fourth division. ('61 Def Pol, p. 98).
- May USMC---General David M. Shoup, Commandant, named Lieutenant General Robert H. Pepper, USMC, Ret., as head of a Headquarters Marine Corps Reorganization Board which would report by 1 August. Other members of the Board were Major General Alpha L. Bowser and Colonel Norman Anderson. (ANAF Journal, 20 May 1961, p. 9; Globe, 18 May 1961, p. 2; Scout, 19 May 1961, p. 1).
- 3 Jun- CARIBBEAN---Regimental Landing Team 8 (Battalion Landing Teams 1/8, 1/6, and 2/6),
15 Jun Marine Attack Squadron 242, Marine Fighter Squadron 235, and Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 263 participated with the Atlantic Fleet in LANTPHIBEX 4-61 (Operation AXLE GREASE) at Vieques. (Globe, 22 Jun 1961, p. 12).
- 5 Jun CONUS---Operation PATRIOT involving 2,500-plus Reserve Marines from ten States and 26 Marine air and ground units was conducted at Camp Lejeune. (Globe, 17 Aug 1961, p. 1).
- 7 Jun USMC---Fifty-seven graduates of a class of 788 at the U. S. Naval Academy accepted commissions in the U. S. Marine Corps. One graduate from the U. S. Military Academy and two from the Air Force Academy also accepted commissions in the Marine Corps. (MS - Acad Grads in USMC).
- 12 Jun CONUS---President John F. Kennedy proclaimed that the American flag would be flown day and night at the U. S. Marine Memorial (Iwo Jima) in Arlington, Virginia. (Fed Register, v. 26, no. 115, 16 Jun 1961; Scout, 23 Jun 1961, p. 2).
- 12 Jun SE ASIA---Battalion Landing Team 1/3 from Okinawa was deployed as the Special Afloat Landing Force of the Seventh Fleet in Southeast Asian waters. (USMC Cal Hist Events, p. 46; Unit Diaries).
- 15 Jun- CARIBBEAN---The 8th Expeditionary Unit (Battalion Landing Team 1/8, Provisional Marine
1 Aug Aircraft Group 20, Marine Attack Squadron 242, and Marine Helicopter Transport Squadron (Light) 262) was deployed to the Caribbean on standby and while there took part in PHIBULEX 2-61 at Vieques, emphasizing counter guerrilla and riot control training. (Gazette, Aug 1961, p. 2).
- 19 Jun OKINAWA---The 2d Battalion, 5th Marines (Rein), left Camp Pendleton, California to become a transplacement battalion of the 3d Marine Division on Okinawa. (USMC Cal Hist Events, p. 48).
- 30 Jun USMC---A planned "Annual Salute" to retiring Marine Corps officers and men was held at the Marine Barracks, Washington, D. C. The parade honored 2,209 Marines who retired during the past fiscal year. (ANAF Journal, 1 Jul 1961, p. 12; Globe, 29 Jun 1961, p. 1).
- 30 Jun USMC---Marine Corps active duty strength was 176,909. ('63 Def Pol, p. 157).
- 1 Jul USMC---Sixty Marine Corps Reserve Officers holding naval aviator designations are to be offered permanent warrant officer appointments in the regular Marine Corps as helicopter pilots. (ANAF Journal, 1 Jul 1961, p. 5).
- 11 Jul- USMC---The 1961 Marine Corps General Officers' Symposium was held at Headquarters.
13 Jul Thirty-nine attended. (ANAF Journal, 1 Jul 1961, p. 5).
- 13 Jul OKINAWA---The 2d Battalion, 5th Marines arrived at Okinawa on board the USS Pickaway to replace the 2d Battalion, 9th Marines for a 13-month tour of duty in the Far East. (Triad, 14 Jul 1961, p. 1).
- 14 Jul OKINAWA---The 2d Battalion, 9th Marines departed Okinawa for the United States having completed its transplacement tour. (Triad, 14 Jul 1961, p. 1).
- 17 Jul USMC---The Marine Corps Schools' special "standby infantry unit," the 2d Battalion, 8th Marines was redesignated as the 2d Battalion, 22d Marines. (Sentry, 14 Jul 1961, p. 1).
- 31 Jul USMC---General Randolph McCall Pate, twenty-first Commandant of the Marine Corps, died at the U. S. Naval Hospital, Bethesda, Maryland. (Commandants, p. 201; Globe, 3 Aug 1961, p. 12).

1961

- 1 Aug CONUS---Congress passed a joint resolution authorizing the President to call any unit and any unassigned member of the Ready Reserve of an armed force to active duty for not more than 12 consecutive months. The total number was limited to 250,000. Authority was also given to extend enlistments, etc. ('61 Def Pol, p. 35; Scout, 4 Aug 1961, p. 1).
- 1 Aug OKINAWA---Marine Helicopter Squadron 362 joined MAG-16 at MCAF, Futema, Okinawa, after leaving El Toro in July for a 13-month tour of duty in the Far East. (Flight Jacket, 14 Jul 1961, p. 1; Unit File).
- 2 Aug CONUS---President Kennedy declared that the United States will do all it can to save South Vietnam from Communism. (Bkgd Info SE Asia and VN, p. 8).
- 10 Aug SE ASIA---The 2d Battalion, 3d Marines (Rein) left Okinawa and joined HMR-261 as the landing force of the Seventh Fleet in Far East Waters. (Triad, 13 Oct 1961, pp. 4-5).
- 16 Aug CONUS---The 3d Battalion, 5th Marines (Rein) left Camp Pendleton, California, to become a transplacement battalion of the 3d Marine Division on Okinawa. (USMC Cal Hist Events, p. 59; Triad, 1 Sep 1961, pp. 1, 5).
- 18 Aug GERMANY---East Germany erected a 5-foot concrete barrier at the East-West border crossing Potsdammer Platz in Berlin and continued to construct a wall, topped with barbed wire along sections of the border. It was known as the "Berlin Wall." ('61 Def Pol, p. 157).
- 20 Aug CONUS---The 1st Anti-Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division, began a week of intensive field training at Camp Pendleton, California, including the first airlift of the Ontos by GV-1 aircraft. (Scout, 8 Sep 1961, p. 6).
- 24 Aug HAWAII---Douglas A4D "Skyhawk" jets joined MAG-13, the air arm of the 1st Marine Brigade, FMF, at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. They replaced the FJ4-Bs flown by VMA-212. (Windward Marine, 18 Aug 1961, p. 1; 1 Sep 1961, p. 2).
- 30 Aug CONUS---The first night jump from a Marine Corps GV-1 intercontinental jet-prop transport was made near Camp Horno, California, by 31 Marines from the 1st Force Reconnaissance Company in a free-fall parachute jump. (Scout, 8 Sep 1961, p. 3).
- Aug USMC---The Corps reported that because of an increase in voluntary enlistments and the response of enlisted reservists to the call for extended duty, the buildup to a 190,000-man Corps will be accomplished six months earlier than planned originally. (ANAF Journal, 26 Aug 1961, p. 21).
- 1 Sep USMC---Marine Helicopter Squadron 364 activated at Santa Ana, California. (Unit File; Unit Diaries).
- 6 Sep CONUS---Almost 500 Marines comprising Landing Force SOLANT AMITY II returned to Camp Lejeune after traveling 30,191 miles and visiting 17 African ports. (Globe, 14 Sep 1961, pp. 6-7).
- 12 Sep CONUS---Some 400 Marines from the 2d Marine Division and MAG-26 assisted in rescue operations in Texas and Louisiana following hurricane Carla. (Globe, 14 Sep 1961, p. 1; Triad, 6 Oct 1961, p. 2).
- 12 Sep MEDITERRANEAN---The 3d Battalion, 2d Marines (Rein) left Morehead City, N.C., to become the landing force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. (Globe, 14 Sep 1961, p. 2; 21 Sep 1961, p. 3).
- 14 Sep AFRICA---Company F, 2d Battalion, 6th Marines (Rein) left Morehead City, N.C., to make a goodwill tour of African ports (SOLANT AMITY III). (Gazette, Oct 1961, p. 4).
- 16 Sep-18 Sep TURKEY---The 3d Battalion (Rein), 6th Marines, LANFORMED, joined with the U. S. Navy and troops from Turkey and Greece in a gigantic amphibious landing on the north shore of Saros Gulf, Turkey. (Globe, 5 Oct 1961, p. 3).
- 18 Sep CONUS---Eleven hundred Marines of BLT 3/5 arrived at San Diego on board the USS General J. C. Breckinridge after a 13-month tour in the Far East. (Scout, 22 Sep 1961, p. 3).
- 30 Sep USMC---The first retirement ceremony in the history of the Parris Island Woman Marine Recruit Training Battalion took place when Master Sergeant David J. Dearing retired after 20 years' service. Sergeant Dearing, as mess sergeant for the Woman Marines, was carried on their rolls as a member of the command. (Boot, 6 Oct 1961, pp. 1, 5).
- 2 Oct-18 Oct CONUS---Operation SAND STORM held at Twentynine Palms, California. The 1st Marines, augmented by a battalion of the 7th Marines, plus supporting ground and air elements, participated. (Scout, 29 Sep 1961, p. 1; 13 Oct 1961, pp. 1, 6; 20 Oct 1961, p. 3; 27 Oct 1961, pp. 3, 11).

- 2 Oct CARIBBEAN---BLT 1/6 returned to Camp Lejeune after two months' extensive training in the Caribbean. (Globe, 5 Oct 1961, p. 1).
- 2 Oct SE ASIA---The 3d Battalion, 3d Marines (Rein) left Okinawa to become the landing force of the Seventh Fleet in the Far East. (Triad, 27 Oct 1961, p. 1).
- 10 Oct-24 Oct OKINAWA---The 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade embarked at Buckner Bay and Naha Port to participate in Exercise WARM-UP. Part of this operation was covered nationally by Life Magazine. (Triad, 13 Oct 1961, pp. 1, 3; 27 Oct 1961, pp. 1, 3, 6).
- 11 Oct-13 Oct MEDITERRANEAN---BLT 3/6 returned to Camp Lejeune after serving as the amphibious landing force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean since April. (Globe, 12 Oct 1961, p. 1).
- 16 Oct OKINAWA---The 2d Battalion, 7th Marines (Rein) left Camp Pendleton, California, to become a transplacement battalion of the 3d Marine Division on Okinawa, stopping in Hawaii to act as the aggressor for the 1st Marine Brigade exercise SILVER SWORD. (Scout, 20 Oct 1961, p. 3).
- 18 Oct-29 Oct CONUS---One hundred twenty-seven Marines of Company B, 2d Reconnaissance Battalion from Camp Lejeune, engaged in a field training exercise in western North Carolina's rugged Pisgah National Forest. (Globe, 26 Oct 1961, p. 3).
- 25 Oct-5 Nov HAWAII---Exercise SILVER SWORD, including the first major amphibious landing on the island of Maui since World War II, was conducted in the Hawaiian area. The 1st Marine Brigade from Kaneohe (RLT-4, MAG-13, and support troops) participated. (ANAF Journal, 21 Oct 1961, p. 15).
- Oct USMC---Four enlisted Marines served as members of a Gunnery Sergeant (E-7) selection board. This was the first time that enlisted Marines had been members of selection or review boards. Sergeant Major Andy Panuska and Master Gunnery Sergeant Charles R. Heard were voting members of the Board. (ANAF Journal, 14 Oct 1961, p. 28).
- 1 Nov CONUS---Marine Aircraft Group 31 was reactivated during ceremonies at the Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, S. C. (Unit Diary).
- 1 Nov-17 Nov CENTRAL AMERICA---A detachment of 18 officers and 33 men from HMR-264 (MAG-26) from MCAF, New River, aided the victims of Hurricane Hattie in British Honduras. They operated eight HUS-1 helicopters off the aircraft carrier Antietam. (Globe, 23 Nov 1961, p. 7; 30 Nov 1961, p. 6).
- 16 Nov-28 Nov USMC---BLT 3/1 and supporting troops participated in SNOWFEX-61 held at the Marine Corps Cold Weather Training Center, Bridgeport, California. (Scout, 15 Dec 1961, p. 4).
- 18 Nov DOMREP---The Dominican Republic announced that General Rafael L. Trujillo, Jr., had resigned as chief of the armed forces and had sailed for Europe. ('61 Def Pol, p. 160).
- 28 Nov MEDITERRANEAN---The 2d Battalion, 2d Marines (Rein) left Morehead City, N.C., to become the landing force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. (Globe, 30 Nov 1961, p. 12).
- 29 Nov USMC---Marine Lieutenant Colonel John H. Glenn, Jr., was designated as the first American astronaut to make an orbital trip around the earth. ('61 Def Pol, p. 160; Scout, 8 Dec 1961, p. 1).
- Nov DOMREP---A U. S. Navy task force, including a Marine Corps landing force, was ordered to the vicinity of the Dominican Republic, outside the three mile limit. The purpose was to discourage a coup d'etat by the Trujillo faction. ('61 Def Pol, pp. 48-49).
- 1 Dec CUBA---Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba proclaimed himself a Marxist-Leninist. ('61 Def Pol, p. 160).
- 11 Dec VIETNAM---As a follow-up to Vice President Johnson's fact finding visit to Southeast Asia in spring of 1961, two U. S. Army helicopter companies arrived in Saigon 11 December. It was reported these aircraft would be serviced and flown by American personnel in support of the Vietnamese defense effort. ('61 Def Pol, pp. 52-53).
- 31 Dec USMC---Marine Corps active duty strength was 190,708. ('61 Def Pol, p. 164).

1962

- 9 Jan-12 Jan CONUS---The 5th Marines, supported by elements of the 1st Marine Division and the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, conducted an extensive four-day anti-guerrilla exercise, MOP UP. (Scout, 5 Jan 1962, pp. 1, 10; 19 Jan 1962, p. 1).

1962

- 15 Jan TRANS-PACIFIC---Operation PINE NEEDLE: VMF(AW)-451 left El Toro with an entire squadron
23 Jan of 18 F8U-2N Crusader fighters to fly the Pacific, refueling enroute from GV-1 Hercules tankers from VMGR-352, -153, and -253. It was the first TransPacific crossing by a single-engine jet squadron and saved time and money in the crossing. (Gazette, Feb 1962, p. 7).
- 16 Jan- CONUS---Battalion Landing Team 3/7 conducted a combat-type cold weather training exercise
2 Feb (SNOWFEX 1-62) at the Marine Corps Cold Weather Training Center, Bridgeport, California. (Scout, 12 Jan 1962, p. 3; 9 Feb 1962, p. 3).
- 17 Jan MEDITERRANEAN---The 3d Battalion, 8th Marines (Rein) left Morehead City, N. C., to become the landing force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. (Globe, 25 Jan 1962, p. 12).
- 24 Jan OKINAWA---The 3d Battalion, 3d Marines sailed from Okinawa for Camp Pendleton, completing its Far East tour as a transplacement battalion. The battalion traded colors with the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines which arrived on board the USS Mitchell. (Triad, 19 Jan 1962, p. 4; 26 Jan 1962, p. 1).
- Feb VIETNAM---Viet Cong snipers began to concentrate on the U.S. advisors with the Vietnamese armed forces, and the President authorized U. S. advisors to return fire on the Viet Cong. ('62 Def Pol, p. 62).
- 4 Feb- MEDITERRANEAN---Regimental Landing Team 2, composed of the 3d Battalion, 2d Marines
5 Feb (Rein) and the 3d Battalion, 8th Marines (Rein), was deployed for MEDLANDEX 1-62 at Porto Scudo, Sardinia. (Globe, 15 Feb 1962, p. 3; 1 Mar 1962, p. 12; 8 Mar 1962, pp. 6-7).
- 5 Feb USMC---Captain L. K. Keck and Navy Lieutenant R. W. Crafton flew a Sikorsky SH3A jet-powered helicopter to a world record of 210.6 miles per hour over a 19 kilometer course. Captain Keck later received the American Helicopter Society's annual award for "helicopter speed performance in excess of 200 miles per hour." (Gazette, Jun 1962, p. 2).
- 6 Feb MEDITERRANEAN---BLT 3/8 assumed the duty as the landing force of the Sixth Fleet at Porto Scudo, Sardinia, relieving BLT 3/2. (Globe, 15 Feb 1962, p. 12; 8 Mar 1962, p. 12).
- 8 Feb VIETNAM---United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (USMACV) was established as a part of the Pacific Command and under the operational control of the Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, with General Paul D. Harkins, USA, as its commander. Its mission was to support the Republic of Vietnam's military effort and to assist in the political and economic development of the nation. The new command will include the existing U. S. Military Assistance Advisory Group, Vietnam. (Scout, 2 Mar 1962, p. 6; '62 Def Pol, p. 149).
- 8 Feb VIETNAM---Concurrent with the activation of the United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (USMACV), the U. S. Army Ryukyus Islands Support Group (Provisional) was organized to provide administrative and logistical support to U.S. Army units in the Republic of Vietnam. ('62 Def Pol, p. 62).
- 8 Feb CONUS---A Douglas A4D Skyhawk attack aircraft was launched within 1,000 feet at NATF, Lakehurst, N. J., by XRE-1 Catapult (portable catapult built by Bliss); combined with arrested landings, this capability makes the SATS (Short Airfield for Tactical Support) concept operational when perfected. (Naval Aviation News, Mar 1962, p. 37).
- 8 Feb VIETNAM---MAAG Vietnam was absorbed by the U. S. Military Assistance Command (USMACV) headed by General Paul D. Harkins, USA. (Bkgd Info SE Asia and VN, p. 9).
- 11 Feb CONUS---A Marine infantry battalion arrived at Camp Pendleton after a 13-month Far East tour as 3/3 of the 3d Marine Division. Upon arriving it assumed the designation of 1/1. (Scout, 2 Feb 1962, p. 1).
- 19 Feb- CONUS---Headquarters, 7th Marines, 1/7, 2/5, and HMM-163 on board the USS Clymer, Valley
2 Mar Forge, and Colonial conducted Exercise KEEL BLOCK in the Camp Pendleton area. Highlights included helicopter assaults in which entire infantry battalions were heli-lifted from the Valley Forge, 20 miles at sea, into "enemy" territory at Pendleton. (Scout, 16 Feb 1962, pp. 1, 3; 2 Mar 1962, p. 4).
- 20 Feb USMC---Lieutenant Colonel John H. Glenn, Jr., USMC, orbited the world three times from Cape Canaveral, Florida, in the first manned American space capsule, "Friendship 7." (Soldiers of the Sea, p. 602; Triad, 23 Feb 1962, p. 1).
- 21 Feb MEDITERRANEAN---The 3d Battalion, 2d Marines (Rein) returned to Camp Lejeune from a tour of Mediterranean duty with the Sixth Fleet. (Globe, 22 Feb 1962, p. 2).
- 24 Feb OKINAWA---The 1st Battalion, 9th Marines returned to Okinawa in late February after more than two months in and around the Philippines as the afloat BLT. After a month in Okinawa, the battalion was scheduled for rotation back to the States. (Triad, 9 Mar 1962, p. 3; Unit Diaries).

- 28 Feb CARIBBEAN---Approximately 1,600 men of the 2d Battalion (Rein), 8th Marines left Morehead City for the Caribbean. The unit formed the ground element of the 34th Marine Expeditionary Unit. (Globe, 1 Mar 1962, p. 1).
- 5 Mar CARIBBEAN---BLT 1/8 returned to Camp Lejeune after training in the Caribbean area with Amphibious Squadron Five of the Second Fleet. (Globe, 8 Mar 1962, p. 1).
- 8 Mar CONUS---Helicopters of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 263 assisted in rescue and relief operations in the area of the Outer Banks of North Carolina following one of the worst storms in its history. (Globe, 15 Mar 1962, p. 1).
- 2 Mar- PHILIPPINES---Exercise TULUNGAN, the 20th SEATO training exercise, held by the Philippine
12 Apr Army, Australian, and U. S. Forces in the Mindoro, P. I. area. (Triad, 23 Feb 1962, pp. 1, 10; 2 Mar 1962, p. 1; 9 Mar 1962, pp. 1, 8 & Special Supplement).
- 10 Mar OKINAWA---The 2d Battalion, 1st Marines (Rein) left Camp Pendleton, California, to become a transplacement battalion (1/9) of the 3d Marine Division on Okinawa. (Scout, 9 Mar 1962, p. 3).
- 19 Mar CONUS---The 11th Marine Expeditionary Brigade landed on Green Beach, Camp Pendleton, in a joint beach and helicopter assault. The main body of the brigade was RLT-5 assisted by support troops. The exercise was termed POT SHOT. (Scout, 23 Mar 1962, p. 1).
- 31 Mar USMC---A total of 91 Marine detachments were serving in U. S. diplomatic missions in 80 different countries. (USMC Cal Hist Events, 32).
- 4 Apr CONUS---More than 400 Marines from the 2d Marine Division assisted civilian firefighters in combatting forest fires near Jacksonville, North Carolina. (Globe, 12 Apr 1962, p. 1).
- 4 Apr USMC---The Commandant of the Republic of Korea Marine Corps, Lieutenant General Kim Sun Eun, visited Camp Pendleton as part of a two week orientation visit to U. S. Marine Corps installations. (Triad, 6 Apr 1962, p. 1).
- 9 Apr VIETNAM---Marines start landing in Vietnam, with aviation units flying into Soc Trang, an abandoned airstrip inside Viet Cong territory. (Gazette, Dec 1962, p. 554).
- 9 Apr CONUS---The Marine Corps documentary film, "Force in Readiness," won an "Oscar" at the annual awards ceremony of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The 28-minute film was narrated by film star Jack Webb. (Scout, 13 Apr 1962, p. 3).
- 9 Apr CARIBBEAN---The 2d Marine Division (-), supported by elements of the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing and Force Troops, Atlantic, left Morehead City, North Carolina, to take part in LANTPHIBEX 1-62 at Onslow Beach, North Carolina, and, later, at Vieques in the Caribbean. (Globe, 26 Apr 1962, p. 1).
- 10 Apr USMC---Nineteen Marine officers and 489 enlisted men returned to San Diego on board the USS General Mann from the Far East where they served as 1/9. The unit assumed the designation of 2/1 upon its return to Camp Pendleton. (Scout, 13 Apr 1962, p. 1).
- 13 Apr CRETE---Assault forces of BLT 3/8, helicopters of HMM-262, Air Force planes from Athens, and Greek Raiding Forces joined in a training exercise at Timbakion, Crete. Crown Prince Paul of Greece watched the exercise. (Globe, 10 May 1962, p. 3).
- 14 Apr USMC---President John F. Kennedy witnessed 2d Division and Force Troops Marines storm ashore at Onslow Beach, N. C., as part of LANTPHIBEX 1-62. (Globe, 19 Apr 1962, pp. 1, 6-7, 12).
- 15 Apr OKINAWA---The personnel of 3d Battalion, 1st Marines (Rein) left Camp Pendleton, California, to become a transplacement battalion (2/9) of the 3d Marine Division on Okinawa. (Scout, 13 Apr 1962, p. 1).
- 25 Apr USMC---The office of Director of Aviation was redesignated as Deputy Chief of Staff (Air). (MCHRS #25, Hist MC Staff Org, p. 33).
- 28 Apr USMC---Dave Tork, Camp Pendleton's All-Marine pole vaulter, broke the world's record with a jump of 16'2" at the Mt. San Antonia Relays at Walnut, California. (Scout, 4 May 1962, pp. 1, 7).
- 1 May OKINAWA---The 3d Battalion, 9th Marines (Rein) left Okinawa to become the landing force of the Seventh Fleet in Far East Waters. (Triad, 25 May 1962, p. 1).
- 1 May USMC---The reassignment of the four Marine Corps Light Anti-aircraft Missile Battalions to Air FMEPac was made. The LAAM Battalions will remain at Twentynine Palms. (Scout, 11 May 1962, p. 9; Triad, 23 Feb 1962, p. 10).

1962

- 1 May- CONUS---Some 12,500 Marines of the 2d Marine Division, supported by elements of the 2d
11 May Marine Aircraft Wing and Force Troops, Atlantic, joined Army, Navy, and Air Force units
in Operation QUICK KICK, the largest joint exercise ever held at Onslow Beach, North
Carolina. (Globe, 3 May 1962, pp. 1, 3; 10 May 1962, p. 12).
- 6 May- SE ASIA---Communist hordes in Laos gained control of large territories after driving all
27 May government forces from northern Laos; about 2,000 Laotian Royal Army troops with their
commander fled into Thailand, crossing the Mekong River. (US in VN, p. 24).
- 12 May SE ASIA---President Kennedy ordered U. S. naval, air, and land forces, including a
battalion landing team of 1,800 Marines, to move toward the Indochinese Peninsula in
response to pro-Communist military gains in Laos. ('62 Def Pol, p. 152; US in VN, p. 24).
- 15 May SARDINIA---The 3d Battalion, 8th Marines, made a practice amphibious landing at Aranci
Bay, Sardinia, under the watchful eye of Marine Commandant Shoup. (Globe, 7 Jun 1962,
p. 12).
- 17 May THAILAND---The 3d Marine Expeditionary Unit, commanded by Brigadier General Ormand B.
Simpson and composed of the 3d Battalion, 9th Marines (Rein), HMR-261, and VMA-332,
landed in Thailand to support that country during the threat of Communist pressure from
outside the country. (Triad, 25 May 1962, p. 1; 1 Jun 1962, p. 4; 8 Jun 1962, p. 5;
Globe, 24 May 1962, p. 2).
- 24 May MEDITERRANEAN---The 2d Battalion, 6th Marines (Rein) left Morehead City, N. C., to become
the landing force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. (Globe, 14 Jun 1962, p. 12;
28 Jun 1962, pp. 6-7).
- 1 Jun USMC---The 1st Battalion, 22d Marines was reactivated at Camp Lejeune, primarily for the
purpose of providing a Headquarters and Service Company to augment other FMF units for
special assignments. (Globe, 21 Jun 1962, p. 12).
- 2 Jun MEDITERRANEAN---The 2d Battalion, 6th Marines, assumed the duties of the landing force
of the Sixth Fleet from BLT 3/8 at Pollensa Bay, Spain. (Globe, 14 Jun 1962, p. 12).
- 6 Jun USMC---Fifty-nine graduates of a class of 792 at the U. S. Naval Academy accepted
commissions in the U. S. Marine Corps. Three graduates of the Air Force Academy also
accepted Marine Corps commissions. (MS - Acad Grads in USMC).
- 10 Jun OKINAWA---The 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (Rein) left Camp Pendleton, California to become
a transplacement battalion (3/9) of the 3d Marine Division on Okinawa. (Triad, 15 Jun
1962, p. 10; 13 Jul 1962, p. 1).
- 13 Jun- CONUS---More than 150 Marines of the 2d Reconnaissance Battalion spent two weeks at
28 Jun Pisgah National Forest in western North Carolina on mountain training problems. (Globe,
12 Jul 1962, p. 1; Unit Diaries [Co. C]).
- 15 Jun MEDITERRANEAN---The 3d Battalion (Rein), 8th Marines, returned to Camp Lejeune after a
six-month tour of duty in the Mediterranean as the amphibious landing force of the Sixth
Fleet. (Globe, 21 Jun 1962, p. 3).
- 25 Jun USMC---The 4th Battalion, 11th Marines, changed its permanent duty station from Camp
Pendleton to Marine Corps Base, Twentynine Palms, California. (Scout, 22 Jun 1962, pp.
1, 5).
- 28 Jun USMC---Sergeant Major Thomas J. McHugh succeeded Sergeant Major Francis D. Rauber as
Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. (Triad, 25 May 1962, p. 3).
- 29 Jun USMC---Two F4H-1 "Phantom II" fighter jets arrived at El Toro for duty with VMF(AW)-314,
the first Marine operational squadron to get the "Phantom." (Scout, 29 Jun 1962, p. 11;
6 Jul 1962, p. 11).
- 30 Jun USMC---Some 2,847 Marines were serving on board capitol ships of the Navy, while some
10,227 Marines were assigned to the protection of naval stations and bases. (USMC Cal
Hist Events, p. 49).
- 30 Jun USMC---Marine Corps active duty strength was 190,962. ('63 Def Pol, p. 157).
- 1 Jul USMC---The Commandant effected a reorganization of the Organized Marine Corps Reserve
involving a realignment of almost all 275 existing units. New functional missions and
training tasks were assigned to three-fourths of the ground elements, and some "marginal
growth" units were deactivated. For the first time, a unit mobilization capability in
the form of elements of the 4th Marine Division/Wing Team was provided. ("Marine
Reserves," - Subj File).
- 1 Jul THAILAND---President Kennedy ordered 1,000 men of the U. S. Marine force in Thailand
to return to their ships. ('62 Def Pol, p. 153).

- 2 Jul CARIBBEAN---A Marine Expeditionary Unit, composed of Headquarters, 6th Marines, the 1st Battalion, 6th Marines (Rein), and elements of the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, left Morehead City, North Carolina, to take part in PHIBULEX 2-62 at Vieques in the Caribbean. (Globe, 28 Jun 1962, p. 12; 5 Jul 1962, p. 1).
- 12 Jul CONUS---President John F. Kennedy fulfilled a request made 161 years before by President Jefferson, that some future president visit the Marine Barracks, Washington, D. C., to confirm his choice of the barracks' location at 8th and Eye Streets, S. E. (Sentry, 20 Jul 1962, p. 2).
- 14 Jul OKINAWA---Camp Koza on Okinawa, long the home of the 3d Pioneer Battalion, was officially returned to its civilian land owners. (Triad, 13 Jul 1962, p. 3; 20 Jul 1962, p. 1).
- 18 Jul USMC---The Marines of the 1st Division began exchanging their M-1 rifles for the M-14. The M-14 is designed for the 7.62mm cartridge adopted by NATO. (Scout, 20 Jul 1962, pp. 1, 3).
- 23 Jul- USMC---The summer training exercise for Marine Reservists of the newly formed 4th
26 Jul Division, Operation TRIDENT, took place at Camp Lejeune. (Globe, 22 Feb 1962, p. 12; 19 Jul 1962, p. 1; 26 Jul 1962, pp. 1, 6-7).
- 27 Jul THAILAND---The Pentagon announced that the last 1,800 members of the Marine Corps unit in Thailand were being withdrawn. ('62 Def Pol, p. 155).
- 30 Jul THAILAND---The U. S. completed the withdrawal of the 5,000 Marines sent to Thailand. (Triad, 10 Aug 1962, pp. 6-7).
- Jul- USMC---First Lieutenant Julio C. Lanz and twenty-one enlisted men of the Venezuelan
Aug Marine Corps took eight weeks of training at Camp Lejeune under an allied military training aid program. (Globe, 6 Sep 1962, p. 3).
- 7 Aug THAILAND---Brigadier General Ormond R. Simpson, Commander Naval Component in Thailand and Commanding General 3d Marine Expeditionary Unit, arrived with his staff at Kadena, Okinawa, completing the redeployment of the Marines from Thailand. (Triad, 10 Aug 1962, p. 1).
- 25 Aug THAILAND---More than 500 Marines of 3/9 who were recently stationed in Thailand as a "show of force" returned to Camp Pendleton where they assumed the designation of 1/5. They arrived at Long Beach on board the USS Navarro. (Scout, 24 Aug 1962, p. 1; 31 Aug 1962, pp. 1, 5, 9).
- 25 Aug SARDINIA---A 17-day training operation ended for BLT 2/6 at Porto Scudo, Sardinia. The unit engaged in live firing exercises for the first time since leaving the U.S. in May. The exercise featured the establishment of a bulk fuel supply system ashore. (Globe, 20 Sep 1962, p. 3).
- 31 Aug- WEST INDIES---Elements of the 6th Marine Expeditionary Unit, with 1/6 the basic unit,
3 Sep represented the United States at the Trinidad Independence celebration. The troops were on board the USS Boxer. (Globe, 13 Sep 1962, p. 1).
- 1 Sep USMC---Four battalions of the 1st Marine Division were redesignated: 3/7 became 2/5 and moved from Camp Los Pulgas to Camp Margarita, filling the vacancy created by the former 2/5's transplacement to the Far East; 1/7 became 2/7 and 2/7 became 3/7; 1/7 was formed from Sub Unit One of 3/5 after the battalion was transplaced in October. (Scout, 3 Aug 1962, p. 5; 28 Sep 1962, p. 1).
- 7 Sep OKINAWA---The 2d Battalion, 5th Marines (Rein) left Camp Pendleton, California, to become a transplacement battalion (1/3) of the 3d Marine Division on Okinawa. (Scout, 7 Sep 1962, p. 1).
- 18 Sep MEDITERRANEAN---The 1st Battalion, 2d Marines (Rein), left Morehead City, North Carolina, to become the landing force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. (Globe, 20 Sep 1962, p. 12).
- 20 Sep USMC---Completing a test mount-out initiated five days before, Battalion Landing Team 1/1 of the 1st Marine Division landed on Camp Pendleton's beaches. (Scout, 21 Sep 1962, pp. 8-9; 28 Sep 1962, p. 4).
- 24 Sep OKINAWA---The personnel of 2/5 arrived at Naha Port, Okinawa, from Camp Pendleton on board the USS General W. A. Mann (TAP-112) as the transplacement battalion for 1/3. (Triad, 28 Sep 1962, pp. 1, 12).
- 25 Sep GREECE---Battalion Landing Team 2/6 stormed ashore at Kavalla, Greece, in a full-scale amphibious landing exercise during NATO exercise FALL TRAP. English, Greek, and Turkish units also participated in the exercise; King Paul of Greece was an observer. (Globe, 4 Oct 1962, p. 3).

1962

- Oct CARIBBEAN---A Ground Force Command was organized at Guantanamo Naval Base with Brigadier General William R. Collins, USMC, as commander. (Varner and Koze, p. 61).
- 1 Oct USMC---Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265 was commissioned at New River Air Facility, North Carolina. (Globe, 27 Nov 1963, p. 12).
- 4 Oct MEDITERRANEAN---Battalion Landing Team 1/2 assumed the duties of the landing force of the Sixth Fleet at Pollensa Bay, Spain, relieving BLT 2/6. (Globe, 18 Oct 1962, p. 12).
- 8 Oct VIETNAM---U. S. published American casualties in South Vietnam between 31 December 1961 and 1 October 1962; there were 46 Americans dead and 56 sick or injured. (LC: VN Chron, p. 19).
- 11 Oct CONUS---The 3d Battalion, 5th Marines, arrived at Camp Pendleton after a 13-month tour in the Far East. The unit landed in San Diego (Broadway Pier) from the USS General Mann. While in the Far East the unit used the designation 1/3. (Scout, 12 Oct 1962, p. 3; 19 Oct 1962, p. 3).
- 15 Oct- CARIBBEAN---Operation PHIBRIGLEX-62, involving more than 40 ships and 20,000 sailors and
30 Oct Marines, was conducted in the vicinity of Vieques, P. R. The exercise involved the use of U. S. submarines in the role of aggressors against the fleet. (Globe, 18 Oct 1962, p. 3).
- 18 Oct- CONUS---The 2d Battalion (Rein), 6th Marines returned to Camp Lejeune after a five-month
19 Oct tour and extensive training in the Mediterranean. (Globe, 18 Oct 1962, p. 1).
- 19 Oct CUBA---At 1100, the 2d Battalion, 1st Marines received orders to be prepared to move out, combat ready. The battalion was ready nine hours later. On the 20th, it was transported to El Toro and embarked on jet aircraft for Guantanamo Bay. (Scout, 14 Dec 1962, pp. 3, 4, 5; 18 Oct 1963, p. 7).
- 21 Oct CARIBBEAN---Elements of the 1st and 2d Marine Divisions started to arrive at Guantanamo Bay to reinforce the local defenders of the U. S. Naval Base. (Varner and Koze, p. 61).
- 22 Oct CUBA---The 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade of over 11,000 men was on board ships in San Diego harbor by 0800 awaiting orders to sail for the Caribbean. (Scout, 18 Oct 1963, p. 7).
- 22 Oct CARIBBEAN---Dependents were evacuated from the U. S. Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. (Varner and Koze, p. 61).
- 23 Oct USMC---Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara announced that U. S. military forces throughout the world had been put "on alert." Tours of duty of all Navy and Marine Corps personnel were extended until further notice. ('62 Def Pol, p. 160; Triad, 26 Oct 1962, pp. 1, 4).
- 28 Oct CUBA---The 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (composed of the reinforced 1st and 3d Battalions of the 1st and 7th Marines, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 361, Logistic Support Group, and brigade supporting elements) left Camp Pendleton, California by sea for the Cuban waters. (Scout, 21 Dec 1967, pp. 7-10; 14 Dec 1962, p. 6).
- 28 Oct CARIBBEAN---The 2d Marine Division, less a small rear echelon, MAG-14, MAG-26, MAG-32 (-) and squadrons from MAG-24 and -31 were deployed at Key West, Florida or in Caribbean waters during the Cuban Crisis. (Gazette, Jan 1963, p. 1).
- 29 Oct OKINAWA---The 1st Battalion, 9th Marines (Rein) left Okinawa to become the landing force of the Seventh Fleet in Far East waters. (Triad, 9 Mar 1962, p. 3).
- Oct USMC---Fifteen Marine Corps Skyhawk jets flew the Corps' first non-stop flight by an attack squadron (VMF-225) from Bermuda to Europe. (Sentry, 19 Oct 1962, p. 3).
- 2 Nov USMC---Lieutenant Colonel John H. Glenn, Jr., was the first recipient of the Cunningham Trophy presented by the First Marine Aviation Force Veterans Association to the outstanding Marine pilot. It was presented during ceremonies at Quantico, Virginia, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Marine Corps aviation. (Sentry, 28 Sep 1962, p. 1; 2 Nov 1962, p. 1).
- 13 Nov GUAM---Some 400 Marines from the 3d Battalion, 4th Marines were flown from Hawaii to Guam to provide security and salvage assistance following a typhoon. (Globe, 23 Nov 1962, p. 5; Scout, 23 Nov 1962, p. 5).
- 20 Nov CUBA---The U. S. naval quarantine of Cuba was ended after Premier Khrushchev of the Soviet Union pledged to withdraw all Soviet missiles in Cuba within 30 days. President Kennedy announced that the known missile sites had already been dismantled. ('62 Def Pol, p. 162).

- 21 Nov USMC---The Pentagon rescinded the involuntary duty extension of Navy and Marine Corps personnel on account of the Cuban Crisis. ('62 Def Pol, p. 160).
- 30 Nov CUBA---The 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade was ordered from the Caribbean through the Panama Canal and back to Camp Pendleton. (Scout, 18 Oct 1963, p. 7).
- 7 Dec CUBA---The first dependents, evacuated on 22 October, returned to the U. S. Naval Base, Guantanamo, Cuba. (Varner and Koze, p. 63).
- 8 Dec OKINAWA---The 1st Battalion, 9th Marines became the 3d Marine Division's battalion landing team afloat when it embarked from White Beach, Okinawa. (Triad, 14 Dec 1962, pp. 1, 5).
- 10 Dec CONUS---The 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, landed at Camp Pendleton as the vanguard of troops returned from the Caribbean area where they were rushed in late October at the outbreak of the Cuban Crisis. (Scout, 14 Dec 1962, pp. 1, 6).
- 11 Dec CUBA---Upon conclusion of talks between the U. S. and Soviet Union concerning the disposition of missiles in Cuba, the first group of Marine reinforcements departed from Guantanamo Bay. (Varner and Koze, p. 61).
- 27 Dec OKINAWA---The 1st Battalion, 7th Marines (Rein) left Camp Pendleton, California to become a transplacement battalion of the 3d Marine Division on Okinawa. (USMC Cal Hist Events, p. 101).
- 31 Dec USMC---Marine Corps strength was 189,165. ('62 Def Pol, p. 103).

1963

- 1963 USMC---Marine Corps aviation gained the capability of operating high performance aircraft from airfields no longer than 2,000 feet by utilizing the Short Airfield for Tactical Support (SATS). (Gazette, Apr 1963, pp. 24-28).
- 8 Jan- CONUS---Marines from the Eighth and I Barracks, Washington, D. C., assisted the U. S. Secret Service in keeping a continuous watch over the famous da Vinci painting, "Mona Lisa," on display for three weeks at the National Gallery of Art. (Triad, 11 Jan 1963, p. 12; Globe, 17 Jan 1963, p. 3).
- 12 Jan SE ASIA---Exercise JUNGLE DRUM II was conducted in the Sattahip area of southern Thailand. Third Marine Division units participating included BLT 1/9 and the 3d Reconnaissance Battalion assisted by a helicopter detachment from MAG-16. (Triad, 11 Jan 1963, pp. 1, 12; 25 Jan 1963, p. 1).
- 13 Jan OKINAWA---The 1st Battalion, 7th Marines arrived from Camp Pendleton at Naha Port, Okinawa, on board the USS General J. C. Breckinridge to become transplacement battalion 2/3 at Camp Schwab. (Triad, 18 Jan 1963, p. 3).
- 15 Jan USMC---The 3d Light Anti-Aircraft Missile Battalion (3d LAAM) was transferred from Twentynine Palms, California to MCAS, Cherry Point, N. C. (Triad, 11 Jan 1963, p. 3; Unit File; Unit Diaries).
- 17 Jan CONUS---President Kennedy asked for 190,000 men for the Marine Corps in his budget message. (NY Times, 18 Jan 1963).
- 20 Jan- KOREA---Battalion Landing Team 1/3 left Okinawa to participate in Exercise DARK MOON held in the Chumunjin area of Korea. (Triad, 25 Jan 1963, pp. 1, 5; 1 Feb 1963, p. 1; 8 Feb 1963, p. 1; 15 Feb 1963, pp. 6-7).
- 21 Jan OKINAWA---Marines of the 2d Battalion, 7th Marines, left San Diego on board the USS General W. A. Mann for Okinawa as a transplacement battalion for the 3d Marine Division. (Scout, 18 Jan 1963, p. 3).
- 31 Jan- CARIBBEAN---The 30th Marine Expeditionary Unit conducted Amphibious Training Exercise 1-63 (PHIBULEX 1-63) at Vieques, P. R. The exercise involved a coordinated night assault designed to conduct landings while underway and to insure the capability of the force to conduct operations during day and night. (Jet Stream, 15 Feb 1963, pp. 4-6; Globe, 10 Jan 1963, p. 2; 24 Jan 1963, p. 1; 31 Jan 1963, p. 3; Scout, 15 Feb 1963, p. 3).
- Feb CONUS---President John F. Kennedy challenged Marine officers to fulfill President Theodore Roosevelt's 1908 Executive Order that directed Marine Corps officers serving in Washington to complete a 50-mile hike within 20 hours over a three-day period. (Globe, 7 Feb 1963, p. 1; 14 Feb 1963, pp. 6-7).
- 2 Feb OKINAWA---The 2d Battalion, 9th Marines became the 3d Marine Division's battalion landing team when it embarked from White Beach, Okinawa, replacing 1/9 as the Special Landing Force, Seventh Fleet. (Triad, 5 Feb 1963, p. 4).

1963

- 4 Feb CONUS---More than 1,000 Marines who had served in the Far East as 2/3 arrived in San Diego on board the USS General J. C. Breckinridge. They were redesignated as 1/7 and assigned to Camp Pendleton's Camp Pulgas. (Scout, 1 Feb 1963, p. 1).
- 4 Feb- USMC---The 1st Battalion, 5th Marines engaged in cold weather training at the Cold
13 Feb Weather Training Center, Bridgeport, California. The exercise emphasized individual and small unit leadership under cold and mountainous conditions. (Scout, 1 Feb 1963, p. 6).
- 6 Feb CONUS---Twenty Marine Corps officers at Camp Lejeune plan a 50-mile hike to test officers' ability to meet the 1908 test ordered by President Theodore Roosevelt. (NY Times, 6 Feb 1963).
- 8 Feb OKINAWA---The 2d Battalion, 7th Marines, landed at Naha Point, Okinawa from Camp Pendleton as a transplacement battalion. The unit arrived on the USS General Mann and was designated as the new 3/3 at Camp Schwab. (Triad, 15 Feb 1963, p. 3).
- 10 Feb OKINAWA---Battalion Landing Team 1/9 returned to Okinawa following a two-month tour as the "Force in Readiness" of the Seventh Fleet in the Far East. While afloat, BLT 1/9 participated in Exercise JUNGLE DRUM II in Thailand. (Triad, 15 Feb 1963, p. 2).
- 13 Feb AFRICA---A 53-man detachment left Camp Lejeune for Norfolk where it boarded the USS Speigal Grove as SOLANT AMITY IV. The purpose of the cruise was to promote goodwill in various countries in Africa. (Globe, 6 Jun 1963, p. 12).
- 14 Feb- USMC---About 350 men of the 2d Reconnaissance Battalion conducted cold weather training
3 Mar and mountaineering exercises in the Nautahala National Forest in the mountains of western North Carolina. (Globe, 28 Mar 1963, p. 3; Unit Diaries).
- 20 Feb HAITI---The government of Haiti asked the recall of the U. S. Naval Mission Chief, Colonel Robert D. Heinl, Jr., USMC. ('63 Def Pol, p. 146).
- 21 Feb- CONUS---The Hawaiian-based 2d Battalion, 4th Marines, 1st Marine Brigade, arrived at Camp
24 Feb Las Pulgas, California by airlift to act as aggressors for Operation STEELGATE. (Scout, 1 Mar 1963, p. 4).
- 21 Feb MEDITERRANEAN---Battalion Landing Team 2/8 was deployed as the landing force for the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. The unit sailed from CONUS in February. (Globe, 30 Jan 1964, p. 4; 14 Mar 1963, p. 2).
- 24 Feb CONUS---The new 2d Battalion, 7th Marines returned from the Far East on board the USS General Mann. This transplacement battalion served a 13-month tour of duty under the unit designation of 3/3. (Scout, 1 Mar 1963, p. 3).
- 27 Feb SARDINIA---Battalion Landing Team 2/8 ended a three-day full scale amphibious training exercise at Aranci Bay, Sardinia. (Globe, 14 Mar 1963, p. 2).
- 28 Feb- CONUS---Operation STEELGATE conducted at sea and ashore in the Southern California area.
12 Mar The 9th Marine Expeditionary Force (consisting of Marines from the 1st Division, units from the 3d MAF at El Toro, Force Troops from Twentynine Palms, and part of the 1st Marine Brigade from Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii) participated. (Scout, 1 Mar 1963, p. 13; 8 Mar 1963, pp. 1, 6, 7; 15 Mar 1963, pp. 1, 5).
- Feb CARIBBEAN---BLT 3/6 departed Camp Lejeune for the Caribbean area. (Globe, 30 Jan 1964, p. 4).
- 6 Mar VIETNAM---U. S. military sources reported that the Vietnamese Navy had taken over patrol of South Vietnam's coast from the U. S. Seventh Fleet. (Bkgd Info SE Asia and VN, p. 11).
- 7 Mar CONUS---The 1st Battalion (Rein), 2d Marines, returned to Camp Lejeune after a six-month operational and goodwill tour of Mediterranean countries with the U. S. Sixth Fleet. (Globe, 7 Mar 1963, pp. 1, 3).
- 7 Mar CONUS---The 3d Battalion, 8th Marines returned to Camp Lejeune, N. C., concluding a two-month deployment in the Caribbean area. The battalion ended its tour with an amphibious landing on Onslow Beach, N. C. (Globe, 30 Jan 1964, "Follow Me" Supplement, p. 4; 7 Mar 1963, p. 3).
- 19 Mar TAIWAN---American and Chinese Marines stormed ashore over the beaches of southwestern Taiwan during the initial landing phase of Exercise SILVER BLADE. The exercise commenced formally on 15 March. (Triad, 22 Mar 1963, pp. 1, 4; 29 Mar 1963, pp. 6-7).
- 28 Mar OKINAWA---The 3d Battalion, 9th Marines became the afloat battalion (Special Landing Force) of the U. S. Seventh Fleet relieving 2/9 which was heli-lifted to White Beach on 27 March from the USS Princeton. (Triad, 29 Mar 1963, pp. 1, 12).
- 29 Mar USMC---Marine Transport Squadron 353 deactivated at Cherry Point, N. C. (Globe, 22 Aug 1963, p. 2).

- 1 Apr OKINAWA---The 3d Battalion, 7th Marines, from Camp Pendleton arrived at Okinawa as the transplacement battalion for the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, at Camp Hansen. The old 1/9 returned to Camp Las Pulgas, California, to become 3/7. (Triad, 5 Apr 1963, pp. 1, 10).
- 17 Apr CONUS---Marines from the Far East who will form the 1st Division's 3d Battalion, 7th Regiment arrived at San Diego on board the USS General Mitchell. The unit served in the 3d Division as the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines. (Triad, 5 Apr 1963, pp. 1, 10; Scout, 19 Apr 1963, p. 1).
- 22 Apr CARIBBEAN---Marines from VMF-533, 2d Battalion, 6th Marines, and support troops from Force Troops, Atlantic, departed from Onslow Beach and Morehead City, N.C., for a three-month training period in the Caribbean--PHIBULEX 2-63. (Globe, 25 Apr 1963, p. 1).
- 22 Apr THAILAND---President Kennedy ordered units of the Seventh Fleet to Thailand because of the developing crisis in the bordering nation of Laos. ('63 Def Pol, p. 147).
- 28 Apr Battalion Landing Team 3/6 arrived at Morehead City, N.C., after extensive amphibious training exercises in the Caribbean area. The unit left Camp Lejeune for this tour of duty on 26 February. (Globe, 25 Apr 1963, p. 3).
- 30 Apr HAITI---The USMC training mission to Haiti withdrew at the request of the Haitian government. (NY Times).
- 1 May USMC---The 3d Pioneer Battalion officially changed its name to the 3d Engineer Battalion at Camp Hansen, Okinawa. (Triad, 26 Apr 1963, p. 4).
- 4 May PHILIPPINES---BLT 1/3 served as the Special Landing Force, Seventh Fleet, 4 May to 24 July, making one surface assault and two helicopter assaults in the Philippines area during the period. The unit was teamed with HMM-361. (Triad, 31 Jul 1964, p. 1).
- 4 May HAITI---BLT 2/2 was positioned off the coast of Haiti for five days when trouble developed in that country. ('63 Def Pol, p. 148; Globe 24 Oct 1963, p. 3).
- 8 May MEDITERRANEAN---The 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, left Morehead City to assume duties as part of the amphibious striking force with the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. The battalion was joined by a detachment from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 from New River. (Globe, 9 May 1963, p. 12; 29 May 1963, p. 2; 20 Jun 1963, p. 3).
- 9 May CORSICA---Sub-unit Two of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 landed French amphibious forces and U. S. Marines behind "enemy" lines in southern Corsica in a series of midnight to morning combat landings. The "enemy" forces consisted of French Foreign Legionnaires and French paratroopers. (Globe, 23 May 1963, p. 10).
- 16 May-3 Jun USMC---Lieutenant General M. C. Cartwright Taylor, CB, Commandant General of the British Royal Marines, visited the United States. He visited various Marine Corps installations, including 8th and Eye; Marine Corps Schools, Quantico; Camp Lejeune; Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego; and El Toro. (Globe, 2 May 1963, p. 1; 29 May 1963, p. 12).
- 17 May USMC---A new 3d Battalion, 7th Marines was formed at Camp Pendleton, drawing recruits from almost every state. Seasoned troops and recruits to reform the battalion were expected by 20 May. (Scout, 17 May 1963, p. 3).
- 20 May OKINAWA---The 1st Battalion, 1st Marines arrived from Camp Pendleton, California on board the USS General Mitchell, as a transplacement battalion for 2/9. Formal flag-presentation ceremonies took place at Naha Port. (Scout, 3 May 1963, p. 1; Triad, 24 May 1963, pp. 1, 12).
- 21 May AFRICA---Marines assigned to SOLANT AMITY IV returned to Camp Lejeune after a 14-week goodwill tour to numerous ports in Africa and South America. (Globe, 6 Jun 1963, p. 12).
- 28 May OKINAWA---BLT 3/9 returned to Camp Hansen, Okinawa after almost two months of duty as the 3d Division's BLT afloat. (Triad, 31 May 1963, p. 1).
- 28 May AUSTRALIA---The Drum and Bugle Team, FMF, stationed in Hawaii, returned from Australia where the unit helped the Australians commemorate the 21st anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea, in Sydney. The Marine Detachment from the USS Coral Sea also participated. (Triad, 7 Jun 1963, p. 3).
- 1 Jun USMC---The Marine Corps Schools Training and Test Regiment at Quantico was officially redesignated as the Officer Candidate School. (Globe, 6 Jun 1963, p. 2).
- 5 Jun USMC---Sixty-seven graduates of a class of 891 at the U. S. Naval Academy accepted commissions in the U. S. Marine Corps. Seven graduates from the U. S. Military Academy also accepted Marine Corps commissions. (MS - Acad Grads in USMC).

1963

- 6 Jun USMC---President John F. Kennedy made a two and one-half hour visit to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego. (Globe, 13 Jun 1963, p. 3; Triad, 21 Jun 1963, p. 3).
- 14 Jun GREECE---Battalion Landing Team 1/6 conducted its first Mediterranean amphibious and vertical assault exercise eight miles south of Kavalla, Greece. (Globe, 3 Jul 1963, p. 3).
- 15 Jun- KOREA---The 11th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (including RLT-3, USMC, and RLT-2, ROK
24 Jun Marine Corps) participated in Exercise FLAGPOLE, a coordinated US-ROK amphibious exercise in the Pohang area of Korea. (Triad, 14 Jun 1963, p. 1; 21 Jun 1963, p. 1; 28 Jun 1963, pp. 1, 12; 12 Jul 1963, pp. 6-7).
- 30 Jun OKINAWA---The 2d Battalion, 1st Marines boarded the USS Patrick Henry at San Diego on its way from Camp Pendleton to Okinawa as the transplacement battalion for 3/9 of the 3d Marine Division. (Triad, 5 Jul 1963, p. 3).
- 30 Jun USMC---Marine Corps active duty strength was 189,683. ('63 Def Pol, p. 157).
- 1 Jul OKINAWA---The 2d Battalion, 1st Marines sailed from San Diego on board the USS Edwin D. Patrick for a thirteen-month transplacement tour of duty in the Far East. While serving with the 3d Division, the unit was designated as 3/9. (Scout, 21 Jun 1963, p. 1; 28 Jun 1963, p. 1; 5 Jul 1963, p. 5).
- 10 Jul CARIBBEAN---The 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, of which 2/2 was the basic ground unit, left the Camp Lejeune area to participate in PHIBULEX 3-63 in the Caribbean area. (Globe, 25 Jul 1963, p. 3; 12 Sep 1963, p. 2; 24 Oct 1963, p. 3).
- 19 Jul OKINAWA---The 2d Battalion, 1st Marines, which flew to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba during the crisis last fall, began a 13-month tour in the Far East after assuming the designation 3/9 upon disembarking from the USNS Patrick at Naha, Okinawa. (Triad, 26 Jul 1963, pp. 1, 4).
- 19 Jul OKINAWA---The 3d Division's new battalion landing team afloat, 2/3, embarked at Naha preparatory to joining the Special Landing Force of the Seventh Fleet. The battalion will relieve 1/3. (Triad, 26 Jul 1963, p. 3).
- 23 Jul USMC---Rear Admiral Armando Topez Conde, Commandant, Venezuelan Marine Corps, visited Camp Lejeune. (Globe, 25 Jul 1963, p. 1).
- Jul CONUS---Marines of the 6th MEU (BLT 2/6) returned from the Caribbean. (Globe, 30 Jan 1964, p. 4).
- 1 Aug USMC---Marine All-Weather Fighter Squadrons assigned the F4B Phantom aircraft were redesignated as Marine Fighter/Attack Squadrons (VMFA). Squadrons affected were VMF(AW)-314, -513, and -531. (Globe, 18 Jul 1963, p. 2).
- 3 Aug HAITI---The United States cut off all aid to Haiti with the withdrawal of the aid mission. (NY Times).
- 3 Aug USMC---Marine Transport Squadron 353 was unofficially brought back to service with the Marine Air Reserve Training Detachment, Seattle, Washington. The squadron was officially reactivated on 1 September. (Globe 22 Aug 1963, p. 2).
- 5 Aug- USMC---The 1963 Staff NCO Symposium was held at Camp Lejeune. (Globe, 8 Aug 1963, pp. 1,
10 Aug 3; 15 Aug 1963, pp. 1, 6-7; Triad, 6 Sep 1963, p. 5).
- 8 Aug CONUS---Approximately 1,000 men of a Far East transplacement battalion arrived at San Diego's Broadway Pier on board the USNS General High J. Gaffey. Known as 3/9 while serving with the 3d Division, the unit assumed the designation of 2/1 upon its return to Camp Pendleton (Camp San Mateo). (Scout, 9 Aug 1963, p. 1).
- 12 Aug- SARDINIA---Heavy bombardment marked exercise MEDLANDEX 4-63 at Porto Scudo, Sardinia,
19 Aug preparatory to the amphibious landing by BLT 1/6. (Globe, 5 Sep 1963, p. 3).
- 29 Aug USMC---A new parachutist insignia adopted by the Navy-Marine Corps was received by Marines of the 1st Force Reconnaissance Company. (Scout, 6 Sep 1963, p. 3).
- Aug CONUS---BLT 2/2 concluded its Caribbean cruise. (Globe, 30 Jan 1964, p. 4).
- Aug MEDITERRANEAN---Battalion Landing Team 3/2 departed for duty in the Mediterranean. (Globe, 30 Jan 1964, p. 4).
- 2 Sep CONUS---President Kennedy, in a TV interview, declared that the United States was prepared to continue to assist South Vietnam "but I don't think that the war can be won unless the people support the effort and, in my opinion, in the last two months, the Government has gotten out of touch with the people." (Bkgd Info SE Asia and VN, p. 13).

- 5 Sep OKINAWA---The 3d Battalion, 1st Marines, embarked on board the USS General Mann in San Diego for transplacement to the Far East. Upon arrival in Okinawa the unit was designated 1/3 for service with the 3d Division. (Scout, 6 Sep 1963, p. 1; Triad, 13 Sep 1963, p. 1; 27 Sep 1963, p. 1).
- 15 Sep- USMC---Operation SWAMPPEX-63, largest training exercise held by the 2d Division in 1963,
4 Oct was held in Croatan National Forest, N. C. (Globe, 30 Jan 1964, p. 4; Triad, Aug 1963, p. 4).
- 16 Sep- USMC---The 13th Marine Expeditionary Brigade engaged in Exercise MERIT BADGE in the
26 Sep Camp Pendleton area. Marines of the 1st Marine Division (RLT-7), the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, and Force Troops, FMF, Pacific, participated. (Scout, 27 Sep 1963, pp. 1, 3, 8, 9, 13; 4 Oct 1963, p. 3).
- 21 Sep OKINAWA---The 2d Battalion, 3d Marines, returned to Okinawa after two months afloat as the ground element of the Special Landing Force, Seventh Fleet. (Triad, 27 Sep 1963, p. 1; Unit Diaries).
- 24 Sep- CONUS---Some 63 Marines of Company E, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines went to Vancouver,
3 Oct Washington, where they participated in ceremonies celebrating the arrival of the USS Vancouver, the city's namesake. (Scout, 11 Oct 1963, p. 4).
- Sep USMC---Lieutenant General Wallace M. Greene, Jr., Chief of Staff of the Marine Corps, was named by President Kennedy as the new Commandant of the Corps to take office 1 January 1964. ('63 Def Pol, p. 152; Globe, 26 Sep 1963, pp. 1, 12).
- 25 Sep- HAWAII---More than 7,000 1st Marine Brigade Marines participated in Operation DULL KNIFE
5 Oct in the Hawaiian area. The exercise provided training in surface amphibious assault and follow up operations ashore. (Triad, 27 Sep 1963, p. 3; Scout, 20 Sep 1963, p. 1).
- 28 Sep- USMC---The 1st Reconnaissance Battalion left Camp Pendleton for mountain training at the
24 Oct Cold Weather Training Center, Bridgeport, California. (Scout, 11 Oct 1963, p. 3; 25 Oct 1963, p. 3).
- 4 Oct CARIBBEAN---Battalion Landing Team 1/2 assaulted the beach at Vieques, P. R., as part of training exercise 2-63. (Globe, 14 Nov 1963, p. 2).
- 5 Oct MEDITERRANEAN---Battalion Landing Team 3/2 relieved BLT 1/6 of duty with the U. S. Sixth Fleet at Rota, Spain. BLT 1/6 had been deployed in the Mediterranean since May. (Globe, 10 Oct 1963, p. 1; 9 Jan 1964, p. 3).
- 5 Oct USMC---A new Oath of Enlistment per Public Law 87-571 became effective. "So help me God" may be omitted by any person who elects to affirm rather than to swear. (Triad, 15 Nov 1963, p. 5).
- 7 Oct USMC---The Marine Corps' Cold Weather Training Center at Bridgeport, California was redesignated the Mountain Warfare Training Center. (Scout, 18 Oct 1963, p. 5).
- 8 Oct- USMC---Members of the 2d Battalion, 6th Marines conducted a 9-day Mountain Training
17 Oct Operation in the Nantahola National Forest near Franklin, N.C. (Globe, 3 Oct 1963, p. 12; 31 Oct 1963, p. 12).
- 11 Oct CONUS---A transplacement battalion, known as 1/3 while in the Far East, arrived at San Diego's Broadway Pier on board the USNS General Mann. The unit was sent to the San Mateo area of Camp Pendleton where it assumed the designation of 3/1. (Scout, 11 Oct 1963, p. 3).
- 15 Oct USMC---Headquarters Marine Corps announced Colonel Michael R. Yunck was named Marine Aviator of the year and recipient of the Alfred A. Cunningham Award. (Globe, 24 Oct 1963, p. 2; "Yunck" - Biog File).
- 20 Oct HAITI---Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 162 (MAG-26) from New River arrived in Port au Prince Bay on board the USS Tueh's Bay to deliver food and supplies to hurricane-stricken areas of Haiti's southern peninsula. (Globe, 31 Oct 1963, p. 3).
- 31 Oct CONUS---The escort ship Garcia (DE-1040) was launched at the Bethlehem Steel Co., San Francisco. The Garcia was named in honor of PFC Fernando Luis Garcia, USMC, posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for sacrificing himself to save the life of another Marine in Korea, 5 September 1952. Garcia was the first Marine of Puerto Rico to be awarded the Medal of Honor. (Scout, 22 Nov 1963, p. 9).
- 1 Nov USMC---The 1st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company of the 7th Engineer Battalion, the only EOD company in the Marine Corps, was disbanded by a directive from CMC. The unit was activated in 1952. (Scout, 25 Oct 1963, p. 4).
- 1 Nov VIETNAM---A military coup organized by the key generals of the Armed Forces against the Diem regime took place in Saigon. President Diem and his brother were assassinated. (US in VN, p. 29).

1963-1964

- 2 Nov VIETNAM---Military leaders of South Vietnam set up a provisional government, headed by former Vice President Nguyen Ngoc Tho as Premier. The Constitution was suspended and the National Assembly dissolved. (US in VN, p. 30).
- 7 Nov OKINAWA---The 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, left Camp Pendleton as a transplacement battalion to the 3d Marine Division in the Far East. The battalion sailed on 8 November for its new home base of Camp Schwab where it will assume the designation of 2/3. (Scout, 1 Nov 1963, pp. 6-7; 15 Nov 1963, p. 3).
- 15 Nov VIETNAM---U. S. military spokesmen in Saigon reported that 1,000 U. S. servicemen of 16,575 in the country would be withdrawn from South Vietnam, beginning 3 December, because of progress made in the training of Vietnamese. (US in VN, p. 30).
- 15 Nov USMC---It was announced that Lieutenant Colonel Barbara J. Bishop would succeed Colonel Margaret M. Henderson as Director of Woman Marines on 2 January 1964. (Globe, 21 Nov 1963, p. 1; Scout, 22 Nov 1963, p. 5).
- 22 Nov CONUS---President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas. Lyndon B. Johnson was sworn in as the 36th President of the United States. ('63 Def Pol, p. 154).
- 24 Nov CONUS---President Lyndon B. Johnson affirmed the U. S. intention to continue its military and economic support of South Vietnam's struggle against the Communist Vietcong. (US in VN, p. 30).
- 2 Dec TAIWAN---American and Chinese Marines stormed the beaches on western Taiwan as part of Exercise BIG DIPPER. Marines from 3/3 participated by helicopter in a vertical assault. (Triad, 29 Nov 1963, pp. 1, 4; 6 Dec 1963, pp. 1, 10; 13 Dec 1963, p. 4).
- 2 Dec-- USMC---The 2d Battalion, 7th Marines was at the Mountain Warfare Training Center,
11 Dec Bridgeport, California for nine days of mountain and cold weather training. (Scout, 6 Dec 1963, p. 7; 13 Dec 1963, p. 7).
- 3 Dec VIETNAM---The U. S. began an announced gradual reduction of forces in South Vietnam with the departure of 220 personnel for the United States. ('63 Def Pol, p. 154).
- 4 Dec CARIBBEAN---Battalion Landing Team 3/8 embarked at Morehead City en route to the Caribbean where it will take part in amphibious landing exercises, relieving BLT 1/2. (Globe, 5 Dec 1963, p. 12).
- 8 Dec OKINAWA---The 3d Battalion, 3d Marines, returned to White Beach, Okinawa, on board the USS Okanagon, completing three months afloat with the Seventh Fleet. (Triad, 13 Dec 1963, p. 1).
- 9 Dec-- USMC---The 3d Battalion, 7th Marines was at the Mountain Warfare Training Center,
20 Dec Bridgeport, California, for nine days of mountain and cold weather training. (Scout, 6 Dec 1963, p. 7).
- 12 Dec CONUS---The 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, arrived at San Diego on board the USS Breckinridge after a thirteen-month tour as a transplacement battalion in the Far East. (Scout, 6 Dec 1963, p. 1; 20 Dec 1962, p. 1).
- 12 Dec CONUS---BLT 1/2 was scheduled to return to Camp Lejeune from the Caribbean. (Globe, 5 Dec 1963, p. 12).
- 31 Dec USMC---General David M. Shoup retired as twenty-second Commandant of the Marine Corps. ('63 Def Pol, p. 155).
- 31 Dec USMC---Marine Corps active duty strength was 188,650. ('63 Def Pol, p. 157).

1964

- 1964- CONUS---A 10-man U. S. Marine Corps World's Fair unit helped man the Navy-Marine Corps
1965 exhibit in the Travel and Transportation Pavilion. (Leatherneck, Jul 1964, p. 18).
- 1 Jan USMC---General Wallace M. Greene, Jr., became Commandant of the Marine Corps, vice General David M. Shoup, retired. ('64 Def Pol, p. 156; Globe, 9 Jan 1964, p. 1).
- 3 Jan USMC---Colonel Barbara J. Bishop assumed her duties as Director of Women Marines in a ceremony at Headquarters. (Scout, 10 Jan 1964, p. 5).
- 6 Jan-- MEDITERRANEAN---BLT 3/2 participated in MEDLANDEX 1-64, a nine-day live firing exercise
14 Jan at Porto Scudo, Sardinia. Marines ashore conducted live fire problems with every Marine firing his weapon. (Globe, 6 Feb 1964, p. 3).
- 8 Jan OKINAWA---The 2d Battalion, 5th Marines sailed on board the MSTs General William Mitchell from San Diego for Okinawa as a transplacement battalion for the 3d Marine Division. (Scout, 3 Jan 1964, p. 1).

- 9 Jan PANAMA---Battalion Landing Team 3/8 landed at the mouth of the Rio Chagres River, Fort Sherman, Panama Canal Zone to commence one week's training in jungle operations. (Globe, 30 Jan 1964, p. 4; 20 Feb 1964, pp. 6-7).
- 13 Jan- CONUS---Three hundred Marines of 3/6 participated in Operation SNOWFEX 1-64 at Camp Drum, 27 Jan N. Y. (Globe, 30 Jan 1964, p. 4; 27 Feb 1964, pp. 6-7).
- 23 Jan- MEDITERRANEAN---The 1st Battalion (Rein), 8th Marines, boarded ship at Morehead City, 18 Jun N. C., enroute from Camp Lejeune for duty with the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. The unit relieved 3/2. (Globe, 23 Jan 1964, p. 12).
- 29 Jan OKINAWA---The 2d Battalion, 5th Marines, from Camp Pendleton landed at Naha Port and assumed the designation of 3/3 garrisoned at Camp Schwab. The unit arrived on board the MSTS General William Mitchell. (Triad, 31 Jan 1964, pp. 1, 10).
- 6 Feb CUBA---The Cuban government ordered the water supply to the U. S. Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay cut off in retaliation for the arrest of 36 Cubans found fishing illegally in Florida waters. (Varner and Koze, p. 66).
- 9 Feb USMC---The 73-member 2d Marine Division Band arrived in New Orleans, Louisiana, for parade appearance during the Mardi Gras. The band was housed on board the USS Lexington moored at the Dumaine Street wharf. (Globe, 13 Feb 1964, p. 1).
- 12 Feb CUBA---The Pentagon announced that no more dependents of military men or civilians would be allowed to go to Guantanamo Naval Base in Cuba. ('64 Def Pol, p. 158).
- 13 Feb SE ASIA---The 2d Battalion, 9th Marines became the new battalion afloat in the Seventh Fleet's Amphibious Ready Group as part of the Special Landing Force. The battalion relieved 1/9. (Triad, 21 Feb 1964, p. 1).
- 15 Feb CONUS---More than 1,000 Marines who served with the 3d Division in the Far East as 3/3 arrived at San Diego on board the USS General Mitchell. Upon arrival at Camp Pendleton's Margarita area, the unit assumed the designation of 2/5. (Scout, 14 Feb 1964, p. 1; 20 Feb 1964, p. 4).
- 26 Feb CONUS---BLT 3/2 disembarked at Morehead City and arrived at Camp Lejeune after spending nearly six months in the Mediterranean. The unit was relieved by 1/8 on 6 February. (Globe, 20 Feb 1964, p. 1).
- Spring 1964 CUBA---The Cuban Government formally complained to the U. S. that the Marine sentries at the U. S. Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay had destroyed the property around the Cuban guardhouse at the Northeast Gate. Further, they accused the Marines of using abusive language and actions which degraded their guards and that the Marines had taken down the Cuban Flag, threw it on the ground, and used provocative action against the guards on Cuban territory. (Varner and Koze, p. 69).
- 3 Mar TAIWAN---The VII Marine Expeditionary Force, including troops from the 1st and 3d Marine Divisions, the 1st Marine Brigade, and the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, joined with Chinese forces in Exercise BACKPACK in Taiwan. (Triad, 14 Feb 1964, pp. 6-7; 21 Feb 1964, p. 3; 20 Mar 1964, Special Supplement).
- 3 Mar- CONUS---Operation WINTER NIGHT was conducted at Twenty-nine Palms by the 1st Marines, 10 Mar one battalion of the 5th Marines, and reinforcing ground elements, with helicopters and fixed wing aircraft of the 3d MAF from El Toro and Yuma supporting. The aggressor force was two battalions of the 7th Marines with artillery and other supporting units. (Scout, 28 Feb 1964, pp. 1, 6-7; 6 Mar 1964, pp. 1, 5; 13 Mar 1964, pp. 1, 6-11).
- 16 Mar SE ASIA---Headquarters for a SEATO Expeditionary Brigade preparing for Exercise LIGTAS was activated at Camp Hauge. Four nations were represented: the Philippines, the United Kingdom, Australia, and the United States. (Triad, 15 May 1964, p. 1).
- 23 Mar OKINAWA---The personnel of the 3d Battalion, 5th Marines, from Camp Pendleton arrived at Naha Port, Okinawa, on board the USS General Mann. The unit assumed the designation of 1/9 as a transplacement battalion. (Scout, 14 Feb 1964, p. 2; Triad, 27 Mar 1964, p. 1).
- 23 Mar- USMC---The 1st Marines engaged in a counter-guerrilla operation in the Camp Pendleton 3 Apr area between Case Springs and Combat Town. (Scout, 27 Mar 1964, p. 1; 3 Apr 1964, pp. 1, 6-7).
- 26 Mar USMC---General Wallace M. Greene, Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, stated that during 1963, the Marine Corps reached its best state of readiness in many years and that its strength of 190,000 was adequate to perform the missions assigned to the Marines. ('63 Def Pol, p. 98).

- Mar CARIBBEAN---A combined-arms field firing exercise (FFEX-64), involving organizations from the 2d Marine Division, Force Troops, Atlantic, naval warships, and carrier-based Navy and Marine aircraft, was conducted at Vieques, Puerto Rico. The II Marine Expeditionary Force made an amphibious landing. (Globe, 12 Mar 1964, p. 1).
- 7 Apr OKINAWA---The 2d Battalion, 9th Marines was relieved as the 3d Marine Division's afloat battalion by the 3d Battalion, 9th Marines. BLT 2/9 returned to Camp Hansen after a two-month tour afloat. (Triad, 10 Apr 1964, p. 1).
- 11 Apr CONUS---Marines who served with 1/9 in the Far East returned to San Diego on board the General Mann. Upon their return to the Margarita garrison area, they assumed the designation of 3/5. (Scout, 10 Apr 1964, p. 1; 17 Apr 1964, p. 1).
- 12 Apr CONUS---2d Division Marines stormed ashore at Onslow Beach, North Carolina, as part of Operation QUICK KICK V, a gigantic 15-day combined forces exercise held at Camp Lejeune. (Globe, 26 Mar 1964, p. 1; 9 Apr 1964, p. 1; 16 Apr 1964, pp. 1, 6-7, 12).
- 23 Apr MEDITERRANEAN---Secretary of the Navy Paul Nitze visited BLT 1/8 on Sardinia where the unit was concluding a two-week series of amphibious training exercises. (Globe, 7 May 1964, p. 12).
- 25 Apr VIETNAM---President Johnson named Lieutenant General William C. Westmoreland to succeed General Paul D. Harkins as Commander in Chief, U. S. Military Assistance Command in South Vietnam, in August. ('64 Def Pol, p. 163).
- 30 Apr USMC---The last Marine officer to serve during World War I retired. Chief Warrant Officer Percy L. Smith, who enlisted in April 1916 as a 16-year-old apprentice musician, had a career of 39 years, including 11 as an inactive reservist. (Scout, 24 Apr 1964, pp. 1, 3).
- Apr USMC---Twelve new artillery pieces, the 107mm Mortar, M98, better known as the "Howtar" were assigned to the mortar batteries of the 1st and 3d Battalions, 12th Marines, at Camp Sukiran, Okinawa. (Triad, 12 Jun 1964, p. 1).
- 4 May OKINAWA---3d Division Headquarters was moved from Camp Hauge to a new building at Camp Courtney, Okinawa. (Triad, 8 May 1963, p. 1).
- 7 May MEDITERRANEAN---More than 400 French Marine Commandos concluded a week of amphibious training exercises with BLT 1/8 on Corsica. (Globe, 28 May 1964, pp. 6-7).
- 8 May- CONUS---Lieutenant General Kim Du Chan, Commandant of the Korean Marine Corps, visited
13 May Camp Lejeune. (Globe, 7 May 1964, p. 1; 14 May 1964, p. 2).
- 12 May VIETNAM---Secretary of State Rusk asked NATO members to give greater support to South Vietnam. (Bkgd Info SE Asia and VN, p. 16).
- 19 May- CONUS---Operation PINE TREE (PHIBLEX 4-64) was conducted at Camp Pendleton by the 9th
29 May Marine Expeditionary Brigade (including RLT-1), the 3d MAW, and Force Troops. The exercise was designed to train forces in planning and executing a combined surface/helicopter landing in a "limited war" situation. (Scout, 22 May 1964, pp. 1, 3; 28 May 1964, pp. 1, 6-7).
- 20 May OKINAWA---The 1st Battalion, 7th Marines arrived at Naha Port from Camp Pendleton and assumed the designation of 2/9 to begin its 13-month tour with the 3d Marine Division. The personnel of the old 2/9 were transferred to 1/7 and returned to Camp Pendleton. (Scout, 15 May 1964, p. 3; Triad, 29 May 1964, p. 1).
- 28 May MEDITERRANEAN---Battalion Landing Team 2/6 embarked for duty with the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean, relieving BLT 1/8. The unit was scheduled to return in early October. (Globe, 28 May 1964, p. 3; 6 Aug 1964, p. 3).
- 1 Jun- HAWAII---High-level U. S. diplomatic and military officials, led by Secretary of State
2 Jun Rusk and Defense Secretary McNamara, met in Honolulu for a 2-day strategy conference on Southeast Asia. ('64 Def Pol, p. 165).
- 1 Jun- NORWAY---Company I, 3d Battalion, 6th Marines participated in a NATO training exercise
20 Jun in northern Norway, exercise NORTHERN EXPRESS. The exercise was conducted in the Tremso area, 300 miles inside the Arctic Circle. (Globe, 2 Jul 1964, p. 3; Triad, 10 Jul 1964, p. 3).
- 3 Jun USMC---Seventy-five graduates of a class of 934 at the U. S. Naval Academy accepted commissions in the U. S. Marine Corps. Three graduates from the U. S. Military Academy and two from the Air Force Academy accepted Marine Corps commissions. (MS - Acad Grads in USMC).

- 4 Jun PHILIPPINES---A massive amphibious airborne assault was made on the island of Mindoro, Philippines, as the climax of the SEATO Exercise LIGTAS. Troops from Australia, France, New Zealand, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, and the United States participated. (Triad, 12 Jun 1964, pp. 1, 10).
- 5 Jun MEDITERRANEAN---BLT 2/6 assumed the duties of the landing force for the Sixth Fleet at Alcudia Bay, Mallorca [Majorca]. (Globe, 25 Nov 1964, p. 6).
- 6 Jun CONUS---The 2d Battalion, 9th Marines arrived at San Diego after 14 months in the Far East where they had extensive jungle, mountain, and guerrilla warfare training. Upon its return to the Camp Pendleton area, the unit assumed the designation of 1/7. (Scout, 5 Jun 1964, p. 1).
- 8 Jun- Sep CONUS---The USS DeSoto County (LST-1171) left Norfolk for a three-month cruise of the Great Lakes with a mission of telling the Navy-Marine Corps team story. (Globe, 28 May 1964, pp. 1, 3; 18 Jun 1964, pp. 1, 3; 2 Jul 1964, p. 1; 17 Sep 1964, pp. 6-7).
- 12 Jun OKINAWA---The 1st Battalion, 3d Marines loaded on board ships of the Seventh Fleet at White Beach, Okinawa, to assume the duties of the Special Landing Force, as part of the Amphibious Ready Group. The unit replaced 3/9. (Triad, 19 Jun 1964, p. 3; 7 Aug 1964, pp. 6-7).
- 18 Jun MEDITERRANEAN---BLT 1/8 disembarked at Morehead City and returned to Camp Lejeune completing the unit's tour of duty in the Mediterranean. The battalion was relieved by 2/6 which was deployed to the Mediterranean as landing force for the Sixth Fleet. (Globe, 18 Jun 1964, p. 1).
- 20 Jun VIETNAM---General Paul D. Harkins was succeeded by Lieutenant General William C. Westmoreland as U. S. Commander in South Vietnam. ('64 Def Pol, p. 166).
- 21 Jun CARIBBEAN---Advance elements of a large Marine Corps landing force, the 32d Expeditionary Unit (MEU), embarked on board the USS Boxer and departed for three months of training in the Caribbean. The ground troops were 2/2 and support elements. Participating air units included HMM-263, HMM-461, VMO-1, VMA-533, and VMF-235. (Globe, 2 Jul 1964, pp. 1, 12).
- 23 Jun VIETNAM---President Johnson accepted the resignation of Henry Cabot Lodge as Ambassador to South Vietnam and appointed General Maxwell D. Taylor to succeed him. The President also appointed U. Alexis Johnson to the newly created post of Deputy Ambassador to South Vietnam. ('64 Def Pol, p. 167).
- 28 Jun FAR EAST---Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 531 arrived for duty in the Far East after a cross-country and trans-Pacific flight. The squadron started from Cherry Point, North Carolina, and stopped at El Toro, Hawaii, and Wake, and was refueled in flight. (Triad, 10 Jul 1964, p. 3).
- 29 Jun SE ASIA---The Ambassadors of the United States, Britain, Canada, India, South Vietnam, and Thailand called for a cease-fire in Laos and for withdrawal of all forces to positions held before the recent fighting. ('64 Def Pol, p. 167).
- 30 Jun- 2 Jul HAWAII---Battalion Landing Teams 2/4 and 3/4 from the 1st Marine Brigade at Kaneohe Bay participated in amphibious exercise TOOL BOX at Bellows Air Force Base, Hawaii. (Triad, 26 Jun 1964, p. 4).
- 30 Jun USMC---The actual strength of the Marine Corps was 189,777. ('64 Def Pol, p. 90).
- 1 Jul USMC---Reorganization of several Fleet Marine Force units became effective. An independent shore party battalion was established and the existing service battalion within the Marine Division was reorganized. (Triad, 22 May 1964, p. 1; 10 Jul 1964, p. 1; Globe, 21 May 1964, pp. 1, 12).
- 1 Jul USMC---Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 164 activated and assigned to MAG-36, 3d MAW, at Santa Ana, California. The squadron was slated to receive the new CH-46 helicopters. (Triad, 24 Jul 1964, p. 1).
- 1 Jul USMC---The 2d Shore Party Battalion was reactivated at Camp Lejeune. The unit had been deactivated since October 1958. (Globe, 9 Jul 1964, p. 1).
- 13 Jul- 23 Jul CONUS---The 5th Marines conducted Exercise CROW BAR at Camp Pendleton. The exercise provided training in surface and helicopter assaults from an amphibious transport dock ship. (Scout, 2 Jul 1964, p. 1; Triad, 7 Aug 1964, p. 5).
- 20 Jul OKINAWA---The 2d Battalion, 7th Marines arrived at Naha Port, Okinawa, from Camp Pendleton as the transplacement battalion for 3/9. (Triad, 31 Jul 1964, p. 1).

1964

- 27 Jul CARIBBEAN---The Cuban Government accused Marine sentries at the U. S. Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay of "killing" one of their guards, indicating that a sentry had fired six shots and critically wounded the Cuban guard twice. (Varner and Koze, p. 69; 1964 FOF, 241D3).
- 28 Jul VIETNAM---The U. S. announced that it was sending an additional 5,000 men to South Vietnam. (US in VN, p. 34).
- 28 Jul CONUS---Elements of the 4th Marine (Reserve) Division participated in Operation COPPERHEAD held in the Camp Lejeune area. (Globe, 30 Jul 1964, pp. 6-7).
- 30 Jul CARIBBEAN---A fresh water plant, to supply water to the U. S. Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, after it had been cut off by the Cuban government, was formally dedicated. (Varner and Koze, p. 67).
- 1 Aug USMC---The former "Senior School" at Quantico was redesignated the "Marine Corps Command and Staff College" while the former "Junior School" was redesignated the "Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare School." (Globe, 13 Aug 1964, p. 10; Triad, 28 Aug 1964, p. 6).
- 2 Aug GULF OF TONKIN---The U. S. destroyer Maddox, while on routine patrol in the international waters of the Gulf of Tonkin, was attacked by three PT boats firing both torpedoes and machine guns. The PT boats were driven off when the destroyer and four U. S. aircraft returned the fire. ('64 Def Pol, pp. 63, 169; Bkgd Info SE Asia and VN, pp. 17, 121-122).
- 2 Aug GULF OF TONKIN---President Johnson issued an order to the Navy to shoot to destroy in any future attack on U. S. ships in the Gulf of Tonkin. ('64 Def Pol, p. 169).
- 3 Aug-7 Aug CARIBBEAN---The 32d Marine Expeditionary Unit spent five days at Vieques, P. R. participating in FIREX 1-65. The exercise was to train and test the fire support units available and attached to the 32d MEU. (Globe, 27 Aug 1964, p. 1).
- 4 Aug GULF OF TONKIN---A second attack was made by PT boats against the Maddox and another U.S. destroyer, the Turner Joy. The U. S. ships were not damaged while their return fire sank or damaged several of the attacking PT boats. The destroyers were 65 miles off shore. ('64 Def Pol, pp. 63, 169; Bkgd Info SE Asia and VN, p. 125).
- 5 Aug VIETNAM---Department of Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara said that U. S. planes had bombed North Vietnamese bases, naval craft, and an oil storage depot, destroying or damaging 25 North Vietnamese patrol boats and had virtually destroyed the oil depot. (1964 FOF, 249A-D).
- 5 Aug VIETNAM---The United Nations Security Council, called into session at the request of the U. S., heard the chief U. S. delegate, Adlai E. Stevenson, defend U. S. bombing of North Vietnamese torpedo boats and their facilities as an act of self-defense. Platon D. Morozov, the Soviet representative, denounced the attack as an "act of aggression." (Bkgd Info SE Asia and VN, pp. 124-127; 1964 FOF, 250A-C).
- 6 Aug CONUS---The 3d Battalion, 9th Marines arrived at San Diego from Okinawa after a 13-month tour of duty with the 3d Division. Upon its return to Camp Pendleton the unit assumed the designation of 2/7. (Scout, 7 Aug 1964, p. 3).
- 7 Aug CONUS---The House of Representatives (416 to 0) and the Senate (88 to 2) passed a resolution approving "all necessary measures" that the President may take "to repel any armed attack" against U. S. forces and "to prevent further aggression" in Southeast Asia. ('64 Def Pol, p. 169).
- 7 Aug SE ASIA---The U. N. Security Council invited both North and South Vietnam to appear before it to discuss the Gulf of Tonkin incidents. North Vietnam, in effect, rejected the council's invitation on 9 August. ('64 Def Pol, p. 169; 1964 FOF, 260B-D2).
- 7 Aug OKINAWA---Battalion Landing Team 2/3 embarked at White Beach last week for a two-month cruise as the Special Landing Force of the Seventh Fleet. (Triad, 7 Aug 1964, p. 7).
- 11 Aug SE ASIA---President Johnson signed the southeast Asia ("Gulf of Tonkin") resolution into law (Public Law 88-408). (Bkgd Info SE Asia and VN, p. 17).
- 13 Aug GULF OF TONKIN---The Department of Defense announced that the Navy patrol of the Gulf of Tonkin had been ended and that the two U. S. destroyers had rejoined the Seventh Fleet in the Pacific. (1964 FOF, 266B1).
- 17 Aug USMC---Stuart Mesa, the Corps' newest weapons training facility, was put into operation in the Camp Pendleton area, replacing Camp Matthews, scheduled to close on 21 August. (Scout, 21 Aug 1964, pp. 1, 5).

- 21 Aug USMC---Camp Calvin B. Matthews, weapons training facility for the San Diego Marine Corps Recruit Depot for 46 years, became history at 1415 when Private P. Van Horn, of San Jose, fired the last round. The site will become the San Diego Campus of the University of California in October. (Globe, 27 Aug 1964, p. 12; Scout, 21 Aug 1964, p. 1; 28 Aug 1964, p. 7).
- 27 Aug CARIBBEAN---The 32d Marine Expeditionary Unit, composed of elements from the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, 2d Marine Division, and Force Troops, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, took part in FIREX 1-65 at Vieques, Puerto Rico. (Globe, 27 Aug 1964, p. 1).
- 1 Sep- CONUS---A full scale counter guerrilla counterinsurgency exercise named GRASSROOTS-64 was conducted at Camp Pickett, near Blackstone, Virginia, some 33 miles southwest of Petersburg. The major Marine Corps force participating was the 4th MEB. (Globe, 3 Sep 1964, p. 1; 10 Sep 1964, pp. 1, 12; 30 Jul 1964, p. 1; 6 Aug 1964, p. 12; 17 Sep 1964, p. 2).
- 4 Sep OKINAWA---The 3d Battalion, 7th Marines, left San Diego on board the USS General Mann for duty as a transplacement battalion in the Far East. It was reviewed by General Wallace M. Greene, Jr., Commandant, on Monday, 1 September. (Scout, 28 Aug 1964, p. 1).
- 6 Oct- CONUS---The 11th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, with units from the 1st Marine Division,
17 Oct 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, and Force Troops, participated in exercise HARD NOSE in the Camp Pendleton area. This was an amphibious landing exercise employing the techniques of counterinsurgency and counter guerrilla warfare. (Scout, 25 Sep 1964, p. 1; 2 Oct 1964, p. 1; 9 Oct 1964, pp. 1, 5; 16 Oct 1964, pp. 1, 6-7).
- 13 Oct CONUS---A transplacement battalion (1/3) arrived at the Las Pulgas area from Okinawa and assumed the designation of 3/7. (Scout, 16 Oct 1964, p. 2; 20 Nov 1964, p. 2).
- 14 Oct USMC---Marine 1st Lieutenant Billy Mills of Coffeyville, Kansas won the first gold medal in the 1964 Olympic Track and Field events by winning the 10,000 meter event in Tokyo. (Scout, 16 Oct 1964, p. 1; Triad, 23 Oct 1964, pp. 4-5).
- 16 Oct USMC---Lieutenant Colonel Thomas J. Ross has been named Marine Aviator of the Year by Headquarters USMC. He was the third recipient of the Alfred A. Cunningham Award and Trophy. (Scout, 23 Oct 1964, p. 2; Globe, 22 Oct 1964, p. 3).
- 26 Oct- MEDITERRANEAN---Amphibious exercise STEEL PIKE I, held off southwestern coast of Spain.
Nov Participating were 33,000 USN personnel, 22,000 U. S. Marines, 500 U. S. Merchant Service, and 2,000 Spanish Marines. Described as "the largest single amphibious maneuver over long distances in peacetime." Both helicopters and landing craft were used to put troops ashore and the SATS system (Short Airfield for Tactical Support) was tested. ('64 Def Pol, p. 98; Globe, 8 Oct 1964, p. 1; 29 Oct 1964, p. 1; 19 Nov 1964, pp. 1, 2).
- 3 Nov MEDITERRANEAN---Battalion Landing Team 1/2 relieved BLT 2/6 of its duties as the landing force for the Sixth Fleet at Huelva, Spain. (Globe, 25 Nov 1964, p. 7; 10 Dec 1964, p. 1).
- 7 Nov OKINAWA---The 1st Battalion, 1st Marines left San Diego's Broadway Pier on board the USS General Mann for transplacement to the 3d Marine Division on Okinawa. It assumed the designation of 2/3 for its tour of Far East duty. (Scout, 6 Nov 1964, pp. 5, 6).
- 10 Nov- CONUS---The Army's 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division participated in exercise BAND
12 Nov WAGON in the Camp Pendleton area. The exercise was designed to provide training in the techniques of amphibious warfare. The insurgent forces were played by Company L, 1st Marines. (Scout, 13 Nov 1964, pp. 1, 2; 20 Nov 1964, p. 9).
- 13 Nov- CONUS---Battalion Landing Team 2/6 returned from the Mediterranean to Camp Lejeune. The
15 Nov unit was relieved as the amphibious landing force of the Sixth Fleet by BLT 1/2. (Globe, 13 Nov 1964, pp. 1, 2; 25 Nov 1964, pp. 6-7).
- 17 Nov- VIETNAM---Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 365 from the USS Princeton evacuated some
23 Nov 1,700 Vietnamese flood victims, while Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 162 delivered more than 900 tons of supplies to flood stricken areas of central Vietnam in the largest relief mission to date in that country. (Gazette, Jan 1965, p. 5).
- 23 Nov OKINAWA---The 1st Battalion, 1st Marines arrived from Camp Pendleton at Naha Port, Okinawa, as the transplacement battalion for 2/3. (Triad, 27 Nov 1964, p. 1).
- 26 Nov EGYPT---An African mob, protesting U. S. participation in a 24 November Congo paratroop operation, attacked the U. S. Embassy compound in Cairo, burning the USIA Library and the Marine Guard compound. ('64 Def Pol, 175).
- 24 Nov- USMC---The 2d Battalion, 7th Marines participated in SNOWFEX IV, a winter firing exercise,
8 Dec at the Mountain Warfare Training Center near Bridgeport, California. (Scout, 20 Nov 1964, p. 3; 4 Dec 1964, p. 2).

1964

- 7 Dec- USMC---The 3d Battalion, 5th Marines participated in SNOWFEX V, a cold weather indoctrin-
17 Dec ation exercise, at the Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, California.
(Scout, 27 Nov 1964, p. 3; 11 Dec 1964, p. 3; 25 Dec 1964, pp. 1, 2).
- 11 Dec PERU---The pilots and crews of two helicopters from VMO-1 were praised at New River, N.C.
for their participation in the rescue of 11 sick, injured, or wounded Peruvian engineers
from the dense Amazon Basin jungle near Iquitos, Northern Peru, last summer. (Globe,
17 Dec 1964, p. 1).
- 14 Dec- USMC---Some 400 Marines of Companies A and D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, participated
18 Dec in a 4-day refresher exercise which was designed to practice improved ship-to-shore
helicopter techniques. The Marines made the trip to the vessel via helicopter on 14
December. (Scout, 18 Dec 1964, p. 2).
- 19 Dec VIETNAM---South Vietnamese military leaders dissolved the High National Council, the
country's legislature, and arrested several Government officials. ('64 Def Pol, 176).
- 31 Dec USMC---The actual strength of the Marine Corps was 188,505... ('64 Def Pol, p. 90).

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