

CONTINENTAL

NAVAJO CODE TALKER P.14 | ONE MAN'S BATTLE AT IWO P.22

MARINES™

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OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MARINE CORPS RESERVE

ALWAYS READY

NEW YORK MARINES' HURRICANE SANDY RESCUE



SEMPER FIDELIS



COMMANDER'S CORNER

EXECUTING DEFENSE SUPPORT OF CIVIL AUTHORITIES

As we transition to a post Operation Enduring Freedom environment, the Reserve Component remains a good return on investment for America, ready to provide the Marine Corps with predictable, trained, equipped, and ready forces able to meet global and contingency requirements. On rare occasions a local response is required, as with Hurricane Sandy, where Marine Reserve units prove to be the best positioned forces to augment first responders quickly and effectively. The Marines of 6th Communications Battalion, located in New York City, were ready and able to assist the NYPD – using the Marines’ 7-ton trucks to rescue 14 people from Sandy’s flood waters.

During the storm, the Marine Corps was the first to exercise a new authority resident in the fiscal year 2012 National Defense Appropriations Act; forwarding for approval the mobilization of 225 Reservists. The Corps leaned forward to test this never-before-enacted authority, working the process and embracing the concept of Reservists providing support to civil authorities.

Our Marines were active in Sandy relief operations. MAG-49 supported the 26th MEU with harbor surveys, infrastructure restoration, maritime security, dewatering, and debris clearing operations. MAG-49 also supported the MEU’s aircraft with flight line, hangar, ready rooms, and office spaces in support of CH-53s, UH-1s, and 76 personnel. 2nd Battalion, 25th Marines supported relief efforts with personnel and vehicles near Staten Island. 6th Communications Battalion supported FEMA, Army National Guard and other federal agencies with billeting and storage space. And 6th Motor Transportation Battalion provided shelter to displaced USCG personnel by transporting donations to shelters. Additionally, 22 Individual Mobilization Augmentees were activated by MARFORNORTH to serve in their capacity as Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers.

Whether conducting combat operations, theater security cooperation operations with partner nations, or responding to local catastrophes, Marine Force Reserve continues the effort to sustain an operational posture that builds on lessons learned from the past 10 years in which significant progress has been made in the mobilization, activation, integration and deactivation processes.

Semper Fidelis,
Lt. Gen. Steven A. Hummer
Commander, Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North

SNAP SHOT



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Peter Zorba, Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Defense Officer Helicopter Squadron (HMM) 764, travels via CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter Dec. 4 during Operation Havasupai. Zorba and his fellow Marines helped deliver toys to more than 175 children during the training exercise.
CPL. JESSICA ITO

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OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MARINE CORPS RESERVE

QUARTER 4 2012

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QUARTER 4 2012

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STAFF SGT. NATE HAUSER

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Marines with 6th Communications Battalion rescue 14 people trapped by fires and flood during the height of the storm.

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One sergeant, inspired by his grandfather, stands above the rest to honor his Navajo heritage.

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A rifle platoon leader recounts his memories of World War II.

SGT. JORGE S. NEGRON, A COMMUNICATIONS ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN WITH 6TH COMMUNICATIONS BATTALION RECOUNTS THE EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE THE NIGHT HURRICANE SANDY HIT, WHERE HE AND TWO OTHER MARINES AND A CORPSMAN HELPED FELLOW NEW YORKERS TRAPPED BY FLAMES AND FLOOD AT BREEZY POINT, N.Y. ON NOV. 5.

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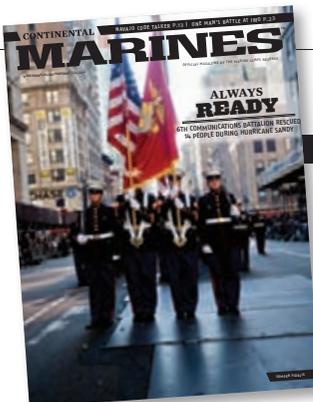
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ON THE COVER

A MARINE COLOR GUARD FROM 6TH COMMUNICATIONS BATTALION, FORCE HEADQUARTERS GROUP, MARINE FORCES RESERVE, MARCHES IN THE ANNUAL NEW YORK VETERANS DAY PARADE NOV. 11. MEMBERS OF THE 6TH COMMUNICATIONS BATTALION ASSISTED WITH A RESCUE OF 14 NEW YORKERS DURING HURRICANE SANDY.

PHOTO BY CPL. DANIEL A. WULZ



CORPS
COMMUNITY





CHRISTMAS IN THE CANYON

Capt. Aaron Finney, Santa's escort with Environmental Services Division, Marine Forces Reserve, distributes toys to a young member of the Havasupai tribe Dec. 4, in Supai, Ariz. Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM) 764, partnered with members of the Flagstaff Toys for Tots organization and Marine League Charities brought Santa and his escorts to the most isolated tribe in America as part of Operation Havasupai. Santa and his Marine escorts delivered toys to more than 175 children. CPL. JESSICA ITO



RESERVE FORCES AROUND THE WORLD:

FROM TROPICAL CARIBBEAN ISLANDS TO SNOWY MOUNTAINS IN NORWAY, RESERVE MARINES PREPARE FOR REAL-WORLD CONFLICTS AND OPERATIONS IN EVERY CLIMB AND PLACE. (OCT 2012-DEC 2012)

AFRICA COMMAND

LONG HAUL COMM. DET. ▾

SPECIAL-PURPOSE MAGTF AFRICA ▾

LONG HAUL COMMUNICATIONS DETACHMENT 12.2

Marines from 4th Marine Logistics Group provide a rotational communications detachment in support of Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa in Djibouti.

13.1- JUNE 1, 2012 TO MAY 16, 2013

13.2- SEPT. 1, 2012 TO JULY 1, 2013

SPECIAL-PURPOSE MAGTF AFRICA

A regionally-focused composite organization specifically tailored to conduct multiple, simultaneous, small and widely-dispersed security cooperation activities, yet retain the ability to quickly aggregate for large-scale support to crisis response.

13.1- OCT. 28, 2012 TO AUGUST 6, 2013

13.2- SEPT. 1, 2012 TO JULY 1, 2013

EUROPEAN COMMAND

GDP-ISAF ▾

GEORGIA DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM

A program designed to train nine Georgian Infantry Battalions to conduct Full Spectrum Operations in a Counterinsurgency environment and deploy Georgian Battalions to Afghanistan. Marines will help increase the Georgian Armed Forces capacity to train and prepare for coalition operations.

8/9- AUGUST 1, 2012 TO APRIL 13, 2013

10/11- FEBRUARY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2013

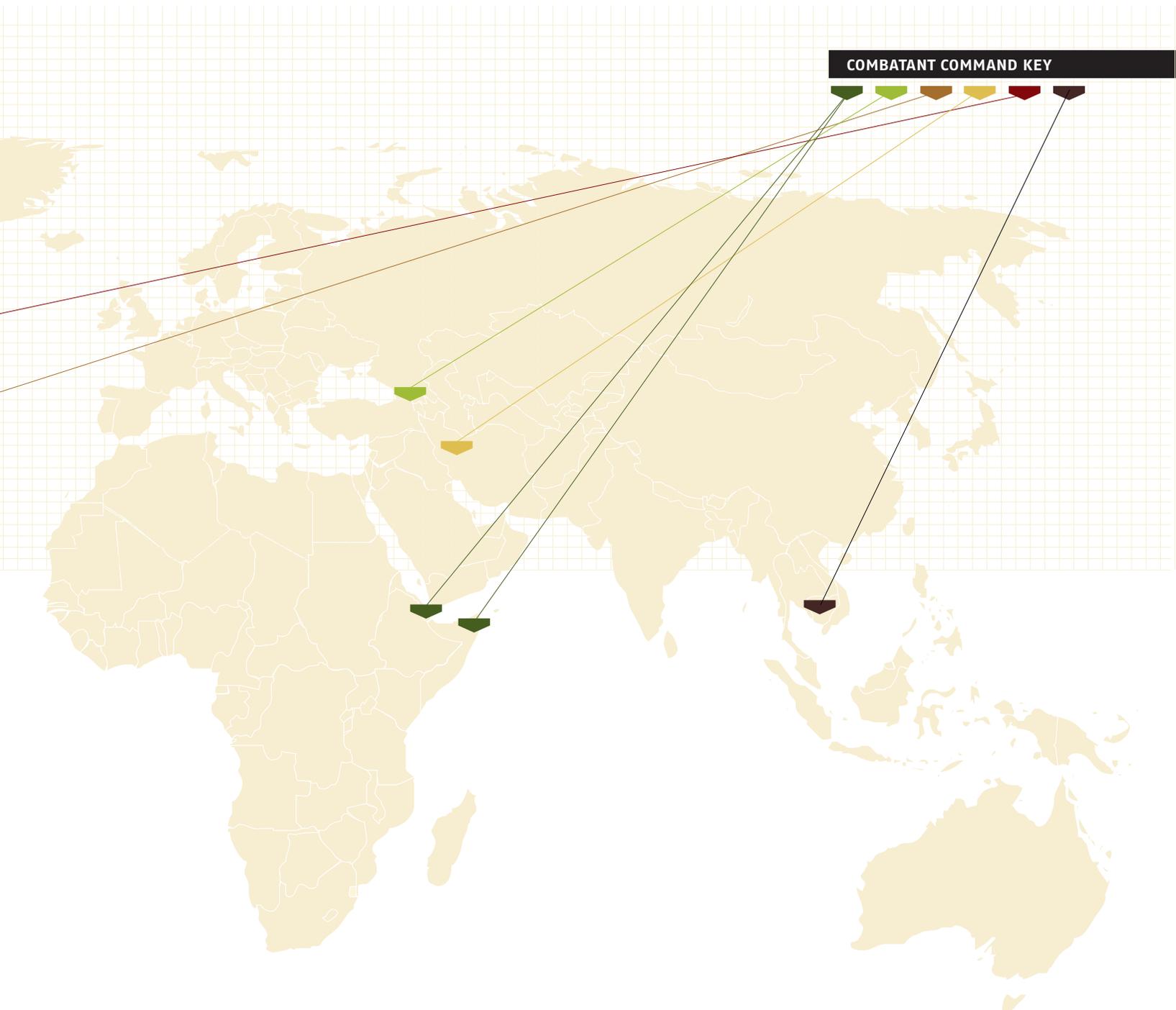
SOUTHERN COMMAND

SOUTHCOM SECURITY COOP TEAM ▾

SOUTHCOM SECURITY COOPERATION TEAM

A Navy and Marine Corps team supports theater security cooperation and stands ready to provide humanitarian assistance/disaster relief.

OCT. 1, 2012 TO SEPT. 30, 2013.



CENTRAL COMMAND

CENTCOM SECURITY COOP TEAM 12.2

CENTCOM SECURITY COOPERATION TEAM

The Central Command Security Cooperation Team conducts security cooperation activities designed to increase partner nation capacity and build relationships to ensure access to facilities throughout the U.S. CentCom area of responsibility.

APRIL 30, 2012 TO JAN. 11, 2013

NORTHERN COMMAND

NORTHCOM SECURITY COOP TEAM

NORTHCOM SECURITY COOPERATION TEAM

Marines continue to provide Latin America and Caribbean troops training in urban terrain tactics, intelligence driven operations, and professional development.

OCT. 1, 2012 TO SEPT. 30, 2013

PACIFIC COMMAND

COBRA GOLD 13

COBRA GOLD 13

An exercise designed to train U.S. forces operating with Thailand and other nations in multinational operations. CG 13 will exhibit the U.S. Joint and multinational capability to conduct peace-support operations, emergency response planning and advance regional security.

FEB. 11 TO FEB. 22, 2013

Tuition Assistance:

MODERN TECHNOLOGY FOR THE MODERN MARINE

M *MARADMIN 625/12* simplifies the steps to getting tuition paid. Previously, Marines had to go through a lengthy process and fill out multiple forms before even enrolling in a college class. The Marine Corps Tuition Assistance program pays 100 percent of a Marine's tuition and fees in pursuit of higher education up to \$4,500 each fiscal year.

All TA will now be handled via the internet. The goal is to make it easier for Marines to view and manage their TA claims. The required "College 101" brief will be given online, and will contain all the information necessary to successfully manage TA over the web. Rollout of the new program will be completed Corps-wide by December 2013. ■



LANCE CPL. MICHELLE MATTEI



CPL. JUSTIN M. BOLLING

RE-UP:

MORE MONEY TO STAY IN THE MARINE CORPS? AYE AYE SIR!

Corporals and sergeants who re-enlist through a prior-service recruiter may be eligible for an affiliation bonus worth \$10,000 and \$15,000, respectively. Interested candidates must have less than a 3-year break in service and be affiliated with the Active Reserve Program in select infantry, finance and aviation military occupational specialties. The incentive is offered on a first-come-first-served basis. Lateral moves are not accepted for this program and candidates must have at least two years of experience in the required MOS. For eligibility requirements and application details, see *MARADMIN 609/12*. ■

HIGH ACTIVE-DUTY TIME:

QUIT WORRYING ABOUT FORMS; JUST TRAIN

M *MARADMIN 558/12* is meant to clear up confusion over high active-duty time concerns. Marines who accumulate more than 16 years of active-duty service time as a result of annual training or reserve counterpart training no longer have to complete high active-duty time waivers to process those orders. Any orders for AT or RCT will be approved without the presence of a waiver regardless of active-duty time served. All AT or RCT orders may be approved through normal channels by appropriate commands. ■



STAFF SGT. NATE HAUSER

THE FIRST WOMEN MARINES



Pvt. Lela Leibrand stands on the wing of a hydroplane at Marine Corps Base Quantico after taking her first flight. Leibrand made it to the rank of sergeant before she was discharged Oct. 30, 1922.



THE FIRST FEMALE MARINES



THERE WERE 305 WOMEN IN THE MARINE CORPS RESERVE IN WORLD WAR I.



SERGEANT WAS THE HIGHEST RANK OBTAINABLE FOR FEMALE MARINES DURING THE WAR.



FEMALE MARINES DURING WORLD WAR I WERE PAID THE SAME AS A MALE OF THE SAME RANK.



AFTER THE WAR, FEMALE RESERVISTS WERE AWARDED THE SAME BENEFITS AS THEIR MALE COUNTERPARTS:

THE RIGHT TO BE BURIED IN ARLINGTON CEMETARY

ELIGIBLE FOR GOVERNMENT INSURANCE

A \$60 BONUS UPON DISCHARGE

MEDICAL TREATMENT AND HOSPITALIZATION FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY

A 5 PERCENT BONUS ADDED TO CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS FOR THOSE WHO CHOSE TO REMAIN IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE



WOMEN WHO REMAINED IN THE RESERVES IN AN INACTIVE STATUS RECEIVED A RETAINER PAY OF \$1 PER MONTH UNTIL THE END OF THEIR 4-YEAR ENLISTMENT.



WOMEN WHO SERVED IN WORLD WAR I RECEIVED A GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL AND A WORLD WAR I VICTORY MEDAL UPON DISCHARGE.

WOMEN JOIN OUR RANKS

“It is thought that about 40 percent of the work at headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps can be performed as well by women as by men: authority is granted to enroll women in the Marine Corps Reserve for clerical duty,” wrote Joseph Daniels, former secretary of the Navy in a letter dated Aug. 2, 1918, to Maj. Gen. George Barnett, then commandant of the Marine Corps.

After the announcement was made, the recruiters opened their doors to women on Aug. 13, 1918. Thousands of women flooded Marine Corps recruiting offices for a chance to be one of the few. Only 305 women were selected to serve in support of the Corps in World War I.

The Armistice that ended the war was signed on Nov. 11, 1918, and the need for women Marines reduced drastically. On July 15, 1919, orders were signed to transfer all women serving on clerical duty to an inactive status. By 1922, all women were out of the Marine Corps, but they didn’t leave without making their mark.

“It is a pleasure, but not by any means an unexpected one, to be able to state that the service rendered by the Reservists (female) has been uniformly excellent. It has, in fact, been exactly what the intelligence and goodness of our country-women would lead one to expect,” said Barnett on June 30, 1919, when asked to comment on the service rendered by female Marines.

Sgt. Johnson, USMCR, (1918–1919)
Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps Stenographer

OPHA MAY JOHNSON

Opha May Johnson was the first woman to enlist in the Marine Corps on Aug. 13, 1918. Pvt. Johnson was promoted to sergeant Sept. 11, 1918, and received a salary of \$30 per month. She carried an “excellent” character throughout her short-lived time as a Marine, and was discharged after the war on Feb. 28, 1919. Historians with the Marine Corps History Division have recently confirmed the location of her grave site and proper spelling of her middle name.



MARINES TRAVELED

~~THE ROAD TO
ARMAGEDDON~~

THE STREETS
OF NEW YORK

TO SAVE

14 LIVES

CPL. MICHAEL ITO



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CPL. MICHAEL LOCKETT



Winds, close to 80 mph, whipped the 14-foot floodwaters through the streets of New York as Hurricane Sandy bore down on the city. During the height of the storm, on Oct. 29, a detective from the New York Police Department approached the duty noncommissioned officer of 6th Communications Battalion, Force Headquarters Group in Brooklyn, N.Y., and requested assistance for an emergency rescue operation.

A transformer in the Queens neighborhood of Rockaway Beach had burst, triggering a house fire that soon spread to adjacent buildings. Because of the fire and the rising floodwaters, many residents were trapped.

First responders attempted to help stranded residents, but they were also trapped, bringing the number of those marooned to 14. The water was too deep for the emergency services units, so the NYPD called on the Reserve Marines for support.

"We were checking (our training center) for damage because the storm was getting pretty bad," said Sgt. Jorge Negron, of Milwaukee, Wis., a ground radio repairman with 6th Communications Battalion. "The police showed up at the gate and, after getting approval, there was no hesitation. It was just 'yeah, of course we'll help.'"

Lt. Col. Richard Bordonaro, Inspector-Instructor for the 6th Communications

Battalion, authorized the use of two 7-ton trucks, as well as the service of three Marines and one Navy corpsman, to conduct rescue assistance under the authority of the Defense Support of Civil Authorities directive.

Sgts. Allan Donaire, Michael Roy and Jorge Negron along with Petty Officer 2nd Class Matthew Pulitano, a corpsman, responded to the request at approximately 10:15 p.m.

"As soon as we got over the bridge, the water (between us and the neighborhood) was so high," said Roy, also a ground radio repairman with the battalion. "SUVs were completely underwater and the flood waters were almost over the hood of our 7-ton."

There were two fires raging when they arrived in the Breezy Point area -- one of the fires eventually destroyed 111 houses, and the other burned a power plant.

"When we turned the corner (and seeing the homes ablaze), it was the most

disturbing thing I've ever seen," said Negron. "The entire block was on fire; it looked like the road to Armageddon."

The first responders' vehicles were either water-logged or not large enough to enter the floodwaters, so over the next five hours, the Marines transported members of local police and fire departments to different areas of the neighborhood.

"The bravery and dedication I saw was so great," said Negron. "Everyone was riding in our truck and then the police would hop into their raft and go to a family in need and the fire department would get in their (rafts) and go straight to a fire."

Bordonaro reinforced how harrowing the situation was for everyone, the storm was not letting up.

"We lost communication with the Marines several times," said Bordonaro. "The winds were high and cell phone reception was sketchy at best. All across New York you could see mass destruction."



On Nov. 5, Sgts. Allan Donaire and Jorge Negron recount the events that took place at Breezy Point, N.Y. on Oct. 29 during Hurricane Sandy. Donaire and Negron assisted police and firemen in a rescue of 14 New Yorkers that night, after a transformer in the Queens neighborhood of Rockaway Beach burst and triggered multiple house fires. The Marines conducted the rescue assistance under the authority of the Defense Support of Civil Authorities Directive. The DSCA directive is the overarching guidance of how the U.S. military can be requested by a federal agency to use assets and personnel to assist in missions normally carried out by civil authorities.

PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. NATE HAUSER

The Marines were thankful that everyone made it safely out of the situation alive because of good teamwork.

“It was so great to see everyone come together, the police, firemen and the Marines,” said Roy. “It didn’t matter who you worked for at that point, we were just all trying to get those people out of there”

Negron felt thankful that he had a chance to serve the community. It is definitely gratifying to see so many people safely make it out of such a bad situation, he said.

“I talked to the Marines before they went out, and they were ready,” said Bordonaro. “The conditions were dangerous; some first responders had already been trapped. But the Marines went out and performed. They knew they were saving peoples’ lives.”

The Marines and corpsman are assigned to the 6th Communications Battalion, a Reserve unit headquartered in Brooklyn, N.Y. The unit specializes in communications and is trained to provide radio, cyber, wire/switching, and satellite

services to support Marine Expeditionary Forces.

6th Communications Battalion also serves the community by organizing and operating the Toys for Tots program in the New York City and Long Island area, participating in parades and memorial services, and supporting many other community activities.

WOL-LA-CHEE BE-LA-SANA TSE-NILL NA-HASH-CHID SHUSH TOISH-JEH MOASI TLA-GIN BA-GOSHI BE CHINDI LHA-CHA-EH AH-JAH DZEH AH-NAH CHUO TSA-E-DONIN-EE MA-E AH-TAD KLIZZIE JEHA TSE-GAH CHA LIN TKIN YEH-HES A-CHI TKELE-CHO-G AH-YA-TSINNE YIL-DOI JAD-HO-LONI BA-AH-NE-DI-TININ KLIZZIE-YAZZIE DIBEH-YAZZIE AH-JAD NASH-DOIE-TSO TSIN-TLITI BE-TAS-TNI NA-AS-TSO-SI TSAH A-CHIN A-KHA TLO-CHIN NE-AHS-JAH CLA-GI-AIH BI-SO-DIH NE-ZHONI CA-YEILTH GAH DAH-NES-TSA AH-LOSZ DIBEH KLESH D-AH A-WOH THAN-ZIE SHI-DA NO-DA-IH A-KEH-DI-GLINI GLOE-IH AL-NA-AS-DZOH TSAH-AS-ZIH BESH-DO-TLIZ DIN-NEH-IH ASHIIH-HI TABAHA TACHEENE NAKIA HAS-CLISH-NIH YO-IH DEBEH-LI-ZINI BIH-KEH-HE SO-NA-KIH SO-A-LA-IH ATSAH-BESH-LE-GAI CHE-CHIL-BE-TAH-BESH-LEGALI CHE-CHIL-BE-TAH-OLA BESH-LEGALI-A-LAH-IH HASH-KAY-GI-NA-TAH BIH-DA-HOL-NEHI ZHIN-NI BEH-HGA NE-HE-MAH CHA-YES-DESI TOH-TA CEH-YEHS-BESI DA-GHA-HI BESH-BE-CHA-HE TKIN-KE-YAH AH-LE-GAI DOH-HA-CHI-YALI-TCHI BEH-NA-ALI-TSOSIE KE-YAH-DA-NA-LHE SILA-GOL-CHI-IH SHA-DE-AH-NE-HI-MAH DEBA-DE-NIH WO-TAH-DE-NE-IH GINI TAS-CHIZZIE NE-AS-JAH DA-HE-TIH-HI JAY-SHO GA-GIH ATSAH TOH-DINEH-IH LO-TSO TSIDI-MOFFA-YE-HI BESH-LO-CHA CA-LO LO-TSO-YAZZIE TSE-E ATSAH-BE-YAZ WOZ-CHEIND TAH-CHILL TAH-TSO TAH-TSOSIE BE-NE-EH-EH-JAH-TSO BE-NE-TA-TSOSIE BE-NEEN-TA-TSO GHAW-JIH NIL-CHI-TSOSIE NIL-CHI-TSO YAS-NIL-TES NAVAJO YE-TSAN WOLA-CHI-A-MOFFA-GAHN WOLA-CHEE-BE-YIED UL-SO BE-KA-HO HANOT-DZIED AH-HA-TINH AH-HA-TINH-Y BEH-GHA IH-HE-DE-NDEL YI-CHIN-HA-TSE BE-GAHI HAS-TAI-NEL-KAD NAS-SEY NA-NETIN BE-ZONZ LANH BI-KHA-DI (A) BE-NA-GNISH EDA-ELE-TSOOD NILCHI NILCHI-BEGHA DEE-CAHN IH-NAY-TANI DO-DZE WOL-LA-CHEE-TSIN NI-JOL-LIH TAH-HA-DAH YE-KA-HA-YA BI-CHI-OL-DAH TO-KUS-DAN GAH-TSO BIG HAZ-A-GIH BESH-YE-HA-DA-DI-TEH LEI-CHA-IH YIL-KNEE-IH IL-DAY-AL-DOH-TSO-LANI AHCE ALTSEH-E-JAH-HE DE-JI-KASH BAH-DEH-TAHN AH-DI AL-TAH-JAY BO-O-NE-TAH (A) GIHA HANI-BA-AH-HO-ZIN BE-BO-HO-SNEE A-SHOZ-TEH-IH KLAILI-NE-TAH BESH-NA-ELT BESH-BA-WA-CHIND BIH-CHAN-NI-AH BIH-TSEE-DIH BIH-BE-AL-DOH-TKA-IH DA-AH-HI-DZI-TSIO TOH-AH-HI-GHINH AH-ZHOL TSES-NAH TAH-NEH (B) TAH-NES-CHEE BIH-TSE-DIH HA-HOL-ZIZ TSES-NAH-SNEZ BI-TAH-KIZ BILH-LA DI EHL-NAS-TEH A-YE-SHI DINEH-BA-WHOA-BLEHI YE-CHIE-TSAH KA-YAH-BI-NA-HAS-DZOH(B) ALTH-WHOSH TSAS-KA NEH-DIH BE-GHA BESH-LKOH NAHL-KIHD TO-ALTSEH-HOGAN DI-NES-IH YAH-DI-ZINI BE-AL-DOH-TSO-DEY-DIL-DON-IGI BE-NEL-AH YIS-NAH YO-LAILH BIH-AH BIH-DIN-NE-DEY BI-NIH-NANI TSA-OND DA-TEL-JAY JISH-CHA ULH-NE-IH THLA-GO-A-NAT-ZAH HA-TALHI-YAZZIE AH-TAH-GI-JAH TA-NEE NAS-PAS AH-HEH-HA-DAILH ALTH-AH-A-TEH YO-AH-HOL-ZHOD TSE-YE-CHEE UL-CHI-UH-NAL-YAH TA-BAS-DISSI YIL-TAS NAKI-ALH--DEH-DA-AL-ZHIN ALTH-KAY-NE-ZIH DA-AH-HI-JIH-GANH AL-TKAS-EI HUC-QUO TSA-NA-DAHL NAI-EL-NE-HI HUC-QUO-LA-JISH HA-NEH-AL-ENJI BE-KI-ASZ-JOLE TA-LA-HI-JIH WHE-HUS-DIL AH-HO-TAI BE-KE-YA-TI NA-NIL-IN TA-A-NEH A-KEH-DES-DLIN NE-TSA-CAS BILH (C) AH-HIH-HI-NIL AHL-NEH AH-HI-DI-DAIL TA-YI-TEH NAI-GHIZ TKAL-KAH-O-NEL WOL-LA-CHEE BE-LA-SANA TSE-NILL NA-HASH-CHID SHUSH TOISH-JEH MOASI TLA-GIN BA-GOSHI BE CHINDI LHA-CHA-EH AH-JAH DZEH AH-NAH CHUO TSA-E-DONIN-EE MA-E AH-TAD KLIZZIE JEHA TSE-GAH CHA LIN TKIN YEH-HES A-CHI TKELE-CHO-G AH-YA-TSINNE YIL-DOI JAD-HO-LONI BA-AH-NE-DI-TININ KLIZZIE-YAZZIE DIBEH-YAZZIE AH-JAD NASH-DOIE-TSO TSIN-TLITI BE-TAS-TNI NA-AS-TSO-SI TSAH A-CHIN A-KHA TLO-CHIN NE-AHS-JAH CLA-GI-AIH BI-SO-DIH NE-ZHONI CA-YEILTH GAH DAH-NES-TSA AH-LOSZ DIBEH KLESH D-AH A-WOH THAN-ZIE SHI-DA NO-DA-IH A-KEH-DI-GLINI GLOE-IH AL-NA-AS-DZOH TSAH-AS-ZIH BESH-DO-TLIZ DIN-NEH-IH ASHIIH-HI TABAHA TACHEENE NAKIA HAS-CLISH-NIH YO-IH DEBEH-LI-ZINI BIH-KEH-HE SO-NA-KIH SO-A-LA-IH ATSAH-BESH-LE-GAI CHE-CHIL-BE-TAH-BESH-LEGALI CHE-CHIL-BE-TAH-OLA BESH-LEGALI-A-LAH-IH HASH-KAY-GI-NA-TAH BIH-DA-HOL-NEHI ZHIN-NI BEH-HGA NE-HE-MAH CHA-YES-DESI TOH-TA CEH-YEHS-BESI DA-GHA-HI BESH-BE-CHA-HE TKIN-KE-YAH AH-LE-GAI DOH-HA-CHI-YALI-TCHI BEH-NA-ALI-TSOSIE KE-YAH-DA-NA-LHE SILA-GOL-CHI-IH SHA-DE-AH-NE-HI-MAH DEBA-DE-NIH WO-TAH-DE-NE-IH GINI TAS-CHIZZIE NE-AS-JAH DA-HE-TIH-HI JAY-SHO GA-GIH ATSAH TOH-DINEH-IH LO-TSO TSIDI-MOFFA-YE-HI BESH-LO-CHA CA-LO LO-TSO-YAZZIE TSE-E ATSAH-BE-YAZ WOZ-CHEIND TAH-CHILL TAH-TSO TAH-TSOSIE BE-NE-EH-EH-JAH-TSO BE-NE-TA-TSOSIE BE-NEEN-TA-TSO GHAW-JIH NIL-CHI-TSOSIE NIL-CHI-TSO YAS-NIL-TES NAVAJO YE-TSAN WOLA-CHI-A-MOFFA-GAHN WOLA-CHEE-BE-YIED UL-SO BE-KA-HO HANOT-DZIED AH-HA-TINH AH-HA-TINH-Y BEH-GHA IH-HE-DE-NDEL YI-CHIN-HA-TSE BE-GAHI HAS-TAI-NEL-KAD NAS-SEY NA-NETIN BE-ZONZ LANH BI-KHA-DI

CODE TALKER AMONG US

GRANDDAD'S RULES: YOU DON'T SLEEP IN, YOU RISE BEFORE THE SUN, YOU RUN TOWARDS THE EAST EVERY MORNING, PRAY AND COME BACK.

CPL. NANA DANNISA-APPIAH



SGT. RAY LEWIS

INSPIRED

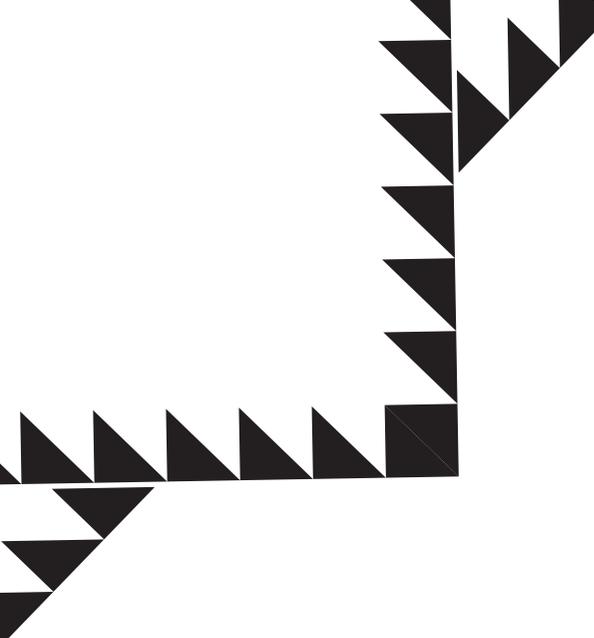
BY A WORLD WAR II HERO

Sgt. Delshayne John stands out from his fellow Marines at Marine Corps Support Facility New Orleans. He rose through the ranks to be meritoriously promoted to sergeant in less than three years, he is only on his first tour and already works directly for a three-star general, and he is a 21-year-old, 175 pounds packed into a lean 6-foot-2 inch frame, an experienced rodeo rider, basketball and football player, wrestler and cross country virtuoso.

But what makes John really different is his Native American heritage. His two great granduncles or as he refers to them, grandfathers, Leonard Begay and Jimmie M. Begay, served as Navajo code talkers during World War II.

John, who speaks fluent Navajo, serves as a communications Marine and credits his decision to serve in the military to his upbringing on the Navajo reservation in Fort Defiance, Ariz., and the influence of one specific grandfather, Jimmie M. Begay.

“My dad left when I was three and my grandfather Jimmie has always been there for me. He has been the father figure in my life,” said John.



THE NAVAJO NATION, WINDOW ROCK, ARIZ. – This Navajo Code Talkers monument, sculpted by Oreland Joe, was commissioned by the Navajo Code Talkers Memorial Foundation. The monument was built to honor more than 400 Navajos that saved the lives of Marines and soldiers. Some historical accounts state that without the codetalkers, the Marines would not have secured Iwo Jima and the stronghold for Marines in the Pacific during World War II.

COURTESY PHOTO BY JENN WESTMAN



BUILDING A SOLID FOUNDATION

Traditional Navajo houses made of wooden poles, tree bark and mud, called hogans, and trailers sparsely populated the valley overlooked by mountains. There were no amusement parks or shopping malls, just families engaged in their daily chores and livestock roaming the plains.

In one trailer, John, his three younger brothers and his sister lived with their mother – no electricity and no running water. His grandfather and grandmother lived in the next house down the road.

In the absence of John's father, Begay took it upon himself to groom John into a respectable young man, filled with the Navajo traditional values and able to take care of his mom and siblings as the man of the house.

John described his grandfather as very stern. Granddad's rules: you don't sleep in, you rise before the sun, you run towards the east every morning, pray and come back.

"You can't be lazy," he said the old veteran used to insist. "There is always something to do."

Even after John completed his chores, sitting back and relaxing in the house wasn't an option. Begay pushed him to go outside and play with his siblings or find something productive to do.

"I just never felt like I could be bored with him, no matter what we were doing he always had something to teach me," he added.

Begay trained his grandson to do many things, from fixing cars to taming horses. John remembers when he was given his first horse. Several wild horses roamed the reservation. The rule was whoever caught them, kept them. As John explained it, the problem was not with catching the horses but taming them.

Begay caught a wild horse and domesticated her, and when she had a baby, Begay gave the foal to John.

"He taught me how to do it then he said 'here's your horse, now break it,'" John said.

As John grew older and the responsibility of taking care of his younger siblings became greater, so did the stress. He couldn't show any weakness or emotional vulnerability as the man of the house – not to his younger brothers and sister – but he knew he could always confide in his grandfather.

"We got pretty good about reading each other," said John. "Anytime I needed somebody to talk to, he was always there for me so he was like my shoulder to lean on."

CONNECTING TO THE CORPS

In 1942, the Marine Corps began recruiting and training Navajos for code talking because they spoke an unwritten language, unintelligible to anyone except another Navajo.

Navajo Marines developed and memorized codes which the Japanese never cracked. The code talkers became America's answer to Japanese interception and decryption of indispensable messages during World War II.

Begay served in the war as a code talker and it was his stories about serving in the military that opened John up to a world outside the reservation and the Marine Corps.

"What really got me is the bond that he built with a lot of different people and that he got to travel," said John. "I just saw what kind of person it made him and I envied him and wanted to be like him."

Begay passed away in 2006. John was still coming of age, at 15 years old. His grandfather had always hinted that he wanted John to join the Marines but never pushed him, John said. In his last days, Begay finally admitted to John that he wanted him to join, but he encouraged him to pursue whatever he was passionate about.



“That just kind of sealed it for me,” John said about his decision to enlist.

John graduated Navajo Prep High School in New Mexico in 2009. He left for the Marine Corps that same year.

THE LEGACY CONTINUES

Marine Corps recruit training has a reputation of being physically challenging. John, whose active youth read like an ironman competition – was prepared for the physical aspect. It was the emotional isolation he wrestled with.

“The hardest part was being away from my family,” he said. “It was the first time I left the reservation.”

He earned his eagle, globe and anchor and became a Marine on Jan. 19, 2010, at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

The newly minted Marine’s first duty station was the Marine Forces Reserve headquarters in New Orleans. John’s fellow Marines said his grandfather would be proud.

“No doubt his grandfather would be proud of him, very proud,” said Cpl. Travis Ortega who works with John in the MARFORRES G-6 Communications and Electronics Division, and was with him in boot camp, Marine Combat Training and communications school.

Pfc. John arrived in 2010 and was placed at the G-6 service desk, the first stop for troubleshooting information technology systems. He made it his mission to stand out, and eventually, callers were requesting John by name.

After consistently proving himself a valuable asset during his young career, he was selected for a highly-coveted but demanding position to work directly for the MARFORRES and MARFORNORTH commander,

Lt. Gen. Steven A. Hummer, and the commander’s staff.

In August 2012, Hurricane Isaac hit New Orleans. At the same time, Hummer’s MARFORNORTH was tasked with supporting the Republican National Convention, so the general remained in New Orleans. John remained at the headquarters also – to make sure the general and his staff had all means available to communicate.

Personnel were shorthanded, the general needed updates, video teleconferences had to be set up and broken equipment needed fixing. John tackled the issues by day, and stood watch outside the general’s office at night.

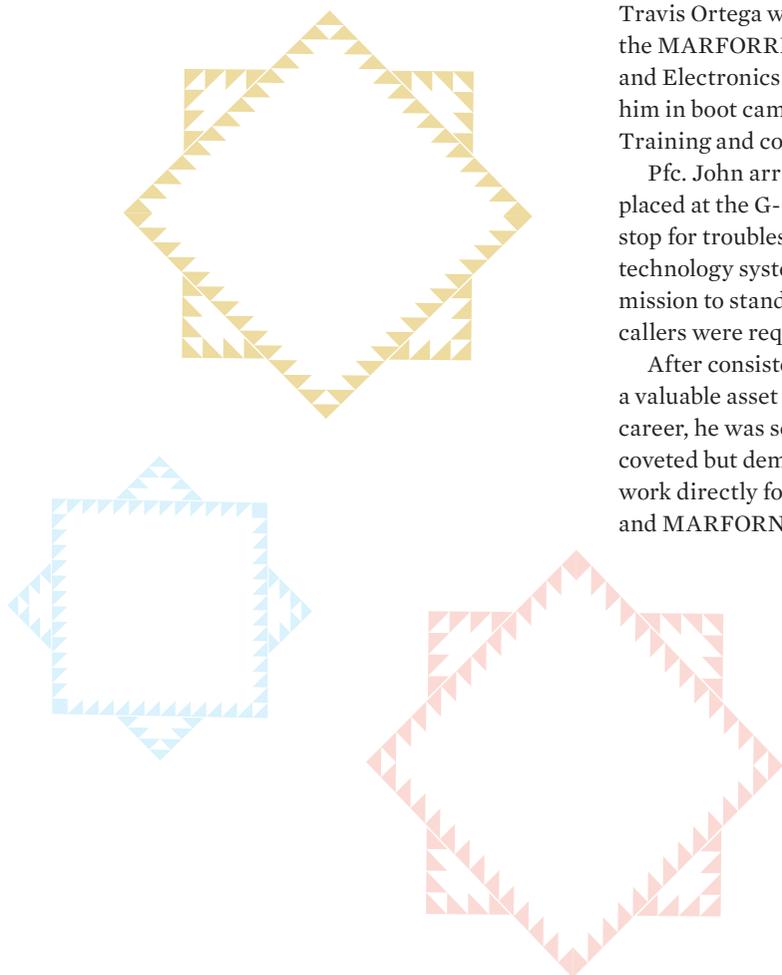
For his actions during the hurricane, John received a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. Those who knew him and worked with him weren’t surprised.

“You can always rely on Sgt. John to provide excellent results,” said Master Sgt. Esteban Garcia, who supervises John. “He is very reliable and has initiative.”

As far as John’s motivations, it’s simple: honor his grandfather and ancestors by being the best Marine he can be.

He plans on serving at least 20 years in the Marines, and is calculating his next move to become a Marine Corps Special Operations Command critical skills operator or a Marine security guard assigned to protect embassies around the globe.

“I’m really proud of the legacy that my ancestors set for me and I just hope that I can amount to a fraction of what they were,” John said.



LEARN THE CODE

DIN-NEH-IH ----- CORPS
 ASHIH-HI-----DIVISION
 TABAHA-----REGIMENT
 TACHEENE-----BATTALION
 NAKIA-----COMPANY
 HAS-CLISH-NIH-----PLATOON
 DEBEH-LI-ZINI-----SQUAD
 BIH-KEH-HE-----COMMANDING GENERAL
 BEH-NA-ALI-TSOSIE-----JAPAN
 LO-TSO-----BATTLESHIP



BEEN THERE
DONE THAT





4th Marine Logistics Group

HURRICANE RELIEF

Marines unload a 7-ton truck stocked with disaster relief materials purchased and donated by Kirstie Alley, an actress known for her role in the TV show Cheers, to a post Hurricane distribution site in Toms River, N.J., Nov. 3, 2012. Following Hurricane Sandy, Marines from 6th Motor Transport Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, utilized their 7-ton trucks to move donated relief supplies to distribution points amongst the most heavily affected areas. STAFF SGT. NATE HAUSER



BEEN THERE
DONE THAT



4th Marine Aircraft Wing

Marines with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM) 764 loaded toys gathered by the Flagstaff Toys for Tots organization for more than 175 Havasupai children on Dec. 4 at the Grand Canyon National Park Airport. They loaded the toys on a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter and flew through narrow canyons and landed in a confined area in order to deliver the toys on time.

CPL. DANIEL CASTILLO

Cpl. Josh Guertin, a mechanic with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron (HMLA) 773, Marine Aircraft Group 49, keeps the squadron's helicopters flying with daily maintenance at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., Oct. 17. HMLA-773 supported Marine Special Operations Command for three weeks, flying simulated close air supports, resupplies, casualty evacuations, battle damage assessments and aerial reconnaissance to make MARSOC's predeployment training more realistic.

CPL. NANA DANNSA-APPIAH





Force Headquarters Group

Reserve Marines begin their preparation time while on the rifle range as a part of their Combat Marksmanship Coaches Course training at the Weapons Training Battalion on Oct. 8 at Marine Corps base Quantico, Va. More than 100 Reserve Marines from units across the country, such as New York, California and the District of Columbia, participated in this year's course. At the completion of the training the Marines earn the title of "range coach."

LANCE CPL. ANTWAUN JEFFERSON

4th Marine Division

Marines prepare to fire rounds from an M777A2 155 MM howitzer at East Fuji Maneuver Area in mainland Japan Sept. 11. The Marines wait for fire commands from the fire direction center prior to sending rounds downrange. The Marines are with Battery 0, 5th Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, assigned to 3rd Bn., 12th Marines, 3rd Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program. UDP provides necessary training to maintain operational preparedness through realistic scenarios and combined exercises.

PFC. TERENCE G. BRADY

Marines with Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Africa 13.2, practice crowd control scenarios aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Nov. 19.

SGT. AMBER BLANCHARD

Sgt. Nathaniel Hutt (right), a scout sniper, explains the spotter's job to Lance Cpl. Josh Cross, a small arms repair technician, both with Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Africa 13.2, during a field training exercise aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Nov. 16. To prepare for their upcoming deployment, 135 Marines from 32 different Reserve training centers came together to train.

LANCE CPL. CALEB MCDONALD

Janna Schickel, wife of Staff Sgt. Matt Schickel, a platoon guide from Company E, 4th Tank Battalion, 4th Marine Division, welcomes her husband home Nov. 15, at Fort Knox, Ky., upon his return from a six-month deployment to Afghanistan.

CPL. NANA DANNSA-APPIAH



One, man's battle

Cpl. Jessica Ito

After weeks spent on ship doing calisthenics, studying photos of the island, reading and standing sentry duty, the men got their final briefing. They were told the pre-invasion bombardment had not been as successful as hoped and they would be met with heavy resistance.

“That night very few of us slept,” said former 2nd Lt. Craig B. Leman. “At four in the morning we had a big meal of steak and eggs which was a traditional thing before a landing.”



Former 2nd Lt. Craig B. Leman was part of the assault on Red Beach 2 (marked with red). He assaulted the beach with 1st Battalion, 27th Marine Regiment, 5th Marine Division, at 11 a.m. in the eleventh wave. Leman discovered the coxswain was taking his platoon to the wrong beach and drew his pistol on the man until he decided to turn around.

Joining the fight

Leman was 18 in his second year at the University of Chicago when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Impressed by the fight the Marine Corps had made at Wake Island, he joined the Marine Corps Reserve in June 1942 as part of the V-12 Navy college training program, believing he could be valuable to the Corps as an officer. In July 1943 he was attached to a V-12 unit at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. After seeing a film of the invasion of Tarawa, Leman felt he could no longer wait comfortably at home while his fellow countrymen were getting killed overseas.

“I felt that I needed to get into the war and do some fighting,” he said. “I felt bad about being in college while people were dying in Africa, Italy and out in the Pacific. I thought ‘Gee, I should be out there.’”

However, his officers, family and friends convinced him to continue with the program because plenty of fighting still lay ahead.

In 1944, when he was 20, Leman received orders to Parris Island, S.C., for recruit training. His platoon was composed of half officer candidates and half enlisted recruits -- still the only one of its kind he knows of.

“We had exactly the same training and treatment; we went through everything together. It was unique,” he said.

With recruit training behind him, Leman attended a special Officer Candidate School at Camp Lejeune, N.C., in May 1944. The course eliminated part of the traditional curriculum and focused on preparing rifle platoon leaders for pacific-island fighting. After OCS, half of his class deployed to Iwo Jima and the other half to Okinawa. He later found out that of the 373 in his class, 149 were wounded and 48 were killed in action.

After additional training at Camp Pendleton, Leman was sent to Hilo, Hawaii and assigned to the 5th Marine Division to lead a shore party unit. In late December 1944, the 5th Division joined a large convoy at Pearl Harbor for the six-week voyage.

The assault on Red Beach 2

On Feb. 19, 1945. Leman and his platoon climbed down the cargo nets of the USS Hansford into a landing craft that took them to the beach of Iwo Jima. At H + 2, two hours after the initial landing, the boat grounded the water’s edge, the ramp dropped, and Leman and his men ran out into heavy fire.

“General Tadamichi Kuribayashi had told his troops to hold their fire for about two hours to allow the Marines to get ashore, and then to open up with everything they had to try to wipe us out,” Leman recalled. “The good thing about what was happening was that the sand was soft, so we could dig in and get underground. It took a direct hit to kill us. If the ground surface had been hard, the shrapnel from the shell bursts would have mowed us down. But the shells mostly buried themselves before they burst, so our foxholes protected us.”

Leman and his men spent the nights in their foxholes while the Japanese bombarded them with mortars.

“You’d wonder, ‘Is the next one going to get me?’” he said. “You’d hear the shell bursts come closer and closer, until one would explode on the other side of you, and you would say ‘This time it didn’t.’ Later the bursts would come back, and you had to wait it out, over and over. It was scary.”

Platoon commander

On March 3, Leman was one of ten 5th Division shore-party second lieutenants who were sent to replace the fallen rifle platoon leaders.

Leman was sent to 3rd Battalion, 26th Marine Regiment, whose commander, Maj. Richard Fagan greeted him: “I’m sending you to H Company. They have done a marvelous job up there. You’ve hitched your wagon to a great big star. Go up there and see if you can do them some good. Next time I see you I hope you’re still in one piece.”

Capt. Don Castle assigned Leman to the first rifle platoon which had lost all but one of its 14 NCOs. Cpl. Nic Hernandez, the acting platoon leader, ran to collect Leman and bring him to meet the platoon who had just come off the front line and was reserved in fox holes.



The USS Hansford (APA 106) transported Marines from 1st Battalion, 27th Marine Regiment, 5th Marine Division to Iwo Jima. During their voyage, they did calisthenics on deck several times daily, reviewed aerial photos of the island and stood sentry duty. Leman played a lot of chess and read some books including “War and Peace.” He became friendly with the chaplains and played a small portable pump-organ for all religious services. COURTESY PHOTO



Cpl. Nicolas (Nic) Hernandez, the squad leader with first Platoon, Company H, 3rd Battalion, 26th Marine Regiment, 5th Marine Division was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross Oct. 14, 1946 for his actions against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima March 7 and 8, 1945.

COURTESY PHOTO

"I recognized one of my classmates among them, 2nd Lt. Al Garcia, working hard as their replacement platoon leader, bringing his men forward under fire," he said. Al was killed later that day.

Hernandez, a lean, wiry Mexican-American from Los Angeles, introduced Leman to his fire-team leaders, all former parachutists from the four Solomon Island campaigns: Pfc. Ben Parra, a Native American from Arizona, Pfc. Fred Sisk from Indiana, Pfc. Gene Frost from Michigan, Pfc. Hugh Farwell from Idaho, and Cpl. Clyde Anthony, a former Raider from Oklahoma.

They spent a couple of hours together getting to know each other.

"I was impressed with their professionalism and attitude," he said. "They were smart, competent and accepting of my being there to help with our difficult mission."

Later that day first platoon was sent back to the front lines to close a gap that had developed, and they were to spend the next four days in a line of foxholes that faced a range of low rocky hills.

"Every morning our tanks, artillery, and mortars bombarded the Japanese positions while the enemy hid in caves," he said. "As soon as the bombardment stopped, the Japanese resumed their positions and raked us with machine-gun fire as we attempted to advance. We were essentially pinned down in a bloody stand-off."

On the fourth night Leman received orders to make a surprise attack at dawn.



Marines of third squad, first platoon, Company H, 3rd Battalion, 26th Marine Regiment, 5th Marine Division, at Camp Tarawa in November 1944 before the Iwo Jima campaign. Standing: Pvt. Tom Williams (left) a browning automatic rifleman (WIA), Cpl. Nic Hernandez, squad leader (KIA), Pfc. Joe Pagac, rifleman (WIA), and kneeling is Pfc. Ben Parra, fire team leader (WIA).

COURTESY PHOTO

At first light they silently moved into the rocky hills, found and shot a sleeping sentry, and roused a horde of Japanese soldiers who ran out of two entrances to a large cave and engaged the men in a furious grenade and fire fight. Although the Japanese outnumbered first platoon, they had a better position and surrounded each entrance to the cave.

"I could communicate by handy-talky radio with our captain who sent up a half-track (an armored vehicle with a 75 mm artillery piece) to rake the Japanese at one cave entrance, while Sisk grenaded the other end, enabling Pfc. Don Simpson to direct his flamethrower into the cave," he said.

After all Japanese in the area were accounted for, first platoon evacuated their wounded and were ready to advance when a tremendous explosion sent them flying.

"It was the loudest noise I have ever heard," said Leman.

A large part of the ridge where the cave had been, raised high in the air, spread out, and began to descend.

"I hit the deck, cradling my rifle and radio under my body as the earth began to fall on us," he said. "As clods and rocks pelted my back, I felt as though I was being buried. When the rain of debris stopped, I could see that there was a thick carpet of rocks and earth around a large crater where the cave had been, with dead and injured Marines trapped and buried in the rubble."

Leman radioed the captain to bring all hands with stretchers to rescue the men who had been buried.

"As soon as we dug them out, we combined remnants of our platoon with the second platoon and advanced about 500 yards against light resistance until we encountered rocky hillocks and counter-fire," he said.

They halted and dug foxholes for the night. Sisk was shot while putting up barbed wire in front of the lines—a task he always did himself rather than send one of his men out to do it. He died of wounds several months later.

"I felt a sting in my side and discovered that a bullet had gone between my left arm and my chest, nicking both, but not drawing blood," he said. "Not so lucky was Nic Hernandez. He had just told me that only his faith in God kept him alive, and moments later, was shot through the head by a rifle bullet."

When morning finally came, first platoon was ordered by radio to attack. Already they were under small arms, mortar and machine-gun fire from concealed Japanese strong points. The terrain was too rough and steep for tanks.

"In my five days with first platoon, our number had dwindled from 22 to eight," he said. "We all had orders to move forward. I told them we had to give it a try, and I would go first, and they would follow if I made any progress."

A sharp pain

"I gave the radio to my runner, grabbed my rifle, and, running as low, as fast, and as crookedly as I could, headed for a rock a few feet in front of my foxhole," said Leman. "I heard a loud crack and felt a sharp pain on the right side of my head."

A bullet made contact with his helmet, and split in half. Half went into his helmet and lodged into his skull while the other half went under the back of his helmet, grazed his back and cut holes into the fabric of his jacket.



Red Beach 2, the beach Lemman landed on, during landing operations Feb. 27, 1945. COURTESY PHOTO

“I soon became aware that I was on my hands and knees with blood dripping from my chin, and heard my guys yelling, ‘Move! Get out of the way!’” he said. “I got the message, rolled to one side, and scrambled back while they fired.”

Leman reported their situation to the captain who ordered them to stay in place and keep up a volume of fire. He sent up Company H’s first sergeant, 1st. Sgt. Paul Carpenter to replace Leman.

“I served with a group of extraordinary Marines. I’ll never forget those guys.”

“I showed him the terrain with our positions, and thanked Paul and the survivors of our platoon,” he said.

Carpenter was killed two days later. Only three of the original 45 men of the platoon remained uninjured at the end of Iwo Jima.

The battalion surgeon examined his wound—a three inch gash in his scalp—and sent him in a jeep for transfer to a hospital ship.

Another patient in the ambulance was Leman’s classmate from Arizona, 2nd Lt. Bill Lowell, unconscious after a gunshot wound of the abdomen. The hospital ship was full, so the ambulance was sent back to the division hospital. By the time they arrived, Lowell was dead.

Leman was treated for a week on Iwo and then flown to a Navy hospital on Guam, discharged as healed after two more weeks, returned to Hawaii and was reunited with H Co. at Camp Tarawa to prepare for the scheduled October invasion of Japan—an invasion which never came, as Japan surrendered after atomic bombs destroyed two of their major cities.

Returning Home

The 5th Division landed to occupy Sasebo on Sept. 22, 1945. Leman’s regiment spent a month patrolling that area and then two months in Palau supervising repatriation of its 30,000 man Japanese garrison. He then returned to San Francisco, but before going home to Chicago, he had a promise to keep.

Just before they landed at Iwo, Leman and three of his best friends from OCS—Lowell from Red Rock, Ariz., 2nd Lt. Clarence Louviere from New Iberia, La., and 2nd Lt. Jack Lowry from Decatur, Ill.—had pledged to each other that, if any of the four didn’t return, the others would visit their families to tell their recollections of their last year. Lowry survived; Lowell and Louviere did not.

Leman hitchhiked his way to Chicago after visiting Arizona and Louisiana, spending a day and a night with each of the bereft families before reaching home.

He resigned from active duty on March 1, 1946, went on an inactive reserve status, finished pre-medical school at Chicago, married, graduated from Harvard Medical School, and became a general surgeon in Corvallis, Ore.

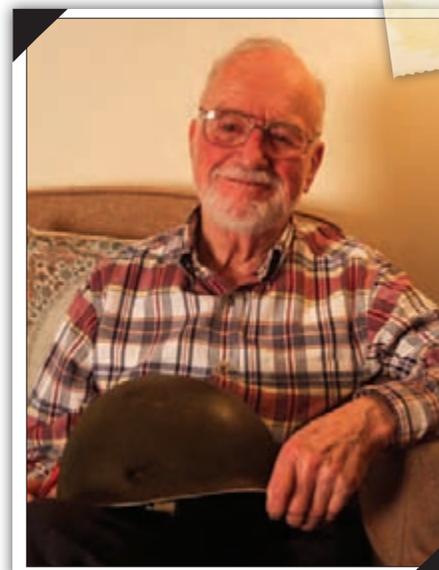
Silver Star Marine



Leman received the Silver Star medal for his actions on Iwo Jima. He believes that the Marines he knew, and the many he never met, made greater contributions and sacrifices without acknowledgement.

“I served with a group of extraordinary Marines. I’ll never forget those guys,” he said.

Leman lives with his wife Nancy in Corvallis, Ore. and keeps in touch with the Marines he served with during World War II.



Craig B. Leman shows off the helmet he wore when he received a gunshot wound to the head during the Battle of Iwo Jima, at his home in Corvallis, Ore., Jan. 8. The impact with his helmet caused the .30 caliber bullet to split and part of it lodged against his skull.

CPL. JESSICA ITO

4th Tank Battalion



U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Michael Bonnema with Echo Company, 4th Tank Battalion deployed in support of 1st Combat Engineer Battalion patrols in Trek Nawa, Helmand province, Afghanistan July 1, 2012. Marines with Echo Company were supporting the Afghan National Army's 1st Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps with Operation Ibtikar 1 Echo in southern Helmand province.
CPL. AMMON W. CARTER

4TH TANKS ENDS AN ERA

CPL. NANA DANNSA-APPIAH

The Marines of Company E, 4th Tank Battalion, 4th Marine Division, returned home to their friends and families Nov. 15 after a six-month deployment to Afghanistan. This return, unlike other deployment homecomings, marked the end of an era for the 4th Marine Division and the Marine Corps Reserve.

After more than ten years of deploying ground combat forces to support operations in both Afghanistan and Iraq, the Co. E homecoming represents the final 4th Marine Division unit to deploy, fight, and redeploy from overseas combat operations. Company E's return to Fort Knox, Ky., closes out the long and illustrious chapter of 4th Marine Division's support to Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

At the Marine Corps Reserve Training Center, hugs, tears and smiles filled the parking lot as the Marines reunited with their loved ones.

For Lance Cpl. Jefferey Rose, a tank crewman from Nebo, Ky., it was the first time seeing his 4 month-old son.

"I can't describe the feeling," Rose said as he cradled his son. "Seeing pictures and hearing about it can't beat the real feeling of actually seeing him."

"It's the happiest I've ever been," he added.

For Alexis Houge, mother of Lance Cpl. Nicholas Perry, she was simply relieved to see her son.

"It's a lot of relief and pride," she said. "I'm so glad to see him. It feels like half of the world has been lifted off my shoulders."

Company E was mobilized as a route clearance company and attached to 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division. They used specialized vehicles to search for indicators of roadside bombs along routes in their area of operations.

One platoon of Co. E also partnered with the Route Clearance Company, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps of the Afghan National Army, to conduct patrols, weapons training, mission planning and land navigation.

Company E helped develop the partnered ANA route clearance company to a point that the Afghans could perform training and operations independent of

coalition forces, said Maj. Mike O'Quin, commanding officer of Co. E.

The Reserve unit also brought peace of mind to their parent command, Regimental Combat Team 5's area of operations, and the Afghan people by removing roadside bombs or IEDs (improvised explosive device).

"Units were able to operate with a little more confidence each day, that they wouldn't come across an IED, and local Afghans could live their daily lives without worrying that they or their children would be injured or killed by an IED indiscriminately placed by the enemy," said O'Quin.

Company E's training helped them prepare for Afghanistan. Before their deployment, they had been involved in exercises such as Enhanced Mojave Viper and African Lion.

After serving as a route clearance company in Afghanistan, the unit returned to Fort Knox and plans to focus on tank-specific training in their upcoming drill weekends and annual training.



MISSION:

As the largest Tank Battalion in the Marine Corps with six tank companies, the battalion provides the heavy direct fire punch and primary anti-tank capability to the Division. Marines close with and destroy the enemy using expeditionary armor-protected firepower, shock effect and maneuver in support of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force across the range of military operations.

HISTORY:

4th Tank Battalion was first activated May 12, 1943 at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. as part of 4th Marine Division. The unit participated in World War II campaigns for Kwajalein, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima then was deactivated in October 1945. When North Korea invaded South Korea in 1950, Reserve Marines in the San Diego area again mobilized to augment 1st Tank Bn. The newly activated Reserve Marines trained on the new M26 Pershing Tank, and deployed to participate in landings at Inchon, Korea, all within 53 Days.

4th Tank Bn. was reactivated as 4th Tank Bn., Force Troops, Fleet Marine Force, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve on July 1, 1962, and was reassigned to 4th Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force Jan., 1 1978. Two additional tank companies were added in 2006 on the deactivation of 8th Tank Bn.

UNITS:

4th Tank Battalion consists of six tank companies with a war time strength of 14 M1A1 Abrams tanks, supported by a Headquarters and Service Company that includes an Anti-Tank tube-launched, optically-tracked, wire command data link, guided missile platoon with 26 launchers, and a scout platoon with 10 machinegun trucks.

LOCATIONS:

- Company A, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.
- Company B, Yakima, Wash.
- Company C, Boise, Idaho
- Company D, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.
- Company E, at Fort Knox, Ky.
- Company F, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.
- Headquarters and Service Company is located on Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif.

DEPLOYMENTS:

- 1990-1991- The Battalion was mobilized for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, South West Asia
- 2003 – Co. D and first section anti-tank TOW platoon mobilized to provide augmentation to 1st Tank Bn.
- 2005 – Co. C mobilized to provide augments to 1st Tank Bn. and Headquarters and Service Co. mobilized to provide convoy security.
- 2006 - Co. B mobilized to provide augments to 2nd Tank Bn.
- 2008 – Co. D mobilized for service in Iraq.
- 2009 – Co. A mobilized for service in Iraq.
- 2010 – Scout platoon mobilized as a personal security detachment for service in Iraq.



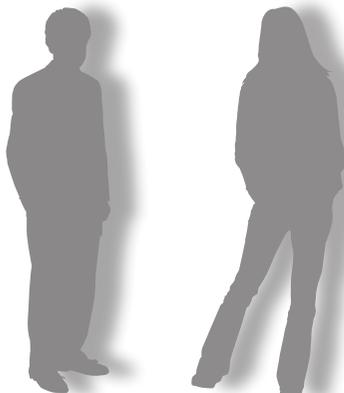
BE SMART,
BE SAFE



Marines attend a mess night Jan. 23. Alcohol is often involved in mess night functions, and Marines are trained on how to handle these situations as a bystander and potential victim.
CPL. JESSICA ITO

RECOGNIZING PREDATORS AMONG US

CPL. MARCIN PLATEK



Gone are the days where a sexual predator is perceived to be a man hiding in the shadows.

Instead, the Marine Corps is taking the available statistics and running with them, revamping the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program's training.

"Take a Stand" was introduced by the Commandant of the Marine Corps General Amos who requires every Marine noncommissioned officer to complete the training annually. The training reflects the reality of how sexual assaults most often occur, and the fact that the Marine is sometimes the perpetrator of the assault. Marines are taught that bystanders are the best defense against sexual predators.

"Our focus is bystander intervention; The Marine Corps has shifted from the old narrow approach to rape prevention, which was often teaching victims not to be victims, to teaching everyone else to recognize predatory behavior," said Peggy Cuevas, SAPR program manager for Marine Forces Reserve. "In almost every case, we can track back where there are multiple bystanders prior to the assault and they failed to recognize the signs of danger, or they choose not to intervene."



Marines hold up 'STOP' signs during the comedic play 'Sex Signals' at the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. base theater. Actors in the play acted out various scenarios in which the male actor made unwanted physical contact with the female character. The Marines held up signs to signal the aggressor had bordered on sexual assault. The goal of the play was to help service members understand what consent is and that 'no means no.'

LANCE CPL. KHOA PELCZAR

The "Take a Stand" course is taught in conjunction with other annual training requirements. Marines are introduced to the new curriculum by professional actors performing in a short feature-film, interviews with sexually-assaulted Marines, and extended group discussions concerning the topic.

One take-away is the importance of surrounding yourself with trusted friends while out-in-town, because they might recognize something and are more willing to intervene in dangerous situations, said Navy Cmdr. Susan M. Jay, sexual assault response coordinator for 4th Marine Aircraft Wing.

"Watching out for each other is vital," Cuevas said. "Adhering to the buddy system is a must. Never leave your buddy. It doesn't matter what your buddy says-you make a plan at the beginning of the night and you stick with that plan."

Because of the nature of the Reserve, many reported attacks happen out-in-town during drill weekends, Jay explained. Marines travel to their home training centers and sometimes find limited lodging. They then decide to get a hotel room or go out and that's when bad things happen.

"In barracks we have that control, by the duty, but out in town we don't," Jay said.

The bystander intervention training aims to help Marines prevent future attacks by noticing inappropriate and predatory behavior in the office as well as out in town in social settings.

Signs at work

Predators that exist among the Marine Corps ranks, often begin targeting their victims while on duty. They may move-in on newly-checked in Marines (especially

junior ranks) to show them around, acting as the friendly helper. Eventually the predatory Marine might try to test his victim's resistance by making off-collar comments or unwelcomed gestures, categorized as sexual harassment.

Predators sometimes create a false sense of security that makes the victim believe that their safety is in their best interest and that they are trustworthy. In reality, the predator may use his/her higher rank to harass the victim and/or order them to follow their requests which could lead to sexual assault.

In situations where power and rank is used to coerce sexual acts, the predator may be found, according to the Uniform Code of Military Justice, to be guilty of sexual assault.

Out-in-town

While out in town, there are unique signs that have been seen repeatedly during past sexual assaults. "Take a Stand" teaches Marines to notice if others are trying to intoxicate and isolate a person. The predator attempts to get the victim drunk by providing continuous alcoholic beverages, possibly spiked with drugs. The predator removes the victim from any bystanders by taking them somewhere where they feel safe. This is when the buddy system fails, if the buddy does not step in and act.

Each situation is different and dictates different actions and reactions but the training gives Marines the confidence to act. Take a Stand is available on MarineNet and through your local SAPR.

The 24/7 Sexual Assault Helpline can be reached at 1-877-432-2215.

PROOF IN NUMBERS

OUR CORPS' SEXUAL ASSAULT STATISTICS

BYSTANDERS, ITS TIME TO INTERVENE

294 UNRESTRICTED REPORTS, CORPS-WIDE

51 RESTRICTED REPORTS, CORPS-WIDE

39 ASSAULTS, MARINE FORCES RESERVE

58% VICTIMS AGE 18-24

49% VICTIMS WHO WERE JUNIOR MARINES

153 MARINE ON MARINE ASSAULTS

19 PERPETRATORS WERE UNKNOWN

391 REFERRALS TO MEDICAL AND/OR COUNSELING

64 VICTIMS WERE REFERRED TO CIVILIAN COUNSELING

47% ON BASE ATTACKS

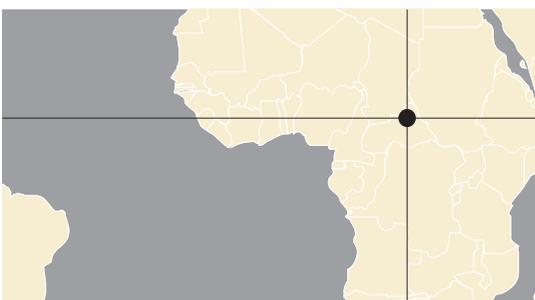
45% ATTACKS INVOLVED ALCOHOL

1/5 ASSAULTS REPORTED

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO LOWER THE NUMBER OF SEXUAL ASSAULTS?

345
CORPS-WIDE ASSAULTS





SPECIAL-PURPOSE MARINE AIR-GROUND TASK FORCE AFRICA 13.2

DATE: Sept. 13, 2012 to July 1, 2013
USMC UNITS: 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment
PARTICIPATING NATIONS: Eritrea, Uganda, Burundi, and Cameroon

“IT’S VERY UNLIKE ANYTHING THE MARINES HAVE GONE THROUGH FOR EITHER AN OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM OR OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM PREPARATION, THE SKILL SET AND BROAD RANGE OF EXPECTATIONS OF THE MARINES IS VERY DIVERSE.”

-Lt. Col. Daniel P. Whisnant, commanding officer, Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Africa 13.2



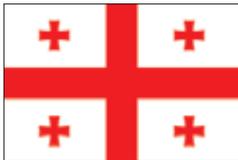
Marines with Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Africa receive a farewell speech from Brig. Gen. Burke Whitman, deputy commanding general of mobilization for II Marine Expeditionary Force, Jan. 8. Special-Purpose MAGTF Africa deployed to conduct theater security cooperation and limited crisis response missions in support of U.S. Africa Command.
 LANCE CPL. CALEB MCDONALD

More than 130 Marines from 32 different Reserve Training Centers operate as an independent task force in Africa. The Marines train African

nations in topics such as patrolling, combat first aid, perimeter security, marksmanship and how to set up and conduct live-fire ranges.

Role players portraying soldiers of an African partner nation practice casualty carry techniques on Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Africa Marines during the unit’s mission rehearsal exercise aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Dec. 11. The four-day exercise simulated situations the Marines and sailors may encounter during their deployment, such as language barriers, requests for supplies and local illnesses.

SGT. AUSTIN HAZARD



GEORGIA DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM GEORGIA

DATE: August 1, 2012 to April 13, 2013

USMC UNITS: 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment and 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment

PARTICIPATING NATIONS: Georgia

“THEY [GEORGIANS] TRAIN WELL, THEY ARE FIERCE FIGHTERS, GOOD SOLDIERS AND GREAT MATES WITH US AND THEY ARE WORKING IN REGIONAL COMMAND SOUTHWEST WITH THE MARINES IN HELMAND PROVINCE RIGHT NOW.”

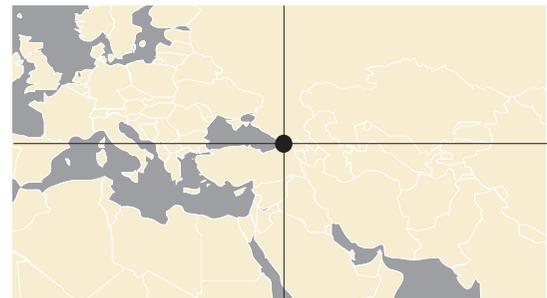
-Lt. Gen. John M. Paxton, Jr., commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe

Since 2009, the Georgian Armed Forces have answered the call to train and fight side-by-side with Marines and other International Security Assistance Forces, while participating in the Georgia Deployment Program.

The program entrusts Marines with training and ensuring their Georgian counterparts have the skills and knowledge needed to supplement Marines and ISAF personnel in Afghanistan.

Lt. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command, and commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Europe, alongside Georgian Lt. Col. Lasha Berdize, Deputy Chief of the Joint Chief of Staff of the Georgian Armed Forces, introduces one of his soldiers to Paxton during a recent visit with Georgian political leaders and Georgian Armed Forces leaders. The Georgian Deployment Program, started in 2009, is a MARFOREUR initiative to help the Georgian Armed Forces, train, deploy and support the International Security Assistance Force and NATO missions in Overseas Contingency Operations.

STAFF SGT. MATT LYMAN



Lt. Gen. John M. Paxton, Jr., commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command, and commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Europe, watches Georgian Lt. Col. Lasha Berdize, Deputy Chief of the Joint Chief of Staff of the Georgian Armed Forces, operate a simulator rifle during a recent visit to the U.S. Embassy in Georgia.

STAFF SGT. MATT LYMAN



LANCE CPL. JESSICA ITO

HERE THEY COME THE FIRST RESERVE SQUADRON WITH OSPREYS

STORY BY SGT RAY LEWIS

Two MV-22B Ospreys from Marine Tiltrotor Squadron 266 depart the USS Wasp Jan. 31. The 4th Marine Aircraft Wing will receive these aircraft as a part of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 764's transition to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 764.

Get to know your newest aircraft



1. The MV-22 Osprey's mission for the Corps is the transportation of troops, equipment and supplies from ships and land bases for combat assault support.
2. The Osprey is a tiltrotor aircraft that can operate as a helicopter or turboprop aircraft and offers twice the speed, six times the range, and three times the payload of the CH-46E Sea Knight.
3. Length: 57 feet, 3 inches
4. Wingspan: 84.6 feet with rotors turning
5. Height: 22 feet, 1 inch
6. Weight: Maximum gross, vertical take-off: 52,600 pounds
Short take-off: 57,000 pounds
7. Airspeed: 280 knots
8. Range: 860 nautical miles
9. Crew: 3 (pilot, co-pilot, crew chief)
10. Troop spaces: 24

The 4th Marine Air Wing Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM) 764 transitioned to become the first Reserve Component Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) on Jan. 12, 2013.

The HMM-764, from Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. a relocated to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar where the unit became a viable and critical force multiplier, and ready to mobilize, augment, and reinforce the Active Component to serve as part of the Marine Corps Total Force.

The phase out of CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters aligns with the projected Marine Corps personnel drawdown and unit cuts. However, the ongoing transition to the MV-22B Ospreys can bring opportunities that some Marines might

overlook when approaching their end of active service.

Depending on MOS, for example, maintenance and aircrew Marines will go through VMM-204, Fleet Replacement Squadron, for their required training.

A selection board is scheduled to take place on or about June 25, 2013, to select three primary candidates and three alternate candidates for the naval aviator openings within VMM-764.

For more information, please review MARADMIN 280/12 for selection board criteria.

For other opportunities available with VMM-764 or future transitioning opportunities, please contact a prior-service recruiter or VMM-764 at (661) 275-3435.

A BRAVE SOUL

3RD ANGLICO MARINE SAVES MAN FROM BEING STABBED

STORY BY SGT. RAY LEWIS



Cpl. Joshua Escandon, a Reserve radio operator with 3rd Air-Naval Gunfire Liaison Company was on his way to lunch, Feb. 26, when he stopped an assault of a Lancaster man, by two men.

SGT. RAY LEWIS



Cpl. Joshua Escandon, a Reserve radio operator assigned to 3rd Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps achievement Medal for intervening during the assault of a store owner by two men in Lancaster, Calif. Escandon, 21, quickly disarmed a man who attempted to stab him with a sword and placed him in a head lock. A second assailant attempted to free the sword-wielding man by punching Escandon, but the Marine fought off the attack, while still maintaining control of the first assailant. Escandon detained the man until authorities arrived. ■

GET READY

FEMALE MARINES WILL SOON CONDUCT PULL-UPS FOR PFT

STORY BY SGT. RAY LEWIS



According to ALMAR 046/12, female marines will have to do pull-ups instead of flexed arm hangs during the physical fitness test.

This change will take place in two phases with phase one beginning Jan. 1, 2013. During calendar year 2013, female marines will have the option to choose pull-ups or the FAH on the PFT; the score from the chosen event will be used in calculation of the official PFT. Scoring tables may be adjusted as data is gathered and assessed.

Phase one scoring table:

- 8 = 100 points
- 7 = 95 points
- 6 = 85 points
- 5 = 75 points
- 4 = 65 points
- 3 = 40 points (passing)

This change will be fully effective Jan. 1, 2014.

For a detailed, progressive workout plan, with exercises designed to enhance pull-up performance and overall upper body strength visit: <https://fitness.usmc.mil/fpft> ■



MEGA MUSTER

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO YOU?

COURTESY STORY

Capt. Esteban Vickers, officer selection officer for Recruiting Station Denver speaks with Cpl. Danelle Whisenhunt, a Denver resident who has spent one year in the Individual Ready Reserve, regarding Reserve officer opportunities available to Marines in the IRR. Whisenhunt was attending the Mega-Muster for IRR Marines who live within a 150-mile radius of Denver.

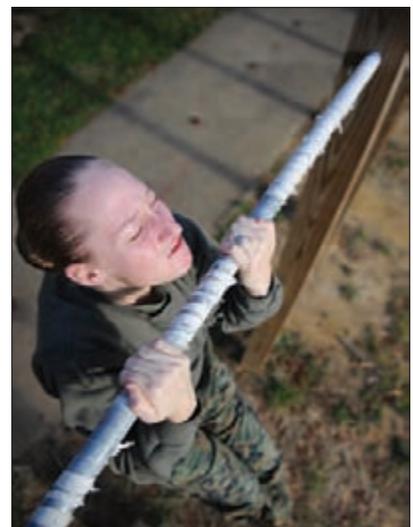
CPL. LUCAS VEGA

For more information about IRR musters, call (800) 255-5082 or email csc@marforres.usmc.mil.



Regardless of the civilian status and honorable fulfilled active-duty commitment, prior active-duty Marines still have obligations to the Corps as members of the Individual Ready Reserve in the event they are called back to the active component. These IRR Marines gather once a year for a mandatory administrative muster.

During the gathering, Marines receive briefs on topics such as suicide prevention, Department of Veterans Affairs Medical matters, and psychological health. They also have time to talk with prior service recruiters to learn about the details of Selected Marine Corps Reserve and Active Reserve Opportunities. These events also allow Marines to update their contact information and resolve any other health or administrative issues they may have. ■

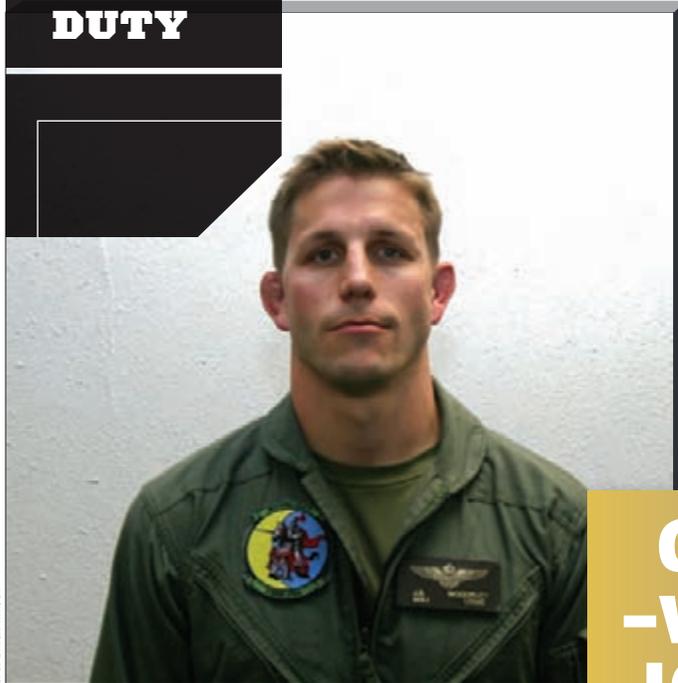


LANCE CPL. TABITHA BARTLEY

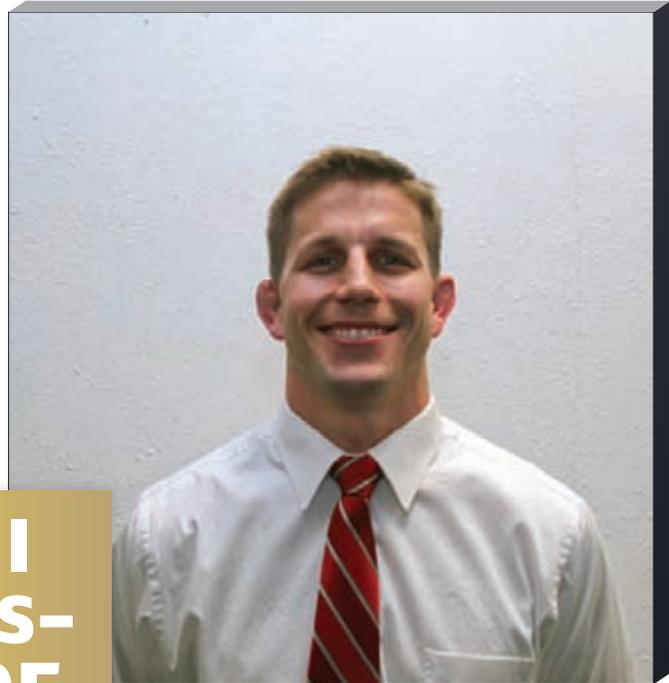


DOUBLE DUTY

CPL. ERICA KIRSOP



GI -VS- JOE



CPL. ERICA KIRSOP

MAJ. JUSTIN "WOODY" WOODRUFF

BILLET: MV-22 Osprey pilot

LOCATION: Edwards Air Force Base, Edwards, Calif.

TIME IN SERVICE: 13 years

REASON FOR JOINING: To provide a challenge and it fits my personality.

FAVORITE WORK FOOD: The hot dog meal ready-to-eat

RESPONSIBILITIES: Carry out flight missions based on the commander's needs.

MEMORABLE MOMENT: Witnessed one man save the life of another after he had stepped on a roadside bomb.

FAVORITE KEEPSAKE: A hollowed-out enemy Dragunov round. An opposing sniper shot at me, missed and lodged into the scope of my MK-47 grenade launcher instead.

MR. JUSTIN WOODRUFF

BILLET: High school social studies teacher/wrestling coach

LOCATION: Poway, Calif.

TIME IN SERVICE: 3 years

REASON FOR JOINING: For the satisfaction and impact it makes on high school students.

FAVORITE WORK FOOD: A bagel or trail mix

RESPONSIBILITIES: Teach world history to 40 sophomore students.

MEMORABLE MOMENT: Winning the state wrestling championship my first year as a coach.

BEST GIFT FROM STUDENT: When they come back and share with me the things they have done and accomplished.

MOTO TALK

Military expressions from around the Corps

CINDERELLA LIBERTY: A period of liberty that expires at midnight.

POG: Stands for personnel other than grunt. A name infantry Marines call other Marines who are not in the field.

MOONBEAM: Another word for a flashlight.

MOSQUITO WINGS: A term to describe what a private first class' rank insignia looks like.



QUICK FACTS

PACKS THROUGH THE YEARS

HAVERSACK

Issued in 1941, this two-piece pack system was used in World War II. This pack was difficult to adjust and not popular with the Marines who had to carry it.

COMBAT

An improved version of the Haversack issued in 1944. This two-part improved field pack was used with matching suspenders to form a combat pack.

LOAD-CARRYING EQUIPMENT

The first major change in pack systems (web gear) since World War II. It was issued in 1956 and was used in Vietnam. It was lightweight and contained only one pack.

WEB GEAR

In 1967 the Marines in Vietnam received new pack systems upgraded with nylon to stand up to the wetness, heat and mildew they dealt with.

ALICE

The all-purpose lightweight individual carrying equipment was introduced in 1974. It replaced all systems and white, olive green and camouflage pattern covers were available for different field conditions.

MOLLE

Introduced in 2001, the modular lightweight load carrying equipment replaced the ALICE pack. The MOLLE was the result of a survey where Marines requested a modular, durable and comfortable load-carrying system.

ILBE

The Improved Load Bearing Equipment packs were introduced to replace heavier MOLLE packs in 2004.

THE USMC

PACK SYSTEM



WITH THE
GEAR



SPECIFICATIONS

Weight: 16.69 lbs (empty)

Material: 500-1000 denier cordura fabric

Unit price: \$410.00

Features: One main pack, one assault pack, one hydration carrier, a sternum cinch, five variable sized sustainment pouches, buckle repair kit, and weather proof instruction card

For several years Marines have been dissatisfied with the way the Improved Load Bearing Equipment field pack fits while donned in body armor. The Marines at Marine Corps Systems Command made it their job to find a solution. After a thorough development process that tested the individual fiber and stitching, to the system being carried by a Marine under load, a new pack was found.

“The USMC Pack functions as an integral element of various combat loads and provides the individual Marine the ability to transport and access items necessary for mission accomplishment,” said Maj. James Fuller, a project officer for infantry combat equipment at MCSC.

The packs, which are fully replacing the ILBEs, began hitting the fleet in the second quarter of fiscal year 2012 and by April 2012, 36,934 total systems were fielded across the Marine Corps. Currently, the packs are 95 percent fielded Marine Corps wide. The Reserve component is being issued the USMC pack system at the same time as the active component, and is receiving packs monthly.

“The packs have been well received by the Marines who carry it,” said Fuller. “The main benefits seen in the USMC pack are modularity, weight and body armor integration. The polymer frame is designed to work equally well with or without body armor.”

You can expect to see all Marines carrying the USMC pack before the end of 2013.

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