ONCE MORE INTO THE BREACH... FIELD HISTORIANS IN DESERT STORM... GULF WAR ORAL HISTORIES
"C4 EXPRESS"... GULF WAR COMBAT ARTIST...“BEFORE DESERT STORM: THE BEGINNING OF U.S.
CENTRAL COMMAND... JOINTNESS IN THE REAL WORLD... 1991 ARTIFACTS IN NEW MUSEUM

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Motto of the United States Marine Corps in the 1812 era.

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ABOUT THE COVER


Fortitudine is produced in the Editing and Design Section of the History and Museums Division. The text for Fortitudine is set in 10-point and 8-point Garamond typeface. Headlines are in 18-point or 24-point Garamond. The bulletin is printed on 70-pound, matte-coated paper by offset lithography.

Memorandum from the Director

Once More Into the Breach

After months of hospitalization I was able to be here for the 227th Marine Corps Birthday; this due to the miraculous efforts of my family, friends, and fellow Marines in overcoming tremendous medical odds. As always, they came through in a moment of supreme need! The birthday celebration is special for Marines because of the variety and extremes under which it has been observed and this year is no exception.

Marines are deployed world-wide, some in harm’s way, as the Global War on Terrorism continues to dominate much of what we do. In part, this issue of Fortitudine is organized around the renewed attention to the Persian Gulf and the persistent conflict with Iraq. It is a reminder of the successful I Marine Expeditionary Force service in that region. The historical record of these events is available in a variety of forms, as this issue examines.

The Division’s Field History effort is in full swing, with nearly every officer in the IMA detachment on active duty or soon to be mobilized. Field historians are serving with CENTCOM headquarters, I MEF and some of its subordinates commands, and JTF Horn of Africa. We will branch out farther afield as Operation Enduring Freedom continues to seek out enemies around the globe. The Field History Unit’s birthday celebration this year was tinged with a mixture of pride and realism in the face of the demands to come. World War II Marine, and renowned artist, Harry Jackson attended the event and conveyed impressions of his 1943 Tarawa landing with the 2d Marine Division at the same time present members of this command were again embarking for destinations unknown.” Closer to our Washington Navy Yard home, the Division’s Chief Historian, Chuck Melson, has been detailed to cover operations with the U.S. Special Operations Command to coincide with Marine Corps expansion into the arena of the “Quiet Professionals.”

Among the many personnel and organizational changes that have occurred as we move forward to the fulfillment of the vision of a National Museum of the Marine Corps, some deserve special note. The History and Museums Division now comes under the U.S. Marine Corps Education Command at Quantico, Virginia, (better known as the Marine Corps University) headed by BGen Thomas A. Benes, USMC. This is a significant move that is still in progress and will impact every facet of the program in the future.

Within the Division itself, personnel and structural changes have been implemented to transform the way we do business and to provide the history and museums support the Marine Corps needs. This sees Col Jon T. Hoffman selected as the Deputy Director in civilian garb. Robert J. Sullivan also has moved into another “civilianized” position as the Museums Branch head, providing continuity and professionalism at a critical juncture in the national museum project.

LtCol Paul J. Weber is the Division’s operations officer. An air defense officer, he also has an MA in history. Maj David A. Runyon is the Division’s logistics officer bringing needed professionalism to budget and supply processes. Capt Brad E. Swearingin is the capable administrative officer at a time when personnel hiring to a new table of organization is underway. Ms Linda R. Clark, the information systems specialist, Ms. Jo Ann Navarro, budget analyst, Sgt Michelle J. Hill, Cpl Brandon S. Crouse, and LCpl Cesar M. Telles are assigned to the logistics section; Cpl Gregory D. Miller and PFC Terry J. Turner are in the administrative section. The Historical Branch now has an administrative assistant in Mr. Jonathon J. Vigon.

While there is much new, the Korean War commemorative effort is still being spearheaded by the Division to recognize the 50th anniversary of Marine service in that conflict. LtCol Steven L. Held now heads this effort, ably supported by Sgt David G. Smith and YN1 Victor E. Ward. The high point of last year’s commemorative publication effort from the Editing and Design Section was BGen Edwin H. Simmons long awaited Frozen Chosin. This year, Bernard C. Nalty’s Outpost War will take the series to the Armistice.

To close, I cannot help but conclude that each issue of Fortitudine seems to precede another period of progress for the Division. The relevance of our history to the present has never been more self-evident than in these demanding times. Enjoy this issue and look forward to the next. To Marines, it says “we have been there and done that” in a way that outsiders do not appreciate or understand. Once more, it is a pleasure to still be here and serving. Thanks to all for your prayers and continued support— “Press the attack!”

Col John W. Ripley, USMC
Field Historians in Desert Shield/Desert Storm

by Col Nicholas E. Reynolds, USMCR
Field Historian

In 1989, armed with my degree in history, I called on the Chief Historian of the Marine Corps, Mr. Henry “Bud” Shaw, and told him that I wanted to join his Mobilization Training Unit, MTU DC-7 (History), which was dedicated to the pursuit of military history. He told me not to join; I was still a major and needed to find something “more active.” I took his advice, but, within a year, the history MTU became one of the most “active” units in the Marine Corps Reserve in all senses of the word.

When Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, the commander of the MTU, Col Charles J. Quilter II, USMCR, telephoned the Director of the Marine Corps Historical Center, BGen Edwin H. Simmons, USMC (Ret), who would not discuss plans over an open line but told him that “it might be a good idea to pack” his seabag. Col Quilter and his deputy, LtCol Charles H. Cureton, USMCR, were mobilized and, carrying “an assortment of begged and borrowed laptop and ancient ‘portable’ computers plus photo and video equipment,” eventually made their way to the 1 Marine Expeditionary Force (1 MEF) command post in Saudi Arabia the day before the Marine Corps Birthday in November 1990. After developing the historical annex to the 1 MEF operations plan, Cureton transferred to the 1st Marine Division and began to establish himself there. Two months later, when then-LtCol Dennis P. Mroczkowski, USMCR arrived in country, he went to the 2d Marine Division. Other members of the MTU, to include Colonel H. Avery Chenoweth and LtCol Ronald J. Brown, came as further reinforcements, and quickly turned to at various tasks.

The MTU Marines imbedded themselves in the units to which they were assigned and, in a sense, became a part of the operations that they covered. They drove over vast distances from headquarters to outlying units, sometimes in official vehicles, and sometimes in ramshackle rented cars. They “were there” for historical events. LtCol Cureton, for example, participated in the first ground operation of the war (the artillery raid on the night of 20-21 January 1991) before joining Task Force Papa Bear for the liberation of Kuwait.

By the time the war was over, the field historians had taken hundreds of photographs, recorded dozens of interviews, catalogued thousands of documents, and collected a number of artifacts for Marine Corps museums. LtCol Brown, ably reinforced by a distinguished combat artist, Col Peter Gish, USMCR (Ret), went on to cover the Kurdish relief operation, Provide Comfort, that involved 3,600 Marines, mostly from 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), from April to July 1991. After their return to CONUS, each one of the “print” historians wrote a monograph on the operations that he covered. Most of these were published by the History and Museums Division by 1995.

The MTU succeeded in Desert Shield/Desert Storm thanks to its members’ ability to shift on the fly. The ad hoc quality of the MTU’s response to the Gulf War led to the decision to prepare for the next conflict in a more systematic way. The result was the creation of a Field History Branch whose first two commanders were Col Mroczkowski and LtCol Cureton. Staffed by Reserve Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMAs), the Branch has continued to this day to train on a regular basis, and stands ready to deploy to contingencies on short notice. Since the Gulf War, its members have covered operations in Somalia, the Former Republic of Yugoslavia, Haiti, Guantanamo Bay, Afghanistan, and the Horn of Africa.
History Writing

Gulf War Series A Good Point of Departure

by Charles R. Smith
Head, History Writing Unit

With the possibility of a war with Iraq looming on the horizon, a cursory review of the Division’s available resources on the Marine Corps’ previous experience in the Persian Gulf region, “U.S. Marines in the Persian Gulf, 1990-1991,” is in order. This is a nine-volume series that provides a useful point of departure for any examination of activities and problems encountered during the last war.

For those Marines and others interested in just an overview of Marine operations during the Persian Gulf War, U.S. Marines in the Persian Gulf, An Anthology and Annotated Bibliography, is a convenient introduction and reference for further study. While not intended to be a complete history of Marine operations during the war, the assembled articles illustrate the perspective of Marines at every level of command. Pertinent appendices such as task organizations and a chronology further add to the usefulness of the volume.

The next four publications in the Persian Gulf series, With the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force in Desert Shield and Desert Storm, With the 1st Marine Division in Desert Shield and Desert Storm, With the 2nd Marine Division in Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and The 3d Marine Aircraft Wing in Desert Shield and Desert Storm, spotlight the operations of the major Marine commands involved in the liberation of Kuwait. From the hurried deployment to the measured withdrawal, the operations of LtGen Walter E. Boomer’s I MEF, (which would grow to be the largest deployed command in Marine Corps history) are examined in detail.

An account of the activities and contributions of embarked Marines under the operational control of the Commander, Naval Forces, U.S. Central Command, is presented in With Marine Forces Afloat in Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Although the 4th and 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigades and the 13th and 11th Marine Expeditionary Units (Special Operations Capable) served in the same theater, they remained separate entities capable of rapidly integrating into a single force or breaking away to conduct independent operations as the situation required. While amphibious exercises and demonstrations and maritime interdiction operations were the norm during the deployment, the most important contribution of this combined Marine and Navy force was the strategic distraction it posed to Saddam Hussein. The simple threat of an amphibious landing drew Saddam’s attention away from the actual ground attack area and caused him to use precious resources to defend the Kuwaiti coast.

Two other volumes in the series examine the role of communications and cover the combined logistical effort. Marine Communications in Desert Shield and Desert Storm presents a detailed picture of the expertise and equipment used to facilitate the command and control of the corps-sized Marine force sent to the Persian Gulf, a subject which is often overlooked in the coverage of modern military conflicts.

“This was a war of logistics,” pointed out Gen Charles C. Krulak, and when historians, strategists, and tacticians study the war that is “what they will study most carefully.” Combat Service Support in Desert Shield and Desert Storm provides an account of the Marines and sailors of the 1st and 2d Force Service Support Groups, Marine Wing Support Group 37, and the 3d Naval Construction Regiment. Together they quickly unloaded ships and aircraft and organized a general and direct supply system which pushed supplies and services to the ground and aviation combat elements.

The final volume in the series, With Marines in Operation Provide Comfort, tells the story of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) and its role in creating a safe haven in northern Iraq, providing emergency food and medical aid, and moving more than 750,000 refugees back to their homeland. Marines would put the lessons learned in this operation to good use in subsequent humanitarian relief efforts.

While the full nine-volume series should be available in all post and station and most federal depository libraries, those active duty Marines needing copies should contact the Division’s S-4 section with their requests.
It would be possible to have about 200 Marine veterans of the Persian Gulf War talk to us about fighting in the Gulf, now that there is a good chance the Marine Corps will be involved there again, would we listen to them? I think we would, and in fact this opportunity exists. The Oral History Collection contains almost 200 interviews specifically related to the Persian Gulf War. These were collected as part of a dedicated effort by History and Museums Division oral historians and activated reserve officers of the Field History unit to document Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Marines of all ranks involved in a plethora of duties were interviewed. The interviews are a valuable component of the Division’s materials pertaining to the Gulf War.

The Persian Gulf War interviews characterize the collection focus of the Marine Corps’ Oral History Program, started in 1965. Marines involved in current operations that have distinct historical potential receive the top priority for interviewing. In other words we conduct interviews with Marines on topics that are not yet history, but will be someday. The interviews are meant to supplement official reports, command chronologies, photographs and other types of historical documentation. When important operations occur, reserve and civilian historians are deployed to the area of operations to gather interviews while memories are fresh and laden with detail. The Oral History Unit has similarly conducted interviews during other wars or significant operations starting with the Vietnam War and continuing to the present. For instance, the ongoing War on Terrorism has generated almost 400 interviews with Marines. These interviews are accessioned into the Oral History Collection, and with other forms of historical documentation, provide a ready source of information for researchers, and Marines who could use the information contained therein to aid them in completing today’s missions.

What Marines had to say about their experiences in the Gulf War should be of considerable interest to today’s Marines now that another foray into “Babylon” is a distinct possibility. Rarely before has the U.S. fought wars in the same area, against the same regime within such a short span of time. This unique circumstance is a prime opportunity for Marines and others involved in planning to consider these interviews as a source of information on Iraq, Kuwait, and combat operations in the desert. The Marine Corps of today is much like the Marine Corps of 12 years ago. The big changes of course, are in precision weaponry and, thank goodness, communications. Otherwise, Marines are generally still flying the same aircraft, shooting the same weapons, using similar tactics, and driving the same vehicles that they did in 1990-1991. The information in these interviews is viable and useful for operations against Iraq today. Who could be more credible to provide first hand advice on flailing the “bastard of Baghdad” than Marines who went before?

A dedicated effort by the Oral History Unit to get the most significant of the Gulf War interviews transcribed has netted about 50 transcriptions. Within the past year a new database has been established that gives researchers a rapid and detailed search of the entire Marine Corps archive to include the Oral History Collection. In addition, an aggressive digitization project by the Archives Section is rapidly converting the Oral History Collection to digital, making it possible to receive copies of recordings on CD. For advisory information on the collection of oral histories documenting the Persian Gulf War, one may contact Dr. Gary Solis or Mr. Fred Allison in the Oral History Unit at (202) 433-4222 or 433-3149, respectively. For copies of tapes or transcripts the Marine Corps Archives should be contacted at (202) 433-4253/4664.
During the Gulf War in 1991, the History and Museums Division’s Mobilization Training Unit hand-selected a number of historically significant items for the Museum. Among others, the property included the 3d Tank Battalion’s M60A1 “Genesis II” Patton tank, among the first tanks into Kuwait City, and the 3d Assault Amphibian (AA) Battalion’s amphibian vehicle (AAVP7A1) “C4 Express” that helped breach the Iraqi minefields and took a hit from an Iraqi RPG-7. Quietly they graced Quantico’s Air-Ground Museum display area for several months, when suddenly the AAVP7A1 was recalled to the fleet.

The event that made the “C4 Express” historically significant began on the evening of 26 February 1991. Under complete darkness the OIC of Obstacle Clearing Detachment #2 (Task Force Grim Reaper), Capt John M. Allison, placed the formation of tanks, AAVs, armored combat excavators, and dismounted engineers into a defensive position whose value and volatility lay in the AAVs fitted with the MK154 three-shot line charge. A strong wind developed and nearby burning oil wells soon illuminated the defensive position and made almost every vehicle visible. Concerned and walking the perimeter, Capt Allison found two Marine engineers under an AAV, and ordered them out to dig fighting holes. Suddenly, the position began receiving enemy mortar, RPG, and machine gun fire.

The AAV, under which the two Marines remained for cover, could not traverse its turret to engage the enemy. Instead, the engine sprang to life to pivot and engage. Capt Allison tried to prevent the inevitable, but one of the Marines was crushed. The other, whose 782 gear was caught in the tracks and torn off his body, managed to escape. Immediately thereafter, Capt Allison was hit by machine gun fire in the face. Miraculously, the round traveled through his mouth and he is now left only with a numb portion of his upper lip. The crew chief of the “C4 Express,” GySgt Wilbur N. Wright, had just shut the vehicle’s back hatch when an RPG round hit the ramp. Luckily the projectile did not enter the vehicle, which was loaded with a C4 line charge.

Recently, The old veteran of the Gulf War was tracked down and after much coordination between the Museum and MARCORSYSCOM it has returned home. In 2001, the 2d AA Battalion’s “C4 Express” was scheduled to undergo a suspension modification at Albany. Through the efforts of many amtrackers, the AAV program manager, Marine Corps Systems Command, and the Museum, the vehicle was deemed ready for retirement.

The AAV will be displayed in the Desert Storm exhibit in the National Museum of the Marine Corps. However, since her return to the fleet in 1991, the “C4 Express” was fitted with more than 300 armor mounting bosses and an up-gunned weapons station for the MK19 machine grenade launchers and .50 caliber machine gun. The vehicle will be displayed with both the internal and external (towed) linecharge kits and the enhanced appliqué armor kit to illustrate Marine Corps flexibility in any climate and place.
Captain Charles G. Grow, USMC, currently Deputy, CVIC, Quantico, enlisted in 1982, made Warrant Officer in 1992 and LDO in 1998. He covered Marines as a combat artist during "Desert Storm," operations in Somalia, and Haiti. He went to Afghanistan earlier this year as Officer In Charge of the Visual Information Acquisition Team. As an artist he is at ease in all media; watercolor, oil, pen and ink, and has exercised his sharp sense of humor by producing cartoons along with his fine art.

Members of the 3d Marines check the rubble of Ras Al Khafji in a mopping up operation in this watercolor by Sgt Charles Grow, USMC.

“Washing Socks” is Sgt Charles Grow’s humorous drawing of one of the many uses of the Marine Corps bowl during “Desert Storm.”
In the early 1920s, an American diplomat summed up the prevailing view in Washington about the area east of Suez: “The Near East is an exotic, fascinating place, but of little interest to the United States.” One only has to look at the headlines to see how dramatically opinions have changed in recent years as the West’s need for oil catapulted a global backwater into the forefront of American national security interests. Although the smallest of the Services, the Marine Corps has played a disproportionately important role in safeguarding American interests in the region. The first joint command dedicated to the Middle East, the Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force (RDJTF), was commanded by a future Commandant, Gen Paul X. Kelley. Its successor, U.S. Central Command, has had a large Marine presence since its inception in 1985, with fully one-half of its commanders wearing the Eagle, Globe and Anchor. While Desert Storm brought the Corps’ role in the Middle East to prominence, few realize the important part Marines have played in the development of American interests in the region. The expeditionary nature of the Corps and its tether to the Navy necessitated a large Marine part in any military endeavor so far distant from any established bases. Simply, Marines have been present at every step in the development of American interests in the area.

In the 19th century, much as the 21st century, trade and economics drove the United States toward the Persian Gulf states, only rather than importing oil, exporting cotton concerned those within the Department of State. Before the late 19th century, the U.S. had only limited trade with the area. However, in December 1878, Commo Robert W. Shufeldt and the warship USS Ticonderoga undertook a unique around-the-world journey to show the flag and promote American trade interests in the far-flung reaches of the globe. As PO G. Allen succinctly observed at the time, “for the advancement of American Commerce.” Embarked onboard was a 19-man Marine detachment commanded by Lt Daniel P. Mannix, who, a decade later, would found the School of Application, the forerunner of The Basic School. In early December 1879, the expedition passed through the Strait of Hormuz and entered the Persian Gulf—the first U.S. warship to do so. After brief stops at the ports of Bushier and Basra, Shufeldt pushed up through the Shatt-al-Arab stopping only when he reached the junction of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. At every port of call, the local Iranian and Turkish leaders greeted the Americans enthusiastically. The Shufeldt left the Gulf convinced that the United States could dominate trade in the area, if only Washington would commit the needed diplomatic energy and open the doors for American merchants and manufacturers.

However, Commo Shufeldt’s vision of American ascendancy would have to wait until the next century. With the onset of World War II, Washington worried that domestic production could not keep up with the growing demand for crude as American oil wells produced six out of every seven barrels used by the Allies. Attention quickly focused on Saudi Arabia where two U.S. companies had struck oil in the eastern part of the country in 1938. Washington saw this as the solution to future U.S. oil shortages.

To solidify ties with the Saudi kingdom, President Franklin D. Roosevelt needed an experienced man, familiar with the area and fluent in Arabic. The assignment fell not to a career diplomat but a Marine colonel—William A. Eddy. Born in Sidon, Syria, to Presbyterian missionaries, he learned Arabic at an early age. After attending Princeton University, he entered the Marine Corps, serving with distinction during World War I where he received the Navy Cross and a nasty shrapnel wound at Belleau Wood. After the war, he went back to school, earning a doctorate in English literature and
working in a variety of academic positions, including head of the English department at American University in Cairo. With another war looming, he resigned as president of Hobart College to reenter the service, bluntly stating: “I want to be a Marine.” With his expertise in the Middle East, he quickly rose in both rank and importance. A year later, on 12 August 1944, President Roosevelt appointed Col Eddy as the first American Minister to Saudi Arabia, establishing a consulate in Jeddah on the western coast of the Kingdom. He quickly developed a close relationship with the King Ibn Saud, who even offered one of his sons to marry Col Eddy’s 11-year-old daughter (Eddy politely declined).

In February 1945, President Roosevelt decided to travel to the Middle East following his conference at Yalta to meet the Saudi king and other regional leaders. With his fluency in Arabic Col Eddy was the natural choice to serve as the translator. This meeting occurred on 14 February onboard the USS Quincy on the Bitter Lake, in the middle of the Suez Canal, with Col Eddy serving as both translator and a senior advisor to President Roosevelt. Eddy later described the meeting in a humorous book entitled FDR meets Ibn Saud, in which he detailed the building of a sheep pen on the ship’s fantail and a near death experience when one of the Saudi king’s servants decided to brew coffee on a ammunition locker. But levity aside, the meeting solidified U.S./Saudi relations for decades to come, in what historians have described as “the special relationship.” Col Eddy was a key component in this development and he worked to build on the momentum of the Bitter Lake meeting in the years after the war, working with both the State Department and the growing Saudi national oil company.

The onslaught of the Cold War added a new dimension—containment—to U.S. policy in the Middle East as the US worked to contain Soviet expansion while promoting military ties with region leaders. For the next 30 years this necessitated few U.S. forces. For the Marines, it entailed providing a few ship’s detachments for the newly established Middle East Force, a small show-the-flag fleet based in the Persian Gulf. Occasionally, a BLT-sized force deployed to help “secure the peace” such as occurred in the Sinai following the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

However, by 1979 the combination of the Iranian Revolution and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan compelled the United States to take a more direct military role. In November, President Jimmy Carter signed Presidential Directive 18, which called for the formation of the Rapid Deployment Force (RDF), composed of “light divisions with strategic mobility for global contingencies, particularly in the Persian Gulf region and Korea.”

With much of the U.S. Army tied up in contingency plans for Europe and with the founding concept of the RDF being “rapid,” the only forces realistically available for the Middle East in the event of a crisis were the Army’s XVIIIth Airborne Corps and a Marine Amphibious Force. Only the Marines had amphibious capabilities and could initially bring the stronger forces to counter any Soviet or regional threat. On the 204th Birthday of the Corps, Secretary of Defense Harold Brown directed the Joint Chiefs of Staff to look carefully at whether the Marines should have a “larger role” in any planning for the Middle East and the RDF. The Commandant, Gen Robert H. Barrow, quickly seized upon the Secretary of Defense’s guidance in a memo for the chairman the following month. Gen Barrow spelled out the “unique” capabilities of the Marine air-ground task force. He noted that the Marines could tailor a “force package” capable of responding to any size and scope of crisis, a key requirement for the new RDF. They could deploy rapidly via Navy shipping and be either ground or air centric, ranging in size from a battalion ground element to a corps equivalent. In a forerunner of more recent doctrinal statements, the Commandant noted: “They can be employed as a uniservice force in an expeditionary environment, or become part of a larger joint task force.”

In addition to the Marines’ amphibious capability, the maritime positioning ships (MPS) concept caught the imagination of defense planners looking at how to rapidly deploy forces to the Persian Gulf. While it originated prior to and independently of the Rapid Deployment Force, as both stood up simultaneously the two have become forever linked in many people’s minds. In the mid-1970s amphibious planners began looking for new ways of moving Fleet Marine Forces to the world’s hotspots. Many viewed the current capabilities as “hollow,” as the Marine Corps simply lacked the ability to move the bulk of its forces in any timely manner. The strategic mobility concept the planners devised entailed pre-staging equipment onboard ships which could then be moved to the crisis area. There, they would link up with Marines arriving by air. Initially, they planned for shipping to sustain one brigade, eventually building up to employ three full brigades.

The interim step was the Near Term Pre-Positioning Force (NTPF), which stood up in July 1980. Based at Diego Garcia and chiefly dedicated to the Middle East, it comprised seven merchant ships from the Military Sealift Command. They carried enough supplies to support a 11,200-man Marine Amphibious Brigade (MAB) for 15 days, later expanded to 30 days. The 7th MAB was formed to serve as the headquarters element for this pre-positioning brigade, thus becoming the first MAGTF designed around operating with MPS. But the ships in the NTPF were a stopgap and not designed for rapid offloading or long-term storage. Therefore, the Navy and Marine Corps undertook a program to build specially designed MPS ships. In April 1983, the Commandant and the Chief of Naval Operations signed a memorandum of agreement outlining a Naval concept of operation for MPS and committing both Services to support pre-positioning for the Marine Corps. On 19 January 1985, the 2d Lt John P. Bobo was launched, the first of some 13 pre-positioning ships. Organized into three squadrons, each
contained enough equipment to field three 16,000-man brigades.

On 1 March 1980 LtGen Paul X. Kelley assumed the reigns of the new Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force in Tampa, Florida. Under Gen Kelley’s direction, the new headquarters quickly took shape, conducting Bright Star, the first of what would become annual exercises in Egypt, in November 1980. After a year in command, he turned over the reigns of command to Gen Robert C. Kingston, USA, having taken a new concept and fledgling command from a simple fire brigade to one designated as a new unified command for the Middle East—U.S. Central Command.

As Central Command grew so did the Marine Corps’ involvement. In 1982, the RDJTF conducted a major amphibious exercise when 31st MAU landed more than 1,000 Marines in Whaibah Sands, Oman as part of Exercise Jade Tiger. Some of the largest exercises within the United States were the Gallant Eagle series which were designed to test the various RDJTF operational plans to counter a Soviet invasion of Iran or Iraq. During 5-11 September 1984, for example, nearly 50,000 Marines from I MAF participated in combined arms maneuvers in southern California and Nevada. The following year, over 2,000 Marines from the 6th MAB, commanded by BGen Edmund P. Looney, Jr., participated in the largest Bright Star exercise to date. Operating in Egypt, Jordan and Somalia, the Marines conducted live-fire exercises and a joint amphibious landing with Egyptian forces.

While not written policy, it was intended that Central Command would alternate between Army and Marine Corps commanders, and in November 1985, Gen George B. Crist, USMC, relieved Gen Kingston. As the new Middle East theater commander, he became the first Marine Corps commander in chief of a unified command. As such, he controlled all military forces in the Middle East regardless of service. In the spring of 1987, the U.S. agreed to provide a naval escort of 11 Kuwait tankers code-named Earnest Will. Gen Crist’s command was tasked to safeguard the tankers from Iranian attack, as Kuwait was a chief supporter of Baghdad in an ongoing war against Tehran. Unfortunately, on 24 July 1987, the very first convoy hit an Iranian-laid mine. With few basing rights in the region, many of the forces would have to be kept onboard Navy vessels and it was obvious from the outset that the Marines would be tasked to play a major role.

The most immediately available shipping was the USS Guadalcanal’s amphibious ready group carrying Col Gordon Keiser’s 24th MAU, then participating in exercise Eastern Wind in the desert of Somalia, prior to heading north to Egypt for Bright Star ’87. The next day, Col Keiser received official word to reconfigure the MAU and dispatch the Guadalcanal and the embarked Marine helicopters to the Gulf. With remarkable speed—only six hours—the MAU completely reconfigured itself, cross-decking everything except an infantry company and its aviation assets. Arriving in the Gulf on 14 August, the Marines were tasked to provide escort for inbound or outbound convoys and keep a wary eye on Iranians gunboats.

As it became apparent that the Gulf commitment would continue indefinitely, planning began for a replacement for the Marines of the 24th MAU. On 6 October, I MEF issued a deployment order for Contingency MAGTF 1-88, commanded by Col Frank Libutti, embarked on the Okinawa. This unit comprised nearly 600 men. Arriving in the Gulf in late November, it undertook many of the same type of missions as its predecessor with the addition of new contingency plans to capture Iranian oil platforms and islands, as well as raids on the Iranian mainland.

That fall, Headquarters Marine Corps decided Col Libutti’s replacement would come from the East Coast. On 23 November, II MEF activated Contingency MAGTF 2-88, commanded by Col William M. Rakow Jr. After a two-month-long rigorous MAU(SOC) structured workup, it deployed to the Gulf embarked on the USS Trenton. A true MAGTF, it contained: CSSD 20 detachment for support; Co. B, 1st Marine helicopters of Contingency MAGTF 2-88 crowd the flight deck of the USS Trenton in the Persian Gulf during the spring of 1988. The Marines were part of a large joint task force deployed to safeguard Kuwaiti oil tankers from Iranian attacks which threatened to seriously disrupt the flow of crude destined for the West.
Battalion, 2d Marines, reinforced with heavy weapons; and a composite squadron of four AH-1T, two CH-46, and two UH-1N helicopters. In all, the task force contained more than 400 sailors and Marines.

On the afternoon of 14 April 1988, the American frigate, Samuel B. Roberts was returning toward the Strait of Hormuz, having just escorted two oil tankers to Kuwait. Approximately 55 miles northeast of Qatar she hit a mine, blowing a 21-foot hole in the ship's port side near the engine room. The blast caused a fire and extensive flooding, injuring 10 sailors, including four who had to be evacuated by Marine CH-46s to a hospital in Bahrain. Intelligence quickly ascertained that Iran was behind the mining and planning immediately began for retaliation against this deliberate attack. CENTCOM tasked the Marines to board and neutralize a large gas/oil separation platform named Sassan, a large seven-platform complex, some 30 to 50 feet above the water and manned by 20-30 Iranian Marines armed with three 23 mm antiaircraft guns. By chance, just two weeks earlier, Col Rakow's staff had conducted a planning exercise using Sassan platform, and their concept of operations fell quickly together. After a preparatory bombardment by naval gunfire, Col Rakow would insert an assault force, comprised of the Force Reconnaissance platoon and the 1st platoon of Company B, by fast rope. When the platform was secured, a security element, explosive ordnance detachment, intelligence, and a public affairs teams would come over to exploit anything discovered.

The attack on Sassan began at 0800 on 18 April. Despite US warnings to evacuate the platform, the Iranians opened fire on a Marine Cobra hovering nearby. The Cobras engaged with rockets and tow missiles, setting the wooden framed living quarters ablaze, silencing the Iranian gunfire. Rakow then gave the order to insert the assault force. Two CH-46s and a UH-1, escorted by two Cobras, came in fast and low. Forty Marines led by Capt Thomas B. Hastings fast roped onto the now burning structure. As secondary explosion cooked off around them, the Marines methodically cleared the structure. After two hours on board looking for intelligence, the Marines withdrew. Seven minutes later 1300 pounds of explosives ignited and Sassan erupted in an explosion which could be seen for miles.

Unfortunately, the day would not end without cost for the Marines. A Marine Cobra crashed into the water trying to avoid a radar "lock-on" from an unidentified warship. The two pilots, Capt Stephen C. Leslie and Capt Kenneth W. Hill, were both posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for their skill earlier at Sassan.

Following Praying Mantis, Iranian activity in the Gulf dropped off dramatically. In June 1988, Contingency MAGTF 3-88 arrived in the Gulf to relieve Rakow. Commanded by Col John H. Admire, it comprised elements of seven commands from III MEF, all of which had undergone an intensive five-month training package similar to the specialized MAU(SOC) training, and building on their predecessors' experiences. By the fall of 1988, the crisis had passed, and the contingency mission ended, leaving only a small security detachment and a platoon from Fleet Anti-Terrorist Security Company to provide security for the Navy.

While the next campaign, Operation Desert Storm, brought Central Command and the Persian Gulf to the forefront for the U.S. military, the Marines' prominent role had been secured in the years before 1990. The combined forces deployed during Earnest Will demonstrated the flexibility of the MAGTF and validated Gen Barrow's beliefs at the inception of Central Command. Only the Marine Corps had the ability to tailor a combined arms force with the capabilities to counter the Iranian threat. Desert Storm proved this again just two years after Praying Mantis when I MEF rapidly deployed as the MAFTG providing a large part of the ground forces and validating the entire prepositioning concept of a decade earlier. From the time the first warship entered the Persian Gulf to Col Eddy's vital mission in developing U.S. policy in the region, through the formation of U.S. Central Command, the Marine Corps helped lay the foundation of the national military strategy for the Middle East.
Aviation Collection

Aviation in the National Marine Corps Museum

by Michael E. Starn
Curator of Aeronautics

Each year the Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum closed its doors for the winter months and re-opened the next spring. 15 November 2002 was different as the Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum closed its doors for the last time. This was done so that the major artifacts could be sent out for some long overdue restoration and touch-up work in preparation for display in the National Marine Corps Museum (soon to be built at Quantico, Virginia). Most of the aircraft that were on display in the Air-Ground Museum, with a few changes and additions, will be installed in the National Museum.

The SBD “Dauntless” dive bomber that was on display is actually an A-24 used by the Army Air Corps and is being transferred to the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio. A real SBD used by Marines at Guadalcanal has been acquired and will take its place in the World War II Gallery. New aircraft that will be displayed are the UH-1E “Huey” helicopter, flown in Vietnam by Medal of Honor recipient, Maj Steven Pless, an A-4E “Skyhawk” in the Vietnam Gallery, an AH-1J “Cobra” helicopter similar to the ones used in Desert Storm, and an AV-8 “Harrier”.

One of the aircraft to return after a long absence will be the completed DH-4. This aircraft was acquired during the mid-1960s to become a memorial to the aviators of World War I. The fuselage of this aircraft was basically completed before the project met with an interruption known as Vietnam. The fuselage remained on display for a number of years but was never completed. In August 2000, arrangements were made to transport the fuselage of the DH-4 and all of its related components to the Crissy Field Museum in San Francisco, California, where it has undergone restoration and will return as a completed aircraft ready for display in the Fast Track area of the new museum.

One of the main differences in the National Museum will be the addition of the Vietnam and Desert Storm Galleries. Because these two eras have not been displayed in the past we have had to acquire new aircraft to add to the 185 already in the collection.

Over the last few years we have been acquiring AV-8 aircraft and currently have six in the collection. The AV-8s are on display at the Quonset Point Aviation Museum in Rhode Island, the Kalamazoo Aviation Museum in Michigan, the USS Intrepid in New York, the New Bern airport in North Carolina, Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point, North Carolina, and MCAS Yuma, Arizona. The one to be displayed in the National Museum will be our seventh and will hopefully have a Desert Storm history.

Future phases of the National Museum will include the F/A-18 “Hornet,” the CH-46 “Sea Knight,” the F-4 “Phantom,” and the A-6 “Intruder/Prowler”. Currently we have two examples of the F/A-18 on display at MCAS Miramar in California and the Kalamazoo Aviation Museum and two examples of the A-6 at MCAS Cherry Point and MCAS Miramar.

We are waiting for the Navy strike board to release the CH-46 BuNo. 153389 to our custody. On 30 January 1970, this aircraft was manned by LtCol William R. Ledbetter (pilot), 1st Lt Paul D. Parker (co-pilot), SgtMaj M. Landy (gunner), Cpl S. Marinkovic (gunner), and PFC Michael Clausen (crew chief) during Operation Peachbush in Vietnam, and was credited with the rescue of a fire team from a minefield. The heroic efforts of these men did not go unnoticed as LtCol Ledbetter was awarded the Navy Cross, 1st Lt Parker was awarded the Silver Star, SgtMaj Landy and Cpl Marinkovic were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, and PFC Clausen was awarded the Medal of Honor.

As time, funding, and display space become available other aircraft from the past, present, and future of Marine Corps aviation will be acquired and placed on display in the National Marine Corps Museum. For more information concerning the National Marine Corps Museum please visit the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation’s web site at http://www.usmcmuseum.org.
When the Marines returned from the Persian Gulf in 1991, they and our field historians brought back approximately 400,000 pages of records (200 cubic feet by volume). Many of those records were classified, and consequently the entire collection was, and is, stored in our security vault. Lack of available staff precluded any arrangement or description of these records, and so they languished.

In 1994, then-Deputy Secretary of Defense, John M. Deutsch ordered that all of the records of the Gulf War be digitized and reviewed for public release (national security and Privacy Act). The reasoning behind this order for digitization was to enable searches of the documents for possible causes of the so-called “Gulf War Syndrome.” In 1995 Dr. Deutsch named the Army to be the Executive Agent for this program; Under Secretary of the Army Joseph H. Reeder undertook this responsibility. In the autumn of that year representatives of Historical Division were called to Headquarters Marine Corps at regular inter-Service meetings on the progress of this project. We had sent an ALMAR to forward any stray records of the Gulf War to us, and we had a good handle on the volume and location of the records. Initially, this knowledge worked in our favor: the Army did not know the volume of its collection and the Navy’s records were in the hands of a private contractor. However, as the weeks passed, the Army began organizing its part of the project and obtaining funding. My Navy colleague and I pointed out that our respective historical organizations had neither the funding nor the staffing required for a project of this scope. Finally Mr. Reeder called the Under Secretary of the Navy and funding became available the next day. A Department of the Navy project resulted, staffed by reservists, and led by then-Maj Raymond E. Celeste.

He co-located the Department of the Navy project with the Army’s, to take advantage of the economies of scale. The Army determined that records should be both imaged (an electronic picture of each page) and scanned (conversion of the page back into a word processing document). Scanning was considered effective at 50 percent accuracy, so an image of each page was necessary to answer questions raised by errors in the scanned versions. (Later, when reporting on this project to the Assistant Commandant, Gen Richard I. Neal, I noted that the Marine Corps had expended a million dollars to convert MCO 5750 (9003.5.d) requires monthly submission of command chronologies “in time of operational deployment” and “of combat.” The 1st Marine Division submitted monthly reports from the time of its deployment until its retrograde.

The paper records were returned to Historical Division in their numbered boxes, thereby preserving forever the ad hoc organization we had given them. All of our finding aids, including those for the electronic records, used these box designations. Not long thereafter, as the number of searches decreased dramatically, the Department of the Navy closed down the project and moved the database to a secure facility in the Washington Navy Yard. Historical Division has since conducted a systematic review of the command chronologies for national security but not for privacy, such as Social Security numbers.

The existing database is expensive to maintain and cumbersome. To use it, we have to call the contractor and give two days notice. Historical Division currently is exploring the cost of having the records converted to the TRIM software that now is the Department of the Navy standard for databases and electronic records. This conversion would greatly improve our ability to search these records and to provide copies of them, after the appropriate reviews.
Heritage Center News

Progress on Several Fronts

by Col Jon T. Hoffman, USMCR
Deputy Director

The National Museum of the Marine Corps (the first building scheduled for the Heritage Center complex) continues to come closer to reality. In December 2002, a contractor began clearing trees from that part of the 135-acre site that will be used in this first phase of development. This activity is performed at no cost to the project, since the value of the timber provides compensation to the firm doing the work. When that activity is complete in February 2003, a construction company will begin building the access road onto the site. This roadway will be paved after the completion of building construction and become the primary entry to the museum.

Another major milestone occurred in December 2002 when the architectural firm, Fentress Bradburn, submitted the 35 percent design for the first phase on the new museum building.

This artist rendering by Christopher Chadborne and Associates, Inc. depicts the proposed immersion exhibit for the Vietnam gallery. Visitors will arrive on Hill 881 South at Khe Sanh via a CH-46 helicopter.

Following review comments by the History and Museums Division, the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, and the Heritage Center Project Office, Fentress Bradburn is moving ahead in the next phase of the design. The project should be ready for bid in summer 2003. Although the design continues to evolve in its details, the overall features originally envisioned remain intact. During a meeting in Denver in January 2003 to review the 35 percent design plans, the architects unveiled a large-scale model of the central atrium and entryway, complete with appropriately scaled planes and vehicles. The model reinforces the dramatic look of this unique building.

Christopher Chadbourne and Associates, Inc. also has reached the 35 percent level in their design of the exhibits. This includes a layout of each of the galleries, with the amount of space allocated to major artifacts and individual exhibits. Design development, now underway, will last through summer 2003. This will produce detailed designs for each exhibit and serve as the basis for construction documents. Bidding on fabrication of the exhibits will begin in the fall of this year.

The program to restore major artifacts destined for the museum is well underway. One of the first pieces sent out to a contractor is the Soviet-built North Vietnamese 122mm artillery piece captured in the A Shau Valley during Operation Dewey Canyon in 1969. In a related action, the Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum at Quantico has been closed and its three pre-World War II metal hangars are undergoing rehabilitation. They are receiving an insulating coating and are being outfitted with a system that will dehumidify the air and maintain the temperature within an acceptable range. This work will be completed during March 2003, after which the buildings will be converted into general storage for the museum collection. As major artifacts return from restoration, they will have a proper environment to maintain them in pristine condition until they take their place in the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Other items long exposed to the elements also will find a home in the storage facility, thus slowing their deterioration until they get their turn at being restored. This will ensure that the historical collection of the Marine Corps remains intact for generations to come.
During the ongoing planning for the Desert Storm exhibits in the new National Museum of the Marine Corps (NMMC) at Quantico, the staff was fortunately able to choose from a wide array of artifacts, thanks to the efforts of the Marine Reservists who collected materials from the battlefield, and those Marine units that sent in items that were felt to have historical significance after the end of hostilities. Operation Desert Storm was the first opportunity to implement a concerted collections effort for the museums program, although Marine historians and artists had collected a number of important items in both Beirut and Grenada. Prior to those campaigns, the Marine Corps did not have an organized field collections program. The fruits of this labor resulted in the museum being able to select artifacts from a list that ran from tanks to water bottles.

The collections team that was sent out during Operation Desert Shield designated an M60 tank, named “Genesis II”, as historically significant, as it was one of the first tanks through the protective berm around Kuwait, and had it shipped to the museum at the end of the war. Before being featured in the NMMC’s section on the land war in the desert this tank will undergo further restoration, as it has sat outside at the now-closed Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum since its arrival at the museum. Likewise, the AAV7P amphibian tractor that took an enemy rocket during the attack will also be featured. An AH1-J attack helicopter will be suspended over these two vehicles in the new exhibit. Originally acquired for an exhibit on Grenada, the Cobra gunship has been in storage since the late 1980s, but space constraints in the new museum dictate its use in the Desert Storm area.

Some of the artifacts that had been featured in the special exhibit that opened in 1991 at the Marine Corps Museum in the Washington Navy Yard will also be used in the new Desert Storm exhibit. Many of the artifacts from this exhibition had been loaned temporarily to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Museum after the exhibit in the Navy Yard closed. However, there are enough duplicate items in the collection to afford the staff the opportunity to rotate sensitive materials, and to feature items that have never been seen by the public. Among these artifacts are captured Iraqi weapons, uniforms, and personal equipment, as well as Marine Corps and allied items that support the story of the Gulf War.

One of the most important aspects of this artifact collection effort during Operation Desert Storm was the acquisition of entire uniforms from selected Marines. Representative Marines—male and female, and from all of the combat arms—were asked to donate their entire uniform, from head to toe. Close coordination with the supply system ensured that the Marines received a new issue of clothing and equipment, after the field collection team accepted the items. They were then shipped to the museum, where with the help of museum interns, they were cleaned, accessioned, and cataloged. A number of these uniforms were then shown in a display that followed the well-known painting by Col Donna J. Neary, USMCR(Ret), depicting the various uniforms worn in the desert. It is expected that several of these uniforms will be featured in the new gallery.

Although the museum has significant macro artifacts from this conflict on loan to such sites as the Pentagon, Quantico, other Department of Defense museums, state museums, and Marine Corps units worldwide, there are still sufficient examples in the collection to meet all of our anticipated requirements for the new national museum, thanks to the efforts of all involved in the collections programs.

Correct Answers for Historical Quiz from Last Issue

Marines and the Suppression of Disorder, Bandits, and Terrorism

1. 1989
2. 1921
3. 1946
4. 1859
5. 1805
6. 1998
7. 1919
In Memoriam

LtGen William J. Van Ryzin Passes

by Robert V. Aquilina
Assistant Head, Reference Section

LtGen William J. Van Ryzin

LtGen William J. Van Ryzin, USMC (Ret), a highly decorated combat veteran of two wars, died 1 July 2002 in Washington, D.C., at the age of 88. A native of Appleton, Wisconsin, he was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant upon graduation from the University of Wisconsin in 1935. He served with the Marine Detachment at the American Embassy in Peiping, China, during the 1930s, and was serving with the 1st Defense Battalion on Palmyra Island at the outbreak of World War II. He received a Bronze Star with Combat "V" for meritorious service during 1941-1942 on Palmyra, and later participated in the Tinian operation, and the occupation of North China following the war. He served in a variety of staff assignments following World War II, including several billets at Headquarters Marine Corps, and later, as chief of staff for the Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean. Gen Van Ryzin commanded the 2d Marine Division from 1963-1965, and during the Vietnam War, served for three months as Deputy Commander, III Marine Amphibious Force. He retired from active duty with the Marine Corps in 1971.

LtGen John N. McLaughlin

LtGen John N. McLaughlin, USMC (Ret), died in August 2002 in Savannah, Georgia. A combat veteran of three wars, the Charleston, South Carolina, native was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant in 1941, after graduating from Emory University. During World War II, he saw service on Guadalcanal, New Britain, and Peleliu, where he received the Silver Star for gallantry in combat. During the Korean War, he was captured by Chinese Communist forces during the Chosin Reservoir campaign, and endured almost three years of mental and physical hardship as a prisoner of war. Following his liberation in 1953, he was awarded a Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious conduct while in enemy confinement. During the Vietnam War, he served from February-May 1968 as Assistant Division Commander, 1st Marine Division, and additionally during this period, served as Commanding General, Task Force "X-Ray" at Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam. He earned the Distinguished Service Medal and three Vietnamese personal decorations for service in Vietnam. He was later designated as Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, and in March 1973, assumed command of the 4th Marine Division. Following his promotion to lieutenant general in September 1974, he became Chief of Staff at Headquarters Marine Corps, and assumed his last duty assignment, as Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, in July 1975. Gen McLaughlin retired from the Marine Corps in 1977.

LtGen Edwin J. Godfrey

LtGen Edwin J. Godfrey, USMC (Ret), died 12 April 2002 in San Diego, California, at the age of 69. The Montclair, New Jersey native was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant in 1954 upon graduation from Dartmouth College. During the Vietnam War, he served with the 3d Marine Division, first as Commander of the 3d Shore Party Battalion, and later as S-3 of the 9th Marines. Following duty with the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1979, and service on the Staff of the Commander, Seventh Fleet, he served from May 1981-82 as the Assistant Division Commander of the 3d Marine Division and Commanding General of the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade. He then served as Commanding General of 3d Force Service Support Group until 1984. In June 1986, Gen Godfrey was assigned as the Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force/Commanding General, 3d Marine Division, FMF Pacific, Okinawa. He assumed command during 1987 as Commanding General, Fleet Marine Forces Pacific and Commander, Marine Corps Bases Pacific. Gen Godfrey retired from the Marine Corps in 1989.
MajGen George S. Bowman, Jr.

MajGen George S. Bowman, Jr., USMC (Ret), a highly decorated veteran of three wars, died 3 May 2002 in Harlingen, Texas, at the age of 90. A native of Hammond, Louisiana, Bowman was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps following graduation from Louisiana State University in 1936. He was designated a Naval Aviator in 1939, and during World War II, earned a Bronze Star with Combat "V" for meritorious service on Okinawa. During the Korean War, Bowman served with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in Korea, earning both a Legion of Merit with Combat "V" and a Distinguished Flying Cross. During the Vietnam War, he served as Deputy Commander, III Marine Amphibious Force, and later, as Deputy Commander XXIV Corps. His last duty assignment before retirement in 1979 was Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton. Gen Bowman then became Superintendent, Marine Military Academy in Harlingen, Texas, and served in this capacity until his second retirement in 1979.

BGen Paul Graham

BGen Paul Graham, USMC (Ret), died 16 June 2002 in Oceanside, California, where he had lived for the past 30 years. The Brooklyn, New York, native was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant in 1944, and took part in combat operations on Guam and Iwo Jima during World War II. He served in a variety of assignments following the war, and later commanded a rifle company in Korea. During the Vietnam War, Graham served as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, 1st Marine Division, and later as Commanding Officer of the 5th Marines. In April 1971, he was advanced to the rank of brigadier general, and was assigned as Commanding General, Force Troops, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific/Marine Corps Base, Twentynine Palms, California. Following later assignments as Assistant Division Commander of the 3d Marine Division, and later, the 1st Marine Division, Graham assumed command in August 1974 of Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton. Upon his retirement in July 1975, he was recalled to active duty as the Military Coordinator for the Refugee Center, Camp Pendleton, until 30 November 1975, for Operation New Arrival.

Col William E. Barber

Col William E. Barber, USMC (Ret), a Medal of Honor recipient from the Chosin Reservoir campaign during the Korean War, died 19 April 2002 in Irvine, California, at the age of 82. Born in Dehart, Kentucky, Barber enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1940, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1943. During World War II, he was awarded a Silver Star for heroism at Iwo Jima. He was ordered to Korea in October 1950, and as Commanding Officer of Company F, 2d Battalion, 7th Marines, took part in the bitter fighting at the Chosin Reservoir, for which he was awarded the Medal of Honor. After recuperating from wounds sustained during this action, he returned to the United States in 1951. He served in numerous assignments prior to his deployment to the Republic of Vietnam in 1969 as a Psychological Operations Officer with III Marine Amphibious Force. For his service in this capacity, he was awarded a Legion of Merit with Combat "V." Col Barber retired from the Marine Corps in 1970, and later worked as a military analyst for the Northrop Corporation.

Maj Harry D. Elms, Sr.

Maj Harry D. Elms, Sr., USMC (Ret), who, while serving as Executive Secretary of the Marine Corps Uniform Board, was responsible for the design of the official Marine Corps seal, died 26 August 2002 in Fredericksburg, Virginia, at the age of 81. A native of Stony Creek, New York, Elms enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1940, and earned a direct appointment to the rank of Warrant Officer-1 (Quartermaster) during World War II. During his service at Headquarters Marine Corps during the Commandancy of General Lemuel C. Shepherd, he was responsible for the design of the Marine Corps Seal, which was officially approved by President Dwight D.
Eisenhower in 1954. Elms was an authority on Marine Corps uniforms and insignia, and his expertise and advise was sought by several succeeding Commandants. After his retirement in 1962, Maj Elms founded and later became President of “The Marine Shop,” in Quantico, Virginia, a uniform shop which became known for “Serving Marines Around The World.” Major Elms was an active member of the Marine Corps Association, the Marine Corps Scholarship Association, and the Marine Corps University Foundation.

Robert Leckie

Robert Leckie, a prolific writer whose Marine Corps experiences in the Pacific during World War II were related in a number of popular books and magazine articles, died 24 December 2001 in Montville, New Jersey, at the age of 81. The New Jersey native enlisted in the Marine Corps following the 7 December 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, and participated in six Pacific campaigns. He was wounded in action on Peleliu while serving with the 1st Marine Division. After the war, Leckie authored a number of books relating to his wartime experiences in the Pacific which remain popular reading today, such as Helmet For My Pillow and Strong Men Armed: The United States Marines Versus Japan.

The “Splendid Splinter” Dies at 83

Ted Williams, one of the greatest baseball players of all time, and a former Marine combat pilot, died 5 July 2002 in Florida at the age of 83. Widely regarded as the greatest hitter who ever lived, the Hall of Fame slugger was equally proud of his Marine Corps service in two wars. In 1941, the San Diego, California, native compiled a batting average of .406, a number which has stood to this day. The onset of World War II, however, brought about a temporary halt to the baseball career of the “Splendid Splinter.” After receiving training at the Naval Air Training Center, Pensacola, Williams was appointed a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserve on 2 May 1944. He served on active duty in Florida, Hawaii, and California until 1946, when he returned to baseball. During the Korean War, he was recalled to active duty in May 1952, 14 months after his promotion to captain in the Marine Corps Reserve. He served in Korea with VMA-311, and flew 37 combat missions, earning the Air Medal with two Gold Stars in lieu of second and third awards for meritorious achievement in aerial flights during operations against enemy forces. Following his return to the United States in August 1953, he resigned his Reserve commission to resume his career with the Boston Red Sox. Williams retired from baseball at the end of the 1960 season with a lifetime batting average of .344. He was inducted in July 1966 into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

Historical Quiz


by Lena M. Kaljot
Reference Historian

1. When did Operation Desert Shield begin?
2. When did the air war begin?
3. Who was the Commandant of the Marine Corps during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm?
4. How many countries made up the coalition forces in Operation Desert Storm?
5. What was the purpose of the inverted “V” symbol used on vehicles during Operation Desert Storm?
6. Name the senior commander of Marine forces during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, who went on to become Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps.
7. What is “MOPP” gear?
8. In December 1990, a company from Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., the oldest post of the Marine Corps, departed for Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, to join elements of the 2d Marine Division deploying for Operation Desert Shield. When was the last time Marines from the Barracks had been deployed?
9. What was the date the ceasefire went into effect?
10. What is the name given to the multinational relief effort to provide humanitarian assistance to Kurdish refugees?

(Answers on page 21)

Michael Gordon and LiGen Bernard E. Trainor have teamed up to write the most penetrating, well researched, and balanced book produced to date on the war in the Persian Gulf. A remarkable, comprehensive piece of history, enriched with descriptions of the participating commanders from the very senior levels down to the companies and platoons at the tip of the spear; this book explodes many of the myths created through the media during both Desert Shield and Desert Storm. It is by far the most accurate portrayal of what really happened at the political, diplomatic, and military levels from Washington though Allied capitals to the combat zone in Kuwait.

In what is described as a “war by miscalculation,” the authors present an intriguing description of warnings of an Iraqi invasion by intelligence analysts in the Central Intelligence Agency and Defense Intelligence Agency that were not believed by senior intelligence officials or the State Department. At the same time, the Bush Administration continued to pursue a policy of bringing Iraq back into the family of nations through diplomatic and economic aid, while believing that a full-scale invasion was unlikely. The administration’s policy is described as a litany of inaction that, until the day of the Iraq attack into Kuwait, was guided by two basic assumptions-first, that Iraq, after having fought Iran for years, was tired of war and needed a respite; second, that she would use diplomatic coercion and subversion, not war, as her primary levers of power. It is interesting to note that the Bush Administration was not alone in its assessment as most of the moderate Arab states had misread Saddam Hussein’s intentions as well.

The Iraq invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990 set off a series of diplomatic and military moves that brings into focus the major military personalities directing the crisis. Gordon and Trainor do an excellent job of describing the role of Gen Colin L. Powell, the political-military master who was the key player in shaping the war plan. They accurately portrayed Gen H. Norman Schwarzkopf, the U.S. Central Command (CentCom) commander, as a man with a volatile disposition who terrorized his staff, but generally let his commanders do what they wanted to do. In the age of “jointness”, this was to cause him problems that he did not foresee in the beginning of the buildup. Both he and Powell were tasked with developing a unified plan out of the conflicting views of the Air Force, Navy, Army, and the Marines, that was never completely harmonized. The results of this were to be seen at the end of DESERT STORM where half of the Iraqi Republican Guard got away only to return as a potential threat to Kuwait some 3 years later.

The authors correctly portray the Air Force arriving early in the planning phase with an agenda of its own that called for winning the war through the use of air power alone. While there was much tension with in the Air Force as to how this was to be done, BGen C. Buster Glosson is given much of the credit for developing the air plan with guidance from Schwarzkopf and particularly LiGen Charles A. Horner, CentCom’s air component commander. Unlike the Air Force, which was heavily represented in the CinC’s headquarters in Riyadh, the naval component commander chose to stay aboard ship in the Persian Gulf and remain aloof from the political intrigues in the Saudi capital. The result was that the Navy was not a major player in the development of the air plan that generated several confrontations over just how air operations would be executed in DESERT STORM. While the air warfighting philosophies of both Services are accurately portrayed by the authors, the differences were never completely harmonized by the air planners in Riyadh.

DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM have been described as true joint operations in the media; however Gordon and Trainor’s analysis of the planning for the ground campaign demonstrate that the reality was quite different. The arrival of the Jedi Knights, a special team of field grade Army planners from Fort Leavenworth, imported secretly by Schwarzkopf, is an example. The Jedi’s, tasked with planning the ground offensive strategy in secret, excluded the Marines from the process until LiGen Walter E. Boomer, dual-hatted as the Marine component commander and commanding general of I Marine Expeditionary Force, discovered their activities and complained. The initial result was a campaign plan that relegated the Marines to a minor role until Schwarzkopf himself intervened on the Marines behalf.

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The Navy was oriented around the aircraft carrier battle groups and displayed little interest in amphibious operations in spite of a large amphibious force under its control. This did not change until the Commandant of the Marine Corps dispatched a special team of amphibious planners to the fleet flagship in January 1991, to provide a focus on potential attacks from the sea. The actual air campaign is portrayed as being niddled with inter-service tensions. A joint forces air component commander was created to run the air war; but his staff was dominated by the Air Force, much to the irritation of the other services. While the Air Force concentrated on targets in Iraq, the Army and the Marines complained that specific targets they wanted hit in their respective zones were ignored.

The war in the Persian Gulf demonstrated some of the realities of the missile age. Iraq’s use of the Scud missile against targets in Saudi Arabia and Israel created major political problems for the Bush administration as well as CentCom. In what may be a forecast for future conflicts, U.S. surveillance systems did a good job of picking up Scuds as they were launched in Iraq, but had an extremely difficult time detecting Iraqi mobile missile launchers prior to any firing. The authors describe in detail the efforts undertaken by CentCom, to include the extensive employment of American and Allied special operations units into Iraq, to find and destroy the mobile launchers. This effort on the ground, as well as dozens of allocated air sorties to destroy the launchers, proved to be largely ineffective.

On the U.S. side, the description of new technologies introduced in this conflict provides an excellent picture of the way the Services will probably fight in future power projection missions or major regional conflicts. The F-117 stealth fighter saw its first extensive employment in combat and executed its missions over Iraq in a highly effective manner. The Navy’s superb Tomahawk missile system proved to be very reliable and accurate, in spite of initial reservations by Gen. Powell. The massive use of the Global Positioning System by the Services significantly enhanced accurate navigation and position reporting by units operating in the desert. A variety of electronic warfare systems were used to effectively blind and confuse enemy units in Kuwait and Iraq.

While the air campaign did not achieve all assigned objectives, it did play a major role in destroying key strategic targets as well as the Iraqi Army’s ability to maneuver on the ground. By the commencement of the ground campaign, the enemy had sustained a severe pounding from the air. The authors describe in detail the ground assault into Kuwait and Iraq and charge that the strategic significance of the earlier battle for Khafji was completely missed by Schwarzkopf, the CentCom staff, and the Army. For the Marines, Khafji provided confirmation of Iraqi weaknesses and the stagnation that was spreading through the ranks of their Army. In what is described as one of the major miscalculations of the war, Schwarzkopf’s plan for taking the war to the Republican Guard remained the same after Khafji as before, thereby illustrating his failure to appreciate the decay in the Iraqi Army, its low morale, inability to maneuver, and general disintegration. The Marines spectacular advance through the Iraqi minefields toward Kuwait City, coupled with the collapse of the Iraqi Army in front of them, upset the timetable for the Army’s attack in the west. The XVIII Airborne Corps responded smartly to a Schwarzkopf edict to move up the schedule for attack by one day; however, the VII Corps, made up of excellent U.S. armored divisions and trained to conduct a highly synchronized style of warfare in Europe, was slow to attack. By the time the VII Corps attack started to move, the Iraqi’s were in general retreat and under heavy air attack north of Kuwait City. An XVIII Airborne Corps attempt to cut off the Iraqi retreat was stopped short when the political decision was made in Washington to order an abrupt ceasefire. The failure of Schwarzkopf to recognize the conditions within the Iraqi Army and adjust the plan accordingly led to the incomplete victory over the Republican Guard.

To understand the strengths and weaknesses of U.S. joint operations today, this book is must reading. The authors have done a superb job of separating the facts from the fiction about the war in the Gulf. The General’s War should be required reading for all future commanders in all branches of Services as well as being invaluable to any student of history.
Book Notes

Persian Gulf War, 1990-1991

by Evelyn A. Englander

Historical Center Librarian

This is a selection of books offering historical background on the Persian Gulf War, 1990-1991. Most of these books are available through local or online bookstores, your local library (or the interlibrary loan programs.)

Tip of the Spear: U.S. Marine Light Armor in the Persian Gulf War. By Greg J. Michaels. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1998. 253 Pp. A description of the LAV (Light Armored Vehicle), its units, the required training, its missions, and the Marines who carried out these missions. The author served with the LAV units since joining the Marine Corps in 1984. He fought in the Persian Gulf War with Alpha Co., 1st LAV Battalion, as a section leader and vehicle commander, with his unit being at “the tip of the spear” in the effort to help liberate Kuwait City. This is his first hand account of the unfolding events of the Persian Gulf War and the lessons learned from the war. Includes photos from the author’s personal collection.

Hornets Over Kuwait. By Jay A. Stout. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1997. 244 Pp. Jay Stout is a Marine Corps aviator whose career has included assignments in both the F-4 Phantom and the F/A-18 Hornet. Written by a pilot who had flown thirty seven flights against the Iraqis during Desert Storm, he provides a “been there, done that” look at modern air warfare. He offers the reader an understanding of Marine Corps aviation and its contributions to the Gulf War. Along with air combat the author writes of the mundane issues of being at war. He concludes with his thoughts on lessons learned. Includes photographs.

A Woman at War, Storming Kuwait with the U.S. Marines. By Molly Moore. New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons. 1993. 336 Pp. The author was the senior military correspondent for The Washington Post during the Gulf War. Rather than remaining with the media “pool,” Moore accompanied Marine Gen Walter E. Boomer as he led his troops into battle during Operation Desert Storm. She traces the buildup towards the war and writes of the heroism on the battlefield as well as of the mishaps and calamities. She cites Gen Boomer and his staff for their cooperation with the media during Desert Storm. Includes maps and photographs.

Storm Command: A Personal Account of the Gulf War. By Gen Sir Peter De La Billiere. London, England: Harper Collins Publishers, 1992. 348 Pp. After a military career of ever increasing command responsibility across the globe, and with a comprehensive understanding of Arab life and language, Gen de la Billiere assumed command of the British forces in the Middle East in the fall of 1990. Under his command, the UK forces expanded in number from 14,000 in November 1990 to more than 45,000 at the end of the hostilities against Iraq. In commanding the British forces in the Gulf War, Gen de la Billiere was at the center of the coalition’s work. He was responsible for the RAF on its wave after wave of bombing runs, the Royal Navy’s operations in the Gulf itself, and the British Army in several fronts in a theater of war spanning eight nations and one million square miles. After his return to the UK, he became special adviser to the Minister of Defense. He retired from active service in June 1992.

Desert Warrior: A Personal View of the Gulf War by the Joint Forces Commander. By HRH Gen Khalid bin Sultan, with Patrick Seale. New York: Harper Collins, 1995. 492 Pp. A graduate of Sandhurst in Britain and Ft. Leavenworth and Maxwell Air War College in the U.S., and his country’s authority on missiles, he was commander of Saudi Arabia’s Air Defense Forces. In the Gulf War, he was in a parallel command with Gen Schwarzkopf, serving as Commander of Joint Forces and Theater of Operations. Along with offering the Saudi view of the war, the author offers insight into the Middle East and the Saudi-American relationship.

Saddam Hussein: a Political Biography. By Efraim Karsh and Inari Rautsi. New York: Free Press, 1991. 337 Pp. Written by two specialists on the Middle East, the book traces Hussein’s rise to power, placing him in the larger context of the Arab world and Iraqi history and tradition. They describe his rationale first for the invasion of Iran and then for the occupation of Kuwait. The authors conclude with hope that the future for the region will rest with leaders who see that their political survival depends on limits to aggression and norms for their behavior.

My American Journey. By Colin L. Powell, with Joseph E. Persico. New
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