HISTORIANS DEPLOY TO IRAQ ... THE LAST MARINES OUT OF KOSOVO ... AIR-GROUND MUSEUM CLOSES DOORS
AFFAIRS CIVIL AND MILITARY ... MARINES AT GTMO ... MARINES IN CIVIL AFFAIRS ... GIVING READERS
WHAT THEY WANT ... 2000 CHRONOLOGY ... BRINGING ORDER OUT OF CHAOS ... JOSEPH JACOB FOSS

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HISTORICAL BULLETIN VOLUME XXX, NUMBER 1 2003

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

Historical Bulletin Vol. XXX, No.1 2003

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

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ABOUT THE COVER

Col John W. Thomason, Jr., USMC, made a 14.5x10.5 inch pen, ink with watercolor wash drawing of a Haitian Gendarme especially for Col R.P. Williams, USMC, Chef de Gendarmerie de Haiti in 1934.

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Fortitudine Vol. XXX, No.1 2003
Memorandum from the Director

Give Readers What They Want

W

e have received many favorable comments since the publication of the last FORTITUDINE. I believe this substantiates a point in periodic literature—if you have interesting material you will likely please your readership and they will ask for more. With the theme of Operations in CENTCOM in what would become Operation Iraqi Freedom at press time, we had a winner. Even before press time it was clear this would be the national focus, so our timing could not have been better.

Another section receiving many comments was “In Memoriam.” Passing over the side during that short period were Marine Corps greats who have influenced our Corps and country for generations; Bill Barber, Ted Williams, John McLaughlin, James Hittle and a Marine who was known by every lieutenant entering the Corps for the past 40 years, Harry Elms. In this issue, the reader will see more memorable Marines, as well as those who have contributed greatly to our reputation. For example, only a few weeks ago Mr. Felix DeWeldon died. He last appeared publicly at Arlington Ridge where his magnificent Marine Corps War Memorial, aka, the Iwo Jima Memorial, now presides splendidly on a ridge where it will not be invaded by other buildings or memorials into perpetuity. Because these greats are so well honored in the memory of present day Marines, the Historical Center has heard from many of you thanking us for their inclusion.

T

wo of the above names bring to mind an interesting sidelight. With cyclical regularity we hear from readers disputing the factual record of certain historical events and, in this case, records. One such dispute challenges the “Top Ace” record of well-known Colonel Gregory “Pappy” Boyington. Unlike the Army Air Corps, and later, Air Force, the Navy (thus, Marine Corps) never recognized or established a formal list of Aces. However, the historical information was well known and preserved. Colonel Boyington’s 28 kills topped Major Joe Foss at 26. These included his kills as a member of the American Volunteer Group, Flying Tigers, (two credited kills, although Boyington claims six), as well as two kills, unobserved, thus unsubstantiated, which he reported took place in the action when he was shot down and became a Prisoner of War. He was credited with these kills at the end of the war on his repatriation. Major Joe Foss’s 26 kills were all observed and substantiated, and all as a Marine Corps pilot. As a result, many see Major Foss as the top Marine Corps Ace. For the record, Marine Corps historians list Major Foss as the Corps’ leading Ace during Marine operations in the South Pacific during WWII.

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other subject that seems to live forever is that of the first and second flag raisings on Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima. Twenty-five years ago my predecessor, Brigadier General Edward Simmons, wrote a significant article on this subject in this publication that should have been the end of the issue. Yet, we regularly receive claims that “I was one of them.” Just recently we received material, including photos, from one who has now emerged as the ultimate authority on the events that day on the mountain; the company commander of Easy 2/28, Colonel Dave Severance, who sent the flag raising patrol to the summit. In the almost 60 years since the event, Colonel Severance has held on to all of the claims, photos and records, as well as factual documents such as after action reports, muster lists, maps, etc. His account of events, no matter how obscure, and his recognition of the Marines who took part, is unimpeachable. Even so, he makes the timeless observation of any combat commander: “One must realize that photography was one subject not on our minds on Iwo. For that reason, identification of personnel in Lowery’s and Rosenthal’s photos were [sic] of no priority....”

A

nd still we receive claims that a particular Marine was the “unidentified” member of the (1st or 2nd) flag raising. In this case, one such claimant has started a fund raising campaign in Hawaii to build a new monument of the first flag raising. Interestingly, this particular Marine was never a member of Easy Company. Still, his will not be the last challenge or claim.

Readers should be interested to see the extensive involvement of our field historians in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and from this will come the definitive history of the war. They were interspersed in units throughout the area, both within I Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) and higher headquarters. During this same period, we have had major advances in all activities leading to the official groundbreaking of the National Museum of the Marine Corps, 25 September, by the Commandant.

Good health to our Corps. ☑1775 ☑
The full compliment of field historians from the Historical Division (HD), along with the unit’s lone combat artist, deployed across the entire theaters of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom to conduct historical documentation missions, and while it is too soon to outline lessons learned, the division did come away with a number of impressions substantiating that modern Marines hold true to the spirit and professionalism of the Corps.

Among the impressions that stand out, the first was that “Generation X” Marines stand up to any comparison to previous generations of Marines. The historians were uniformly impressed with the spirit, endurance and competence of our enlisted Marines. Another impression was that, almost without exception, the supported commands, whether Marine or joint, welcomed the presence of our Marines and facilitated their work. This was especially true of our combat artist, Staff Sergeant Mike Fay, who seldom failed to attract a crowd when he pulled out his sketchbook or easel. It was also true that many combat veterans welcomed the opportunity to participate in an oral history interview, our stock in trade, and that some found it cathartic.

This most recent deployment sent HD historians to units from the Horn of Africa to Qatar and Bahrain to Kuwait to Northern Iraq. The first to mobilize and deploy was Lieutenant Colonel Dave Watters, who became the senior Joint Historian at Central Command Headquarters in Qatar in late 2002. Following Colonel Watters in early 2003 were Colonel Reed Bonadonna, who sailed with 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade in January, and Major Chris Warnke, who flew to Djibouti to join Joint Task Force (JTF) Horn of Africa. The next contingent to deploy was Lieutenant Colonels Mike Visconage and Jeff Acosta, Majors Melissa Kuo and Ted McKeldin and Chief Warrant Office 3 Bill Hutson. Respectively, these members were attached to the 3rd Marine Air Wing (MAW), the Enduring Freedom Combat Team at MarCent, 1st Force Service Support Group and I Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF). Gunner Hutson spent part of his time at MEF, but also covered 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit and the Marine Logistics Command. Lieutenant Colonel Nate Lowrey went to a joint assignment in Northern Iraq with U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM), while Colonel Nicholas E. Reynolds went to another joint assignment with the Coalition Forces Land Component Commander. As the spring wore on, Major Warnke and Sergeant Fay relieved Major McKeldin and Gunner Hutson at MEF and covered both the MEF and units still deployed in Iraq. In June, Colonel Visconage, assisted by Major Carroll Harris, a welcome wartime addition to our group, conducted a large number of interviews with 1st Marine Division units afloat in Amphibious Task Force (ATF) West.

Everyone performed essentially the same kind of work, but the cir-
cumstances varied enormously, from working on a large staff to joining squad-size foot patrols. Most endured the same hardships as Marine ground forces, such as primitive camps, blistering heat, blowing sand and weeks of MREs (military field rations, short for Meals, Ready to Eat). Given the nature of the conflict and the vagaries of fate, members of the unit came under fire a number of times—first in the opening days of the war in Kuwait from incoming missiles, then in the air over Iraq while covering operations by the Air Wing, and finally on the ground in Iraq with infantry units. At least one historian, Gunner Hutson, stands to receive the Combat Action Ribbon. Again, like most Marines, they did their job and brought home nearly 1,000 interviews, more than 10,000 pages of documents and thousands of photographs and artworks.

There were several firsts, too. Because HD places a premium on keeping its historians expeditionary, they traveled relatively light. This was possible in large part due to innovative gear as digital recorders, digital cameras and ruggedized laptop computers able to process both photo and sound files in the field. Instead of tapes and paper documents, the historians brought back CD ROMs loaded with vast amounts of data. With respect to documents, the challenge in this conflict was not what to bring home, but what not to bring home, given the many documents on web sites and shared drives that could easily be downloaded and stored.

To commemorate its service, the Field History Detachment created a unique unofficial unit insignia, which may (or may not) go down in history along with other unofficial insignia. The result of collaboration among Gunner Hutson, graphic artist Sergeant David G. Smith, Mr. Jack Dyer and Mr. W. Stephen Hill, the insignia combines a palm tree, symbolic of service in the desert, with the 1804 Marine Corps emblem, the oldest military insignia in continuous use, found both on uniform buttons and on HD publications.

More Historians in the Field

In addition to the Field History Detachment deployments, other alumni of the historical program were also involved in documenting Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. These included Colonel Charles J. Quilter II with the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing. With U.S. Special Operations Command were Colonel Dennis P. Mroczkowski, Major David B. Crist and Chief Historian Chuck Melson. Both Colonels Quilter and Mroczkowski voluntarily returned to active duty for this assignment. □ 1775 □
Marine Corps Chronology

2000 Annual Chronology (Part II)

by Ann A. Ferrante
Reference Historian

The “Current Chronology of the Marine Corps” serves as a valuable source of information on significant events and dates in contemporary Marine Corps history. Since 1982, the Reference Section at the Marine Corps Historical Center has compiled yearlychronologies by researching numerous primary and secondary sources each week. This edition offers selected entries highlighting the second half of the 2000 Chronology.

12 July – The crash of an AV-8B Harrier II at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, California, on 21 June resulted in the Naval Aviation (NavAir) Systems Command grounding of more than 100 aircraft in inventory. NavAir began an investigation of the Harrier’s Rolls Royce F402-RR-408 engine, citing problems with its Number 3 bearing assembly. Harriers also were grounded on 17 February, 24 March, and 22 June of this year for various deficiencies.

5 August – More than 500 Marines from Camp Pendleton, California, arrived in Salmon-Challis National Forest, Idaho, to battle wildfires that would burn more than 156,000 acres. Upon arriving in Idaho, the Marines joined with Army units from Fort Hood, Texas, and National Guardsmen to fight the fires. Marines with Task Force Wildfire would spend four weeks fighting fires in what was called the largest wildfire in the country since 1988.

19 August – The Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Oscar Austin (DDG 79), named in honor of Marine Private First Class (PFC) Oscar P. Austin, was commissioned. PFC Austin was an African-American Marine who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry in Vietnam in August 1969.

25 August – The Marine Corps issued suspension orders for three models of aircraft after officials discovered unrelated problems with each. All 11 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft, the CH-53E Super Stallion assault support helicopter and the AH-1W Cobra attack helicopter were temporarily grounded. The groundings were the first of the year for the 165 Super Stallions and 198 Cobras, which were among the Corps’ safest aircraft’s. The most significant of the three actions was the grounding of the Super Stallions because it would likely take longer to get them back in the air.

2 September – A Molly Marine statue was unveiled at Quantico, Virginia, during a ceremony attended by more than 750 people. Many of those in attendance were members of the Women Marines Association, who held their annual convention in Arlington, Virginia, over the weekend. The ceremony featured numerous guest speakers, including Major General John Cronin, Commanding General of Marine Corps Base, Quantico, and retired Lieutenant General Carol Mutter, the highest-ranking woman Marine in the history of the Corps.
8 September — Marine Colonel Terrence Wilcutt of Louisville, Kentucky, commanded the Space Shuttle Atlantis, which left on its return flight to the International Space Station (ISS). Colonel Wilcutt, a former F/A-18 pilot, and the seven-man crew on STS-106 would dock at the ISS to transfer supplies for the first permanent residents of the space station, who arrived in November.

12 October — The USS Cole (DDG 67) was disabled following a terrorist explosion that killed 17 sailors and wounded 39 others while refueling in the harbor of Aden, Yemen. The ship was in transit from the Red Sea to Bahrain. Marines of the 2d Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team (FAST) were deployed to the Cole to assist in securing the area and investigating the incident. The Cole was named after Sergeant Darrell Samuel Cole, USMC, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry in World War II.

17 October — Marines landed on the beaches of Vieques, Puerto Rico, for the first time in 18 months. More than 1,000 Marines from the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit made an amphibious landing on the island for a supporting arms coordination exercise.

22 October — The Marine Corps Marathon celebrated its silver anniversary with a record number of 21,000 runners plus 2,500 Marines, sailors, civilian employees and volunteers who provided support to the “People’s Marathon” in the Washington, D.C. area. Richard Cochrane, a 27-year-old member of the U.S. Navy, was the overall winner of the marathon, finishing with a time of 2:25:50.

24 October — The Lockheed Martin entry in the Joint Strike Fighter program, the X-35A concept demonstrator, made its first flight in Palmdale, California. The X-35A, the conventional takeoff and landing variant, reached a height of 10,000 feet, where it performed various maneuvers while traveling at 250 knots.

11 November — This date marked the groundbreaking ceremony for the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. President William J. Clinton, former Senator Bob Dole and Defense Secretary William S. Cohen joined with World War II veterans to begin the process of building the $140 million structure. It will honor the more than 400,000 who died and the millions who supported the war effort at home.

15 November — The 32nd Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James L. Jones, released the new vision and strategic goals for the Marine Corps called “Marine Corps Strategy 21.” He promised Marines an overarching operational concept that would touch every aspect of the institution and would be reflected in doctrine, structure, training and education, and acquisition programs.

20 November — The Marine Corps’ newest attack helicopter, the AH-1Z, was rolled out in a ceremony at Bell Helicopter Textron’s Flight Research Center in Arlington, Texas. The AH-1Z was part of the H-1 Upgrade Program to remanufacture about 100 UH-1N transport helicopters and 180 AH-1W Super Cobra attack helicopters with common engines and flight dynamic components.

25 November — Marines of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit participating in Exercise Slunj 2000 in Croatia successfully completed the first overseas launch of a Javelin Missile. The $90,000 missile was able to photograph its target and use that image to find and destroy the object. General James L. Jones, Commandant of the Marine Corps, was present to watch the Javelin launch.

30 November — The Marine Corps announced that the remains of 19 World War II Marines killed in action on Butaritari Island (Makin Atoll) and listed as missing since August 1942 were identified and being returned to the U.S. for burial. The Marines, with the 2d Raider Battalion, were killed during a 17-18 August 1942 raid on the Japanese-held island. Lieutenant Colonel Evans F. Carlson commanded the Raiders and President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s son, then Major James Roosevelt, was second in command.

7 December — A national commemorative ceremony was held at Camp Pendleton, California, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Korean War and the Chosin Reservoir Campaign. The site was selected because Camp Pendleton had been home to the 1st Marine Division, which fought in Korea, and because it was accessible to several thousand Chosin veterans who attended the 50th anniversary reunion of the Chosin Few in San Diego that same week. The Commandant of the Marine Corps was host to many prominent speakers, Medal of Honor recipients, government leaders, dignitaries and Korean War veterans.
Theoretically, combat units returning home after fighting and winning a war have less gear than when they deployed, having expended their ammunition and eaten their rations. However, Marine units returning from the second Gulf War hopefully will bring home more gear, including a large variety of war trophies.

Since 1775, Marine contingencies have returned home with war trophies that are now either unit mementoes or part of the Marine Corps Museum collection. Items that have specific Marine provenance, such as a trophy tied to a specific Marine action or individual, is of particular historical value and often officially accepted into the Museum’s collection. Such items can be retained, upon request, by the reporting units for display purposes. A number of trophies are also used for both classroom and practical training applications.

The History and Museums Division’s Web site, found under the History and Museums link on the official Marine Corps Web site (www.usmc.mil), provides information on general Marine Corps history and serves as a preliminary self-help guide for Marine units that are required to report historical property. Publicly placed on line in 2002, the site is divided into two major components, the historical branch (HDF) and the museums branch (HDM). The historical branch, located at the Marine Corps Historical Center (MCHC) in Washington D.C., provides services related to all historical matters. The museums branch, located at Quantico, Virginia, relates to the administration and display of Marine Corps material history (artifacts). The museums branch also manages the Web site’s semi-virtual tours of the Marine Corps Museum at the MCHC, and the now-defunct Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum. It also features artist renderings of the National Museum of the Marine Corps, slated to open in 2005. In case you did not get to visit the Air-Ground Museum before it closed, a snippet of the museum remains on line under the links for Visitor/Researchers and Museum Exhibits.

Historical assets carried on a unit’s consolidated memorandum receipt (CMR) are subject to Inspector General (IG) inspections, regardless if on display or used as training aids. In the case of weapons, uniforms and vehicles, inspectors look for either a HDM conditional loan agreement or HDM authority to maintain the historical property at the reporting unit. The Manual for the Marine Corps Historical Program, MCO P5750.1G, is the primary source for information on the mission of the division. However, subject-specific reference guides are easily accessible on the Web site. Under the site’s Collections Management link, important ancillary information regarding artifacts can be found, including directives and orders, security requirements and restoration guidelines.

The Collections Management section was envisioned as a self-help guide for individual Marines, units and other organizations requesting assistance from the Collections Manager. Requesters are encouraged to conduct their own preliminary informative research prior to initiating any contact with the staff at the museums branch. If you think it may be historical, report it! □1775□

Captured Iraqi weapons are lined up in the sand after Iraqi soldiers surrendered to American Forces during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Click Collections Management for answers to a variety of questions, such as:

- How can I request the loan of historical property?
- Has the property at our command been reported to the Museums Branch?
- How does a command receive authorization to maintain historic property in its custody?
- To whom do I report command war trophies?
- My unit is deactivating, what do I do with our flags and other historical property?
- How can we obtain obsolete combat equipment?
- What do we need to know about repainting the display artillery pieces or tanks on display outside our command post?
- How do we dispose of a rifle that is no longer needed for display purposes?
- Do we need to demilitarize the weapons on display at our command post?

The History and Museums Division’s Web site can be found under the History and Museums link on the official Marine Corps Web site (www.usmc.mil).
Marines at GTMO: A Continuing Presence

by Robert J. Sullivan
Museums Branch Head

One of the perks we enjoy in the Museums Branch is the opportunity to visit exciting locations to escort objects of high value to a museum. Members of the branch staff have traveled to Northern Ireland, Arizona, New Orleans and the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (GTMO) as part of their duties.

For those who are not familiar with GTMO, the question is, “what’s GTMO?”

This U.S. Naval Base has been a strategic outpost for the U.S. government for more than a century. More recently, GTMO has been in the news as the holding site for suspected Al-Qaeda terrorists. U.S. Marines landed at Guantanamo during the Spanish-American War in 1898, and remain there still to secure the perimeter of the naval base, support the training needs of deployed units and guard refugees, boat people and, more recently, suspected terrorists.

At this last and largely unknown Cold War outpost where Cuba’s Frontier Brigade forms a hostile ring around the 46-square-mile base, this hot, humid way station holds a wealth of history for the U.S. Marines. Columbus landed here in 1494, American (Colonial) Marines serving with the Royal Navy stayed for a few weeks in 1741, monuments and ruins dot the base where events took place during the fighting in 1898, and the objects that played a role in the 20th Century Cold War, such as guard towers, defensive positions, minefields and barbed wire fences, are still visible to the casual observer.

In February 2000, the Commanding Officer of the Marine Barracks, Colonel Al Carle, invited members of the Museums Branch to visit GTMO and assist the historical officer in identifying and inventorying historical objects in his charge. Additionally, the Officer in Charge of the Minefield Maintenance Section (MFM), Captain Darren Jones, indicated he had equipment and documents to be considered for inclusion in the museum’s collection. The ongoing operation to remove U.S. defensive mines at GTMO was nearly complete and the MFM Marines would soon depart the base.

The combat engineers had been busy in the minefields. The 60,000 or so silent and vigilant sentries that were once part of the base defense were all but removed. The yeoman-like efforts put forth by hundreds of engineers in a very hazardous job since 1962 were soon to be relegated to the history books and memories of those who served there. The engineers had a room in their office where visitors could read the accounts, see the photos and touch the gear relating to the section and the 13 Marines who died maintaining the minefields. We walked through the cleared fields with Captain Darren Jones, who discussed and demonstrated the procedures his Marines used to locate and remove the ordnance and other unidentified metal objects. Much of the mine clearing equipment used by the engineers dated from the 1960s. The records of the MFM were included in the Special Collections of the History and Museums Division.

The Barracks Historical Officer, Captain Caleb Jones, escorted us through many of the battle sites from 1898, as well as the defensive positions established throughout the base during the U.S. presence. Mr. Smith-Christmas and I walked the same terrain where the Marines of the past had fought the Spanish and, more recently, prepared for attacks from the ever-present forces of Cuba’s leader, Fidel Castro. One morning, Captain Caleb Jones piloted the UH-1 helicopter on an aerial tour of the base perimeter and provided a commentary of the historic sites. Some hilltop positions still looked as formidable from the air as they were when we attempted to hike the hills a day earlier.

The evening before we departed the island, one of the Marine officers invited Mr. Smith-Christmas and myself to a farewell party for another officer departing the facility. The night was filled with music, laughter, war stories and good comradeship. Our conversations with other officers on the barracks staff revealed they also had orders in hand and would soon follow the officer being feted. Before long, new people would fill the billets of the departed troops—the faces change, but the Marine presence remains.

Mr. Smith-Christmas and I departed the next morning with a sense of accomplishment and a greater appreciation for the Marines at GTMO. We collected a number of objects, walked where history is still being made and spoke with the successors of the first Marines who landed at GTMO many years ago to carry out U.S. policy.
Air-Ground Museum Closes Doors Forever  
by Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas  
Curator of the National Museum of the Marine Corps

After 25 years in operation, the Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum closed its doors forever on 15 November 2002 to give the staff time to prepare macro (aircraft, artillery and vehicles) artifacts for exhibit in the planned National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Virginia. While the museum has always closed for the season on or around this date due to the lack of a heating system in the antique aircraft hangars, this final closure was marked with a special ceremony attended by current staff members, former staff members and volunteers.

The Air-Ground Museum was originally established in 1978 as the Marine Corps Aviation Museum. The museum acquired the vintage hangars at the former Brown Field in the early 1970s and began the restoration program under the direction of Mr. Joseph E. Payton. The program would eventually account for the restoration and preservation of scores of Marine Corps aircraft, vehicles and artillery. While this process was ongoing, the Marine Corps Museum at Quantico migrated to the new Marine Corps Historical Center in the Washington Navy Yard and reopened in 1977. In 1978, the World War II exhibit opened in Hangar 3 under the direction of then officer in charge, Colonel Thomas M. D’Andrea. Building 72 (an aircraft hangar used in Nicaragua during the late 1920s and early 1930s) opened its doors in 1979 as the “Early Years: 1913-1941.” The restoration shop eventually moved from Hangars 1 and 2 to Larson Gym, and the World War II exhibit was moved to the vacated area to make room in Hangar 3 for the Korean War exhibit.

By the early 1980s, it became apparent the Aviation Museum needed to transition to an Air-Ground Museum to tell the story of the Marine Corps Air-Ground team, which was at the center of the educational curricu-

lum at Quantico but was not appropriately addressed in the museum. Moreover, the importance of Quantico as an air station waned appreciably following the outbreak of World War II. The museum also had acquired and restored a significant number of vehicles and heavy ordnance. This transformation, initiated by then Deputy Director for Museums, retired Colonel F. Brooke Nihart, took several years and occurred under the leadership of Lieutenant Colonel H. Charles Brown, followed by Lieutenant Colonel Rudy T. Schwanda. Then Head of Exhibits, Mr. Ronald L. Perkins, and his assistant, Mr. Frank A. Howard, upgraded all of the exhibits in the Early Years and World War II hangars during the transition. The completely changed Early Years exhibit (now spanning the Spanish-American War through the occupation of Iceland in 1941) reopened in 1985, followed the next year by the new World War II exhibit. The Korean War exhibit in Hangar 3 was opened on the 50th anniversary of the Inchon Landing, 15 September 1990, under the leadership of then Assistant Director of Marine Corps Museums, Lieutenant Colonel William A. Beebe.

Major changes were subsequently made to the exhibits after all three structures were devoted to the story of the Air-Ground team. After the restored nose section of a PBJ (B-25) bomber was added to the World War II exhibit, a fully restored World War I-era Liberty Truck was installed in the Early Years exhibit, followed by a pristine Curtiss JN-4HG “Jenny” aircraft, which was placed in the hangar under the direction of the new Head of Restoration, Mr. Mitch Garringer. The addition of these new items required restructuring of the exhibits in each hangar. Continual upgrades of existing exhibits and the addition of new smaller exhibits were also accomplished over the last 15 years.
and graphics were added where necessary, while “Modular Exhibits” that were originally designed as traveling exhibits were incorporated. All the exhibits were researched, written and executed by permanent staff, assigned Marines, interns and volunteers.

During the 25 years the museum was in existence, it saw many formal tours of Marines, veterans and students. In addition, the museum hosted several noted events; among them annual radio control aircraft “meets,” international museum conferences, and in 1990, a reception for the inventors of the AK-47 and M-16 rifles, General Mikhail Kalashnikov and Mr. Eugene Stoner. While the museum averaged 28,000 annual visitors during its seven and a half month open season, it was still underutilized by the public and Marines attending schools at Quantico. Low attendance has been attributed to the museum’s location, its lack of any climate control (although the staff was able to add an outside air ducting system, insulation and new metal sheathing to the decrepit exhibit hangars in the late 1980s) and an intermittent publicity program. Although the exhibits were designed primarily to support the curriculum in the schools of the Marine Corps University, few instructors took advantage of this classroom adjunct. Periodic flooding always was a problem, and effective corrective measures were not completed until 2001. Worst of all, there was no room to expand the museum to cover the post-1954 period, either with existing buildings or additional buildings.

The movement to establish the National Museum of the Marine Corps and the Marine Corps Heritage Center began in 1995. Since then, the staff has been working with an ever-increasing focus toward migration to the new facility. One of the obstacles has been climate-controlled storage for the macro artifacts after they have been restored and prepared for exhibit. This problem was alleviated in 2002 when then Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Michael J. Williams, allocated funds for a system that would provide adequate constant temperature and humidity controls for the three hangars of the former Air-Ground Museum. That system is now installed and the exhibits staff at Quantico, under Mr. Ronnie Alexander, assisted by the security staff, under Captain William N. Wright, have turned their attention to disassembling the exhibits and turning the museum into storage for the collections’ large items. These historically significant structures will eventually have a new life, holding the collection of macro artifacts destined for the future expansion of the National Museum of the Marine Corps and providing desperately needed storage for other collections in the Museums Branch’s cramped research facility at Quantico.

The Dauntless SBD dive-bomber shown here in the World War II exhibit was actually a USAAC A-24 aircraft (the Army version of a Navy/Marine Corps plane) and has been transferred to the US Air Force Museum. A real SBD that flew with the Marines at Guadalcanal has been acquired from the National Museums of Naval Aviation for the new museum.

The Early Years, 1900-1941 exhibit included a M1895 Colt “Potato-Digger” machine gun and a Curtiss A-2 biplane. Both artifacts will be used again in the new National Museum of the Marine Corps.
Marines have a long history of participating in civil affairs activities that follow combat operations, or which are the primary mission in areas where Marines provide support for humanitarian relief efforts. This more passive role of the Marine Corps has gained more notoriety in recent history and helped build the enduring image of the modern Marine.

In countless operations around the world, Marines have assisted local populations by providing security over food shipments, quelling violence and bringing order out of chaos.

Combat art from the most recent struggle in Iraq is starting to trickle in to the Marine Corps Historical Center. Among the artists now submitting work is Staff Sergeant Michael Dennis Fay, USMCR, whose watercolor of the 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance (LAR) camp is shown here. The 4th LAR participated in combat operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SSgt Fay’s work shows the base camp from which the LAR ran security patrols after combat operations had ended in Iraq.

In 1993, a number of Marine combat artists accompanied peacekeepers into Somalia during Operation Restore Hope. Among the artists were Colonel Peter “Mike” Gish and Lieutenant Colonel Donna J. Neary, USMCR, and Captain Charles G. Grow, USMC. Their paintings of a dangerous “peace” in Somalia show Marines conducting numerous humanitarian relief activities, including using heavy construction equipment to clear a field in the Kitchen 88 area north of Mogadishu. The clearing became a soccer field for children in the local village. Other works depict Marines providing security for food shipments being delivered to villages and guarding confiscated weapons taken from warring factions.

Finally, Sergeant John McDermott’s World War II oil on canvas painting of Marines passing a Guamanian boy holding an American flag provided inspiration to Ben Blaz, who pointed to the boy and said, “That was me!” when he first saw the painting. The young Blaz observed the battle for Guam first hand; he’d been born there. He was befriended by Marines, came to the United States, graduated from the University of Notre Dame, received a commission in the United States Marine Corps and eventually retired as a brigadier general.

The 4th LAR area at Camp Babylon, Al Hillah, Iraq. The unit ran security patrols from here after combat operations ended in 2003.

SSgt Michael Dennis Fay, USMCR


Col Peter Michael Gish, USMCR

Control No. 335-1-69

Control No. 24-1-180
The presence of armed Marines in 1993 Somalia allowed relief organizations to safely deliver food to refugees for the first time in months. The refugees sang and chanted as they loaded the relief trucks.

LtCol Donna J. Neary, USMCR

Control No. 119-9-59
Joseph Jacob Foss 1915-2003

by Michael E. Starn
Curator of Aeronautics

Born in 1915, Joe Foss became one of the Marine Corps’ highest decorated aviation heroes of World War II. Foss already had completed civil pilot training and was destined to become a Marine Corps aviator when he enlisted in the Marine Corps in June of 1940. After completing his pilot training at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Pensacola, Florida, he quickly rose to the rank of captain and served with several aerial reconnaissance squadrons. Captain Foss’ assignment to a fighter squadron was slow to come as he was considered, at the ripe age of 27, to be too old.

Eventually, in September 1942, Captain Foss was assigned to Marine Fighter Squadron VMF-121, located at Henderson Field at Guadalcanal. Four days after arriving at VMF-121, he shot down his first Japanese Zero. However, his first confirmed kill was not without complications. During the battle, his engine oil cooler was hit by a bullet, which caused his engine to seize and forced him to make a deadstick landing with three Zeros following him to the deck. This would not be the last aircraft Captain Foss would have shot out from under him. In fact, he would loose several more aircraft, earning him the nickname “Smoky Joe.”

On 7 November 1942, Captain Foss flew his last combat flight during World War II. While searching for nine Japanese destroyers, several Japanese aircraft were spotted and engaged in aerial combat. Captain Foss emerged with three more confirmed kills, bringing his total to 25 and racking up another aircraft full of holes. While returning to base, the engine of his riddled aircraft failed, forcing Captain Foss to make a water landing. An Australian coast watcher rescued him after he had tread water for several hours.

Following that battle, Washington decided that because Captain Foss had equaled Eddie Rickenbacker’s record of World War I, he should return home and be assigned to the National War Bond drive. When he arrived in Washington, D.C., he was introduced to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who awarded him the Medal of Honor for his leadership and actions in the South Pacific Theater. It was later discovered that another downed aircraft was credited to Captain Foss, bringing his final total to 26 and making him the second highest ace in Marine Corps history. He was promoted to Major in June 1943.

After leaving the Marine Corps, Mr. Foss continued to hone his leadership skills and became the Governor of South Dakota for two consecutive terms from 1955 to 1959, the first Commissioner of the American Football League from 1959 to 1966, and later the President of the National Rifle Association from 1988 to 1990. During the Korean War, Smokey Joe reentered active service as a colonel in the Air Force. He later became the Chief of Staff for the South Dakota Air National Guard, where he rose to the rank of brigadier general.

In October 2002, General Foss suffered a major stroke that left him comatose until his death at age 87 on 1 January 2003. To the general public, General Foss will always be remembered as the outspoken outdoorsman and sometimes politically incorrect politician from South Dakota. To the Marine Corps, he will be remembered as a man who proved that age should not decide someone’s capabilities.
The records of Marine Corps activities in the pacification effort in South Vietnam cannot be found in one place. Many of the command chronologies have references to charitable/humanitarian activities, such as volunteer work on the building of schools or medical care for the civilian population. Command chronologies of the Combined Action Groups (CAGs) provide more direct evidence of involvement in civil affairs, but they are limited in extent and in the level of detail. No CAG reported prior to October 1968 and there are no records of Combined Action Platoons or Companies except for reports from the CAGs themselves.

References to pacification are contained in notes taken by General Wallace M. Greene, Jr., during meetings of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), but those are still awaiting declassification review by the JCS and other agencies. An exchange of letters between General Greene and Lieutenant General Victor H. Krulak, commanding officer of the Fleet Marine Forces Pacific, indicates General William C. Westmoreland, the American military commander in Vietnam, was displeased by what he regarded as the over-emphasis placed on pacification by Major General Lewis W. Walt, III Marine Amphibious Force commander. General Westmoreland urged the early relief of General Walt, a move Generals Krulak and Greene successfully resisted.

Presently, the most comprehensive collection related to civil affairs in Vietnam is labeled, somewhat misleadingly, the “Weller Pacification Study.” The collection was released in September 1970, by the Advanced Research Projects Agency, which commissioned the Institute for Defense Analysis to undertake a comprehensive study of pacification in Vietnam. While retired Marine Major General Donald M. Weller was a member of the team, the actual project leader was Dr. Chester L. Cooper. Still, the 3-volume report was filed in the Marine Corps History and Museums Division vault under General Weller’s name. Also filed under the title “Weller Pacification Study” are documents not part of the study but specifically related to pacification. The team may have used these documents in preparing the report. One of these notes an overemphasis on quantification (an implied criticism of then Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara) to the detriment of a qualitative understanding of the programs’ effectiveness.

The study focused on counterinsurgencies, but it has relevance for Americans involved in civil affairs projects currently underway in places such as Bosnia, Afghanistan and Iraq. As one of its general lessons, the study states there should be a common understanding between the United States and the host government regarding goals and objectives before any commitments are made.

According to the study, “The American pacification effort in Vietnam was plagued with confusion and uncertainty among officials both in Washington and in Saigon as to the purpose, the allocation of responsibilities, and the desirable scale and pace of specific programs. . . . [Washington] was frequently uncertain of its objectives, it was often profligate and mistaken in both the choice and scale of the programs it adopted and it had difficulty in reaching a common sense of purpose with the Vietnamese.”

Another lesson, as described in the study, was the importance of making commitments to governments with the understanding “that our act of commitment and our advice cannot change the nature of the client regime or the society of the host country.” Further, “… the United States must be able to operate within and even to use [the host government’s own political and social system to assure that he keeps his side of the bargain].”

The study also states, “To the extent that we Americans ‘take charge,’ we postpone (and may even jeopardize) the achievement of our ultimate objectives.”

With the exception of General Greene’s notes, the available command chronologies and the Weller study have been digitized and are available to the public on CD-ROM. Pending appropriate funding, the History and Museums Division plans to include General Greene’s notes on subsequent CD releases once those documents have been declassified, which should occur in the first part of 2006.
History Writing

Affairs Civil and Military: New Name for Old Concept

by Charles D. Melson
Chief Historian

The first chapter of the 1940 Small Wars Manual was devoted to defining civil-military relationships based on accumulated naval experience to that time. It stated, “The satisfactory solution of problems involving civil authorities and civil populations requires that all ranks be familiar with the language, the geography, and the political, social, and economic factors involved in the country in which they are operating.” That advice is as good today as it was in 1940. This topic has been the focus of a number of history writing efforts through the years, some of which will be of interest to those facing similar problems as they conduct “security and stability operations.” To avoid becoming mired in current doctrinal jargon and acronyms, a working definition of civil affairs is any event or incident where American Marines were used to restore order, essential services and civil government in the course of their duties. It also could be any activities where there is direct dealing with civilians to accomplish these duties. This might be a more useful framework than “peace” operations or what, over time, has included various concepts such as civil affairs, civic action, martial law, humanitarian relief, combined action, military government and personal response programs. All these activities come under the rubric of winning the “hearts and minds” of the theater's local population.

While a common practice, little was written about civil-military relations with Marines at home or abroad before the 20th Century. The event most recalled is the 1859 capture of John Brown, as documented by Bernard C. Nalty in The Marines at Harpers Ferry, 1859, when Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., personnel were sent to the U.S. Arsenal to secure insurrectionist while local authorities watched.

Curiously, the conflicts that brought civil-military relations to the forefront have received little attention of historical monograph’s. These would be the so-called “Banana Wars” in the Far East and Caribbean Basin. The conflicts covered so far include Captain Stephen N. Fuller and Graham A. Cosmas’ Marines in the Dominican Republic, 1916-1924 and Bernard C. Nalty’s The United States Marines in Nicaragua. The extensive and lengthy occupation of Haiti still awaits a formal history, although several unpublished manuscripts exist.

The official histories of the major wars of the 20th Century, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf, all dealt incidentally with civilian involvement during and after the conflict. The 1919 occupation duty in Germany was not addressed, although World War II experiences in Japan and China received some amount of coverage. These included Henry I. Shaw’s The United States Marines in the Occupation of Japan and The United States Marines in North China, 1945-1949, and Charles R. Smith’s Securing the Surrender: Marines in the Occupation of Japan.

Only the series “U.S. Marines in Vietnam” has extensive sections written about the civil affairs effort. This was due to the nature of the conflict, which was as much to defend and win the support of the Vietnamese population as it was to defeat the Communist enemy on the battlefield. Several shorter monograph’s appeared at the time, including Captain Russell H. Stolfi’s U.S. Marine Corps Civic Action Effort in Vietnam, March 1965-March 1966; Captain Francis J. West’s Small Unit Action in Vietnam, Summer 1966, which in small part formed the basis of his classic study of combined action “The Village;” and Captain William D. Parker’s U.S. Marine Corps Civil Affairs in I Corps, RVN, April 1966-April 1967.

The Divisions’ most recent monograph series is “U.S. Marines in Humanitarian Operations.” This includes previous publications and several more planned for the upcoming year. These are Lieutenant Colonel Ronald J. Brown’s Humanitarian Operations in Northern Iraq, 1991, Charles R. Smith’s U.S. Marines in Humanitarian Operations: Angels from the Sea and Colonel Nicholas E. Reynolds’ Just Cause: Marine Operations in Panama, 1988-1990. As operations of this sort continue and the humanitarian series is refined, new titles will be developed to include Caribbean refugee operations and the Liberia series of security and evacuation operations.

Photo: Marine Corps Historical Center

Civil and military relations begin at home. Marines develop the skills needed to interact with civilians overseas through their routine experience with the American people. “Hearts and minds” often starts with the children in the community.
**In Memoriam**

**MajGen Robert D. Bohn Passes**

*by Robert V. Aquilina*

Reference Section Assistant Head

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**MajGen Robert D. Bohn**

Major General Robert D. Bohn, USMC (Ret) died 3 November 2002 in Fairfax, Virginia, at the age of 80. The native held a BS degree from the University of San Francisco and an MBA degree from George Washington University. He was commissioned a Marine Corps Reserve second lieutenant in 1944, and was integrated into the regular Marine Corps the following year. During World War II, he participated in combat in the first and second battles of the Philippine Seas, at Iwo Jima and at Okinawa.

During the Korean War, he served as a company commander with the 5th Marines, and participated in combat at the Pusan Perimeter and at Inchon-Seoul. He was wounded twice and earned his first Silver Star Medal for gallantry in combat.

Gen Bohn served in a variety of duty assignments following his return to the United States, including tours of duty at Camp Pendleton and Okinawa, Japan. During the Vietnam War, he earned a second Silver Star Medal as Commanding Officer, 5th Marines, and was later awarded the Legion of Merit with Combat “V.” In September 1969, he became the Assistant Division Commander, and two years later, Commanding General, 2d Marine Division at Camp Lejeune. His final duty assignment, prior to his retirement in September 1974, was as Commanding General, MCB Camp Lejeune.

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**BGen Jay W. Hubbard**

Brigadier General Jay W. Hubbard, USMC (Ret), a highly decorated combat veteran of three wars, died 1 January 2003 in Laguna Niguel, California, at the age of 81. A native enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1940, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1942. During World War II, he served with the 2d Raider Battalion at Bougainville, and with the 4th Marines at Emirau. He later participated in the Guam and Okinawa campaigns.

Following World War II, he reported to Dallas, Texas, for flight training and was designated a naval aviator in August 1947. During the Korean War, Gen Hubbard earned the Silver Star Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross, four awards of the Air Medal and the Purple Heart while serving in combat operations with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

In 1961, he received his BS degree from the University of Omaha, and thereafter completed the Amphibious Warfare Senior Course at Quantico, Virginia. During the Vietnam War, he served as Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 12, and later was assigned duty as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. For his service in Vietnam, he was awarded the Legion of Merit with Combat “V,” four more awards of the Air Medal and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

Gen Hubbard’s later service included tours of duty as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific and later as Director of Information at Headquarters Marine Corps. His last duty assignment was as Commanding General, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF/Marine Air Reserve Training Command. Gen Hubbard retired from the Marine Corps in December 1972.

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**BGen William F. Doehler**

Brigadier General William F. Doehler, USMC (Ret) died 16 November 2002 in Maryland at the age of 81. A decorated combat veteran of three wars, the native was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant upon graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1944. During World War II, he saw combat on Okinawa, where he earned his first Bronze Star Medal with Combat “V.” Upon his return to the United States, he served in a variety of assignments and completed training at several Marine Corps schools, along with the Special Warfare Course at Fort Benning, Georgia.

During the Korean War, Gen Doehler served with the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, where he earned a Gold Star in lieu of a second Bronze Star Medal with Combat “V.” Following his return to the United States, he completed the Infantry Officer Advanced Course at Fort Benning, and had tours of duty at Quantico, and later as Officer in Charge of the Marine Security Guards at the American Embassy, Beirut, Lebanon.

Following a tour of duty as Aide-de-Camp to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Doehler was assigned duty with the 2d Marine Division at Camp Lejeune. During this tour, he participated in the Dominican Republic crisis, earning a Gold Star in lieu of a third Bronze Star Medal with Combat “V.”

Gen Doehler saw two tours of duty in Vietnam, serving as Assistant Division Commander, 1st Marine Division, earning a Gold Star in lieu of a third Legion of Merit with Combat “V,” along with a Distinguished Service Medal. His final assignment, prior to retirement in July 1973, was as Commanding General, Landing Force

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Training Command, Atlantic, for which he received a Legion of Merit with Gold Star in lieu of a 4th award.

BGen Rivers J. Morrell, Jr.

Brigadier General Rivers J. Morrell, Jr., USMC (Ret), a decorated combat veteran of World War II and Korea, died 8 October 2002 in Laguna Beach, California, at the age of 89. A native of Los Angeles, California, he was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant upon graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1937.

During World War II, Gen Morrell was wounded in action at Guadalcanal while serving with VMF-223. After his release from the U.S. Naval Hospital, San Diego, he was assigned as the Executive Officer of Marine Base Defense Aircraft Group 43 at El Centro, California. Several months later, he assumed command of VMF-216. Following World War II, Morrell served in a variety of assignments, which included command of the Marine Air Reserve Training Detachment, NAS, Los Alamitos.

During the Korean War, he served with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. In 1957, he was assigned as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2 at MCAS Cherry Point, and later assumed command of Marine Wing Service Group 27. He retired in July 1959 from the Marine Corps and was advanced to the rank of brigadier general. His personal decorations included the Navy Cross, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart and the Air Medal.

SgtMaj Clinton A. Puckett

Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Clinton A. Puckett, USMC (Ret), the 6th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, died 3 September 2002 in Suquamish, Washington at the age of 76. A native of Waurika, Oklahoma, Puckett enlisted in the Marine Corps in February 1944, and took part in the Iwo Jima campaign.

During the Korean War, he served with the 3d Battalion, 5th Marines, and was awarded a Navy Cross for heroism on 21 June 1952 near outposts Reno and Vegas. He served two tours of duty in Vietnam, including service as sergeant major of the 7th Marines. He was appointed Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps in 1973, serving with the 25th Commandant, General Robert E. Cushman, Jr. During his tenure as the senior non-commissioned officer in the Marine Corps, he was a strong advocate for the professional education of enlisted Marines, a position he actively supported in a regular column for Leatherneck magazine. Sergeant Major Puckett retired from the Marine Corps in May 1975.

Historical Quiz

1. During what year did Marines from the Boston Navy Yard subdue a riot at the Massachusetts State Prison in Boston, Massachusetts?
2. A battalion of Marines was part of a naval brigade, which assisted civil and military authorities in restoring order during the serious draft riots that broke out in July 1863 in what northern U.S. city?
3. Marines from the USS Pensacola and USS Benicia landed at the Bay of Panama, Columbia, to protect the railroad and American lives and property during a political uprising in what year?
4. In April 1906, a Marine detachment from Yerba Buena Island and a detachment from Mare Island aided civilian authorities after the famous earthquake and fire that struck what west coast city?
5. U.S. Marines occupied which Caribbean nation from 1916 to 1924, during which time considerable improvement was undertaken in the country’s road network, communications, education, public health and government agencies.
6. Which Marine regiment, which had been captured with other U.S. forces in the Philippines, was selected to be the main combat unit to take part in the initial landing and occupation of Japan in late August 1945?
7. When disturbances broke out in Washington, D.C., following the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., Marines from Quantico, Virginia, and the Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., assisted in controlling the riots in what year?
8. In conjunction with other U.S. and Caribbean forces, U.S. Marines intervened to protect and evacuate American citizens and foreign nationals, neutralize Grenadan and Cuban forces, maintain order and assist in restoring a democratic government. In what year did this occur?
9. From December 1989 to January 1990, Marines protected U.S. lives, secured key military and canal sites, neutralized Panamanian defense forces, established law and order and supported a new U.S.-recognized democratic government in Panama. What was the name given to this operation?
10. Marines are working to promote cooperation among rival ethnic factions in Kosovo in what on-going operation?

(Answers on page 19)

Toward the end of the last decade—following U.S. operations in Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia and Kosovo—Max Boot went looking for a book describing the history of earlier American interventions in similar brush-fire conflicts. Not finding one, he decided to research and write his own. The result is a compelling survey of campaigns from the battles against Barbary pirates starting in 1800 through the very last shots of the 20th century in the Balkans.

Boot, then an editor with The Wall Street Journal, did a superb job mining the large swath of this nation’s military history and synthesizing it into a readable narrative. He ably sketches the key points of sometimes-complex situations and gets right to the heart of the story of each campaign. His lively description of events is populated by an intriguing gallery of heroes and villains, spiced by his superior eye for the humorous or amazing anecdote. He recounts one China Station sailor’s pithy observation about his slim pay in the 1930s: “The most of it goes for likker and wimmen. The rest I spend foolishly.”

The history of small wars yields a number of ready parallels to the present and future. The author’s discussion of the 1914 mission to Mexico to track down Pancho Villa sounds very much like the current hunt for Osama bin Laden following the terrorist attacks of 9/11. The difficulties we faced in establishing order in the Philippines in 1898 following our defeat of the archipelago’s colonial master, Spain, rival the challenges we are now dealing with after the collapse of Saddam Hussein’s regime in Iraq.

A recurring theme in the book is the author’s outright respect for the skill of the Marine Corps in handling small wars. He provides a glowing account of their successes in the Banana Wars of the 1920s and 1930s, and argues that a better outcome might have been achieved in the Vietnam War had overall strategy been more influenced by Marine initiatives such as the Combined Action Program. Boot’s chapter on “Lessons Learned” is aptly subtitled “The Small Wars Manual”—the title of the first formal American doctrine on counterinsurgency operations, published by the Corps in 1935.

Although the author does not single it out for emphasis, a frequent phenomenon in his book are small groups of American warriors, more often than not working in conjunction with cooperative foreign elements, who perform daring operations that have an enormous impact on the course of the campaign. One of the oldest examples in U.S. and Marine Corps history is the expedition of Lieutenant Presley O’Bannon and seven enlisted Marines, who led a polyglot force of Arabs and Greek mercenaries against the Bashaw of Tripoli in 1805. In Haiti in 1919, Sergeant Herman H. Hanneken, Corporal William R. Button and 20 gendarmes penetrated the camp of the most important rebel leader and killed him, thus collapsing the insurgency. Recent special operations forces in Afghanistan were merely repeating similar strategies with the aid of new technology.

Savage Wars of Peace is full of lessons not only for fighting campaigns, but also for securing the fruits of victory through the proper use of military forces to stabilize nations and lay the groundwork for political and economic reform. While the recent campaign against the forces of Saddam Hussein was definitely not a small war, the effort to rid Iraq of the influence of his regime is a classic situation ably covered by the Small Wars Manual drafted by an earlier generation of Marines. ❑ 1775 ❑

Answers to the
Historical Quiz

Marines in Civil Affairs
(Questions on page 18)
1. 1824
2. New York City
3. 1873
4. San Francisco, California
5. Dominican Republic
6. 4th Marines
7. 1968
8. 1983 (Operation Urgent Fury)
9. Operation Just Cause
10. Operation Joint Guardian
Marines often are thrust into the role of occupiers when fighting our nation’s battles. And like warfare itself, that task continues to grow more complex and demanding, something the 4th Civil Affairs Group (CAG) detachment from the Anacostia Reserve Center in Washington, D.C. discovered during its recent deployment in Kosovo.

In its most simplistic definition, the mission of an occupying force is to restore domestic order. To that end, the 4th CAG detachment had its hands full in the former Yugoslavia, a nation whose history is a litany of bitter internecine battles. In this land without a common religion, culture, or language, where neighbor often sets upon neighbor, Marines again found themselves acting as peace brokers and proved they were up for the job.

In late October 2002, Lieutenant Colonel Anthony C. McGinty, Major John C. Church, Jr., and their eight-Marine 4th CAG detachment landed in Kosovo. The team already knew the outline of the Yugoslav conflict. They knew, for example, that North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces had conducted a 78-day war in 1999 in response to President Slobodan Milosevic’s program of ethnic cleansing that threatened to destabilize the region, and that an American-led allied bombing campaign had ended the Serbian dominance of Kosovo and closed the conflict. They also knew that Kosovo had been occupied for the past two years by NATO peacekeepers and military units from several nations, including the U.S. Marine Corps, as part of Task Force Falcon and Operation Joint Guardian as part of a civil affairs mission.

For the next six months, the Marines of the 4th CAG detachment, which alternated the assignment with the 3d CAG detachment from San Diego, California, would integrate with U.S. Army personnel from the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion. The units’ joint mission was to control the civil dimension of the battlefield by maintaining a secure environment in the region and acting as the commanding general’s eyes and ears in the countryside and villages.

Colonel McGinty, who in civilian life is an internal affairs detective with the Washington D.C. Police Department, had served on active duty in Honduras and briefly in Kosovo prior to this assignment. As such, he was no stranger to dangerous missions.

Major Church, a Naval Academy graduate and college communications professor when not in uniform, learned about difficult occupation duties during his active duty service in Somalia.

This time, however, the team would face an additional challenge, that of geographically splitting the already small force into two units and coordinating the civil affairs efforts. Major Church and a three-Marine team would be based at Camp Bondsteel in Strpce (pronounced “Sturp-she”), a city of 10,000 and headquarters to Task Force Falcon. Colonel McGinty, the detachment NCOIC, and a four-Marine CAG team were to travel an hour’s drive east from Strpce to operate out of Camp Monteith, in Gnjilane (pronounced “Ja-lon”), the local capitol and home to the regional government. Dividing their force didn’t appeal to the Marines of the 4th CAG, but the bifurcation was part of the mission they had inherited.

Working with the Polish-Ukrainian Battalion, Major Church’s team took over the tricky civil affairs duty in Strpce and its surrounding area. Representing a variety of U.S., allied, and United Nations (UN) interests, the
Major Church said one day a young Albanian man excitedly told him, “My Serb neighbor has many AK-47s in his house,” and provided the team with an address. Major Church evaluated the veracity of the information, informed his Polish-Ukrainian superior officer, and a U.S. infantry unit conducted a search of the house where a few weapons were, in fact, seized.

The incident quickly demonstrated that Albanians wouldn’t deal with Serbs, and vice versa. In the ensuing months, the teams kept a close watch for rises in the domestic strain that might represent a danger to Task Force Falcon’s peacekeeping mission. They cultivated ideas to get the largely Serb populace, unusual in Kosovo, and the exclusively Albanian local police to cooperate.

Then there was the never-ending flow of complaints and requests that had to be processed. Was the complaint that a U.S. tank crushed the wall of a civilian’s house legitimate, and should a claim be paid? Could the U.S. help a Serbian whose brother had cancer? Would the team support a project to rebuild a local school? “I was the officer-in-charge of ‘no,’” said Major Church.

With the help of two interpreters, the team held regular office hours to respond to further requests, accusations, and complaints. And though civil affairs should never be confused with public affairs, the team made regular radio broadcasts emphasizing the need for respecting the law.

At Camp Monteith and Task Force Falcon headquarters, Colonel McGinty commanded both Marine and Army civil affairs personnel. The interservice group operated problem-free, which did not surprise Colonel McGinty. As with the Strpce team, Colonel McGinty and his team maintained an office in a local western-style government building where monetary claims were accepted and advice was offered in three languages. We were “essentially a storefront mayor’s office,” said Colonel McGinty.

The Marines lived in SEAhuts, a familiar raised plywood structure with a canvas cover used extensively during the Vietnam War. The CAG detachment wasn’t involved in any firefight. After all, the assault phase was over and this was occupation. Still, the team was in potentially hostile territory and remained vigilant, always traveling at least in pairs with magazines inserted. One of the teams Army-supplied High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (humvees) was “up-armedored” to protect passengers against mines, a constant danger in the region for both vehicular and foot traffic.

Near the end of their tour, Colonel McGinty got word his detachment would not be replaced as part of the plan to reduce the U.S. force in Kosovo, and on 2 April 2003, a modest ceremony was held in Gnjilane to bid the team farewell. The entire Marine 4th CAG detachment and Serb and Albanian Kosovar officials with whom they had worked were in attendance. A proclamation was read, gifts were exchanged, and command of the Camp Monteith CAG was turned over to the Army. The Marine office in Strpce was closed. Both Serbs and Albanians were clearly saddened by the Marines’ departure, for they had found them firm yet fair, and sincerely interested in helping the local populations better their circumstances.

As with all Marine operations, there were lessons learned. Chief among them was that Marine CAGs can operate effectively in an Army civil affairs context—especially important because the Army is designated the lead for civil affairs by the U.S. Department of Defense. Similarly, Marine CAGs can operate in multinational and UN environments, and the Kosovo operation provided the early proof.

Overall, the commanding officers said problems were few during the mission. The biggest single issue was dealing with the multiplicity of commanders to which Colonel McGinty and Major Church reported because each had slightly different requirements for the teams, and each had slightly different interpretations of the CAG’s mission. Still, the Marines reported it was a well-executed operation.

“Civil affairs is helping people recover in the aftermath of military action,” Major Church said, adding the 4th CAG showed the way. Of course, ethnic problems remain, but Kosovo is a better place after having Marines as an active part of the occupation force.

On 17 April 2003, the 4th CAG detachment packed their bags and departed for the U.S. They were the final Marine Corps unit in the region and the last Marines out of Kosovo.
This is a selection of books offering historical background on the U.S. military and civic affairs, with focus on the Marine Corps and civic affairs. Most of these books are available through local or online bookstores or through your local library (and their interlibrary loan program.)


*The Banana Wars* is an account of the American military’s fighting, occupation, policing and governing activities in the Caribbean from the years 1898 through the Panama Invasion of 1989. It includes Marine Corps experiences in these locations. The author covers: Cuba, 1899-1917; Panama, 1885-1904; Nicaragua (I), 1912; Haiti, 1915-1934; Dominican Republic (I), 1916-1924; Nicaragua (II), 1927-1934; Dominican Republic (II), 1965; Grenada, 1983; and the Panama Invasion of 1989.

The author’s focus is on U.S. policy in these countries, which was established to maintain peace within the Caribbean Basin and approaches to the Panama Canal.


Colonel Robert Debs Heinl also authored *Soldiers of the Sea; the United States Marine Corps, 1775-1962* and *Victory at High Tide; the Inchon-Seoul Campaign.* The Heinls lived in Haiti from 1958 to 1963 while the colonel was commander of the U.S. Military Group and Naval Mission. In *Written in Blood,* the Heinls trace Haiti’s history from the arrival of Columbus in 1492 to the defeat of “Papa Doc” Duvalier in 1971.

Concentrating on the political and military history of the island, the book carefully examines the U.S. occupation between 1915-1934 and the role of the Marine Corps in this occupation. The book includes a detailed bibliography of Haitian history.


In his book, Dr. Allan Reed Millett describes the use of U.S. armed forces in the Cuban crisis of 1906 and the occupation that followed. The antecedents of this occupation lay in the Army’s experiences in Cuba after the Spanish-American War and again during the Philippine insurrection. In 1906 Cuba, the U.S. Army was the guarantor of stability and its officers were the major architects of the provisional government.


After World War II, U.S. military forces had responsibility for more than 200 million people in occupation zones in Europe and Asia at a cost of a billion dollars a year. *Keystone* is a case study of American occupation of Okinawa from 1945 to the island’s return to Japanese sovereignty in 1972.

As they evolved with time, the dynamics on Okinawa were similar to other postwar peacekeeping and nation-building efforts in Germany, Italy, Austria, Japan proper and Korea. Lessons learned from Okinawa show that while peacekeeping and nation building are not easy, they can be facilitated by competent and cooperative interservice and interagency teams and, further, that such teamwork is essential for success.


These are proceedings of a conference held at the Smithsonian in May.
1977. The military occupation of Germany lasted four years, and the occupation of Japan lasted more than seven years with outcomes more successful and constructive than perhaps anyone could have imagined at the time. The papers presented at this conference address various aspects of both military occupations. Participants at the conference included many who took part in the military governments of Germany or Japan.


Michael E. Peterson, a recipient of a Marine Corps Heritage Foundation research grant, traces the roots of the Combined Action Program (CAP) back to the 1940 Small Wars Manual, which was based on U.S. Marine Corps experience in Nicaragua from 1925-1933. While in Nicaragua, the Marine Corps gained an appreciation of the social and political context in which a counterinsurgency is waged. Marines also learned the importance of gaining the loyalty and support of the local population.

Applying these lessons in Vietnam, General Lew Walt and other Marine Corps leaders noted the village militia units, Popular Forces (PFs), could work toward self-determination and nation building goals. Thus, Marine rifle squads were committed to living with the PFs in the villages in Vietnam while working together to accomplish a common goal. At its peak, 2,500 Marines were assigned to the program. Peterson includes interviews with CAP veterans. The book also includes a bibliography, maps and diagrams of the CAP organizations.


This is the writer’s eyewitness account of the 1994 invasion and occupation of Haiti by the U.S. Army and the Marine Corps. (Operation Uphold Democracy). The author describes this as a surreal war zone “where there are no friends and no enemies, no front or rear, no victories and likewise, no defeats and no true endings.” One reviewer summed up this operation as a humanitarian mission with the best of American’s military launched at one of the poorest, most fascinating countries in the Western Hemisphere. The purpose was to remove an illegal military dictatorship and to restore democratically elected President Jean Bertrand Aristide to office.


War Over Kosovo offers an historical overview of the war plus six essays placing the war in a broader context of U.S. strategy and American civil military relations. It also serves as additional reading for Colonel Douglass’ article on civil affairs in Kosovo in this issue of Fortitudine.

In his essay, Dr. Eliot A. Cohen explains Kosovo was an example of a new way of war, a coalition effort with humanitarian objectives.


This book examines the lasting consequences military rule has on nation building and economic development. The authors also describe how the end of the Cold War, emerging globalization and other international changes have affected political roles taken on by the military. The book further examines countries as disparate as Guatemala, Brazil, Turkey, Algeria, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Eritrea and focuses on the lessons to be learned from analysis of the armies involved in post conflict resolution.
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