IN THIS ISSUE:
2D Marine Division's 74th Birthday Registration
Around the Division
The Museum of the Marine
Happy New Year, Merry Christmas and Happy Birthday; Marines, Sailors, Family and Friends, I hope everyone has enjoyed the holidays and didn’t eat too much. It has been an exciting time in our Corps. We have a new Commandant of the Marine Corps. General “Fighting Joe” Dunford commanded 2nd Battalion Marine Corps. General “Fighting Joe” Dunford has been an exciting time in our Corps. We have a new Commandant of the Marine Corps. General “Fighting Joe” Dunford has been an exciting time in our Corps.

This time 10 years ago your Division was preparing for combat operations under the command of Major General Richard Huck and Chief of Staff Colonel Gary Sokolski. It was a great time to be in the Division, and we had two great commanders getting the regiments prepared for combat in Iraq. Colonel Mark Gurganus 8th Marines and Colonel Steve Davis 2nd Marines along with Sergeant Major Brian Battaglia 8th Marines and Sergeant Major Tom Reignd 2nd Marines were the leaders of both regiments. Headquarters Battalion was led by Colonel Dave Hough and Sergeant Major Steve Smith. I remember all of the support from members of our great association. In the next several issues of the Follow Me, I plan to have Bret run some articles of the combat operations in Iraq. Semper Fi & Follow Me Ron Himsworth

Membership in SMDA

Anyone serving with the 2d Marine Division or who has served with or been attached thereto is eligible for association membership. Friends and relatives may hold associate membership.

Enclose $30.00 Annual Membership; $15.00 Currently on Active Duty; $200 Life Membership if over 50 years old $300 Life Membership if under 50 years old

Mail to: Second Marine Division Association, PO Box 8180, Camp Lejeune, NC 28547.

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President
RON HIMSORTH
(910) 238-4801
shimsworth@ec.rr.com

1st Vice President
JOHN O. DEITLE
(703) 395-7773
John_a_doreen@comcast.net

2nd Vice President
NICK NAUMOV
(973) 427-6562
nfdarwinware@aol.com

Past President
MURR PHELCHEN
(732) 269-8663
MAP0491@gmail.com

Adjutant
JAMES R. CUNEO
(386) 629-2105
mgt0313@yahoo.com

Judge Advocate
MARTIN ROBESON
robesonmm@gmail.com

Sgt-at-Arms
Robert C. Williams
(618) 235-4236
graywolf3628@yahoo.com

Surgeon General
DR. V. MATTHEW RAO
(561) 451-8772
dvra@marines.navy.mil

Chaplain
REV DR. ANTHONY DE MARCO
(407) 914-2187
ademarco7@bellsouth.net

Treasurer
JC HARDEE (6th Mars, 8th Mars)
Jhhard35@ec.usmc.mil

Executive Director
BRET ROY (3/5, 1/8)
(910) 451-3167
bret.roy@usmc.mil

Executive Assistant
Meghan McMahon
(910) 451-3167
meghan.mcmahon@yahoo.com

Adjutant
Bret Roy has been doing an outstanding job as our Executive Director and JC Hardee’s performance as our treasurer has been second to none. Our General Fund is hurting a little, our treasure has been second to none.

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The following represents the most current and up to date report, as provided on November 20, 2014 from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry’s (ATSDR) journal. The article is titled ‘Evaluation of contaminated drinking water and preterm birth, small for gestational age, and birth weight at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.’ The following is a cross-sectional study that was published and available at: (http://www.atstd.cdc.gov/sites/lejeune/).

The purpose of this study was to evaluate associations between residential prenatal exposure to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune between 1968 to 1985 and preterm birth, small for gestational age (SGA), term low birth weight (TLBW), and mean birth weight deficit (MBW). Birth certificates identified mothers residing at Camp Lejeune at delivery. ATSDR analyzed exposure data for the entire pregnancy and individual trimesters. For each period examined, births were categorized as unexposed if mothers did not reside at Camp Lejeune or if their residence on base received uncontaminated drinking water.

This study is one of several health initiatives that ATSDR is expected to complete over the next several years. For more information about these studies, visit http://www.atstd.cdc.gov/sites/lejeune/ or call (800) 261-9782 or e-mail clwater@usmc.mil.

To contact the Department of Veterans Affairs to learn more about health care benefits, please visit http://www.publichealth.va.gov/healthcare and the Navy initiated an intense mail notification of this information that was published and available at: (http://www.publichealth.va.gov/sites/lejeune/AdverseBirthOutcomesStudy.html).

Recently, Camp Lejeune and their families were dealt a negative legislative occurrence as the 11th Circuit Court of Appeal upheld a controversial ruling that requires a 10 year time limit for lawsuit for plaintiffs seeking damages from toxic water exposure. The aforementioned information is available by direct websites, telephone and email inquiries to agencies would provide direct and comprehensive information for those interested in families. If any further assistance is required in dealing with this information please feel free to contact this Surgeon General.

I look forward with anticipation to meeting with you and your families personally at the next 2nd Marine Division’s 74th Birthday at Camp Lejeune scheduled for January 28-31, 2015. Semper Fi & God bless, Dr. V. Matthew Rao

SMDA Surgeon General 9326 Kety Circle Boca Raton, FL 33428-1518 TEL: 561-451-8772 Email: drvmatthewrao@juno.com

Marines, Always Faithful, Brothers Forever

Dr. Vito Rao

CAMP LEJEUNE WATER CONTAMINATION CURRENT AND UP TO DATE REPORT

The Camp Lejeune water contamination has resulted in the most devastating tragedy of epic proportions. Unfortunately, there has been an incredible amount of time that has passed and many marines and families who dedicated themselves to this country have lost their lives to cancer and other life-threatening health issues. The department of the Navy initiated an intense mail campaign inviting marines and their families to participate in a registry of persons who may have consumed contaminated drinking water. To date over 800,000 have responded. According to the VA, the recent legislation applies only to health care and not disability compensation. At this time, there may be insufficient scientific and clinical evidence to establish a presumptive association between service at Camp Lejeune during the period of water contamination and the development of certain diseases.

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Marines and Sailors participate in a four-week commando course hosted by the French Armed Forces in New Caledonia (FANC).

On 26 September 76 Marines and Sailors from Camp Schwab, Okinawa deployed to New Caledonia. 2d Battalion, 9th Marines initially deployed from Camp Lejeune as part of the Unit Deployment Program, they now fall under the command of the 4th Marine Regiment. The small island of New Caledonia is approximately 750 miles off the east coast of Australia and has hosted marines before, but this Americral Exercise was unique. Marines and Sailors participated in a four-week commando course hosted by the French Armed Forces in New Caledonia (FANC). The 76 Marines and Sailors were chosen from the battalion’s five companies and formed into two infantry Platoons. The Platoons were comprised of infantry marines as well as their brothers in arms from the Headquarters and Service Company.

The course focused on physical and mental toughness with all four weeks concentrating on specific skillsets. The first two weeks included obstacle courses, demolitions, swimming, conditioning hikes over mountainous terrain, hand-to-hand combat, survival training and orienteering. During the first two weeks marines completed two combined company attacks with the FANC. The third week was spent at the Centre D’Instruction Nautique Commando, or simply put in the ocean. Marines learned finning techniques, small boat operations and completed multiple movements in zodiacs and kayaks.

Marines also completed basic assault climbing and various types of rappelling. The weeks culminating event was a night raid with a water insertion from zodiacs and a beach landing to a raid site.

The final week consisted of several different types of live fire ranges, including a point man course in the jungle, a familiarization of the French FAMAS rifle and the culminating event, a live fire company attack. This course was different then what Marines and Sailors were used to in that all the events were continuous. After completing a 15-kilometer movement, marines had minimal sleep and went directly into a company attack. The proven ability to complete continuous physical and mental tasks was the biggest take away for the marines who participated in the course. Marines and Sailors that met the physical and psychological challenges were awarded an Aguerrissement Commando Badge in a ceremony held at the American Monument in downtown Noumea. Marines were awarded their badge by the instructors they had throughout the course and had the honor of having The Secretary of the Navy; the honorable Ray Mabus attend the ceremony.

Semper Fidelis,
1stSgt Chris A. Farrell
Headquarters and Service Company
2d Battalion, 9th Marines

Greetings Members of the Second Marine Division Association:

Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus attended the ceremony.

Marine receives badge after completing the grueling 4-week training course.

W2T: A-1/10
ITX: C-1/10, 2d CEB MAC, RCP1
Talon Ex: 2/10 FSC

All Other Units
CONUS/CLNC

24 MEU
BLT 3/6, 1-1/10, 2/10 FSC
HQ A Co 1stPlt,
B Co 3rd,
2d CEBB Co
2d LAR,
F Co 2d Recon

SPMAGTF-CR-AFBSRF
HQ 2/2, 2/8,
1/10 FSCC Co,
2d CEB

Okinawa Japan Unit Deployment Program
2/9, 3/2, 1/10
2015 Birthday

Seems like it was just a few weeks ago we celebrated our reunion here in Camp Lejeune, and I’m already knee deep in planning for our 74th Birthday Celebration we will conduct on the 28th-31st of January 2015. I’ve been talking a lot with the Chaplain and asking that we be blessed with a little bit better weather this year and work ing with Division on putting together a good schedule for all of our members to enjoy. We of course will conduct the Sergeant’s Major Reception, Memo rial Service, Battle Color Ceremony, and the Banquet as usual, and I’m hoping to be able to provide all of our members the opportunity to spend time with current day Marines and Sailors from the units they served with while they were on active duty. For example, if you were in 6th Marines, you may choose to spend a morning and have lunch with a unit from 6th Marines, and so forth for all other units within the Second Marine Division. Obviously at the time of this writing I’m still working out some details and will provide updates as the schedule firms up. Currently on the registration form the schedule for Thursday morning is very generic, but the rest of the sched ule is firm. For Thursday morning we will have an event as described above with our modern day warriors by unit, or some other type of opportunity to spend with our Marines and Sailor’s throughout the Division in some capac ity, followed by a lunch at the chow hall. If you’ve not already filled out your registration forms for the Birthday Celebration, I invite you to do so and mail them in quickly, or register online at www.2DMardiv.com.

Database Update: In this issue of the Follow Me you will notice I have inserted an envelope for you to use as a means to identify our unit if you are an active member. Alternatively if you are not an active member of our division in some capacity and are interested in learning more about us or wish to assist in operating expenses. I don’t want to “Sound the Alarm” as the Life Fund is currently doing ok, but increases in cost for printing and mailing have eaten into the General Account. Easier and more importantly to provide an email address for me to include on your profile in our current database. As a means to encourage our members do not have email ad dresses and if that’s the case, there’s no need to reply if all information is correct (It probably is if you’re receiving your Follow Me in the mail!). If you’re interested in providing an email address for me to include on your profile in our current database please feel free to email me at info@2DMardiv.com. I will submit a summary of expenses for 2014, which will show you how we are doing in all areas of the association including the Endowment, Scholarship, and Life Funds.

Happy Birthday “Salty”

I was sitting in my office contemplating life after the Marine Corps and wondering what I was going to do for my first “Birthday” after retiring from the Marines after 30 years when I received a phone call from Ken Saltrick of Hudson, Ohio. Ken began telling me of his father who is a bit up in age and that he was a World War II Veteran living in an assisted living facility in Upper St. Clair, PA. His father, Charles Saltrick, aka “Pvt Salty” served with the Second Marines during the end of WWII on Saipan, Tinian, and during the occupation of Japan at Nagasaki. Ken then quipped that it sure would be nice if old Private Salty had some Marine visitors for the Marines Birthday coming up on the 10th of November. We exchanged some contact infor mation and I ended our conversation by saying I’ll get some word out on the “streets” and see if we could rally up some Marines to go visit our WW II Brother Marine for the Birthday and Veterans Day.

I got on our Facebook site (If you haven’t visited it yet, you should) and posted Private Salty’s information and asked any of our members living in the Pittsburgh, PA area if they could go step in on old Salty for the birthday & Veterans Day. In little less than a few moments I already had several folks ringer up for the visit, one including Sean O’Neill who took charge of a group of guys to coordinate a visit to Sunrise of Upper St. Clair, Salty’s home. While Sean was coordinating the visit, I started receiving phone calls from the local area from news sources asking if they could cover the story. One in particular, Matthew Santoni of the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review said he would travel there with a team to cover Salty’s birthday visit. Matthew wrote a very nice story accompanied with photo’s of the visit which I will post with his permission on our Facebook site.

Since the visit I have spoken with several of the Marines who visited Charles and thanked them for taking the time to honor him and wish him a Happy 239th Birthday and Veterans Day. Some of the visitors became members and hopefully, we’ll see them at the Birthday in January. As for Ken, Charles’ son, we stay in touch, and looks like he may be able to break old Salty out for a few days in January and bring him down for the Birthday celebration! I certainly hope so, and hope some of the guys that visited our old Warrior Salty on our birthday come down as well! It’s stories like these that tell how much the Marine Corps means to us all who have worn the cloth and how much we all mean to each other, especially so during our Birthday season.

Oh, by the way, I spent the Ball with Eighth Marines … hope you all had a great 239th Marine Corps Birthday!
CAMP LEJUENE, N.C. - A crowd of more than 300 friends and family members cheered as Marines and Sailors who had just disembarke returned to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Oct. 9 following a six-month deployment to Afghanistan. More than 100 service members within the battalion returned Thursday evening, with the remainder of the unit scheduled to return in waves by Thanksgiving. The battalion is the last Marine Corps ground unit serving in Afghanistan and their return signifies the end to the war in Afghansistan.

“Tis joined the Marine Corps to go to Afghanistan and now I finally get to do it, said Cpl. Denver Salo, a team leader with the unit. “I’ve been in for four years and this is my first deployment to Afghansistan so it was a huge accomplishment for me.”

Salo said that sharing his first deployment to Afghanistan, which happened to be the last in the region, with his leaders who were in the war he had began the made the experience even more significant to him.

“It’s awesome to know that I went over there when I was a young man like as part of the invasion in 2001,” said 1st Sgt. Carlos Aguilera, first sergeant for Charlie Company. “I was there first and I got the chance to go there last. So it’s almost a complete circle for myself and for the Marine Corps.”

Aguilera said the Marines were the last company to conduct ouflying patrol bases and were conducting local security patrols each day in an effort to protect Camps Leatherneck and Bastion. Both Aguilera and Salo agreed that Marines, al-though they have successfully completed their mission in Afghanistan, will remain focused and prepare to fight for the unit’s next mission.

“We will continue to prepare for future deployments or unit deployment programs that will train our Marines for wherever the Marine Corps plans to call us to next,” said Aguilera.
8th Marine Regiment Welcomes New Sergeant Major


Rabidou, who served as sergeant major of 8th Marines since March 2013, handed over the sword of office to Lunsford, symbolizing the transition of responsibility. “You’re getting a great regiment and I wish you the best of luck,” said Rabidou to Lunsford during the ceremony. “You’ve got some great Marines and Sailors out there that need leadership.”

Lunsford said he looks forward to working with the Marines and Sailors of 8th Marines and plans to maintain the same high standards of his predecessor.

Rabidou received the Legion of Merit for his leadership as the sergeant major of 8th Marines. The award citation credited him for his mentorship, sound counsel and ability to work in collaboration with supporting and adjacent commands, which contributed to the morale and outstanding performance of the Marines and Sailors under his charge.

Rabidou’s list of accomplishments with 8th Marines is extensive, but he expressed his appreciation for the service members he led as his personal highlight above all else.

“I thank you [8th Marines service members] as your sergeant major from the bottom of my heart,” said Rabidou. “It has been an honor and pleasure to serve as your sergeant major.”

2/10 Conduct Simulation-Based Training to Develop Small Unit Leaders

Story by Cpl. Joshua Brown

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - Marines with 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, conducted simulation-based training to develop small unit leadership during a three-day exercise at a Marine Operations Urban Terrain training facility aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Sept 24-26.

Platoons, comprised of Marines from Golf Battery, cleared compounds, conducted security patrols, and evacuated aggressors. Platoon commanders and sergeants role-played as squad leaders to get some rest.

Full of adrenaline, the Marines and Sailors walked away from the Osprey increased the intensity and tension of the service members when they were told they would be conducting 60-foot descents for the remainder of the training.

“Once they committed to the descent, the Marines and Sailors walked away from the Osprey increased the intensity and tension of the service members when they were told they would be conducting 60-foot descents for the remainder of the training.

“All of the Marines in Golf Battery, cleared compounds, conducted security patrols, and evacuated simulated casualties in an effort to teach artillerymen to operate as a team,” said Peters.

“In Iraq and Afghanistan, many artillery batteries served as provisional rifle platoons supporting infantry battalions. According to 1st Lt. Jonathan Peters, the goal of the exercise was to teach artillerymen to make tactical decisions as a small unit leader.

“We wanted to give our small unit leaders an opportunity to get some rest from their Marines and make the decisions we would expect them to make in a combat environment,” said Peters.

“Artillerymen are primarily focused on indirect fires supporting infantry, but once in a while, we have to serve as a provisional infantry,” said Peters.

The MOTU facility provided an environment similar to the conditions Marines experienced in Iraq and Afghanistan while the security patrols and simulated engagements provided stressors for the small unit leaders.

“When we need to go and fight as a provisional infantry unit, we need to be capable of handling ourselves down to the small unit level and manage our environments,” said Peters.

“We’re doing what we’re going to look to our leaders, squad leaders, fire team leaders and forcing them into situations where they need to make decisions and control troops.”

Squad leaders were tasked with making strategic decisions, using their judgment to lead troops based on the actions of aggressors. Platoon commanders and sergeants role-played as aggressors and local nationals in the exercise to challenge and put pressure on the Marines while they conducted missions.

The exercise not only challenged Marines to work well as a fire team, but trained fire teams to organize as squads to complete their missions.

“When fire teams come together as a squad, things can start to fall apart,” said Sgt. Steven Castro, platoon sergeant for 1st Platoon. “It’s a different kind of training for
them. It gives the leaders a chance to step up and puts them in an environment they’re not used to.”

In addition to the challenges associated with the scenarios and team building, the squads had to conduct night operations. Darkness caused disarray and confusion amongst the squads and forced them to improve their communication skills to overcome environmental obstacles.

To conclude the exercise, platoon commanders conducted debriefings with the Marines in an effort to refine their leadership skills by providing them with feedback that that they could use in the future. “The [Marines] were held accountable to make decisions and were responsible for their peers and their junior Marines,” said Peters. “Our Marines proved they were able to make a decision when chaos was going on around them.”

10th Marines Takes Leadership Trip to Belleau Woods
Regimental Sergeant Major, Brett Scheurer, recently put an off-site PME trip together for 17 other exceptional leaders from within the Regiment during the month of September to none other than Belleau Woods.

The purpose of the trip was to enhance unit cohesiveness, small unit leadership, and boost morale of the NCO’s throughout the Regi- ment. Those selected for the trip included NCO’s of the Quarter, top Section/Crew/Squad leaders, and senior SNCO mentors. All in all, 18 SNCO’s and NCO’s including their “Top Doc” completed the trip, visiting such places as the Battleground itself, the Belleau Woods Museum Giles LAGIN, and the American Cemetery at Belleau Woods.

Prior to leaving for the trip, all attendees were required to read the book “Devil Dog” and participate in guided discussions with their senior mentors, as well as complete an assignment on the Normandy Invasion.

You would expect an eight day trip such as this to cost a fortune! In contrast, SgtMaj Scheuer and crew were able to pull it off for all 18 for a little over $2,000 total! How’s that for a return on investment? … and the value of lessons learned, experiences gained, and trust built? PRICELESS

Marines with 2/10 conduct room clearing procedures during a live-fire exercise at a Marine Operations in Urban Terrain training facility. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Joshua W. Brown)

Headquarters Bn. Debuts Quarterly Warriors Challenge
Story by Cpl. Scott Whiting
CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - Private First Class Jamal Turner lines up across from his opponent with a pugil stick in hand. The official blows his whistle to begin the fight and Turner charges forward. With a single hit, Turner knocks his opponent to the ground and the crowd erupts.

The pugil stick match was part of the Warriors Challenge held by Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Oct. 15.

Marines competed in several sporting events in an effort to demonstrate their company was the best in the battal- ion. The Warriors Challenge was both physically and mentally demanding and featured events including a combat lifesaver competition.

One by one, the battalion’s three companies set out on a series of range exercises that lasted nearly a week each.

Alpha Company, 2nd AABn, took to the ranges first and completed a series of fire and maneuver exercises at the end of August. During the exercise, the Marines were evaluated on platoon level gunnery, strategic mobility procedures, and basic combat skills as they engaged targets with their vehicles’ automatic grenade launchers and .50-caliber machine gun.

Prior to entering the live-fire portion of their training, the service members bore sighted their weapons, aligning the sites on their turrets to the barrel of each vehicle’s gun. With a kill radius of five meters and a casualty radius of 15 meters, the Marines’ high explosive, dual purpose ammunition has the capability to devastate enemy targets hundreds of meters away.

The crews loaded their vehicles with the lethal ammunition and began engaging targets under the watchful eyes of their platoon commanders, who helped assess the gunners’ abilities to effectively engage targets at various distances.

Their HPDP rounds laid waste to decommissioned vehicles placed out on the range for their first part of the training. The gunners adjusted their fires, honing in on an alignment that would allow them to better carry out their subsequent training exercises.

“Like [our platoon commander] always says, you gotta walk before you can run,” said Cpl. Earl Burcham, a crew chief who took part in the training with the company.

As an assessment of the Marines’ abilities to incorporate speed, accuracy, and communication into the training, the unit kicked off the second portion of its training by maneuvering down the range while calling out target locations on the move.

The vehicle crews navigated between covered positions to limit their profiles and reported targets as quickly and accurately as possible. Once completed, the crews were critiqued on their effectiveness.

“IT’ll make us better as a unit,” said Burcham, “so we’re better at communicating and moving as a unit.”

Additional phases of training tested the Marines’ speed and mobility by timing gunners as they engaged pop-up targets while the drivers maneuvered between covered positions. Drivers shouted out target locations for the gunners, who repositioned their weapons systems to engage targets before they disappeared from view. The report of machine guns and exploding grenades echoed over the range, testing the gear and companies to maintain focus and maintain time.

The nearly 20 days of training not only taught the Mar- ines of 2nd AABn how to properly utilize their amphibi- ous vehicles during land warfare, but also enhanced the crews’ abilities to communicate within their own vehicles and with other assault craft during live-fire situations.

Story by Lance Cpl. Justin Updegraff
FORT A.P. HILL, Va. - Marines with 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, kicked off their amphibious campaign in an effort to suit up for a deployment to Afghanistan and conduct routine training.

The battalion left its base of operations at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, where it regularly trains for amphibious warfare, in favor of the land-based ranges at Fort A.P. Hill. While there, it conducted mechanized operations with its assault amphibious vehicles.

One by one, the battalion’s three companies set out on a series of range exercises that lasted nearly a week each.

Alpha Company, 2nd AABn, took to the ranges first and completed a series of fire and maneuver exercises at the end of August. During the exercise, the Marines were evaluated on platoon level gunnery, strategic mobility procedures, and basic combat skills as they engaged targets with their vehicles’ automatic grenade launchers and .50-caliber machine gun.

Prior to entering the live-fire portion of their training, the service members bore sighted their weapons, aligning the sites on their turrets to the barrel of each vehicle’s gun. With a kill radius of five meters and a casualty radius of 15 meters, the Marines’ high explosive, dual purpose ammunition has the capability to devastate enemy targets hundreds of meters away.

The crews loaded their vehicles with the lethal ammunition and began engaging targets under the watchful eyes of their platoon commanders, who helped assess the gunners’ abilities to effectively engage targets at various distances.

Their HPDP rounds laid waste to decommissioned vehicles placed out on the range for their first part of the training. The gunners adjusted their fires, honing in on an alignment that would allow them to better carry out their subsequent training exercises.

“Like [our platoon commander] always says, you gotta walk before you can run,” said Cpl. Earl Burcham, a crew chief who took part in the training with the company.

As an assessment of the Marines’ abilities to incorporate speed, accuracy, and communication into the training, the unit kicked off the second portion of its training by maneuvering down the range while calling out target locations on the move.

The vehicle crews navigated between covered positions to limit their profiles and reported targets as quickly and accurately as possible. Once completed, the crews were critiqued on their effectiveness.

“IT’ll make us better as a unit,” said Burcham, “so we’re better at communicating and moving as a unit.”

Additional phases of training tested the Marines’ speed and mobility by timing gunners as they engaged pop-up targets while the drivers maneuvered between covered positions. Drivers shouted out target locations for the gunners, who repositioned their weapons systems to engage targets before they disappeared from view. The report of machine guns and exploding grenades echoed over the range, testing the gear and companies to maintain focus and maintain time.

The nearly 20 days of training not only taught the Mar- ines of 2nd AABn how to properly utilize their amphibi- ous vehicles during land warfare, but also enhanced the crews’ abilities to communicate within their own vehicles and with other assault craft during live-fire situations.

Marines with 2/10 conduct room clearing procedures during a live-fire exercise at a Marine Operations in Urban Terrain training facility. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Joshua W. Brown)

Communications Company won the inaugural event, beating Headquarters and Truck companies with a score of 37 points.

Although Turner’s unit didn’t win, he said he had a great time competing and looks forward to the next event.

“It feels good to get out of the shop and work with other Marines to accomplish a common goal,” said Turner, an administrative specialist with Headquarters Co. “We’re all working hard and having a good time together. It’s a nice change from working in an office all day.”

2/10 continued...
Lauder relinquished command to LtCol Rob Bodisch. A, B, and C Companies have all cycled through semi-annual gunnery training and qualification from August to October. Delta Company will fire their final gunnery qualification in December before we fold their colors as part of the USMC Force Reduction. 2d Tank Bn has withstood two major inspections during this time, the first being the Field Supply Maintenance Analysis Inspection in July and the Commanding General’s Readiness Inspection in October passing both with flying colors. All the line companies, TOW and Scout Platoons, and H&S Company have conducted numerous field training exercises to include live-fire training. A hybrid squad from our TOW and Scout Platoons competed in the Division Super Squad Competition placing 2d overall. In November, the Ironhorse hosted the annual Marine Corps Tankers Association visit to the Bn in which they awarded Tanker of the Year awards to the top Marine in each company. We also celebrated our Birthday Ball and honored the veterans of A and C Companies 10 year anniversary reunion of Operation AL FAIR (Battle of Fallujah). After the new year, the Ironhorse will prepare for a Bn level exercise in March at Fort Pickett, VA augmented with infantry, AAVs, and combat engineers. 2d Tank Bn continues to support all three east coast Marine Expeditionary Units with ready tank platoons and the entire Battalion stands ready to provide the 2d Marine Division its “Ace in the Hole” anywhere, anytime.

Marines conduct gunnery qualification training at the SR-10 range aboard MCB Lejeune. Monitors scored the tank crews on accuracy, communication, composure and completion of radio commands in a simulated combat environment. (USMC photo by LCpl Olivia C. McDonnell)

By: LCpl Ryan Young

The “Warlords” of 2d Battalion, 2d Marines are currently deployed to multiple locations across Europe and in support of operations throughout Africa. 2d Battalion, 2d Marines is participating in an Expeditionary Air Ground Task Force (EATF) in support of crisis response-Africa (SPMAGTF-CR-AF) and Black Sea Rotation Force (BSRF). The Warlords serve as the Ground Combat Element (GCE) of SPMAGTF-CR-AF headquartered at Moron Air Base (MAB), Spain. The GCE has forces operating across Europe and Africa. Fox Company operates from MAB and Rota, Spain, serving as the first echelon of SPMAGTF-CR-AF’s crisis response. Easy Company operates from Naval Air Station Sigonella (NASSIG) serving as GCE ISO SPMAGTF-CR-AF’s Theater Security Cooperation missions as well as providing additional crisis response forces. Golf Company operates from Mihail Kogalniceanu (MK), Romania, providing crisis response forces ISO SPMAGTF-CR-AF. Weapons and Headquarters Company operate from Moron, Spain, providing crisis response and TSC forces in support of Marine Forces Europe. The Integration of the GCE, Air Combat Element (ACE), Logistics Combat Element (LCE), and Command Element of the SPMAGTF provides Combatant Commanders rapid deployable task-organized forces capable of executing missions of various scales across the range of military operations.

Three months into their six-month deployment, the Warlords have participated in seven combined training exercises, two named operations, and 24 military-to-military engagements ranging from embassy reinforcement to combined mountain operations. The Marines and Sailors of 2d Battalion, 2d Marines have demonstrated our Corps’ ethos of “any clime, and place” and “any time” as demonstrated through SPMAGTF-CR-AF’s ability to respond to a crisis with unprecedented speed from forward deployed positions.

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2d CEB Hosts Jayne Wayne Day

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - Spouses with 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division got a taste of what their Marine members of our Marines and Sailors an opportunity to come out and get a level of comfort with what their spouse does at work, get a level of comfort with what their spouse does at work, and H&S Company have conducted numerous field training exercises to include live-fire training. A hybrid squad from our TOW and Scout Platoons competed in the Division Super Squad Competition placing 2d overall. In November, the Ironhorse hosted the annual Marine Corps Tankers Association visit to the Bn in which they awarded Tanker of the Year awards to the top Marine in each company. We also celebrated our Birthday Ball and honored the veterans of A and C Companies 10 year anniversary reunion of Operation AL FAIR (Battle of Fallujah). After the new year, the Ironhorse will prepare for a Bn level exercise in March at Fort Pickett, VA augmented with infantry, AAVs, and combat engineers. 2d Tank Bn continues to support all three east coast Marine Expeditionary Units with ready tank platoons and the entire Battalion stands ready to provide the 2d Marine Division its “Ace in the Hole” anywhere, anytime.

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From Pearl Harbor to 9/11:

By Jerome Elam, reprinted with permission.

The heat was inscrutable even though it was October in the country of Vietnam. The sweat clung to Corporal Joe Houle’s neck and back, and back as a second skin, an ever-present reminder of the war in Southeast Asia that would forever change so many lives.

As he crouched at the edge of the rice paddy that day in 1966, Houle surveyed the endless carpet of green that lay before him as it swayed in the grasp of a sporadic breeze. It had been a long journey for Houle from the small dairy farm where he had spent his childhood to the endless jungles of Vietnam. He had stopped school at the age of sixteen to help with the family business and at eighteen joined the United States Marine Corps to serve his country in an unpopular war.

Vietnam had been immersed in conflict for so long generations of children had never known the calm of peace. America had officially entered the war in March of 1965 with the deployment of combat troops and would remain until April 1973. In the end 58,229 Americans would never return home from the war in Vietnam and 303,644 were wounded. It was a war that would rage on far beyond the battlefield as controversy over the conflict divided America. Upon returning from Vietnam, Houle found a part of him that he could never put back. He always remained behind in Southeast Asia and the memory of those who served beside them but never made it home would forever haunt their memory.

That day Houle was part of a three man team on the hunt for a sniper who had been taking shots at the men in his company as they went about their daily routine at base camp. Houle and his team had been relentlessly hunting the sniper, but after days of laying motionless in the grass waiting for him to reveal himself, all they found were a rapidly growing collection of insect bites.

Almost forty-eight years have passed since that day in Vietnam and Sergeant Major Joe Houle has since retired from the United States Marine Corps. He may have left behind the life he loved as a United States Marine, but he refuses to let the memory of Frank Crenshaw and the courage of all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice be forgotten.

After retiring, Houle became the Director of Operations for the Museum of the Marine and works tirelessly to preserve the memory of brave and courageous men like Frank Crenshaw.

The Museum of the Marine is a 40,000-square-foot facility scheduled to begin construction later this year. Located in Jacksonville, North Carolina, the Museum will honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our great country, and those who continue to defend our freedom in far away lands today.

More than four million Marines and sailors have passed through the many bases located in the Carolinas including Camp Lejeune, Cherry Point and New River, North Carolina.

The Museum of the Marine will provide a sanctuary where families and friends can honor the memory of their loved ones and find a community that supports their sacrifice.

Family members can also learn more about their loved ones currently serving through the interactive exhibits at the Museum.

The Executive Director of the Museum of the Marine is Lieutenant Colonel Dave Brown (USMC Retired), and he was delighted when Joe Houle to bring the Museum of the Marine from an idea to a reality.

The Museum also aims to be driven by a deeper purpose in its quest to build the Museum. In 1967, Brown was a young Captain serving in Vietnam and after a year he was scheduled to return to the United States. He instead insisted on staying in Vietnam to try to save the lives of all Marine infantry officers years for, to command a rifle company.

Jacksonville, North Carolina is also home to the Beirut Memorial honoring the 241 Marines, Sailors and Soldiers who lost their lives in October 1983 when terrorists bombed the Marine barracks in Beirut.

Beirut Memorial

I t was in August of 1968 that Brown’s memory would be etched with the unforgettable imprint of the human cost of war. HM2 Andy Rackow was from Philadelphia and he had joined the Navy as a Corpsman in order to both serve his country and prepare for his lifelong dream of becoming a doctor. The United States Marine Corps has no medical personnel and Navy Corpsman serve on the front lines with Marines, stabilizing injuries until the wounded can be evacuated to a hospital.

“He was extremely bright, really intellectual and he and I would often talk for hours,” Brown remembers. HM2 Andy Rackow became the senior corpsman at the Marine’s Company and their leadership roles coincided as Rackow and Houle helped keep morale up during times when hope seemed a distant friend.

When Dave Brown speaks about that day in August, a sense of loss can be seen in his eyes, “I think about Andy every day. When I speak about building the Museum of the Marine it is to honor Andy and all those like him who knew the risks but could not ignore the voice inside them driving them to put their own lives at risk to save others. Andy wanted to go to medical school after he finished his time in Vietnam and I will never forget the lives he saved and those that he could have helped had he made it home. If there was a way to repay Andy I would gladly do it and although the Museum won’t bring Andy back it will teach future generations exactly what his sacrifice means and that no one who fights for this country will ever be forgotten.”

The Museum of the Marine honors courage in the defense of freedom

Lebanon. Together the Museum of the Marine and the Beirut Memorial will be a beacon of the courage, honor and sacrifice that has secured our freedom. Inside the Museum of the Marine three galleries will provide visitors with a unique experience.

The “World Warriors Gallery” will track the history of the Marines who have traveled the world, and those that they have present to day servants working in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Marines and Coast Guard of three of these groups and the Soldiers and Airmen who led the Allied assault in Europe and North Africa during World War II in amphibious assault. The “Corps and Carolinas Gallery” will tell the unfolding story of the Carolina bases and the communities around them as they continue to grow. The “Today, Tomorrow and Beyond Gallery” will show visitors the evolution of the weapons and equipment of the Marine Corps and provide a peek into the next generation of military hardware.

Inside each of the galleries will be a recording booth where visitors can make a keepsake audio or video recording remembering loved ones who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country or are serving in harm’s way.

“Remembrance Memorial” which will contain a gas lit eternal flame, an endless reminder of the commitment and courage of all those who have served. Radiating outward from the memorial will be five semicircular wall sections with attached benches. Five permanently lit flagpoles will surround the courtyard perimeter flying the American, Marine Corps, Navy, Prisoner of War and North Carolina flags.

For Joe Houle and Dave Brown, the Museum of the Marine is about honoring the sacrifice of those who served alongside them in combat. It is also about reminding others that peace can only come with a price and so many have courageously sacrificed their lives on the altar of freedom so we can live in a country anyone can aspire to greatness.

Houle and Brown would quickly dismiss the idea of either of them being heroes but they are the marrow of the bones that make our country so great and are indeed true heroes.

Over eight million dollars has been raised for Phase one of the Museum of the Marine, and that portion is now fully funded. Houle and Brown continue to work to raise an additional twenty million dollars to complete full construction of the Museum.

For an update on the Museum of the Marine project, see article on page 20.
I hope everyone had a safe and wonderful Holiday season, and a safe New Year.

It has been a bittersweet time for the 8th Marines. As we bid a farewell and a Happy Retirement to Sgm Maj George Rabidou, Sgm Maj Rabidou joined the Corps in 1984, having served over 30 years in the Corps and our great country. I and the 8th Marines Chapter would like to say Thank You for your Service and would like to wish you a Happy Retirement.

As we said goodbye to Sgm Maj Rabidou, we welcome Sgm Maj Steve Lunsford. I know the Marines & Sailors look forward to your guidance and leadership as we move forward and face new challenges ahead for our Workhorse Regiment.

I want to congratulate the winners of the Chapter’s Raffle. Louis Caruso won 1st Place and received a Whites metal detector that was donated by Graham McCoy. James McCam won 2nd Place and will receive a Marine KaBar and Wooden Display Case that was donated by Sgt Grit. The drawing was held on Dec 1 2014.

Recently Chapter Member and Executive Director Bret Roy, visited the 8th Marines to assist Col Kenneth DeTreux in presenting Letters of Appreciation (LOA’s) to members of the Regiment who helped with the Chapter’s visit during the Reunion. The following Marines were presented with the LOA’s, Sgt Jordon Horn, Sgt Caleb Cinnamon, Sgt Daniel Leewright,Sgt Paul James, Sgt Taylor Limes, Cpl Cameron Shea, Cpl Joe Stone, Cpl Jameson Burgess, Cpl Scott Spensko, Cpl Steven Lorasso, L/Cpl Dakota Pyatte, L/Cpl Michael Wesner. Col DeTreux mentioned how much the Marines appreciate the Chapter’s support and that having the Chapter’s support was the only reason we were able to take them out of their busy day to talk with some older Workhorse Warriors and show them around the Regiment. Bret also expressed the appreciation of the Chapter members and hoped that there would consider joining the Chapter! He also advised that we look forward to seeing many of the Marines during the Division Birthday in January.

We have already started making plans for our next visit in July 2015 from the 13th to the 17th. This time of the year was chosen due to the fact that 3 Battalions will be on hand at that time. It will prove to be a very exciting time. The line up of events will be something to take part in. We will be having a static display of all the equipment used today and a visit to the Barracks to see how our Marines are living now days. A demonstration will be given to display how Hand-to-Hand combat is conducted and maybe even get to do a little ourselves. We will be doing the ISMT, which is computer simulated weapons training, have lunch with the Marines, and maybe even squeeze in a visit to the Rifle Range. It will be an awesome time so please mark your calendars and I hope to see all of you there.

The Destroyers Chapter

As we look back at 2014, we can be proud of the accomplishments that were achieved and the direction that this chapter is heading. Our membership is flourishing; communications with our battalion is open, and most importantly our main objective of enhancing the Battalion’s memorial is near completion. Each and every one of you should be proud and we thank you for participating in every way possible to help us achieve our goals and objectives.

We are staged at the Line of Departure 2015, and the signal command was given to move forward. Our chapter has assumed a role in the construction/remodeling of the Battalion’s Heritage Room. For those who may not be aware, the Battalion Heritage Room is taking the place of the NAC building behind Battalion HQ and currently is the office of the Family Readiness Officer. This facility will be used for Staff PME’s, informal social gatherings and meet and greets. This facility can also be used as our base of operations when we return for chapter events and meetings. It will also house several historical artifacts and imagery of the battalion’s history.

The Museum of the Marine’s Unique Appeal:
As the Museum Board’s Chairman, I can tell you all with certainty that efforts are paying off. Everyone that engages with the Museum, Joe Houle and I, are greeted with open arms. We show our superb six-minute video (see website: www.MuseumoftheMarine.org) about our Museum. When we do, former Marines and Sailors ask what they can do to help us. New York City Councilman Eric Ulrich, whose younger brother will shortly be enlisting in the Corps, has offered to host two fund raising galas in the City— one in February and one in July. He forecasted that the City should be able to raise 25% of what we need over four or five years. Following a potential donor visit in Roanoke, VA, one prominent former aviator emailed me on November 22, “We certainly enjoyed the time we spent with you. You put depth and meaning to what we believe in and I am pleased to be pleased to further (your and our) cause to appreciate our Marine Corps family and our roots in the Carolinas. Please keep us apprised of your progress and challenges. You never know from where help will come.”

The reality of the Museum’s appeal is based on the large number of active-duty Marines and Sailors who had served or are currently serving in the Carolinas. We know that many were glad when they have completed their first enlistment and were anxious to return to their hometowns as changed persons. However, fifteen years later the urge to return to their old haunts at Lejeune or their former Carolina air station sets off an alarm. These Marines and Sailors begin wishing to visit the place where they learned to become leaders, where they trained for war, where they deployed into kinetic warzones, where they returned from war as heroes and where their friends were—the best friends they ever had. Many come back. They remain in touch—closer than ever.

The Road Ahead: We will be engaged in seeking large donations next year. One very nice family has committed to support a large donation for the Museum of the Marine that we are offering “Naming Rights”, from the smaller “Memory Zones” ($500) to a life-sized bronze statue ($500,000). Imagine, you (Mr. “Chesty” Henderson) are the owner of a larger donation and have the capability to donate $32,000,000 and because you are a Marine in the 9th Marines back in the 1960’s you have a passionate inclination to assist with anything that is Marine Corps Green. You could have one of our three main galleries named in your honor. We would permanently name one of the four galleries, “The “Chesty” Henderson Hall.”

Supplementing the large donations campaign, a very modest Monthly Giving Program has been launched and can be found on our website. The road ahead will be filled with much more viability about the Museum. Our website and Facebook page are alive. We have created a Museum newsletter that will provide progress reports on our activities. We have initiated a Wounded Warrior Art Show project that will be held locally in 2015, state-wide in 2016 and nationally in 2017. You’ll hear more about this later. My friend, Robert Duvall an Academy Award winner also will be on hand to assist us with the unveiling of the statue.

As we look back at 2014, we can be proud of the accomplishments that were achieved and the direction that this chapter is heading. Our membership is flourishing; communications with our battalion is open, and most importantly our main objective of enhancing the Battalion’s memorial is near completion. Each and every one of you should be proud and we thank you for participating in every way possible to help us achieve our goals and objectives.

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The Destroyers Chapter cont...

February and March brings us to start seeking sponsors for the MSgt. Jerome Hatfield Scholarship of Honor. More information will be available within the next few weeks. MSgt. Jerome Hatfield served as the Operations Chief for “D” Co, during Operation Enduring Freedom when his vehicle took an IED hit on 11 July 2009. The Brian LaViolette Foundation created a scholarship in his name. Last year the chapter selected the winner for this scholarship and will continue to do so in 2015. We also encourage members to take advantage of and support the 2D Marine Division Association Scholarship Program. This program is in place for our membership. For more information you can always contact the membership committee.

We continue to ask our membership to keep reaching out to your crew and get them on board. V.C.’s we know you have the leadership to take the lead here. Although our membership has doubled last year, we still need to grow and continue leading the way. We wouldn’t want the First Wave or 8th Marines chapters passing us by now would we?

Please keep the Black Knights in your thoughts as they are on the far sides of the world deployed. We hope to see everyone at the Divisions 74th Birthday celebration at the Regiment aid Station as the Medical Readiness Coordinator. HN Butts hails from Colony, Texas, where he joined the Navy in 2011. He is currently serving at the 10th Marine Regiment aid Station as the Medical Readiness Coordinator and Preventive Medicine Petty Officer. During his time at 2D Marine Division, HN Butts has also served with 2D Battalion, 8th Marines as the Line Corpsman for Scout Sniper Platoon, deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

BLUEJACKET OF THE YEAR:
Hospitalman(FMF) Michael Butts

HM1 Tolbert was born in Baltimore, Maryland and joined the Navy in July 1998. She is an Independent Duty Corpsman assigned to the 2D Assault Amphibian Battalion Aid Station, 2D Marine Division, where she also serves as the Leading Petty Officer. During her tenure at AA Battalion, she has successfully completed a deployment as the Senior Medical Department Representative in support of African Partnership. HM1 is married with three children, and is the first female Senior Sailor of the Year for 2D Marine Division.

JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE YEAR:
Hospital Corpsman Second Class Petty Officer(FMF/SW) Christopher T. Trimmer

Brown for their contribution to this article. As you read on, you will be impressed by the preparation and training exercises undertaken by our Gators.

“Greetings Marines, Sailors, Families, and Friends of the First Wave Battalion,

The major highlight for the battalion during the last quarter was our deployment for training (DFT). For the first time in six years, the entire battalion was deployed 230 miles North to Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia in order to conduct Amphibious Assault Vehicle (AAV) gunnery and basic combat skills training. The focus of effort for the DFT was utilizing the unique ranges available at Fort A.P. Hill to qualify AAV platoons in live fire and maneuver tactics. Throughout the three weeks that the battalion was aboard Fort A.P. Hill, six platoons were qualified in platoon level AAV gunnery while expending over 150,000 rounds of ammunition. In addition to the gunnery training, the Marines and Sailors utilized a multitude of training areas in order to conduct AAV maneuver training, provisional infantry tactics, military operations in urban terrain (MOIT), land navigation, grenade ranges, combat marksmanship live fire ranges, and leader reaction courses. This training evolution greatly enhanced our combat readiness and prepared us to respond to the dynamic, real-world scenarios that we may respond to in the future.

Semper Fidelis,
H. Brown
For those who are interested in attending the “Gator Ball” here is the latest information.

Contact: MSGt. Shawn Johnson, E-mail: shawn.johnson@usmc.mil, Phone: 910-446-7112
Date: March 7, 2015.
The golf tournament will be March 5th and the cake cutting ceremony will be held on March 6th. Please support our “Gators” by attending their fund raisers and getting the word out.

Semper Fidelis and YAT-YAS, LtCol John L. Medeiros, CO 2D Assault Amphibian Bn.”

I would like to thank our Staff [Chris Holman (VP), Carl Cacciotti (Exec. Sect.)] Allan Chase (Sgt. at Arms)] for their commitment and dedication to our Chapter and wish everyone serving our country a safe 2015. See you at the “Gator Ball”.

God bless the USA, Marine Corps and the 2nd Assault Amphibian Bn. and their families.

Semper Fidelis,
Nick Naumov
President, First Wave Chapter

First Wave Chapter

The Navy’s Sailor of the Year program dates back to 1972, when the 19th Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral E. R. Zumwalt identified the need to improve on the recognition of the Navy’s finest. The First Class Petty Officer and below. This program allows local commands the opportunity to acknowledge their standout Sailors for the year, the Senior Sailor representing the First Class Petty Officer community, the Second Class Petty Officer representing the Second Class and Third Class Petty Officer communities, and the Bluejacket who captures the Non Petty Officer ranks. Through tough competition of administrative packages and question and answer boards, the Sailor’s selected will be the ones to carry the torch of excellence for the upcoming year.

The Navy leadership of Second Marine Division holds this tradition true, selecting only the best of the best from highly competitive candidates, setting the bar of professionalism and dedication to service for others to emulate. This year proved to be an extremely challenging board, filled with 21 top notch Sailors all worthy of wearing this title. But three can be selected. The FY14 Second Marine Division Sailors of the Year are:

SENIOR SAILOR OF THE YEAR:
Hospital Corpsman First Class Petty Officer (FMF/SW/ AW) Delta Tolbert

HM1 Tolbert was born in Baltimore, Maryland and joined the Navy in July 1998. She is an Independent Duty Corpsman assigned to the 2D Assault Amphibian Battalion Aid Station, 2D Marine Division, where she also serves as the Leading Petty Officer. During her tenure at AA Battalion, she has successfully completed a deployment as the Senior Medical Department Representative in support of African Partnership. HM1 is married with three children, and is the first female Senior Sailor of the Year for 2D Marine Division.

JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE YEAR:
Hospital Corpsman Second Class Petty Officer(FMF/SW) Christopher T. Trimmer

Born in Ravenna Ohio, HM2 Trimmer joined the Navy in 2010. He currently is serving as the Assistant Leading Petty Officer for the Second Marine Division Training Department. He has proudly served with the Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, as a line Corpsman with Echo Company deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

BLUENAID OF THE YEAR:
Hospitalman(FMF) Michael Butts

HM1 Butts hails from Colony, Texas, where he joined the Navy in 2011. He is currently serving at the 10th Marine Regiment aid Station as the Medical Readiness Coordinator and Preventive Medicine Petty Officer. During his time at 2D Marine Division, HM Butts has also served with 2D Battalion, 8th Marines as the Line Corpsman for Scout Sniper Platoon, deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

The golf tournament will be March 5th and the cake cutting ceremony will be held on March 6th. Please support our “Gators” by attending their fund raisers and getting the word out.

Wish them all the best as we know they will do 2D Marine Division proud.

Semper Fidelis, 1stLt Jamal B. Akbarut and 1stLt Jonathan M. Brown for their contribution to this article. As you read on, you will be impressed by the preparation and training exercises undertaken by our Gators.

“Greetings Marines, Sailors, Families, and Friends of the First Wave Battalion,

The major highlight for the battalion during the last quarter was our deployment for training (DFT). For the first time in six years, the entire battalion was deployed 230 miles North to Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia in order to conduct Amphibious Assault Vehicle (AAV) gunnery and basic combat skills training. The focus of effort for the DFT was utilizing the unique ranges available at Fort A.P. Hill to qualify AAV platoons in live fire and maneuver tactics. Throughout the three weeks that the battalion was aboard Fort A.P. Hill, six platoons were qualified in platoon level AAV gunnery while expending over 150,000 rounds of ammunition. In addition to the gunnery training, the Marines and Sailors utilized a multitude of training areas in order to conduct AAV maneuver training, provisional infantry tactics, military operations in urban terrain (MOIT), land navigation, grenade ranges, combat marksmanship live fire ranges, and leader reaction courses. This training evolution greatly enhanced our combat readiness and prepared us to respond to the dynamic, real-world scenarios that we may respond to in the future.

Upon returning from Fort A.P. Hill, VA, the battalion began an intensive maintenance period involving the ever-loved and important tasks of “busting rust,” installing parts, and preparing the vehicles for future operations. As highlighted throughout the battalion’s DFT, Amtrackers continue to demonstrate exceptional adaptability to a variety of missions. This is recognized by the leadership at 2D Marine Division who task the battalion to support training exercises ranging from amphibious landings to mechanized infantry operations in urban terrain. In fact, there was a week in late October in every company within the battalion was engaged in supporting higher level exercises.

Mobility Counter-Mobility Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, was supporting 10th Marine Regiment at Fort Pickett while Company A was deployed to 29 Palms, California for an Integrated Training Exercise (or “CAX” / “EMV” for some of you) and Company C was engaged with Bold Alligator – an event that drew the attention of the Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Each of these exercises tested a different capability of both the AAV and its operator and neither disappointed in the successful execution of every mission placed before them. October also saw the return of Company C, 2D Platoon which had been deployed almost nine months in support of the 24th MEU. The Marines had the opportunity to accomplish several bi-lateral exercises in Djibouti, Jordan, and Kuwait. We will continue to press forward as the amphibious asset of the U.S. Marine Corps.

I would like to thank our Staff [Chris Holman (VP), Carl Cacciotti (Exec. Sect.)] Allan Chase (Sgt. at Arms)] for their commitment and dedication to our Chapter and wish everyone serving our country a safe 2015. See you at the “Gator Ball”.

God bless the USA, Marine Corps and the 2nd Assault Amphibian Bn. and their families.

Semper Fidelis,
Nick Naumov
President, First Wave Chapter

continued...
I would like to wish you all a joyous and Merry Christmas and a Happy Hanukkah. If by any chance you receive this after the holidays I hope that it was a very joyous and Merry Christmas and a Happy Hanukkah. Last year had its share of adventures. First there was the Division Birthday Celebration that caught Camp Lejeune in an ice/snow Nor-Easter that it could not cope with. But our National Past President Joe Houle came through and made it a success. On another note the Nor-Easter that Camp Lejeune had in January was nothing compared to the 7 feet of snow I had in front of my home with 15 foot mounds of snow from my drive way being cleared by a front end loader.

In August the Chapter had its annual Business Meeting at Camp Lejeune during the National Reunion. There was a very poor showing with only a few more than the officers in attendance. It was decided that the Bugle Newsletter would again be sent out to the entire Chapter Membership informing the membership that the Chapter Reunion would be at Gettysburg May 21-23, 2015. If there was less than 50 members willing to attend that there will not be a reunion but only a Business Meeting.

As of the writing of this article only 26 replies have been received with only 7 indicating they would attend. This does not count the Chapter Officers which would make it 14. This is far below the 50 indicated above. If by the end of this year the 50 member requirement is not met there will be no reunion. A Business Meeting location and dates would be published in the next Follow Me and the Chapter Newsletter “The Bugle”.

Also discussed that in the event that there is no reunion and only a Business Meeting that a discussion would be held if the Chapter will turn in its Charter and disband. If the Chapter is disbanded I strongly urge Chapter Members to join one of the many Unit Chapters listed in the Follow Me on the SMDA ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS page.

The upcoming Division Birthday will be January 28-30, 2015 and I hope to see many of you there. The National Reunion will be in Huntsville AL, August 8-12, 2015. On Christmas Day 2014 a movie will be released called “Unbroken”. Although it is not about a Marine it is about Captain Louie Zamperini, a WWII Army Air Corps Officer who was shot down and captured by the Japanese and was held in a very poor showing with only a few more than the officers in attendance. It was decided that the Bugle Newsletter would again be sent out to the entire Chapter Membership informing the membership that the Chapter Reunion would be at Gettysburg May 21-23, 2015. If there was less than 50 members willing to attend that there will not be a reunion but only a Business Meeting.

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2d Marine Division’s 74th Birthday Celebration, Camp Lejeune, NC • Jan 28-31, 2015

The dates for the Division’s 74th Birthday Celebration are Wednesday-Saturday, January 28-31, 2015. The registration Headquarters will be at the Comfort Suites. The backup hotel will be Holiday Inn Express.

Transportation

AIR: For those who are planning to arrive by commercial airlines, the local regional airport serving Jacksonville/Camp Lejeune is Albert J. Ellis Regional Airport (OAJ). It is served by only two airlines, US Airways Express and Delta ComAir, with ten scheduled flights per day to and from Charlotte, NC, and Atlanta, GA. They fly a mix of small turbojet and turboprop aircraft. The nearest alternative airports with major airlines and large turbojet aircraft are Wilmington, NC (ILM(1.5-hour drive) and Raleigh/Durham International Airport (RDU) (2.5-hour drive).

HIGHWAY: For those who are planning to drive, Jacksonville, NC, is at the intersection of two major highways: Route 17 (which runs north and south parallel to the coast) and Route 24 (which runs east and west). Route 24 connects to Interstate 40 about an hour west of Jacksonville at Warsaw, NC.

Updated Schedule

Wednesday, January 28
All Day: Arrival/Registration at Comfort Suites.

Thursday, January 29
0900 – 1000 Demo of Infantry Immersion Trainer w/6th Mar
1030 – 1115 Visit to CPX Site Observe Division COC
1130 – 1300 Lunch w/Marines at Wallace Creek Chow Hall
Evening: Sergeant Major’s Reception at Marston Pavilion.

Friday, January 30
0915 – 1030 Memorial Service
1030 – 1145 Battle Colors and Awards Ceremony
1145 – 1400 Ladies/Men’s Lunch
(Ladies Lunch w/CG’s Spouse)
Evening: Banquet at Marston Pavilion.

Saturday, January 31
Depart.

Pre-Registration Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Registration Form</th>
<th>Please Print:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name: __________________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address: (Company) (Battalion) (Regiment)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City/State/Zip: __________________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone: __________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>Please note the name badges as you want them to appear: __________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member: __________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hometown: __________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guests: __________________</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Can you volunteer? Y or N ____________

If yes, which day? ____________

Vehicle Pass Information

If you require a vehicle pass, we must receive the following information prior to January 10, 2015 or you will have to sign your vehicle in at the Gate:

Drivers Full Name: __________________ |
Year, Make, Model, Color of Vehicle: __________________ |
License Plate # and State of Issue: __________________ |
Insurance Co.: __________________ |
Policy #: __________________ |
Exp. Date: __________________ |

Event Registration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># persons</th>
<th>Subtotal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY - 28 January</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGISTRATION: Required of all attendees/not refundable.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Pre-registration: $20.00; after 18 January: $25.00)</td>
<td>$ ____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch - ($15 per person)</td>
<td>$ ____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SgtMaj Reception at Marston Pavilion ($25.00 per person)</td>
<td>$ ____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Heavy Hors D’oeuvres/Keg/Cash Bar)</td>
<td>$ ____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity cost for the day ($5 per person)</td>
<td>$ ____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THURSDAY - 29 January</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, I/we will be attending the Memorial Service and Division Birthday Ceremonies</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Lunch Chow with the troops. Women welcome. ($10 per person)</td>
<td>$ ____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Lunch TBD ($10 per person)</td>
<td>$ ____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division Birthday Banquet at Marston Pavilion ($40 per person)</td>
<td>$ ____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity cost for the day ($5 per person)</td>
<td>$ ____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY - 30 January</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meal choices by name:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Names eating Prime Rib: __________________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Names eating Chicken Wellington: __________________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* If you require a special banquet meal (e.g., vegetarian, kosher, etc.) please contact SMDA at 910-451-3167 prior to January 17, 2015.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total $</td>
<td>____________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To Pay by Credit Card:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Credit Card #</th>
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<tr>
<td>MC</td>
<td>VISA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expires /</td>
<td>Phone #</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mail form with remittance or credit card info to: SMDA, P.O. Box 8180, Camp Lejeune, NC 28547

Please note: No refunds after January 17 except for medical.
Welcome Aboard
New Members of Second Marine Division Association

LIFETIME MEMBERS
Douglas Dameron
Wilmington, NC
SgtMaj David Bradford
2d Marine Division HQ
Stella, NC
LCpl Bryan Bridel
2d LAV BN
Hampton, NJ
SSgt Dari Carlisle
2d LAV BN
Abington, MD

REGULAR MEMBERS
HM3 Brian Angus
HQ/2/10
Pace, FL
LCpl Willie Blair Jr.
L/2/10
Richton Park, IL
Manuel Carazo
Madrid, Spain
CW2 Jonathan Delle
H&S-2/2
Jacksonville, NC
Cpl Matthew Fields
H&S-3/2
Cinnaminson, NJ
Cpl James T. Gabus
Wpns/2/6
Swansea, MA
Sgt Michael Inman
2d Tanks BN
Rahoboth, MA
MSgt Kevin B. Moitner
1/3/6
Cambridge City, IN
HMl Ferdinand Morales
H&S-2/2
York, PA
Capt Sean O’Neill
C/1/8
Sewickley, PA
MSgt Timothy Parkhurst
2d Recon BN
Newport, NC
LCpl Thomas L. Phillips
B/1/2
Ancorage, AK
HMC Brian Schmuck
1/8
Hubert, NC
Cpl Ramsey Sessions
6th Marines HQ
Chelsea, AL
HM3 Brian Ticion
2d LAR BN
Lexington Park, MD
Cpl George Winchell
HQ/2d Marine Division
Virginia Beach, VA

SECOND MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES
Public Relations
David O. Earley
5743 Revere Drive, North, Olmstead, Ohio 44070
DISB, Svc Co, HQ BN
Future Reunion Site
Bret Roy
P.O. Box 8180, Camp Lejeune, NC 28547
3/6, 1/8
MarCorps Council
Bret Roy
P.O. Box 8180, Camp Lejeune, NC 28547
3/6, 1/8
Memorial Scholarship Trustees
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H&S-2-2
Secretary (2009-2014)
Richard Van Horne
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2dFAG
Trustee (2014-2019)
Robert Stack
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1/8
Robert Willoughby
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C/1/8
Trustee (2010-2015)
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WPNs/3/8 & H&S/1/6
Liaison
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PO Box 788, Tyler TX 75710
MWSG-27
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Chairman (2009-2014)
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2476 Five Fathom Circle, Woodbridge VA 22191
H&S-2-6
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Open
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C-2d SP Bn
Director (2013-2018)
Nick Naumov
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2d AA Bn
Director (2009-2014)
William F. Dunaway
19620 Elm Grove Road, Hawthorne, NJ 07506
2dAA Bn
Director (2010-2015)
Jack Sevey
700 E St., Sacramento, CA 95814
Assoc Mbr.
Director (2010-2015)
Ralph McClure
1830 22nd St., Greeley, CO 80631
HQ Bn
Director (2011-2016)
Vincent Dolan
121 Tall Oaks Dr. Apt J, S. Weymouth, MA 02190
C/1/8
Director (2012-2017)
Theodore R. Britton
209 14th Street NS #103, Atlanta, GA 30309
2d Cbt Serv Grp
Director (2011-2016)
Bill Steele
797 Windsor Green Blvd., Goodlettsville, TN 37072
3/8
Please send donations to: Second Marine Division Association, PO Box 8180, Camp Lejeune, NC 28547.

Please Print

Donor ____________________________________________

Enclosed is my check/money order in the amount of $________ which I wish to donate to the

□ SMDA Scholarship Fund □ SMDA Endowment Fund □ SMDA General Fund

Optional: Sent in memory of ____________________________

Please send donations to: Second Marine Division Association, PO Box 8180, Camp Lejeune, NC 28547.
To all our service men and women, at home and abroad:
Thank you for your service, dedication and commitment.

We salute you!
Please accept our wishes for a Safe, Healthy, and Happy New Year!

We'll see you at the
2d Marine Division’s 74th Birthday
at Camp Lejeune
January 28-31, 2015
If you aren't registered, better move double-time!

Come “Like” us on Facebook” at
www.facebook/secondmarinedivisionassociation