



ENGINEERS UP!

2009 Newsletter





2009 Newsletter Contents

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to one & all!

We sincerely hope that all of you survived the winter and early spring storms and are enjoying life wherever you might be.

We trust you'll enjoy reading this year's newsletter and catching up on all that occurred over the last very busy year. I've included several memoirs and articles and pictures that have been graciously provided from members and Engineer Units and I want to thank all of you that have responded to my request. All of us are extremely proud of our Engineer heritage and I continue to be in awe of all that our currently serving Marines are doing around the World!

I'll continue to collect, organize and eventually publish all of the articles, memoirs and pictures that we receive.

Many thanks to all of you that attended our Camp Pendleton reunion and awards banquet last year. It was the 1st time we've been back since 1994 and we were extremely pleased that so many of our West Coast Engineers and family were able to attend.

Our reunion this year is in Las Vegas and I hope you are planning on joining us. Additional details and a reservation form are included. Read about our 2010 reunion as well and please make your plans to attend. We need your help in spreading the word to other individuals as well as the engineer related associations that you belong to. This is our first attempt at having an Engineer Gathering and we want to take advantage of all the opportunities in the D.C. and Northern Virginia area!

I'm elated to have our new, improved website on line! If you don't have internet access, use your neighbors, the library or the family; you really do need to see all that we've been able to accomplish. Read more about our website inside the newsletter.

It's time again for election of MCEA Officers and as you can see by the number of vacancies on the Executive Committee, we could certainly use your help. Even if you don't have the time to fill a billet, there's plenty that you can do to assist your Marine Corps Engineer Association.

Please read the Admin Notes section and ensure you complete the required actions. This is your time to communicate your desires to us, so let us know the good, the bad and especially what else we can do to continue our progress.

GOD Bless & Semper Fidelis,

Ken Frantz

Contentment is the grateful, faithful, fruitful use of what we have. Not to drink because one has but half a cup or because one does not like its flavor or because someone else has silver to one's own glass is to lose the contents. No one is discontented who employs and enjoys to the utmost what he has.

Maltbie Davenport Babcock, writer, clergyman (1858-1901)



Elected Officials as of 16 Oct 2007

President: Ken Frantz, Col, USMC (Ret)
Vice President: Hank Rudge, Col, USMC (Ret)
2d Vice President: Vacant
Treasurer: George Carlson, LtCol, USMC (Ret)
Chaplain: Vacant
Historian: Steve Dunkin, Maj. USMC (Ret) ASSUMED BILLET 16 MARCH 2009
Secretary: Ken Frantz, Col, USMC (Ret)

ELECTIONS FOR THE ABOVE BILLETS WILL BE FINALIZED DURING OUR 14 OCTOBER 2009 BUSINESS MEETING. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR NAME ON THE BALLET, NOTIFY FRANTZ NO LATER THAN 15 JULY 2009.

Appointments:

Executive Director: Vacant

Permanent Associate Directors:

Jim Marapoti, Col, USMC, (Ret)
Terence J. Scully, CWO2, USMC (Ret)

Webmaster: Geoff Nicely USMC Vet

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

NAME	TITLE	STATE	EMAIL
COY, JUDY	MRS	VT	YES
FULLERTON, BILL	MR	FL	NO
MARTIN, PHIL	MSGT	MA	YES (Bulk Fuel Coordinator)

If you would like to be an Associate Director for your area or unit, contact Ken Frantz.



Administrative Notes

Please note that our mailing address is: MCEA PO Box 322 Ashville, NY 14710 Phone #: 716-763-5655

Individual dues are \$25 for 1 year; \$60 for 3 years; and \$500 for a lifetime membership. Corporate members' dues are \$400 per year.

Annual dues expire 31 Dec, but members will remain in good standing until 28 February. Email and/or phone reminders will be provided for one year.

Upon reaching the age of 80, "dues current" members will automatically change to Lifetime membership and no further dues are required.

Fortunately we're done with tax season for this year, but don't forget that 74% of your dues & 100% of your contributions to MCEA and the Assistance Fund are tax deductible.

The enclosed Members' roster includes our members with expired dues. Please help us to get them back in the active status & encourage them to join us for our reunions. Our deceased members remain on our rolls as long as their Next of Kin desire.

We are communicating weekly or more often via email, as well as updating our website: www.MarCorEngAsn.org. Even if you don't have internet access at home, you can use the library or other locations to visit our website and find out what is going on year round.

Our Oct 12-16, 2009 Reunion/Awards Banquet will be held in Las Vegas. Details & the RSVP form are included. Hope to see you all there!

As you can see by reading the minutes and reviewing the financial status report, we continue to increase our assets which allow us to invest more wisely as well as spend more on advertising and other key areas. Like most everything else, our Association expenses increase every year. Our significant expenses are the printing/mailing of the newsletter, reunion expenses and awards. Since we rely totally on dues & contributions, we're constantly restricted on what we can accomplish. If you as an individual or through your company can sponsor any of our annual expense categories, please let us know.

We've loaded over 500 pictures and 60 documents so far to our new website which includes all the material that our Association has accumulated since inception in 1991. This was a major effort and wouldn't have been achieved without the support of many of you who provided the material. A very special thanks to our Associate Director Judy Coy who scanned all of the pictures for us and our webmaster, Geoff Nicely who worked tirelessly to get the site activated and constantly updated. This is just the beginning; we now have a website that is extremely versatile, interactive and can be the "go to" place for all things relating to Marine Corps Engineers! Let us know what we can do to make it even better.

ACTIONS REQUIRED

CHECK THE ENCLOSED MEMBERS' ROSTER & PLEASE NOTIFY US OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS, PHONE # OR EMAIL ADDRESS SO WE CAN UPDATE OUR RECORDS AND KEEP YOU CONNECTED.

Elections are due this year. If you want your name on the ballot, notify Frantz no later than 15 July 2009.

Enclosed is the 2009 Reunion Form for you to complete & return if you are planning on attending this year's reunion.

Please help us by spreading the word to your contacts who served with us as well as other associations about our 2010 "Gathering" in Alexandria, VA. Additionally, help us publicize our Assistance Fund; we truly are "here to help"!

If you know of someone who is interested in joining MCEA & needs more information, please let Frantz know the contact info.

We have inventoried our Library of donated items and would gladly accept additional books, memoirs, pictures, etc. Send to Frantz.



Lastly, and arguably most important, our Association has had an all encompassing set of goals since inception.

- A. Promote engineering and related MOSs.
- B. Renew/perpetuate fellowship.
- C. Locate and preserve the memory of those who served.
- D. Preservation of historical account.
- E. Foster solidarity.
- F. Honor/recognize Active/reserve duty individuals and units.

The reality is that we cannot adequately address all of the above stated goals with the limited number of part-time volunteers.

If you are satisfied with just receiving an annual Newsletter and/or attending the Reunion, then all we ask of you is to pay your dues on time and notify us of any change in your contact information.

HOWEVER, if you agree with us that we need to pursue all of our goals further, then we need to hear from you on what you can do to help. Additionally, we need feedback from all of our members on how we can improve. You've elected the Executive Committee to represent you, so let us know what else you want done. Any and all ideas would be appreciated! Send to Frantz

If you would like an updated Members' Roster, copy of the Bylaws or meeting minutes, contact Ken Frantz at frantzkd@windstream.net or 716-763-5655 or PO Box 322 Ashville NY 14710.

Power, faith, leadership, freedom —these are the four pillars of America.

Power enables us to believe in ourselves and take control of our lives and country.

Faith allows us to trust in the goodness of others and help those less fortunate than ourselves.

Leadership gives us a vision of what we can be and how to achieve it.

Freedom defines us—shaping our past, present, and future.

What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals.

— Zig Ziglar



Honor Roll

Below are our Members who have died. May they join their fellow Marines and Sailors in GOD's Love and Peace.

ALO, THOMAS T. GYSGT (RET)
 AMSTER, ALVIN A. MR
 ANDERSON, DAVID LTCOL (RET)
 ANDERSON, JESSE LTCOL (RET)
 ANGELL, HENRY SSGT (RET)
 ARMITAGE, GEORGE L CAPT (RET)
 BACHE, TERRANCE MR
 BALLANCE, HENRY G. MSGT (RET)
 BARDIN, JAMES "LANCER" VET
 BARKER, LAWRENCE S MAJ (RET)
 BARNETSON, WILLIAM H MAJ (RET)
 BATEMAN, JOSEPH S. VET
 BAUBLITZ, JOHN VET
 BENSTEAD, DARYL E. COL (RET)
 BERNIER, RICHARD J CWO4 (RET)
 BIGITSCHKE, UWE MR
 BLUME, CARL VET
 BOURQUE, RAYMOND D MAJ (RET)
 BRANDEL, RALPH E COL (RET)
 BREAKFIELD, BRODUS GYSGT (RET)
 BROWN, MIKE VET
 BRUTSMAN, DONALD MR
 BUCY, CLYDE T MGYSGT (RET)
 BUTLER, FRANKLIN D GYSGT (RET)
 CALLAHAN, BILL SSGT KIA
 CALLOWAY, FRED VET
 CAMPBELL, KENNETH B CWO (RET)
 CAREY, RALPH J MR VET
 CLARK, ELMO A. CAPT (RET)
 COLANGELO, NICK E. MGYSGT (RET)
 COLE, JAMES MSGT (RET)
 *COMPTON, JOSEPH MAJ (RET)
 COOPER, FRANCIS MGYSGT (RET)
 CRESAP, CHARLES C. LTCOL (RET)
 CREWS, JR., DUANE D. COL (RET)
 CROMWELL, MELVIN E VET
 CROSBY, ARTHUR GYSGT (RET)
 CUMMINS, MARTIN R. MSGT (RET)
 CUNNINGHAM, CHARLES R 1STSGT (RET)
 DAMON, ROBERT K. LTCOL (RET)
 DENNIS, NICHOLAS J COL (RET)
 DENORMANDIE, FRANK COL (RET)
 DERRICK, LEWIS C MR VET
 DRISCOLL, BERNARD E. LTCOL (RET)
 DUDDY, ROBERT J. MR VET
 DUHE, CLARENCE VET
 DUNCAN, DAVID N. CWO4 (RET)
 *ECHOLS, JAMES CAPT (RET)
 EVANS, RAY MGYSGT (RET)
 FADICK, CARL MR VET
 FAUST JR., RUDOLPH MAJ (RET)
 FELLINGER, BARRY MAJ (RET)
 FERRARO, STEPHEN L. MR (RET)
 FEUER, HENRY O. CWO2 (RET)
 FIANDER, WILLIAM MAJ (RET)
 FIELDING, JOHN M. MSGT (RET)
 FISH, ROY MR VET
 FLOYD, JOSEPH C. MAJ (RET)
 FOLEY, THOMAS MR

FRANKOWSKI, JOSEPH MGYSGT (RET)
 FUNDERBURK, RAY LTCOL (RET)
 GALLAGHER, JOHN F MGYSGT (RET)
 GANGEWERE, KENNETH SSGT (RET)
 GAZZA, HENRY J MR
 *GIBSON, CHARLES R. LTCOL (RET)
 GILBO, PATRICK F MR VET
 GILES, SAM E MR
 GIRAFFE, FRANK CPL (RET)
 GLENN, CARL J GYSGT (RET)
 GOINS, ROBERT LTCOL (RET)
 GOSS, EUGENE W MYGYSGT (RET)
 GRADL, MICHAEL J VET
 GREER, GENE MSGT (RET)
 GUBALA, TIMOTHY LTCOL (RET)
 *HERR, KENNETH VET
 HOLLINGSWORTH, JAMES K CWO4 (RET)
 HOLZINGER, BERNARD MAJ (RET)
 HORTON, EVERAD MR VET
 HUNTZINGER, HENRY J LTCOL (RET)
 JACOBSON, MILTON R GYSGT (RET)
 JACQUES, MAURICE SGTMAJ (RET)
 JARVIS, JOHN VET
 JOHNSON, GUSTOF MR VET
 JOHNSON, STEPHEN J CAPT (RET)
 JOHNSON, WARREN MGYSGT (RET)
 JONES, THOMAS W LTCOL (RET)
 KROPINAK, ROBERT C MAJ (RET)
 LANGLEY, JOSEPH A SGTMAJ (RET)
 LANIER, LUTHER L MSGT (RET)
 LEAKE, NORMAN GYSGT (RET)
 *LEWIS, JC. MSGT (RET)
 LIGGETT, JAMES E MSGT (RET)
 LIVEZEY, JAMES W MAJ (RET)
 LOY, WILLIAM CAPT (RET)
 MacKENZIE, JAMES M LTCOL (RET)
 MACHA, JAMES F MSGT (RET)
 *MACKKEY, MARION GYSGT (RET)
 MADER, JOHN F COL (RET)
 MARJANOV, JOHN MGYSGT (RET)
 MAXWELL, LEO F GYSGT (RET)
 MASTICE, JOSEPH MR VET
 McCARTER, LARRY CWO 4 (RET)
 McCLURE, GARY L LTCOL (RET)
 McCOY, JIM MGYSGT (RET)
 McGILL, DENNIS VET
 *MCLAUGHLIN, RICHARD CAPT (RET)
 McLAWHORN, LEON CAPT (RET)
 MILLS, DAVID C LTCOL (RET)
 MURPHY, ROBERT F MSGT (RET)
 NAHRGANG, DONALD V LTCOL (RET)
 *NIEHOFF, HARRY VET
 NUNN, GRANT P GYSGT (RET)
 O'CONNOR, JOHN B MR VET
 OLSON, FREDRIC COL (RET)
 *O'MAHONEY, MIKE MAJ (RET)
 PALMER, RALPH CWO2 (RET)
 PALMER, ROBERT M CWO3 (RET)
 PARKER, PETER MR

*PEAGLER, JOE LTCOL (RET)
 PEHOWIC, STANLEY A GYSGT (RET)
 PENDERGAST, RICHARD L GYSGT (RET)
 PHELPS, WILLIAM E LTCOL (RET)
 PORTWOOD, TROY G MR VET
 READ, JOE CWO 2 (RET)
 REID, KENNETH R VET
 RITTER, JOE GYSGT (RET)
 ROBERTS, JOHN SGTMAJ (RET)
 ROBERTS, KENNETH MR
 ROBERTS, LONNIE MSGT (RET)
 ROCKWELL, NOEL VET
 RUDAT, JUNIOR D GYSGT (RET)
 RUSHING, EDWIN VET
 SAULNIER, JOHN L CAPT (RET)
 SCHEER, CARL MGYSGT (RET)
 SHARKEY, KEO J VET
 SHELKOFISKY, EARNEST L MSGT (RET)
 SHELTON, OTEY CWO4 (RET)
 *SHEPPARD, BILL GYSGT (RET)
 SHIELDS, JIMMIE R MR
 SILVERMAN, ALBERT MR VET
 SIMONSON, ARTHUR K MR
 SMITH, RAYMOND C VET
 SMITH, RAYMOND K MGYSGT (RET)
 SNYDER, GUY MSGT (RET)
 SOFRONAS, GEORGE VET
 SOGHOIAN, AVEDIS H MSGT (RET)
 SOUZA, JOSEPH W VET
 SPIKERMAN, JACK MAJ (RET)
 STANDISH, PETER VET
 STASIO, ANTHONY DR
 STOCKSTILL, PAUL R VET
 STOKES, RUFUS R MSGT (RET)
 STUBBLEFIELD, ROBERT MR VET
 STURGEON, BILL VET
 STURZA, RAYMOND CAPT (RET)
 SURKAMP, RICHARD VET
 SWINDALL, THOMAS MR VET
 TERRY, EDWARD MSGT (RET)
 TOMPKINS, ROBERT VET
 TURNER, BLAINE L MR
 ULSH, AMON SSGT (RET)
 VEGA, MANUEL SGTMAJ (RET)
 VIERS JR, W.GUS LTCOL (RET)
 VOORHEES, JOHN CWO2 (RET)
 VROOMAN, LYNDON F CAPT (RET)
 WATTERS, RONALD T (MESSIO) MGYSGT (RET)
 WICKHAM, JOHN D MR VET
 WIGGINS, ANDREW J GYSGT (RET)
 WILLIAMS, KENNETH W GYSGT (RET)
 WINOSKI, WALTER M COL (RET)
 WOODWARD, LEEMAN MGYSGT (RET)
 WRIGHT, RICHARD CAPT (RET)
 ZEMATIS, WALTER J MGYSGT (RET)
 ZYSK, FRANK L VET

Those with an asterisk by their name have been added since last year's newsletter publication.



IN MEMORY OF OUR RECENTLY DEPARTED ENGINEER BROTHERS

LtCol Dave Anderson, USMC (Ret) MCEA member since March of 1992 died very unexpectedly at the age of 67. Dick Petroff informed us that Dave & Sue were on their second round the world tour when he died on 13 March 2008. Dave served 20 years as a Marine Corps Engineer Officer & had a varied & distinguished career. He started in '63 as a Plt Cdr, later Co Cdr with 3rd Engrs; then Utilities Off with 3rd Wing '64-'66; CO, Co C 3rd Shore Party with RLT 26; CO Co C 3rd Shore Party '67; HQMC Facilities '68-71; Maint Off, MCAS Futenma '71-'72; HQMC Head of Project Section, Facil Div '74-'77; Defense Mapping Agency '78-'79; Dev Ctr, Force Structure Study '80; III MAF Force Engr '80-'81 & Base Maint Off MCB Camp Pendleton '81-'82.



Captain James "Lancer" Bardin died 31 March 2008 after a long, hard battle with lung & heart disease; just two weeks shy of his 82d birthday. Like a lot of you, Lancer & I became acquainted through our Marine Corps Engineer Association and emails. I'm sure you'll recall the many emails of his that I've forwarded over the last several years, since Lancer was a dedicated & constant source of information, entertainment & wisdom. As you can tell from the below obituary, Lancer was a distinguished fellow in a multitude of areas. He & I talked on the phone many times and we discovered that we had several common interests, including the Merchant Marines, so Lancer began sending me articles, books & even a VCR tape about the Merchant Mariners that I could share with my son & his wife who are both Merchant Marines. He also donated several books to our MCEA library. He had a distinguished service while in the Marine Corps first serving as an enlisted man in the aviation community 1943-1953 and then as an Engr Officer as well as Equip Off, having served with 2d Engr Bn, 1st Engr Bn EOD, 3rd Engr Bn, 1st Shore Party and then as Asst Base Maint Off at Camp Pendleton & as the 1st MarDiv Engr Equip Off prior to retiring in 1960 with the rank of Captain.

Lancer always had a keen sense of humor & was upbeat whenever we communicated and never complained about his health problems. The only time I heard any concern in his voice was when he called me & asked for prayers prior to his wife Pat having surgery. When I talked to him after Pat came home, he remarked that all the prayers worked just like they were suppose to.

Also like most of you, I never had the opportunity to meet in person with Lancer. I sincerely regret that, but realize that's the nature of our email relationship in most cases. Quite frankly, the longer I serve this association & meet & get to know such wonderful people that comprise our Brotherhood, the harder it is for me to write these notices. I feel a profound loss with the death of Lancer & regret that I didn't make the opportunity to talk to him more recently.

The below information is provided by his widow, Pat. Please note that Pat has graciously designated our MCEA for donations to honor Lancer. I've offered Pat any assistance required & thanked her very much for her confidence in our Association & assured her that any donations will certainly be put to good use.

Good bye Lancer, my friend, looking forward to seeing you; please save me a seat.

GOD Bless & Semper Fidelis, Ken

JAMES NELSON BARDIN
April 14, 1926 - March 31, 2008

Born in Charlottesville, VA, graduated from Fishburn Military Academy, attended the University of New Mexico, and was a United States Marine Corps veteran of World War II and Korea. A 45 year resident of Garden Grove, CA, he served as director of engineering services at Long Beach Memorial Hospital and at South Bay Hospital in Redondo Beach. In addition, he was a prolific writer of aviation and handgun articles, publishing over 150 in recent years. He was a member of the American Legion, VFW, a Life Member of Disabled Veterans of America, Marine Corps League, Orange County Chapter of the 1st Marine Division Association, National Association of Atomic Veterans, Sons of Confederate Veterans, OX5 Aviation Pioneers, and the Marine Corps Engineer Association. The statement "Once a Marine, Always a Marine" truly applied to Jim.

He is survived by his wife Patricia, son Christopher, daughters Christina, April and Susanne, four grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. Cremation by Eternity with interment at the Riverside National Cemetery. Donations may be made to: Marine Corps Engineer Association



JOSEPH OTTO COMPTON, JR., was born December 3, 1921, in Bowling Green, KY. Passed away Friday, May 2, 2008, in Orlando, FL. Attended University of Florida and Georgia Tech. Joined the Marine Corps on March 17, 1942. Served in World War II, participating in the invasion and capture of Iwo Jima, Korea and Vietnam. Retired as a Major on June 30, 1964. Went to work as supervisor in the streets department of Winter Park, worked his way up to Director of Public Works for the city, retiring in 1984. He was married to Eleanor Henderson in 1943. They were married for 65 years and had 5 children, Joseph Otto Compton, III (Kathy Myers), Michael Ralph Compton-deceased (Joan Bonds), Harold Lee Compton (Cynthia Hill), Marjory Compton Martin (Conan Martin) and Victoria Compton Morris (William Anthony Morris); 14 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren. The last 12 years of his life, he served the Lord as business administrator at Eastside Baptist Church, where he was a member and a Deacon. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, May 7, 2008, at Eastside Baptist Church. Marine Military Honors and burial followed at Woodlawn Memorial Park.



Capt. James Michael Echols, USMC (Ret.), 58 of Stella, NC, left us on Jan. 4, 2009, in Alexandria, Va. He is survived by his wife, Ruthetta Echols; a daughter, Hope Amanda Echols of Stella; his parents, James and Jeanette Echols of Coursegold, Calif.; sisters, Yanina Harrison and husband Doyle of Cathys Valley, Calif., and Wendy Albert and husband Serge of Alexandria, Va.; and a brother, John Echols and wife Cindy of Fliant, Calif.; nieces and nephews, Doyle Harrison and wife Yuko and their daughters, Mei, Ami Harrison Knighten and husband Robert and son Christian, Juliann Echols, Jonathan Echols, Yannick Albert and Clint Echols.

Captain Echols retired from the U.S. Marine Corps in 1993 after serving for 21 years. His duty assignments included Presidential Security Force, selection for the officer program and completed his Bachelors of Science degree in Chemistry at Oklahoma University, subsequently went on to be commissioned. His last duty station before retirement was the 8th Engineer Battalion at Camp Lejeune. After retirement he continued to be active in the military community holding Life Membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Military Officers Association of America, Marine Corps Association, Mustang Association, Marine Corps Engineer Association and many more. He was employed with Blum Construction of Jacksonville. He loved his work and was extremely proud of his finished product. He was extremely active in all aspects of his daughter's life including, stage design for many activities, they include: Carteret County Girl Scout Service Unit and the Vocal Performance Department at Croatan High School. He taught Archery Instruction at Camp Albemarle for the incoming camp counselors.

Jim was a founding member of our Engineer Assn. and served as Treasurer from 1992-2006.



Lt. Colonel Charles R. Gibson, USMC (Ret) passed away November 18, 2008 following a heroic battle with lung cancer.

Chuck was the son of the late Dwight and Margaret Gibson of Canton, OH. He is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Betty Perry Gibson; children, Charles Ray Gibson, Jr., Pennie Gibson and Peggy Carroll; grandchildren, Megan and Blake Carroll, as well as his brother, David Gibson; sister, Ruby Snyder and brother-in-law, William "Bill" Perry.

Chuck graduated high school in Canton, OH and then attended University of South Carolina on a NROTC Scholarship. He graduated in 1952 with a BS in Chem. Engineering and was commissioned a 2nd Lt in the Marine Corps. His 23 year career in the Marines saw him rise to the grade of Lt. Col. He served in multiple billets including company and battalion commander of Marine Combat Engineer units during the Korean and Vietnam wars, as well as numerous peacetime duties. He retired in August 1974.

Chuck's second career was in the Nuclear Power division of CP & L, where he worked in all 3 of the nuclear power plants. The majority of his 20 years with CP & L were at the Sharron Harris plant, managing the administrative and security operations at the plant through construction and start up. Chuck retired from CP & L in 1994.

Never one to rest, he was active in the Cary Rotary Club, Marine Corps League and Seniors Golf Club at Prestonwood. A significant portion of his time was devoted to managing the Life Experiences annual Golf Tournament and Auction, which he worked alongside his wife Betty and her deceased mother, Edith Perry, who have been involved with Life Experiences since its beginning.

In 1997, Chuck and Betty were awarded the Cary Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award for their work with Life Experiences and contributions to the City of Cary.

Chuck devoted 79 years of service to his God, Country, Corps, Community and his beloved family.

A Celebration of Chuck Gibson's life was held at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Cary on Dec. 8th. Followed by a reception in the fellowship hall.

The family is grateful for the prayers and love shown to Chuck and us by his relatives, friends and caregivers.

The following letter was presented to Betty at the conclusion of the Celebration of Life by our MCEA member, BGen George Walls, USMC (Ret).

Dear Betty, Ray, Pennie, Peggy, Megan and Blake;

My words are inadequate to express the momentous loss that we all experience with Chuck's passing. He will be sorely missed by all of his Marine Corps Engineer Association brothers.

Chuck was a consummate Marine; a true combat leader, mentor, dedicated and selfless individual. He was also a humble, thoughtful, giving man that made others very comfortable to be around.

Chuck's military career of over 20 years is an outstanding example of his versatility and capabilities; from leading a platoon of Bravo Company, 1st Engineer Battalion Marines in the Korean War in 1953, through his many other engineer assignments in the Fleet Marine Force, at Headquarters, Marine Corps and Albany to his pinnacle of assignments, commanding 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion on Okinawa during 1971. His retirement in 1974 as a Lieutenant Colonel of Marines clearly demonstrates that he was a top notch Marine Corps Officer.

When I think of Chuck, and the impact he had on my career, I think of a long line of outstanding Marines who faithfully and selflessly passed the torch of freedom and love for our Marine Corps heritage.

Chuck was a class act! We are all blessed for having him in our lives and all the positive attributes he provided.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to you Betty and the rest of your family. Thank you so much for sharing Chuck with us all these years. All of us that attended our recent reunion are very thankful that you, Chuck and Ray could attend and provide one last opportunity for all of us to see Chuck and to say goodbye in person.

May GOD bless you and heal your loss with a sense of gratitude for what we experienced and remember. Every day was a gift.

Semper Fidelis, Ken Frantz



MSgt. J.C. Lewis, USMC, Ret., was born December 31, 1920, in Irving, TX, and departed this life on May 23, 2008 at 87 years, in Dallas, TX. He spent his youth in Irving and joined the Marine Corps at age 19 and served for 20 years, retiring in 1960. During World War II he served in the Pacific Asiatic Theater and earned 4 combat stars: Guadalcanal, Southern Solomon Islands, Guam, and Iwo Jima. He also served in Korea and earned 5 combat stars: Nakton Kang River, Inchon, Seoul, Wonsan-Hungnam-Chosin, and for action in Southern and Central Korea. After his military retirement he worked in the construction industry building high rise commercial buildings for 25 years with the Operating Engineers in Dallas. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Neda Cartwright Lewis. He is survived by his wife of 27 years, Lola Sutton Lewis, sister Barbara Crudginton, brother Cliff Seiber, daughters Linda Burch and Regina Moore and husband Richard Moore, granddaughter Mandy Tyrrell, grandsons Alex Moore, John Burch, and Nathan Moore, and 5 great-grandchildren, numerous extended family and friends and his beloved dog, Boots. He fought his battles bravely and with honor. He was greatly loved and will be greatly missed. Services were held May 26, 2008, at Laurel Oaks Funeral Home Chapel in Mesquite, Texas.



Captain Richard S. (Dick) McLaughlin, 78, of Live Oak, Fla., passed away April 15, 2008, after a short illness. The Meadville native moved to Live Oak in 2004 from Lake Placid, Fla. Capt. McLaughlin was a 31-year, decorated, retired captain for the U.S. Marine Corps and served during the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam era. He was a member of First United Methodist Church in Live Oak. Dick is survived by his wife, Pat of Live Oak; five daughters, Rosanne Munt of Houston, Texas, Kathleen Driggers of Tampa, Fla., Michelle Campbell of Tampa, Leanne Yeager of Tampa, and Luran Willoughby of Savannah, Ga.; three sons, Mark of Manchester, Md., Christopher of Brandon, Fla., and Lynn Austin of Gainesville, Fla.; 18 grandchildren and a great-grandchild. The funeral was conducted at First United Methodist Church, with interment following at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, Fla.



Harry Herman William Niehoff
Sergeant of Marines
(22 March 1923 – 30 July 2008)
by Col Mike Howard US Marines Ret

Dear Jeri, Elfriede, other members of the Niehoff Family, Fellow Marines, & Friends,

Before I share what I have here in text, photos, & maps, I have to make sure I fulfill Harry's request of me made years ago in preparation for this occasion. (Presentation of cold Becks beer to USMC memorial detail).

Thank you all for coming here to Willamette National Cemetery today. This was a special place for Harry as it is for me & many of us. We don't think of it as a cemetery, but as simply where so many good friends are gathered. I think of a long line of outstanding Marines who faithfully passed the torch of freedom & love for our common Marine Corps heritage from one generation to another. I think of Cecil Key of Belleau Wood, Elmer Drake of Wake Island, Gordon Morgan of Guadalcanal, Ernie Huxel of Peleliu & Okinawa, Bert Faltyn of Iwo Jima, Tom Green, Jake Jacobson & Al Lane of the Chosin Few, & Dave Ries (faithful warrior of 6th ESB) of Iraq. I know there are many others, but these men were unique examples & cherished friends in what makes our Marine Corps special from one generation to the next. Their passing is a reminder that every day is a gift and that friendships are a unique blessing. And now Harry joins this revered list. Former Senator Bob Dole of Kansas said it so well at the dedication of the National WWII Memorial in DC: "We all rest in the shade of trees planted by those who went before us."

Jeri said she "didn't have much on Dad's military history" so would I please cover this. When I went to my history files on Harry, I realized I had several dozen pages. These were collected over many good years of sharing at the venerable family residence on Lucille Street, and at countless Marine Corps functions. I will never get over both the volume and quality of Harry's Marine Corps scrap-books, particularly his ability to locate and save an amazing variety of artifacts, photos, and documents. To me, Harry Niehoff was the consummate Marine Corps combat engineer!

Harry was born 22 March 1923. Portland was his home and he attended Franklin High School. After visiting Company F, 11th Bn USMCR (Infantry reserve unit established here in Portland in 1930) several times in 1939, he made his decision. He shared that much of his decision was based upon the positive influence of a Lloyd Lamothe, who had joined the Portland reserve unit in 1932. He took the oath as a United States Marine on 3 April 1940 in the old Recruiting Service office on the second floor of Pioneer Square Courthouse. Harry's first Commanding Officer at Oregon's original reserve unit, Co F, 11th Bn, was Albert Gordon Skelton, a distinguished WWI vet. Skelton had joined the Marine Corps out of Oregon State in 1917, and later commanded the 97th Company, 3rd Bn, 6th Marines in France, earning a Silver Star & Croix de Guerre. Harry told me several times that he & the other young Marines "thought the world" of Skelton (who was by the way, cousin of famed comedian "Red" Skelton). They looked forward to their once a week afternoon & evening drill where quiet but gentlemanly Major Skelton would occasionally share a WWI war story. Skelton, was an accomplished civil engineer who worked for the Oregon State Highway Department as a Bridge Engineer. He would retire after WWII as Oregon's first Marine Corps "General". Harry was later very sad to see this humble servant & professional Marine pass away in 1962. Harry spent most of 1940 drilling as a Marine reservist aboard the USS Oregon. He even remembered their Inspector-Instructor, Capt Lloyd E. Wagner. His company commander was John Machamer.



Company F, 11th Bn continued to grow & was redesignated as 20th Infantry Bn. The unit had an outstanding reputation for marksmanship with the Springfield 1903 30x06 and regularly participated and brought back trophies from the National Camp Perry Matches. The serial number of Harry's 1903 Springfield was # 806231. As war clouds gathered for America, 20th Bn was fully activated on 7 Nov 1940. Harry & the Bn reported to Bremerton Navy Yard where they assumed Guard Duty. In early 1941, they were shipped to Camp Elliott, San Diego, CA. As of Feb 1941, 1st Marine Division was forming on the east coast while 2nd Marine Division was forming on the west coast. Harry was assigned to Company A, 2nd Engineer Bn, 2nd MarDiv. He later smiled when he told me he was making \$36.00 a month. In Nov 1941, Harry & 2nd Engineer Bn were transferred to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, where they would remain until May 1942 completing engineer projects. Yes, they were bivouacked in tents on the parade field behind the Marine Corps Barracks when the Japanese surprise attack hit Pearl Harbor on the morning of 7 Dec 1941. Harry was armed with a BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle) and expended several magazines at low flying Jap aircraft. Later, he and his buddies posed with the wing of one enemy aircraft that had been shot down during the attack.

In July 1942, Harry and 2nd Engineer Bn, together with elements of 2nd MarDiv, were shipped toward Guadalcanal for the Marine Corps invasion, but on 15 August 1942, they were shifted to Espirito Santos for combat operations. In February 1943, they were rotated back to New Zealand where 2nd MarDiv was being refurbished for future combat ops in the Gilbert Islands. The new 18th Marines Engineer Regiment was created within 2nd MarDiv & Harry's 2nd Engineer Bn was a crucial part of this unit (18th Marines consisted of a combat engineer battalion, a landing support battalion, and a Navy SeaBee battalion). From 20-23 November 1943, 2nd Marine Division was heavily engaged in the Battle for Tarawa. The first day alone was the bloodiest day in Marine Corps history. 4,836 determined Japanese were dug in behind heavily fortified positions. The Japanese admiral defending the island boasted that Tarawa "could not be taken by a million Americans in a hundred years". Harry and his buddies of 2nd Marine Division took Tarawa in 76 hours.

We're honored to have one of Harry's closest friends with us today, who was also at Tarawa during those 76 hours of "utmost savagery": Dave Dowdakin, who was with I Co, 3/2 (3rd Bn, 2nd Marines) of 2nd MarDiv off to Harry's right flank on Red Beach 1.

Tarawa was taken at a horrible price: 991 Americans KIA, with 2,311 WIA. There were only a handful of enemy survivors.

Harry's perspective in the battle was unique as his Company A was assigned to 8th Marines infantry regiment and his platoon to an infantry battalion: 2nd Bn, 8th Marines, which was in the first wave. Harry was a corporal and landed at Red Beach 3, which was under intense enemy fire.

He was in charge of a 5 man assault team consisting of two Demo Men and two Flame Throwers. The assistant Flame Thrower operators carried a can of fuel & a shotgun.

The Demo Men carried ¼ pound blocks of TNT together with civilian dynamite. Harry told me that the humidity on Tarawa was so bad that the electrical tape for the demo wouldn't stick. Their time fuses were set extremely short at 4-5 seconds.

Pinned down behind a seawall, a Marine Lt by the name of Alexander "Sonny" Bonnyman, gathered Harry and a detachment of combat engineers and braved the enemy fire repeatedly, destroying one Japanese position after another. Harry was beside Lt Bonnyman when they made it to the roof of one of the main Japanese positions. It was here, while engaging the enemy occupants who were fleeing out the back, that Bonnyman was hit while next to Harry. For their heroic actions at Tarawa, "Sandy" Bonnyman was later awarded the Medal of Honor, posthumously. Harry earned the Silver Star and a Purple Heart for shrapnel wounds.

One of my favorite stories that Harry related to me about Tarawa was that following those 76 hours of utter hell, every Marine on the island was exhausted. Harry, the curious collector that he was, found a Japanese supply point which had taken a direct hit from Naval gunfire. Debris & broken glass was strewn everywhere, yet Harry managed to find one intact Japanese beer bottle. Retreating to a quiet spot to enjoy his coveted prize, he happened to notice his Bn XO, an officer he respected, slowly making his way from one group of Marines to another. Harry was so moved by his dedication & exhaustion, that he gave his fellow Marine the prized beer. This was Harry Niehoff, the sensitive, selfless, generous, "gentle warrior" that we all knew and loved.

America and her Marines continued their drive across the Central Pacific, into the heart of Japan's Pacific empire.

The following summer, Harry landed in the Marianas (yes Dave Dowdakin was here also). Their mission: seizure of the Japanese islands of Saipan & Tinian.

On 15 June 1944, both 2nd & 4th Marines Division's landed on Saipan. Furious fighting again presented itself in the face of 30,000 Japanese troops who knew that Saipan's airfields, together with those of neighboring Tinian, would put the Japanese homeland within striking distance of American B-29's. In fact, the 63rd anniversary of the delivery of both atomic bombs from Tinian to Hiroshima & Nagasaki is upon us.

Saipan for Harry & Dave represented one thing: the lousy, deadly mission of finding locating, closing with, and destroying a fanatical enemy. For them this was the arduous task of Marine infantry, accompanied by their combat engineers with demolitions & flamethrowers, backed by their supporting arms of mortars, tanks, artillery, air, and naval gunfire. Saipan was taken, but it had been grueling, deadly work: 3,426 Americans, mostly Marines, were KIA there.

Harry was awarded his Bronze Star on Saipan, where he and Dave also both picked up Purple Hearts, Harry his second from a Japanese grenade.

It was shortly after this that the Marine Corps bureaucracy finally realized that Harry spoke fluent German, and thus might have another unique gift to help the Corps. Dutch Marines were being trained at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and fluent German speakers were in short supply. By October 1944, Harry was on the East Coast, serving as an instructor & translator. He was still here the following year when the war ended and he was very Honorably Discharged. With his separations pay in hand, he hitch-hiked back across the US to his home in Portland & the family business.

When I wrote this down and remembered what I've read and been told by Marine veterans of Tarawa and Saipan, I'm still filled with a deep sense of awe and profound respect. What is it about the Marine Corps that transforms life loving civilians into sober warriors willing to advance into enemy fire? My Dad was a WWII Marine corporal who had joined in 1944 at the age of 17. He told me the tale of MCRD Bootcamp in WWII where the DI's reminded them in vivid terms that most of them wouldn't make it off some future enemy beach



under fire. I grew up on these stories from parents, uncles and their friends. The sacrifices and dedication influenced me heavily, particularly during a self-indulgent 1960's Baby-boomer "decade of disillusionment". This powerful Marine Corps heritage and its legacy of valor is with us today in Afghanistan and Iraq, as a future "greatest generation" takes shape. Like Harry and Dave in the early 1940's, they are so very young – average age is 22 – but what they are doing allows us to sleep safe at night, knowing that they are keeping the howling wolves of barbarism & fascism off of America's front porch.

Harry was blessed with having lived to see and realize this.

I had thanked him often for the heritage and torch of freedom and commitment that he had passed to my generation, just as we were passing it down to another. I reminded Harry of this from time to time. He would gently dismiss me with his humble shrug that they were just doing what they had to. In Dave's case, I usually get a stern warning not to single him out for any such accolades.

When Harry passed away a few nights ago, his beloved daughter Jeri and dear wife Elfrieda were at his side in Newburg.

He was completely at peace with what he had accomplished in life and what was coming as was evidenced by his humorous e-mail to many of us saying "Goodbye". It seemed very appropriate to me that his great friend Dave Dowdakin had been the last Marine to visit him just a few days before he passed away.

Harry was a class act. To me, he was our most revered Marine combat engineer.

Harry was an amazing man ... humble, hardworking, devoted to his family, friends, and particularly fellow Marines. His scrapbooks are amazing in that he documented and saved everything ... even his WWII Liberty chits from New Zealand. Curious, innovative, humorous, he blessed us all with his positive spirit and good natured outlook.

We were all blessed in knowing Harry. I'm so thankful that 6th Engineer Bn recognized him just a few years ago as its Honored USMC Birthday Ball Guest ... what he shared with our Marines that evening, as Dave Dowdakin also did recently, was a unique recollection of what our WWII Marines endured and overcame. They preserved, polished, and passed on that special "esprit de corps" to our current generation of Marines. When I deployed to Iraq and reminded Harry of this, he simply smiled and said he knew we'd "not let us old farts down".

Our thoughts and prayers go out to you Jeri, Elfrieda & the rest of the Niehoff family. Thank you so much for sharing Harry with us all these years. May God bless you and heal your loss with a sense of gratitude for what we experienced and remember. Every day was a gift.

As these Marines from Harry's memorial detail later toast this outstanding Sergeant of Marines with their unique gift of his fine German beer, let us also count our blessings in having known and loved him. Semper Fidelis, Harry!



Major Michael J. O'Mahoney, USMC Ret., 57, of Jupiter, FL, passed away on November 3, 2008 of natural causes.

He was born Nov. 2, 1951 in Summit, NJ to Joseph V. and Rose E. O'Mahoney. Michael was a long-time resident of Summit and was a 1969 graduate of Summit High School. He attended Jacksonville University and subsequently graduated from Kean College with a degree in Psychology. Michael was commissioned as an officer in the United States Marine Corps in 1973 and received an honorable discharge after more than 20 years of active service. He served as an Engineer Officer and Logistics Officer on countless Marine Corps expeditionary and combat operations. In honor of his service, Michael was the recipient of numerous medals and commendations. Michael was a loving father, accomplished officer, and a true gentleman who will be missed by all who knew him. He is survived by his two children, Mary Angeline and Michael Joseph Vincent O'Mahoney, and by his former wife, Rosina O'Mahoney, all of Jacksonville, FL. He is also survived by his mother, Rose O'Mahoney of Hobe Sound, FL and 4 brothers and 6 six sisters.

Mike joined our Engineer brotherhood in its infancy in July of '91. He was elected as our MCEA 1st Vice President in 1991 while assigned as the Camp Lejeune Base Maintenance Ops Off. He continued to support our association after retirement. He had just celebrated his 57th birthday on 2 November.



Lt. Col. Joseph H. Peagler, United States Marine Corps (Ret.), age 55 of Boise, Idaho, died suddenly near Wickenburg, Ariz. on Nov. 29, 2008. He is survived by his parents, Jack and Mary Anne Peagler of Oak Ridge, Tenn.; sons Zachary and wife Shana Peagler of Birmingham, Ala., Matthew Peagler, Capt. Alfred Butler IV and wife Kylie, and Nickalos Butler and wife Kerry, all of Jacksonville, N.C.; grandchildren Lalah Anne Peagler, Molly and Quinn Butler. Joe was passionate about veterans' issues, ski patrol and Idaho Special Olympics. A memorial service was held at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Boise, Idaho on Dec. 5th. Burial, with full military honors, was in the Veterans Cemetery in Boise, Idaho.

Joe Peagler was killed while driving his motorcycle. He had been on an extended trip and was heading home. Joe was only 55! I last talked to Joe several years ago and he told me how busy he was, but he'd try to join us at one of our reunions. Sadly, that never happened. Joe's Marine Corps career spanned over 20 years (1975-1994) with assignments in 3rd Combat Engr Bn; C Co Cdr, 2d Combat; MAU Engr 24/26 MAU (Beirut); Spt Co Cdr, 2d Combat Engr; 4th MAB Engr; Minefield Maint Off Gtmo; Div Engr, 2d MarDiv; and Bn Cdr, 2d Combat Engr Battalion.



I had the privilege to work with Joe for many years and he was a consummate Marine! Those of you who also served with him, knew him as "landmine" and he had earned that title the hard way!



CWO 2 Joe Read, USMC (Ret) passed away on February 9, 2008 at 9:36 a.m. There was a military service at the Biloxi National Cemetery (Biloxi, MS) on Feb. 29th. Joe was 4 months away from celebrating his 80th birthday. He served with the 1st Engrs, D Co in the Korean War; was an instructor at Engr School between 56'58, then with 2d Pioneer Bn as the Demo Range instructor & later 3rd Engr Bn 66-67 in Vietnam.



MGySgt Carl Scheer was one of our Association's original members & would have celebrated his 80th birthday on 25 Jan 2008. He enlisted in '48 and initially served with the Infantry as a driver, then tours with Bridgeport, Calif, 7th Engrs, 1st MAW in Japan & Vietnam, 6th ESB in South Bend, 2d FSSG in Vietnam, 2d Maw, 8th ESB & 3rd FSSG, retiring April '81.



GySgt. William Sheppard, 70, of Jacksonville, NC. Died 13 Jan. 2008 at home. Burial was at Coastal Carolina State Veterans Cemetery. Survivors include his wife, Veda Sheppard, daughters Portia Davis, Andrea Sheppard, Adryanne Brown and Denise Sheppard, all of Jacksonville; sons, Michael Davis of Raleigh, Steven Sheppard of Jacksonville, William Sheppard of Atlantic City, NJ, and Dennis Sheppard of Fort Lauderdale, FL.

GySgt Sheppard was a continuous MCEA member since July 1991.



Robert J. Tompkins Sr., 64, of Morganton, NC, died Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008, at his residence. Born Nov. 28, 1943, in Dutchess County, N.Y., he was a son of Teresa Victoria Spealing Tompkins of Morganton and the late Hilton Eugene Tompkins. He was a U.S. Marine Corps Vietnam veteran and was a member of Bethel United Methodist Church on Bethel Road. In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by a brother, Elmer Tompkins. Surviving, in addition to his mother, are his wife, Carol Lasher Tompkins, of the home; a son, Robert J. Tompkins Jr., and his wife, Karen, of Highland, NY; a granddaughter, Danille, of Highland, NY; a number of nieces; and his faithful canine companion, Snoopy. The funeral was held in the Colonial Chapel of Sossoman Funeral Home. Burial was in the New Paltz Rural Cemetery, New Paltz, N.Y.



Our thanks to Duel and Pam Jeans for their assistance in obtaining some of the above obituaries. It's my goal to create a book as well as a website page, which contains the obituary, memoirs, pics and articles about each and every one of our deceased members. If you have information to provide on any of our members listed on our Honor Roll, please provide to Frantz.

When you lose a friend you have an overpowering desire to go back home and yell in everybody's ear, "This guy was killed fighting for you." Don't forget-ever. Keep him in mind when you wake up in the morning, and when you go to bed at night. Don't think of him as a statistic which changes 38,788 casualties to 38,789. Think of him as a guy who wanted to live every bit as much as you do. Don't let him be just one of "Our Brave Boys" from the old home town, to whom a marble monument is erected in a city park, and a civic-minded lady calls the newspaper ten years later, and wants to know why that "unsightly stone" isn't removed."

Bill Mauldin, from his book Up Front (1944)

Accept that you are totally, absolutely, 100 percent responsible for what's going on in your life – for where you've been, for where you are, and for where you're going.

— Roger Dawson, motivational speaker



BURY ME WITH SOLDIERS

I've played a lot of roles in life,
I've met a lot of men.
I've done some things I'd like to think,
I wouldn't do again.
And though I'm young, I'm old enough,
To know someday I'll die,
And think about what lies beyond,
Beside whom I would lie.

Perhaps it doesn't matter much,
Still, if I had my choice,
I'd want a grave amongst soldiers when,
At last death quells my voice,
I'm sick of the hypocrisy,
Of lectures by the wise,
I'll take the man, with all his flaws,
Who goes, though scared, and dies.

The troops I know are commonplace,
They didn't want the war,
They fought because their fathers and
Their fathers had before.
They cursed and killed and wept-
God knows, they're easy to deride,
But bury me with men like these,
They faced the guns and died.

It's funny, when you think about it,
The way we got along,
We'd come from different worlds,
To live in one no one belongs,
I didn't even like them all,
I'm sure they'd all agree,
Yet, I would give my life for them,
I hope some did for me.

So bury me with soldiers, please,
Though much maligned they be,
Yes, bury me with soldiers, for
I miss their company.
We'll not soon see their like again,
We've had our fill of war.
But bury me with men like them,
Till someone else does more.

Author - Rev. Charles Fink



A Marine's Last Will and Testament

Author Unknown
Courtesy of Jack Wing

I, an old Mud Marine, being of sound mind, do hereby create this Marine Codicil to my Last Will and Testament, through which I bequeathed all my worldly goods and possessions to those beloved of me in Life. This Marine Codicil is to pass on the intangible gifts I received as a Marine, which were beyond the price men put upon worldly possessions.

I have attested to being of "Sound Mind." That may be challenged by those who think that all Marines are crazy. We have enjoyed and magnified that reputation, of course, to bemuse our friends and intimidate our Enemies. As a Navy Psychologist once told me, "The trouble with treating Marines is that if you cure them, they can't be Marines!" But ours are really the soundest of minds, for the life of our free society depends on Warriors. If you do away with us, our civilization commits suicide, surely the ultimate mark of insanity. If there comes a day when there is no longer a Marine Corps, the American Idea will die soon after.

To all my Marine brothers and sisters, now and in generations to Come, I leave the legacy of our Corps, stretching back to November 10, 1775. It was bequeathed to me by generations of Marines who served before me, who "grew gray in war," and who gave me those priceless traditions "such as Regiments hand down forever." I have tried in my small way to add to its Strength and burnish its luster. Go you and do the same.

To those Marines I served with, I leave my rich stock of Sea Stories, a few of which are even true, that you may embellish them and pass Them on to other Marines, to awed members of our sister services and, Sanitized for language, to civilians. I also leave you the gratitude of a Brother, for you stood by me, cared for me in trouble, and inspired me with your deeds. The poet Alan Seegar, who was KIA in France on July 4, 1916, Said it well, "Comrades, you cannot think how thin and blue, look the Leftovers of mankind that rest, now that the cream has been skimmed off in You."

To my Marine DIs, I leave a debt unpaid. The discipline and pride you instilled in me guided me long after I had to shed the uniform for the Last time. Thanks to what you did in a few short months, I have had a great Life. I've tried to make you proud of me every day and to pay a bit on that Debt through my service to my country and my fellow Marines, both in the Corps and in civilian life afterwards.

To my family I leave a few old photos, a few mementos and a service to country in which I hope you take pride as I have. However they serve, I Hope future generations of our family find something larger than self to Serve, worthy of their time and commitment. There is no happiness in serving the ever-greedy god of self, the root of our world's troubles.

To our nation's elected leaders, I leave the Core Values of our Corps; Honor, Courage, Commitment. Imagine if candidates for public office adopted our values as a campaign platform. Imagine candidates with the Honor to tell people the truth and to not trade their support on issues for Campaign contributions or personal perks. Imagine elected officials with the Courage to do what was right for the next generation, rather than what was Popular to win cheap votes for the next election? Imagine office holders With the Commitment to serve selflessly, live austere, and do the right Regardless of personal cost?

And to the Republic, the country I love, I leave my service. It was little enough payment on the debt every American owes her for the freedoms we have, for the life we live and for the opportunities we and our loved Ones have received in this land. When people thank me for my service, I say, "It was a privilege to wear the uniform of the Republic and to earn the Title Marine."

I must go now, but I leave my country a new generation of Marines, Standing watch out on the lines, putting their bone and blood between the Barbarians and our free people, the few guarding the many with their lives.

God grant it may ever be so.



OUR BYLAWS STATE:

ARTICLE XI- FELLOWS

The MCEA recognizes the importance of its members, partners and stakeholders who are a valuable and sustaining element of the Association. The MCEA is prepared to recognize these organizations and individuals by establishing a Fellows category to acknowledge their contributions in support of the Association and/or its Foundation, special fund/assistance programs. As a tax exempt, Non Profit organization under the IRS Code section 501c (19), tax exempt donations to support the MCEA will be solicited from a wide range of potential donors, to include members, organizations, numerous charitable organizations, and individuals. Contributors, who make significant donations, one time or cumulatively, will be recognized by "Fellows" status and be so recognized both at the annual reunion/Awards Banquet and on the MCEA website. Fellows' categories include Platinum (\$5000 or more); Gold (\$1000 to 4999); Silver (\$500 to \$999) and Bronze (\$250 to \$499).

GOLD

ANDERSON, VIRGIL (VET)
BAE CORPORATION
CATERPILLAR CORPORATION
FORCE PROTECTION INDUSTRIES
FRANTZ, KEN COL USMC (RET)
HARRIS-INMAN, TERRY LTCOL USMC (RET)
KALMAR RT CENTER,LLC
MARAPOTI, JIM COL USMC (RET)
SOCEITY OF AMERICAN MILITARY ENGINEERS
TEREX CORPORATION

BRONZE

DeGENNARO, ANTHONY A. CAPT USMC (RET)
QUEEN, WAYNE A. MGYSGT USMC (RET)
RODEBAUGH, ROBERT MSGT USMC (RET)
SHORTER, JAMES SSGT USMC

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO MCEA (FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GENERAL FUND) OR MCEA ASSISTANCE FUND & MAIL TO: MCEA PO BOX 322 ASHVILLE, NY 14710



Business Meeting Minutes & Updates

MARINE CORPS ENGINEER ASSOCIATION Update of Significant issues 24 July 2008

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. Assistance Fund:** Jim Marapoti, AF Chairman, reports that we've received two applications that the Assistance Fund Committee is reviewing and their recommendation for funding is forthcoming. Current balance in the AF is: \$9701.67. Marapoti for action.
- 2. Awards Board:** Steve Easterday resigned his position as 2d VP due to job requirements and therefore was unable to complete the Awards Board SOP. The Executive Committee reviewed & modified the SOP and it is currently being used by 35 of our members to evaluate the 96 individual and 8 unit nominees. Board convened via email on 21 July. Once all results are in, Frantz will total all rankings which will determine the winner in each category and provide to HQMC for their action in publishing the MarAdmin. Frantz for action.
- 3. Membership:** Currently have 1116 members on our rolls. 602 or 54% are dues current; 169 are deceased and remaining have expired dues.
- 4. Historian:** Our Historian, Herb Renner resigned due to his brother's medical concerns demanding Herb's time. Frantz & Marapoti continue to work the Library material. George Carlson, Kevin Coy, Phil Martin & Mike McCarthy have volunteered to work on the history of specific units.
- 5. Combat Casualties:** Spreadsheet is updated & posted to our website; latest version was included in our recent Newsletter. Currently have 658 names on the list. The previous recommendation was to ensure that the unit commanders have all the information necessary to pass to the Marine, Sailor or the next of kin about how MCEA can assist them. Marapoti states we still have to work around the Privacy Act restrictions. Marapoti to draft the documents for review prior to disseminating to the units.
- 6. SSgt William Callahan Memorial Award:** No change; Frantz passed the recommendation to rename the EOD tech award to reflect SSgt William Callahan's name to Mike Boyd at HQMC. BGen Reist has been presented the recommendation. Mike Boyd states that the proliferation of naming awards is a challenge & a slow process since the CMC must approve the name. The MLG CGs are supportive. MCEA will continue to use the naming process in the interim. Mike Boyd for action.
- 7. Corporate Members:** Frantz states we recruited 32 prospects last year & 1 joined. We've joined 3 new Corporate members since 1 Jan '08 & currently have 9 corporate members.
- 8. 2008 Reunion:** As mentioned above, Col Steve Easterday USMCR (Ret) resigned and Frantz took over the detailed planning. Event will be 15-17 Oct in Oceanside, Calif; Contract has been signed with the Guesthouse Inn for billeting; reservations made for the Flying Bridge Restaurant for Wed night social and Thursday morning business mtg and the S. Mesa SNCO club for the Thursday night Awards Banquet. The request for all military support has been submitted to MCB Camp Pendleton for coordination. 62 have RSVP'd to attend. Frantz is waiting on final costs from Restaurant and SNCO club as well as tour director. Once those are received, all those who have RSVP'd will be notified of actual costs. Frantz for action.
- 9. 2009 Annual reunion in Las Vegas:** Frantz has taken over detailed planning since Herb Renner stepped down. Working with Military Reunion Planning rep to obtain best prices and support. Frantz & Exec Committee for Action.
- 10. 2010 Annual Reunion:** Contract has been signed to use the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Old Town Alexandria, Va during the period of 20-25 Oct 2010. Formal requests were sent to other USMC Engr associations as well as the USN-USMC EOD assn inviting them to co-locate with MCEA during this "engineer gathering". To date, the Bulk Fuel Assn has met and agreed to join us. 9th Engr Assn decided to have a cruise in May 2010 and the EOD assn will continue to meet with their active duty Navy EOD groups. Awaiting replies from the 7th Engr Assn and the 11th Engr Assn. Frantz for action.
- 11. Bylaw changes:** Proposed changes were disseminated via email 12 Feb '08 and included in the printed newsletter. No non-concurs were received by the deadline, therefore all changes took effect 15 June 2008. **Action complete.**
- 12. Fellows Program:** Treasurer, George Carlson, reports total contributions to GF & AF of \$14,594. Lastest members to qualify as Fellows are: Captain Tony DeGennaro; Master Gunnery Sergeant Wayne Queen; and Master Sergeant Robert Rodebaugh. Personalized name tags were mailed July 08. **Action complete.**



13. Marine Corps Engineer School/ECOE:. No change; Frantz working with MCES on MCEA graduation certificate in addition to displaying MCEA pictures/articles throughout CHB. Frantz for action.

14. Return of TD 18/24 to Courthouse Bay: No change; Marapoti reports still have to overcome challenges to get the National Museum to release the TD 18. MCES has agreed to build the pad & structure. McCarthy volunteered as POC for any potential support needed from Caterpillar. Marapoti for action.

15. Annual Financial Review: Rudge completed review of 1 July-31 Dec 07 financial records on 27 May 2008. **Action complete.**

16. Newsletter: Published mid May for total cost of \$2,329.27 which included editing & printing 300 copies & postage for the 235 that were mailed. **Action complete.**

NEW BUSINESS

1. Marine Corps Association: We've coordinated with MCA to obtain discounted membership benefits for our MCEA members. Additionally, we paid \$967 for advertizing in both the Gazette and Leatherneck. Intent is to do this once a year. Frantz for action.

2. Unit Trophies: The Executive Committee agreed it's more economical & simpler to have the trophies permanently displayed at the Engineer Center of Excellence vice shipping them around the world each year. The units will be presented a plaque to retain vice the rotating trophy. The units were requested to send the trophies to JTC Awards in Jacksonville, NC and Marapoti will work on the design of the new CEB trophy as well as the repair of the others and then turn them over to the ECOE. Marapoti for action.

MARINE CORPS ENGINEER ASSOCIATION ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING 16 OCT 2008

0816: President Frantz leads attendees in Pledge of Allegiance. 40 in attendance

Prayer offered by Paul Reynolds

Briefings provided by: Mike Boyd-HQMC; Col Steve Heesacker-MCES/ECOE; Andy Blenkle-MHT, Engr return to Vietnam; Dr. Bob Wolff-Society of American Military Engineers; Kurt Kleinow-Caterpillar; Dave Peacock-KALMAR RT.

1130: Treasurer's Report: MCEA continues to be financially sound. With the support and concurrence of the Exec Committee, we have made several changes that have significantly improved our financial stewardship.

- A. Financial records have been migrated to "Microsoft Money".
- B. The President/Secretary has taken over many responsibilities of the Exec Dir
- C. Treasurer responsibilities for both the General Fund and the Assistance Fund have been consolidated under the Assn Treasurer.
- D. Modified our fiscal year to match the calendar year
- E. Instituted accounting for our fixed assets
- F. Consolidated our financial accounts in MFCU
- G. Placed significant amounts of our liquid capital in accounts paying higher interest than simple checking or passbook savings.

While the financial reports only show nine months of 2008, our best conservative estimate is that 2008 will end with a total increase in equity of approximately \$6,750 (\$5,300 in the GF and \$1,450 in the AF). The split would shift if the membership votes to transfer funds from the GF to the AF as it has done in prior years. The combined equity of MCEA should finish the year close to \$42,000.

Handouts available for: Exec Summary comparison of year ending 30 Sept 07 to year ending 30 Sept 08; Comparisons of 3 quarters of '08 to '07; Balance sheet as of 30 Sept '07; Income and Expense Statement for 1 Jan- 30 Sept '08.

30 Sept '08 Equity	GF-\$36,333	AF-\$9,905	Total-\$46,238
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OLD BUSINESS:

1. Assistance Fund: Jim Marapoti, AF Chairman, reports many groups available for scholarships for Next of kin and disabled military. At the 2004 annual business meeting, there was lengthy discussion regarding growing an endowment, but won't be able to accomplish that without significant money raising events which will require support from our membership. There was no consensus as to continuing to pursue an endowment. Based on limited feedback from those in attendance, Marapoti recommends we not pursue raffles or other fund raising events since we have only the AF and Exec committee doing all the work. Frantz stated that major obstacle continues to be Privacy Act in trying to identify active/reserve Marines who have been injured or killed. Dave Franklin stated that 1st MarDiv Assn



separated their scholarship into a 501 c (3). Jim Murphy reminded us that banks and financial institutions are good sources for financial support.

Conclusions:

- \$100K endowment looks very difficult to attain (\$10K raised since 2006)
- Scholarships for NOK/Med Retired Marines – programs already in place.
- Medical Assistance for cosmetic surgeries – much in place: some holes in support to family.
- Probably best to focus AF on cash-in-kind to “most in need”
- Stay the course with 501 (c) 19 – Veterans Org
- Raise money as best we can w/ongoing solicitation efforts

No further Assistance Fund actions will be taken until the AF guidelines are agreed upon by the Assistance Fund Committee and Executive Committee. Assistance Fund Committee for action.

2. Awards Board: Board convened via email on 21 July with 34 members. 107 ind & unit awards reviewed; Results submitted to HQMC on 29 July. Good feedback which will be incorporated into our SOP. Action complete.

3. Membership:	Sept 2005	Oct 2008
Dues current:	264	638
Dues expired:	565	340
Deceased:	87	173
TOTAL:	916	1151

4. Historian: Our Historian, Herb Renner resigned due to his brother’s medical concerns demanding Herb’s time. Frantz & Marapoti continue to work the Library material. George Carlson, Kevin Coy, Phil Martin & Mike McCarthy have volunteered to work on the history of specific units. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

5. Combat Casualties: Spreadsheet is updated & posted to our website; latest version was included in our Annual Newsletter. Currently have 659 names on the list. The previous recommendation was to ensure that the unit commanders have all the information necessary to pass to the Marine, Sailor or the next of kin about how MCEA can assist them. Marapoti states we still have to work around the Privacy Act restrictions and already have feedback that efforts to reach/stay in contact with NOK and Medically Retired Marines – remains problematical. Marapoti to draft the documents for review prior to disseminating to the units.

6. SSgt William Callahan Memorial Award: No change; Frantz passed the recommendation to rename the EOD tech award to reflect SSgt William Callahan’s name to Mike Boyd at HQMC. BGen Reist has been presented the recommendation. Mike Boyd states that the proliferation of naming awards is a challenge & a slow process since the CMC must approve the name. Over 100 EOD techs have died. Consider naming all awards after Engineer Medal of Honor recipients. MCEA will continue to use the naming process in the interim. Mike Boyd for action.

7. Corporate Members: Frantz states we recruited 32 prospects last year & 1 joined. We’ve joined 3 new Corporate members since 1 Jan ’08 & currently have 9 corporate members.

8. 2008 Reunion: 161 in attendance. Limited facilities available in Oceanside; none which could support billeting, reception, biz meeting and banquet. AAR will be completed to include all the financials. Frantz & Carlson for action.

9. 2009 Annual reunion in Las Vegas: Frantz has taken over detailed planning since Herb Renner stepped down. Have contract with Bolder Stn, but received additional submission from Golden Nugget that we’ll consider. Dates are set for 12-16 Oct. Frantz & Exec Committee for Action.

10. 2010 Annual Reunion: Contract has been signed to use the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Old Town Alexandria, Va during the period of 20-25 Oct 2010. Formal requests were sent to other USMC Engr associations as well as the USN-USMC EOD assn inviting them to co-locate with MCEA during this “engineer gathering”. To date, the Bulk Fuel Assn has met and agreed to join us. 9th Engr Assn decided to have a cruise in May 2010 and the EOD assn will continue to meet with their active duty Navy EOD groups. 7th Engr Assn is scheduled for west coast and still need to hear from the 11th Engr Assn. Frantz for action.

11. Marine Corps Engineer School/ECOE: Frantz working with ECOE to display MCEA pictures/articles throughout CHB. ECOE supports display of plaques in BB 28. Frantz for action.

12. Return of TD 18 to Courthouse Bay: No change; Marapoti reports still have to overcome challenges to get the National Museum to release the TD 18. MCES has agreed to build the pad & structure and supports efforts to obtain the TD 18. McCarthy volunteered as POC for any potential support needed from Caterpillar. Jim Murphy recommends we refer to this as a “symbol”, not historical item. Marapoti for action.

13. Fellows Program: Virgil Anderson is our newest member to become a Fellow.



NEW BUSINESS

1. **Marine Corps Association:** We've coordinated with MCA to obtain discounted membership benefits for our MCEA members. Additionally, we paid \$967 for advertizing in both the Gazette and Leatherneck. Intent is to do this once a year. Frantz for action.
2. **Unit Trophies:** The Executive Committee agreed it's more economical & simpler to have the trophies permanently displayed at the Engineer Center of Excellence vice shipping them around the world each year. The units will be presented a plaque to retain vice the rotating trophy. The units sent the trophies to JTC Awards in Jacksonville, NC and Marapoti will work on the design of the new CEB trophy as well as the repair of the others and then turn them over to the ECOE. Marapoti for action.
3. **Honor Roll;** Frantz read the following names into the record of members who have died since last year's report. MGYSgt Carl Scheer; Bob Tompkins, Sr; Mike Brown; CWO 2 Joe Read; LtCol Dave Anderson; Jim "Lancer" Bardin; Harry Niehoff; Capt Richard McLaughlin; Maj Joe Compton, Jr; MSgt J.C. Lewis
4. **Associate Directors;** currently have 7; received annual reports from Judy Coy; Phil Martin and Gene Spanos.
5. **Chapters:** Members of the 11th Engineer Association held a mini reunion in Chicago in August and agreed to pursue the establishment of a MCEA chapter. Members have been solicited and if enough are interested in forming the chapter and stand for election as Officers, and comply with the MCEA Bylaws, the Exec Comm will review the request.
6. **2011 reunion;** rotationally we should be back on the west coast. Frantz had proposed to 7th Engr Assn that we could change our schedule to a mid-west location if they would agree to co-locate with MCEA. The topic was discussed at their Sept meeting but not voted on. Branson mentioned as possible location. Frantz for action.
7. **New website:** Frantz working over a year on new website which will be interactive, allowing members to upload articles, pictures, have forums and a "members' only" section. This will provide opportunity for more contact without Frantz having to receive/send the multitude of emails. Frantz for action.

Next meeting on call of the President.

With no other business to discuss, George Wuerch made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Jim Murphy.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ken Frantz
President/Secretary

MARINE CORPS ENGINEER ASSOCIATION UPDATE 1 Feb 2009

Treasurer's Report: As of 31 Dec 2008:

TOTAL ASSETS: GENERAL FUND=\$40,239.19; ASSISTANCE FUND=\$10,086.44

MCEA TOTAL = \$50,325.63

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Assistance Fund:** On 22 Jan 09, a conference call was conducted with members of the AF committee and the Exec Committee to finalize the AF Guidelines. Jim Marapoti has emailed the results of that meeting to the committee members for final review, approval and implementation. Once those actions are complete, we'll update the Education and Financial Applications; contribution Form; AF article and our website. Assistance Fund Committee for action.
2. **Membership Status:**

Dues current:	635
Dues expired:	337
Deceased:	178
TOTAL:	1150
3. **Historian:** No one filling the billet; we need everyone's assistance to continue our progress.
4. **Combat Casualties:** Spreadsheet is updated & posted to our website. Currently have 659 names on the list. The previous recommendation was to ensure that the unit commanders have all the information necessary to pass to the Marine, Sailor or the next of kin about how MCEA can assist them. Marapoti states we still have to work around the Privacy Act restrictions and already have feedback those efforts to reach/stay in contact with NOK and Medically Retired Marines – remains problematical. Marapoti to draft the documents for review prior to disseminating to the units.



5. **SSgt William Callahan Memorial Award:** Frantz passed the recommendation to rename the EOD tech award to reflect SSgt William Callahan's name to Mike Boyd at HQMC. BGen Reist has been presented the recommendation. Mike Boyd states that the proliferation of naming awards is a challenge & a slow process since the CMC must approve the name. 47 EOD techs have died since the field was created; 21 have been killed in OEF/OIF. Consider naming all awards after Engineer Medal of Honor recipients. MCEA will continue to use the naming process in the interim. This recommendation is being included in the review of the MCEA awards Marine Corps Order. Mike Boyd for action.
6. **Corporate Members:** Currently have 10 corporate members and working on two potentials. Frantz for action.
7. **2008 Reunion:** 161 in attendance. AAR completed. Net loss of \$246.41 which is better than the projected \$741.50 loss. Action complete.
8. **2009 Annual reunion in Las Vegas:** Golden Nugget will be the location. Dates are set for 12-16 Oct. Room rates are: \$59/night for Oct 11-15 and \$99 for Oct 9 & 10, 16-18. Details are on the website and will be included in the newsletter. Frantz for Action.
9. **2010 Annual Reunion:** Contract has been signed with the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Old Town Alexandria, VA during the period of 20-25 Oct 2010. Formal requests were sent to other USMC Engr associations as well as the USN-USMC EOD assn inviting them to co-locate with MCEA during this "engineer gathering". To date, the Bulk Fuel Assn has met and agreed to join us. 9th Engr Assn decided to have a cruise in May 2010 and the EOD assn will continue to meet with their active duty Navy EOD groups. 7th Engr Assn is scheduled for west coast and still need to hear from the 11th Engr Assn. Frantz for action.
10. **Marine Corps Engineer School/ECOE:** Frantz working with ECOE to display MCEA pictures/articles throughout CHB. ECOE supports display of plaques in BB 28. Frantz for action.
11. **Return of TD 18 to Courthouse Bay:** No change; Marapoti reports still have to overcome challenges to get the National Museum to release the TD 18. MCES has agreed to build the pad & structure and supports efforts to obtain the TD 18, as long as no "climate controlled space" or extensive maintenance required. McCarthy volunteered as POC for any potential support needed from Caterpillar. Jim Murphy recommends we refer to this as a "symbol", not historical item. Marapoti for action.
12. **Fellows Program:** BAE, Terex, Force Protection, KalMarRT, and S.A.M.E. are our newest members to qualify as MCEA Fellows.
13. **Marine Corps Association:** We've coordinated with MCA to obtain discounted membership benefits for our MCEA members. Additionally, we paid \$967 for advertizing in both the Gazette and Leatherneck. Intent is to do this once a year. Frantz for action.
14. **Unit Trophies:** The Executive Committee agreed it's more economical & simpler to have the trophies permanently displayed at the Engineer Center of Excellence vice shipping them around the world each year. The units will be presented a plaque to retain vice the rotating trophy. The units sent the trophies to JTC Awards in Jacksonville, NC and Marapoti will work on the design of the new CEB trophy as well as the repair of the others and then turn them over to the ECOE. Marapoti for action.
15. **Honor Roll:** Since our last meeting, the following MCEA members have passed away: Major Mike O'Mahoney; LtCol Chuck Gibson; LtCol Joe Peagler; Capt Jim Echols; GySgt Bill Sheppard.
16. **Associate Directors:** currently have 6 with the resignation of Gene Spanos.
17. **Chapters:** There has been insufficient interest from members of the 11th Engineers to organize and activate a MCEA chapter. Action complete.
18. **2011 reunion:** Rotationally, we should be back on the west coast. Frantz had proposed to 7th Engr Assn that we could change our schedule to a mid-west location if they would agree to co-locate with MCEA. The topic was discussed at their Sept meeting but not voted on. Branson mentioned as possible location. Frantz for action.
19. **New website:** Activated 24 November 2008. New site allows members to upload articles, pictures, participate in forums and a "members' only" section. This will provide opportunity for more contact without Frantz having to receive/send the multitude of emails. Associate Director Judy Coy has scanned all of the MCEA photographs into electronic format and they have been loaded to the website. Additionally, all of the electronic articles that we've accumulated will also be loaded to the site. Frantz for action.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **2008 Dues Expiration:** 197 members had dues expire 31 Dec 2008. 97 have renewed, 11 asked to be dropped from our rolls and one is deceased. That leaves 88 who have been notified via email, letters and phone calls. Frantz for action.



2. CY 2008 closeout and 2009 budget: CY 2008 General Fund + Assistance Fund Income = \$ \$30,783.59 – Expenses of \$15,709.50
= Net increase in Equity of **\$15,074.09**

CY 2009 Budget: Income of \$27,950 minus expenses of \$17,775 equals anticipated Net increase in equity of **\$10,175**

3. 2009 elections of Officers: LtCol George Carlson, USMC (Ret) has agreed to continue as Treasurer. Frantz will solicit all members for volunteers to serve on the Executive Committee.

4. 2009 Awards: MarAdmin released 28 Jan. Due date for all awards to be submitted is 30 April 2009. That's 2 months earlier than in years past and will give us more time to ensure we have complete packages and activate our electronic awards board. Frantz for action.

5. 2009 Newsletter: Frantz is consolidating all the information now. Any additional input must be received no later than 20 Feb, so we can provide to the editor/printer in March and publish early April. Frantz for action.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ken Frantz
President/Secretary

CORPORATE MEMBERS

OUR MARINE CORPS ENGINEER ASSOCIATION WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR GENUINE APPRECIATION TO THE FOLLOWING CORPORATE MEMBERS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT OF OUR ENGINEER BROTHERHOOD.

BAE SYSTEMS

REPRESENTATIVE: DAVE TEBO, PROGRAM MGR, COMBAT ENGINEER SYSTEMS
SPONSOR OF CBT ENGR BN TROPHY

CATERPILLAR INC. DEFENSE & FEDERAL PRODUCTS

ACCOUNT MANAGER: KURT KLEINOW
SPONSOR OF ENGR SPT BN TROPHY

TEREX CORPORATION

REPRESENTATIVE: TOM MANLEY, VICE PRESIDENT GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS
SPONSOR OF NAVAL CONSTRUCTION FORCE UNIT AWARD

FORCE PROTECTION INDUSTRIES, INC

REPRESENTATIVE: TOMMY PRUITT, SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
SPONSOR OF COMBAT ENGINEER AND EOD AWARD CATEGORIES

KALMAR RT CENTER

REPRESENTATIVE: DAVE PEACOCK, EXEC VP, MILITARY PRODUCTS & SUPPLY
SPONSOR OF ENGINEER EQUIPMENT AWARDS CATEGORY

ALLIED CONTAINER SYSTEMS

JAMES ODOM, PRESIDENT; SUSAN HORSFALL, CEO

MECO

PEARSON ENGINEERING

REPRESENTATIVE: LEW SYKES, MILITARY SALES REP.

TACTICAL & SURVIVAL SPECIALTIES INC

BILL STRANG, PRESIDENT/CEO

TUG HILL CONSTRUCTION

REPRESENTATIVE: GINNY MACCALLUM, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



Financial Report

Our gifted, highly motivated and learned Treasurer, LtCol George Carlson, USMC (Ret) has completed his financial report for CY 2008. As you can see by the below stats, we had another good year financially, thanks in large part to the \$10K dues and contributions of our Corporate Members.

	GENERAL FUND	ASSISTANCE FUND	TOTAL
TOTAL INCOME	\$29,514.28	\$1,269.31	\$30,783.59
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$15,709.50	\$ 0	\$15,709.50
TOTAL ASSETS	\$40,239.19	\$10,086.44	\$50,325.63
INCREASE IN EQUITY	\$13,804.78	\$1,269.31	\$15,074.09

For those that paid dues or made contributions this year, please note:

Review of the direct benefits provided to members in 2008 compared to the total dues paid makes 74% of dues paid in 2008 a donation for income tax purposes and is deductible based on each individual's tax circumstances. If you made a contribution to MCEA General Fund or Assistance Fund, 100% of that donation is tax deductible.

If you'd like more details about our finances, contact George Carlson.

An Open Letter to My Brothers in MCEA

MCEA isn't "in trouble" but it is headed for a "train wreck." MCEA, like our beloved Corps, survives on leadership. The leadership of MCEA is: a) shrinking and b) aging. Right now, 90+% of the work to keep MCEA functioning is being performed by two people and essentially 100% of the work is being done by four. I am happy to do what I am doing, and am willing to continue as long as the good Lord sees fit to let me. I'm quite sure the same holds true for Ken. Jim, Hank, Geoff, Judy and Phil are the only other people with any ongoing involvement at all.



Now I know there are some of you that are willing, but simply unable to help. This message isn't directed at you. This is directed at those of you who, up to this point, can only be described as able, but unwilling. Now I know that sounds a bit harsh, but I am very sure that IF you decide MCEA is important to you, you can find time to help in some way. As a favorite Deacon friend of mine said, "If you want to know what is important to you, look at your day-timer and your checkbook." If you really feel MCEA is important, but the only entries you can find are your annual dues payment and perhaps the Reunion ... well, you be the judge.

Right now, MCEA is operating at least three officers short of what is prescribed in the By-laws. Those are the most important (and yes, the most time-demanding, but hardly overwhelming) positions. But MCEA, like any volunteer organization, should and is able to make use of any and all volunteers – just right now, we don't seem to have any. None of your present officers (or those few who have volunteered for periodic projects) are without other commitments and demands. We all have jobs, spouses, aging parents, grown children and grandchildren and they all have needs for our time.

The only thing required is a willingness to devote some time, either on a recurring basis or to a project. And don't be scared off by the term, "project." Many of the things we have do not have hard deadlines. The ONLY real requirement is a bit (a very little bit) of computer savvy – enough to keep in touch by e-mail and perhaps use a word processor.

So, brothers and sisters, my challenge to you is: IF you want MCEA to continue and flourish, THEN step up and volunteer. Just contact Ken (the President/Secretary/ Webmaster/Ships Store Clerk) and let him know how you can assist our Engineer Brotherhood using the below list.

God bless and Semper Fidelis,
George Carlson
Treasurer, MCEA

Ken, yes, I am willing to help keep MCEA functioning and growing by:

- () Spending about ____ hours per week on a fairly regular basis;
- () Taking on a periodic task;
- () Taking on a project with a specific start and end.
- () Filling an Executive Committee billet



2008 Reunion

Since 1998, the Association has coordinated with Headquarters, Marine Corps to conduct the Annual Awards Program which recognizes the Active and Reserve Marine Corps engineers, EOD personnel and USMC and Navy engineer units.

Our latest Reunion and Awards Banquet was held in Oceanside CA. and aboard Camp Pendleton, 15-18 October, 2008. Award recipients and their family members came from all over the world to receive their justly deserved recognition from the 130 in attendance at the Banquet. We had a total of 150 attend the 3 day event. We're extremely pleased that 5 of our 10 Corporate Members were able to attend and receive their recognition and plaques. Our 10 great sponsors contributed over \$10,000 in dues, award sponsorships and contributions during CY 2008!

We want to offer our special thanks to LtCol George Carlson, USMC (Ret) and his wife Mikki, LtCol. Brad Foore, USMC (Ret) and Marine Corps Engineer Vet, A.J. Howard and his wife Leslie for all of the support and your efforts to make this an outstanding reunion and awards banquet. The MCEA banner displayed on the front cover was displayed in front of our Oceanside Hotel and was designed and obtained by Brad Foore at his personal expense. Thanks very much Brad!

A very special thanks as well, to Dr. Bob Wolff, the Executive Director of the Society of American Military Engineer Assn. for graciously paying the banquet fees for all of our award recipients and guest. This is the 1st year S.A.M.E. has been a member and supporter of our engineer brotherhood and we look forward to a long and enjoyable relationship.

Our thanks also to Candy at the Flying Bridge restaurant, Mona at the Guesthouse Inn, Katie at the S. Mesa SNCO Club, Leslie at the Chamber of Commerce, Sgt Knight at ComRel, and Mr Randall for the bus coordination. The enclosed photos provided by A.J. Howard and Ray Gibson.

Special thanks to Sgt Maj Green of Hq & Spt Bn for the Color Guard at the awards banquet. On Friday, we toured Camp Pendleton and owe a big Bravo Zulu to the Marines of 1st Combat Engr Bn, 7th Engr Spt Bn and Marine Wing Support Squadron 372 for all their efforts in preparing the equipment displays and taking the time to educate us on the multitude of new engineer equipment that our Marines are using to win the Global War on Terrorism.

And we certainly very much appreciate Maj Gen Waldhauser taking the time he did to make all of us Leathernecks feel so welcomed and honoring us as our Banquet Guest of Honor.

2008 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Combat Engineer Field

Officer	1 st LT George Saenz	2d CEB, Camp Lejeune, NC
Staff NCO	SSgt John King	1 st CEB, Camp Pendleton, CA
NCO	Sgt Nathan Uttech	3 rd CAB, Okinawa, Japan
Marine	LCpl Edgar Diaz	8 th ESB, Camp Lejeune, NC

Engineer Equipment Field

Officer	CWO 3 John Kyler	2d CEB, Camp Lejeune, NC
Staff NCO	GySgt Armando Quintanilla	1 st CEB, Camp Pendleton, CA
NCO	Sgt James Young	9 th ESB, Okinawa, Japan
Marine	LCpl Matthew Clanton	2d CEB, Camp Lejeune, NC

Utilities Field

Officer	CWO 2 Marcos Jaime	MWSS 272, MCAS New River, NC
Staff NCO	GySgt Paul Wilcox	MWSS 272, MCAS New River, NC
NCO	Sgt Charles Trainer	9 th Comm Bn, Camp Pendleton, CA
Marine	LCpl Michael Stillfried	9 th Comm Bn, Camp Pendleton, CA



Bulk Fuel Field

Officer CWO 3 Michael Neill
Staff NCO SSgt Jason Sargent
NCO Sgt Dwaine Carlino
Marine LCpl Andrew Pals

9th ESB, Okinawa, Japan
9th ESB, Okinawa, Japan
8th ESB, Camp Lejeune, NC
9th ESB, Okinawa, Japan

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Field

Officer Warrant Officer Eduardo Quiroz

8th ESB, Camp Lejeune, NC

SSgt William Callahan Memorial EOD Tech Award
Sgt Jeffrey Kadis

MWSS 373, MCAS Miramar, CA

UNITS

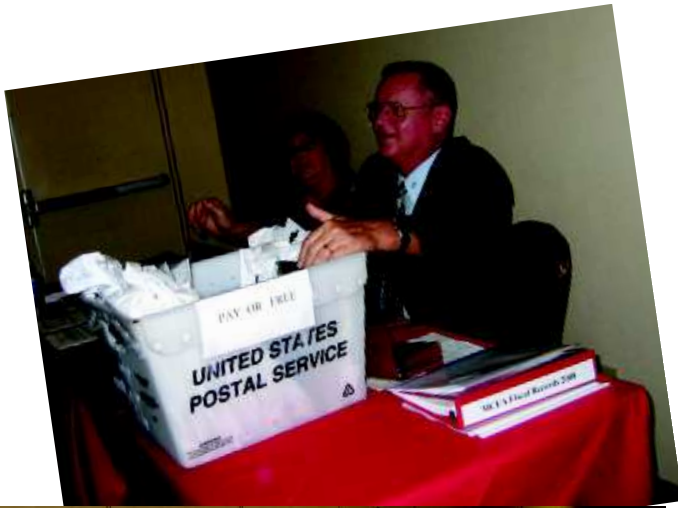
Combat Engineer Battalion
Engineer Support Battalion
Marine Wing Support Squadron
Engineer Company
Naval Construction Force Unit

1st CEB, Camp Pendleton, CA
8th ESB, Camp Lejeune, NC
MWSS 271, Cherry Point, NC

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 28
Shreveport, LA



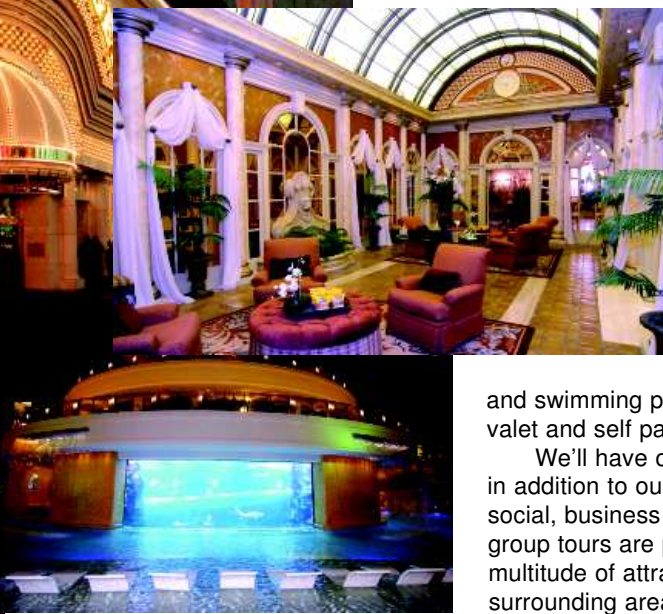








2009 Reunion



Our 2009 reunion and awards banquet will be held in Las Vegas, NV 12-16 October, 2009.

The Golden Nugget hotel has 1907 rooms, including 102 suites; 46,000 square feet of casino space and over 20,000 square feet of meeting space. It is the most luxurious hotel and casino on the Fremont Street

Experience. Just 8 miles from McCarran airport and minutes from the Strip, the Golden Nugget has recently completed a \$100 million renovation including rooms, suites, meeting spaces, banquet rooms, new restaurants and a spectacular pool with a 200,000 gallon shark aquarium!

There are 5 restaurants, including a buffet, casino, wedding chapel, spa, shops, fitness center, business center

and swimming pool, along with complimentary valet and self parking

We'll have our own 24 hour hospitality room, in addition to our normal reception/registration social, business meeting and awards banquet. No group tours are planned at this time due to the multitude of attractions in the immediate and surrounding area. Tour information will be provided at a later date and in the registration packets.

Check out all there is to know about Las Vegas at: www.visitlasvegas.com

Find out more about the Golden Nugget at: www.goldennugget.com

2009 REUNION SCHEDULE

13 OCT, TUES: 1800- 2100 REGISTRATION & WELCOME ABOARD SOCIAL; MEDIUM HORS D'OEUVRES; BUSINESS CASUAL ATTIRE

14 OCT, WED: 0800-1300 BUSINESS MEETING & BRIEFINGS; COFFEE/JUICE/ROLLS/FRUIT; BUSINESS CASUAL ATTIRE

1300 - 1800 OPEN TIME

1800 – COCKTAIL HOUR, SVC A UNIFORM; COAT & TIE /EVENING ATTIRE FOR THE LADIES

1900 – BANQUET BUFFET & AWARDS

15 Oct, THURS: Open time for individual tours

GROUP RATES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE GOLDEN NUGGET HOTEL, LAS VEGAS; PHONE #: 800-634-3454. IDENTIFY YOU ARE ATTENDING THE MARINE CORPS ENGINEER ASSOCIATION REUNION. RATES ARE: \$59 PER NIGHT FOR 11-15 OCT (SUN-THURS) AND \$99 FOR 9, 10, 16 & 17 OCT. PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY RESERVATIONS MADE THROUGH A 3RD PARTY, SUCH AS A TRAVEL AGENT, OR WEBSITE LIKE EXPEDIA, WILL NOT BE EXTENDED THE LOWER RATE.

NOT ONLY HAVE WE OBTAINED GREAT ROOM RATES, BUT EACH ATTENDEE WILL RECEIVE A COUPON BOOK WORTH \$250!

WE WILL HAVE A HOSPITALITY SUITE AVAILABLE BEGINNING MONDAY, 12 OCT.

ALL OF THE ABOVE ACTIVITIES WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE GOLDEN NUGGET; SPECIFIC ROOMS WILL BE DESIGNATED AT A LATER DATE.

When you're not winning in the casino, lounging by the pool or savoring delicious cuisine, you'll find that Las Vegas has a variety of must-see attractions and entertainment options to keep you and the whole family occupied. From thrilling roller coasters to virtual-reality simulator rides and erupting volcanoes to wax museums, Las Vegas' attractions appeal to people of all ages, interests and budgets.

Discover the wild side of Las Vegas (as if you haven't already) at a variety of attractions for animal lovers. Visit the **Flamingo Wildlife Habitat** at **The Flamingo Hotel** and see Chilean flamingos, swans, ducks, koi, goldfish and turtles. Venture over to **The Mirage** for the **Siegfried & Roy's Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat**. The Secret Garden is home to royal white tigers, white lions, black panthers, a snow leopard, and golden tigers. The Dolphin Habitat, adjacent to the Secret Garden, houses an extended family of Atlantic



bottlenose dolphins. At **MGM Grand**, see **The Lion Habitat**, a showcase for public education and appreciation of this majestic creature. The lions live in custom accommodations on an 8.5-acre ranch 12 miles from MGM Grand and visit the habitat daily. Get up close and personal with endangered and unusual aquatic animals at **Mandalay Bay's Shark Reef**. Visitors journey through a replica of an ancient temple ruin and a sunken galleon ship surrounded by several varieties of sharks.

If you're looking for thrills of a different nature, Las Vegas offers all of the excitement you're looking for. **Stratosphere** has three of the world's highest rides located 100 stories above the ground: **Xscream** (which teeters riders over the edge of the tower 900 feet above the ground), the **Big Shot** - a thrill ride that shoots fun-lovers 50 meters into the air at a force of 4G's before letting them free-fall back to the launching pad - and **Insanity**, an appropriately named, dizzying spinning ride that dangles passengers over the edge of the tower before whirling them around at speeds approaching 40 miles per hour. **Speed - The Ride** at the **Sahara** takes passengers around a roller coaster loop and up a 224-foot climb at speeds topping 70 mph and then retraces the same path...in reverse. **The Roller Coaster** at **New York-New York Hotel & Casino** is an exciting roller coaster with twists, loops and dives around the resort. It features the first-ever heart line roll, which provides a sensation similar to that felt by a pilot during a barrel roll in an airplane. **The Desperado**, one of the world's tallest and fastest roller coasters, is located near the California/Nevada border just 30 minutes from Las Vegas at Buffalo Bill's in Primm, Nevada. The ride begins with an initial lift height of 209 feet and a breathtaking 225-foot drop. America's largest indoor theme park, the **Adventuredome at Circus Circus**, offers 21 rides and attractions.

For the romantic in you, slow things down a bit with a **Gondola Ride** at **The Venetian**. Accompanied by singing gondoliers, this leisurely tour takes you along the quarter-mile replica of the Grand Canal in Venice. Just down the street, you'll discover another romantic Italian attraction at **Bellagio**. The world-famous **Fountains of Bellagio** will speak to your heart as opera, classical and whimsical musical selections are carefully choreographed with the movements of 1,000 water-emitting devices. Next stop: Paris. Take an elevator ride to the observation deck atop the 50-story replica of the **Eiffel Tower** at **Paris Las Vegas** for a panoramic view of the Las Vegas Valley.

If you simply want to be entertained, you've come to the right place. Las Vegas offers a variety of themed mini-productions, which occur regularly throughout the day. Travel back in time and into the fascinating world of Roman mythology with two shows, **Fall of Atlantis** and **Festival Fountain Shows**, which feature Roman statues that come to life, inside the **Forum Shops at Caesars**. At **The Rio All-Suite Hotel and Casino**, the newly reinvented "**Show in the Sky**" features dancers in costume fashions on floats suspended above the crowd. Three different performances include sexy and seductive "scenes" coordinated to today's top music hits. The Mirage has joined forces with legendary Grateful Dead drummer Mickey Hart, Indian music sensation Zakir Hussein, and the Fountains of Bellagio design firm WET to create an all-new audio/visual spectacle for its famous **volcano** attraction. WET forges a primal volcanic environment of sound, light, music and heat with choreographed FireShooters, which send massive fireballs more than 12 feet into the air. The volcano attraction features a state-of-the-art sound system with music and sound specially created by Hart and Hussein. Downtown's famous, casino-lined **Fremont Street** has been converted into a 175,700-square-foot pedestrian area covered by a continuous canopy studded with more than 14 million lights. Called the **Fremont Street Experience**, this canopy showcases spectacular light-and-sound shows every hour on the hour during the evenings.

If your Las Vegas dream vacation involves fast cars and celebrity sightings, you'll have plenty to brag about to your friends back home. Check out the multi-million-dollar **Auto Collections at Imperial Palace**, one of the world's largest selections of antique, classic, muscle and special-interest automobiles available for sale. The 250 automobiles span a century and range in price from \$20,000 to \$3 million. Then, check out **Penske-Wynn Ferrari/Maserati showroom at Wynn Las Vegas**, Nevada's first and only factory-authorized Ferrari and Maserati dealership, offering the finest in new and pre-owned cars. Or, visit the Strip's first **Lamborghini** dealership at The Palazzo. After you've chosen your dream car, you'll be ready to meet and greet some of the most famous celebrities in the world at **Madame Tussauds Wax Museum**. Located at **The Venetian**, the museum showcases more than 100 wax figures of some of the world's most popular film, television, music and sports celebrities. Visitors can even interact with several of its "celebrity" experiences for a truly memorable photo opportunity.

The Third Marine Division Association will hold its annual family reunion August 25-30, 2009 in San Antonio, Texas, at the El Tropicano Riverwalk hotel. Anyone who served in, was attached to, or served in support of the Third Marine Division at any time since it was formed on September 16, 1942 is eligible and cordially invited to attend.

For membership and reunion information, contact: Jeffrey Dement, 23830 W. Ottawa St., Plainfield, IL 60544, 815-436-3783; email: jeffdement@aol.com or visit the Third Marine Division website at: www.caltrap.com.

7th Engineer Battalion Vietnam Veterans Association 2009 Reunion Announcement

The 2009 Reunion will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, Thursday, September 17th -- with check-out on Sunday, September 20th.

To make reservations at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, please call (703) 683-6000. Code is 7th Engineering Battalion. Room rate will be \$115 per night with free parking.

For more information, go to the 7th Engineer web site: <http://www.usmc.org/7th>. Brochure with more details will be mailed in April.



Memoirs

A Special Picture of 2 Wilkinson Marines 2 Different Generations WITH their Dress Blues

August 3, 2008



Before Josh left for Camp Lejeune on August 4th and his Marine Combat Training, I (Beth) very badly wanted a picture of our two Marines in their dress blues. Before leaving on July 6th for our trip South, I told Roy this and was thrilled to see that he had his dress blues out and hanging on a door ready to put on! I asked if they still fit and, much to my amazement, he said that they did. (This was very surprising as the last time he wore them [for a parade in 1977], they were a tight fit. I assumed he had tried them on.)

Following his graduation from Marine Boot Camp at Parris Island on July 25th, Josh had spent much of his week of leave in NH with his family and arrived back at our house about 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 3rd with his mother. He said he was going out to get his dress blues and would be back shortly. As he had to fly out of Albany at 6 a.m. the following day, his time was very limited as he still had to pack, etc.

Shortly after they left, I made a phone call. Suddenly I heard a voice behind me: "Quick I need help!" There stood Roy with one arm at his side in the sleeve of his dress blues jacket and the other arm up in the air partially in the sleeve. He said: "You had better call Josh quick and tell him not to bother to come out. I can't get this on and I can't get it off!" I told him: "I want that picture somehow! We will work something out."

At first it seemed like we could lay the jacket on Roy and hold it with the belt. WRONG! The belt had been shortened at some time and wouldn't go around. We soon discovered that laying the jacket on him meant the belt buckle sagged. I tried to pin the belt to the jacket, but the webbing was too thick and I couldn't get large, safety pins through it! Roy had the brilliant idea of stuffing it with a pillow. That worked! (Oops- a little bit of the pillow is visible in the

pictures!)

Josh arrived and Roy helped him assemble his new dress blues. Shortly, Alan also arrived (fortunately!). With Alan's help, I got my picture!! I laid the jacket on Roy and he held it with his white-gloved hands. He wore his cover (hat). But what to do about the trousers which he couldn't get on either? That is where Alan helped – he stood behind his father and held the trousers up by putting his hands in the pockets! To be sure that the red stripe showed (an important item as Josh can't wear the red stripe until he is a Corporal), I used a clothespin to fold the pant leg over just enough so that it would show on one side.

The result was hilarious – BUT I GOT MY PICTURE!! What a great memory we will always have of these few special minutes. Jon, Ashlee and Jake stopped in and got in on the belly laughs we were having. Josh did his share of laughing, but his Boot Camp Training came through as he looked very serious in the pictures.



7th Separate Bulk Fuel Company By MSgt. Phil Martin, USMC (Ret)

FEBRUARY 2009

I was on the support staff for the main recruiting station in South Charleston, West Virginia when I received orders to report to the 7th Separate Bulk Fuel Company, 5th Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, California. So in September 1966 I loaded up my 1960 six-cylinder blue Biscayne Chevrolet with my wife, first born son, and my wife's 19-year-old brother, rented a U-Haul trailer to put the junk in and started looking for the primary road to the west - route 66. We couldn't even spell "interstate highway" at that day and time.



My first and last trip west was unique for a West Virginia boy. A plague of crickets had hit Oklahoma and they were all over the restaurant we stopped at. We drove through deserts, mountains, prairies, flat lands, and stopped at an Indian village and a buffalo ranch. I still have a picture of my 3-year-old son mounted on a buffalo and standing in front of a totem pole. We stayed overnight in Las Vegas on Labor Day where I spent one whole nickel on a slot machine. Texaco gas stations had the audacity to charge 31 cents a gallon for gasoline – at least a dime more than us good ole boys were used to paying.

When we hit the Los Angeles area I never saw so many cars in my life. Multiple traffic lanes and they were all full and going at breakneck speed. We rented a very small trailer in Oceanside, very close to the 101 Club or some such name and we could hear the music without even opening our door.

When I checked in at the company there were less than two dozen marines who had already reported in so I was one of the first. I then learned that I was the administrative chief for a company that was going to Vietnam. Up to this point I had only guessed the ultimate destination was going to be Vietnam. Administrative chief? I had never worked in company administration for a minute during my initial seven years in the Corps and they expected me, a 25-year-old high school dropout, to carry a 360-man Vietnam bound unit!

But it turned out to be one of the best experiences of my life. First Sergeant John P. Rose was my mentor. This man knew Marine Corps administration like the back of his hand. In response to the hundreds of questions I hit him with he was the expert. He told me to look it up and tell him what I thought was right! Sometimes he would even tell me the specific Marine Corps directive but most of the time he just directed me to the index. What a lesson I learned!

I was blessed with three clerks who also knew absolutely nothing about company administration. Stephen Eades, Daniel Stapley, and Allen Arthur were good learners and gave me all the support I could ask for. LCpl Arthur was an OCS voluntary dropout. He decided that a three-year obligation was better than whatever the officer candidate requirement was.

Arthur made the wrong choice. During one of our nightly patrols he was shot with a 12-gauge shotgun by one of his fellow patrol members. After establishing an ambush position, Arthur decided to stand up and change his position. On that moonlit night he was taken for a Viet Cong and a fellow West Virginia shot him. When the squad leader went to gather his troops he found Arthur slumped over at his position. The medevac was too late.

The initial company commander was Capt Eugene J. Driscoll and the XO was LT James Beatty. Driscoll was not liked by anyone, including his XO and first sergeant. He was relieved of command in Vietnam and rumor was he went bonkers. Beatty took over as the CO at some point in Vietnam and Capt John Holt, another West Virginian, took over as commander for a short while before he rotated back to the states. There was also a major who was the commander for part of the tour but I can't recall his name even though I have a picture of him, me, and several others taken just as he was being readied for tossing into the lake at one of our beer busts. But Beatty was the best and most likable of any officer I had the pleasure of serving with during my entire Marine Corps life. John Holt was a close second.

Back at Pendleton we spent six weeks of lock on training in preparation for Vietnam. My senior drill instructor at Parris Island was now a second lieutenant and the adjutant for the 5th Marine Division. Tom Truax also followed us to Vietnam where he was the adjutant for the Force Logistics Command but by now he was a major – never got away from calling him “sir.”

We embarked on the USNS Gen E L Tinge at San Diego in December 1966 for our trip. I believe we about 360 men strong. We even took some of the men over in the ship's brig. Private Graves was a hard one to keep from going AWOL. I don't recall the others but there were about five of them and the first sergeant said they were on bread and water rations.

This was my first trip aboard a seagoing vessel and it was full of seasick Marines, cold water, and hot cramped sleeping quarters. We had to sidestep the vomit in the chow line. I think I had about six inches clearance between my body and the bunk above me. One small blessing – my bunk had a small air vent in a pipe that gave me plenty of fresh air at night.

We stopped in Okinawa on Christmas eve and got a few hours liberty. I never saw so many lights in my life. This was like Las Vegas with double the wattage. Towards the end of the liberty all we could see were MP's taking people in.

When we pulled in to Danang harbor it was like I imagine an ocean cruise would be like. The water was clear and calm, There were several ships scattered around. And there was NO gunfire. What kind of war was this? First Sergeant Rose was pissed. He had been in during the Korean conflict and this one was different. He had been hoping to hit the beach. But the disembarking was just about as smooth as it could possibly be.

Initially we set up at Red Beach but some of the platoons went to Chu Lai, Dong Ha, Phu Bai, and Marble Mountain. A few of the men were assigned to directly work with the villagers – I don't recall the term.

After a month or so at Red Beach, our HQ section moved out to an ammo dump just outside Danang and close to the POW camp. Sergeant Stewart (Stuart) was a good ole boy from Tennessee and his tour was just about up. Us sergeants had our own separate building here and our own Vietnamese boy who washed our clothes and shined our boots for a couple of bucks a month. From this location we could see and hear the airplanes landing and taking off from the Danang airstrip.

Our unit designation was changed at least two times while we were there. Although we retained the “7th Separate Bulk Fuel Company” designation we had a (-) and (rein) added to it plus we were changed to FLC and 1st Marine Division as I recall.

After a month or so here we moved into our own compound just across from that POW camp and a Marine dog platoon. I'd like to say the name of the compound but I've already forgotten it even though someone reminded me of the name about five years ago. At this site we had guard stations with bunkers all around the perimeter and they were manned nightly. We were also directly in line with rockets that were fired at the air strip from “Happy Valley.” We could hear them cruising through the overhead air on their frequent missions. Scary!

There were quite a number of us who were billeted here. All the cooks, drivers, heavy equipment operators, bulk fuel people although some worked at other sites most of them came back here to sleep.

Towards the end of our tour it got so bad we even had “junk-on-the-bunk” and wall locker inspections for corporals and below. As an afterthought it was probably a search for drugs. We had our own enlisted club with cold beer and live bands on occasion. Of course the juke box was full of those George Jones, Merle Haggard songs. Charlie Pride was the newest sensation in country music. It was my lot to write home and tell my wife that Charlie Pride was black! Not many of us knew it even after hearing some of his songs. Most of the boys had those reel-to-reel tape players and they were loaded with Stevie Wonder and Bob Dylan music. At that time we could take some blank tapes over to the R&R center near the PX and they would copy any songs we asked for. “They Call me Mellow Yellow.”



And we even had hot meals and cold milk in our mess hall.

More than one enlisted man was hauled in front of the CO for getting caught in one of the villages while visiting those young ladies of the evening. And we also had our share of VD cases.

One evening before the patrol left for their nightly tour one of the sergeants – the squad leader for that night – was handling his automatic weapon when his finger strayed to the trigger area. The roof was sprayed with several shots before he removed his finger.

Sergeant Clyde Lewis was a tall, thin black man who was forever telling all of us that he wanted to go back to Jacksonville, North Carolina where his family now lived.

First Sergeant Rose started coming over to our sergeants' quarters at night after the staff NCO club closed. I had bought a guitar over there – this one had pink tuning pegs and once you got it tuned you had to tighten up the screws with a screwdriver to keep the strings from slipping. Nothing would do but I had to play him some George Jones and Buck Owens tunes till he passed out. Then a couple of the guys would carry him over to his bunk.

To the best of my knowledge we only lost about three men out of our entire company. One was my clerk and I believe the other two were killed when their truck ran over a mine.

We all returned home via commercial airline. I landed in Pittsburgh on Christmas eve 2007. No buses out until the next morning. I was fortunate enough to get a rental car and drove down through Wheeling and down beside the Ohio river all the way to Pennsboro, West Virginia where I surprised the family – one of the best trips I ever made.

My reward – my next duty assignment was with the Inspector-Instructor Staff for a Marine Reserve unit in Raleigh, North Carolina!

12 December 2008

I would like an application for MCEA for my youngest son who recently graduated from Combat Engineer Instruction Company at Marine Corps Engineer School and is now at his first duty station which is 8th Engineer Support Bn. Strangely enough, 8th Engineers was also my 1st duty station before going to "Nam and serving with 9th Engineers, Shore Party Bn, 1st Engineer Bn and then finally leaving with the 3rd MAB in 1971.

My father was trained at Quantico, VA during the Korean War as a Marine Combat Engineer. I was trained at Court House Bay in heavy junk as an operator and while serving with A Co, 1st Engineer Bn, in Vietnam, I became a combat Engineer and now one of my two sons is also a United States Marine Corps Combat Engineer; 3 straight generations of Marine Corps Combat Engineers-3 wars. Some might say the Claytor family really loves this Country and the Corps-Hey we truly do!. The love of our Country and serving in its military go clear back to Col. Andrew Steelman of the New Jersey militia during the Revolutionary war. He died on Long Beach Island, New Jersey.

Semper Fidelis,
Thomas Claytor, Sr.

CAN ANYBODY BEAT TOM'S FAMILY RECORD OF 3 GENERATIONS OF COMBAT ENGINEERS?

19 December 2008

Just a few lines to say hello and to thank you for all your efforts on behalf of my old Company "B", 5th Engineer Bn's recent reunion at Quantico. I was sorry not to have been there.

Joe Flynn forwarded to me your letter, greetings and certificate from our Marine Corps Engineer Association. It was an honor to be so recognized. Those great days of yesteryear are long past but the memories are still clearly here with us today. I was always proud to a Marine Corps Engineer Officer and to know that we engineers contributed a great deal to the successful completion of many battles, campaigns and other missions of World War II and those leading up to the present day. Much of this now resides on the pages of our Marine Corps history but we were there as it was being made.

Thanks again and my very best wishes to all Marine Corps Engineers wherever they may be.

Semper Fidelis,
John. F. Mentzer
Col, USMC (Ret)

COL MENTZER IS A LIFE MEMBER OF OUR MARINE CORPS ENGINEER ASSOCIATION. SEE THE PICTURES AND ARTICLE REGARDING THE REUNION IN THE ENGINEERS IN ACTION SECTION.



COL MENTZER AND DESTINY VANDE BURGT FEB 2008





UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE WING SUPPORT SQUADRON 271

MARINE WING SUPPORT GROUP 27

PSC BOX 8078

CHERRY POINT, NC 28533-8078

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1650

CO

NOV 06 2008

From: Commanding Officer, Marine Wing Support Squadron 271

To: President, Marine Corps Engineer Association

Subj: LETTER OF APPRECIATION

1. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for Marine Corps Engineer Association's recognition of Marine Wing Support Squadron 271 as the MWSS Engineer Company of the Year. We are truly honored by the nomination and award!

2. Although the award recognizes the Engineer Company for their efforts, it was a Squadron wide action and all the Marines in the unit are worthy of this award and provided direct contributions to our success. Like a Combat Engineer Battalion or an Engineer Support Battalion the Squadron has engineers and other support specialties present in other companies. Our Airfield Operations Company, Motor Transportation Company and Headquarters and Service Company complimented our Engineer Company in completing our tasks. In short, I was proud to be our command representative present at the banquet and accept the award on the Squadron's behalf.

3. Thank you very much for the membership card, pin, decal and outstanding plaque. They will all be displayed proudly. MCEA has a great reputation and I am blessed to have met some great Marine Corps Engineers!


J. J. JOHNSON



Engineers in Action

12 February 2009

From the Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Engineer School:



As we move smartly into the New Year, our engineer community is as busy as ever. As our Commandant has publicly advocated, planning to begin the drawdown from OIF and shift focus to OEF is ongoing. The varied terrain, absence of paved roads, and IED threat in Afghanistan make our Combat Engineer Battalions, Engineer Support Battalions, and Marine Wing Support Squadrons essential combat enablers that will be front and center of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force efforts. Fortunately, our ranks are brimming with combat experienced Marines of all ranks and MOSs. Our expeditionary engineer skills will be put to the test due to the absence of infrastructure and contractor support.

The school and center of excellence are working hard to *enable the enablers*. We have been coordinating with various other headquarters in trying to get IED-Defeat robots fielded to our Combat Engineer Battalions with the capabilities needed to attack this threat. The goal is to provide commanders with mobility options when Explosive Ordnance Disposal Techs are not readily available to deal with the IEDs encountered on the battlefield. Similarly, we have been training engineer units of all types on Route Clearance and Reconnaissance equipment and techniques. This is in addition to the IED-Defeat training we've been providing to Marines from all units deploying to OIF or OEF.

We are also involved in several detailed studies. One is a look at whether or not it makes sense to consolidate or co-locate the Marine Corps Engineer School with the U.S. Army Engineer School at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. This subject comes up every few years and I have advocated for a study to hopefully settle the issue once and for all. To be sure, there are economies of scale to be gained by sharing training resources with another service and we send Marines to several joint schools for MOS training. That said, it is not as simple as saying a Marine Combat Engineer is the same as an Army Combat Engineer – there are significant differences. I believe a good analysis would point this out.

We are also involved in a study on the roles and missions of engineers compared to Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Technicians. This is primarily related to defeating IEDs on the battle-field. This study is sponsored by the Deputy Commandant of the Marine Corps for Installations and Logistics. In addition to roles and missions, the study will attempt to determine what the best organizational fit is for our EOD units.

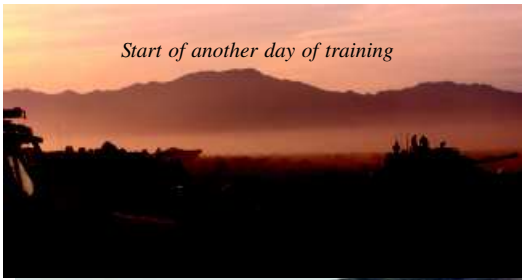
At Courthouse Bay, we are experiencing our annual surge of students. This is our normal peak population period as we receive the throughput from the large number of recruits who begin basic training in the late summer, then attend Marine Combat Training before showing up at their MOS producing school. During this period, we have more students on board than we can fit in classrooms. This causes challenges in keeping these Marines occupied until we can get them in training.

As always, the Engineer School appreciates the support of the MCEA and we hope to continue the close and mutually supportive relationship.

Semper Fi,
Col Heesacker



1ST COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION



Start of another day of training



ABV Breaching Minefields



1st CEB Class



ABV about to blow line charge

2d COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION

Currently, Company A, 2d Combat Engineer Battalion is providing support for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. 2nd Platoon (A2) and Route Clearance Platoon are attached to 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines in Afghanistan, 1st Platoon (A1), Support Platoon and the Company HQ are in Iraq supporting 2nd Battalion 9th Marines and Regimental Combat Team – Six respectively. The spectrum of our missions is as wide as the distance between our units, but we have answered the call as engineers and led the way.

We discovered late in our pre-deployment training that we would be losing our Route Clearance Platoon (RCP) to support 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines and later 3/8 in Afghanistan. RCP became the first platoon in our company to deploy in late August. Upon arrival, they quickly discovered the equipment assigned to them was both antiquated and in desperate need of repair. Initially RCP was allotted three MEERKATs, an older model of mine detecting vehicle that is no longer produced. RCP did an exceptional job of piecing together the three vehicles to make one vehicle operational. Fortunately, RCP now has the newer mine detecting vehicle, HUSKY, and is busy supporting 3/8 throughout its area of operation. They have discovered numerous improvised explosive devices (IEDs) during the conduct of their missions; the discovery of these IEDs has undoubtedly saved lives and improved the mobility of the battalion.

A1, attached to 2/9, has played a large role in the demilitarization of numerous Entry Control Points and Combat Outposts throughout Ar Ramadi, Iraq. In particular, their heavy equipment operators have reduced berms and moved miles of concrete barriers in the effort to return to normalcy the lives of Ramadi citizens. A1 has improved the force protection posture of many of the battalion's fixed sites by ensuring that obstacles were covered by fire and that gaps in the defense were corrected. Additionally, A1 has performed cache sweep missions that have unearthed thousands of pounds of explosives hidden by the enemy. Their efforts have been instrumental in leading the battalion from operational over watch to strategic over watch, where the Iraqi Army and Police have the lead in the security of their country.

Support Platoon and the Company HQ have supported Regimental Combat Team – One and Six throughout Area of Operation East. From cache sweeps to counter-vegetation missions, Support Platoon has done it all while providing equipment and personnel to the combat engineer platoons for the execution of their tasks. In particular, Support Platoon conducted cache sweep missions with the Special Operations Task Force Navy Seals leading to the discovery of numerous explosive remnants of war and provided Marines for the construction of two HESCO berthing superstructures that house a company of Marines. With the reduction of contracted civilian support for camp operations, Support Platoon has completed numerous tasks for Camp Ramadi's and Camp Baharia's Mayor Cell. These projects have included force protection measures and improvements to morale, welfare, and recreation facilities.

A2 was also tapped to go to Afghanistan with 3/8. From arrival, 3/8 has been actively engaged with a resurgent enemy. A2's Marines have been at the forefront of the battalion providing mobility through route and cache sweep missions. The Marines of A2 have discovered numerous IEDs which directly led to saved lives. Tragically, after discovering five IEDs while supporting a route sweep mission on 27 January 2009, a sixth IED claimed the lives of two of our best Combat Engineers: Sgt David Wallace and Sgt Trevor Johnson. These were engineers of the highest caliber who will be sorely missed by family, friends and colleagues.

Company A, 2d CEB is nearing the end of its deployment. We will go home with heavy hearts from the loss of our Marines but we are steadied by the knowledge that Sergeants Johnson and Wallace would want us to carry on. Engineers lead the way!

W. D. CROMER



4TH CEB Marines in Every Clime and Place

2009 is set to be a busy, challenging year for the Marines and sailors of 4TH Combat Engineer Battalion, 4TH MARDIV. The battalion will not only continue to prepare reinforced engineer platoons for deployment in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, but also support a variety of Annual Training (AT) deployments across four continents.

In February the Battalion welcomed home a platoon from Delta Company (Knoxville, TN) following completion of a 7-month



CWO-4 Walsh of B Co (far left, bottom row) is currently serving with TF-Pladin, Afghanistan's joint, coalition counter-IED unit. He's expected to return to the states this spring.

deployment in support of the 1st Bn, 2D Marines in the al Anbar province. During this deployment the platoon improved on the security gains made by the infantry companies they supported, working to strengthen basic fortification and conducting quality life improvements which made life in the desert just a little more bearable for those they supported.

As Tennessee welcomes home their own, Virginia is about to send out a platoon from Lynchburg. Charlie Company's 1ST Platoon has been training with 2D Bn, 23D Marines in the desert of 29 Palms since November in preparation for a spring deployment. When these Marines return in the fall, their place in Iraq will be taken by a platoon from Alpha Company out of Charleston West Virginia. These Marines and sailors head to Camp Lejeune this summer for their pre-mobilization training.

In addition to a continuing focus on preparing for Iraq, the Battalion will soon embark on an ambitious summer training plan. The Battalion Staff out of Baltimore Maryland deploys in May to

Morocco for participation in Exercise AFRICAN LION. A regularly scheduled, combined U.S.-Moroccan military exercise, AFRICAN LION is designed to promote interoperability and mutual understanding of each nation's tactics, techniques and procedures as well as foster relationships. The 4th CEB staff will operate as a notional regimental headquarters during the Command Post portion of the exercise. Prior deployment the Battalion will host several Moroccan Army officers in Baltimore for planning in Baltimore during March.

The first of the Engineer Companies' annual training exercises begin in March when Delta Company's Marines deploy to the Dominican Republic to conduct military construction projects in support of the Dominican Armed Forces. Delta Company will rotate three engineer detachments from March through May and will receive invaluable training and experience along way.

The following month Alpha Company will deploy to Honduras in order to participate in a BEYOND THE HORIZON humanitarian exercise. The platoon expects to work on numerous horizontal construction projects to improve local living conditions and foster goodwill between our two countries. Last year, Bravo Company from Roanoke Virginia participated in a similar BEYOND THE HORIZONS project in Honduras, constructing a new school designed to accommodate physically disabled children.

Later this summer, Charlie Company will deploy to Australia and participate in Exercise TALISMAN SABER with III MEF. The company will operate jointly with the Australian Army as OPFOR in this annual PACOM amphibious exercise focused on transitioning from warfighting into peacekeeping and other post conflict missions.

Also in June and July, Engineer Support Company, based out of Baltimore, will head to the Southwestern part of the states to participate in road construction projects to facilitate JTF-North operations in the New Mexico area. The company will conduct engineering tasks such as road and culvert repair to improve existing Border Patrol access roads.

The battalion has the lead on starting a new multi-year joint Alaskan Roads project. Bravo Company, supported by the 1ST Naval Construction Division, will be the first military unit to work on this project when they conduct a 10-week engineering reconnaissance to lay out a road connecting two Inuit fishing villages on the Alaskan Peninsula. They will also develop the engineer assessment including feasibility, scope of work, and bill of materials that will be used by other units and services for the actual road construction. The project is sponsored by The Denali Commission, a federal commission whose mission is to accelerate health & safety construction projects in rural Alaska and the Office of the Secretary of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training Program (IRT). In addition to playing a key role



SSgt Garcia of the I&I Staff and SSgt Chandler of B Co bring a young Honduran boy some shoes he was desperately in need.



in the survival of these Alaskan communities, the project will provide 4TH CEB Marines joint experience while they work closely with Navy Seabees and the Alaska Army National Guard.

4TH CEB also continues to support Operation ENDURING FREEDOM in Afghanistan with Individual Augmentation (IA) Marines. CWO-3 Jimmy Vigil just returned from there in January (one of his three deployments overseas since 9/11).

"Afghanistan was one of the most rewarding tours I have ever been a part of. The people of Afghanistan as well as all the coalition force personnel made it unique and one of the most amazing deployments I have participated in" commented Vigil. A dean of students at a high school in Colorado, CW0-3 Vigil currently serves as the battalion's personnel officer.

Currently in Afghanistan is CWO-3 Walsh from Bravo Company, as part of Task Force Paladin's counter-IED team in RC-South. Paladin's mission is to collect IED related data to send back to the Joint IED Defeat Organization. Walsh has been in Afghanistan since November 2008.

The reserve Marines credit their I&I counterparts for their expertise and teamwork to make this a successful AT season. "They keep us on track and truly exemplify a 'one- team, one-fight mentality'," commented LtCol Pete Finan. "We could never pull off this breadth of operational activity without their top-notch assistance, and LtCol Jeff Miller and SgtMaj Angelo Scott are the best promoters of that mind-set."

With the planning nearly complete, 4TH CEB looks to execute on one of its most ambitious AT schedule in recent history - one that will require a truly global effort as it sends its engineers to every climb and place. 4TH CEB Marines are prepared and ready for the challenge.



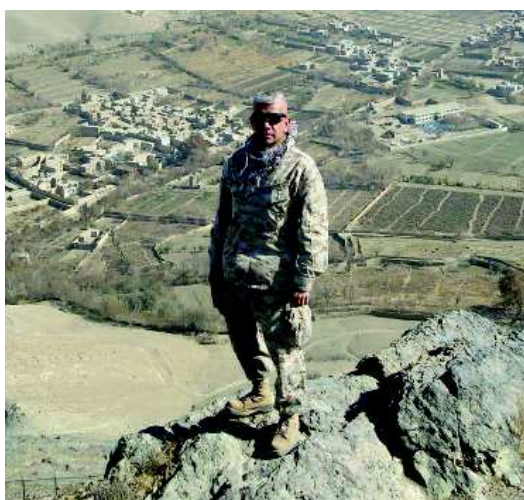
Marines from C Co conduct MOUT training with the infantry companies at 29 Palms.



Marines from C Co employing bagalore torpedoes in order to clear wire obstacles.



LtCol Finan and SgtMaj Callender meet with the Mayor of Florida de Marcala during NEW HORIZONS HONDURAS 2008.



CWO-3 Vigil while stationed in Afghanistan during 2008



Marines from 1st Squad, D Co look for weapons caches in the Iraqi countryside in support of 1/2.



A Cold Day for Bulk Fuel Company B, 6TH Engineer Support Bn

Before the sun rose above the horizon on the early sub-freezing morning of Saturday February 7, 2009, the Marines of Bulk Fuel Company B, located at Wilmington, Delaware prepared for their cold weather training exercise at Ft. Indiantown Gap in East Hanover, Pennsylvania. This morning is anything but quiet, as you could hear the loud commanding voices of the NCO's ringing throughout the home training center, "Fall in for your Convoy Brief...Another weapons count...Get in formation...Why aren't you moving faster!" Once CWO3 Bruce Broaddus, Company Commander of Bulk Fuel Company B, determined that personnel, weapons and gear were properly accounted, the Marines loaded their tactical vehicles and buses to begin a two hour trip to Ft. Indiantown Gap.

Ft. Indiantown Gap is a small Army training facility that sits at the bottom of the Appalachian Mountain Range, and maintains a snow cover throughout the winter months. Because of terrain and weather, this location is excellent for preparing the Company's battle hardened mindset for what might await them in such areas of operation such as Afghanistan.

Two hours later, after classes and operational orders were drilled into the Marines' brains on the buses, Bulk Fuel Company B hit the deck at their training site and without surprise found themselves setting up within a half foot of snow.

Bulk Fuel Platoon, lead by CWO2 Salvatore Lopresti, began with their setup of the bulk fuel system consisting of two 20,000 gallon fuel bladders, a 600 GPM pump and four fuel points, much as they would in a combat situation. As combat veterans, CWO2 Lopresti and Operations Chief MSgt Michael Renner constantly instructed the Marines of the fuel platoon on proper fuel operational procedures.

At the same time, Headquarters Platoon received classes on convoy operations with an emphasis on improvised explosive devices (IED). Sgt Gary Hoff and Cpl John Czerwinski, also combat veterans, with the use of training aides and scenarios, encouraged the platoon to think as if they were driving down the roads of the rural Afghan combat environment, emphasizing the importance of dispersion and immediate action procedures.



Once the bulk fuel system and IED classes were completed, the Marines of Bulk Fuel Company B were given blank ammunition, split up into squads, and prepared for defensive operations against an opposing force. One squad was given an operations order to defend the fuel point, while a second squad was given an order to attack the fuel

point. This was very motivational and instructive, incorporating five paragraph order preparation and fire plan sketches. The Marines were able to refine their basic rifleman skills and tactics, a priority for any deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom.

As the sun sets after a long productive day, the Marines of the Company put together their two man tents, preparing themselves for a blistering cold night of fire watch. Exhausted after the day's training, the bivouac site was very quiet, with just a few Marines standing their post in a military manner, always keeping a watchful eye.

Just as the day prior, the Marines awoke before sunrise and began tear down, accounted for personnel, weapons and gear; all prior to the buses arriving to take them back to Wilmington, DE. Training at Ft. Indiantown Gap was complete, however, their day was not, as a full schedule awaited them upon arrival at their home training center. This is the normality of a drill weekend, and the busy life they know all too well as United States Marine Corps Reservists.



Cold Weather Bridging – Bridge Co B, 6th Engineer Support Bn

February 6, 2009, was another cold day in sunny Pennsylvania when the advance party for Bridge Company Bravo mustered at the unit's home training center in Folsom, PA. They quickly began preparation for convoy operations up to Fort Indiantown Gap. They checked equipment lists for a second and third time, ensured all Medium Girder Bridge (MGB) material was loaded and stepped off for what was expected to be a promising field operation.

Upon arrival at Ft. Indiantown Gap, coordination was finalized with units' resident to the base, and staging of heavy equipment and bridge sets for the following day's operations were completed. Simultaneously, back in Folsom the Company Commander, Major Kleber and principle staff were completing final planning as the Marines began to muster. GySgt Kenny, the Company First Sergeant for Bridge Company Bravo was shaking the walls and shifting platoon sergeants into high gear for departure to Ft. Indiantown Gap. One could feel the buzz of excitement emanating from the Marines as SNCOs and NCOs directed the loading of buses.

On February 7, 2009, 0530 the NCOs and fire watch began sounding reveille and from this time on Marines knew that the training was going to be a challenge. Dawn broke and the Marines of Bridge Company Bravo had already been working for a couple of hours finalizing gear placement and warming up heavy equipment for a long day of operations. Capt. Imperiale and SSgt Gross were orchestrating the day's events. The Marines' task was to span a 30 ft dry gap with MGB, prepare for the annual Basic Skills Test, complete communication equipment classes on the PRC-119F/OE-254 and execute squad/platoon tactics across the terrain of Ft. Indiantown Gap within a half foot of snow. As operations began wrapping up for the day the Motor Transportation Platoon Commander SSgt Shmuck began retrograde of all nonessential gear.

February 8, 2009, 0530 after a long hard day of lifting bridge pieces into place, long range patrolling and exercising their brain power through practical application of classes provided, they had one more challenge ahead of them; a 4 mile hike in the snow to the busses.



They stepped off at 0600 and finished together as Marines always do. On the way back to the home training center they were briefed on the rest of the events of the day by the Company First Sergeant, GySgt Kenny and began weapons maintenance. GySgt Kenny had also explained how the cold weather aspect, the long days and tactics learned had better prepared them for deployment into multiple theaters of operations throughout the world, such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

Upon completion of a challenging and demanding field operation; Bridge Company Marines wrapped-up the final parts of the day with the final formation and the importance of the training was explained one last time before they departed and returned to their civilian routines.

7th Engineer Support Battalion

The Marines and Sailors of 7th Engineer Support Battalion continue a busy series of deployments, in support of the global fight against terror.

The battalion headquarters returned to Camp Pendleton September 2008, after its fourth deployment to Iraq. We worked directly for the 22d Naval Construction Regiment, out of Gulfport, MS. The debate continues across the Marine Engineer community, regarding the roles of, and relations between, Marine and Navy engineers, but we enjoyed a great rapport with our higher headquarters and adjacent Seabee battalions, and got a lot of work done together.



Blackwater Bridge Nov 04

During the deployment, 7th Engineers expanded our reach to the limits of Al Anbar Province. A large number of projects the battalion completed were a reflection of the overall progress in the Province. We expanded several battalion and company-sized operating bases. Because of the much-improved security situation, smaller patrol bases were being consolidated into "over watch" positions. The battalion also built small camps for U.S. military transition (training) teams. As the Iraqi Army recruited and trained new units, and constructed facilities for them to operate from, the transition teams needed their own work, living, and hygiene spaces within their counterparts' cantonment areas. Engineers reinforced several Iraqi Police stations along major highways, by putting up barriers and hardened guard towers around their perimeters.

Our work was not limited to building and improving forward operating bases. Engineer Support Company executed several road repair projects during the

deployment. They maintained an unimproved road that was the major supply route to a coalition base. On a typical night, several hundred tractor trailers would traverse the route and churn up deep moon dust, so repairs were necessary on a monthly basis. The company also improved a bypass route around the city of Ramadi, to provide an alternate route for military vehicles. This reduced the visibility of the coalition presence in the city, as the "Iraqi solution" took over public safety and governance as part of the Awakening Movement. It also kept convoys from traveling congested city streets, and decreased the likelihood of escalation of force incidents involving the local populace.

The project lasted a month, and went without incident. The day after our engineers left, a vehicle from 1st Battalion 9th Marines hit an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) on the same route - proof a threat still existed.

The Marines of Bulk Fuel Company have spent the last several years filling provisional missions while deployed. Over the last several deployments, most of our battalion security elements have been led by and composed of bulk fuelers. That may change with a shift to more expeditionary operations in Afghanistan.

In addition to deploying as a battalion, 7th Engineers continues to provide forces to deploy with other units. The battalion

sends engineer companies (minus, reinforced) with each cross-functional Combat Logistics Battalion (CLB) that deploys from the West Coast. Between deployments of CLBs 1, 5, and 7, that means we have a letter company deployed, one preparing to deploy, and one recently returned, almost all the time. The companies we have sent to Iraq the last several years have been a real cross-section of the battalion. With the exception of EOD, they include a cross-section of all the construction, heavy equipment, transportation, maintenance, utilities, and bulk fuel capabilities resident in



Cleaning rubble in Fallujah



Convoy Preparation



Counter Veg Burning





Day 4 of AL FAJR Nov 04

the battalion. They generally experience a high operational tempo throughout their deployments, as their parent CLBs answer to calls for support directly from Regimental Combat Teams.

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company continues their heroic support to coalition forces - in both Iraq and Afghanistan. There have been far fewer IED calls during the last year in Iraq. Part of that is due to a reduction in the enemy threat, but it is also a reflection of the viability of the Iraqi Bomb Disposal Companies that will someday take over that function completely. One of our EOD officers spent a year training the Bomb Disposal Company in western Al Anbar, and he left with full confidence in their ability to render safe ordnance and conduct forensics after calls. The teams we send to Afghanistan continue to face increasing threats in their areas of responsibility. Most of the terrain in Afghanistan precludes the use of robots that have been such a lifesaver in Iraq. Teams supporting 2d Battalion, 7th Marines and 3d

Battalion, 8th Marines have been operating on foot much of the time, working with only the explosives and tools they can carry. They face a determined enemy, who has proven every bit as resourceful and deadly as his counterpart in Iraq.



EOP Cache Reduction Afg 2008



IED Render Safe Afg 2008



Ramadi Convoy 2008



Life after burnouts 2008



Road repair 2008

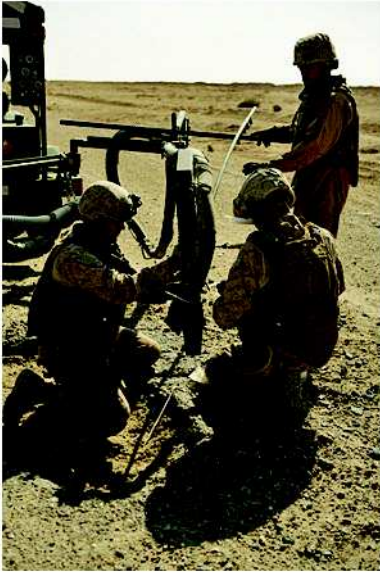


SWA Hut Wiring 2008



9th ESB – Marines build BTT Facility

By 1st Lt Steven B. Dodson, Engineer Support Company, Executive Officer



U.S. Marines assigned to 9th Engineer Support Battalion (ESB), 1st Naval Construction Regiment, setup a magnum spray injection patcher during a route repair mission near Lake Habbaniyah on Nov. 1, 2008. Part of 9th ESB's mission during Operation Iraqi Freedom is to improve road conditions for the Iraqi people and coalition forces.

took initiative and performed as a team regardless of their MOS and tasks assigned," he said.

Staff Sgt. Juan Escalante, the security platoon staff non-commissioned officer in charge, from Winkelman, Ariz., said, "I believe the Marines did a phenomenal job. Each day there were significant improvements from the day prior."



U.S. Marine Cpl. Richard House, a combat engineer from Toledo, Ohio, assigned to 9th Engineer Support Battalion (ESB), 1st Naval Construction Regiment, fills a hole using a magnum spray injection patcher during a route repair mission near Lake Habbaniyah on Nov. 1, 2008. Part of 9th ESB's mission during Operation Iraqi Freedom is to improve road conditions for the Iraqi people and coalition forces.

Point of Entry, Ar Ar, Iraq – (Nov. 1, 2008) – In just over two weeks the 4/2 Border Transition Team (BTT), observed a complete transformation of their combat outpost. Engineer Support Company, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, with attachments from Company A and Headquarters and Service Company, completed a nearly three-week mission constructing facilities that will be used for conducting operations and leisure for a 30-man team.

The BTT facility was by far 9th ESB's farthest and most isolated mission to-date; Point of Entry (PoE) Ar Ar lies on the Saudi border, and serves as a major avenue during the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

"The most difficult piece to this mission was the logistical strain it had on both the battalion and the engineer detachment operating forward. Everything had to be loaded on the first push; we had little room for resupplies," said mission commander 1st Lt. Steven B. Dodson, from Saint Louis, Mo. "Given the distance, time and equipment, we had to get it right the first time." There are about 350 miles of road separating Camp Al Taqaddum, where 9th ESB is based, and PoE Ar Ar.

The detachment erected four wooden structures: a Combat Operations Center, a chow hall, a gym and a laundry facility. All facilities were complete with power outlets, air conditioning and heating units and lighting. Additionally, two hygiene trailers were installed with power and full plumbing. A permanent structure that the team is currently occupying was also fitted with power outlets, air conditioning and heating units. This was a luxury the team was without until now. Other areas of focus were dedicated to force protection and increased survivability for the team operating in such isolation.

All Marines contributed to the success of the mission. Marines like Lance Cpl. Gabriel Kaelin, a bulk fuel specialist from Winterport, Maine, assisted the Utilities Section throughout the operation. "The Marines that were assigned to the mission



U.S. Marine Gunnery Sgt. Karleton Lawrence, left, and Staff Sgt. Fred Maldonado, assigned to 9th Engineer Support Battalion (ESB), 1st Naval Construction Regiment, remove broken concrete from hole during a route repair mission near Lake Habbaniyah on Nov. 1, 2008. Part of 9th ESB's mission during Operation Iraqi Freedom is to improve road conditions for the Iraqi people and coalition forces.

Staff Sgt. Michael Reeves, staff non-commissioned officer in charge of the project from Mount Pleasant, S. C., believes that the overall success can be attributed to time management and supervision.

"As leaders we should set bench marks that our Marines should strive to achieve, hold them accountable for those self imposed goals and continue to follow up throughout the project," he said. "Small unit leadership was crucial in support of this mission. Each day there were several projects scattered around the worksite, and section leaders took ownership and held their Marines to standard."

The completion of the project will assist the Border Transition Team Marines in their mission of training Iraqi border outposts, and with a completed, well-equipped combat outpost the BTT can completely focus on this task. "These improvements will allow our team and teams to come to operate safely and more effectively with the force protection measures and amenities," said 1st Lt. Ferris Linn, BTT Logistics Officer from Kimball, Neb. "The workmanship of these Marines is what you would expect from "true professionals".





U.S. Marine Cpl. Richard House, a combat engineer from Toledo, Ohio, assigned to 9th Engineer Support Battalion (ESB), 1st Naval Construction Regiment, fills a hole using a magnum spray injection patcher during a route repair mission near Lake Habbaniyah on Nov. 1, 2008. Part of 9th ESB's mission during Operation Iraqi Freedom is to improve road conditions for the Iraqi people and coalition forces.



U.S. Marines Lance Cpl. Ray Foronda, left, and Cpl. Richard House, assigned to 9th Engineer Support Battalion (ESB), 1st Naval Construction Regiment, repair a hole during a route repair mission near Lake Habbaniyah on Nov. 1, 2008. Part of 9th ESB's mission during Operation Iraqi Freedom is to improve road conditions for the Iraqi people and coalition forces.

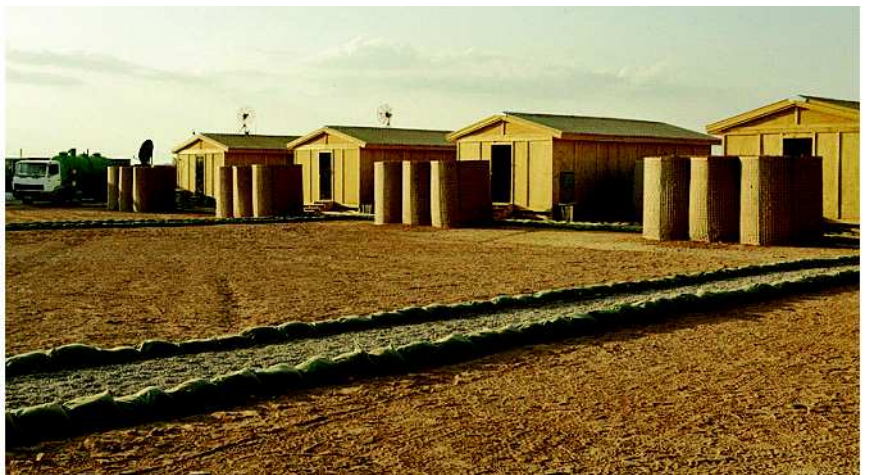


U.S. Marines assigned to 9th Engineer Support Battalion (ESB), 1st Naval Construction Regiment, work on site repairing holes during a route repair mission near Lake Habbaniyah on Nov. 1, 2008. Part of 9th ESB's mission during Operation Iraqi Freedom is to improve road conditions for the Iraqi people and coalition forces.



U.S. Marines assigned to 9th Engineer Support Battalion (ESB), 1st Naval Construction Regiment, use the arm of a Buffalo mine-protected vehicle to clear a hole during a route repair mission near Lake Habbaniyah on Nov. 1, 2008. Part of 9th ESB's mission during Operation Iraqi Freedom is to improve road conditions for the Iraqi people and coalition forces.

Southwest-Asia huts, or SWA huts, built by Marines with 9th Engineer Support Battalion (ESB), 1st Naval Construction Regiment, line the gravel walkways in Camp Korean Village, Iraq on Nov. 13, 2008. 9th ESB is building structures for units operating in the area.



9th ESB Engineers Help Secure Iraqi Border

Story by 1st Lt. Laban Pelz



Iraqi Army (IA) soldiers assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 6th Brigade, drive engineer stakes for a wire barrier along the Syrian border in the Ninawa province of Iraq on Dec. 12, 2008.

together with barbed wire. "We had done some wire in other missions, but this was really our first concertina wire mission. All we knew we had learned in school."

"A learning curve took place," Vanhooose said. "The first day we had to pull up the fence several times before we got it right."

The mission was composed of engineers from 9th ESB's Company A and heavy equipment operators and a security detachment from the Battalion's Engineer Support Company. Vanhooose is the battalion's intelligence officer and was taking his first turn as an engineer mission commander.

The engineers also taught members of the Iraqi Border Patrol how to build the fence. Marines and Iraqis were soon working side by side, and approximately 60 Iraqis learned how to build a concertina wire fence as a result of the mission.

"They caught on pretty quick," Knudson said. "There was a language barrier, and we had to have an interpreter around to explain why we were doing things in a certain way."

With the Iraqis assisting and becoming more proficient along with the Marines, the mission's progress unexpectedly outran its supplies, and halfway through building the first fence the detachment had to wait two days to be re-supplied.

"With the proficiency fluctuating, and not knowing how many Iraqis would show up and when, it was hard to anticipate logistics needs," Vanhooose said. "The first day we used a bundle and a half of concertina wire; the last day we went through 12 bundles."

The overall mission required a total of nine kilometers of fencing material to span nearly seven linear kilometers along the border.

After being resupplied, security Marines jumped in to help drive fence stakes and the first fence was soon finished, ending at another border outpost. The commander of the local Iraqi unit was positive the work will pay off.

"It's mountainous terrain, it's difficult terrain, and I think the fence will be difficult for smugglers to overcome," said Col. Abd-Al-Karim Hasan Qasim, commander of 2nd Battalion, 6th Brigade of the Iraqi Border Patrol.

His soldiers were pleased with their newly-acquired skills.

"We learned how to make (a fence) strong, and good, and not move around," said Aaesaa Aasaff, who added that he and his compatriots could build the next one without the Marines' aid.



U.S. Marines assigned to 9th Engineer Support Battalion (ESB), 1st Naval Construction Regiment, work with Iraqi Army (IA) soldiers assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 6th Brigade, driving engineer stakes for a wire barrier along the Syrian border in the Ninawa province of Iraq on Dec. 12, 2008.



U.S. Marines assigned to 9th Engineer Support Battalion (ESB), 1st Naval Construction Regiment, lay out bundles of wire near the Syrian border in the Ninawa province of Iraq on Dec. 12, 2008.



U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Josh Nickell, a 23-year-old combat engineer from Jackson, Tenn., assigned to 9th Engineer Support Battalion (ESB), 1st Naval Construction Regiment, sweeps for mines and ordnance along the Syrian border in the Ninawa province of Iraq on Dec. 13, 2008.





Under direction from U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Josh Nickell, a 23-year-old combat engineer from Jackson, Tenn., assigned to 9th Engineer Support Battalion (ESB), 1st Naval Construction Regiment, Iraqi Army (IA) soldiers assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 6th Brigade, construct a wire barrier along the Syrian border in the Ninawa province of Iraq on Dec. 13, 2008.

Fence building was not the only skill the Marines taught the Iraqis. They were also instructed in first aid, operating a mine detector (before any fence was laid the route was swept for mines, ordnance and any other buried objects), and the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

The Iraqis said MCMAP training was the most helpful.

"The training was good. I feel powerful," said Zead Eleas, an Iraqi soldier. "Sometimes we have to catch people coming across the border and fight them, and sometimes we strike them the wrong way, and (the MCMAP instructors) correct us."

Eleas, who said he had never received martial arts training, said the reverse wrist lock was his favorite move.

With the experience gained from first fence build under their belts, the Marines

moved north to build the second fence. This time it took them less than three days to build just over two kilometers of fence. While it was raining much of the time, they benefited from working on the easier terrain of a plowed field.

"The stakes sunk right in," Vanhooose said.

With that the Marines were finished, and headed home with more knowledge about fence building and about the Iraqis.

"It was a rocky start, but once it all got together it leveled out," said Gunnery Sgt. Donald Ross, 36, Chicago, staff non-commissioned officer in charge, 9th ESB. "We learned a little of their language, found out a little more about them. It was a good experience."

Col. Nawaf Salih Khudr, commander of the 6th Brigade, was also pleased with the mission's outcome.

"This will always be remembered."



Under supervision from U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Josh Nickell, a 23-year-old combat engineer from Jackson, Tenn., assigned to 9th Engineer Support Battalion (ESB), 1st Naval Construction Regiment, a soldier from the Iraqi Army's (IA) 2nd Battalion, 6th Brigade, practices using a miniature mine detector (MIMID) to sweep for mines and ordnance along the Syrian border in the Ninawa province of Iraq on Dec. 14, 2008.



U.S. Marine Sgt. Luke Doty, 25, Saratoga, Wyo., assigned to 9th Engineer Support Battalion (ESB), 1st Naval Construction Regiment, works with Iraqi Army (IA) soldiers assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 6th Brigade, practicing techniques from the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program (MCMAP) along the Syrian border in the Ninawa province of Iraq on Dec. 15, 2008.



Iraqi Army (IA) soldiers assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 6th Brigade, practice techniques from the Marine Corps Martial Arts (MCMAP) program under instruction from U.S. Marines assigned to 9th Engineer Support Battalion (ESB), 1st Naval Construction Regiment, along the Syrian border in the Ninawa province of Iraq on Dec. 14, 2008.

U.S. Marines assigned to 9th Engineer Support Battalion (ESB), 1st Naval Construction Regiment, work with Iraqi Army (IA) soldiers assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 6th Brigade, driving engineer stakes for a wire barrier along the Syrian border in the Ninawa province of Iraq on Dec. 13, 2008.



9th Engineer Support Battalion in Iraq

By 2ndLt Michael Butler



U.S. Marine Corporal Robert C. Knudson, right, and Lance Corporal Adam T. Derr, both with 9th Engineer Support Battalion (ESB), 1st Naval Construction Regiment, pour concrete into potholes on a road near Taqaddum, Iraq on September 10, 2008. Part of the mission of 9th ESB during Operation Iraqi Freedom is to improve road conditions for coalition forces as well as the Iraqi people.

The maintenance shelter will be used by Mike Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines as a Motor Transportation facility, and the super SWA hut and garage were made for a third unit in the area. All three facilities will increase the units' capabilities and will lead to overall mission success for all the Marines within the AO.

The Marine combat engineers were aided by Navy Seabee advisors from Naval Mobile

Construction Battalion 3, helping the Marines adhere to the Navy engineers' standards of construction. Given the typical expeditionary nature of Marine combat engineers, working with the Seabees, who tend to build more permanent structures, was rewarding. 9th ESB falls under 1st NCR for the duration of its deployment.

"It was a really good experience working with the Seabees. They helped us with the foundation and bending re-bar. I've worked with them before and they know what they're doing and do really good work," said Lance Cpl. Frederick Shuster of Bernard, Iowa.

The combat engineers were not the only Marines on site; several Military Occupational Specialties within 9th ESB worked together to complete the mission. Marines from Engineer Support Company's Utilities Section wired the buildings for electricity, AC and heat, and Heavy Equipment operators prepped the ground for construction and installed 13-ft "T" wall barriers for force protection using a 25-ton crane. There were also motor vehicle operators who aided in delivering materials and wood from site to site.

"It was a combined effort, Marines from different MOS's came together to complete the project. All of the Marines learned something, and overall, the mission went pretty smoothly," Cpl. Monty Butler, of Auburn, Washington, said.



U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Adam T. Derr, a combat engineer with 9th Engineer Support Battalion (ESB), 1st Naval Construction Regiment, pours concrete into a pothole on a road near Taqaddum, Iraq on September 10, 2008. Part of the mission of 9th ESB during Operation Iraqi Freedom is to improve road conditions for coalition forces as well as the Iraqi people.



U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Chris E. Hamrick, a combat engineer 9th Engineer Support Battalion (ESB), 1st Naval Construction Regiment, uses a jackhammer to prepare a pothole for concrete on a road near Lake Habbaniyah in Iraq on September 17, 2008. Part of the mission of 9th ESB during Operation Iraqi Freedom is to improve road conditions for the Iraqi people and coalition forces.





U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Cody D. Locklear, a combat engineer 9th Engineer Support Battalion (ESB), 1st Naval Construction Regiment, uses a jackhammer to prepare a pothole for concrete on a road near Lake Habbaniyah in Iraq on September 17, 2008. Part of the mission of 9th ESB during Operation Iraqi Freedom is to improve road conditions for the Iraqi people and coalition forces.



An Iraqi farmer watches as a back hoe loader (BHL) operated by U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Gordon T. Simon with 9th Engineer Support Battalion (ESB), 1st Naval Construction Regiment, repairs an irrigation ditch in Habbaniyah, Iraq on September 20, 2008. Part of the mission of 9th ESB during Operation Iraqi Freedom is to improve road conditions for the Iraqi people and coalition forces.



U.S. Marine Chief Warrant Officer 2 Chavez and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Simpson sit with an Iraqi farmer as his irrigation ditch is repaired in Habbaniyah, Iraq on September 20, 2008. Part of the mission of 9th ESB during Operation Iraqi Freedom is to improve road conditions for the Iraqi people and coalition forces.

COMBAT LOGISTICS BATTALION-3



CLB-3 Engineers and Motor Transport operators prepare to depart to begin constructing a Combat Outpost in Afghanistan. An Engineer sweeps a path for vehicles to ensure it is free of IEDs.



Combat Engineers construct machine gun guard towers, while under threat from indirect fire, for infantry units in Afghanistan.



Combat Engineers prefabricate machine gun guard towers in the rear for use at Combat Outposts in Afghanistan.



Combat Engineers and Heavy Equipment Operators use HESCO barriers to construct the defensive perimeters for Combat Outposts in Afghanistan.



CLB-3 Heavy Equipment Operators use the TRAM to offload ISO containers and fill HESCO barriers.

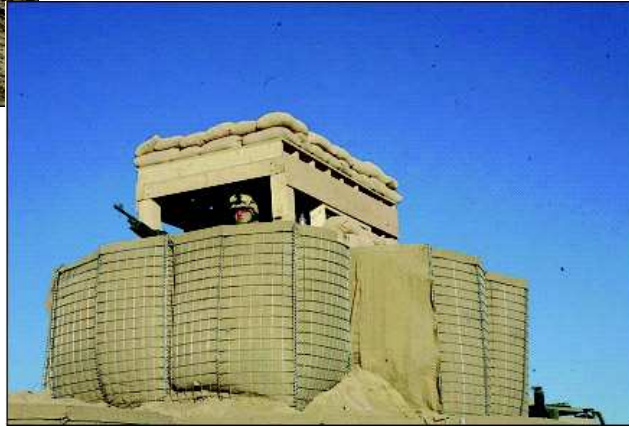


CLB-3 Heavy Equipment Operators offload the TRAM and D7 dozer to begin construction of a Combat Outpost in Afghanistan. Marines used the TRAM to fill HESCO barriers and for material handling, while the D7 constructed protective berms.





Engineers offload concertina wire to construct an antipersonnel fence at a Combat Outpost in Afghanistan. An infantryman stands post after CLB-3 Engineers constructed a guard tower.



A CLB-3 TRAM hard at work filling HESCO at a Combat Outpost.

A Combat Outpost built from the ground up by CLB-3 Engineers.



11th Engineers Reunion

This past August 2008 the members of the 11th Engineers who served their Marine Corps and country - came together to once again enjoy each other and share their stories.

Many who attended brought their wives who we know - also enjoyed each other and in making many new friendships.

From wheels down Thursday Aug 14th (those who came in early to get a leg up on the shopping downtown in Chicago) - all had enjoyed the personal hospitality of the Spanos family and the Chicago style pizza.

Friday evening we met and began with a prayer led by Mike " Doc" Wallace of Kansas. From there we asked each Marine to stand and give his name and rank and what his best and least enjoyed duty station.

It was tough finding the youngest Marine to help CWO 4 Ret. Marine Jack Craig (Korea and Vietnam) combat veteran to cut the huge cake to also commentate our reunion.

Most complimented the 11th Engineer Bn (back then) from the officers to the great NCO's that helped us pull our weight and get through those very tough times.

The letter from the Commandant of the Marine Corps - Gen. Conway who outlined the many achievements by the 11th Engineer Bn was I guess the icing on the cake!!

We also remembered those 11th Engineer Marines that didn't make it back and that we will never forget them.

Saturday evening was even more fun with the 11th Engineer reunion dinner cruise aboard the Spirit of Chicago. The chow was hot and the beer was cold. The city even had their air & water show along the lake front with fireworks display.

Sunday was a wrap up and most headed for the airport but not before we all agreed that we would meet at the 2010 all Engineer reunion hosted by the MCEA and join the newly forming 11th Engineer Vietnam Marine chapter, MCEA.

A final note.....many thanks to Lt.Col. George Allen, USMC Ret. who out of pocket personally took the time to produce this year's 11th Engr 2008 reunion booklets and 11th Engr plaques that all attendees were given.

We also hosted a silent auction which helped raise \$695 with all proceeds going to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

We thanked all of our donors for the many great gifts that made our silent auction possible.

We know that everyone went home with some of the goodies from the Friday night reception and most of all.....great memories that will hold us over until we meet again in 2010!

Thank you.

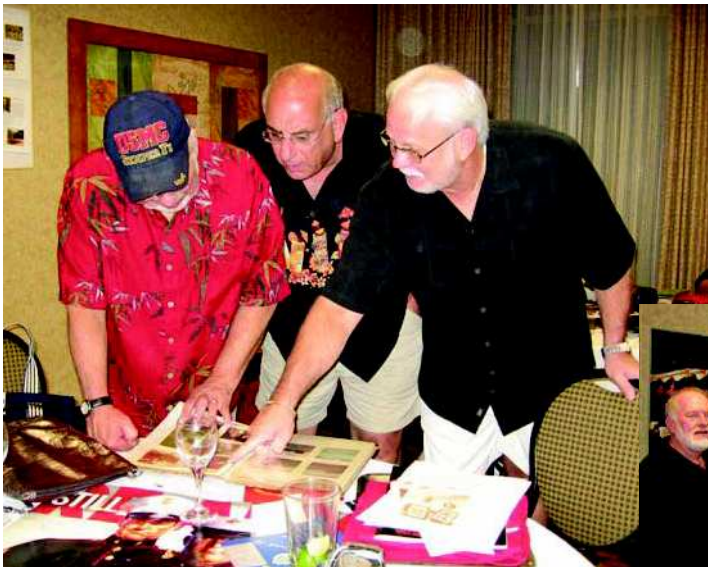
Gene Spanos

Coord. 11th Engr Mini Reunion 2008

Member MCEA

Watchcmdr1@sbcglobal.net

NOTE: LtCol. Allen's 14 page handout can be viewed and downloaded from our MCEA website.



Joint Task Force North Engineers and a Subterranean Threat to the Homeland

By
Christopher G. Downs
Major, U.S. Marine Corps

The contents of this article reflect my own personal views. The Joint Task Force North Chief of Staff has approved it for public release.

23 Feb 2009

Joint Task Force North (JTF North) is a joint command aboard Fort Bliss, Texas. Although it is a relatively small joint headquarters, comprised of only 160, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Department of Defense (DOD) civilians, it does much of the heavy lifting in support of advancing the homeland defense and homeland security objectives of our Nation. The Command is the DOD organization tasked to employ military capabilities to support our nation's federal law enforcement agencies (LEA) and interagency synchronization within the USNORTHCOM area of responsibility in order to anticipate, deter, prevent, and defeat transnational threats to the homeland. One of these gathering threats is the construction and use of illegal cross-border tunnels across the Southwest border. Engineers from throughout DOD, industry, and academia are working tirelessly to counter this asymmetric threat to our national security and territorial integrity.

Since its inception in 1989, JTF North has planned, coordinated, and executed hundreds of engineer support missions in support of LEA. Typically, engineer formations are sourced from active duty and reserve activities from all four Services based throughout the United States. These units undertake a plethora of construction tasks in support of LEA to include road repair and construction, border perimeter lighting, non-standard bridging, vehicle and pedestrian border barriers, drainage system construction, and many other engineer tasks. The vast majority of these projects provide invaluable training for units that may be called upon to execute similar tactical engineer tasks while deployed in support of expeditionary operations.

In addition to these conventional engineer missions, over the past several years, engineers at JTF North have become increasingly involved in efforts to address and remedy capability gaps to effectively detect, precisely locate, and characterize tunnels illegally entering the homeland across the U.S. - Mexico border. The ongoing existence, use, and construction of cross border tunnels represent existing and growing threats to the homeland. Criminals have demonstrated enduring and ever-evolving capabilities to creatively construct and use tunnels to gain access and transport narcotics, people, and, potentially, weapons of mass destruction into the continental United States.

Since 1990, 100 cross-border tunnels have been discovered by LEA. All but one have originated in Mexico and exited in California or Arizona. There were 24 tunnels discovered in calendar year 2008 alone. The marked increase in tunnel construction is likely a result of increased U.S. Customs and Border Protection pressure against narco-traffickers and their traditional mobility corridors into the homeland.

Over the course of calendar year 2008, JTF North conducted nine tactical missions along the Southwest border to locate the presence of illegal cross-border tunnels. These missions employed maturing technologies at a number of border cities over a distance of many miles. The Command has also developed a baseline tunnel detection operational CONOPS for supported LEA. This will serve as a starting point to facilitate the intra-agency planning and eventual interagency discussion and process mapping necessary to develop an enduring multi-agency methodology to best employ the layered and complimentary tunnel detection technologies being developed within the practical restraints and constraints of law enforcement realities.

At the operational-tactical level, JTF North provides daily interagency coordination and staff action support to LEA in their counter-tunnel missions. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Coordinating DOD support to interagency, federal, state and local LEA.
- Supporting DOD and Interagency counter-tunnel synchronization.
- Fusing and analyzing law enforcement and DOD tunnel reporting.
- Recommending named areas of interest (NAI).
- Coordinating the employment of DOD tunnel detection technologies.

At the strategic level, JTF North is also a "plank holder" in a DOD / Department of Homeland Security initiative to develop and present a March 2009 proposal to the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Advance Systems and Concepts) for a Tunnel Detection Joint Capability Technology Demonstration (JCTD) to support the maturation and fielding of viable counter-tunnel technologies. The objective being pursued through this JCTD is to affect an enduring capability to detect, classify, exploit, and remediate clandestine, purpose built tunnels illegally entering the United States and on foreign battlefields. If approved, this JCTD will begin in FY10 and conclude in FY12. At the completion of the JCTD, the materiel solutions, concept of operations, and tactics, techniques, and procedures will be transitioned to the U.S. Army and the Department of Homeland Security for doctrine, organization, training, material, leadership and education, personnel, and facilities integration (DOTMLPF) integration and subsequent tactical fielding.



The operational objectives and tactical tasks undertaken by engineers within and supporting JTF North span every engineer battlefield function. Their efforts and accomplishments have served to markedly increase the tactical effectiveness of LEA across our Southwest border. The collective efforts to affect an enduring capability to detect and precisely locate illegal cross-border tunnels will soon provide LEA with needed capabilities and capacities to counter the gathering threat these illicit mobility corridors pose to our homeland.



** 13,775 pounds of marijuana seized from a tunnel in 2007*



Primitive tunnel discovered in the South West U.S. in the fall of 2008.



A more sophisticated tunnel discovered in 2006.

Contentment is the grateful, faithful, fruitful use of what we have. Not to drink because one has but half a cup or because one does not like its flavor or because someone else has silver to one's own glass is to lose the contents. No one is discontented who employs and enjoys to the utmost what he has.

— Maltbie Davenport Babcock, writer, clergyman (1858-1901)



MARINE WING SUPPORT GROUP 37

This past year has been both eventful and productive for Marine Wing Support Group-37 Engineers. Marine Wing Support Squadrons 371, 372, 373, and 374 have demonstrated exemplary efforts and tremendous mission accomplishment. MWSS Engineer Companies have provided Aviation Ground Support (AGS) in the form of airfield damage repair, general engineering, utilities services, demolition, heavy equipment support, and further external support tasks that have construction related requirements.

Deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, MWSS 373's Engineers assisted in the demolition of six structures with five controlled detonations at a small nearby village adjacent to Camp Al Taqaddum, called "Pancake Village." These structures had been known insurgent stakeout sites used to observe coalition force movements. Engineers returned on several occasions conducting further demolition and follow on clean up including: (9) 2ft by 2ft openings leading to (11) rooms below, and (8) depressions – the largest being 20 ft deep.



MWSS 373's engineers were employed in the redesign of Al Taqaddum's (TQ) ECPs in order to improve the efficiency of processing vehicles and local nationals. The reinforcement of the entry control points involved (90) Hescos emplaced and filled, (24) Texas barriers emplaced, and (18) solar powered flood lights manually installed. Further engineer work included assistance in construction of two 96x96 AM2 matting pads at Camp Baharia to include dust abatement, massive ground work, topographical survey, blue print design, and mapping of drainage slope; the pads totaled over 18,432 sq ft. The installation of these landing pads supported the MLG's medical evacuation and shock trauma platoon and undoubtedly saved lives as pilots could easily land in a dust abated zone without worry of brown out.

MWSS 373's other supporting missions included lifting (28,811) lbs and (25,741) cubic feet of Pavemend to Sahl Sinjar for flight line repair, the retrograde of Camp Fallujah involving the loading of over (16,000) lbs of gear. During Operation Samurai, Marines unloaded (75) tons of equipment, water, Rhino Snot and Texas barriers. They made over 800 critical surface repairs on

1,245,526 square feet of airfield at FOB TQ in support of Multi National Forces-West Iraq. These repairs amassed 1,750 man hours and over 220 equipment hours. Notably, the construction section was able to average a daunting amount of over 20 repairs per night with a staff of only eight Marines.

MWSS 373 Engineers also had various interactions with local leaders in support of civil military operations (CMO). Through the commanders emergency relief program (CERP), the command built a strong level of trust amongst the local populace. They supervised numerous CERP projects to stimulate the economy and employ local personnel by serving as advisors and sometimes in the unique role of mentors. The focus of these engineers has been the improvement of platforms that provide essential services such as water purification, electricity to run water, distribution systems, sanitation, and education to local villages.

In March 2008, Engineer Company MWSS 374 deployed to Camp Al Taqaddum, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During this time, Engineer Company aided numerous units across the MAGTF and Multi-National Forces Iraq throughout the Al Anbar Province. While deployed the company successfully completed over 115 missions while building 17 miles of road, constructing 6 helicopter landing zones, emplacing 5,950 Jersey and Texas barriers, moving 464,680 cubic yards of dirt or rubble, logging over 6,400 heavy equipment hours, and removing or placing 5,266 HESCO barriers.

The most notable of the missions conducted throughout the Iraq deployment included utilities support aboard Camp Al Taqaddum, repair of the H-3 airfield, and operation of the Mudaysis Air Facility. At Mudaysis, in only 72 hours the company assisted the Squadron in its mission of securing the austere site in the midst of the combat zone and then followed on with the construction of a suitable base camp supporting over 200 Marines of the Air Combat Element, repair of numerous spalls, and removal of 1500 cubic feet of dirt berms in order to open up 6000 ft of runway and taxiway for heavy cargo fixed wing resupply. In September 2008, MWSS 374's Engineer Company successfully repaired the 11,000 ft runway at H-3 Airfield in western Al Anbar Province. The mission required again, the tactical convoy and self securing of the airfield; this was followed by the extensive removal of 14 large dirt berms averaging 3 feet high and 150 feet long, to clear the runway, and repair of two 10-foot wide trenches across the 150 foot wide runway in order to make it operational for fixed wing aircraft. Upon arrival, Engineer Company commenced 24-hour operations allowing them to remove over 20,000 cubic yards of dirt and rubble and pouring 60 cubic meters of pavement. The mission was accomplished, in remarkably, only seven days due to the grit and dedication of the Engineers. MWSS 374's Utilities Platoon ensured the safety of fellow Marines and Sailors while overhauling and upgrading the electrical power grid aboard Camp Al Taqaddum by replacing substandard electrical circuits and environmental control units in accordance with National Electric Code standards. Utilities Platoon continuously maintained 13 generators and completed 13 projects aboard Camp Al Taqaddum totaling over 1000 man-hours installing 3,150 meters of wire, 76 receptacles, 76 light fixtures, and 139 circuit breakers. The platoon also supported Military Transition Teams and Police Transition Teams at adjacent combat outposts by upgrading and replacing their electrical and plumbing systems.

MWSS 374 returned from deployment in the fall of 2008 only to hit the ground running and fall right into continuous support of the Expeditionary Airfield and Mojave Viper Exercises. Engineer support is a constant requirement without which the exercises would not be executable.



On the home-front, the Squadron's Engineers have been busy training, constructing, and assisting on a daily basis. MWSS 371's Heavy Equipment Marines conducted a UH-1N Helicopter Recovery at Imperial City Airport, El Centro, CA in August of 2008. MWSS-371 has engaged in several training exercises in preparation for future engagements, some of their major accomplishments include Construction Platoon's completion of Holtville flight line rehabilitation. Also, extensive Airfield Damage Repair training was completed in support of Weapons and Tactics Instructors Course 1-09 (WTI 1-09). The platoon successfully completed (15) spalls and (2) crater repairs. Utilities Marines and equipment were working out of "Site 50" in the Arizona desert in September of 2008 to provide shower and laundry facilities, water distribution, electrical requirements and Field Mess requirements needed to support a base camp exceeding 1,100 personnel in support of MAWTS-1 during WTI 1-09. The Engineer support was a success and MAWTS was able to continue training without delay.

MWSS 371's Construction Platoon safely conducted a 400 lb. demolition shoot at Munitions Training Range south of Auxiliary Airfield II; the Marines obtained valuable training with basic demolitions, shape charges, cratering charges, steel-cutting charges, and various urban mobility breaching charges. Utilities Engineers provided equipment and personnel to conduct training for Marines from MACS-1 to enhance resident cantonment planning capabilities. Construction Engineers poured (12) 16'x32'x4" or larger concrete pads at the Siphon 8 training area in support of Marine Corps Air Station Yuma and MAWTS-1. On 13 January 2008, water samples were taken by Utilities Marines assisting Station Environmental at a production site in Wellton, AZ to be analyzed for quality. These samples will allow the Marine Corps to obtain permits needed to operate the Tactical Water Purification System for future WTI courses and water purification missions at site 50.



MWSS 372's Engineers have also been fully engaged and employed across the spectrum from major Squadron level projects to small repairs and work orders. Continuing to provide the required engineer support functions necessary to facilitate the accomplishment of the unit's missions, as well as, conducting individual training standards and mission essential task based training. In July a Ch-46 Helicopter recovery was conducted. Construction platoon Marines used chainsaws to cut out the trees around the helicopter and then Heavy Equipment Marines crane lifted the helicopter onto a flat bed truck. The recovery was completed without incident and without further damage to the helicopter, which was no small task. In August Detachment Alpha led by one of Engineer Company's Officers and a mix of Engineers and Airfield Operations Marines traveled to Bridgeport's Mountain Warfare Training Center for approximately one month and set to task in successfully repairing and passing the recertification of the center's one and only VSTOL Pad. This project greatly increased MWTC's ability to conduct effective and safe training in preparation for future operations.

In October, MWSS 372's Engineer Company was assigned as the main effort for the JTF-N border lighting project in Columbus, New Mexico. Utilities Marines spent approximately one month rewiring junction boxes, laying wire, and putting up light in support of the border patrol in New Mexico. Their project was such a massive success that they completed over 120 % of the projected lighting mission that was requested of them throughout their deployment.

During the month of January MWSS-372 Engineer Operations Company planned for a week long squadron level cantonment site in the Camp Pendleton Tango Training area. Engineers lifted all pieces of equipment that were required to conduct the massive training evolution, and of course provided seamless Utilities support to the cantonment site. Currently MWSS 372 Engineers are ramping up to support WTI 2-09 and are working in conjunction with Airfield Operations Company in completing Camp Pendleton's Red Beach matting project providing safer landing zones aboard the base for pilots while simultaneously maintaining critical AGS skill sets.



Mission accomplishment from each Engineer Operations Company within Marine Wing Support Group-37 has been far beyond satisfactory despite high operational tempo and austere conditions where a limited amount of personnel and gear are designated to accomplish daunting tasks. The dedication to construction, demolition, and general aviation ground support of each MWSS Engineer Company has been unparalleled. Engineers have provided mission commanders with valuable assets performing obstruction removal, implementing safety measures, construction of expeditionary dust-abated helicopter landing zones, repair and refurbishment of runway areas, humanitarian projects, exercise enabling, joint task force projects, and of course

all aspects of general engineering. Numerous awesome engineering feats have been conducted by Marine Wing Support Group-37 Engineers within the continental United States as well as abroad in Iraq and Afghanistan; preparations and training for future combat missions also remains a primary focus to continue the awesome work that has set the standard for Engineers of MWSG-37.



COMPANY B
5TH ENGINEER BN.
5TH MARINE DIVISION

AFTER ACTION REPORT 2008

MISSION: ASSEMBLE ON SEPTEMBER 25 -28 AT MARINE BASE QUANTICO TO RENEW FRIENDSHIP – REMEMBER OLD BUDDIES – HAVE FUN.

ROLL CALL:

Company B Marines: Herman “Ike” Blumenstein, Francis Callahan, Paul Dreher, Joseph Flynn, Elden Haverstock, Horace Lee.

Company B Widows: Mary Fronk, Frances Groff.

Other Marines: Mike Blumenstein, Dave Fronk, Marilyn Mraz, Tom VandeBurgt.

Family and Guests: Yvonne Kornman, Bob Callahan, Nancy Callahan Johnston, Fran Dreher, Julie Fronk, Marge Flynn, Josephine DeMonti, June Haverstock, Wanda Seals, Diane VandeBurgt, Glen Gamber, Steve Mraz.

Marines responding unable to attend: Col. John F. Mentzer, Lt. Worth Boisture, George Jarvis, Joseph Roma, Tad Comstock, Pete Daniledes, Steve Basson, James Owen, Joseph Nye, Joseph Hammond.

Thursday 9/25/08

0200 - Early arrivals were able to attend a performance of our Silent Drill Team and be entertained by the President's Own Band on the grounds of the Marine Corps Museum.

Friday 9/26/08

0650 – Muster in the lobby of Crossroads Inn and leave for the Base Mess Hall to have breakfast with the troops. Here we were met by Marines who wished to learn a bit about the “Old Corps” and questioned us on the Battle for Iwo Jima. We in turn learned something about their modern weapons and their scheduled graduation and re-assignments.
Comment – We never saw mess halls like this! With posted menus????

0900 – Free time for all hands.

1100 - Depart from the Inn for luncheon at the Globe and Laurel Restaurant which is now at a new location with expanded facilities. We were hosted by Major Spooner and his wife. Guests for luncheon were retired Marines Col. Jerry Goodwine, Gunny Sgt. Lonnie Martin and Col. Herb Ing. The luncheon concluded with a short ceremony in which the members of Co B received individual Proclamations from their respective State Governors honoring them for service to the Country.

1330 – We left the Globe and Laurel for the Marine Corps Museum where we were joined by Lonnie Martin, Jerry Goodwine and Al Adler who acted as our Docents. We were greatly honored by the attention received and remained until the museum closed.

1730 – Remainder of the evening free time.

Saturday 9/27/08

0700 - Met for breakfast in the common area of the Inn and spent the morning visiting Quantico Town and Marine Corps Book Store, etc.

1200 – We gathered in the Meeting Room at the Inn with pictures, albums, maps, flags and other war time memorabilia. Here we enjoyed a Pizza party while swapping stories and taking pictures. During the afternoon Diane VandeBurgt, who is writing an extended version of our Company's story “*Lest We Forget*”, gathered material for the conclusion of her book. Her husband Tom also questioned us on camera for added background.

1730 – We departed from the lobby of the Inn for Mulligan's Restaurant located at the base golf course. We were joined by Brigadier General Timothy C. Hanifen, the Deputy Commander of the Base and Lt. Commander Kermit Jones, Chaplain. Following dinner General Hanifen presented certificates of lifetime memberships to the Marine Corps Engineer Association to Co B Marines and surviving family members. The honorary memberships were provided by Col. Ken Frantz USMC (Retired), and current President of MCEA. In his remarks Gen. Hanifen spoke of the significance of Iwo Jima. He asked us to honor not only the Marines of Iwo but all Marines who brought us to victory in the Pacific. The hospitality and gracious nature of these fine Officers added to our enjoyment.



Sunday 9/28/08

0600 – Some farewells were said last night due to early departures. Others lingered over morning coffee and donuts reluctant to part. ———Me too!

Report by: Joe Flynn; Marilyn Mraz



THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN BY DIANE VANDE BURGT

There were just a handful of men who were still able to attend the reunion of "B" Company, 5th Engineer Battalion, 5th Marine Division held at Quantico, Virginia on September 25th-28th, 2008. This small group brought with it friends, family and widows to share in what is to possibly be their last gathering to honor their friends and comrades who have gone before them. It's been over sixty years ago now that these same men, "boys" by any standard, stepped onto the beaches of Iwo Jima and then to leave that island forever changed.

On February 19th, 1945, the men of "B" Company 5th Engineer Battalion were attached to the 27th Regimental Combat Team and landed on the black sands of Iwo's Southeastern Shores. The combined efforts of each Platoon, operating with a Battalion of the 27th, accomplished "B" Company's mission on bloody Iwo as they advanced from Red Beaches 1 and 2, to the northern end of the island. "The following is an excerpt from these men own unit history book, published at Camp Tarawa in 1945. This unique book was hand carved using fruit crates and created by and for the men of "B" Company. Their original story will be re-published sometime in late 2008".

" In landing, men were scattered up and down the beach, now squads and individuals began the difficult job of organizing into their respective platoons. The entire beach was rapidly becoming a mass of confusion of men and equipment, and enemy fire placed everything in its range of destruction.

Organizing under fire seemed almost impossible but by evening each platoon succeeded in getting most of its men together. The congestion and confusion on the beach limited much of our intended engineer work, however we did accomplish clearing many mined areas and our bulldozers started dragging supplies and equipment off the beach. Darkness the first night found small groups of each platoon dug in, where space permitted, to spend a nightmare in hell." After 36 days of intense fighting, twenty young men from "B" Company lost their lives and another fifty-one left the island wounded.

The "B" Company reunion brought together six men, Joe Flynn, Paul Dreher, Horace Lee, "Ike" Herman Blumenstein, Francis "Moose" Callahan, and Elden Haverstock, the last men still able to attend from an original group of two hundred and fifty strong. On first glance one may not notice a whole lot that sets these WWII Marines apart from the average person, but taking a closer look you might observe a faded USMC tattoo peeking out from under a shirt, a worn hat proudly displaying the words WWII Veteran and covered in numerous Marine Corps hat pins. These men on close inspection display an air of confidence that only a veteran Marine can carry. One hears the word "engineer" and might automatically assume these men built bridges or maybe they plowed a road or two, but the fact is these men were not as much "engineers" as they were "demolition" during WWII, a job not for the faint of heart. These men attached to the 27th Marines, 5th Marine Division, helped pave the way for the Marines landing on Iwo Jima and played an important role in the battle of Iwo Jima. Yes, sixty years later their walk might be a bit slower, the uniform may not fit quite right and some may no longer carry a rifle but instead a cane. No matter though, a few things that remain the same and time has not changed at all is these men's courage, wit, wisdom and air of quiet confidence that one can only admire and identify with being a United States Marine.

Rightfully so, the men of "B" Company were treated to some wonderful events during their three day get-together. Friday morning started after a short gathering at Quantico's Crossroads Inn hotel lobby where everyone was driven over to the Headquarters



and Service Bn mess hall to be met by two young Marine Escorts. Mr. John E. DeBerry, the Quantico Command Visit Coordinator, had arranged for these men to enjoy an "Ole fashioned" mess hall breakfast, not like the old days, you could hear the men say with a chuckle "we never had a mess hall like this!"

From there the men were treated to a wonderful buffet style luncheon held at the historic Globe and Laurel, hosted by Major Spooner. The men and families were warmly welcomed by Col. Jerry Goodwine, USMC (Retired) and Iwo Jima Veteran Col. Herb Ing as well a small ceremony was held which presented individual State Proclamations' thanking the men for their service and wishing them the very best at their reunion. Later the men and families toured the new National Museum of the Marine Corps, which was coordinated by Pat Mooney, Chief of Visitor Services and Museum hosted by Mr. Lonnie Martin and Al Alder. The museum tour took the men to the WWII exhibit. Veterans and families entered the new "immersion" exhibit, which allows a person to experience through sight and sound landing day on Iwo Jima. Quietly standing to the side was WWII "B" Co veteran Mr. Francis Callahan intently watching and possibly re-experiencing the landing on the beaches of Iwo Jima over sixty years later. His face wore an expression of deep emotion, much written in the fine lines etched from years on his face. It was as though he was vividly remembering that day when he turned with eyes full with tears and he leaned over and quietly said, "I will never forget that day, never", looking every bit a Marine and those words touching the heart.

Saturday afternoon was spent by the men, widows and families gathered in the hotel reminiscing, taking pictures and telling stories. Sadly many of the men are no longer with them but not one is forgotten. Every man present had a story or memory that they shared, and laughter and memories filled the room till late afternoon. Memorabilia and pictures were shared by all, and if even for just a short time, the spirit of each man both past and present filled the room.

Later that evening the "B" Co men and families attended a spectacular buffet dinner held at Quantico's Mulligan's Medal of Honor Golf Course and Clubhouse. Special guests were Brigadier General Timothy C. Hanifen and Navy Chaplain Kermit Jones, which for the men and families was a huge honor. The hospitality and gracious nature of these two men towards the veterans was the highlight of the reunion it seemed. The "B" Co men and families could not express enough thanks for their attendance. The General spoke fondly and respectfully of the service these WWII veterans gave and you could see his sincere and genuine interest as he spoke with each person there that evening. Brigadier General Hanifen also benevolently presented certificates of lifetime memberships with the Marine Corps Engineer Association to the men and surviving family members of "B" Company presented on behalf of Col Ken Frantz, USMC Retired, and the Association's President. Enough cannot be said as to the role Colonel Frantz played in assisting and though he was unable to attend himself, he was one of many people including "B" Co veteran Joe Flynn and Mrs. Marilyn (Blumenstein) Mraz that were integral in arranging the many activities and special treatment for the WWII Marine Corps Engineer veterans.

Sunday came too quickly it seemed, bringing to a close the "B" Co 5th Engineer Battalion reunion, with everyone hopeful that there will be yet another reunion next year. Each day we are losing a huge part of history, many of these wonderful and heroic Marines are no longer with us due to age and time. It is only at these small reunions such as the "B" Co, 5th Engineers reunion do we stop time for just a bit and bring together in both body and spirit the memories of these humble Marines whose sacrifices have changed the path of history.

It is because of these WWII veterans and the veterans before and after them that our young generations of Marines now proudly walk the same path while carrying the torch for these men who held it so high. Side by side the spirits of Marines lost, but never forgotten, the ones that never age because they did not finish living, these are the spirits that walk with our new generation of Marines. From the creased and aged hands of our living WWII Veteran Marines you can see them gently and devotedly pass that same torch they held knowing it is time to pay it forward into the strong and youthful hand of our young Marines. Proudly aging WWII Veteran Marines now entrusting these young Boots to carry on as they once did. To carry that same torch proudly and to never forget the sacrifices, memories, stories and friendships these Marines made for generations to come.

***A man's country is not a certain area of land,
of mountains, rivers, and woods,
but it is a principle and patriotism i
s loyalty to that principle***

- George William Curtis



SAME Recognizes USMC Engineers

Since its founding in 1920, the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) has honored engineers for outstanding achievement. The first award—the SAME Gold Medal—was the first awarded in 1920 in recognition of an SAME Member who demonstrated outstanding leadership skills in support of the SAME mission. In the spring of 2005, the SAME Board of Direction changed the name of the Gold Medal to the **Walter O. Bachus** Gold Medal Award in honor of **Brig. Gen. Walter O. Bachus, P.E., F.SAME, USA (Ret.)**, who served as SAME Executive Director from 1978 to 1993, and who was a two-time recipient of the SAME Gold Medal. The change added even more prestige to the medal while honoring the individual for whom it is named.

Since the inception of the first award, SAME has broadened its reach and recognition of individuals in the A/E/C fields. In 2008, SAME presented 35 awards to individuals and organizations from the uniformed services and the private sector to recognize their achievements in support of the *SAME Strategic Plan*, the engineering profession and the nation's national security objectives. With the development of two new awards honoring individuals in the U.S. Marine Corps, the awards program for 2009 has grown to 37.

Marines to be honored at JETC 09

At the Oct. 16, 2008, Marine Corps Engineer Association (MCEA) Executive Committee Meeting, the Board approved SAME's proposed plan to recognize two Marine Corps engineers for their outstanding efforts. The awards—the Engineer Officer of the Year Award and the Engineer Staff NCO of the Year Award—will be presented for the first time May 13 during the Honors Luncheon at the 2009 Joint Engineer Training Conference & Expo (JETC 09) in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The award development was a joint effort between SAME and MCEA. For the purposes of selecting award recipients, MCEA will convene a panel each year to select two individuals from the MCEA Awards Program: one officer from among five award categories and one staff NCO from four award categories. The SAME Engineer of the Year Award honors the “best of the best” of these bright, dedicated Marines.

As part of the award recognition package, SAME will sponsor each of the award recipients to attend the three-day JETC event. Honorees will be recognized in the annual Awards & Medal section published in the May-June issue of SAME's prestigious magazine, *TME-The Military Engineer*, on the SAME Web site, and at the Honors Luncheon, where they will be presented with a medal for their achievements.

“We're please to be able to form this partnership with MCEA to recognize individuals from the U.S. Marine Corps as part of the SAME Medals and Award ceremony,” said SAME Executive Director, Robert D. Wolff, Ph.D., P.E., F.SAME. “The men and women of the Marine Corps are a valuable asset to the uniformed services and recognition of their accomplishments has a place with SAME.”

Life doesn't require that we be the best, only that
we try our best. Strive for excellence, not perfection.

— H. Jackson Brown Jr.



Spotlight on Award Winners

U.S. Marine Corps Combat Engineer Officer of the Year Award 1st Lt. George A. Saenz, USMC

1st Lt. George A. Saenz, USMC, is being honored with the U.S. Marine Corps Combat Engineer Officer of the Year Award for superior performance of duties while serving as Platoon Commander, Company C and Executive Officer for Mobility Assault Company, 2d Combat Engineer Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 6, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) from March to October 2007 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Under his leadership, Lt. Saenz's platoon discovered 53 improvised explosive devices and cleared 6,058-km of road during more than 756 hours of route clearance operations. On June 28, 2007, Lt. Saenz's convoy was attacked, resulting in a mobility kill to his vehicle. Although dazed from the blast, he quickly regained his composure and effectively quelled the initial chaos by initiating the platoon's established battle drills for an attack. While the area remained under threat, Lt. Saenz dismounted to coordinate security and vehicle recovery.

Upon his return from Iraq, Lt. Saenz continued to contribute greatly to the engineer community with his work developing route clearance standing operations procedures and developing programs of instruction for training. Lt. Saenz's initiative, perseverance and total dedication to duty reflected great credit upon him and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Naval service.



U.S. Marine Corps Combat Engineer Staff NCO of the Year Award Staff Sgt. John R. King, USMC



Staff Sgt. John R. King, USMC, is being honored with The U.S. Marine Corps Combat Engineer Senior NCO of the Year Award for his heroic achievement in the superior performance of his duties while serving as Squad Leader, Task Force 1st Battalion, 2d Marines, Regimental Combat Team 2, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) from March to August 2007 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Specifically, on April 2, 2007, while conducting a deliberate cache sweep, Sgt. King's engineers discovered a large enemy weapons cache on the east side of the Euphrates River. As his Marines began unearthing the cache they were attacked by intense small arms, medium machinegun and rocket-propelled fire. Without hesitation, Sgt. King immediately issued orders and directed fires onto the enemy positions until the attack was repelled. His direct actions prevented Marine casualties and denied the enemy its ability to use this weapons cache to attack coalition forces. Sgt. King's initiative, perseverance and total dedication to duty reflected credit upon him and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the U.S. Naval service.



SHIP'S STORE ITEMS

Merchandise for Sale	Cost	Postage
MCEA Logo Coin 1 ½ " dia, color	\$3.00	\$0.85
MCEA Logo Lapel Pin 7/8" dia, color	\$2.00	\$0.85
MCEA Logo with Crossed Flags Lapel Pin 1" dia, color	\$2.50	\$0.85
Embroidered MCEA Logo Cloth Match 3" dia, color	\$2.75	\$0.85
MCEA Windshield Decal 4 ¼" dia, color	\$3.00	\$0.85
Money clip	\$5.00	\$0.95
Key Chain	\$5.00	\$0.95
Magnet	\$2.00	\$0.84
Seabee Medallion	\$4.00	\$1.50
SHIPPING AND HANDLING PER ORDER		\$1.50



If ordering multiple items, contact Frantz for accurate postage charge.

Courage is the first of human qualities because it is the quality which guarantees all others.

Winston Churchill





Aim for service and success will follow.
— Albert Schweitzer



We need to do a better job of teaching that the pursuit of self-sufficiency is a moral duty. It's a part of responsibility.

— Michael Josephson

Every day, ordinary people prove that cynicism is a deplorable lie. Stories of courage, heroism, self-sacrifice, and compassion inspire and elevate us because they confirm our extraordinary capacity for nobility.

— Michael Josephson



