



ENGINEERS UP!

2010 Newsletter





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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to one & all!

We sincerely hope that all of you are enjoying life wherever you might be.

We trust you'll take pleasure in reading this year's newsletter and catching up on all that occurred over the last very busy year. I've included several memoirs, 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 Las Vegas reunion and awards banquet last year. It was the 1st time we've been to Vegas and used a 5 star facility and the feedback from our attendees was excellent! We even had some members report that they went home with more money than they started with; which is a very good thing!

Our upcoming reunion is in the Northern Virginia area and I sincerely hope you are planning on joining us. Additional details and a reservation form are included. 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! Read about our 2011 San Diego reunion as well and please make your plans to attend.

I'm very happy with our new, improved website, but disappointed in the lack of participation. 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.

We have over a thousand members on our rolls, but no two are alike. The one noteworthy item that we all have in common is our Marine Corps Engineer Association and our connection to our USMC engineer brotherhood. The overwhelming preponderance of our members only read the newsletters and emails and pay their dues. However, we have a special, more active and dedicated group of men and women who deserve recognition. That group consists of our elected Officers and the gracious volunteers who make all the behind the scenes, year round, actions happen. Another group that deserves special recognition is our contributors, both individual and Corporate members who provide very gracious additional financial support so we can properly recognize awardees, continue to grow our Assistance Fund and provide financial support to the very deserving members and their family.

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

THE WORLD IS FULL OF WILLING PEOPLE; SOME WILLING TO WORK, THE REST WILLING TO LET THEM!
ROBERT FROST 1874-1963



Elected Officials as of 14 Oct 2009

President/Secretary: Ken Frantz, Col, USMC (Ret)
Vice President: Hank Rudge, Col, USMC (Ret)
2d Vice President: Jerry Goodwine, Col, USMC (Ret)
Treasurer: George Carlson, LtCol, USMC (Ret)
Chaplain: Doug Kirk, Cpl USMC (Ret)
Historian: Steve Dunkin, Maj. USMC (Ret)

Appointments:

Executive Director: Vacant

Permanent Associate Directors:

Jim Marapoti, Col, USMC, (Ret) Founder and Past President

Webmaster: Geoff Nicely

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

NAME	TITLE	STATE	EMAIL
COY, JUDY	MRS	VT	YES
DIETZ, DOUG	GYSGT	TN	YES
FULLERTON, BILL	MR	FL	NO
HILLIARD, TONY	LT COL	GA	YES
JEANS, PAM	MRS	CA	YES
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.

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



GET TO KNOW YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

I often receive questions from our members as to who so and so is; when did they serve, etc. Therefore, I thought it would be helpful to include some background info and even a pic of your Executive Committee members. Unfortunately, I didn't receive input from all of them, but at least we have a start.



Lt.Col. George Carlson USMC (Ret); MCEA Treasurer: grew up in St. Louis, MO and enlisted in the Marine Corps (Platoon Leaders' Class program) in 1963. He was commissioned a 2nd Lt USMCR in 1967 and augmented to regular in 1970. He has served with 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, RVN and the 1st and 3rd Marine Divisions. Post and station tours include Henderson Hall; HQMC; instructional staff Ft. Belvoir; MCB, Quantico; Camp Garcia; UCLA, NROTC; and MCB, Camp Pendleton. His military schooling includes The Basic School, Engineer Officer Orientation Course, Utility Officers' Course; US Army Engineer Officer Advanced Course, and Marine Corps Command and Staff College. He holds a B.S. in electrical engineering and an M.B.A. in operations research. He retired from the Corps in January 1990 and has held a variety of civilian positions in facilities management before fully retiring in 2009. He and his wife Miriam (Mikki) live on 28 acres in "walking horse country" in Tennessee with four horses, three dogs, and a variable number of barn cats. Between them they have six grown children and nine grandchildren.

Col. Ken Frantz, USMC (Ret); MCEA President: was born 4 May 1947 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma to hard working parents; Father "AK" was a WW I Navy Vet and mother Eunice started as a school teacher and became a professional business woman in several different fields. After two years at the University of Oklahoma, Ken enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on 14 September 1967. Upon graduation from Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, he was assigned as a Troop Leader 2d Infantry Training Regiment at Camp Pendleton. Receiving his commission as a Second Lieutenant via the Enlisted Commissioning Program, he attended Officer Candidate School, The Basic School and Marine Corps Engineer School, whereupon his first assignment was as a Platoon Commander, Delta Company, 8th Engineer Bn, 2d Force Troops, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Volunteering for overseas duty, he was transferred to 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, Okinawa, Japan in January 1971. There he served as Assistant Operations Officer; Commanding Officer of Headquarters and Service Company; Battalion Atomic Demolition's Munitions Officer and Officer In Charge of the Leadership School.

Returning to Camp Lejeune, he served at the Marine Corps Engineer School, first as the Senior Instructor, Special Subjects, and later as the Executive Officer, Student Command. He was then transferred to Fort Belvoir, Virginia in May 1974 to attend the U.S. Army Engineer Officers' Advanced Course.

Returning to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Captain Frantz served as the Maintenance Operations Officer. During this assignment, he was temporarily assigned to Camp Pendleton as the Engineer Officer for OPERATION NEW ARRIVAL, where he promptly set about accomplishing the priority task of establishing camps in six days to house 18,000 Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees who were fleeing their countries after the Viet Nam conflict. Before terminating operations, the Camp Pendleton Reception and Processing Center would process over 50,000 refugees in less than seven months.

Returning to San Diego, Captain Frantz initially assumed duties as Commanding Officer of Service Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion. From October 1975 until June 1978, he served as the Facility Management Officer for the Depot.

Returning overseas, this time to Iwakuni, Japan and the First Marine Aircraft Wing, he served as the Wing Utilities Officer prior to assuming duties as Executive Officer Detachment "C", Marine Wing Support Group-17.

Following his transfer to the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, he served as the Operations Officer, Logistics Officer, Commanding Officer of Support Company and Battalion Executive Officer. Additionally, during this time he served as Headquarters Commandant for the 5th Marine Amphibious Brigade during exercise GALLANT EAGLE.

Upon graduation from the Marine Corps Command & Staff College at Quantico, Major Frantz participated in the College Degree Completion Program and graduated from Central State College, Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Management.

In January 1985, Lieutenant Colonel Frantz was assigned as the Engineer Officer, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic where he additionally served as Engineer Staff Officer for Fleet Marine Forces Europe, the Second Marine Amphibious Force (II MAF) and the Fourth Marine Amphibious Brigade (4th MAB).

Upon his transfer to Okinawa, Lieutenant Colonel Frantz initially served as the Third Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) Engineer Officer and then as the Commanding Officer, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion. While serving as Battalion Commander, he was selected to the grade of Colonel and served his last year on Okinawa as the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4, Third Marine Expeditionary Force.

Transferring to Hawaii, he was the Commanding Officer of Brigade Service Support Group, 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Kaneohe, Hawaii, from 26 June 1991 to 11 December 1992.

Upon joining Marine Forces, Pacific, he initially served as the MARFORPAC Liaison Officer to U.S. Central Command during OPERATION RESTORE HOPE and assumed duties as the Force Engineer Officer for Marine Forces, Pacific, on 26 April 1993, and served in that billet until 1 December 1993.



After the Commandant of the Marine Corps approved the permanent establishment of the U.S. MARCENT Liaison Officer billet to be located at Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida, Colonel Frantz performed those duties from 3 December 1993 until 1 April 1997.

He then returned to Okinawa and served once again as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4, Third Marine Expeditionary Force until his retirement June 30, 1999.

Upon retirement he and his wife Diana of DuBois, Pennsylvania, moved to their Florida cattle ranch until relocating to Asheville New York in April of 2005. Between the two of us, we have 4 children, 7 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren spread out around the country.

In October of 2005, he was elected as President/Secretary of the Marine Corps Engineer Association.

Cpl. Douglas Kirk USMC (Ret); MCEA Chaplain: worked for 23 years after the Marine Corps as A carpenter/contractor, building homes and home improvements while earning his Associate degree in Construction Engineering in 1973 from Franklin University.

Medically retired from the Marine Corps due to wounds sustained in combat in Vietnam in 1968.

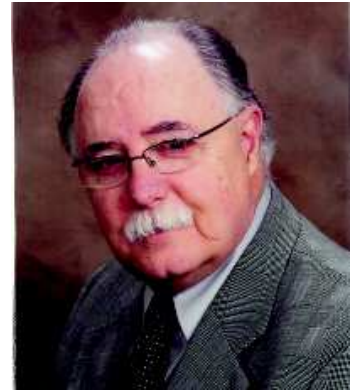
Married to his lovely wife Susan for 41 years with 2 grown children and 2 grandchildren, they have resided in central Ohio since 1969.

Doug and Sue have worked to develop and operate a financial services ministry/company for the past 18 years.

Now hiring, training and developing people nationwide to "Set the captives free" from the bondage of debt and financial misinformation. Using Gods word as a guide.

Member of Marine Corps Engineer Association about a year. Also active in Military Order of the Purple Heart, Marine Corps Association, Marine Corps League, Welcome Home, and Church and Family.

Honored to serve as Chaplain for MCEA.



Col. Jim Marapoti, USMC (Ret); Founder and Past President

Geoff Nicely; Webmaster: is a retired Pipefitter/Golf Pro (hence the nickname PipePro) and Business owner. 63 years old, a wife of 39 years, 4 kids, and 4 grand kids. In the Marine Corps from 1966-68 (a 2 year wonder) Vietnam 67-68 with 2 purple hearts, 3rd Engineer Bn A Co. I webmaster 4 websites and still teach Golf part time in the summer.



For unto whomever much is given, of him shall be much required:
and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

LUKE 12:48



Update From Our Associate Directors



Lt. Col Tony Hilliard

LtCol Tony Hilliard USMC (Ret) Georgia Rep

Made initial contact with Georgia members after appointment via email and USPS. Received 2 responses, one of whom rejoined.

Sent out Christmas cards and USMC birthday cards via Blue Mountain with no responses.

Identified a potential new member, Woody Johnson who served with 9th Engineers in RVN.



M Sgt. Phil Martin

MSgt. Phil Martin, Retired MA and Bulk Fuel Rep

This has been a busy year for all of our Bulk Fuelers including me. I have been lucky to review the recommendations from commands on individual Bulk Fuelers who were nominated for Awards in the Bulk Fuel MOS. I found the reading of these excellent individuals packages to be a real eye opener to the quality of Marines we have working in this MOS. The selection of the best from the best is, to say the least, humbling to me as I go through the task of helping to select a Marine to receive the award in all levels of the award spectrum.

A new record has been written now that our Marines have left Iraq. The history books will be full of your dedication and heroics. You should be very proud of all you have accomplished. I would like to be the first to thank you for all you have accomplished and lost. Please stay safe as you enter the new battle front in Afghanistan and join those who have done all of the things you have and continue to fight the brave fight. May the Lord look after you as you go about your daily chores and fight the good fight while we pray for your safe return home

During the 2008 meeting in May the Bulk Fuel Association voted to collocate with us in Quantico at the Museum of the Marines. The Bulk Fuel Association has since notified the MCEA that the Bulk Fuel Association has changed its mind and has decided to hold their annual meeting in May. I spoke with their President CWO4 Nate Wilson, Retired and he has informed the MCEA and his membership they were free to attend our Awards Banquet in October. I hope we do have some of the Bulk Fuelers attend as I have been a member for several years and I have not gone to any of their Association meetings and I know I missed out on a couple I could have attended and due to medical problems I was not able to. I am looking forward to meeting with some of my Bulk Fuelers in October. I have also been in touch with the Bulk Fuel School at Fort Lee, Virginia. CWO 5 Oliver K. Ezell is the head of the instructors and he and I have been discussing the staff and students joining us for the Award Banquet. I will be meeting with CWO 5 Ezell later this summer when I go to Fort Lee to see my youngest Son Graduate from the Water Purification School.

I finished the 7th Separate Bulk Fuel C. D. and sent it to the Marine Corps University where it was accepted as a gift but I retained the right to update the C.D. I have noted some errors and I will be correcting these as the year goes on. This is supposed to be a living history of our time in Viet Nam but I have been disappointed that more former members haven't stepped forward and write about their experiences while they were with this unit. I am appealing to the Viet Nam Veterans of America to aid me by publishing my request for former members to provide their stories, hardships, funny experiences and anything else they wish to write either one time or month by month. There are some members, even Officers who were there who could add a lot to this History. The next C.D. is on the Bulk Fuel School at Fort Lee. All I can say is this is about you; live it ,digest it, spit it out but above all do something to aid in making these stories come alive.

GySgt Doug Dietz USMC (Ret) TN rep

I made one contact near Chattanooga and to follow up in March. His main concern was the Association doesn't do anything except once a year and then it was too far to travel.

I will make contact with the guys in the Chattanooga area and have a "get to know you" kind of meeting.

Judy Coy in Vermont continues to provide support in several areas pertaining to internet search for contact information on our members and reconciliation on our Combat Casualties list.



Duell and Pam Jeans

Duell and Pam Jeans from California continue their superb work on the website Together We Served by creating profiles for our fallen heroes; obtaining obituaries for both the fallen Marines as well as the deceased MCEA members.

Bill Fullerton of Florida has been very sick and unable to perform his Associate Director's duties. **CWO 3 Jack Wing USMC (Ret)** has graciously stepped in to help.



Lieutenant General Frank A. Panter, Jr.

Deputy Commandant for Installations and Logistics

Lieutenant General Panter is presently serving as the Deputy Commandant, Installations and Logistics, Washington, DC.

Enlisting in the Marine Corps in August 1968, he served until 1972. This included a tour in the Republic of Vietnam with the 1st Marine Division. After graduating in 1975 from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology, he entered Officer Candidate School and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps in July 1975.

Following The Basic School in 1976, Second Lieutenant Panter attended the Basic Combat Engineer Course. He then served as a Combat Engineer and Shore Party Platoon Commander, Alpha Company, 3D Combat Engineer Battalion, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii participating in several deployments throughout the Western Pacific. Transferred in July 1979 to the Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany, Georgia, Captain Panter served as the Commanding General's aide-de-camp until 1982. Captain Panter then served as Inspector-Instructor for Headquarters & Service Company and Assistant Battalion Inspector-Instructor, 6th Engineer Support Battalion, Portland, Oregon until 1986. He was later assigned to Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington D.C. as an Acquisition Project Officer for engineer equipment.

In 1990 Major Panter was transferred to Okinawa, Japan and served as the Operations Officer and later as the Executive Officer for 3d Combat Engineer Battalion, 3d Marine Division. After being promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, he assumed command of the 3d Combat Engineer Battalion. While at 3d Combat Engineer Battalion he participated in Operation FIERY VIGIL, providing disaster relief assistance in the Philippines after the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo.

In 1993 Lieutenant Colonel Panter was transferred to United States Central Command, Tampa, Florida and served as the Branch Chief, Exercise Branch, Logistics and Security Assistance Directorate (J4) and also as the Humanitarian Assessment Survey Team (HAST) Chief.

During 1997 he was transferred to Naples, Italy, where he served as the Military Assistant and Senior Special Assistant to the Commander-in-Chief, United States Naval Forces Europe / Commander, Allied Forces Southern Europe.

In July 1998, Colonel Panter was transferred to United States Atlantic Command, Norfolk, Virginia where he served as the Deputy Chief and later Chief of the Current Operations Division, Operations Directorate (J3). During August 1999 Colonel Panter was transferred to the 2D Marine Aircraft Wing and served as the 2D Marine Aircraft Wing Inspector until assuming command of Marine Wing Support Group 27, which he commanded for two years.

From July 2002 until August 2003, Brigadier General Panter served as the Commanding General, Marine Corps Warfighting Lab in Quantico, VA and the Vice Chief, Office of Naval Research in Arlington, VA.

In September 2003 he assumed command of the 3d Marine Logistics Group. During this tour he commanded the Combined Support Group-Sri Lanka, Operation UNIFIED ASSISTANCE, which was responsible for U.S. military tsunami disaster relief assistance in Sri Lanka and the Maldives. BGen Panter also deployed forces to Pakistan for earthquake disaster relief efforts as well as commanding the U.S. forces in Indonesia for earthquake disaster relief operations.

During August 2006 Brigadier General Panter was transferred to Headquarters, Marine Corps where he assumed duties as the Assistant Deputy Commandant for Installations and Logistics (Plans, Policy and Strategic Mobility).

Lieutenant General Panter previous assignment was the Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Korea and Assistant Chief of Staff, U/C/J-5, United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, and United States Forces Korea.

General Panter is a graduate of the United States Army's Advance Engineer Officer's Course, the Marine Corps' Command & Staff College, the Naval War College and the Air Force's Air War College (non resident). He has a Master of Education degree in Secondary Mathematics and a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies.



LtGen and Mrs. Panter with General Conway after promotion

Personal comments from our Senior Engineer!

All of us should be extremely proud of the professionalism, sacrifice and bravery our young Marines continue to display every day in the defense of our great nation. Their action rival the great sacrifices prior generations of Marines have made.

I have been in uniform for 39 years and I am amazed everyday at the quality of the Marines we have. The mere fact that we still manage to achieve and exceed our recruiting goals during a time of war is amazing. It also means we will never have to lower our standards for becoming a Marine.

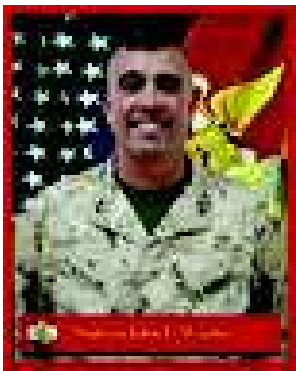
As far as being an Engineer, I have been very proud to serve in that capacity—both as an enlisted Marine and as an officer. It has allowed me to do some rather unique things in my career. If given a chance to go back to basic school and choose again, I would still pick the 1302 MOS.

Lastly, as the Marine Corps' advocate for engineering across the MAGTF, I would like to generate some new enthusiasm and energy into our MOS. I will need the help of the MCEA to do this however.



Maj. Gen. John E. Wissler

Deputy Commanding General, II Marine Expeditionary Force



Major General Wissler was promoted to his current rank on 2 November 2009 and is currently serving as the Deputy Commanding General, Multi-National Force West (MNF-W) and Deputy Commanding General II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward).

Major General Wissler was born at Camp Pendleton, California and raised across the country, settling in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. He graduated with honors from the United States Naval Academy with a Bachelor of Science in Ocean Engineering and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant on 7 June 1978.

Upon completing The Basic School and the Engineer Officer Basic Course, Major General Wissler reported to the Engineer Company, Brigade Service Support Group, 1st Marine Brigade, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii in June 1979. MajGen Wissler served as both a Landing Support Platoon Commander and Combat Engineer Platoon Commander in the Engineer Company and completed two 31st Marine Amphibious Unit (MAU) deployments to the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean, first with MAU Service Support Group (MSSG) 31 as the MSSG Landing Support Platoon Commander and next with Battalion Landing Team 3/3 as the Combat Engineer Officer. He subsequently served as the Engineer Company Executive Officer. Major General Wissler was promoted to First Lieutenant in June 1980. He left Hawaii and graduated with honors from the Special Education Program at the Air Force Institute of Technology in September 1983, receiving a Master of Science in Industrial Engineering. He was promoted to Captain in January 1983.

Major General Wissler reported to Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD), San Diego, California upon graduation and served as the Facilities Maintenance Officer for the Recruit Depot. In May 1987, he transferred to 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division. During this assignment he served as the Commanding Officer for Headquarters and Service Company, "B" Company, and Engineer Support Company; and served on the Battalion staff as the Battalion Operations Officer. He was promoted to Major in July 1990.

Major General Wissler was designated a distinguished graduate from the Marine Corps Command and Staff College at Quantico, Virginia, in June 1991 and during the academic year was temporarily reassigned to the Commandant's Amphibious Plans Study Group in support of Operation Desert Storm. He subsequently attended the Armed Forces Staff College at Norfolk, Virginia, and after graduation reported to The White House serving as the Marine Corps Aide to the President from July 1991 to August 1993. Major General Wissler reported to 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in Okinawa, Japan in August 1993 and served as the Operations Officer for Marine Wing Support Group (MWSG) 17 and subsequently as Executive Officer for Marine Wing Support Squadron 172. Upon promotion to Lieutenant Colonel on October 1, 1995, he returned to the MWSG-17 staff and served as the Group Executive Officer and Group Operations Officer.

In July 1996, Major General Wissler reported to Headquarters Battalion, 2d Marine Division, where he served as the Division Engineer until assuming command of 2d Combat Engineer Battalion from January 1997 through July 1998. In July 1998 Major General Wissler proceeded to Washington, DC to serve as a Commandant of the Marine Corps Fellow at The Brookings Institution in the Foreign Policy Studies Branch. Upon completing his fellowship in June 1999, he reported to HQMC as the Deputy Director, Strategic Initiatives Group, Plans, Policies & Operations Department, Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps where he headed the War Room for General James L. Jones, 32d Commandant of the Marine Corps. In May 2000, Major General Wissler assumed duties as Director, Strategic Initiatives Group. He was promoted to Colonel on 1 July 2000.

Major General Wissler commanded 2d Transportation Support Battalion, 2d FSSG, from July 2002 to June 2004, and deployed to Kuwait and Iraq from February through July 2003 supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. During combat operations in Iraq, he commanded Task Force Pegasus, providing operational and tactical level battlefield distribution capabilities in support of I Marine Expeditionary Force. In July 2004, Major General Wissler assumed the duties of Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, 2d FSSG and in September 2004, he assumed command of 2d FSSG Forward for service in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 04-06. Major General Wissler redeployed from Iraq in February 2006, serving as Commanding General, 2d Marine Logistics Group at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Major General Wissler reported to the Office of the Secretary of Defense in April 2006 for service as the Senior Military Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense. Upon completing this assignment he transferred to II MEF in June 2008, deploying to Iraq as the Deputy Commanding General, MNF-W in January 2009.



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)
 *ARMSTRONG, MILT SSGT (RET)
 BACHE, TERRANCE MR
 BALLANCE, HENRY G. MSGT (RET)
 *BANISH, THEODORE VET
 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)
 *BOYER, JASPER MSGT (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, JAMES MSGT (RET)
 CAREY, RALPH J MR VET
 *CARPENTER, JACK (RET)
 CLARK, ELMO A. CAPT (RET)
 COLANGELO, NICK E. MGYSGT (RET)
 COLE, JAMES MSGT (RET)
 COMPTON, JOSEPH MAJ (RET)
 COOPER, FRANCIS MGYSGT (RET)
 *CRAIG, JACK CWO 2 (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)
 *DABROWSKI, WALTER VET
 DAMON, ROBERT K. LTCOL (RET)
 *DAVIDSON, RUSSELL MSGT (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)
 *DYBES, FRANK VET
 ECHOLS, JAMES CAPT (RET)
 EVANS, RAY MGYSGT (RET)
 FADICK, CARL MR VET
 FAUST JR., RUDOLPH MAJ (RET)
 *FAY, CHARLES 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)
 *GALBREATH, ROBERT VET
 GALLAGHER, JOHN F MGYSGT (RET)
 GANGEWERE, KENNETH SSGT (RET)
 *GATES JR, ALBERT VET
 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
 *HODDIN, JOHN 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)
 *KOENIG, CHARLES G. SGTMAJ (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)
 *MACKAY, 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)
 *PHANEUF, JOSEPH LTCOL (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
 *RODEBAUGH, ROBERT MSGT (RET)
 RUDAT, JUNIOR D GYSGT (RET)
 RUSHING, EDWIN VET
 SAULNIER, JOHN L CAPT (RET)
 SCHEER, CARL MGYSGT (RET)
 *SARDO, EUGENE VET
 SHARKEY, KEO J VET
 SHELKOFKY, EARNEST L MSGT (RET)
 SHELTON, OTEY CWO4 (RET)
 SHEPPARD, BILL GYSGT (RET)
 SHIELDS, JIMMIE R MR
 *SHOVAR, ROBERT J SGTMAJ (RET)
 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
 *SOWA, JEROME MGYSGT (RET)
 SPIKERMANN, JACK MAJ (RET)
 STANDISH, PETER VET
 STASIO, ANTHONY DR
 STOCKSTILL, PAUL R VET
 STOKES, RUFUS R MSGT (RET)
 STUBBLEFIELD, ROBERT MR VET
 *SULLIVAN, JOHN VET
 STURGEON, BILL VET
 STURZA, RAYMOND CAPT (RET)
 SURKAMP, RICHARD VET
 *SVILKA, AL VET
 *SWENSON, KEN 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)
 WATERS, RONALD T (MESSIO) MGYSGT (RET)
 *WEAVER, RALPH BO VET
 *WEIGHTMAN, ROBERT 1STSGT (RET)
 *WELCHERT, JERRY VET
 WICKHAM, JOHN D MR VET
 WIGGINS, ANDREW J GYSGT (RET)
 *WILDER, WALLY VET
 WILLIAMS, KENNETH W GYSGT (RET)
 WINOSKI, WALTER M COL (RET)
 WOODWARD, LEEMAN MGYSGT (RET)
 WRIGHT, RICHARD CAPT (RET)
 *YEAMAN, DON VET
 *ZACK, CHARLES VET
 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

Over the last year, we lost many of our Brothers. As they have passed on so shall we all. Until such time, we salute you for your service and dedication to our Corps and our Association. May God rest your souls and may his loving hand comfort your families.

God Bless and Semper Fidelis,
Doug Kirk
Chaplain MCEA

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Armstrong, Milton L. SSgt. USMC (Ret) was born Jan. 19, 1920, in Highland County and was the son of the late Harman and Almerta Jack Armstrong. He died 21 May 2008. He was a longtime resident of Charlottesville and Stuarts Draft, VA. He was a veteran of World War II, a Charlottesville police officer and had owned a painting contract company. He retired to Florida in 2003. His first wife, Elizabeth Siever, preceded him in death. His wife of 30 years, Lee Nell Armstrong, survives. Also surviving are a sister, Phyllis Cox of Charlottesville, a stepdaughter, Betty L. Herndon, several nephews and one niece. A graveside service was held in Woodbine Cemetery in Harrisonburg.

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Craig, Jack Ray CWO2 USMC (Ret) 81, of Goodlettsville, TN. He is survived by his wife, Wanda Craig, sons, Mike Craig and Bob (Gayle) Craig; daughters, Dawn (John) Bertotti, Terri (Ronald) McCoy, and Linda Craig; twelve grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. Mr. Craig was retired from the United States Marine Corps. Graveside service was held Thursday, April 1 at Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens with full military honors.

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Dybes, Francis E. "Frank" 64, of Althea Drive, Barnstable, Mass. died on November 25, 2009 in his home surrounded by his loving family. He was the beloved husband of Susan (Harrington) Dybes to whom he had been married for 34 years. Born in Boston on May 10, 1945, he was the loving youngest son of the late James C. and Loreda A. (Hamaty) Dybes, Sr. Formerly of Norfolk and Mansfield, he was a graduate of the King Philip Regional High School in Wrentham in the Class of 1963. He attended the Grossmont College in San Diego, CA. During the War with Viet Nam he joined the United States Marine Corps, proudly serving our Nation from 1966-1969. He was a 100% Disabled American Veteran and was a life member of the DAV, and had earned the rank of SGT while in the Third Marine Division, Eleventh Engineers. After his service in Viet Nam, he graduated from the Control Data Institute in Waltham. Working as an Elevator Constructor, he had been employed for the past two years for Associated Elevator in Yarmouth. He had previously worked for Delta Beckwith Elevator in South Boston for over thirty years. Known fondly as "Frank" to his family and friends, he had been an active member of the International Union of Elevator Constructors for thirty seven years, only retiring in June of this year because of illness. He was quick with a crossword puzzle, even quicker with a joke, and contributed decades of good advice to everyone around him. Strong, clever, and handy with just about anything, his happiest days were spent on his Harley Davidson. He very much enjoyed travel around the continent with his loving wife, traveling from Nova Scotia to Wyoming. He leaves an expanse of friends and family that will remember him as a lovable and noble man, deeply devoted to his wife and children. His family is especially appreciative and wishes to thank Melissa, Bette, and Carrie, those nurses who eased the way for them all on Frank's final journey. In addition to his loving and devoted wife he leaves his children, David J. Dybes and Adrienne M. Dybes, both of Somerville, a dear brother James C. Dybes Jr. of Carlsbad, CA, a loving mother in law, Margery Harrington of Wrentham, and many cousins, nieces and nephews. His Funeral was held in the Sanctuary of the Original Congregational Church, Wrentham Centre. Burial followed in the Wrentham Centre Cemetery.

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Fay, Charles David Age 79, of Corona, CA, passed away Wednesday, April 7, 2004 at Corona Regional Medical Center. Mr. Fay was employed as a Teacher with Corona-Norco Unified School District for 27 years in Corona, Ca. He retired in Feb. 1993. Mr. Fay served in the Marine Corps during WWII & Korea. He was a graduate of Dartmouth College-1949 BA & Southern Methodist University-1970 MA. Mr. Fay is survived by his wife of 36 years, Nancy Fay, Corona, CA; Son, Charles J. Fay, Riverside, CA.; 4 Daughters, Jennifer Gerhardt, Torrance, CA., Seaneen Foley, San Francisco, CA., Jan Lieurence, Hannibal, MO., Marissa Franco, Pittsburg, CA.; Brother, T. Brendan Fay, Canada; 13 Grandchildren; 7 Great-grandchildren. Burial was at Riverside National Cemetery

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Galbreath, Robert born March 1934 in Texas, passed away Monday, Dec. 3, 2007, at his home after battling multiple illnesses and injuries. Bob was a disabled U.S. Marine veteran of the Korean War and also spent several years in the U.S. Army.

He went on to become a psychotherapist in San Bernardino, Lompoc, and Paso Robles, where he assisted many individuals and families to a better life.

He loved learning and earned three master's degrees and a Ph.D. Having moved to country acreage in 1989, Bob and Jackie also loved small ranching and farming, enjoying the wildlife and beauty of the countryside.



He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Jackie; daughters Lois (Jack) Weddle, Betsey (Duke Kelso) Galbreath, Cheryl (Mike) Gidding; 10 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren, all of California and Colorado, and Debbie (Bill) Beck of Texas; two sisters of Texas and Arkansas; 14 nieces and nephews and their families.

He will be missed greatly. With the thought that "Dr. Bob" never hesitated to reach out to help his fellow man, his family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Doctors Without Borders.

Gates, Jr. Albert -60, died Friday, October 13, 2006. Interment was in the Georgia Veterans's Memorial Cemetery in Milledgeville. Albert attended Unionville Elementary School and Ballard Hudson High School. He was a deacon at New Fellowship Baptist Church. He retired from the United States Postal Service. He was also a member of VFW Post 9709. He was a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran and retired from the U.S. Army Reserves. -Survivors wife, Jerri Jean Gates, who was caring, devoted, loving, and faithful for the thirty-five years of their marriage. She was his dedicated caretaker until the very end. He also leaves to mourn but cherish his memories, one devoted son, Albert R. Gates; two devoted daughters, Shona Faye Howard and Angel (Westhony) Woodard, all of Macon; two devoted sisters, Henrietta (John) Thomas of Macon and Margaret (Dwight) Evans of Coral Springs, FL; one brother, Duncan (Dianne) Gates of Miami, FL; a loving mother-in-law, Lucille Howard of Macon; three grandchildren, Steven Howard, Crystal Mills and Desthony Woodard, all of Macon; one devoted uncle, Theodore Gates of Macon; two nieces; and one nephew. -The family wishes to thank Hospice of Central Georgia and Nurse Helen for all of their efforts.



Herr, Kenneth A. 77, of Mount Joy, Penn. formerly of Lancaster, passed away peacefully at his home with his family by his side on January 19, 2009. He was the devoted husband of Elizabeth Kirchner Herr with whom he celebrated 56 years of marriage in August.

Ken was a 1949 graduate of J.P. McCaskey High School. Following graduation, he enlisted in the US Marine Corps where he served for 3 years. Ken retired from the former Bell Telephone Co., where he worked for 38 years as an equipment technician.

An active member of Mary, Mother of the Church Parish, Mount Joy, Ken served on the Parish Council, as a Eucharist Minister and on the Building and Grounds Committee. Other memberships include the Knights of Columbus, Columbia, current president of the Verizon Pioneers Red Roses Club, the Marine Corps Engineer Assn. and the US Marine Corps League. Ken also enjoyed his affiliation with the McCaskey "49ers."

Always ready to volunteer, he served with Meals on Wheels and Road to Recovery, transporting cancer patients and others requiring medical treatment. He loved to travel, work on his computer, and play with his grandchildren.

Born in Lancaster on August 10, 1931, he was the son of the late Charles V. Sr. and Margaret E. Nehr Herr.

He will be deeply missed by his wife, Betty, and their six children: Dr. Kenneth R. Herr, husband of Patricia Pointer Herr, of Manchester, NH; Teresa L., wife of Keith Rymer, of Windsor, Daniel R. of Ephrata, Lori M., wife of Greg Cummings, of Mount-ville; Barbara A., wife of Kevin Callihan, of Ephrata; and Janet C., wife of Frank Christoffel IV, of Lancaster.

Private interment took place in St. Joseph's New Catholic Cemetery, Bausman.



Hodin , John V. of Arvada, CO born in Boston, MA 5-27-1935 and died at home 11-2-2008. John was a former Marine and retired from AT&T- Lucent Technologies. He was a member of Lakewood United Church of Christ, The 2nd Marine Div. Assoc., The All Veterans Honor Guard, Wilmore-Richter American Legion Post #161 and The Red Sox Nation. John is survived by his beloved wife, Susan and 4 daughters, Mary (Steve) Leo, Elaine (George) Anthony, all of MA, Angela Romanski of Florida, Sarah (Steve) May of Iowa. He leaves 5 grandchildren, Anthony, Neil, Julia, Kelly and Abigail.



Koenig, Charles "Charlie" G. Sergeant Major USMC (Ret) 82, of Sneads Ferry, NC. died Tuesday February 23, 2010 at Pitt Memorial Hospital.

A funeral service was held at the Infant of Prague Catholic Church with the Rev. Anthony DeCandia officiating. Burial followed at the New Bern National Cemetery with military honors. He retired from the U.S. Marine Corps as Sergeant Major and was a veteran of World War II, Korea, Vietnam and a member of the Chosen Few.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Elizabeth Mary Koenig. Survivors include sons, Stephen C. Koenig of Whiteville and Michael J. Koenig of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; daughters, Kathryn A. Kellum and Patricia D. Mercado, both of Jacksonville; 10 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.



Phaneuf, Joseph R "Dick" LtCol. USMC (Ret), like all good Marines, reported to his final muster to Celestial Six in Oxnard on Wednesday 7-22-09.

He was born on September 17, 1934 in Hanover, Connecticut. He lived the first 21 years of his life in Willimantic, CT, attended St. Mary's Parochial School and graduated with the Windham High School class of 1952. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in April 1953 becoming a Private in the Infantry, rose through the ranks to become an Engineer LtCol and retired in August 1980.



His career involved many varied duties and took him to many far-off places. After completing boot camp in Parris Island, SC, Corporal Phaneuf became a troop handler at the Infantry Training Regiment at Camp Pendleton and from there to Camp McGill, Japan as a member of the 3rd Shore Party Battalion. During that tour he embarked aboard Navy ships and made amphibious training landings in Japan, the Philippines, Iwo Jima and later sailed across the Indian Ocean to the Red Sea where he took part in a rescue mission of American citizens in the then troubled Palestine.

He returned to the States to train as an Enlisted Aircraft Navigator and was later assigned to the 2nd Shore Party Battalion and several ship deployments to the Mediterranean and Caribbean Sea area. Promoted meritoriously to Corporal and Sergeant, he served as a recruiter with the Marine Corps Officer Selection Office in Des Moines where he recruited officers from colleges in Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota. After recruiting duty, he was selected to receive a commission to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant through the Meritorious NCO Program, attended OCS and pinned on his bars of gold in Quantico, VA in June 1961.

Commissioned as an Engineer Officer, he commanded a Platoon in the 1st Shore Party Battalion at Camp Pendleton, CA. During that tour, he embarked with his unit in San Diego, sailed south down the coasts of Mexico, Central America, through the Panama Canal where he participated in operations during the Cuban Missile Crisis. As a new 1st Lt., he reported as the Base Engineer Officer at Camp Schwab in northern Okinawa where he directed a staff of engineers and technicians of a large variety of disciplines in maintaining the base facilities.

He returned to the United States and was assigned to the same duties at the Marine Corps Supply Depot in Albany, Georgia. Newly promoted to Captain, he was sent to Vietnam where he served as Commander of Bravo Company, 7th Engineer Battalion in the combat zones south of Danang in 1966/1967. Upon returning to the States, he became the Engineer Officer at the Marine Corps Supply Activity in Philadelphia after spending a short time in the Naval Hospital there.

He was selected to attend the U.S. Army's Advanced Engineer Officers Course in Fort Belvoir during which time he was promoted to Major. He completed the course and volunteered for a 2nd tour in Vietnam in 1970. There he served as a Command Briefing Officer in the MACV Command Center and in other classified assignments in the field.

Up to this point in his career, Major Phaneuf had been accumulating college credits nights and weekends and finally qualified for the Marine Corps' Bootstrap Program which allowed him 18 months paid off duty time to complete his Degree at LaSalle College in Philadelphia with the class of 1974. He received his BS in Industrial Management and was assigned as the Marine Corps Liaison Officer at the Naval Civil Engineering Laboratory in Port Hueneme, CA, an assignment he considered as the highlight of his career. In 1978, as a newly promoted Lt. Col, he studied the Indonesian language at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey CA and was assigned as the Operations Officer for the U.S. Military Mission in Jakarta, Indonesian until he returned to Camp Pendleton to retire from his beloved Corps after 27 years of dedicated service.

For his efforts and accomplishments, Colonel Phaneuf was awarded the Legion of Merit Medal, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals for valor in Vietnam, The Marine Corps Combat Action Ribbon and a long list of other personal and campaign medals and awards.

He made his home Port Hueneme/Oxnard area after retirement working for a time with local defense contractors and as an independent consultant to local businesses. When fully retired, he established his residence at the Bahia Cabrillo Yacht Club and Apartments where he lived aboard two different boats and several waterfront apartments. He held several positions at the yacht club including one year as its Commodore. An accomplished mariner, he enjoyed sailing his boats up and down the California coast from San Francisco to San Diego spending many enjoyable days at Catalina and the other Channel Islands. He lived out his final days in a waterfront apartment living among the two things he loved. boats and the ocean.

LtCol. Phaneuf is survived by his three children, Kathleen Loraine (Kirk) of San Diego, Michael Phaneuf (Shannon) of Oxnard and John Phaneuf (Monika) of Ojai. He is also survived by his stepson, retired Marine Gunnery Sergeant Randy Batastini of Fort Worth, Texas. Janelle Phaneuf of Oxnard is his only grandchild. Also surviving the Colonel are his two former wives, Joyce (Vertefeulle) Phaneuf of Port Hueneme and Jackie (Batastini) Phaneuf of Las Vegas. His surviving siblings are sisters Evelyn Chalifoux of Willimantic, CT and Jeanne Munson of Hastings, Minnesota, brothers Robert and Fred Phaneuf of Willimantic, CT. He was preceded in death by a son, Joseph Richard Phaneuf Junior.

LtCol. Phaneuf's remains were interred with full military honors at Oxnard's Santa Clara Cemetery, August 7 2009.



Rodebaugh, Robert G., Jr., Master Sergeant, USMC, (Ret)., died July 5, 2009 of Philadelphia, PA. Served in USMC from 1951 to 1971 and completed tours of duty in Panama, Italy, Japan, Viet Nam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and several locations in the United States. Married 52 years to Jeanne E. (Nee Zarella). Survived by 3 children Deborah Knudson (Greg), Robert III (Patricia), David (Rebecca); 8 Grandchildren Robert IV (Shannon), Leandra, Joshua, David, Samuel, Daniel, Nathan; 1 Great Grandchild Brianna. Survived by sister Elmira Scarano and brother William (Edith). Preceded in death by father and mother, Robert, Sr. and Elmira (nee Hatty); brother, Joseph; brother-in-law, Charles Scarano; and grandson, Noah.



Sardo, Eugene L. age 81, loving husband of 53 years to Lucille Vellturo Sardo of Ansonia, CT, peacefully entered into eternal rest on Friday morning, October 23, 2009 at the West Haven V.A. Medical Center. Mr. Sardo was born in Ansonia on September 18, 1928, son of the late Joseph and Madeline Culmo Sardo. A lifelong resident of Ansonia, he was a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps. having honorably served during the Korean War in the 1st Marine Division Engineers. He also participated in the Chosin Reservoir Campaign in North Korea. Following his duty to his country, he was the owner of both the former Sardo's Snack Bar and Cross Road's Drive Inn, both in Ansonia and later was employed as a union construction laborer until his retirement in 1992. He was a member of the Construction Union 455, Catholic War Veterans, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion and the Chosin Few National and Regional Chapters. He was a communicant of the Holy Rosary Church in Ansonia and a member of its Catholic Men's Club. Gino enjoyed fishing, clamming, visiting the casino's and traveling the country. Besides his wife Lucille, he is survived by a son, Eugene L. Sardo Jr. and his wife, Mary "Mame" of Ansonia; a daughter, JoAnn Sardo and her companion, Tracy Rappa of Seymour; a sister-in-law, Bette Gaetano Sardo of Ansonia; three step-grandchildren, Jason, Jamie, and Courtney Pandolfi of Ansonia; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by brothers, Samuel M. Sardo, James V. Sardo, and Ferdinand "Babe" Sardo and sisters, Antoinette Sardo, Stella Castiglione, Helen Sardo, and Lucy Marrone. Friends and relatives are invited to attend his funeral on Monday October 26, 2009 at 8:15 a.m. from the Spinelli-Ricciuti Funeral Home, 62 Beaver Street in Ansonia followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 9 a.m. at the Holy Rosary Church in Ansonia. Burial with U.S. Marine Corps. honors were held in Mt. St. Peter's Cemetery in Derby.



Shovar, Robert Joseph Sergeant Major USMC (Ret), age 80, passed away on February 8, 2009. He was born on February 27, 1928 in Toledo, Oh. to the late Lorin and Marjorie (Riley) Shovar. Robert earned his Bachelor's degree from Bowling Green University and a Master's degree from the University of Toledo. He retired from the Marines after 27 years of dedicated service and then worked at DCSC for 12 years. He was a member of VFW #9473, American Legion Post #798, and the China Marine Association. He is preceded in death by his loving wife of 28 years, Mary Lois and a daughter Marianne Wilkes. Robert is survived by sons, Lawrence and John Shovar; and a brother, John. Also surviving are five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Interment was held at Dayton National Cemetery.



Sowa, Jerome J. MGySgt USMC (Ret) 81, passed away July 12, 2008. He was born Oct. 23, 1926, in Baltimore Md. Jerome worked and retired from Pacific Bell. He was employed in the maintenance department after retiring from the Marine Corps after 26 years. He was known for his great attitude and will be most remembered for his smile. Jerome is survived by his daughter, Karin Sowa; two sons, Jerome and Paul Sowa; four grandchildren, Gary, Jessica, Angela and Christopher.

Sullivan, John William, 81, of Mays Landing, passed away on September 30, 2002. John was born in Duluth, Minnesota. He served with honor and distinction in the U.S. Marine Corps during WWII and the Korean War. John enjoyed fishing, camping and traveling with his family. He was a senior advisor for the United Nations, retired from Florida Atlantic University as a professor in Marketing and taught in Stockton College for ten years.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 29 years, Norma R. Sullivan; his kids Ann, Barbara, Jerald, Tom, Anthony, Charles and Penny Lopez; grandkids Rosana and Emily Sullivan and Alex and Angel Lopez. Burial was in the Atlantic Co. Veterans Cemetery in Estell Manor.



Svikla, Alius J. "Al", 62, of Worcester and Key West, Fl., and formerly of South Dennis, died April 8, 2009 in Lower Keys Medical Center, Key West.

He leaves his brother, Vitas J. Svikla of Worcester and a niece, Kristine. He was born in Germany, a son of Julius and Brone (Maksimavich) Svikla and came to the United States with his family in 1949. Mr. Svikla was a disabled veteran of the Vietnam War. He served as a Sergeant with the United States Marine Corps and was awarded the Purple Heart Medal.

He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy from Northeastern University in 1973. He was a Pharmacist for Osco Drug, Cambridge from 1973 to 1975. He was then a sales rep. for Pfizer Labs, N.Y.C., from 1976 to 1977. In 1977 he began working for CVS Pharmacy, South Dennis and was a pharmacist and pharmacy manager there for many years before he retired. He was also a drug abuse counselor from 1979 to 1987 for Healthcare Assn, Boston, First Group of Boston.

Mr. Svikla was a member of the Medical Academy, Kaunas, Lithuania, the American Pharmacist Association, the International Pharmacist Federation, Massachusetts Public Health Association, Massachusetts State Pharmacist Association, Lithuanian American Pharmacy Association, the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Fleet Reserve Association. Al was a proud member of the Cape Cod MNL motorcycle riders association and he enjoyed golf, sailing, tennis and fitness.

Burial with military honors was in Notre Dame Cemetery.



Weaver, Ralph L. "Bo" age 78, of Chicago, passed away Sept. 3, 2006, beloved husband of Angela, nee Wald; only son of the late Minnie A. Weaver; caring "daddy" to Holly and Jackie, his faithful companions; dear friend to many. Ralph was retired from the City of Chicago, where he was a truck driver for the Department of Streets and Sanitation. During his service in the Marine Corps, Ralph was in Korea and was one of the Chosin Few. He earned a Purple Heart for his valor. He was a life member of the American Legion, the V.F.W. and the 40 and 8. He was a member of several other military organizations.



Weightman, Robert Lee 1st Sgt, USMC (Ret) 76, died March 22 after a short sickness. He was born Oct. 1, 1927, in Lemmon, S.D., to John and Marie (Fitzgerald) Weightman. He was a very lovable and ambitious child from a young age. He shined shoes all over in South Dakota and Montana from a very early age. At 17, he joined the Marine Corps March 24, 1945, in Spokane, Wash., and trained at Camp Pendleton in Oceanside, Calif. He served in Korea, Vietnam, Swan Island and China and various other places. He was a drill sergeant at 24 and served 22 years for his country, retiring in 1966. He ran a steak house and bars in Okinawa, Taiwan, and lived in Hilo, Hawaii, for a long time.

He came to Butte in 1974 to stay with his sister Gracie. He took over the Star Bar in Silver Star in 1974 and owned it for 18 years while traveling the world— England, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and various other countries. He settled in Las Vegas in 1995, ran the Leatherneck Marine Club twice and made friends from all those countries. He loved people, children and family. He came from a family of 13 children. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, parents, and three brothers and a sister Eileen Thatcher who preceded him in death 14 days earlier.

He leaves behind his sisters, Fran Martin, Spokane, Grace Gillette, Butte, Aldene "Chuckie" and Leonard Bourgard, Kellogg, Idaho, Darlene "Flit" Kuchler, Butte, Gloria "Bootie" and Darrell Brill, Redmond, Ore.; brothers,

Eugene Weightman, Tekoa, Wash., Tom (Yoko) Okinawa, Japan, Donald (Mona) Lewiston, Idaho; very special niece, Jeniffer (Rocky) Wilson; many nieces and nephews and their families.

A full military funeral was held at St. Joseph Husband of Mary Catholic Church, Las Vegas on March 29. A reception was held at the Leatherneck Club. He was interred in the family plot in Lemmon, with services and military honors on Saturday evening April 3, next to his three brothers and grandparents.



Wilder, Wallace "Bud" Winton, 84, of Leroy, died 8 February 2008. Services were held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Painesville, OH.



Zack, Charles Thomas 86, of Ault, CO, passed away on Friday, December 25, 2009 at the NCMC Hospice Inpatient Unit. He was born November 4, 1923 to Cecelia (Schommer) and Anton J. Zaczkowski in Roscoe, MN. Charles graduated from Paynesville H.S. in 1941, earned a BA in Science and Industrial Arts and a master's in Education Administration at UNC where he belonged to Delta Phi Delta (Honorary Art Fraternity). He married Alice Major on June 10, 1950 at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church in Estes Park. He served with the US Marine Engineers during WWII in the Pacific Theatre, was a member of the Marine Corps League, the American Legion Post 18, and a life member of the NRA. Charles was a civilian instructor for the Air Force for 7 years, a middle school principal, and the assistant superintendent of RE-9 school system before retiring. He established the first middle school in northern Colorado, was instrumental in Title IX (women's sports) and initiated the area's first high school all-weather, metric track. He also served on the Ault Town Board for 10 years. He was an active member with St. Mary's Catholic Church. Education, supporting charities for children, traveling, gardening, fishing, hunting, wood working, and photography were his passions. Charles is survived by his wife, Alice Zack; four sons, Gregory Zack (wife Joan), John Zack (wife Karen), Steven Zaczkowski, Mark Zack (wife Deanna), one daughter, Susan Zack; one sister, Marianna Zack Cadigan (husband Thomas), two grandsons, Jerod Zaczkowski (wife Cori), Brian Franzen (fiancé Samantha Redfern); seven granddaughters, Michelle DeNieu (husband Tim), Hillary Oliver (husband Mike), Talia Zaczkowski, Sara Zack, Rebecca Zack, and Kristen Zack, Michelle Patrick (husband Nate), one great grandson, Samuel Patrick; and family friend Pat Lawler. Interment Linn Grove Cemetery. Military honors by the Union Colony Marine Corps League.

Heroes: "It is foolish and wrong to mourn the dead.
Rather, we should thank GOD that such people lived."

--- General George S. Patton, Jr.



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).

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QUEEN, WAYNE A. MGy SGT USMC (RET)
RODEBAUGH, ROBERT MSgt USMC (RET)

BRONZE

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SHORTER, JAMES SSGT USMC
TRAUM, GERALD VET

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ADMIN 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 100% of your dues and 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 and their next of kin receive the newsletter as long as they desire, free of charge.

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 20-25, 2010 Reunion/Awards Banquet will be held in Alexandria & Quantico, Virginia. Details & the Registration 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 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 a thousand pictures and documents to our website which includes all the material that our Association has accumulated since inception in 1991. Webmaster, Geoff Nicely continues to work tirelessly to keep the site updated. 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.

We want to offer our sincere thanks to Major Ed Townsend, USMC (Ret) of El Centro, CA for graciously donating over 50 USMC and Army Manuals, Pocket Guides and textbooks from his time at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. If you have pertinent, engineer related items that you'd like to find a good home for, contact Frantz.

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.

Enclosed is the 2010 Reunion Form for you to complete & return if you are planning on attending this years' 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.

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

REUNIONS

Based on feedback from our members, our 2011 reunion will be held in the San Diego, CA area. Tentative dates are 18-22 Oct. We have 7 full service hotels that have provided proposals to support our reunion and awards banquet.

Based on feedback from the reunion questionnaire and recommendations from the Military Reunion Planner Company, our 2012 reunion will be in Branson, MO and in 2013, we'll gather in Orlando, FL.

9th ENGINEER BATTALION ASSOCIATION

Upstate-Finger Lakes, New York Reunion To Remember James Moore, 9th Engineer MIA; May 30th – June 3rd, 2010 The Hampton Inn and Suites Victor, New York Room Rate \$ 102 - No Parking Fee - Hampton Inn Hot Breakfast included

Contact: Herb Shaw, hshaw@bellsouth.net; 9th Engineer Bn. Assoc. 752 Harper Street Jesup, Georgia 31546

ELEVENTH ENGINEER BATTALION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

2009 REUNION

Sixty former Marines, their wives, and significant others from the Eleventh Engineer Battalion met at Branson, Missouri's Grand Hotel in October to celebrate, visit, and otherwise tell "tall tales" over a cold beer. Other activities include sightseeing in the scenic Ozarks; taking in the latest musical extravaganzas; eating good "down home" southern cooking; and playing golf at some of the local courses. The event culminated with a banquet on October 10. An early Marine Corps Birthday was celebrated with the oldest Marine Jack Craig and the youngest, Kurt Malinski, cutting the traditional cake. 2009 officers are Dennis Griffith, President; Buford Newsome, Secretary; Gary Gratton, Treasurer; and Charlie Luhan, Adjutant. A great time was had by all! Our 2011 reunion will be somewhere out West.



The **Third Marine Division Association** will hold its annual family reunion August 4-8, 2010 in Charleston, South Carolina, at the Sheraton North Charleston hotel. Anyone who served in, was attached to, or served in support of the Third Marine Division at any time is eligible and cordially invited to attend. Contact: Jeffrey Dement, 23830 W. Ottawa St., Plainfield, IL60544, 815-436-3783, email: jeffdement@aol.com.

Company B, 5th Engineers have picked the dates of April 29th (travel date), April 30th, May 1st, May 2nd (travel date) for their gathering in Philadelphia, PA. Contact: Marilyn Blumenstein Mraz 5672 Bloomingdale Court Norcross, GA 30092; email: mrzaz.ga@comcast.net PH #: 770-242-9089



Business Meeting Minutes

MARINE CORPS ENGINEER ASSOCIATION ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING 14 Oct 2009

0800—Meeting called to order by President, Ken Frantz; 39 in attendance.

Briefings by:

Col Heesacker, CO, MCES; LtCol Osborne, HQMC, Engr; Kurt Kleinow, Caterpillar; Tommy Pruitt, Force Protection
Lew Sykes, Pearson Engineering; Maj Tom Little, USMC (Ret) TSSI; Dr. Bob Wolff, SAME

1100 Chaplain Kirk's prayer read by Frantz

Treasurer's Report from LtCol George Carlson, USMC (Ret):

Equity 31 Dec 2008: \$50,326; Equity 30 Sep 2009: \$68,257 Projected Equity 31 Dec 2009: \$63,000

Detailed statements provided as handouts

- Completed initial reconciliation of historical records
- All current records electronic and backed up off site
- PayPal (credit card) payments implemented on web site for membership, reunion, and donations
- Investment plan essentially complete Feb '10
- Volunteer labor is the heart and soul of MCEA
- My last appeal lead to several new volunteers
- While limitations of many members is understood, even they can help
- HOW? By applying subtle (and not so subtle) pressure on able fellow members!

Treasurer's report moved and approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. Assistance Fund:** AF Chairman Marapoti briefed; on 22 Jan 09, a conference call was conducted with members of the AF committee and the Exec Committee to finalize the AF Guidelines. **The Education and Financial Applications have been updated and are available on the website. The detailed guidelines are in effect.** No applications received this year, however, \$1,500 was provided to MGySgt Lee, USMC (Ret) to help with his cancer treatments. Assistance Fund Committee for action.
- 2. Membership Status:**

Dues current:	653
Dues expired for 2008:	34
Dues expired 1992-2007:	292
Deceased:	200
TOTAL:	1179
Life	265

Dropped per request; 29 Net gain of 57 since last year
- 3. Historian:** Major Steve Dunkin, USMC (Ret) was appointed 16 March 2009, as interim Historian. Carlson pointed out that Dunkin has provided a good summary of the WW II Engineer units' transition from regimental organization to separate battalions with the concurrent numerous name changes. Dunkin has also been provided names of members who are candidates for the oral history project. Historian for action.
- 4. Combat Casualties:** Spreadsheet has been extensively updated by Pam Jeans & will be posted to website upon return from the reunion. Judy Coy and Pam Jeans have created profiles for each Fallen Marine and Corpsmen from our list to the website: Together We Served. 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. 13 April, 2009, an email was sent to all Commanders and Sergeants Major of units with Engineers and EOD detailing the AF program.
- 5. SSgt William Callahan Memorial Award:** Frantz passed to Mike Boyd at HQMC, the recommendation to rename the EOD tech award to reflect SSgt William Callahan's name. Mike Boyd states that the proliferation of naming awards is a challenge & a slow process since the CMC must approve the name. SSgt Callahan's mother has given her permission to use her son's name. This recommendation is included in the review of the MCEA awards Marine Corps Order which is in staffing at HQMC. Mike Boyd for action.



6. **Corporate Members:** Currently have 9 corporate members and working on several potentials that were recruited at the Society of American Military Engineer Conference in Salt Lake City. Frantz for action.
7. **2009 Annual reunion in Las Vegas:** 138 in attendance; 62 hotel rooms utilized. Good attendance and hope all the facilities are to your liking and that the advance information was helpful. Carlson & Frantz for After Action reporting.
8. **2010 Annual Reunion:** Contract has been signed with the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Old Town Alexandria, VA for 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 our "engineer gathering". The Bulk Fuel Assn had agreed to join us based on their vote at the 2008 reunion, but notified us last month that they've changed their mind and won't co-locate. 9th Engr Assn will have a cruise in May 2010 and the EOD assn will continue to meet with their active duty Navy EOD groups. Therefore, no other engr groups will be joining us. Invitation for the Commandant of the Marine Corps to be our Guest of Honor has been submitted. Tentative schedule is: Wed, 20 Oct: Registration/Social at the Hotel. Thursday, 21 Oct: Tour MCB, Quantico. Friday, 22 Oct, biz mtg in the morning at the Hotel and Awards Banquet in the National Museum of the Marine Corps at night. Sat & Sun: Tours of historic sites will be available. Col Jerry Goodwine, USMC (Ret) is our on-site coordinator. Frantz for action.
9. **Marine Corps Engineer School/ECOE:** Col Heesacker still supports making space available to display MCEA unit awards or any other appropriate memorabilia inside the BB-28 headquarters building. If and when MCES obtains military construction funding for a new headquarters, the plan is to recommend that BB-28 be designated a historical structure and used as an engineer museum. MCES is planning on establishing permanent equipment displays on concrete pads throughout the Courthouse Bay area. MCES is currently in the process of getting a D-7 painted for display. A pad and overhead cover (if required) can also be constructed for a TD-18. Col Heesacker recommends an OIF/OEF memorial be created at Court House Bay. Frantz stated we have 808 Marines and Corpsmen listed on our Combat Casualty listing from WW II to the present and should consider a memorial for all of them. Kurt Kleinow says that Caterpillar will assist. Heesacker & Frantz for action.
10. **Return of TD 18 to Courthouse Bay:** Marine Corps University requirements re "restoration" and "use" of historical items remain very strict. Coordinated with Col Heesacker regarding a new attempt with the curator to get the TD-18 back and "under" a shed roof, vice the required "climatically controlled facility." Col Heesacker reaffirms his desire to support return of the dozer and the school's ability to provide the shed. New request being prepared for Col Heesacker to submit to curator requesting the dozer be allowed to be returned as a historically significant symbol to MAGTF Engineers. If that does not work, he is willing to take the issue to President, MCU for a request on a variance on museum requirements, allowing MCES to request/receive the TD-18 on MOA. Primary desire is for NMMC do the restoration work before it is returned; or, to allow us to do necessary work, replacing/repairing some bad pieces [engine cowling; intake stack, about 15 foot of growser; a few pieces on the hydraulic arms] and a few other items. Sources already identified for the needed parts. If approved, we tentatively have identified a source to transport the dozer to Camp Lejeune. Col Heesacker reports it's his intent to obtain a D-7, ACE and other equipment items to display throughout Court House Bay. 4th CEB rep indicates they have a TD 18 available. Marapoti for action.
11. **Fellows Program:** Updates since last report: Captain Tony DeGennaro, USMC (Ret), MGySgt. Wayne Queen, USMC (Ret), MGySgt Junior Jones, USMC (Ret) and AJ Howard, plus Dark Forge Inc in the Silver Category and SSgt. James Shorter, USMC in the Bronze Category.
12. **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. 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. Most photos gathered for the collage; awaiting quality photos on the JAB, ABV and M9 ACE. Marapoti for action.
13. **Honor Roll:** Since the last report, the following MCEA members have been added to our Honor Roll: Maj Mike O'Mahoney; LtCol Charles Gibson; LtCol Joe Peagler, Capt Jim Echols, GySgt Bill Sheppard; GySgt Marion Mackey; Ken Herr; Al Svilka; SgtMaj R.J. Shovar; SSgt Milt Armstrong; MSgt Jasper Boyer; MSgt James Carey; Jack Carpenter; MGySgt Jerome Sowa; Dr. John Sullivan; Ken Swenson; 1stSgt Robert Weightman; Jerry Welchert; Wally Wilder; Don Yeaman; MSgt Robert Rodebaugh; LtCol Joseph (Dick) Phaneuf; Maj Charles Fay. Many of these Marines died years ago but we were never notified. Thanks to 1stSgt Bob Canright's coordination with Together We Served personnel locators, we were able to obtain this information.
14. **Associate Directors:** currently have 6: Bulk Fuel/Mass: MSgt Phil Martin USMC (Ret); Florida: Bill Fullerton; Georgia: LtCol Tony Hilliard, USMC (Ret); Tennessee: GySgt Doug Dietz, USMC (Ret); Together We Served: Pam & Duell Jeans; Vermont: Judy Coy. All have been significant value to our brotherhood by communicating with current members, publicizing our Assn and recruiting new members.
15. **2011 reunion:** Having heard nothing further from 7th Engr Assn regarding co-locating, MCEA planning for a California location. Concentrating on the San Mateo and San Diego areas. Intent is to have options voted on via email & questionnaire will be in the annual newsletter for those without internet connection. Frantz for action.



16. **Website:** Thanks to the efforts of Geoff Nicely, new site allows members to upload articles, pictures, participate in forums and a "members' only" section. This provides opportunity for more contact without Frantz having to receive/send the multitude of emails. 568 registered users and over 420k page views since activation last year. Nicely and Frantz for action.
17. **2008 Dues:** 197 members had dues expire 31 Dec 2008. 34 remain who have been notified via email, letters and phone calls. Frantz for action.
18. **2009 elections of Officers:** Solicitations for the slate were published in the Newsletter, via email and website. The slate is:
Pres-Ken Frantz
VP-Hank Rudge
2d VP-Jerry Goodwine (NEW)
Treasurer-George Carlson
Historian-Steve Dunkin (appointed March '09)
Secretary-Frantz
Chaplain-Doug Kirk (NEW)
Since we have just one person per billet, there will be no need for a vote. This slate was affirmed. **Action complete.**
19. **2009 Awards:** MarAdmin released 28 Jan. Due date for all awards was 30 April 2009. Final submission received 14 May; electronic board convened 29 May with 41 members reviewing 101 nominations. 15 June, results provided to Col Mike Boyd, USMC (Ret) at HQMC. 8 July, MarAdmin announcing winners released. No EOD Officer nominated and only 4 EOD techs submitted. Boyd and Frantz for action.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **CHAPLAIN:** Member Doug Kirk, of New Albany, Ohio, graciously agreed to fill the vacant billet. He has quickly assumed responsibility for writing posts for the website forum. . The Chaplain has had great response to the prayer requests. Sending the prayer request to 2 Marine Forums and 1 General Military Forum. All who are included in the prayer chain has resulted in the ability to give the person requesting prayer a lot of prayers from other Military families as well as from MCEA. We copy them all and send them back to the person who made the request. The other forums are very excited about the combined Prayer Chain as well. We would encourage all MCEA Members too read the forum posts and to post. If they are unfamiliar with forum posting we will be more than happy to help them get started. Also look for the Sunday school lesson each Sunday morning.
2. **2012 REUNION:** Options are: Branson; Chicago; San Antonio. Further evaluation of locations after feedback from questionnaires and costs of respective hotels
3. **2013 REUNION:** Florida options to be evaluated are: Orlando; Jacksonville; Tampa

Comment made by LtCol Dave Littell, USMC (Ret) regarding the future of Tricare for Life and potential loss of privileges and increased cost under consideration by the Health Reform. Communicate your concerns to elected officials.

Dr. Wolff discussed ways that the Society of American Military Engineers has used to increase membership and nominations for awards, to include paying for the nominator to attend the awards banquet. Additionally, recommended SAME & MCEA pursue possibility of Active Duty MCEA members also receiving SAME membership. Frantz & Wolff for Action.

Next meeting is on call by the President. Motion made and approved to adjourn at 1216.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ken Frantz
President/Secretary

Suggest what is right, oppose what is wrong. What you think, speak. Satisfy yourself and not others.
If you are not popular, you will at least be respected. Popularity lasts but a day.
Respect will descend as a heritage to your children.
----- Thomas Chandler Haliburton, judge, writer (1796-1865)

Never "for the sake of peace and quiet" deny your convictions
----- Dag Hammarskjold, U.N. Secretary-General (1905-1961)



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

FORCE PROTECTION INDUSTRIES

REPRESENTATIVE: TOMMY PRUITT, SR COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
SPONSOR OF COMBAT ENGR & EOD INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

TEREX CORPORATION

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

KALMAR RT CENTER

REPRESENTATIVE: DAVE PEACOCK, EXEC VP AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
SPONSOR OF ENGINEER EQUIPMENT INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

ALLIED CONTAINER SYSTEMS

REPRESENTATIVE: JAMES ODOM, PRESIDENT; SUSAN HORSFALL, CEO

PEARSON ENGINEERING

REPRESENTATIVE: LEW SYKES, MILITARY SALES REP.

TACTICAL & SURVIVAL SPECIALTIES INC

REPRESENTATIVE: BILL STRANG, PRESIDENT/CEO

*We shouldn't give up on our pursuit of perfection,
but we also shouldn't wait till we're perfect to teach what we know and believe is right.
-- Michael Josephson*

Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation,
for 'tis better to be alone than with bad company.'
-- George Washington

Develop interest in life as you see it; in people, things, literature, music - the world is so rich,
simply throbbing with rich treasures, beautiful souls and interesting people.
-- Henry Miller



Financial Report

MARINE CORPS ENGINEER ASSOCIATION Executive Summary 2008 and 2009 Compared

		2009			2008				
		GF	AF	TOTAL			GF	AF	TOTAL
Beg Equity	1-Jan-09	\$ 40,239	\$10,086	\$ 50,326	1-Jan-08	\$ 26,434	\$ 8,817		\$ 35,252
Income	2009	\$ 30,514	\$ 2,624	\$ 33,138	2008	\$ 29,514	\$ 1,269		\$ 30,784
Expense	2009	\$(21,466)	\$(1,851)	\$(23,317)	2008	\$(15,710)	\$ -		\$(15,710)
Net Incr	2009	\$ 9,049	\$ 773	\$ 9,821	2008	\$ 13,805	\$ 1,269		\$ 15,074
End Equity	31-Dec-09	\$ 49,288	\$10,859	\$ 60,147	31-Dec-08	\$ 40,239	\$10,086		\$ 50,326
% Growth		22%	8%	20%		52%	14%		43%

NOTES:

\$402 of the 2008 increase in equity is from adjusting for fixed assets previously expensed.

TREASURER'S REPORT 2009

Overall, the financial health of your Marine Corps Engineer Association remains strong. While we fell short of our budgeted growth of \$10,675 by some \$853.57, this is more than covered by the fact that the Assistance Fund had not estimated any grants for the year, but in fact, made a \$1,500 grant. The General Fund made 101% of its budgeted increase in net worth.

General Fund income and expenses both exceeded budget by approximately \$5,000. On the expense side, this increase is all attributable to Reunion costs (\$4,000 to this year's Reunion, and \$1,000 advance donation to the National Museum of the Marine Corps for next year's Reunion). On the income side, the increase is more diverse, but key amounts are: \$1,745 in membership dues; \$2,100 in donations; and \$785 in Reunion fees. The remaining \$370 in increase is spread across many income categories.

The net worth of MCEA at year's end was \$60,147 (\$49,288 in the General Fund and \$10,859 in the Assistance Fund). Total operating revenue for the year was \$33,138 and total expenditures were \$23,317.

The most significant change in our financial operations was to institute the use of PayPal on our website, allowing members and others to make donations, pay membership, and pay Reunion fees with credit cards. While this costs us about 3.3% of the value of the payments, the Executive Committee believes the convenience to our members and the reduced workload and postage costs for the President and Treasurer are more than worth the cost. Our net PayPal charges for the year were \$103.30 on payments of over \$3,000. I should add that PayPal refunds their charge when we make a refund, so there is no net cost to us if someone cancels a Reunion reservation and requires a refund.



SALUTING ALL MARINE CORPS ENGINEERS

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SERVICE
TO AMERICA

SEMPER FI

WE PROTECT THOSE WHO PROTECT US

BAE SYSTEMS



2009 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 Las Vegas, Nevada 13-15 October, 2009. Award recipients and their family members came from all over the world to receive their justly deserved recognition from the 128 in attendance at the Banquet. We had a total of 137 attend the 2 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 almost \$10,000 in dues, award sponsorships and contributions during CY 2009!

We want to offer our special thanks to LtCol George Carlson, USMC (Ret), Capt Jack O'Rourke, Commandant, MCL Det 186, MCEA members Ron Thompson and A.J. Howard for all of the support and your efforts to make this an outstanding reunion and awards banquet.

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 2d 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.

And we certainly very much appreciate Maj Gen Williams, Commanding General, 4th Marine Division for taking the time he did to make all of us Leathernecks feel so welcomed and honoring us as our Banquet Guest of Honor.

Photos taken by former Marine, Richard Carmer, Picture Phoenix picturephoenix@cox.net

All of the reunion and award photos are loaded on our website so you can view and download.



Anderson & Follett



Clerk

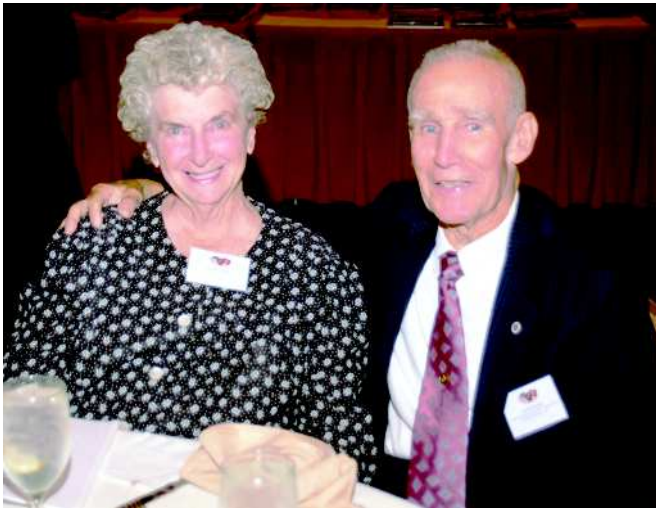


Burch



Cadiz





Craigs



Diana & SgtMaj



Diana & George



DeGennaro, Jones



Fernandez



Edwards





Fintons



Gen. Williams & LtCol & Mrs. Finan



Frantz, Fernandez, Gen Williams



Hilliards



Guthries



Frantz, Dr. Wolff, Col Heesacker, MGySgt Griffin





Hoffmans



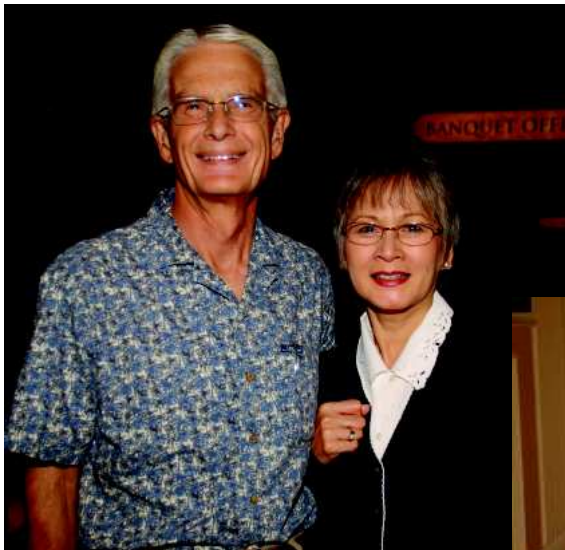
Howards



Irmiters



Jeans



Littells



Col Heesacker tells it like it is



Gonzales





Martins



McLeans



Magees



Murphys



Patellos



Pruitts



Schwartz Jr.



Schwartz Sr.





Qualls & Julie Erickson



Rosenfields



Russells



Sandy and Jean



Patellos'



Schwartzs'



Widows Auxiliary



Zeferjohn





Smileys



Solters



Sumner & Wilma Siegrist



Townsend



Willeys



Whites



Wuerch



McMackin, Finton, Wuerch



2009 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Combat Engineer Field

Officer	Capt Colter Bahlau	2 nd CEB, Camp Lejeune, NC
Staff NCO	SSgt Miguel Cira	1 st CEB, Camp Pendleton, CA
NCO	Sgt David Lang	3 rd CEB, 29 Palms, CA
Marine	Cpl Richard Lowery	2 nd CEB, Camp Lejeune, NC

Engineer Equipment Field

Officer	CWO 2 David Clerk	8 th ESB, Camp Lejeune, NC
Staff NCO	GySgt Clifford Williford	7 th ESB, Camp Pendleton, CA
NCO	Sgt Matthew Filtz	1 st CEB, Camp Pendleton, CA
Marine	Cpl Scott Comment	9 th ESB, Okinawa, Japan

Utilities Field

Officer	CWO 5 Kenneth Schwartz	9 th ESB, Okinawa, Japan
Staff NCO	SSgt Harold McLean	8 th ESB, Camp Lejeune, NC
NCO	Sgt Ruben Castellano	1 st CEB, Camp Pendleton, CA
Marine	Cpl Tandy Branham	3 rd CEB, 29 Palms, CA

Bulk Fuel Field

Officer	CWO 3 Bonifacio Cadiz	MWSS 172, Camp Foster, Okinawa
Staff NCO	GySgt Serjio Gonzales	7 th ESB, Camp Pendleton, CA
NCO	Sgt Colter Plumhoff a	8 th ESB, Camp Lejeune, NC
Marine	Cpl Christopher Smiley	MWSS 273, Beaufort, SC

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Field

SSgt William Callahan Memorial EOD Tech Award		
SSgt Stephen Kuester	7 th ESB, Camp Pendleton, CA	

UNITS

Combat Engineer Battalion	4 th CEB, Baltimore, MD
Engineer Support Battalion	7 th ESB, Camp Pendleton, CA
Marine Wing Support Squadron, Engineer Company	MWSS 172, Camp Foster, Okinawa
Naval Construction Force Unit	Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Three, Port Hueneme, CA





Award recipients Maj.Gen. Williams and President Frantz



Dr. Wolff, Exec. Dir. SAME



Gen. Williams receives his plaque from Frantz



Guest of honor, MajGen Williams



Kurt Kleinow, CAT rep.

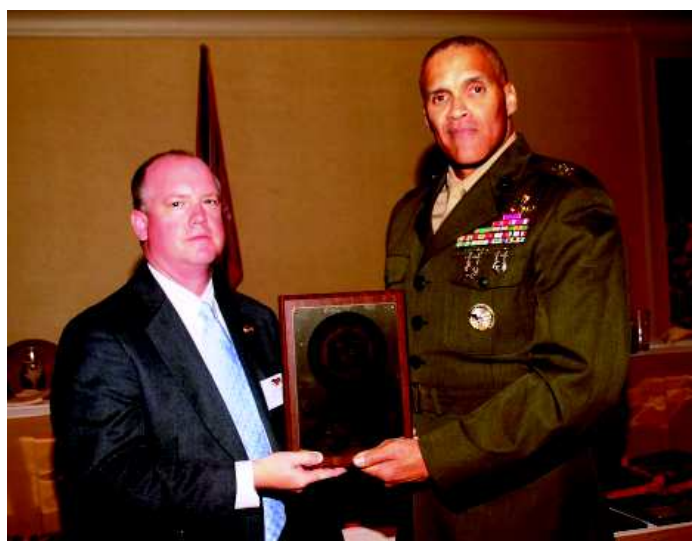




Maj. Tom Little, USMC (Ret) TSSI Rep.



Tom Manley, TEREX Rep



Tommy Pruitt, Force Protection Industries Rep.



You Define Semper Fi

*You were all so young when you died
and with all my honesty, to this day I never knew why.
All of my life I have been haunted as to why it was you and not I.
As God is my witness you define Semper Fi.*

*I saw some of you this very morning at 2:00 a.m.
You awakened me from my sleep screaming for help,
but as hard as I try I can never reach you.
Perhaps it's because you look down from your place so high.
I know you are seated at the right hand of God,
You define Semper Fi.*

*From my same dream I saw an old man in the mirror of life
I questioned him carefully through a nervous cry
Why were they all so young when they died? Why was it them and not I?
I recognized the old man as myself, and was shocked with his reply.
Oh you fool, do you not know why?
They were so much greater than you and I.
They were picked by God to define Semper Fi.*

*There are those who tell me that because of war, I am cursed.
I tell them, I saw some give it all up only a few years after their birth.
Those who tell me I must forget, I just ignore.
Do you not see? I must live with their memory all the days of my life
because out of it all they were the ones who made the supreme sacrifice
I was fortunate enough to have known them in their strife.
They were heroes enough to have been picked by God, to define Semper Fi.*

*I now know that in the twilight of my fall
I can live with it all, because once upon a time, in the prime of my youth
I knew a few good men who in honor stood tall.
They are the few and proud that I have known,
who made the sacrifice and answered the call.
As long as I live I will always have their picture in my mental file
because it is them alone who were picked by God, to define Semper Fi.*

Author unknown



CHRONIC MARINE SYNDROME

This condition affects mostly men, but also can affect some women, too.

Symptoms to look for are:

1. Pride in oneself and the organization they represent.
2. A strong willingness to put in extra attention to detail to get the job done.
3. May wear articles of Marine clothing; T-shirts, jackets, watches, well into their 80's.
4. Will not hesitate to stand up or put their hand over their heart, or even salute when the National Anthem is played.
5. Does not succumb easily to political correctness.
6. Is sure of who they are.
7. Is often either respected or hated by others, due to their abilities and talents.
8. May donate toys to needy kids at Christmas.
9. Some have been known to wear their hair in a high and tight well into their 90's.
10. Will look you directly in the eye when talking to you.
11. Will give you a firm handshake.
12. Knows what "honor, courage and commitment" mean.
13. Can usually be found in some type of leadership position in whatever organization they work for.
14. Will often regard their drill instructors with the same respect as their parents.
15. Often found in either law enforcement or various leadership professions.
16. Is extremely thorough at what they do.
17. Does not wear a bunch of patches to adorn their uniform. Their title of Marine is usually sufficient.
18. Often arrives at work earlier than expected. If they wear a shirt and tie in their job, you might see the tie clip between the third and fourth button, centered.
19. Had spent time training at one of three places; Parris Island, San Diego or Quantico .
20. May be able to field strip his rifle, up to 60 years after leaving active duty.
21. Can recite the nomenclature of the M1, M14 or M16.
22. May often have his pencils sharpened to a perfect precision point.
23. Will not back down from a fight.



Other symptoms include willingness to take on a challenge and maintaining a positive attitude in the face of adversity.

Yes, CMS is real, and it's very hard to treat. The person with this condition often utters phrases such as "Once a Marine always a Marine," or OOO-Rah!!

Some may even say "Semper Fi" on many occasions.

It's best if you know someone with this condition to just leave them be.

These people tend to be fiercely loyal to the Marine Corps.

Folks, this condition, although not curable, can be treated. Some successful treatments have included:

1. Frequent visits to the base where the last served or looking at their Marine memorabilia
2. Get them around other Marines to help them flourish. They need other Marines who have shared the same experiences
3. Have them get memberships in organizations such as the Marine Corps League, The Marine Corps Association, Together We Served or have them join Leatherneck.com
4. Some may require extra special attention such as buying items from grunt.com or watching movies about the Marine Corps, this is only natural and nothing to be afraid of.

Whatever you do, remember that Chronic Marine Syndrome must be managed carefully. For example: In Michigan, a young man attempted to mug a Marine Korean War veteran who had advanced stages of Chronic Marine Syndrome. It wasn't pretty! The mugger was severely beaten and required multiple stitches.

Warning: Risks of Chronic Marine Syndrome may include a severe butt whippin' to those who attempt to start a fight with Marines.

Remember, not everyone gets this condition; onset often occurs after being given the title Marine, since only a select few earn this title not everyone will develop CMS.

Remember folks, Chronic Marine Syndrome is real, while there may not be a cure, we can live with it.

Any questions, please see your local Marine or go to 1-800-IMA-Marine for more information.

Thank you for your time.

SUBMITTED BY COL. MIKE BOYD, USMC (RET) OF VIENNA, VA

*We know that peace is the condition under which mankind was meant to flourish. Yet peace does not exist of its own will. It depends on us, on our courage to build it and guard it and pass it on to future generations. George Washington's words may seem hard and cold today, but history has proven him right again and again. 'To be prepared for war,' he said, 'is one of the most effective means of preserving peace.' Well, to those who think strength provokes conflict, Will Rogers had his own answer. He said of the world heavyweight champion of his day: 'I've never seen anyone insult Jack Dempsey'.
---- Ronald Reagan*



Memoirs

SUBMITTED BY MAJOR JIM MURPHY, USMC (RET) OF LOS OSOS, CALIF.

The July issue of *Officer Review*, the publication of the Military Order of the World Wars, contained an article about Sergeant John Ordway, who was the First Sergeant for the Lewis and Clark expedition. It was titled "The Indispensable First Sergeant." I couldn't help but think of a couple of senior sergeants in my life and the impact they made on me. It took some research, but I found something I wrote over twelve years ago about a couple of those Marines. You may remember one of them.

January 28, 1993

The mail came today. About every two months Headquarters Marine Corps publishes *Semper Fidelis*, an informational paper for retired Marines. Page 14: TAPS: Balara, Ralph G. Sgt Maj Mar 74 / May 92. (Date of retirement, date of death.)

Sadly, I have read a lot of names of those Marines I've known and served with. None have had such an impact as when I read this name on page 14 of the January 1993 issue.

I can't start this with Balara, but a few years before I met him. Perhaps this might help the reader understand the perspective. Many years ago, during the winter of 1952-53, I was a young corporal, then sergeant, in Korea, wallowing in the mud and ice, trying to fix the engineer heavy equipment for those "real" engineers "up north" more fortunate as they were closer to the real war. The maintenance sergeant was MSgt Herbert F. Smith. (We remember these important names, down to the initials, even after 40 years!) Just a few short months later, I was a 21 year old second lieutenant at Camp Lejeune, and who would be my platoon sergeant but MSgt Herbert F. Smith! This was the engineer equipment maintenance platoon for the 8th Force Engineer Battalion. It was winter and a damp cold had set in. Recall it was only a few short months before that I was a staff sergeant. One blustery day the troops were working on their assigned tasks, repairing, rigging, welding, and related duties. I was out "checking." I walked back into the Butler building and saw all the sergeants sitting in the warm office drinking coffee. I went in and asked why they weren't out with the men. Herbert Smith said to me, "We don't have to, lieutenant; you're doing it for us." Pow! What a lesson, and his message stayed with me to this day! He taught me a few other things then that he never wasted his time on before!

Later, as a company commander of my first "real" engineer command, I was blessed with another top first sergeant: MSgt R. O. Smith. The tales we could tell!

All and each of these are worth a chapter, if not a book. But perhaps because we were together for so long, at least in service tour longevity, (two full years), I cannot but feel affection to **BALARA**. I write his name in bold print, because that's the way I shall always

see him. And that's the way he addressed himself: BALARA. One never doubted that he was a sergeant with many rockers. Other enlisted, junior officers and those of higher rank could not help but extend respect to BALARA. Do not misunderstand: He was never overbearing, never flouted his rank or authority to anyone: He didn't need to: We just knew. And he also knew. He was enlisted, I was the officer, but more than that, I was the Commanding Officer, or "Skipper", as he so endearingly referred (he'd turn over in his grave if he'd hear me use the term "endearing".)

I had just come from the Army Engineer Career Course at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia. When I reported aboard, I was first the S-4, then the S-3. One Sunday at a battalion barbecue, the battalion commander called me aside and told me that he was very unhappy with what was going on in Support Company, and told me effective the next day, I would be the new company commander. That next morning I held reveille and told those present who I was.

I write this through tears, and I'm not a bit ashamed! We should all be so fortunate to have known and worked with such a fine person! What do we say? Do we laugh? Do we cry? If we have the fortitude to do so, we can all identify those who've influenced us, both positively and negatively. I've worked with many Marines, mostly on the lower ranks, and I guess that's where my impetus has to lie. From time to time I've also been touched with the "brass", but most of the time it's been with "the troops". That's where I started, and that's where I'll probably end, even now as a civilian, after all these years. That's really where it all happens. (Lest we forget!) (I can't help but be maudlin when I think of "Top".) Frankly, I don't think I have shed as many tears over any family member as I have tonight over the known loss of this man. You might, and rightly so, criticize my lack of sensitivity or respect (or whatever) for family members who've died: It's not the same. And I know you know this.

Often when I'd ask "The Top" about a concern I had, he'd say, "Cap'n you don't worry about this. It's all taken care of."

Yes, we had some problem troops, and if I were at my desk, I could hear, "MARINE, are you SURE you don't want to settle this with me before I take it to the Cap'n?" (Response: "Yes, First Sergeant, whatever you think is best!")

"Skipper, I got a Marine out here who thinks he has a problem." "First Sgt, does he have a problem, or only thinks he has a problem?" "Don't worry Skipper, it's all taken care of."

I wonder now how many times, when I'd ask him a question, I'd get the response, "'Skipper, it's all taken care of."

I can see this man, as clearly as I can see myself in a mirror. Tall, but not over height. Neat, to a pin, with a fine pencil-line moustache. He never meant to be funny, but I couldn't help but smile as I sat in



my office at the end of that Quonset hut. (At Talega, that northernmost part of Camp Pendleton, so far north that it really didn't even belong to the camp (it was really in Orange County, not San Diego). Later, the Recon boys moved in, and thought they were "roughing it" in the boondocks. Little did they know we'd been there years before!) I never spend a lot of time in my office: I made sure I had an executive officer (Frank Cox, who'd been company commander, took over this slot) to take care of the paper-work, and the Gunny and I kept the operations going. But at 0600 muster, I was there, and the Gunny took role, and of course BALARA was just behind the Gunny (and in front of me). As I reflect, he was my shield; he protected me from so much. Certainly I remember the names of others, but BALARA is one name I shall never forget.

(In Okinawa, as we waited to go into Viet Nam, I left my beloved company and my troops. I visited as often as I could, even after we deployed, and remember many pleasant hours, mostly serious talk, with BALARA at the Staff Club or his quarters—the Staff Club was at the best a couple of barrels with a plank across the top!—he was always enlisted, I was always the CO, but that didn't mean there was not a mutual respect or a disrespectful attitude on the part of either or any party. Neither of us would have permitted it!)

Did I mention that when we came back from Viet Nam, his family lived in Watts. Then the riots. I called him on the phone. "Get you and your family down here (we lived in San Clemente at the time) where it's safe." "Skipper, it's like I had to come home to get in a combat zone. No, my family's here, my home's here; we'll stay." He and his family did weather the riots, and were safe.

I didn't see BALARA much after we came back from Viet Nam. Maybe he was on the East Coast, or certainly at another station. Maybe as an excuse for the work I was doing, I simply did not search out any of those I had served with or had a close affinity. Because I didn't make a conscious effort to keep in touch, does that mean I loved him or thought less of him? God knows I thought/think of him often, and shall never forget him. He taught me a lot. God rest his soul.

By Capt. Bob Capeci, USMC (Ret). Brooklyn, NY

Pulling the "Doc's" Leg

Many Navy doctors in the late 1960's were drafted straight out of civilian hospitals with the sparsest of military training. This was the case with the battalion surgeon assigned to the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, in the summer of 1968.

"Doc," as he (and most medical personnel) was known, had received only a swift two-week orientation, mainly on whom to salute and the Code of Military Justice. Assigned to the Marines, he was issued a few sets of jungle utilities (uniforms), placed on a plane, and then trucked to our battalion's firebase near DaNang. To say that he was "green" was a vast overstatement (green to the military that is, not to medicine for which he was highly qualified).

For the previous year I, a mustang Lieutenant, was leader of a combat engineer platoon attached to an infantry battalion in the 7th Marine Regiment. However, in mid-1968 I was due to rotate back to the states in less than a month, so I was reassigned as the battalion S2 (Intelligence) staff officer, and in that capacity I got to know Doc.

All the Marines assisted Doc in getting orientated to his new life style, but there ran a devilish streak in some of us. We could not resist taking advantage of Doc's naiveté. I set the tone when one Sunday morning Doc spied me sitting in the mess hall reading the *Washington Post*, including the Sunday comics. Apparently the Sunday paper was an event in his former suburban life that he missed. What he didn't know was that although I subscribed to the daily paper, it took two weeks until it arrived. Doc assumed I was reading the current Sunday's paper, and I did nothing to enlighten him. "Where did you get today's paper?" he pleaded. The devil made me reply, "There's a Vietnamese newsboy down by the barbed wire," pointing downhill in the general direction to the fortifications that separated our firebase from the hostile countryside.

Doc trudged down the hill, and on his sweaty return he spilled out his disappointment. "I couldn't find the newsboy." I, oozing with false sympathy, assured him that on the following Sunday he could catch that newsboy. "It is important to get there at daybreak," I informed him, "since the newsboy doesn't hang around too long."

For the next two Sundays old Doc got up early and paced the barbed wire without success, much to the sadistic glee of myself and a growing crowd of other junior officers. I did eventually inform the medic of the scam, but I earned his forgiveness when I shared the paper with him on future Sundays.

Refusing to be outdone, mustang Lieutenant John Fasulo, planned another prank. From the mess hall, John had scrounged up the ingredients for a makeshift pizza. He cooked it up and invited all, including the unsuspecting Doc, to a late night snack. Doc was flabbergasted. "Where did the pizza come from?" he innocently asked. John straight faced informed him that it was delivered. "Can we get another one?" Doc asked. "Sure" replied John, "I'll give 'em a call if you go down to the wire and pick it up." Once again the long-suffering Doc fruitlessly hiked down and back up the hill. We did stop this short however, fearing that a jumpy sentry might take a shot at him in the dark.

Well the Doc was a fast learner, and soon he was no longer prey to jokesters. I was later told he completed his Vietnam tour with flying colors. When he received orders to his next assignment, it was to sea in a destroyer. The Doc, although now knowledgeable of the Marine way, was thoroughly ignorant of the blue water Navy. With the help of the battalion's seasoned Marines and Navy corpsmen, Doc was instructed in such nautical trivia as how to wear the Navy officer's uniform, the rank insignia, whom to salute when boarding and disembarking a ship, etc.

No further word was heard from the valiant Doc, but I assume he returned to civilian medicine much less a target for pranksters.



***Provided by Gene Spanos,
Sgt. USMC 66/71 Park Ridge, IL***

Truck hits a landmine in the roadway - several Marines wounded:

We were assigned to road sweeps in the Fall of '68 one particular day my platoon was assigned as the sweep detail. Keep in mind that once the landmine detector found a suspicious object in the road - then the prober came up to probe and uncover the possible mine. We did just that - that day and cleared it. We all then piled into the truck and at the final turn around when the driver of the flat bed decided to drive off the roadway and then it happened a huge blast! We all scrambled out of the bed and those on the right side caught some of the blast. I took up a fighting position thinking that we were going to get attacked. When things finally calmed down - we medevac'd out the wounded Marines and headed for the barn.

Took small arms fire while outside Khe Sanh combat base:

We were assigned as support for the big push up around Khe Sanh and in doing so we were given the rear guard. After arriving in and around the base - we took some small arms fire while setting in the April rain. It didn't turn out to be much of anything - so we went onto to further assist with the operation that day - Pegasus (Apr 68')

In closing -we performed our duties as Marine engineers whether it was assigned to a grunt unit, build a bridge, install a minefield, build bunkers etc.

Our unit patch reads the following: 11Th Engineer Bn, 3rd Marine Division, Construction - Demolition

It should also be noted that I along with a six man Marine team went back to Vietnam on a humanitarian aid - landmine removal project" 11Th Engineers – Vietnam revisited 89. We also achieved our goal which was two fold:

Long Term: *See that the landmines are removed from the former DMZ area.*

Short Term: *Send medicines/medical supplied to the children's hospitals.*

Note: Today, our wartime map hangs in the US Embassy - Demining Offices located in Hanoi, Vietnam and the fruits from our efforts – are still paying off.

***Submitted By Bernie Heaney,
from his Biography dated 2004;
Baldwinville, MA***

Bernie was born December 25, 1940 in Dorchester. Scouting, football, track, and cross-country racing were his thing until dropping-out of South Boston High School on the second day of

the 11th grade to join the Marine Corps at 17 years old. He was in a 12 week platoon so he could get straight home from Parris Island for the Christmas holidays in 1958. [bad idea] You need the month of ITR to cool down, so you don't keep responding with, "Yes Sir." to women.

He spent a little over five years in the Corps as a heavy equipment operator in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Pioneer Battalions at Pendleton, Lejeune, and Camp Koza in Okinawa. He also did a tour with the 1st Marine Air Wing with a helicopter squadron in Okinawa at Futema Air Base.

Served on a "Floating Battalion" [equivalent to a Med Cruise] in the Pacific, during which they floated off the coast of South Vietnam for two weeks prepared to go up river and support an American air base that was helping in Laos. At that time the American death toll was about 50 in Laos and the Vietnam War had not started.

Discharged in late November of 1963, no one was hiring heavy equipment operators whose fathers were not in the Local 4 Union. So, he started as a casket buffer with Boston Burial Case Co. at \$ 1.25 an hour. This experience quickly made him realize a high school "D" was a must. So, two and a half years later, attending nights, he graduated from Boston Central Adult High School. A total of nineteen years of evening school resulted in a state license as a 3rd Class Operating Engineer – Peterson's School of Steam Engineering, Mechanical Engineering degree from Northeastern University, and a BS in Industrial Engineering from Fitchburg State College. His places of employment have been Waters Associates in Milford designing liquid chromatography instruments, General Electric in Fitchburg as an Advance Planning Engineer, Aramco Oil Co. in Saudi Arabia as an Industrial Engineer, and most recently with the Internal Revenue Service as one of the New England Area's eight engineers assisting corporate audit teams with technical tax related issues and as a national internal auditor reviewing IRS engineering performance.

He has been married 34 years to Nancy, an RN in Nashua , NH and has three children: Jamie, a UNH liberal arts graduate and commercial fisherman out of Rye , NH , Shaun, a WPI Bio-Tech Graduate presently studying at MIT's Sloan School of Management, and Glenna, an Oncology Lab Scientist at Synta Pharmaceuticals Corporation in Lexington .

He enjoys archery (when ground hogs are in the garden), chess over the internet with his children, gardening, wet-on-wet oil painting, his 1994 Miata, and is in the New Hampshire 4000 footer club.

Bernie has been the Paymaster, Ball Chairman, and Newsletter Editor for the Dog Trainer Pound 64 - Military Order of Devil Dogs, and is a Private in the U.S.1812 Marine Guard – USS Constitution.



A Pragmatic Electrical Engineer's Analysis of Lighting Options

When Ken asked each of us on the Executive Committee to write an article for the newsletter, I spent a lot of time thinking about what I could write that would most benefit our members. The whole “global warming/climate change” issue is worth our attention, but I found so much conflicting (and unverifiable) “data” on both sides of the debate that it clearly was too big a bite to chew. Instead, I’ve decided to share both observations and analysis of various lighting options out there. If you want to consider some changes as your contribution to reduce CO₂ emissions, fine. I’m just intent on giving you practical observations and financial facts so you can make logical decisions regardless of your opinion of “global warming/climate change.”

For interior lighting there are three basic categories: LED (light emitting diode) which still has limited availability in types and sizes; fluorescent (including compact, energy efficient, and “old” style); and incandescent (including many variations). Incandescent is the least efficient – that is it turns the smallest proportion of the power into light and greatest proportion into heat. LED lamps are the most efficient and fluorescent lamps are in between. Not surprisingly, purchase cost and efficiency are in the same order. But let’s leave the financial aspects until later. Let’s talk about all the other considerations first.

A brief aside is warranted here. Two measurements describe how we see/perceive light. The human eye has an amazing ability to adjust color from the light source. Photographic film and even digital photography will render an indoor shot lighted only with incandescent light far more yellow-orange than our eyes perceive it. Likewise photos made in many fluorescent lights will be even more blue-purple than our eyes’ interpretation. All lighting products have a color temperature and a color rendition index (or CRI). The first is a precise scientific measurement while the second is a subjective index of how human beings perceive colors in the light. Color temperature is measured in degrees, Kelvin (or °K). Our common descriptive terms for warm vs. cool colors seems at odds with light’s color temperature since “warm” color (red-orange) comes from a lower (or cooler) color temperature and “cool” color (blue-purple) from a higher color temperature. Color temperatures of various light sources are shown in the table below

<u>Light source</u>	<u>Temperature (°K)</u>
Candle flame	1,850
High pressure sodium lamp	2,100
Incandescent lamp	2,700-3,300
“Warm white” fluorescent	2,950
“Cool white” fluorescent	3,400
Tungsten-quartz lamp	3,400
“Warm white” LED	3,600-4,000
Bright white mercury lamp	4,000
“Design white” fluorescent	5,200
“Natural white” LED	5,000-6,500
Typical Daylight	5,500-6,000
Clear mercury lamp	5,900
“Cold white” LED	7,000-10,000
Summer blue sky	9,000-12,000

Please note that the numbers for fluorescents, high-intensity discharge (outdoor lighting mostly), and LED lights are ranges or averages that do vary somewhat by manufacturer definition. Also, since those lights do not produce the same kind of spectrum as daylight or incandescent lights their CRI is also important. Without getting too technical, it is a measurement of how well one of those light sources renders colors compared to black-body spectrum light at a **given color temperature**. That last fact is important because comparison of the CRI (with 100 being “perfect”) is only valid at one color temperature. A lamp with a CRI of 90 at 5,200°K is not necessarily better than a lamp with a CRI of 85 at 3,400°K. However, a lamp with a CRI of 90 at 5,200°K will give better color rendition than a lamp with a CRI of 85 at 5,200°K.

If you are not totally confused, then let me add that ultimately what matters is how you (and your family) perceive the light. Once you find what is pleasant (or tolerable) for you and your family, the numbers may do no more than help you keep getting what you found.

So what are the advantages and drawbacks of each type of interior light? I’m just going to address them one at a time, with commentary, since this is not the sort of thing that lends itself well to tables or charts.

Incandescent lamps

Advantages:

- Best assortment of shapes and sizes
- Cheapest to purchase
- Dimmable with inexpensive current-interrupter dimmers
- Essentially instant on to near full brightness

Disadvantages:

- Shortest life expectancy
- Most expensive to operate
- Too hot for close contact
- Some degradation of light output with age
- More limited color temperature range (but one most people are comfortable with)



Fluorescent lamps

Advantages:

- Good assortment of shapes and sizes
- Not overly expensive to purchase
- Life expectancy several times related incandescent (great for locations that are difficult to access)
- Cool enough for many close contact situations
- Wide range of color temperatures available

Disadvantages:

- Slow to reach full light output (particularly in colder temperatures, like a barn)
- Not as attractive shapes (though this is changing)
- Not easily dimmable (there are some pricey exceptions)
- Degrades more than incandescent with age
- Electronic ballasts, though generally long-lived, are expensive to replace

Light-emitting diode (LED) lamps

Advantages:

- Greatest energy savings
- Extremely long life expectancy
- Almost cold to the touch
- True “instant on”

Disadvantages:

- Very limited size/shape availability
- Mostly very expensive

So, what do I conclude from all this? Well these are some of the decisions I/we have made and our rationale:

1. Stick with incandescent where dimmers are already installed or planned. The only exception would be where you aren't using the existing dimmers, ever.
2. Consider the compact fluorescent (pig tail twist) lamps most everywhere else a single light level is used. They really are more economical. A sample of 60-watt incandescent bulbs and 13-watt compact fluorescent ones shows a total cost per 1000 hours of operation for the incandescent ones to be around 4 times as much as the compact fluorescents never mind changing bulbs 5-8 more times.
3. Especially consider the compact fluorescent lamps anywhere that bulb changing is difficult – either hard to reach or requires more disassembly of the fixture. And note: CFL's will last even longer in confined fixtures as there is less heat build up – and heat is what ultimately causes everything electrical to fail.
4. If instant on is an issue (for example in an unheated garage) consider using CFL's except for one incandescent near your most used entry or in the easiest fixture to change bulbs.
5. In new installations, apply the same general criteria, but include considering T-8 or T-5 (energy efficient) fluorescent fixtures.

Before I quit, I ought to make brief mention of exterior lighting. For large areas, high-pressure sodium is the most economical, but some find the yellowish light objectionable. Metal halides are next best and are available in fairly “white” looking light. Both are slow starters, so are best in dusk-to-dawn photo-controlled situations. Smaller area lighting is still best with floodlights and while most are incandescent, CFL's are starting to show up in this application. Cost/efficiency comparisons are similar to the data in 2. above. But, be cautioned they take quite a while to come to full light output especially in cold weather.

My bottom line is that you can make a healthy dent in energy usage by judicious application of lamps other than incandescent. We've changed out perhaps a third of our indoor lamps with CFL units, built a 40x60' shop and 48x60' barn with no incandescent lamps, and have still reduced our electric bills by about 5% (25% over what I estimated we would have incurred with all incandescent lamps). The side benefit is that I spend a LOT less time changing lamps. One other benefit in new construction is that you can reduce wiring sizes and/or the number of circuits. In the main runs (60a, 220v) to the shop and barn, this meant almost \$1,000 less than what we would have had to use if all the lighting were incandescent. Inside, it meant about another \$200 saved since we needed only one circuit for all the lighting in each.

I hope this is helpful amid all the global warming/climate change hype.



LIEUTENANT COLONEL MILTON D. DRUMMOND, JR

Born 4 March, 1931, he was commissioned a 2d Lieutenant of Marines upon graduation from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in June 1951 with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. Upon completion of the Basic School, 2d Lt. Drummond attended the U.S. Army Engineer Company Officers Course at Ft. Belvoir, VA. Subsequent to this he became a Plt. Ldr. in Able Company, 1st Engineer Bn in Korea where he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V". He was promoted to 1st Lt. on 1 December 1952.

1st Lt. Drummond was assigned to the Engineer School Bn, MCB, Camp Lejeune, from March 1953 to July 1956 where he served as a Company Cdr, OIC of the Construction School Plt. and Bn S-4. Other billets occupied were Assistant OIC of the Equipment School Plt. And OIC of the Demo Range. While serving with the Engineer School he was promoted to Captain on 18 March 1954.

Capt. Drummond was assigned to the 1st Marine Brigade in Hawaii from August 1956 to July 1958 where he served as the Executive Officer of Bravo Company, 3rd Shore Party Bn and CO, Charlie Company, 7th Engineer Bn. Following duty in Hawaii, he served as a Shore Party Instructor with the Landing Force Training Unit, Pacific at Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado, CA for a period of two years. From August 1960 to June 1963, Capt. Drummond was assigned to the NROTC Unit, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY, where he was promoted to Major on 1 May 1962.

Maj. Drummond was assigned to the 3rd MarDiv in Okinawa from July 1963 to August 1964 where he served as the S-4 Officer of the 3rd Engineer Bn. Subsequent to duty in WestPac, he served as an Engineer/Shore Party project Officer with the Marine Corps Development Center at Quantico for a period of three years. On 1 December 1966 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.

LtCol. Drummond attended the Marine Corps Command and Staff College from September 1967 to May 1968. He joined the 5th Marine Div. in June 1968 and assumed the duties of the Div. Engineer Off. prior to assuming Command of the 13th Engineer Bn on 12 November 1968.

Subsequent tours included Seabee Liaison Officer for ComNavForV Rep, DaNang Vietnam in 1969-1970; Assistant Facilities Off, MCB, Camp Lejeune 1970-1973 and Base Development Officer, MCAir Bases East 1973-1974. He retired in Sept. 1974.

Milt became a Life member of our Marine Corps Engineer Assn in March of 1995 and served as the MCEA rep on the National Marine Corps Council for several years.

Many years after retiring Milt still remembered his Marines that he had the privilege to serve with and began searching for them. He was particularly interested in reconnecting with his Able Company Platoon of Marines from Korea. He was successful in locating many of them and has for years now, paid their MCEA membership dues. Additionally, he's organized gatherings for them in Las Vegas in 2004 and D.C. in 2007.

On behalf of all of Milt's Marines and the many other Marine Corps engineers who have had the privilege to work with and for Milt, we offer our most fervent thanks for all that he's done for GOD, Country and Corps.

Like too many of our members, Milt has had significant health issues and is unable to travel to our reunions or communicate much. Please keep Lt. Col. Milt Drummond in your prayers.

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Philippines, Belleau Wood,
German Concentration Camps
& 66th Return to Iwo Jima!



Col. Ken Frantz (Ret)
Marine Corps Engineer Association
P.O. Box 566
Jacksonville, NC 28541


Sir,

Sometimes it's hard to come up with a word or words that can express ones true heart-felt feelings. We are at that place right now, as to say a mere thank you is not enough to express the deep gratitude and joy we feel in our hearts for all you have done and continue to do for us. The kindness and generosity means more than any of you can imagine. The MCEA has touched our lives in a very special way and we are thankful and appreciative for everything.

Having been an active duty Marine for 30 years and being on the side of helping my fellow Marines in their time of need has always given me a sense of satisfaction. Our Corps values let us know we have done the right thing and we have done what we could, and not looking for anything in return. "I've got your back" is not just words, it is ingrained in us, and I send a personal thank you for having my back now.

One day I got a call from a fellow Marine and friend to see how I was doing and to inform me the Marine Corps Engineer Association wanted to help my wife and me during this hiccup in our life journey. There are no words to truly let you know how that phone call touched my heart at that time.

And as I type this very humble thank you letter I wish I could find the words to express how we both feel. We say to the Marine Corps Engineer Association thank you, and thanks to all my fellow Marines for their support.



MGySgt & Mrs. Harvey O. Lee USMC (Ret)
Semper Paratus

7 Oct 09



FROM LIFE ON THE
FRONT LINE



TO » LIFE AT
HOME,

FORCE PROTECTION

IS PROUD TO SUPPORT
MCEA

WE UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO RELY ON ANOTHER FOR PROTECTION.

OUR LINE OF BATTLE-PROVEN VEHICLES LIKE THE BUFFALO AND COUGAR ARE DESIGNED TO DO JUST THAT, SO IN TURN, YOU CAN PROTECT THIS COUNTRY AND FIGHT FOR THE FREEDOMS OF OTHERS. FOR THIS, WE SAY THANK YOU. FORCE PROTECTION IS PROUD TO SUPPLY SURVIVABILITY SOLUTIONS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND WE HAVE GREAT RESPECT FOR THE MARINE CORPS ENGINEERS AND MEMBERS OF THE MCEA.

FOR SURVIVABILITY SOLUTIONS DESIGNED TO SAVE HEROES' LIVES, GO TO FORCEPROTECTION.NET

FORCE PROTECTION



Engineers in Action

From the Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Engineer School:

Just as last year, our engineer community is as busy as ever. Except for some logisticians and training teams, the Marine Corps has withdrawn from Iraq and is going full tilt in Afghanistan. 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion (CEB) replaced 1st CEB last in Afghanistan last Fall and newly reformed 3rd CEB is on deck. The Engineer Support Battalions (ESB), and Marine Wing Support Squadrons (MWSS) are doing similar rotations. 8th ESB and MWSS 371 recently returned from doing great things, while 7th ESB and MWSS 372 are now hooking and jabbing with 9th ESB on deck (not sure who is planned to replace 372).

The school and Marine Corps Engineer Center continue to support our war fighters as we can. Collectively, we have trained thousands of Marines and sent Mobile Training Teams to Afghanistan, the Republic of Georgia, and Macedonia. Additionally, we are actively involved in supporting the Commandant's efforts to reduce energy consumption by making available utilities subject matter experts. We continue to advocate for better Counter-IED coordination and training and support a variety of operational advisory and working groups tackling the IED problem.

Courthouse Bay has several construction projects under way and the area continues to gradually grow and expand. The quality of students – both officer and enlisted – remains high and our new Marines are as motivated as their predecessors from years past. Similar to other times in our history, Marines enter our Corps today with a near certainty they will be deployed to a combat zone sometime during their first enlistment. They seem eager for the challenge and we try and make them ready.

We welcome visitors from the MCEA and truly appreciate the support provided by the organization over the years...

Semper Fi, Col Heesacker



Marine Corps Engineer Center's CIED Training Program

Counter-IED (CIED) training is critical for Marines preparing to conduct combat operations on the modern battlefield. The Marine Corps Engineer Center (MCEC) plays a vital role in the Marine Corps' CIED training program. MCEC's team of active duty Marines, civilians and contractors, develops, maintains, and delivers individual and collective CIED training that prepares Marines to operate effectively in an IED environment.

As Training and Education Command's (TECOM) lead for standardizing Defeat the Device (DtD) training, MCEC maintains and regularly updates eight CIED Master Lesson Files (MLFs):

MLF 1- Individual preparedness in an IED environment, MLF 2- Small unit leader considerations for movement in an IED environment, MLF 3a- CREW operators course, MLF 3b- CREW leaders course, MLF 4a- Metal detector operators course, MLF 4b- Metal detector leaders course, MLF 5- Route clearance operations in an IED environment, and MLF 6- Robot operators course. These MLFs serve as the Marine Corps' foundation for individual and collective CIED training.

MCEC has been training Marines (soldiers, sailors and civilians too) for almost three years, totaling over 60,000 personnel at over 380 training events all over the world. While the majority of training is executed at Camp Pendleton and Camp Lejeune, Mobile Training Teams (MTTs) travel regularly to support units across the continental United States, Hawaii, and Okinawa. The focus of effort for MCEC's MTTs is training deploying Marine units, but they regularly provide CIED training to other commands and agencies such as: the School of Infantry; Staff Academy; Reserve and National Guard units; and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. Additionally, requests to train foreign militaries and Marine units in theater have been supported in Colombia, the Republic of Georgia, Macedonia, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

Additionally, MCEC offers an IED threat brief (classified or unclassified) that can be tailored to a specific AO that a unit is scheduled to deploy to. MCEC is also in the process of establishing a training cell capable of supporting units with COIC web-based tools training.

Outside of the established MLF training, MCEC is involved with efforts to support USMC CIED training initiatives such as: Recognition of Combatants-IED (ROC-IED) and other computer based training; Mobile Counter IED Interactive Trainer (MCIT); development of CIED Home Station Training Lanes at Camp Pendleton, Camp Lejeune and Twentynine Palms; acquisition of surrogate and simulation training systems; and establishing CIED training as a Program of Record in the Marine Corps by Fiscal Year 2012.



As part of a larger mission to support assured mobility and protect the force across the spectrum of military operations, MCEC remains actively involved with a myriad of initiatives and Working Groups throughout the Department of Defense that are both directly and indirectly tied to CIED training. Some of the most significant examples are: the USMC CREW Manpower and Training Plan; Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle fielding and licensing requirements; mine and countermine doctrine and materiel development; TECOM's Pre-deployment Training Working Group; the CIED Working Group; metal and mine detector requirements and solutions for USMC Operating Forces; and Engineer Operational Advisory Groups. If you are interested in learning more about MCEC's training opportunities, or would like to schedule CIED training for your unit, please our their website at: <http://www.marines.mil/unit/tecom/mces/ecoe/Pages/explosive-hazards.aspx>

2nd CEB heads to Afghanistan

By HOPE HODGE

The mood was somber yet hopeful aboard Camp Lejeune as the 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division prepared to depart for a seven-month deployment. The battalion's destination: Afghanistan's Helmand province, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Though many of the men in the battalion had deployed in smaller groups, the battalion as a whole had not deployed since 2003, an uncommon occasion for an engineer battalion, Lt. Col. Kirk Cordova, the battalion commander, said.

Assigned to handle all counter IED fights for all the engineer battalions in Afghanistan, the battalion will also be using Assault Breacher Vehicles (ABV) for the first time in a combat operation.

"Our short-term goal is to ensure freedom of movement for all the coalition forces and forces in Afghanistan as well," Cordova said. "Long-term, well, just to bring the boys home."

Buses were scheduled to roll out with the Marines aboard at 6 p.m. Sunday, but most of the Marines had been ready and waiting in a barracks yard since early afternoon. Surrounding them were parents, friends and family members, all standing in close circles or sprawling on the grass amid piles of packed gear and weapons.

Sgt. Michael Bonner, who will be working on road improvement with Headquarters and Support (H&S) Company, said it was his third deployment, but first to Afghanistan.

"The place we're going is a lot different place from Iraq," he said. "Completely different people, and the terrain's a lot different,"

He said the basics of the training he received before each deployment were much the same, but that the cultural preparation for Afghanistan was more complex: heavy with training to learn the basics of the most common of the more than 30 spoken languages.

"There will be a lot of learning to do once I get over there," he said.

Cpl. Donovan Morrison said that although this was his third deployment, it was the first time his family had been able to come to see him off, making the six-hour drive from northern Virginia to Jacksonville.

Bernadette Morrison, his wife, said that saying goodbye did get a little easier over time. "It's another deployment," she said. "I guess you could say we just got used to it." The couple were joined by their children, 12-year-old Dalton and 20-year-old Brittany. They'd spent the afternoon sitting quietly together on the grass.

Marines and their families weren't the only ones to turn up to see the men off. The assistant director of the Jacksonville USO, Shannon Wesley, arrived with a few volunteers briefly before the battalion's departure. They brought cardboard boxes filled with care packages containing snacks, games, magazines and basic hygiene supplies.

Wesley said her group tried to be present for every deployment, assisted by a volunteer base that she said always showed "overwhelming support" for this kind of assignment. When they distributed the packages to the troops, "we tell them, 'Thank you,' 'Come home safe,' or 'See you when you get back,'" she said.

As the men waited single-file to load onto the buses that would take them to the air station, many squeezed in final embraces with loved ones. At the door of the bus, USO volunteer Maureen Bolen handed out a care package and a hug, thanking them for their service.

Cordova, watching them load, shouted to them, "Let's get this party started, huh?"

"Let's make history, sir!" a Marine shouted back, as he swung his gear into the luggage compartment and boarded the bus.



Marine Engineers Survive Marjah Blast, Provide Bridges and Fire Support for 1/6

2/15/2010

By Lance Cpl. Walter Marino, Regimental Combat Team 7

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Marines from Alpha Company, 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, worked tirelessly from early morning to the mid-afternoon Feb. 11, building makeshift bridges over canals to provide a route for Marines and vehicles to enter the known Taliban stronghold of Marjah.

After completion of their last makeshift bridge, Marines had just boarded their vehicles, when suddenly a loud explosion erupted from behind one of their trucks. Mud chunks fell from the sky like rain. But, no Marines were hurt. Fortunately, Alpha Company had boarded their vehicles moments before the blast.

"The blast made my heart jump. It was a reality check," said Sgt. Jonathan J. Sanabria, a truck master for Alpha Company. "Everyone is real lucky."

Marines surveyed the scene to find nothing but mud houses and Afghan goat herders. It appeared the insurgent attack had been only a single improvised explosive device. Alpha Company continued forward, but halted as enemy shots rang out.

The attack was coming from a mud building in the north. Surprisingly however, the attack was not being placed on Alpha Company, but rather on Marines from 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment. Alpha Company moved into position to provide security, and assist in any way possible.

"The reason I went out is because I didn't think it was fair to have those Marines fighting by themselves. I thought we could push forward and help them suppress fire, and make it a little easier for those guys," said Cpl. James A. Pabey, a motor transport operator for Alpha Company. "We are all here for the same reason. It doesn't matter who they are or where they come from. You just come together, you might not even know the guy shooting next to you, but you make sure he's good to go. It's camaraderie. We're here for them and they're there for you."

Several MK-19 40 mm machine guns and 60 mm mortar rounds were fired into the mud compound for approximately an hour until the insurgent threat was ceased.

"I could see them leaving once the mortar rounds started hitting the building," said Cpl. Khristopher T. McKinzie, a machine gunner for Alpha Company.

With the bridge construction completed and the firefight over, Alpha Company's mission was done. Still, Alpha Company chose to remain posted near the route, just in case their engineering skills or assistance might be needed for the fight in Marjah.

Alpha Company is prepared to help their fellow Marines in any way they can.

"If something was to go down, I'd be on it like white on rice. That's how prepared I am," said Cpl. Alton S. Floyd, a wrecker operator for Alpha Company. "This mission was a success; it allowed everyone that needed to come through to get through with no problems."

Marines push 'The Breacher' against Taliban lines

Two U.S. Marine Assault Breacher Vehicles (ABV), test-fire explosive line charges in the desert outside Sistani, a farming suburb of Marjah in Afghanistan's Helmand province Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2010. The 72-ton ABV vehicle that can plow mine fields and fire ribbons of C4 explosive nearly 150 yards ahead of them to blast safe passage. (AP Photo/Alfred de Montesquiou) (Alfred De Montesquiou - AP)

Thursday, February 11, 2010 SISTANI, Afghanistan — In comes "The Joker."

That's the nickname given by the crew to one of the 72-ton, 40-foot (12-meter)-long Assault Breacher Vehicles. Fitted with a plow and nearly 7,000 pounds (3,175 kilograms) of explosives, the Breachers, as they are commonly known, are the Marines Corps' answer to the deadliest threat facing NATO troops in Afghanistan: thousands of land mines and roadside bombs, or improvised explosive devices that litter the Afghan landscape. The Breachers, metal monsters that look like a tank with a cannon, carry a 15-foot (4.5-meter) -wide plow supported by metallic skis that glide on the dirt, digging a safety lane through the numerous minefields laid by the Taliban.

If there are too many mines, the Breachers can fire rockets carrying high-grade C-4 explosive up to 150 yards (meters) forward, detonating the hidden bombs at a safe distance so that troops and vehicles can pass through safely.

The detonations - over 1,700 pounds (770 kilograms) of Mine Clearing Line Charges - send a sheet fire into the air and shock waves rippling through the desert in all directions.



Reporters watched the “Breachers” in action Wednesday as Marines edged closer to Marjah, a southern Taliban stronghold that NATO commanders plan to attack in the coming days in the largest joint NATO-Afghan operation of the Afghan war. Troops are expected to face a massive threat from mines and roadside bombs as they push into Marjah, 380 miles (610 kilometers) southwest of Kabul.

“This may be the largest IED threat and largest minefield that NATO has ever faced,” says Brig Gen. Larry Nicholson, the commander of all Marines in southern Afghanistan.

Several Breachers - including “The Joker” and its twin “Iceman” - will be used in the Marjah assault. Commanders hope they will make a huge difference as troops pierce through layer after layer of minefields circling the town.

“I consider it to be a truly lifesaving weapon,” said Gunnery Sgt. Steven Sanchez, 38, leader of a platoon from the 2nd Marines Combat Engineers Battalion.

A cross between a bulldozer and Abrams tank with a 1,500-horsepower turbine engine, Breachers are so valuable that they only travel outside bases along with a tank retrieval vehicle to drag them to safety if they are damaged.

Sanchez’s platoon drove Breachers in their first combat operation in December, when Marines reclaimed a section of the heavily mined Now Zad valley farther north in Helmand province. “We made history, and the Breacher did well,” says Sanchez, of Palm Desert, Calif.

“I’m happy to see that this monster is on our side,” said Rahim Ullah, a machine gunner in the Afghan army unit that will fight alongside the Marines.

A few kinks are yet to be worked but before the Breachers are entirely up to speed. Two charges fired by “The Joker” and “Iceman” on Wednesday didn’t go off automatically, forcing one of their crew to dismount and trigger the explosives themselves.

Developed by the Marines since the 1990s and costing US\$3.5 million apiece, the Breacher still has room for improvement, Sanchez admits.

“It’s not in the testing phase anymore, but it sure as hell still is in the deployment phase,” he said, adding that all the Marines serving on his Breacher platoon are volunteers and intent on improving the new weapon.

“I’m convinced it’s going to prove itself in Marjah,” Sanchez said.

Many on his platoon believe the Breacher has already proven its worth. The Joker’s vehicle commander, Cpl. Michael Turner, 21, of Provo, Utah, says his Breacher works even better than he’d thought during training.

“She’s surprisingly easy to operate,” Turner said. His vehicle can travel at 50 miles (80 kilometers) per hour. When plowing for bombs, it can still move at 5 to 8 mph (8 to 13 kph), depending on the terrain - all the while digging up the dirt 14 inches (36 centimeters) deep.

“That’s plenty enough to get the IEDs,” said Turner, because any explosive buried deeper is unlikely to be triggered by a vehicle driving by.

The Joker’s driver, Sgt. Jeremy Kinsey, 23, from Sunny Side, Washington, even triggered a live IED during his Breacher’s first combat outing in December. The 60-pound (27-kilogram) bomb exploded on his plow, powerful enough to rip out a tire or an axle from a normal armored vehicle.

The Breacher barely registered. “It shook slightly,” Kinsey said. “I laughed and I drove on.”

AUGUST, 2009: I’m very pleased to report the formal activation of 3rd CEB. It’s been 14 years since my old Battalion was deactivated and it took a couple of wars and a whole lot of hard work by Mike Boyd and the Headquarters team to make it happen.



U.S. Marines from the 2nd MEB, 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion sit on top of their Assault Breacher Vehicle (ABV), at Belleau Wood outpost outside Marjah in Afghanistan's Helmand province Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2010. The 72-ton ABV tank plows mine fields and fire ribbons of C4 explosive nearly 150 yards ahead of them to blast safe passage. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder) (David Guttenfelder - AP)



I've previously sent our congratulations to LtCol Bain and offered our continued support of the "third herd".

Next month, we'll honor Sgt David Lang as the Combat Engineer NCO of the Year at our Awards banquet. This will be the first time that 3rd CEB has had a Marine accept an award, but don't expect it to be the last!

See the below article for more information about LtCol Bain and the Command.

KEN FRANTZ

New Commanding Officer welcomed to 3rd CEB 8/28/2009

By Cpl. Monica C. Erickson, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. — Lt. Col. James H. Bain, formally introduced himself to the 600 Marines of 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion as their new commanding officer during an assumption of command ceremony aboard the Combat Center Aug. 21.

The battalion was recently reactivated in October 2008, after being deactivated in 1995. The battalion fell under 1st Tank Battalion administratively as they waited for a commanding officer.

"When standing up a battalion, the challenge is always going to be filling that battalion with personnel," said Sgt. Maj. James D. Walsh, the battalion sergeant major and a Rochester, N.Y., native. "Combat engineer officers are a fairly rare breed in the Corps to begin with and finding the one who would be a perfect fit for a newly-reactivated battalion just took some time."

During the ceremony, Bain, a Shreveport, La., native, thanked 1st Tank Battalion for their support. He also spoke to his Marines and described a brief history of 3rd CEB.

"Once again 3rd CEB is being activated," he said jokingly. "It is like a cockroach, you just can't get rid of it."

He continued to say he was proud of the Marines he will lead, and impressed with their fortitude to fight in the war without a commanding officer to lead them. Since being activated, 3rd CEB has sent elements to deploy with various units from the Combat Center to Iraq and Afghanistan. Bain plans to work with his Marines so the entire battalion can deploy at once.

On of the reasons Bain was selected to become 3rd CEB's new commanding officer was because of his background in the engineering field. Bain entered the Marine Corps as a combat engineer officer and served with 8th Engineer Support Battalion, where he held various billets throughout the unit.

Bain had deployed to the Mediterranean and Africa and participated in Operations Silver Wake in Albania, Southern Watch in Iraq, Resolute Response in Kenya and Tanzania, Joint Guardian in Kosovo, Allied Forces in Yugoslavia and Joint Task Force Noble Anvil in Kosovo.

Bain also deployed to Iraq in 2003 with 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, where he served as the commanding officer of Company A and later Engineer Support Co.



In late 2007 and early 2008, Bain commanded a provisional infantry task force in Iraq's Al Anbar province, conducting security and stability operations. When he returned from deployment he was assigned as the force engineer with U.S. Marine Forces Command in Norfolk, Va. This is where he was chosen to become the commanding officer of 3rd CEB.

Many of the leaders in 3rd CEB are excited to begin working with him and learn from his experiences as they prepare for their future in the Marine Corps, Walsh said.

3rd CEB volunteers time, effort to preserve Keys Ranch 2/5/2010

By Pvt. Michael T. Gams, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. — While most Marines and sailors stationed aboard the Combat Center were carrying out their military mission, Jan. 28, 14 members of 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion were working hard on another mission, a mission to preserve the history of Keys Ranch in the national park here.

The warriors volunteered their day to help restore a cabin which had succumbed to the harsh climate of the Mojave Desert and remove unwanted vegetation from the ranch.

While in its prime, the ranch was bustling with activity. But now, the ranch has transformed into a slow-moving tourist attraction, more akin to sunny days with sightseers milling around the grounds than a haven of hard work and a sweat-built homestead.

With the days of ranch life and constant mending behind it, one cabin fell, leaving behind a pile of rubble covered with the remains of the old, tin roof which provided shelter to the splintered wood which, in better days, provided structural support. That's where the Marines and sailors of 3rd CEB came into the picture.

The goal of the volunteer project was to help restore the area to how it looked when William Keys and his family inhabited it in the early 1900s, said John Schroeder, an archeologist with Joshua Tree National Park.

Schroeder said the Keys family was one of the first families who built their homestead in the area and was not forced out by the area's climate. "They built everything on the ranch from nothing," he said, surveying the area. "He even built a schoolhouse because he knew his children needed an education."

The Keys settlement is now an attraction which can be only seen by appointment Saturdays and Sundays during a park ranger-guided tour at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. from October through May. Weekday scheduling varies and can be checked at the Web site, <http://www.nps.gov/jotr/planyourvisit/programs.html>.

The cabin belonged to one of the Keys' friends, Bill McHaney, and was moved to the ranch after McHaney grew too old to live alone, Schroeder said.

"We have historic photographs of what the cabin looked like while it was lived in," said Schroeder, a San Diego native. "We're going to use all the original materials and rebuild it exactly how it was before it fell."

With the exception of the volunteer project lead, Navy Lt. Bryan Davenport, 3rd CEB's chaplain, the Marines and sailors of 3rd CEB had never visited the park before. Most brought with them a sense of wonder and all came with a willingness to work.

"We came out to help," Davenport said. "The roof was sitting on top of what was left of the cabin, so we had to move it to let the archeologists see what they have to work with when they rebuild it."

Besides providing the manpower and engineering know-how to move the roof properly, the Marines and sailors also picked weeds which had grown up in the ranch's disuse.

"It was a big job," Schroeder said. "If the little group of park rangers here and I tried to pick all the weeds, it would take us forever. Having these Marines out here really helps us to preserve the ranch for the future."

Marines have a history of helping keep Joshua Tree National Park beautiful, said Laureen Lentz, the volunteer coordinator. "We always have groups of Marines out here doing odd-jobs and helping us," she said. "It's great because not only are we getting help, the Marines stationed here get the chance to see how beautiful the park is and what it has to offer."

"I know a lot of Marines never come here, and once they do, they normally realize what they were missing," Lentz said.

Lance Cpl. Michael Ehrhart, a field radio wireman with Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd CEB, made his first venture into the park when he volunteered to help preserve the ranch, and he said it won't be his last.

"I've never been here before, but I'm coming out here this weekend," said the Columbia, Md., native. "I'm glad I got the opportunity to come out here, I never realized the desert in our backyard could actually be cool. It seems like a whole new world in the park – and I would have never known about it until I came out here."

6th Engineer Support Bn input from the Bn Cdr: LtCol D.L. Richardson.

Currently we have Marines in Afghanistan supporting 7th ESB.

All of our Marines except approximately two dozen from CLB 46 are home from Iraq. The latter few rolled over to Afghanistan to finish up their orders. We have an Engineer Company mobilized and ready to begin their workups for Afghanistan in support of 9th ESB

The last week and a half was all Haiti workups...all for naught but a good staff workup experience.

Our Marines will be supporting SOUTHCOM in several different venues. We are also heavily involved in a project in Alaska. There are numerous other training evolutions that our Marines will be supporting.

7TH Engineer Support Bn input from the Bn XO: Major Jerry De Lira



In mid-November 2009, 7th Engineer Support Battalion arrived at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan and conducted reception, staging, onward movement, and integration (RSO&I) operations for all incoming Marines and Sailors. 7th ESB conducted a relief in place (RIP) with 8th ESB, and a transfer of authority (TOA) ceremony took place on 23 November 2009. Upon relieving 8th ESB, 7th ESB continued to provide direct support logistics to 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines (3/4) in order to support combat operations in the northern part of the area of operations. 7th ESB also quickly assumed the responsibility of providing general engineering support to the Marine Expeditionary Brigade – Afghanistan (MEB-A) across the Task Force Leatherneck area of operations (AO). Upon their arrival in Afghanistan, Company C completed RSO&I requirements upon Camp Leatherneck and then moved south to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Dwyer. Based out of FOB Dwyer, Company C undertook force protection, quality of life, and winterization projects to units operating in the districts of Garmsir and Rig. Company C also began an inventory of all Medium Girder Bridge (MGB) sets residing on base as well as those bridges already emplaced across gaps throughout the AO. Engineer Support Company quickly began conducting general support combat logistics patrols to FOB Dwyer and Combat Outpost (COP) Cafferetta in Now Zad. Bulk Fuel Company sent two-man teams to relieve all 8th ESB Bulk Fuel teams located at the FOB's throughout the AO while Headquarters and Service Company was heavily engaged in the RIP/TOA process with their 8th ESB counterparts.

During the month of December, 7th ESB continued to provide support across the Marine Expeditionary Brigade's area of operations. From constructing patrol bases (PB) in support of 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines' during Operation KHAREH CO'BRA in Now Zad, to executing two combat logistics patrols from Camp Leatherneck to COP Cafferetta, 7th ESB continued to provide support to forces in the northern areas of Helmand Province. 7th ESB also conducted numerous Combat Logistics Patrols from Camp Leatherneck to FOB Dwyer, and provided general engineering support to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines. In southern Helmand Province, 7th ESB constructed COP Shibot and performed winterization and quality of life improvements to COP Payne and COP Khan Neshin Castle in support of 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion (LAR). In December, 7th ESB also conducted RSO&I training for incoming Motor Transport and Combat Engineer Marines that were sent from Camp Lejeune to reinforce 7th ESB.

During the month of January, 7th ESB continued its engineer support across AO Sea Dragon. In the Now Zad District, 7th ESB provided Marines for Female Engagement Team (FET) operations in support of 3/4, and completed force protection and quality of life improvements at the majority of 3/4's combat outposts. In central Helmand Province, 7th ESB executed a high number of combat logistics patrols from Camp Leatherneck to FOB Dwyer in order to keep supplies moving to FOB Dwyer while the C-130 airstrip was under repair. 7th ESB Marines also replaced several Medium Girder Bridges with non-standard bridge solutions such as culverts and reinforced ISO containers and began construction of a 8 kilometer road known as Route Red. In southern Helmand Province, 7th ESB continued to support 4th LAR with construction, utilities, and bulk fuel support. 7th ESB also began construction of COP Taghaz and provided 4th LAR with an abundance of laundry, shower, water purification/storage, and electrical support.

With the arrival of Combat Logistics Battalion – 6 in mid-January, 7th ESB began a turnover of responsibilities for the Arrival/Departure Airfield Control Group at Camp Bastion and began "left seat/right seat" combat logistics patrols throughout the area of operations. Finally, 7th ESB dedicated many hours in January to planning and constructing Combat Logistics Support Area "Belleau Wood" in support of 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines and their arrival into the Nad 'Ali District of central Helmand Province. In the first three months of its deployment, 7th ESB has constructed one Forward Operating Base, two combat outposts, three patrol bases, eleven SWA huts, one Davidson building, four non-standard bridges, and 10 kilometers of road. During this time 7th ESB has also conducted over fifty combat logistics patrols, removed six Medium Girder Bridges, emplaced one Medium Girder Bridge, installed three 36" culverts, dispensed 319,736 gallons of JP-8 fuel, and produced 485, 935 gallons of water.



Marines from Company C, 7th ESB construct a non-standard bridge utilizing ISO containers that were reinforced with steel I-beams welded inside of them



Marines from Company C, 7th ESB work together to emplace a Medium Girder Bridge in Helmand Province, Afghanistan

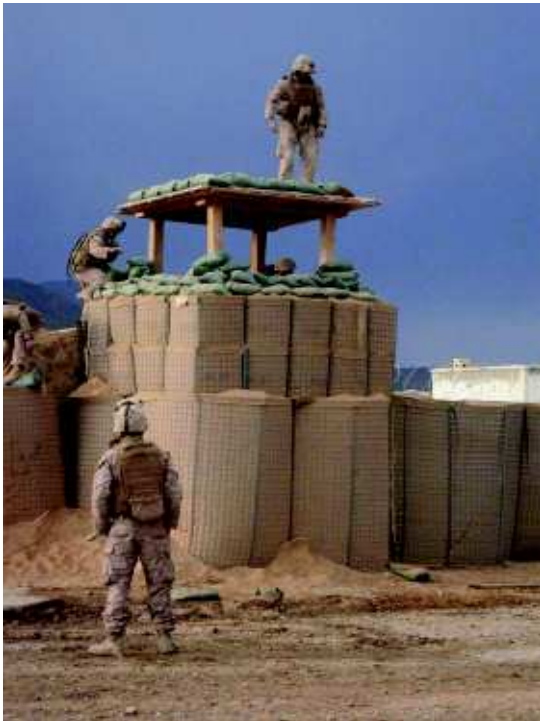




Using a D-7 Bulldozer, Marines from 1st Platoon, Company C, 7th ESB begin constructing berms around a brand new combat outpost near Now Zad during Operation COBRA'S ANGER.



Marines from 1st Platoon, Company C, 7th ESB emplace pre-fabricated timbers while constructing a guard tower for 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines during Operation COBRA'S ANGER in Now Zad.



Marines from 1st Platoon, Company C, 7th ESB inspect a newly constructed guard tower during Operation COBRA'S ANGER in Now Zad.



Marines from 1st Platoon, Company C, 7th ESB construct a Davidson Building that will serve as a future headquarters for an Afghan National Army unit on Camp Shorabak.





A Marine from Security Platoon, Engineer Support Company, 7th ESB works quickly to recover a stuck vehicle during a convoy to Now Zad.



A local utilizes a newly constructed non-standard bridge

Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning stays young.
The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young.
--Henry Ford (1863-1947)

The older I get, the more wisdom I find in the ancient rule of taking first things first
- a process which often reduces the most complex human problems to manageable proportions.
-- Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969)



8th Engineer Support Bn articles

1stLt Brock, 1302 USMC

Marines can endure. Marines can endure hardship, lack of sleep, little food, no showers, blistering sun, no resupply, no mail, no days off, all with a smile and a full combat load. Forward deployed on a mission in Helmand Province, Afghanistan for more than 45 days I found out the real reason United States Marines are the best.

As the First Platoon Commander of Company C, 8th Engineer Support Battalion assigned to the positions of 2d Battalion / 3d Marines in northwestern Helmand Province I found that the fighting spirit of my Marines was better than any conventional weapon at my disposal. Whether it was by the sure nature of the Marine Corps, our hard training before deployment, the bond the platoon had from being together for an unprecedented 19 months, or a combination of all three, they had what it took. Before returning to Camp Leatherneck, our home base, we had traveled 300 hours spread out between five different positions. We winterization upgrades at bunkers to South-West Asia



Filling HESCO, COP Barrows



Dust storm, Camp Leatherneck

conducted force protection, quality of life, and the positions ranging from indirect fire (IDF) (SWA) huts.

I realized after a very short time that morale was something to take very seriously. It was also something that had to be rekindled daily. Working with my platoon sergeant we found how to employ them and get them to not only take ownership of the projects, but to take pride in them as well. Without this we would not have been nearly as effective as we were. The greatest lesson I took from my experience was how powerful a platoon of combat engineers could be filled with a healthy fighting spirit. In the end if they have this they will conduct a 54 hour convoy into the mountains, take IDF, recover vehicles blown apart by IEDs, evacuate their fellow Marines, and then get up the next day ready to work. Marines will endure.



*Living out of trucks (note the racks and clothes line),
FOB Golestan*



*SWA-hut construction, Forward Operating Base
(FOB) Golestan*





Platoon photo at dusk, COP Barrows



Engineer reconnaissance patrol, FOB Bakwa



End of day debrief, Combat Outpost Barrows

1stLt Carla Gerlach 1302 USMC

The Marines of Company C, 8th Engineer Support Battalion accomplished a great deal while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. They convoyed all over the southern portion of the Province supporting 1/5, 2/8, and 2D LAR.

In August they traveled down to Khan Neshin Castle where they provided engineer support in the form of improved force protection and quality of life improvement. A small detachment remained two weeks later and built two combat outposts for the Afghans, a seven bay single story medium girder bridge, and a road. Everyone else convoyed north and built a 69 foot non-standard footbridge, which was the first of its kind in the Marine Corps in many years. This month was particularly hot in the Afghan desert so the Marines used their ingenuity and created shade and put water bottles in socks to cool themselves.

In September a reduced Company C relocated from Camp Leatherneck to FOB Dwyer in order to create a footprint for the replacing unit and to be closer to the new focus of effort: winterization.



Laying the trusses for the SWA-Huts at COP Apache





*Welding support for the non-standard footbridge at
PB Hasan Abad*

In October and November they traveled around, similar to circus-folk, from one patrol base to another leveling the ground, laying gravel, and constructing SWA-Huts in preparation of the wet winter that was just around the corner.

Overall, the Marines of Company C were incredibly resilient to the austere conditions of living like gypsies, going for long periods of time without showers, and existing off of MREs. They did what they signed up to do and improvised, adapted, and overcame the adversity that was presented to them; and, most importantly they accomplished the mission.



Convoy from Camp Leatherneck south to FOB Dwyer



Living Conditions at Khan Neshin Castle



Burnout heads at Khan Neshin Castle



Local Nationals crossing the footbridge at PB Hasan Abad



What Makes a Good Combat Engineer?

By Steve Dunkin

I recently had the opportunity to stop by the headquarters of Delta Company, 4th CEB and speak to some of our young Marines preparing for deployment to Afghanistan. The I & I First Sergeant, Charles Wright, introduced me to two Marines who had been deployed to Iraqi about a year ago and where now bound for Afghanistan. L/Cpl. Chris Vipond and Sgt. David Flowers are both 1371, Combat Engineers and joined the Marine Corps in 2004. They are full time students at the University of Tennessee when not volunteering for overseas duty. In 2004 each attended the basic combat engineer course at Court House Bay and soon thereafter found themselves in Iraqi supporting the 2nd LAR Battalion.

I asked each Marine what they thought made an exemplary combat engineer. L/Cpl. Vipond explained that while he received good basic skills training as a Marine and combat engineer he was new to the Marine Corps and Iraqi was his first deployment. L/Cpl. Vipond explained that having a knowledgeable mentor was the key to becoming a good engineer in combat. While working with 2nd LAR, his squad was lead by an exemplary engineer from Delta Company who both possessed the skills of a good engineer and was able to pass those skills on to Vipond.

Sgt. Flowers deployed to Iraqi approximately a year after Vipond and was also attached to 2nd LAR as part of its engineer support. Sgt. Flowers stated that what makes a good combat engineer is having the opportunity for gaining good experience in those engineer skills necessary to do the job. While attached to 2nd LAR his squad did a lot of work related to discovering weapons caches, IED detection, construction of field fortifications and demolitions. Working with experienced Marines provided the opportunity to hone his engineer skills.

Sgt. Flowers continued to emphasize a focus on good training opportunities which allow a Marine to improve engineering skills. In elaborating on his deployment experiences, Sgt. Flowers mentioned that as a Marine in 4th CEB he does not have the opportunity to train everyday. Therefore, when Sgt. Flowers was activated and began pre-deployment training at Camp Lejeune he determined to put 110% of his efforts toward both learning all he could as quickly as you could and doing his job right.

Both Flowers and Vipond felt the keys to success as a combat engineer were building on and improving those basic combat engineering skills taught at Court House Bay, having the opportunity to work with seasoned engineers, focusing individual efforts on becoming a better Marine and doing everything necessary to provide outstanding support to the unit the engineers were attached to. Finally, each Marine expressed their commitment to work twice as hard as those engineers on fulltime active duty in order to insure the Marines they were supporting received exemplary support at all times.

As I spoke with them as their platoon prepared to depart it came to mind that combat engineers down through the years would probably have expressed the same sentiments. These two outstanding engineers are currently with their engineer platoon at 29 Palms preparing for deployment to Afghanistan. We in the MCEA wish each of these fine young Marines well.

Want To Go Down In History?

The MCEA would like to hear from you if you would like to share your experiences while a Marine or Corpsman assigned to engineer units. If you are interested in recording your experiences, write Steve at: 3709 Blackstock Dr, Maryville, TN 37801 or email him at jsdunkin@charter.net. Steve is our historian and he will contact you and set up a time to talk over the phone.

"If an American is to amount to anything he must rely upon himself, and not upon the State; he must take pride in his own work, instead of sitting idle to envy the luck of others. He must face life with resolute courage, win victory if he can, and accept defeat if he must, without seeking to place on his fellow man a responsibility which is not theirs."

— Theodore Roosevelt



SAME Recognizes USMC Engineers

Since its founding in 1920, the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) has honored engineers for outstanding achievement.

SAME annually recognizes individuals, organizations, companies and public agencies for their contributions to the military engineering profession. These include soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines from the active, guard and reserve forces; coast guardsmen from the Department of Homeland Security; Public Health Service officers from the Department of Health and Human Services; and contractors working in the A/E/C, environmental and supporting industries.

Their remarkable performance is unsurpassed in defending the freedoms that we enjoy as Americans, in rebuilding U.S. cities and towns ravaged by natural disasters, and in reconstructing war-torn nations far from our shores. Our military, civilian and contractor teams have dedicated themselves to the mission, never wavering in their collective resolve to achieve a job well done.

There are many SAME members who have performed well and achieved outstanding success. Those individuals, organizations, companies and public agencies recognized are the "best of the best." We congratulate them on their achievements and thank them for their efforts.

Staff Sergeant Stephen H. Kuester Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician Award

Staff Sgt. Stephen H. Kuester is receiving the U. S. Marine Corps Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician Award for outstanding performance of a myriad of operations, ranging from Team Leader to Platoon Sergeant, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During his most recent deployment to Iraq, SSgt. Kuester and his team responded to 100 calls for Explosive Ordnance Disposal support, resulting in the destruction of more than 1,000 ordnance items with a net explosive weight of more than 3,000 pounds. In May 2009, he assisted in the search for booby traps in and around a suspected Al-Qaida safe house. The search enabled the destruction of 312 AK-47 assault rifles, 34 machine guns, nine RPG launchers and four 60-mm mortar systems. As platoon sergeant, his teams cleared more than 200 improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and destroyed tens of thousands of ordnance items, 1,000 weapon systems and more than 100,000 small arms. SSgt. Kuester's efforts drastically crippled the enemy's ability to use IEDs, assault weapons and indirect fire weapons. Many of these missions were completed under enemy observation, and direct and indirect fire. SSgt. Kuester's enthusiasm, professionalism and unwavering devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and United States Naval Service.

Captain Colter J. Bahlau Engineer Officer of the Year Award

Captain Colter J. Bahlau, recipient of the U. S. Marine Corps Engineer Officer of the Year Award, skillfully led a combat engineer platoon in Garmsir, Afghanistan, and superbly executed mobility, counter mobility and survivability missions in support of Battalion Landing Team (BLT) 1/6 operations. Through his leadership and foresight, Captain Bahlau prepared his platoon to perform its assigned missions in austere conditions with the most demanding operational tempo and while often under enemy observation or fire.

As the BLT conducted sustained security and stability operations, the division of the battle space required four company-sized strong point positions to be built in key locations interspersed throughout the battle space. Capt. Bahlau was tasked to build these strong points and coordinate the engineering turnover of the positions to the British engineers. Through his tireless efforts in the construction of the strong point positions, Captain Bahlau provided suitable force protection and living standards for BLT and Alliance Forces. Captain Bahlau's outstanding leadership, professionalism and total dedication set the highest standards for his unit and the Marine Corps. His actions disrupted enemy operations and increased security throughout his area of operations. His abilities, efforts and outstanding leadership earned him this award.



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

Winston Churchill





