



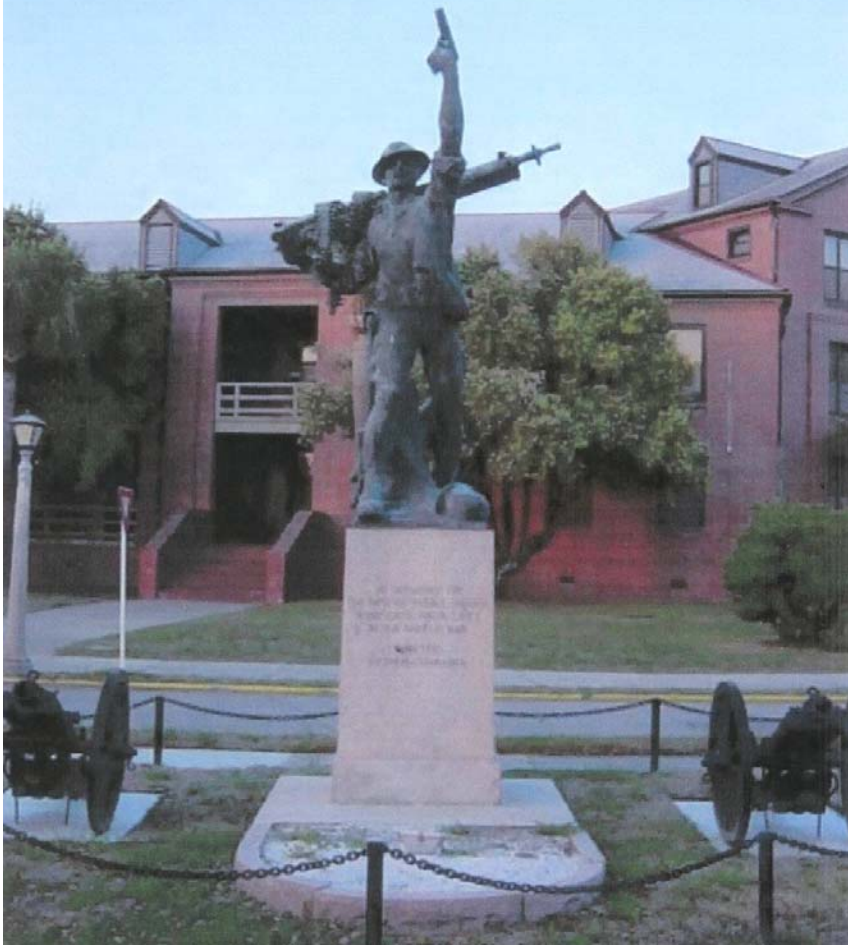
MESTENGO

Volume 8 Issue 5

Published Quarterly by the Marine Corps Mustang Association, Inc

Winter 2006

2006 MCMA Muster



IRON MIKE

If you know who this statue is of, then you know where we are going for the 2006 Marine Corps Mustang Association Muster. If not, go to page 10 and find out where and when.

A LITTLE HISTORY

Marine Corps Mascot: (excerpt from *Warrior Culture of the U.S. Marines*, copyright 2001 Marion F. Sturkey)

Thanks to the German Army, the U.S. Marine Corps has an *unofficial* mascot. During World War I many German reports had called the attacking Marines "teufel-hunden," meaning *Devil-Dogs*. Teufel-hunden were the vicious, wild, and ferocious mountain dogs of Bavarian folklore.

Soon afterward a U.S. Marine recruiting poster depicted a snarling English Bulldog wearing a Marine Corps helmet. Because of the tenacity and demeanor of the breed, the image took root with both the Marines and the public. The Marines soon unofficially adopted the English Bulldog as their mascot.

At the Marine base at Quantico, Virginia, the Marines obtained a immediate media darling, registered English Bulldog, *King Bulwark*,



Continued on Page 9

FROM THE PRESIDENT

From the President's soapbox -

I've been back to Parris Island now three times since last June. The most recent two trips, of course, are related to our Muster next September 21, 22, and 23. George Fritschi accompanied me last fall, and Ernest Johnson (the Muster co-chairman) met me there last week. Let me say that we have several very interesting things lined up, and all the activities on the Depot are free, except, of course for meals.

On Thursday, we have been offered front row "seating" for pre-qual day at the rifle range along with a detailed, hands on experience with state-of-the-art marksmanship training simulators. They also have a new, formal class on the meaning of the Eagle, Globe and Anchor. We'll be able to monitor that one.

For those who are planning to travel on Thursday, the kickoff will be our Reception which will be held at the MCAS, Beaufort that evening at 1800. It is at the Beaufort O'Club because Thursday before graduation is Family Day at Parris Island, and the clubs people there are overwhelmed with friends and family of our newest warriors. It is different, Marines. Family members in the hundreds now attend recruit graduations.

Interestingly, the Air Station is substantially closer to our hotel than the Depot, and their clubs folks are treating us very well. For anyone who has never been there, the club is almost straight in from the gate.

The big day at PI, of course, is Friday. We'll have USMC buses to board just inside the mainside area, and our day will begin with the Depot colors ceremony. The graduation parade will be followed by a messhall lunch, then we'll get the "Yellow Footprint" experience, and a bus tour of the entire island.

Saturday during the day might be some "old Beaufort" horse and carriage tours, local shopping, or any number of non-facility activities. It will also be our full membership business meeting followed by the Banquet at the Lyceum building at the far eastern end of the Depot. Obviously, details are elsewhere in this Mestengo.

We are excited at this return to our "place of birth" as Marines, and will be asking each attendee to note his or her own year of enlistment and number of years of active duty. The public affairs people like to know those things, and we are confident that this muster will be a positive for our MCMA "public" profile.

Semper Fidelis,
Phil



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ACCLAMATION AT 1992 MUSTER

CWO-4 Martin Gaffney, USMC (Ret)

***Mestengo* ©**

Editor David Brunstad
Historian John Darracott

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WELCOME ABOARD – NEW MEMBERS

Marvin S. Blair, Jr.	Col	USMC (Ret)	Nashville	TN	R-3197
Robert G. McEwen	1stLt	USMC (Ret)	Indian Shores	FL	R-3198
Kurt L. Miller	1stLt	USMC (Ret)	Aurora	CO	R-3199
Stephen J. Moore	Capt	USMC (Ret)	Burnsville	MN	R-3200
Gauntlet M. Nesbeth	2ndLt	USMCR	UNKNOWN		S-3201
Jason D. Mann	2ndLt	USMC	UNKNOWN		S-3202
Timothy A. Cook	CWO-4	USMC (Ret)	Weatherford	TX	R-3203
John E. Clancy	LtCol	USMC (Ret)	Washougla	WA	R-3204
Edwin D. Miller	LtCol	USMC (Ret)	Austin	TX	R-3205
Eugene T. Franklin	Capt	USMC (Ret)	Castro Valley	CA	R-3206
Michael D. Richards	CWO-5	USMC	Jacksonville	NC	R-3207
Dean G. Shultis	Capt	USMC (Ret)	Billings	MT	R-3208

BUILDING FUND CONTRIBUTORS

In every issue of the Mestengo we publish a list of those who contribute to our Building Fund. In the last issue we had reached a total of **\$169,240.37** in the fund. Those who contributed since the last issue are listed below. If you contributed and are not listed let me know as soon as possible.

Total Funds \$176.526.63

Capt.	A. Jeff Bodenweiser	USMC (Ret)
1stLt	Aaron A. Smith	USMC (Ret)
LtCol	Louis J. Bacher	USMC (Ret)
CWO-5	Thomas M Sturtevant	USCMR (Ret)
WO	James J. Schreiner	USMC (Ret)
Col	Stanley N. McLeod	USMC (Ret)
2ndLt	Don C. McDuffie	USMC (Ret)
Col	Marcel J. Dube	USMC (Ret)
LtCol	Anthony V. Rocha	USMC (Ret)
LtCol	James W. Friberg	USMC (Ret)
CWO-4	Wenceslao U. Aquino	USMC (Ret)
Maj	Thomas E. Redican	USMC (Ret)
Capt	Harold J. E. Deibert	USMC (Ret)
Maj	Ronald E. Bane	USMC (Ret)
CWO-2	Mance D. Grubbs	USMC (Ret)
1stLt	James L. Weisenburger	USMC (Ret)
Maj	G. "Vee" Viloría	USMC
Maj	John D. Perry	USMC (Ret)
CWO-2	Andre P. Ajas	USMC (Ret)
Capt	Neal D. Wilcox	USMC (Ret)
SgtMaj	John D. Olexa	USMC (Ret)
Capt	Charles W. Smith, Jr.	USMC (Ret)

FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

I want to thank the those members who sent in positive emails concerning the last, commemorative Mestengo. I now realize that it is very hard to write, assemble and proof read all at the same time so I now have some help. I would like to welcome Mary "Sue" Haley, member W-2067 as the associate editor for the Mestengo. She has already been a big help in the publication of the Supplemental Directory.

My apologies go out to the staff of the Marine Corps Gazette Magazine. They have been very gracious to place an ad in the Gazette about our Association's support of the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund and the program of new membership dues being donated to that fund on behalf of the new member. I incorrectly identified a different magazine as giving us the publicity. To that end I again apologize. The Marine Corps Gazette magazine again placed the ad in the January Issue on page 42. Thank You to the Staff of the Gazette.

Keep the emails coming. Remember to include your Name and membership number in the email. That information really helps me out at this end.

Thanks,
David Brunstad
R-572



Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund

Serving Those Who Preserve Our Freedom

Dear Friend of the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund,

During this Holiday Season, and throughout the New Year, the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund wishes God's blessings on you and yours for helping us "serve those who preserve our freedom."

Thank you for believing in our vision. With your generous support, we have provided 2.6 million dollars in financial assistance to deserving Marines and their families. We could not have done this without you.

Below are notes that we have received from some of our families. We will let them tell you in their own words what your support has meant to them.

Our warmest regards,
The Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund Team

From the spouse of a Marine partially blinded, who now has a 4.0 GPA in college!

Thank you for helping us. (GySgt) is so excited to finally get the Quicklook magnifier.... It will be a wonderful change to his daily life in so many ways than you can imagine. He can look at a menu at a restaurant, he can look at cans and boxes in our cupboard on his own, he can look at his money and receipts when he is on the go. The big CCTV magnifier is great that we have at home for him to read, but 60 lbs too heavy to get all the places the Quicklook can.....Thank You for helping to make a wonderful difference to his life..... Thanks for making a difference in all our lives.

From the sister of a Marine recently wounded in Iraq

My brother is LCpl P.M. and he is a Marine that was injured in Iraq. P.M. was injured on November 9 of this year and was brought to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda a few days later. My family and I came to Maryland from Texas very scared and confused about the future of P.M. P.M. has lost both of his legs, but he is (thank God) alive

This fund, and the people that support it, have allowed my family and I to remain with my brother when we would not have been able to afford it otherwise. From the bottom of my heart I want to thank you. Your kindness and generosity has been a true blessing to my family in a time of need and it is something that I will never forget. Bless you and your continued support to all the families of injured Marines.

From the wife of an injured Marine

Due to God's will, your prayers and support, M and I can envision a life after Iraq. M completed the Traumatic Brain Injury Program...We are scheduled to return to Bethesda for the cranioplasty, forehead replacement surgery... After recovery, we will go to Augusta, Georgia for Blindness Rehabilitation... We want to thank you for your very generous donation. With the donation we have not had to worry about everyday expenses as we face the recovery process. We appreciate your love and support and thank you for the prayers on our behalf that have showered us with God's blessings.

825 College Blvd • Suite 102 • PMB 609 • Oceanside, CA • 92057

www.SemperFIFund.org

MARINE CORPS MUSTANG ASSOCIATION BULLETIN BOARD

SEARCHING FOR THE 3,000 SNCO'S COMMISSIONED IN 1966

If any member has the listing of those SNCO's commissioned in 1965-66, please forward the information to John F. Baltes, 2285 Quam Drive, Stoughton, WI 53589-3163

During 2005, John, R-421, "recovered" 66 old members who had dropped their membership. He is continuing his efforts to increase the active membership, and would use the list for that purpose alone. He can be reached at 608-877-8368 or jad7ie@earthlink.net.

Phil Ray
President

WARNING

There is a scam going on that all should be aware off.

90# on the Telephone

Originating from many local jails and prisons this information has been verified with many phone companies.

If you receive a phone call and the person on the other ends says they are testing your line and want you to dial nine(9), zero (0) and then the pound key (#) then hang up **DON'T DO IT.....**

If you do, the person on the other end of the line can place long distance calls and you will be billed for it.

AVIATION LOGISTICS MARINES REUNION ANNOUNCEMENT

11-14 May 2006
MCAS Beaufort, SC
Avionics, A/C Maintenance, Aviation Ordnance
Aviation Supply
All Ranks
Active Duty, Retired, Reserve or Former
Contact
Don Davis
PO Box 293
Havelock, NC 28532
252-444-1777
greyegl@ec.rr.com

Looking for TWO new Directors

The Marine Corps Mustang Association will again be electing two new Directors to the Board of Directors. Start getting your Biography together with a picture for submission to the Nominating Committee. Dates and Time for submission will be announced in the next Mestengo in the Spring, voting in the Summer issue

ALL FLORIDA MARINE REUNION

GATHERING OF MARINES

Scheduled for 5-7 May 2006, at Radisson Riverwalk Hotel, 1515 Prudential Dr. , Jacksonville, FL. The NE Florida Chapter of the 1stMarDiv is hosting this event and wants to invite all active, retired, and Marine Aviation personnel living in Florida to attend this "Gathering of Marines". Speaker will be BGen Anthony L. Jackson, Deputy Commander U.S. Marine Forces, Central Command who will provide an up close and personal look at the operation in Iraq and Afghanistan. The welcome mat is out for all Marines to attend.

The deadline for registering at the Hotel is April 6, 2006.

For more information contact:
Radison Riverwalk Hotel, 904-396-5100,
GySgt Mac McCollough 904-733-7479 or
LtCol Jim Vanairsdale 904-471-3254

MARINE CORPS MUSTANG ASSOCIATION BULLETIN BOARD

ANNOUNCING "WOC REUNION 2006"

In the past, WOC1 and WOC2 classes have held separate reunions and each year there have been less and less attendees due to age, medical conditions, and death. So, for the first time last year both classes joined forces for a combined reunion in Branson. *It was a huge success* and it was agreed by all we should do this again in 2006.

We have scheduled our "WOC REUNION 2006" for
28, 29 and 30 October 2006
San Antonio, Texas

This reunion will be unique, because your classmates decided to open the registration to include the first five Warrant Officer Classes. That's 1960-61-62-63-64. That is, those who experienced the Hill Trail and the Flying Bridge !

⁵⁶
We have contracted a professional reunion planning company who says they will be with us the whole time. Meanwhile, your committee has slated tours and special luncheons and is gathering tons of door prizes for your ditty bag.

Committees: Reunion Chairman: Don Mosley
WOC1: Charlie Long, Hougie Houggard, Tom Pitts
WOC2: Don Mosley, Jess Jesse, Red Varn
WOC3: Don Davis
WOC4: We need a Pointman. Any recommendations?
WOC5: Marv McAfee

This is going to be a reunion you will always remember.

Please respond asap with your intentions - and at least provide an up-to-date address and e. mail for our class roster. A Registration Package with more details will be mailed later.

Semper Fi,

Major Don Mosley
10712 E. 37th Street
Yuma, AZ 85365-6831
928.345.2022 / 928.581.7003
aguangadon@juno.com



The Logo shown is an original design made into a patch by a "WOPA" group. Iwakuni, 1964. I was there !

Sea Stories

Editors Note: The following story was partially printed in the Fall Mestengo. The story, submitted by Tom Pentecost, R-2493, was about one of his adventures in Korea, 1951 where he was wounded and the events that followed.

Continued from Mestengo volume 8, Issue 4, page 21...

The town was fascinating. There were old temples and unique buildings. It was a bustling city with civilians everywhere. I got some fried rice, doughnuts, and then walked till my legs about wore out. When I got tired, I found a comfortable curb and took a seat. I was resting and telling sea-stories to several Merchant Sailors when we heard the sound of whistles and horns. Some one yelled that it was the Military Police. Naturally we all started to run. I must admit that I saw the poles with three broad white stripes as I ran, but it had no meaning to me. They led me into a Korean house that appeared to be built strangely. It had one long hallway with rooms off to one side. The hallway led to a small courtyard in back that was surrounded by a high wall that had broken glass and barbed wire on top. As I ran past the rooms, I noted that there was much confusion inside. I saw young ladies trying to hide Sailors and Soldiers in closets and cupboards (No Marines). The Mama San (Madam) was waving her arms in an effort to get as many patrons as possible gone or out of sight. She pushed me to the back courtyard and attempted to boost me up the wall. (They had thrown a mattress over the broken glass and barbed wire on the top of the fence.) Her efforts served only to tear open my wound. Panic set in for both of us. I had started to suspect that I might be in for trouble if apprehended. The Madam, with tears in her eyes, showed me a small compartment above the back door that was very hard to see. She urged me to climb up and hide quickly and quietly. In getting into the hidden hole, I tore my wound even more. Lying there I could see, through a crack in my floor, the Military Police and Shore Patrol pulling things apart in an effort to find every one of those miscreants. It was at

this point that I noticed my blood was dripping through a hole and making a puddle in the hall. It dawned on me that I might be easily found. Knowing that "discretion is always the better part of valor"; I decided to bluff my way out. I climbed from the hole, brushed dirt from my jacket, turned my back to the wall, and marched down the hall. At each cubicle, where there was a search going on, I gave stern commands to "search under each mat" or "Don't miss anything". I received a number of comments like "Sure Sarge" and "Aye Aye". My exodus pace quickened, as the "Exit" got closer. I hit the street running and was about 20 yards from freedom when I heard "**Halt or I will fire**". My arms went up, and I was soon draped over the hood of the vehicle.

We prisoners were taken by truck to the Provost Marshal's Office, booked, led to a detention cell, and given a lecture. It was explained "Again" that any area outlined by three white stripes on poles is "out of bounds". I tried to get their attention in order to explain that I had not been informed and was therefore innocent. Then I tried the old "I am a wounded veteran needing aid" bit. Nothing would deter these "noble minions of the law" from charging me with a breach of an unfairly applied law. I was loaded with all those guilty people and delivered back to the USS *Repose* at about 2:30 in the morning. The Officer of the deck was less than understanding. He sent me to the duty nurse to get my wounds cleaned and dressed. I was told that I must stand "Captain's Mast at 10:00 hours that morning". Feeling remorseful, I returned to the ward and awakened "Sergeant Dan". I returned his clothes, tags, and cards. Then I explained that he was in big trouble. He had been found "Out of Bounds" (in a house of ill repute), arrested, jailed, and was on report. I went to bed. During his office hours Sgt. Dan was reprimanded, given a "Pay Roll" sentence, and promptly returned to duty.

As I feel about all who have so egregiously erred, I sincerely hope he learned his lesson and resolved "never again".

Sea Stories continued

A different kind of selection board...

Back in the 1st Marine Brigade in early April of 1963 I had just arrived in Hawaii and was assigned to Headquarters and Service Battery of 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines at Kaneohe Bay. I was, at the time, a Corporal and a radio operator in the battalion communications section. As I recall the circumstances, the 4th Marines (Rein) had moved over to the big island to spend about a month of training at the Army's 25th Infantry Division's Pohokuloa Training area way up in the saddle between Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea.

One day a message was received in battalion comm directing that every section in every unit would nominate two Marines to compete for Brigade Marine of the Year. I was nominated along with a wireman Corporal named Denny Northrop. To make a long story short, I came out first in the battery, competed against Marines from all of the firing batteries and was on my way to Brigade to compete against the Marines selected from 4th Marines (a sergeant), MAG-13 (a sergeant) and a corporal representing all of the company-sized attached units like recon, am-tracs, etc.

The ride to Brigade was made standing up in a 6x6 with my toes under a bench so the sun wouldn't melt my shoe-polish and my tropical worsted uniform would remain wrinkle-free and immaculate with polished brass and everything meticulously attended to. I was the last Marine to appear and I marched in and reported to the Major who conducted the board along with several other officers and senior SNCO's. I was asked what I knew about the 1st Marine Brigade. I went into a somewhat long commentary that said that the Brigade was the only combined Marine Air-Ground task force in the Marine Corps and was composed of Brigade Headquarters Company, 4th Marines (reinforced) and MAG-13 (reinforced). That was followed by a recitation of the entire detailed Table of Organization for the Brigade. It took about five minutes.

After a prolonged (it seemed to me) silence, the Ma-

jor looked at my SRB and said, "According to your SRB you've only been here less than a month. Where did you learn all of this?" I responded, "Sir, I read the base phonebook." He looked at me and said, "You read the base phonebook!" He looked up and down the table and said, "He read the base phonebook!" (I actually was trying to say that when I was looking for a buddy of mine in 2/4, the entire T/O was in the phonebook...)

So, that's how I was selected as Brigade Marine of the Year in 1963 and went on to compete against a Marine from the Leeward side including Pearl Harbor, Camp Smith and the ammunition dumps for Hawaiian Marine of the Year for Armed Forces Day. (I didn't win that one.)

Joe Featherston
C-24

The Regiment of Retired Marines

Here's to the Dinosaurs, gray though they be
Who carried the fight to keep the world free
They gave of their youth and never looked back
Nor paused to reflect when the word was "Attack".
They pushed through the snow and clawed through
the mud
And painted the world with their patriot blood.
They're The Proud and The Few from battles of old
Where they carried the colors of Scarlet and Gold.
They've faced every trial and passed every test
And taken their place among the world's best
The honors they've won are readily seen
But their greatest pride is the title, "Marine."
The passing of time has put them ashore
But never diminished their love of the Corps
And if freedom should call these remarkable men,
Without hesitation they'd fight once again.

By: R. A. Gannon

Marine Corps Mascot

(Continued from page 1)

a smash hit.

In a formal ceremony on 14 October 1922, BGen. Smedley D. Butler signed documents enlisting the bulldog, renamed *Jiggs*, for the "term of life." Pvt. Jiggs then began his official duties in the U.S. Marine Corps.

A hard-charging Marine, Pvt. Jiggs did not remain a private for long. Within three months he was wearing corporal chevrons on his custom-made uniform. On New Years Day 1924, Jiggs was promoted to Sergeant. And in a meteoric rise, he got promoted again -- this time to Sergeant Major -- seven months later.

SgtMaj. Jiggs' death on 9 January 1927 was mourned throughout the Corps. His satin-lined coffin lay in state in a hangar at Quantico, surrounded by flowers from hundreds of Corps admirers. He was interred with full military honors.

But, a replacement was on the way. Former heavyweight boxing champion, James J. "Gene" Tunney, who had fought with the Marines in France, donated his English Bulldog. Renamed as *Jiggs II*, he stepped into the role of his predecessor.

Big problem! No discipline! Jiggs chased people, he bit people. He showed a total lack of respect for authority. The new Jiggs would have likely made an outstanding combat Marine, but barracks life did not suit him. After one of his many rampages, he died of heat exhaustion on 1928. Nonetheless, other bulldogs followed. During the 1930s, 1940s, and early 1950s they were all named Smedley, a tribute to Gen. Butler.

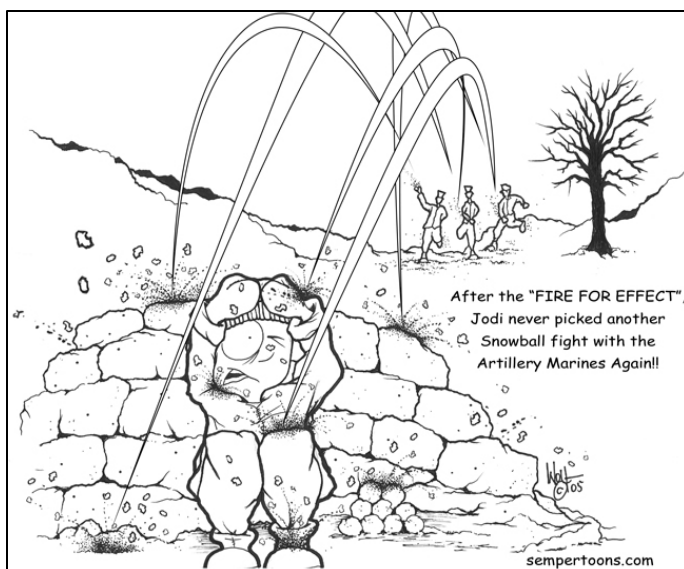
In the late 1950s the Marine Barracks in Washington, the oldest post in the Corps, became the new home for the Corps' mascot. Renamed *Chesty* to honor the legendary LtGen. Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller Jr., the mascot made his first formal public appearance at the Evening Parade on 5 July 1957. In his canine Dress Blues, Chesty became an immediate media darling.

After the demise of the original Chesty, the replacement was named Chesty II. He became an instant renegade. You name it, he did it. He even escaped and went AWOL once. Two days later he was returned in a police paddy wagon. About the only thing he ever managed to do correctly was to sire a replacement.

In contrast to his father, Chesty III proved to be a model Marine. He even became a favorite of neighborhood children, for which he was awarded a Good Conduct Medal. Other bulldogs would follow Chesty III (bulldogs don't live long). When Chesty VI died after an Evening Parade, a Marine detachment in Tennessee called Washington. Their local bulldog mascot, LCpl. Bodacious Little, was standing by for PCS orders to Washington, they reported.

Upon arrival at the Marine Barracks in Washington, LCpl. Little got ceremoniously renamed Chesty VII. He and the English Bulldogs who followed him epitomize the fighting spirit of the U.S. Marines. Tough, muscular, aggressive, fearless, and often arrogant, they are the ultimate canine warriors.

English Bulldogs. Teufel-hunden. Devil Dogs. They symbolize the ethos of the Warrior Culture of the U.S. Marines.



MARINE CORPS MUSTANG ASSOCIATION, INC.

2006 MUSTER

Marine Corps Recruit Depot

Parris Island,

Beaufort, South Carolina



2006 Mustang Muster
20—24 September, 2006



This year we are going to Muster at the Country Inns & Suites, 2448 Boundary Street, Beaufort, SC 29906. You can expect to place your feet on the “YELLOW FOOT-PRINTS” during your visit to Parris Island while you’re here.

Our President, Phil Ray and Secretary, Earnest Johnson have put together a very interesting schedule of events that should hold interest for everyone attending. Without giving it all away, I might suggest for those who chase the little white ball around, you may want to bring your clubs.



There will be events held at the Recruit Depot and also at MCAS Beaufort. Plenty to eat and plenty to see with several tours of Parris Island scheduled.

The Registration form and schedule of events will be in the Spring Mestengo.



Country Inn & Suites by Carlson Beaufort West

2450 Boundary Street, Beaufort, SC 29902



Reservations: 800-456-4000 Telephone: 843-379-4000 Fax: 843-379-4020

Email: cx_beaw@countryinns.com

Mustang Muster special rates are: \$118.00 for suites (13 Available) and \$80.00 for rooms (59) available

Normal rates are \$149.00 and \$114.00 respectively

Country Inn & Suites, Beaufort features several spacious quest rooms and suites, decorated in warm "country" style. All rooms are provided with: HBO/Cable - High-Speed Internet - Microwave - Refrigerator - Hair dryer - Air Conditioning - Coffee Service - Iron/Ironing Board - Cable television - Complimentary coffee - Complimentary USA Today newspaper - Complimentary Continental breakfast. There is an indoor pool and "guest office."



Make Your Reservation Now.
Hotel POC: Arthur Connolly

CHAPTERS CORNER

There is a move afoot to start two new Chapters. The next chapter to be formed, we hope, is the Crossroads Chapter, # 6 and when formed will be in the State of Virginia. Point of contact for this endeavor is John "Jack" Caussin, R-1148. If you are in the Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia area and would like to give Jack a helping hand, contact him at 703-569-1931 or email him at, jackcaussin@aol.com.

The second endeavor will make the association International. There is a effort by Col. Jim Mutter, R-2605 to get a Chapter started in Okinawa, Japan. This would be a good place for the Mustangs overseas in Japan to get together.

There are 45 members in South Carolina. Sure would be great to form a South Carolina Chapter. Are there any Takers?

Mustang Chapter One

El Toro, CA area

President	Russell O. Willson
Secretary/Treasurer	Peter N. Stavros

Mustang Chapter Two

Florida Mustangs

President	John Blount
1st Vice President	Edward Garr
2nd Vice President	Warren Delventhal
Secretary/Treasurer	George W. Fritschi
Past President	Ed Walsh
News Letter Editor	Wally Dugan

Mustang Chapter Three

Desert Mustangs, Tucson/Yuma Arizona

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1st Vice President	George B. Meegan
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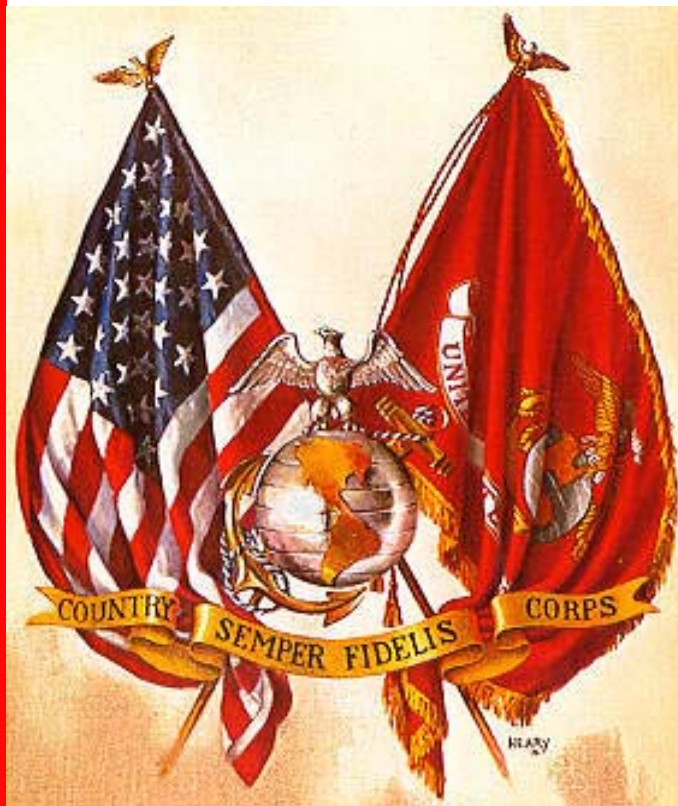
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Tarheel Mustangs, North Carolina

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Married 55 Years Anniversary February 15, 2006

Retired Marine Corps 1st Lt. and Mrs. **Gerald Francis Merna, R-549**, 14-year residents of the Cascades, Potomac Falls, VA celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary Feb. 10. The occasion was observed with a dinner party at the Tuscarora Mill in Leesburg, VA with their two children, Gerald Thomas Merna of Sterling (Heather Glen), and Linda Merna Figura of Alexandria, and college grandsons Max and John Figura.



Lt. and Mrs. Merna were married in a military ceremony Feb. 10, 1951 at St. John's Catholic Church in Piermont, N.Y. Mrs. Merna, a former Nyack, N.Y., telephone operator, was also employed by a defense-related contractor in Piermont before she accompanied her husband on a variety of assignments during his 22 years in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Lt. Merna was a "Mustang" Marine, having served in every enlisted grade before being commissioned an officer during the Vietnam War, and is a combat veteran of both the Korean and Vietnam wars. Upon retiring from the Marine Corps, his second career of 18 years was with the U.S. Postal Service as manager/postmaster of the entire Northern Virginia region headquartered in Merrifield. He was also appointed as one of only 34 officers of the USPS.

Upon retiring from the USPS he had a third career as a director and vice president during 12 years with two Virginia-based defense associations before fully retiring. He has served as a member and later as chairman of the Cascades Covenants Committee and was on the management task force that made recommendations for the selection of the Cascade's Homeowners Association's management team.

SNIPER

December 9, 2005 (CNN) While interviewing an anonymous US Special Forces soldier on his sniper skills, a Reuters News agent asked the soldier what he felt when shooting members of Al Qaeda in Afghanistan. The soldier shrugged and replied, "**Recoil.**"

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It Came down to ONE MARINE

(Part 1)

Major Bill Donahue USMC (Ret)

On Nov. 15, 2003, an 85-year-old retired Marine Corps colonel died of congestive heart failure at his home in La Quinta, Calif., southeast of Palm Springs. He was a combat veteran of World War II. Reason enough to honor him. But this Marine was a little different. This Marine was **Mitchell Paige**.

It's hard today to envision -- or, for the dwindling few, to remember -- what the world looked like on October 26, 1942. The U. S. Navy was not the most powerful fighting force in the Pacific. Not by a long shot. So the Navy basically dumped a few thousand lonely American Marines on the beach on Guadalcanal and high-tailed it out of there. You

Continued on Page 14

One Marine

Navy guys can hold those letters. Of course Nimitz, Fletcher and Halsey had to ration what few ships they had. I've written separately about the way Bull Halsey rolled the dice on the night of Nov. 13, 1942, violating the stern War College edict against committing capital ships in restricted waters and instead dispatching into the Slot his last two remaining fast battleships, the South Dakota and the Washington, escorted by the only four destroyers with enough fuel in their bunkers to get them there and back.

Those American destroyer captains need not have worried about carrying enough fuel to get home. By 11 P.M., outnumbered better than three-to-one by a massive Japanese task force driving down from the northwest, every one of those four American destroyers had been shot up, sunk, or set aflame. And while the South Dakota -- known throughout the fleet as a jinx ship -- had damaged some lesser Japanese vessels, she continued to be plagued with electrical and fire control problems.

"Washington was now the only intact ship left in the force," writes naval historian David Lippman. "In fact, at that moment Washington was the entire U. S. Pacific Fleet. She was the only barrier between (Admiral) Kondo's ships and Guadalcanal. If this one ship did not stop 14 Japanese ships right then and there, America might lose the war. ..." On Washington's bridge, Lieutenant Ray Hunter had the conn. He had just seen the destroyers Walke and Preston "blown sky high." Dead ahead lay their burning wreckage. Hundreds of men were swimming in the water and the Japanese ships racing in.

"Hunter had to do something. The course he took now could decide the war," Lippman writes. "'Come left,' he said. ... Washington's rudder change put the burning destroyers between her and the enemy, preventing her from being silhouetted by their fires.

"The move made the Japanese momentarily cease fire. Lacking radar, they could not spot Washington behind the fires. ..." Washington raced through burning seas. Dozens of destroyer men were in the water clinging to floating wreckage. "Get after them, Washington!" one shouted.

Sacrificing their ships by maneuvering into the path of torpedoes intended for the Washington, the captains of the American destroyers had given China Lee one final chance.

Blinded by the smoke and flames, the Japanese battleship Kirishima turned on her searchlights, illuminating the helpless South Dakota, and opened fire. Finally, as her own muzzle blasts illuminated her in the darkness, Admiral Lee

and Captain Glenn Davis could positively identify an enemy target.

The Washington's main batteries opened fire at 12 midnight precisely. Her radar fire control system functioned perfectly. During the first seven minutes of Nov. 14, 1942, the "last ship in the U. S. Pacific Fleet" fired 75 of her 16-inch shells at the battleship Kirishima. Aboard Kirishima, it rained steel. At 3:25 a. m., her burning hulk officially became the first enemy sunk by an American battleship since the Spanish-American War. Stunned, the Japanese withdrew. Within days, Japanese commander Isoroku Yamamoto recommended the unthinkable to the emperor -- withdrawal from Guadalcanal.

But that was still weeks in the future. We were still with Mitchell Paige back on the god-forsaken malarial jungle island of Guadalcanal, placed like a speed bump at the end of the long blue-water slot between New Guinea and the Bismarck Archipelago ... the very route the Japanese Navy would have to take to reach Australia.

On Guadalcanal the Marines struggled to complete an airfield. Yamamoto knew what that meant. No effort would be spared to dislodge these upstart Yanks from a position that could endanger his ships. Before long, relentless Japanese counterattacks had driven supporting U. S. Navy from inshore waters. The Marines were on their own.

As Platoon Sgt. Mitchell Paige and his 33 riflemen set about carefully emplacing their four water-cooled 30-caliber Brownings, manning their section of the thin khaki line which was expected to defend Henderson Field against the assault of the night of Oct. 25, 1942, it's unlikely anyone thought they were about to provide the definitive answer to that most desperate of questions: How many able-bodied U. S. Marines does it take to hold a hill against 2,000 desperate and motivated attackers?

Nor did the commanders of the mighty Japanese Army, who had swept all before them for decades, expect their advance to be halted on some God-forsaken jungle ridge manned by one thin line of Yanks in khaki in October of 1942.

To be continued in the next issue of the Mestengo



Marine Corps Mustang Association Post Exchange

- | | | | |
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| 1. MCMA 3" round Embroidered Logo | 3.25 | 2. MCMA Baseball Cap | \$12.50 |
| 3. MCMA Polo Shirt Banded Bottom | 20.00 | 4. "Mustang: A Combat Marine" | 25.00 |
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