

# Pass in Review

February 1991



# Pass in Review



## ON THE COVER...

*Marines of "A" Co. recently deployed to Operation Desert Shield from the Barracks. For the full story see Pg. 6. For family support information see the Family Page on Pg. 19.*



## DEPARTMENTS

<i>News</i> . . . . .	4
<i>Chaplain's Column</i> . . . . .	18
<i>Family Page</i> . . . . .	19

## ARTICLES

<i>"A" Co. Marines Deploy To Middle East</i> . . . . .	6
<i>Silent Drill Team Performs in Holland</i> . . . . .	7
<i>Fourth MEB Marines Practice Amphibious Assault</i> . . . . .	8
<i>"New Dogs" Attend Cerremonial Drill School</i> . . . . .	10
<i>Toys for Tots '90Brightens the Holidays for Local Children</i> . . . . .	12
<i>Twas the Duty Before Christmas</i> . . . . .	13
<i>Iwo Jima Eyewitness</i> . . . . .	14

## PASS IN REVIEW STAFF

Commanding Officer	Col. Peter Pace
Public Affairs Officer	Capt. C.M. Engels
Managing Editor	SSgt. B.S. Sawdon
Editor	Cpl. J.D. Moore
Staff Writer	LCpl. Valerie A. Stroschein

PASS IN REVIEW is an authorized publication for members of the military services. Contents are not the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Navy, or the U.S. Marine Corps.



*Like a fireball in the west, the setting sun succumbs to the night as a Marine reflects on another day's work in the relentless desert heat of the Middle East. Stories on Operation Desert Shield are on pages 6 and 8.*

# First Female Skipper Takes Command of Navy Ship

Chief Petty Officer Terry Briggs  
Naval Support Activity Naples, Italy

**ABOARD THE USS OP-  
PORTUNE** -- The crew of the rescue and salvage ship USS Oportune can no longer refer to their skipper as "The Old Man."

LtCmdr. Darlene M. Iskra became the first female commanding officer of a Navy ship Dec. 27, relieving Cmdr. Edgar J. Jones. The Little Creek, Va.-based ship entered into the history books while pierside in Naples, Italy.

"This is just another milestone showing the rapid progress and widespread contributions of Navy women," said Chief of Naval Personnel, Vice Adm. Mike Boorda. "We're running out of 'firsts' quickly, and soon these kinds of assignments will be routine for

women." Boorda noted other milestones for Navy women in the past year, including the first to take command of an operational aircraft squadron, the first two women to command naval stations, and the first women reporting as command master chiefs afloat.

A 34-year-old San Francisco native, Iskra entered the Navy in 1979 through Officer Candidate School -- the same year USS Vulcan made the Navy's first deployment with female sailors aboard. Iskra, a special operations officer, was among the first group of women to graduate from the Naval School of Diving and Salvage in 1980.

The Navy first authorized women to serve aboard ship in 1978. The 13 years it took to produce the first female ship cap-

tain is just about right, according to Iskra.

"Being in command of a ship takes a lot of experience and training," Iskra said. "You can't take someone who has only been in the Navy for two or three years and put them in a commanding officer position. You have to grow them."

For the Navy, her assumption of command is history. For Iskra, it's just another part of her career path. "This is right on track for me," she said. Her previous two tours were as executive officer of the rescue and salvage ships USS Hoist and USS Preserver. Having spent 10 of her 12 years aboard ship, Iskra feels that sea time was an important factor in her selection -- that, and being aggressive. In 1983, while she was assigned to

*See FEMALE SKIPPER, Pg. 5*

## *U.S., Hanoi Begin Talks on POW/MIA Issues in Southeast Asia*

Navy News Service

**HANOI, Vietnam** -- U.S. and Vietnamese officials began a five day sessions of meetings in Hanoi Jan. 3 to define further the basis for resolving the fates of 2,288 Americans still unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

The 10 U.S. POW/MIA specialists are led by Rear Adm. Michael McDevitt, Director for East Asia and the Pacific Region for the DoD Office of International Security Affairs. The panel will focus on obtaining increased and more specific historical documentation and other information to assist in resolving the POW/MIA issue. This latest effort affords Vietnam the opportunity to provide archival and historical data which could achieve the fullest possible accounting of POWs and MIAs. The meetings are scheduled to last through Jan. 7.

Vietnam last returned the remains of 10 Americans over to U.S. officials Nov. 20 for identification and repatriation. Of the 2,288 Americans still unaccounted for in Indochina, 1,670 were lost in Vietnam, and the majority of the 529 missing in Laos -- as well as 83 unaccounted for in Cambodia -- were lost in areas controlled by Vietnamese forces during the war.

Since the fall of Saigon in April 1975, the U.S. has received more than 12,973 reports related to the POW/MIA issue, most of them from Vietnamese refugees. Nearly 85 percent of the 1,447 first-hand live-sighting reports have been resolved through cooperation with Americans who were in Vietnam and have returned to the U.S. About eight percent of those reports are still under investigation, with 24 percent considered fabrications.

# Naval Institute Sponsors Essay Contest

USNI

**ANNAPOLIS, Md.** -- The U.S. Naval Institute is accepting entries for its 17th annual Vincent Astor Memorial Leadership Essay Contest. The contest is open to junior officers and officer trainees of the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

The institute will award cash prizes to the authors of the winning essays. Entrants must write essays on the topic of leadership in the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard. Entries must be postmarked by Feb. 15, 1991 and must not exceed 4000 words. The first prize winner will receive \$1500, a Naval Institute Gold Medal, and a Life Membership in the Naval Institute. The first honorable mention winner will receive \$1000 and a silver medal. The institute will also award two second honorable mention prizes of \$500 each.

For a complete list of contest rules, write the U.S. Naval Institute Membership Department, Annapolis, Md. 21402, or call, toll-free, (800)-233-USNI.

The U.S. Naval Institute, located in Annapolis, Md., is a professional society for the sea services, and is an independent, self-supporting, non-profit organization. The Naval Institute is not a part of the government.

The Naval Institute advances knowledge about the naval and maritime services through publication of a monthly magazine, Proceedings, the quarterly Naval History, the annual Naval Review, and more than 300 books. The Naval Institute sponsors a series of seminars of interest to naval professionals and others in the wide audience of the institute's membership, which includes more than 100,000 individuals from all walks of military and civilian life throughout the world.

## Recruiters' Assistants Needed

RS Oklahoma City PANCO

**OKLAHOMA CITY** -- Marines from throughout Oklahoma and Southern Kansas are needed to assist the recruiting efforts of Recruiting Station Oklahoma City. Openings exist in the following cities in Oklahoma: Ardmore; Bartlesville; Claremore; Enid; Lawton; McAlester; Midwest City; Moore; Muskogee; Norman; Shawnee; Stillwater; Weatherford. Recruiters' assistants are also needed in these Kansas cities: Dodge City; Hutchinson; Independence; Wichita.

MCO P1100.72, under which you may work near your hometown for up to 30 days of permissive TAD, outlines the Command Recruiting Program through which referrals can earn you points toward promotion. Contact GySgt. Cardwell at 1-800-888-1775.



## Female Skipper

shore duty in Coronado, Calif., the Navy opened more sea billets for women, and Iskra jumped at the chance.

"I had to stomp on my detailer's desk and say, 'I want a ship,' because I knew if I didn't terminate shore duty and go back to sea, I was never going to be where I am now," Iskra said.

Being the only woman aboard the Opportune is made easier by the fact the C.O. has a private stateroom and head. Unlike other Navy ships that were configured to accommodate women, the 40-year-old Opportune was designed for an all-male crew. With Iskra at the helm, Opportune's mission is to salvage; provide lifting capability; patch; float; fight ship-board fires; and repair and tow ships

which have been damaged, stranded, beached, sunk or abandoned at sea.

Iskra is aware that her 100-man crew will have to adjust to saying, "Yes, Ma'am" instead of "Yes, Sir," but is confident the adjustment will be a smooth one.

"I don't think some of the guys are used to a female C.O.," Iskra said. "They'll soon find out that it doesn't matter."

Vice Adm. Boorda added that the ongoing Navy Women's Study Group is reviewing the progress of Navy women and considering ways to enhance their career opportunities and quality of life in future years. The study group is making its final visits to Navy commands this month and is expected to present findings, conclusions and recommendations to Navy leadership in early February.

# "A" Co. Deploys to Middle East



*Marines, and their family and friends bow their heads in prayer during the departure ceremony December 27.*

**MARINE BARRACKS, WASHINGTON** -- One company of Marines from the "Oldest Post of the Corps" departed here for Operation Desert Shield December 27.

"A" Company, commanded by Capt. Bryan P. McCoy, 28, of Papillion, Ne., is at Camp Lejeune, N.C. where it will join elements of the 2nd Marine Division deploying to Southwest Asia.

At a farewell ceremony held prior to their departure, Col. Peter Pace, Commanding Officer of the Barracks, expressed his pride, and the pride of other Marines at "8th & I" who are staying behind, for their fellow Leathernecks who are deploying.

Also staying behind are the families and friends of "A" Company. Although only 28 of the Marines are married, everybody in the company left somebody behind, and many of them attended the farewell ceremony to say goodbye.

"She's strong. I know she'll be all right," said Cpl. Haven Smith as he held his wife Cherie. "We're Marines. This is what we do," he added while carressing her shoulder reassuringly.

This deployment is not the first time the Barracks, which is organized, trained, tasked and equipped as a light infantry battalion, has been called upon to serve overseas. "Eighth and I" has a distinguished record of combat ser-



*An "A" Co. Marine says goodbye to a loved one before boarding the buses for Camp Lejeune, N.C.*

vice, which parallels our country's history.

The last time Marines from the Barracks deployed was in 1906 when a detachment was sent to Cuba for pacification duty. Marines from the "Oldest Post" fought in defense of the Capital during the War of 1812. They also served in the Creek-Seminole Indian Campaigns in 1837, and in the Mexican War in 1847. In 1859, a detachment of Marines from the Barracks captured insurrectionist John Brown after he and his band of followers siezed the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, W.Va. The Barracks also saw action at Bull Run during the Civil War, and during the Spanish-American War.

story by  
Cpl. J.D. Moore  
photos by  
Cpl. B.T. Thompson

# A Day at the Beach



Marines of "D" Co., 2nd Light Armored Infantry Bn. sprint for the salty, cool water after a week of desert training. Other Marines enjoyed themselves by collecting shells or eating clams and mussel.

*This afternoon was dedicated to relaxation. Many Marines bodysurfed in the salty sea as their ships floated offshore. Others played football using some cloth wrapped by tape, while some collected sea shells. Clams and mussel ended up on some Marines' evening menu.*

SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE EAST -- Nearly everyone enjoys a day at the beach -- Marines included. It gives them a chance to catch some rays and deepen a tan, or cool down with a refreshing swim, leaving their vehicles and equipment behind them.

And this is exactly what Marines of "D" Co., 2nd Light Armored Infantry Bn., did. On the last day of a nine-day exercise in the desert, the Marines were given some time off (during the past week of scorching days and brisk nights, they honed various skills.) The drivers practiced maneuvering with their hatches closed, seeing only through a periscope -- not an easy task. The gunners fired the 7.62mm coaxial, pintal mount and 25mm chain guns at cardboard targets. The mechanics also worked day and night combating the grinding sand which wore down

Light Armored Vehicle (LAV) parts.

But this afternoon was dedicated to relaxation. Many Marines bodysurfed in the salty sea as their ships floated offshore. Others played football using some cloth wrapped by tape, while some collected sea shells. Clams and mussel ended up on some Marines' evening menu.

After an hour or so it was time to dry off and head back to their staging area. But not before the Marines got one last golden sunset on the beach.

story and photo by  
LCpl. David J. Ferrier

# AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT

## *Desert Shield Marines Practice Attack from the Sea*

SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE EAST -- It was a calm, cool, pre-dawn morning. The sky was filled with thousands of twinkling stars as a dense fog hovered over the wave-less ocean.

The Landing Craft, Utility (LCU) danced across the open sea, the silence broken only by the low hum of its engines and the muffled rattling of her cargo -- three M-60A1 main battle tanks.

In the distance two Tank Landing Ships (LSTs) disappeared into the fog only to reappear a short time later and unleash its captive prey from the depths of its hollow womb.

Waves of Assault Amphibious Vehicles (AAVs) rolled off the ships and plunged into the water on their way to peaceful and undisturbed beach landing zones. Soon, the tanks and Landing Craft Air Cushioned (LCACs) loaded with light armored vehicles (LAVs) would follow their steel beast relatives -- D-Day assault had begun on three different beaches.

Units assigned to the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade



**Fourth MEB Marines wade ashore during a second amphibious rehearsal in the Middle East.**

recently participated in their second amphibious assault rehearsal to hone their skills in amphibious operations.

The 4th MEB is home-based in Norfolk, Va., and is commanded by Maj. Gen. Harry W. Jenkins, Jr. The Brigade is currently deployed in support of Operation Desert Shield.

The soft sand on the beach posed a problem for a number



vehicles getting ashore, but the Beachmasters from Beachmaster Unit-2, Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Va., were waiting to lend a helpful hand to ensure all vehicles and assets made it ashore safely.

The Beachmasters used bulldozers located ashore to pull out vehicles and equipment stuck in the sand. The Navy's Landing Amphibious Recovery Crafts (LARCs) provided taxi service for the Leathernecks when the LCUs were unable to get close enough to shore and unload them without getting wet.

As wave after wave of LCUs were landing on the beach unloading its precious cargo Marines, sailors and equipment began moving inland and were met by members of 2nd Landing Support Battalion, Brigade Service Sup-



***A HMMWV tries to get a running start while off-loading from an LCU to keep from getting bogged down in the soft sandy beach. Even though the vehicles and their occupants got drenched all eventually made it ashore safely.***

port Group-4, home-based at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

With the temperature topping the 100-degree mark the battalion Marines directed traffic and married up all units and their assets at various staging points for the push inland to the predesignated bivouac sites and operating areas.

Later in the evening a four-section causeway was brought to shore from the LSTs enabling the LCUs to unload cargo farther from land. The constant pounding from troops and equipment eventually began to take its toll on the soft, sandy coastline making it necessary to bring in the causeways.

Throughout the nine-day exercise LCUs off-loaded and on-loaded equipment and per-

sonnel. Water, food and supplies were off-loaded in vast quantities to support the units ashore.

Live-fire exercises were conducted as units participated in small arms marksmanship. Second Light Armored Infantry Battalion, home-based at Camp Lejeune, conducted a live-firing exercise utilizing the LAV's 25mm guns.

Marines from 2nd Force Reconnaissance Battalion, also home-based at Camp Lejeune, participated in a parachute drop to sharpen their skills.

Units assigned to the Aviation Combat Element (ACE) conducted helicopter assaults, while Harriers from Marine Attack Squadron-331, home-based at Cherry Point, N.C.,

conducted a variety of missions including simulated close-air support strikes.

As the ships completed their back-loading of all Marine assets, planning was already underway for future operations.

There's an old saying -- "practice makes perfect." "All the training that has been conducted by the 4th MEB can only enhance its combat readiness for whatever future encounter the brigade may run across," stated Maj. Gen. Jenkins.

story and photos by  
GySgt. Doug Weatherman

# Ceremonial Drill School

**O**n the parade deck, they march in perfect precision with one another to the beat of the music. These Devil Dogs march and drill like no other Marines in the Marine Corps. They are all hand selected in School of Infantry (SOI) to perform for the Comandant of the Marine Corps as well as the President of the United States.

These are the marching Marines of "8th & I," "The Oldest Post of the Corps." The finished product comes from weeks of drilling with an M-1 Garand rifle. To become familiar with this weapon and the unique movements of "ceremonial drill", all Marines in "B" Co. are required to go through Ceremonial Drill School (CDS).

The screening begins every year in September and lasts through December at Camp Lejeune, N.C. and San Onofre, Calif. with a formation of Eighth and I candidates. A selection team comprised of an officer, company first sergeant, company gunnery sergeant, and a noncommissioned officer will interview and evaluate each Marine. From there, more intense screening takes place. "It is very possible to begin with



**Cpl. Draud adjusts PFC Webster Simmons' rifle to the proper position.**

500 Marines and end up with 15." said Cpl. Clay C. Draud, CDS instructor.

To be selected, the individual Marine has to meet strict height and weight requirements, have a good Marine Corps record, and a high motivation level. Having held a billet through bootcamp, Marine Corps Training (MCT) and SOI is also a determining factor.

CDS is a 3 1/2 week long school held at the Barracks, which involves many long hours of intense drilling with, and without weapons. These Marines are expected to learn unique ceremonial drill movements that aren't taught in Marine Corps bootcamp.

During CDS, the Marines also learn the ways of the Barracks. "The Barracks is totally different than the Fleet Marine Force in some aspects," said Draud. These Marines represent the Marine Corps to the public, and are required maintain the highest standards of personal appearance. The instructors teach them tricks on pressing their uniforms and have them look twice as good, in considerably less time. "We can have nothing less than perfection," said Draud. These new Marines experience drill instructor attitudes all over again. After completing bootcamp, MCT and SOI, it's back to the basics with CDS. After training for the fleet for the past seven months,



**CDS students practice "Ground Arms," a ceremonial drill movement not taught at recruit training.**

their frame of mind now has to change to drill, drill and more drill. "I'm happy I have the opportunity to perform at "8th & I," but sometimes I wish I could be with my peers in the Middle East," said PFC Bradford M. Walker, a recent graduate of CDS.

A high stress level is very much a part of CDS. "We want to create a sense of urgency with these Marines. I can ask any CDS student the definition of discipline, and he will immediately say 'Instant willing obedience to orders,'" said Draud. Although an instructor may favor a Marine, that instructor/student barrier has to remain. "If we show we care, they won't concentrate on the weapon, and the key here is perfect precision, and snap and

pop," expressed Draud. "The instructors stress more discipline

fect drill," said Draud. "We spent long hours doing intense drill, but I'm sure it will be well worth the effort," said PFC Milton H. Hall, Jr., another recent graduate of CDS.

"We have relatively 16 to 18 training days to teach fleet oriented Marines ceremonial drill. I see them come in straight from SOI and watch them develop into the flawless marchers seen on the

parade deck every summer. The end result is motivating; nothing can compare," said Draud.

**"We can have  
nothing less than  
perfection."**

-- Cpl. Clay C. Draud, CDS Instructor

and spend a majority of their time teaching us to be squared-away Marines," stated PFC Brinton C. DeVilling, a recent CDS graduate.

They have to be able to perform under stressful situations. "There's a lot of stress when you're marching out in front of 75,000 people to perform a per-

story and photos by  
LCpl Valerie A. Stroschein

# toys for tots

Christmas is the time of year children love most, and why not? During the holidays children's heads are filled with Christmas Carols, Jesus, Santa Claus, the Christmas tree and we can't forget the presents to make the whole scene complete.

For many needy children in the D.C. area, and across the nation, the thought of getting gifts was only a dream. But thanks to Toys for Tots, a Marine Corps Reserve program designed to provide Christmas joy for the less fortunate children, this Christmas was a much happier one.

Toys for Tots was founded in 1947 by Maj. Bill Hendricks in Los Angeles. Since then it has turned into a nation-wide campaign. Through the years Toys for Tots has attracted many celebrities. This year the First Lady, Barbara Bush, went to Anacostia to support the campaign.

Local charities, churches and individuals send letters to Toys for Tots stating their individual situation requesting toys for their loved ones. "We don't always know if the requests are valid, we just have to take their word for it," said Sgt. Anthony Smalls, Toys for Tots director. Each letter is delt with on a case by case basis.

"Letters requesting toys usually begin arriving in March and continue throughout the year," stated Smalls. The campaign begins with a Toys for Tots Kickoff usually the weekend after Thanksgiving.

This year, Toys for Tots was down 94 percent only



**Cpl. Robert L. Suter accepts toys from a major passenger airline company representative during the 1990 Toys for Tots campaign.**

weeks before Christmas. When the media became aware of this, the donations skyrocketed and Toys for Tots were able to fill their quota. Local residents also volunteered their time to sort toys for distribution. "The toys are sorted by age group and gender, and I won't send out toys that look harmful such as guns or swords," stated Smalls. The toys should arrive to Toys for Tots brand new and unwrapped so the

children can experience the unused gifts that every youngster wants. All toys received by Toys for Tots are donated by local citizens and organizations.

Christmas is the time for giving and sharing. It is nice to know that there's still people who put others needs in front of theirs especially around the holiday season.

story and photo by  
LCpl. Valerie A. Stroschein

# *Twas the duty before Christmas...*

Editor's note: What follows is an actual entry from the officer of the day's logbook for Christmas Day, 1990.

**T**was the night before Christmas, and out on the deck,  
not a creature was stirring, it was quiet as heck.

Gen. Gray and his Lady had turned in for the night,  
the Home of the Commandants was all shut up tight.

A seabag was hung by the chimney with care,  
and a fresh set of cammies was ready for wear.

The Guard Force had just finished Post and Relieve,  
and the Barracks was set for a long Christmas Eve.

When from the Commandant's roof there arose such a clatter,  
the OOD and React went to see what was the matter.

Using hand and arm signals so we wouldn't make sounds,  
we moved through the Arcade by alternate bounds.

When what to our wondering eyes should appear,  
but a camouflaged sleigh and a squad of reindeer.

With a little old driver in cammies so brown,  
we knew he'd left Saudi to fly into town.

The camouflaged sleigh touched the roof with a squeal;  
like some Tactical Santa Insertion Mobile.

The reindeer deployed in a drill they knew well.  
Santa went down the chimney by hasty rappell.

He came back in a flash with his mission complete,  
and called down to us standing there in the street,  
as his sleigh left the roof and shot into the sky,  
"Merry Christmas to all, and to all Semper Fi."

...Respectfully Submitted,

  
Capt. USMC

# IWO JIMA

## EYEWITNESSES

After four years of bloody fighting on islands such as Guadalcanal, Saipan, Tarawa, and Peleliu America was ready to strike back at Japan. Not just at their major military outposts in the Pacific, but military targets in the Japanese home islands. From airstrips in the Mariana Islands American B-29 bombers flew over 1,300 miles and brought the war to the heartland of the empire with thousands of tons of bombs.

During the course of their missions the American planes passed over Iwo Jima, a small volcanic island which was held by the Japanese. As the Americans flew by, the Japanese could warn the mainland air defenses of the approaching bombers. When the B-29s arrived Japanese fighterplanes would be waiting for them. After completing their bomb runs the Americans had to fly back to their bases in the Marianas 1,300 miles away. Many American flyers were lost when their planes, damaged by the Japanese fighters and flack, were forced to ditch in the ocean, hundreds of miles away from friendly forces.

To solve this problem the U.S. military hierarchy decided to invade Iwo Jima. The island would give the U.S. an airbase where

bombing missions could originate from, and crippled bombers could land, only 650 miles from Japan. The Japanese knew the Americans would attempt to take the island away from

them, and they prepared to meet the "Yankee" invasion. Imperial soldiers and sailors, along with enslaved Korean laborers built thousands of defensive positions, many of which were connected by over seven miles of tunnels. Tanks were buried up to their turrets and naval guns and artillery were hidden in hundreds of caves on the island's high ground.

The Japanese commander, Lt.Gen. Tadamichi Kuribayashi fully intended on defeating the Americans on the beach, but if that failed his men would fight to the death and bleed the American war machine of valuable men, equipment and resources they would need on their next invasion -- mainland Japan.

Assigned to take Iwo were the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Marine Divisions. On Feb. 19, 1945, the 4th and 5th Divisions landed, with the 3rd offshore as a floating reserve. After two days of some of the most bitter fighting of the war, the Marine advance was stalled. To add some punch to the attack



*Technical Sgt. Dick Dashiell at home on leave after World War II. Dashiell served as a Combat Correspondent at Iwo Jima, and other Pacific battles.*

the 21st Regiment of the 3rd Marine Division was landed on Feb. 21.

Serving in the 21st Marines was 29 year-old Sgt. Dick Dashiell. A native of Chapel Hill, N.C., Dashiell had been an editor with the Associated Press news service when the Marine Corps asked for experienced newsmen to volunteer for duty as Combat Correspondents. These correspondents would serve in the battle zones reporting on the Marines for newspapers back in the United States.

After boot camp at Parris Island, S.C. and technical training at the Navy Annex in Arlington, Va., Dashiell was sent overseas. After covering the mopping-up on Guam, he was assigned to the 21st Marines -- and sent to Iwo.

Now retired and residing in Alexandria, Va. Dashiell recalled his experiences of the battle for Iwo Jima with *Pass In Review* in 1989. That interview is reprinted here to commemorate the 46th anniversary of the battle, where "Uncommon valor, was a common virtue."

**PIR:** You were aboard ship watching the battle rage for two days before you landed on the 21st of February. What did you see from aboard your ship, and what were you thinking, knowing that you might soon enter the battle?

**Dashiell:** It was just like a television show. You could see Marines with flamethrowers and satchel charges crawling up the terraces and hills to destroy pill boxes and spider holes. It looked just like a movie. We could see there wasn't a lot of progress being made because of the sand.

**PIR:** What were the conditions like when you hit the beach? Were you nervous?

**Dashiell:** You're damn right I was scared! If you're not scared in combat, you're an idiot.

The landing craft I was in circled for three hours before we headed toward the beach. I was so seasick I had the dry heaves. But as soon as I was on land I recovered. The first thing I saw was a dead Marine leaning over a field piece. The beach was absolute confusion. There were bodies, equipment, supplies and damaged landing craft everywhere. How the beachmasters ever straightened it out I'll never know.

**PIR:** What were your duties as a Combat Correspondent?

**Dashiell:** I was supposed to stay in the limits of the 21st and go where the action was. I would collect information on Marines and the battle and then type my story in a shell hole or under the wing of a downed plane. Then I'd turn my story in to regimental headquarters and from there it would go to the Marines' hometown newspapers or the wire services.

**PIR:** What was the terrain like on Iwo Jima?

**Dashiell:** The beach was very sandy. For every two steps you took forward you'd sink back one step. It was hard to dig a foxhole because as soon as you scooped some sand out it would cave back in. The amtracks and tanks



*Fourth Division Marines pinned down on the beach on D-Day, Feb. 19, 1945.*

couldn't get their footing in it so that created a lot of problems too.

The rest of the island was pretty scraggly. Because it was a volcanic island, in some you could see steam seeping out of the rocks. Some Marines would heat their K-rations by holding them over the steam.

**PIR:** What were the defenses like?

**Dashiell:** They were Hellaciously hard to destroy. After all, they had years to work on these things. Most of their defenses were underground. There were thousands of pill boxes, most of which had a machinegun which was fired through a small slit in the wall of the position.

"So I yelled over, 'Hey, Bertelli. Look up there. There's the flag.' The mortar shells were coming down though, so we didn't spend too much time staring at it."

I saw some of the most heroic actions there. These kids, I call them that because most of them weren't much older than that, would charge up to these pill boxes. They'd jump on top and throw a satchel charge through the slit right before they'd get hit by a different machinegun.

You hardly ever saw a Japanese; they were all underground. They would wait for the Marine lines to pass by their positions, then they would pop up behind you and take a crack at you. It was like fighting ghosts. The entire time I was there I only saw two or three Japanese, and they were dead or wounded.

They also hid a lot of their artillery in caves in the hills. A door would open on the side of a hill and "BANG!", then the doors would close again.

One day I was with these artillerymen and we saw the sun reflect off one of those doors opening. We watched it two more times and the artillerymen targeted it. The next time we saw it open they blasted the heck out of it.

**PIR:** How did the battle affect the Marines, physically and mentally?

**Dashiell:** If you didn't get hit it was all right. Out of the 250 Marines in my company, only five weren't killed or wounded. Luckily, I was one of those five.

It was cooler on Iwo than on the islands we had trained on, and it could get a little chilly at night. When you were shivering you didn't know if it was from the cold or if it was because you were scared to death.



*Marines and a Navy corpsman raise the flag on Mount Suribachi.*

One of the worst things I remember is seeing a Marine who had been hit begging a Doc not to amputate his leg. He kept screaming, "Don't take my leg off. Don't take my leg off." It was a terrible sight. Things like that affect you more than seeing dead men.

**PIR:** What do you recall of the famous flag raising on February 23rd?

**Dashiell:** Lt. Bertelli and I were just sitting there in our foxholes when I happened to look up and saw that the flag was there [Mount Suribachi]. So I yelled over, "Hey Bertelli. Look up there. There's the flag." Mortar shells



**Marines fire a 37 mm gun at Japanese positions on Mount Suribachi.**

were coming down though, so we didn't spend much time staring at it. That was about 10:30 a.m., so it had to have been shortly after they put it up.

**PIR:** Did you have any close calls while you were on Iwo Jima?

**Dashiell:** I had just moved about 50 yards from a shell crater with this guy from Baltimore when he realized he had left the lower half of his pack in the crater. He wanted me to go back with him to get it, but I told him to go ahead and I would wait for him to come back. So, he went back and just as he bent over to pick his gear up a mortar round came down and hit him in the head.

Another time I came across this cave. So, like a fool, I stopped and looked in. I didn't see anything so I kept walking. A minute later a squad that was behind me got ambushed from the same cave. The only reason they didn't get me was because they didn't want to give their position away for just one man.

**PIR:** Have you returned to Iwo Jima since the battle?

**Dashiell:** I went back with a group of American and Japanese Iwo Jima veterans for the 40th anniversary in 1985. It was quite an experience.

**PIR:** What was it like meeting the "enemy" 40 years after you were trying to kill each other?

**Dashiell:** I didn't know how to greet them, or how they would greet us, but everything worked out well. There were some guys that

got real "buddy-buddy" with them. I wasn't able to warm up to them that much.

During the battle I took a picture off the body of a dead Japanese soldier. I had kept it for years so when we returned I brought it with me to see if anybody knew who he was. I met these two Japanese soldiers and showed it to them. As soon as they saw it they started motioning that they didn't want to see it. I think they felt guilty because the soldier in the picture had died and the other two were captured so they had been disgraced.

**PIR:** Over 23,000 Marines were killed or wounded and most of Iwo Jima's 21,000 Japanese defenders were killed during the battle. Once the airfields were operational over 2,200 disabled B-29 bombers landed on the island, which saved the lives of more than 24,000 American fliers. Do you think the cost of the battle in American lives was worth the final outcome?

**Dashiell:** Oh, yes! It saved the lives of so many of our pilots that were flying from Saipan, Tinian and Guam. When their planes were damaged they had Iwo to land on instead of ditching in the ocean. Also, at that time nobody knew about the atom bomb. The island would have been used to help stage part of the invasion of Japan. Luckily, it never came to that.

story by  
Cpl. J.D. Moore

# What is success?

**D**id you achieve what you planned on in 1990? Could you say that it was a year of success? Before answering that question, a more challenging question must be answered: What is success? Ralph Waldo Emerson, a famous American essayist and poet, put it this way...

I am impressed equally as much by what is not said and what the author did say. He did not mention possessions, position, power, finances, or rank. Not a word about statistics, numbers, percentages, or profit/loss. Rather, his is a focus on the inner man. Listen again to his verb usage, "to laugh...to win...to earn...endure...appreciate...to find...to leave...to know..."

So much of the literature today will focus upon the outer person -- how to impress with my intelligence and appearance. Achieving financial wealth quickly, gaining control over others. True success comes from the inner being of mankind. The attributes of faithfulness, dedication, sincerity, and integrity cannot be simulated. Character comes from the heart. Solomon urged his readers in this way, "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life," Proverbs, 4:23.

As you search for success in 1991 and plot your track in measurable, quantifiable goals, remember to take care of your "heart," for it is the wellspring of life.

Lt. Paul Reagan Deaton, USN  
Barracks Chaplain

## W o r t h R e p e a t i n g

"Babe Ruth struck out 1330 times, a record in futility. His 714 home runs completely obliterates the 1330 strike outs."

-- Robert F. Kennedy

"Duty is ours: Consequences are God's."

-- Stonewall Jackson

"Whenever hostile aggressions...require a resort to war, we must meet our duty and convince the world that we are just friends and brave enemies."

-- Thomas Jefferson

"The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future life."

-- Plato

"Let it be your pride...to show all men everywhere not only what good soldiers you are, but what good men you are."

-- Woodrow Wilson

*How do you measure success?  
To laugh often and much;  
To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children;*

*To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends;*

*To appreciate beauty;*

*To find the best in others;*

*To leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a redeemed social condition, or a job well done;*

*To know even one other life has breathed because you lived  
-- this is to have succeeded.*

## WHAT IS THE "FAMILY PAGE?"

The **FAMILY PAGE** is the newest addition to **PASS IN REVIEW**. The intention is to share the most recent and helpful information with the families of the Marine Barracks. If you have suggestion or issues you would like to see addressed, please let us know by calling the editor, Sgt. Debbie Scott at (202) 433-4173/4497, or Barracks Chaplain, Lt. Paul Reagan Deaton, USN at (202) 433-6201.

## HELP FOR FAMILIES IS JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY

In times of crisis or question, the Marine Barracks stands ready to help in every way possible. Questions about family matters or Marines deployed to the Middle East can be answered by the **Barracks Chaplain, Lt. Paul Reagan Deaton, USN**. If he cannot answer your question, he will help you find out who can. His phone number is (202) 433-6201.

There are many agencies which also have pledged their support to family members of military personnel involved in Operation Desert Shield.

The American Legion has a nationwide program called the **Family Support**

**Network**. The centerpiece of the program is a toll free number, **1-800-786-0901**, which provides an emergency action line for military families to turn to if assistance is needed. This will be especially helpful if you are away from the D.C. area. Each American Legion state headquarters coordinates and customizes its efforts to meet the needs of the affected communities within its jurisdiction. The American Legion family has traditionally adapted will to local needs and established programs that address many unique situations.

**Family Support Network Of The American Legion... Just A Phone Call Away.**



With U.S. forces deployed in Operation "Desert Shield," The American Legion stands ready to support their families at home.

When a car breaks down or other problems arise you can't call Saudi Arabia, but you can call the Family Support Network of The American Legion.

**1-800-786-0901**



## COPING WITH THE DEPLOYMENT

Deployment is always difficult both for Marines and their families. It is especially difficult for those experiencing deployment for the first time. If you have a loved one on deployment, we have a few suggestions to make it a little easier for you to cope.

friends and neighbors that your Marine is on deployment. Travel with at least one other person and mark your luggage on the inside rather than the outside while traveling.

- ♥ **Keep in close contact with your Marine.** Write as often as possible. Let your Marine know what's going on at home and if you have children, let them write a note or draw a picture. Allow 10 days for delivery. When sending a care package, wrap it well and allow plenty of time for delivery. As special services such as Special Delivery or C.O.D. do not extend to FPO delivery, avoid using them.
- ♥ **Your Marine will feel more comfortable knowing you are safe.** Ensure that your windows and doors are locked at night. Avoid telling anyone, except your family and close

- ♥ **Keep up the same lifestyle you had while your Marine was home.** Keep yourself busy by becoming involved with school, volunteer work or hobbies.
- ♥ **Remember that there are others going through the same thing you are.** We all pray that our Marines, as well as members of the other branches of the service make it home soon and safe. Take care of yourself and keep your spirits up!

### ADDRESS FOR "A" CO. MARINES

The address for "A" Co. Marines deployed to the Middle East is:

Rank, Name, SSN  
"A" Co., HQBN  
2ND MARDIV  
FPO New York, NY  
09502-0066.

## From the attic...

In September 1864, a detachment of 8th & I Marines marched north up 8th Street toward Pennsylvania Avenue for duty during the Civil War. Marines from the Barracks performed a variety of duties during the Civil War, both in combat, and in the city.

On Dec. 27, 1990, "A" Co. marched south on 8th Street to begin their deployment to the Middle East. They are now serving in the desert sand, as many other Barracks Marines stay behind to serve in Washington.

Merentur Etiam Qui Stent Parati -- They also serve who only stand and wait.

