



# River Cities News

River Cities Detachment #1090  
Marine Corps League, Inc.  
Evansville, Indiana

Volume 17, Issue 9

September 2020

## Commandant's Corner

Jim Johnson

Hope this finds everyone doing fine in these trying times. As probably most of you know we lost one of our own MSgt Don Landers . Don was very active in River Cities Detachment 1090. Currently he was our Pay Master, however he had served in numerous capacities to include Commandant. Don was a great Marine, friend, and brother. He will sadly be missed. I personally want to thank all Marines who showed up for the funeral detail. We had a very nice turn out. Our special thanks to LtCol Schuler who, as part of the ceremony, presented the flag.

By the time you receive this newsletter we will have had our first meeting of the year. Hopefully everyone knows that we no longer meet at the

1114 VFW. We have moved our meetings to the American Legion Funkhouser Post. The date (4th Wednesday of the month) and time (1900) remain the same. We are making a few changes that I think are for the better. We want everyone to come early and enjoy a meal prior to the meeting. We would also encourage you to bring your wife/girlfriend to join us not only for the meal but the meeting also. After the meeting we plan to have some sort of entertainment. On August 26th we are watching the Marine movie "The DI". If someone else has some ideas please let us know.

We need to recruit harder and sign up some Marines.....Semper Fi....

## Good Sendoff for a Good Marine

Chaplain Bob Reutter

On Tuesday, July 28th the Marines of the River Cities Detachment along with some other Marines, met at Alexander Funeral Home, West Chapel to bid farewell to one of our own. Members of our Detachment provided an honor guard at the head of Don's casket during the visitation. We were honored to serve ten-minute 'tours' for him. We did wear our masks in keeping with the directives of our Governor and maintained (as much as possible) personal distance directives. We were joined at our 'last salute' service by the Commandant of the Terre Haute Detachment as well as a representative from the Department of Indiana and his wife. Eighteen Marines (in uniform) were in attendance at the funeral home.

Master Sergeant Donald Lee Landers was laid to rest in the Veteran's section of Oak Hill Cemetery. His ceremonial flag was folded and presented to his wife, Paula by three of our Detachment members. While members of the Southern Belles MCL Auxiliary presented the colors, seven members of our Detachment fired a three-volley salute to Don. Another member blew taps as a salute to a career of service not only to our Corps but further service to his community and to the Marine Corps League and the River Cities Detachment. Following the service, Paula expressed her appreciation to everyone who attended and said she thought Don would have approved of our service. Rest in peace, Don.

### Detachment Officers

Commandant Jim Johnson	Paymaster Vacant	Sgt At Arms Vacant
Sr. Vice Commandant John Bryant	Adjutant Tim Jones (812) 454-8717	Newsletter Editor Paula Landers
Jr. Vice Commandant Melissa West	Judge Advocate T C Shane	Web Sergeant Paula Landers
Jr. Past Commandant Bob Reutter	Chaplain Bob Reutter (270) 314-9484	

## Lore of the Corps

Bob Reutter

### *'No lines on the battlefield': Pentagon's new war-fighting concept takes shape*

For most of this year, Pentagon planners have been developing a new joint war-fighting concept, a document meant to guide how the Defense Department fights in the coming decades. Now, with an end-of-year deadline fast approaching, two top department officials believe the concept is coalescing around a key idea — one that requires tossing decades of traditional thinking out the window.

“What I’ve noticed is that, as opposed to everything I’ve done my entire career, the biggest difference is that in the future there will be no lines on the battlefield,” Gen. John Hyten, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said during an Aug. 12 event hosted by the Hudson Institute. The current structure, Hyten said, is all about dividing areas of operations. “Wherever we go, if we have to fight, we established the forward edge of the battle area, we’ve established the fire support coordination line, the forward line of troops, and we say: ‘OK, Army can operate here. Air Force can operate here,’ ” Hyten explained. “Everything is about lines” now, he added. But to function in modern contested environments, “those lines are eliminated.”

What does that mean in practice? Effectively, Hyten laid out a vision in which every force can both defend itself and have a deep-strike capability to hold an enemy at bay, built around a unified command-and-control system. “A naval force can defend itself or strike deep. An air force can defend itself or strike deep. The Marines can defend itself or strike deep,” he said. “Everybody.” That “everybody” includes international partners, Hyten added, as the U.S. operates so often in a coalition framework that this plan only works if it can integrate others. And for the entire structure to succeed, the Pentagon needs to create the Joint All-Domain Command and Control capability currently under development. “So that’s the path we’ve been going down for a while. And it’s starting to actually mature and come to fruition now,” Hyten said. The day before Hyten’s ap-

pearance, Victorino Mercado, assistant secretary of defense for strategy, plans and capabilities, talked with a small group of reporters, during which he noted: “We had disparate services [with] their concepts of fighting. We never really had a manner to pull all the services together to fight as a coherent unit.”

Mercado also said the war-fighting concept will directly “drive some of our investments” in the future and tie together a number of ongoing efforts within the department — including the individual combatant command reviews and the Navy’s shipbuilding plan. “I can tell you there’s some critical components from those reviews: how you command and control the forces, how you do logistics; there are some common themes in there in a joint war-fighting concept,” he said. “I can tell you if we had that concept right now, we could use that concept right now to influence the ships that we are building, the amount of ships that we need, what we want the combatant commands to do.

“So this war-fighting concept is filling a gap. I wish we had it now. Leadership wishes we had it now,” he added. “It would inform all of the decisions that we make today because now is about positioning ourselves in the future for success.”

Like Hyten, Mercado expressed confidence that the concept will be ready to go by the end of the year, a deadline set by Defense Secretary Mark Esper. But asked whether the department will make details of the concept public when it is finished, Mercado said there is a “tension” between informing the public and key stakeholders and not giving an edge to Russia and China.

“I think there is an aspect that we need to share of this joint war-fighting concept,” he said. “We have to preserve the classified nature of it. And I think I have to be careful what I say here, to a degree.”

*(Information in this article taken from the Marine Corps Times. You can subscribe at <https://www.marinecorpstimes.com>.)*

## Marine Corps History

Gary Burk

**8 September 1942: On Guadalcanal, the 1st Raider Battalion and the 1st Parachute Battalion, supported by planes of MAG-23 and two destroyer transports, landed east of Tasimboko, advanced west into the rear of Japanese positions, and carried out a successful raid on a Japanese supply base.**

The Marines had landed on Guadalcanal on 7 August, 1942. Now, a month later Marine leaders felt the Japanese would make a serious effort to take it back. The big questions for the Marines were the whereabouts of the Japanese and their next move. On the morning of September 6, Edson, Thomas, and Lt. Col. Merrill Twinning, the assistant division G-3, met to discuss the impending operations. The leader of the Raiders strongly suggested that a raid on the eastern part of the island would produce good intelligence on enemy troop movements.

While Griffith's men were heading back from a raid on Savo Island in the destroyer transport *Little* and *Gregory*, Edson was already planning his next move: Cape Esperance. He sent a message to Griffith to have the men remain on board the two ships, but it did not arrive in time. Edson quickly went to the beach area to intercept the Raiders and have them remain on board. However, upon arriving there he discovered one of the companies had already disembarked and the other was preparing to. He decided to postpone the Cape Esperance incursion for 24 hours.

This seemingly unimportant chain of events had significant consequences later that evening. The Japanese destroyer *Yudachi*, *Hatsuyuki*, and *Murakumo* destroyed the two APDs at dusk as they were heading for Lunga Point. Vastly outgunned by the larger enemy ships, over 500 shells were lobbed at the tiny pair of transports. The screws from the enemy vessels killed some of the sailors who had abandoned their burning ships. The *Little* sustained 22 killed and 44 wounded. The *Gregory* lost 11 killed and 26 wounded. It was a tragic loss, and would have been even more so if the two Raider companies had been on board the boats. With the sinking of the APD *Calhoun* by enemy planes on August 30, the Navy's transport fleet had been cut in half.

Intelligence had also been flowing in from Australian coastwatcher Martin Clemens and his contingent of native scouts. They informed the Marines that there were large numbers of "Japan man" arriving near the village of Tasimboko. Original reports had placed enemy troop strength at 200-300 in the Tasimboko area, east of Henderson Field. Edson jumped at the chance to get the

Japanese. The 1st Marine Raider Battalion, with the 1st Marine Parachute Battalion attached to it, would land 3,000 yards east of the village and strike Tasimboko from the rear. Vandegrift, a cautious individual by nature, nonetheless hastily approved the raid.

At dawn on 8 September two APD (McKean and Manley) plus two patrol boats arrived of Taivu Point. At this point the Gods of war intervened as a convoy of several cargo ships and 5 destroyers was headed west. The Japanese defenders thought this was a massive invasion and they fled into the jungle, allowing the Marines to walk ashore without opposition. They found two unmanned 37mm anti-tank guns and lots of ammo and other supplies. Edson realized that the force occupying this end of Guadalcanal was larger than thought. He called in air strikes and ignoring orders to withdraw, he decided to push on.

At 0800 Edson requested another series of air strikes. They spotted enemy troops on the far bank of the Kemah River and opened fire. The Japanese returned fire with small arms and a 75mm howitzer. The Raiders persisted and the enemy fled, leaving gun. As they marched on, they found additional medical supplies, canned meat, crackers, backpacks and life preservers. As they neared the village of Tasimboko, the Raiders were suddenly under fire from treetop bursts of 75mm fire, which killed one Marine and severed the arm of another. Marines quickly eliminated the enemy manning the gun and captured it as well.

Still disobeying orders to retire, Edson ordered his men to destroy all the enemy supplies and munitions. The breeches of the artillery were removed and tossed into the sea. At a cost of 2 dead and 6 wounded, the Marines had killed 27 enemy, captured a large amount of Japanese documents, destroyed large caches of supplies and a large radio. As they re-boarded their APDs the Marines were rewarded with the sight of massive fires reaching up from the burning supplies. The raid helped raise the spirits of all Americans on the island as the smoke from the fires could be seen for many miles. After reviewing the captured documents, the Japanese language specialist, Captain Sherwood "Pappy" Moran, announced the enemy was definitely massing for an assault. The most likely spot – a ridge line with Hill 123 situated in the center. This hill had a strategic position overlooking Henderson field. **Next month: The Battle of Bloody Ridge.**

## Combat Fitness Test (CFT)

Daniel Brown

Whether it was in the Halls of Montezuma or on the shores of Tripoli (or anywhere in between), no U.S. Marine has ever had to lace up their sneakers and run 3 miles in shorts and a t-shirt during combat. Nor, for that matter, have they had to perform sit-ups or pullups while closing with and destroying the enemy. In 2008, USMC Commandant Gen. James Conway sent out the order that a new type of fitness test would be conducted by Marines *in addition* to the long-standing PFT that most Marines reading this newsletter are familiar with. This fitness test would attempt to provide a measure of the types of physical stresses a Marine might experience while engaged in combat - - sprinting, dragging a wounded buddy, low-crawling, high crawling, throwing grenades and lifting heavy objects. The USMC Combat Fitness Test (CFT) was born.

Like the PFT, the CFT is also an annual requirement which counts towards promotion scores. It consists of three separate events, performed consecutively with limited rest between events, and conducted in boots and utilities to better simulate battle conditions. The events are, in order:

**1. Movement to Contact** – The Marine runs an 880 yard (1/2 mile) distance as fast as possible, the faster the time, the better the score. This short, high-speed run more realistically simulates the distance and intensity required in a fast-paced modern combat environment.

**2. Ammunition Lift** – The Marine must lift a 30 lb ammunition can using a two-hand overhead lift as many times as possible in two minutes, and again, more reps equals a higher score. Repetitive lifting is something that almost all Marines can relate to, whether it is an artillery crew member loading shells, air-crew readying a plane for the next sortie, or grunts passing ammunition up and down the line to their comrades.

**3. Maneuver Under Fire** – The final event is a challenging 300 yard course which com-

bines a variety of combat-relevant tasks, including low and high crawls, agility sprints, dragging and carrying another Marine, carrying loaded ammunition cans, and throwing a practice grenade into a predetermined marked target area. Another timed event, this final portion serves as a full body cardio and muscular 'gut-check', stringing together multiple tasks which a Marine might encounter on a modern battlefield.

Both the PFT and CFT are helping to ensure that today's Marine warfighters have the physical strength and endurance to take the fight to the enemy. Wondering how you measure up? Full details on the CFT, including scoring, can be found on the official USMC website at [www.marines.mil](http://www.marines.mil).



Semper Fi



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**Mike Mitchell**

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**Semper Fi**

Our prayers for our nephew who was recently deployed. May God bless all of our service members, protect them, and give them strength to carry on, Amen!

Roy & Carolyn McWilliams



05/2021

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In memory of Detachment #1090 members who have gone on to guard the streets of Heaven.



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 Donald Landers, Sr

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**Semper Ji**

**September 2020**

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27	28 Southern Belles #441 6:30 p.m. AmVets #84	29	30	Newsletter Articles, Ads, and Pictures for OCTOBER 2020 are due NO LATER THAN SEPT. 22, 2020 There are No Exceptions to this deadline.		