

the CUTTING EDGE

news for and about the members of Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049 of the Marine Corps League

Joe Wright, Commandant (cmdt@mclaacdet1049.org) / Mac McNeir, Editor (editor@mclaacdet1049.org)

Congress Recognizes Montford Marines

SOURCE – This article, which recently appeared on the Marine Corps Times website, was authored by John Tuohy of the Indianapolis Star.

Congress voted ... to grant the first black fighters of the last military branch to accept them, the **Congressional Gold Medal**, the nation's highest civilian honor.



Carrel Reavis, right, posing with two other Marines in this undated photo. Nearly 70 years after the Marine Corps accepted segregated black units, the Marine Corps' top general is pushing to honor the history of the Montford Point Marines. [Photo by the Associated Press]

The **422-0** vote honors about 20,000 **Montford Point Marines**, who trained in a separate facility called Montford Point that operated at Camp Lejeune, NC from 1942 to 1949 when all military branches were segregated.

"This has been a real long time coming," said **Johnny C. Washington**, 82. "It seems like everything we did for a long time was hidden. It's been real frustrating when you see others get recognition and not us."

(see Montford Marines on page 11)

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY
MARINES!

the CUTTING EDGE

- Published Monthly
- Be sure to keep us advised of your current email address to ensure prompt delivery.

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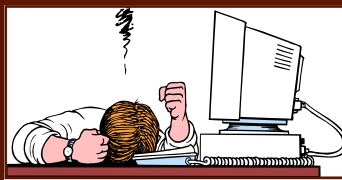
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Adjutant – *Dave Wells*
Auxiliary President – *Dawn Parker*
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Chaplain – *Ken Webster*
Color Guard Commander – *Woody Bowman*
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Young Marines Commander – *George Martin*



Award Winner

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National Newsletter Competition
(Detachments of More Than 100 Members)

Visit the Department of Maryland web site at...
<http://deptofmdmcl.org>



From the Editor

by Mac McNeir

Our annual celebrations, marking the **Marine Corps Birthday** have recently taken place and hopefully, you were able to be part of either our **Happy Hour** celebration or our **Birthday Ball**.

Our next major fund-raising effort for the detachment is of course the selling of advertisements for our **Department Convention Book**. Start thinking about those merchants and individuals with whom you interact and which of them that might be willing to purchase an ad (whole page, half page, or quarter page). Keep in mind that ***we are only able to support our various philanthropic endeavors because of monies raised by our members!*** If you have sold ads in the past, please keep on contributing. If you haven't sold any ads in the past, please consider making 2012 the year that you join us in raising the monies necessary to help out the **Marines Helping Marines Program**, the **Young Marines**, and those **Marines (past and present) who find themselves in need**.

The deadline for delivery of **December newsletter** articles is **MIDNIGHT on Friday, December 9, 2011. Please do not wait until the last minute to submit your article(s)!**



Membership Statistics

Good Standing (Dues Paid)			
Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Life Memberships	72	8	5
Annual Memberships	34	5	–
Delinquent Dues (Still on Active Roster)			
Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Annual Memberships	11	–	–
New Members			
	–	–	–
Sub-Totals			
	117	13	5
Total			
	135		

Renewals are approaching for the following non-delinquent members...

Renewals (dues expire at end of indicated month)		
December 2011	January 2012	February 2012
Don Blanton Michael Lowman William Russell	Russell Bixler Scott Wood	Charles Albo Frank Fleishman James Hutton David Reyes
Please advise the editor of any errors/omissions in this listing.		

Please consider a **Life Membership** as a potential cost reduction.

Commandant's Message



Joe Wright

To My Fellow Marines and All Whom They Hold Dear,

As we celebrate the 236th Birthday of our beloved Marine Corps, I cannot help but think about those hard-charging Leathernecks still in harm's way, continuing the great Marine Corps war fighting legacy. The Marine Corps continues to take the fight to enemies in Afghanistan, the same as they did in Derna, Tripoli in 1805. In places like Belleau Wood, Iwo Jima, the Chosen Reservoir, Khe Sanh, Kuwait, Fallujah, and Kandahar, Marines have exemplified the qualities it takes to proudly claim the title of United States Marine.

I want to take the opportunity to congratulate each and every one of you on a job well done. Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049 Marine Corps League exemplifies what it takes to be one of the leading Detachments in the Marine Corps League and we are successfully upholding the mission and purposes of our League in all that we do. Our mission statement states "Members of the Marine Corps League join together in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps, banding together those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that service that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy, voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marines, FMF Corpsmen, former Marines and FMF Corpsmen, and their widows and orphans; and to perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and by fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines." I know our detachment will continue to serve all Marines – past, present, and future – to support their families and dependents, and to preserve the traditions of the United States Marine Corps.

On this Marine Corps Birthday, we need to remember our fellow Marines that have made the ultimate sacrifice, help our wounded Marines & their families as well as assist those Marines returning to civilian life. We are United States Marines! Remember our past, look to the future, and take care of each other.

Happy 236th Birthday and Semper Fi!

Joseph Wright
Commandant, Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049
Marine Corps League

CMC's Birthday Message

For ten years now, our Corps has been engaged in continuous combat operations against those who threaten the security of America and our allies. We turned the tide in the Anbar province of Iraq and continue to see success today in southwest Afghanistan. While it has come at a cost ... we have much to be proud of.



This past year in operations around the world including humanitarian disaster relief, counter-piracy, theater security cooperation, special operations, counter-insurgency and many more, you continued to solidify our place as America's expeditionary force in readiness. Since the Continental Congress created two battalions of Marines 236 years ago, our legacy as an ever-ready, ever-capable, victory-producing organization remains intact.

Our rich heritage of selfless service and fidelity to Nation and to one another lives on in all who currently wear the eagle, globe and anchor—those who have answered the clarion call to duty with remarkable courage, dedication and unshakable resolve that Marines are so well known for. To all Marines—past and present—and especially to our families ... I extend my deep gratitude for all you have done and all you continue to do.

As we celebrate our 236th Birthday, let us look forward to future challenges—whatever they may be—and reaffirm our pledge to be America's premier crisis response force; to be the first to fight ... always ready for the toughest and most challenging assignments.

Happy Birthday, Marines, and Semper Fidelis!

James F. Amos
General, U.S. Marine Corps



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Phone: 410-773-9888

7748 Governor Ritchie Hwy.
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*Committed to giving back
to our uniformed heroes!*



From the desk of the

Junior Vice Commandant



Ed Dahling

Happy 236th Birthday Marines

As of the end of October, we now have almost a dozen members, who are delinquent in the payment of their dues. If your dues have been paid, let me know. If not, please submit your payment to me as soon as possible so that I may take you off the *Delinquent Status List*. Two former members have been dropped from our detachment roster for failing to pay their dues. If for some reason you do not wish to renew, let me know and I'll see if we can address your concerns. Hope to hear from you soon.

I also need the following members to contact me regarding their memberships:

Jeffrey Clark	George Cunningham	Jeffrey Dell'Acqua
Nicholas Dubich	Carl Elswick	James Hutton
John Owens	James Terry	Keith Thorburn
Fernand Verrier	Phillipp Werner	

Recruit a new member and bring them to our next Meeting!

Semper Fi, & Woof,woof

Ed Dahling

Congratulations



Detachment member **Tim Muniz** and his bride **Jaclynn Statkus** were wed at Grey Rock Mansion in Pikesville, MD on Nov 5th. [Photo – The Groom]



Chaplain's Corner

by the Editor for Chaplain Ken Webster

Please contact me at either of the following numbers as soon as you learn of any member or family member, who is sick, in distress, etc.

410-255-0741 (home) or 443-618-9641 (cell)

PDD Phil Schwarzenberg is now at home recuperating from shoulder surgery. He is doing well and hopes to be in attendance at our Detachment's 236th Marine Corps' Birthday Ball.

Gerald Grimes, as reported by our Commandant at the October meeting, has been an in-patient at a Virginia VA Hospital for approximately two years. Commandant Wright has further information for those who might be interested.

Sandi Dahling (wife of our Junior Vice Commandant Ed) is at home doing well after her recent intestinal surgery. According to Ed, Sandi is now preparing for what will hopefully be her final surgery on December 15th.

Brandon Kalwa (son of our Senior Vice Commandant) has unfortunately suffered yet another set-back. He was recently readmitted to the hospital for some new symptoms; however, Chris and his family are hopeful that Brandon will be returning home soon!

Wayne Virgin – past Department Commandant, and past Commandant and current officer in the Baltimore Detachment, slipped and fractured his right ankle on Thursday October 13, 2011. He is home and pretty down right now. He would probably welcome cards from fellow Marines... if you do not have his address, contact the editor for that information.

PDD 'Wild Bill' Collins, originally a member of Pound 204 who transferred to Pound 333, was in a pretty bad car wreck a couple of weeks ago and has been in ICU ever since. He has pneumonia, a bladder infection and a broken elbow. The hospital is requesting no visitors as they must go in every few hours and suction his lungs.

George Dominquez, father of a very good friend and former associate of detachment member Jim Le Gette is very ill. George, a Marine who is 95 years old and currently living in New Mexico, served in the South Pacific during WW II (Guadalcanal, Guam, and Okinawa). He was also part of the first occupying forces in Japan as a member of the 6th Marine Division, 15th Regiment (Artillery).

Please keep the members of our extended family, who are mentioned above, in your thoughts and prayers.





Military Order of the Devil Dogs



The Fun & Honor Society of the Marine Corps League

Woof-Woof,

Pound 204 will Growl at the Pound Dog House at **1000 on 11 December**, with the Anne Arundel County Detachment providing a Marine breakfast at 0900, and the VFW providing Bloody-Marys at 0800.

There are still **a few hold-outs who have not paid their 2012 MODD dues** and are now listed as "**not a member in good standing**" and therefore ineligible to attend Growls or hold office. If this pertains to you, get 15 big bones into me (7944 Oakwood Road, Glen Burnie, Md 21061) ASAP. Make the check payable to "**MODD, Pound 204.**"

DDs desiring to advance to PDD in Mobile, Alabama next August must attend two Pack of Maryland Growls prior to then.

Pups desiring to advance to DD at the Grand Growl in April must attend two Pound Growls prior to then. Don't wait. Attend those Pack and Pound Growls.

Remember: It is an honor to be a Devil Dog!

Woof-Woof,

Paul Taylor

PDD & Dog Robber



Members' Birthdays

NOTE – Please advise the editor of any errors/omissions in the following birthday listings.

Members of our detachment, who will be celebrating birthdays during the month of **December** include:

Jeffery Dell'Acqua	Mike Lowman	Scott Stevens
Robert Foley Jr.	Eugene Punte	Ben Wells



\$23.6 Million Contract for IAR Awarded

SOURCE – This article by Dan Lamothe appeared on the Marine Corps Times website on October 31, 2011.

The Marine Corps has taken the last major step to field the M27 Infantry Automatic Rifle (**IAR**) to all infantry battalions by the end of next year.



[Photo by Rob Curtis]

Leaders recently awarded a contract worth up to \$23.6 million with the maker of the 5.56mm machine gun, **Heckler & Koch Defense (HK)** of Ashburn, Va. The company plans to begin delivering more than 3,600 IARs to the Corps early next year, said **Robert Reidsma**, who oversees the IAR program for HK. That's in addition to 458 of the weapons sent to units beginning late last year as part of an experimental fielding called for by **General James Conway**, before he retired as Commandant in October 2010.

The decision closes a chapter on a decade-long debate concerning whether the Corps should drop the firepower available in the belt-fed **Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW)** in favor of a lighter, more accurate automatic rifle. Full fielding was approved this summer by **Commandant General Jim Amos**, and is expected to begin by March.

The IAR will serve as a one-for-one replacement for the **M249 SAW** in Marine rifle squads and light armored reconnaissance scout sections, said **1st Lieutenant Jamie Larson**, a spokeswoman with **Marine Corps Systems Command** of Quantico, Va. In conventional infantry battalions, virtually every four-man fire team will have an IAR, with three per squad, 28 per company and up to 4,476 across the Corps, Marine officials said.

The IAR will be fielded with standard-issue 30-round magazines, rather than the 200-round drums common with the SAW. Marine officials said the auto-rifle's benefits outweigh firepower concerns, however. The Corps also will still keep six SAWs in each rifle company to be used at the commander's discretion, primarily in defensive positions and other spots where a light machine gun could be beneficial.

(see New Rifle on page 10)



Have You Heard?

by Mac McNeir

Marines play a key role...

The spirit of *Semper Fi* was once again exhibited by members of **Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049**, when they recommended, supervised, and supported the **1st Annual Harry L. Cooper, VFW Post 160 Golf Tournament**. The overall success of this fund-raising tournament, which was held at the **Bay Hills Golf Club** on October 21st, was in no small part attributable to the oversight and leadership of the following Marines – **Pete Pervi, James Brady, and Manny Airey**. Thanks is also appropriate for members **Chris Thompson, Joe Wright, Earl Parker, and Mac McNeir**. Volunteers from the VFW (and its affiliated organizations) were ably augmented by **Department Commandant Ed Ross** and detachment member **Tom Maiorana**. Although not specifically named here, a number of Marine family members also provided much needed labor/support. The participation of 48 golfers, 21 tee-box sign purchasers, and three major sponsors resulted in **\$6,648.54** being raised for VFW Post 160.

Detachment sponsors last MHM picnic of 2011 season...



Photo by Joe Wright

The October 19th *Marines Helping Marines Picnic* at the newly reorganized **Walter Reed National Military Medical Center** at Bethesda, MD, as most of you know, was co-sponsored by **Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049** and **Devil Dog Pound 204**. As occasionally happens, rain caused the picnic to be moved into **Mercy Hall**, while the cooking was of course performed outside by a few stalwart

souls. The picnic was organized and under the direct control of **Tony Begenwald** (*East Coast Coordinator of Marines Helping Marines*), and numerous volunteers including **Department Commandant Ed Ross** and our **Detachment Commandant Joe Wright**. Also in attendance was singer/songwriter and US Marine - **Mike Corrado**, who performed a few of his singles for the wounded, guests, and hospital staff.

Bull & Oyster Roast...

Although the attendance was slightly lower than last year, we did make money. Approximately \$1,000 remains after paying all of the bills associated with the roast. A sampling of photographs are located on page 7. Special thanks need to be given to the following key people.

Members

Chris Kalwa Ken Webster Ed Ross Manny Airey Ed Dahling

Grill Cooks

Bud Wright Joe Trabert Bob Corin

Helpers -

Chasity Wright Beverly Wright Cheryl Lipscomb The Young Marines

October's Detachment Meeting Recap...

- **Commandant Wright** expressed appreciation to **Young Marines Commander George Martin** for the help rendered by his Young Marines at the **Bull & Oyster Roast**.
- Motion was made and carried to make a donation of **\$100** to the **Young Marines** in recognition of their continuing assistance to our detachment.

2012 National Convention...

Just a reminder, members planning to attend the **2012 National Convention** in Mobile, Alabama, should make their hotel reservations soon as possible. Traditionally, hotel room availability becomes increasingly scarce as the date of the national convention approaches. Hotel information is provided below.

- **The Battle House Renaissance Hotel & Spa**
26 North Royal Street, Mobile, Alabama 36602
(866) 316-5957
- **Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel**
64 South Water Street, Mobile, Alabama 36602
(800) 922-3298

2012 Mid Winter Conference...

The **Marine Corps League Mid-Winter National Staff Conference** will be held on February 16, 17 and 18, 2012 at the Tysons Corner Marriott in Vienna, VA.

(continued on next page)

Have You Heard *(continued)*

Long-time Supporters Recognized...

On November 1st, three of our past Detachment Commandants presented plaques of appreciation to three local businesses for their many years of support. These businesses – **Harbour Liquors, Lauer's Supermarket & Bakery,** and **Terminal Services LLC** have gone above and beyond in their unwavering support of the fund-raising efforts of **Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049** as well as the **League's Department of Maryland.**



Past Detachment 1049 Commandants Pervi, Airey, & McNeir (L-R) present plaque of appreciation to Jeff Helferstag (holding plaque) – owner/operator of **Harbour Liquors.** [Photo – the Cutting Edge]



Past Detachment 1049 Commandants Airey, McNeir, & Pervi (L-R) present plaque of appreciation to Joe Millsap (holding plaque) – manager of **Lauer's Supermarket & Bakery.** [Photo – the Cutting Edge]



Past Detachment 1049 Commandants Airey, McNeir, & Pervi (L-R) present plaque of appreciation to Chuck Lucas (holding plaque) – owner/operator of **Terminal Services LLC.** [Photo – the Cutting Edge]



Bull & Oyster Roast Photos

Photos by Chasity Wright & Cheryl Lipscomb





Color Guard

by the Editor for Woody Bowman

Nine members of our Detachment took part in the...

- Pasadena Business Association's Thanksgiving Day Parade on November 6th. Participants included Manny Airey, Woody Bowman, Paul Downey, Fred Downey, Mac McNeir, Pete Pervi, Ray Gonzales, Joe Wright, and Charlie Young.



[Photo – Joe Wright]



[Photo – the Cutting Edge]

The Color Guard performed **Veterans Day Programs** at...

- Ridgeway Elementary School (Route 170, Severn, MD) on November 7th
- Severn Elementary School (Reece Rd., Severn, MD) on November 8th

The Color Guard will perform **Veterans Day Programs** at...

- Quarterfield Elementary School (Quarterfield Rd., Severn, MD) on November 10th @ 9:00 AM.
- Marley Middle School (B&A Blvd., Glen Burnie, MD) on November 10th @ 8:30 AM.
- Oak Hill Elementary School (Truckhouse Rd., Severna Park, MD) on November 15th @ 9:00 AM.

The Color Guard will be performing **Veterans Day Programs** and **Posting Colors** at...

- American Legion Post 276 (Quarterfield Rd., Severn, MD) on November 11th @ 9:00 AM.
- Crownsville Veterans Cemetery (1122 Sunrise Beach Rd., Crownsville MD) on November 11th @ 11:00 AM.



Corps Humor

A bar outside the main gate at Camp Pendleton had been remodeled and a robotic bartender was part of the modernization.

Upon the bar's reopening, a young Marine came in for a drink and the robot asked him, "What was your **ASVAB*** Score when you joined the military?"

The Corporal replied "99."

The robot proceeded to make conversation about physics, astronomy, investments, insurance, and so on.

The NCO listened intently and thought, "This is really cool."

Later another Marine approached the bar and asked for a drink.

The robot asked him, "What was your ASVAB Score when you joined the military?"

The Marine responded, "70."

So the robot started talking about football, baseball and so on.

The Marine thought to himself, "Wow, this is unbelievable."

Later, another Marine sat down at the bar.

As with the others, the robot asked him, "What was your ASVAB Score when you joined the military?"

The Marine replied, "40."

The robot then asked, "So, what's up in the world of First Sergeants, these days?"

* Armed Services Aptitude Battery



Quotation

"I can't say enough about the two Marine divisions. If I use words like brilliant, it would really be an under-description of the absolutely superb job they did in breaching the so-called impenetrable barrier... an absolutely superb operation, a textbook, and I think it'll be studied for many, many years to come as the way to do it."

General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, US Army

Commander of Coalition Forces in the Persian Gulf War of 1991



Coming Events

The following events are scheduled to occur through **December 30, 2011**. Unless otherwise noted, these events will take place at **VFW Post 160**, located at 2597 Dorsey Road, Glen Burnie, MD 21060 (410-766-9802).

NOTE – The dates and times listed below are subject to change. Please verify the information with the indicated organizational point of contact.

VFW Post 160 Closed

Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 24, 2011

Monthly Meetings, Detachment & Auxiliary

Monday, November 28, 2011 @ 1900 – Joe Wright / Dawn Parker

Children's Christmas Party

Saturday, December 10, 2011 from 1300 to 1500 – Jennifer Sacks

MODD Pound 204 Growl

Sunday, December 11, 2011 @ 1000 – Paul Taylor

Monthly Meetings, Detachment & Auxiliary

Monday, December 19, 2011 @ 1900 – Joe Wright / Dawn Parker

Christmas Day – Post Closed

Friday Night Dinner, Detachment 1049 Auxiliary

Friday, December 30, 2011 from 1800 to 2000 – Dawn Parker



Marine Corps League
Department of Maryland

<http://deptofmdmcl.org>



Corps History

by Vic Halme, Historian

2 November 1950

Marines engage Chinese in North Korea near the Chosin Reservoir.

3 November 2003

Presidential Unit Citation awarded to **1st Marine Expeditionary Force** for its service in **Operation Iraqi Freedom**. It becomes the first unit to earn the award since the end of the Vietnam War.

4 November 1948

Colonel Katherine Towle became the first Director of Women Marines as regulars and not reservists.

4 November 1979

Mob overruns U.S. Embassy in Teheran, Iran; 13 Marines among 65 American hostages; 52 of whom were held captive for 444 days.

10 November 1775

Continental Congress authorizes creation of two battalions of Marines.

10 November 1948

First eight enlisted women are sworn in as regular Marines.
First black women Marines enlist the following summer.

10 November 1921

The first formal commemoration of the Marine Corps Birthday.

10 November 1954

Marine Corps War Memorial site dedicated near Arlington National Cemetery.

12 November 1946

Gerald C. Thomas, the first Marine to rise from private to general, rank by rank, received his second Legion of Merit.

13 November 1982

Vietnam Veterans Memorial, containing the names of more than 13,000 Marines, who lost their lives in Vietnam, is dedicated.

18 November 1915

Major Smedley D. Butler leads Marine attack on Fort Riviere, Haiti and is awarded 2nd Medal of Honor.

20 November 1947 (date approximate)

Toys For Tots program founded.

23 November 1950

7th Marines take Yudam-ni. Thanksgiving was celebrated in Korea with temperatures hovering about 20 degrees below zero.

27 November 1950

Eight Chinese Communist divisions launch a massive attack in Korea, with the express purpose of destroying the 1st Marine Division. This action leads to the successful Marine Corps attack out of the Chosin Reservoir and its relocation to the coastal port of Hungnam.

28 November 1775

Samuel Nicholas commissioned as Captain of Marines, becoming the first Marine officer.

29 November 1804

Lt. Presley O'Bannon and seven Marines land in Alexandria, Egypt.



VFW Sunday Breakfast

**Cancelled
Indefinitely**

VFW Post 160
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New Rifle *(continued from page 5)*

“As demonstrated throughout extensive development and operational testing, and during combat operations in **Operation Enduring Freedom**, the M27 IAR is significantly more accurate than the M249 SAW,” Larson said. “The increased accuracy of the M27 improves automatic rifleman and small-unit lethality, mobility and survivability.”

The weapon was first fielded in Afghanistan this spring by 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, out of Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Just a few months into the battalion’s deployment, Amos approved full fielding.

Marines with 1/3 have since returned to Kaneohe Bay, but the weapon is downrange with 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, out of Camp Pendleton, CA; 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, out of Camp Lejeune, NC; and 1st Battalion, 25th Marines, a Reserve unit out of Fort Devens, MA. First LAR, out of Pendleton, is expected to deploy with it later this year.

Marines with 1/3 were deployed in Afghanistan’s Garmser district and saw sporadic engagement with insurgents. Still, the unit had at least two recommendations for the weapon that the Corps has taken under advisement, Reidsma said.

The initial 458 weapons were kitted out with a standard *three-point combat assault sling*, but Marines experimented and decided they preferred the *Vickers Combat Applications two-point sling* made by **Blue Force Gear** of Pooler, Ga., HK’s Reidsma said. Each weapon in future deliveries will be outfitted with one of them, and HK will deliver additional Vickers slings to retrofit weapons already fielded, he said.

The Corps also decided to incorporate new *MantaRail* rail guards on the IAR. Made by **Advanced Innovation and Manufacturing** of North Royalton, OH, the polymer rail guards have a no-slip rubberized feel and can be cut to size to easily cover wires attached to equipment on the rifle.

HK will send representatives across the Corps to assist in training Marine armorers, Reidsma said.



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Montford Marines *(continued from page 1)*

While the African-American **Army Buffalo Soldiers** and the **Air Force Tuskegee Airmen** have had some measure of renown, the first black Marines have grown old mostly in obscurity.

The Army and Navy had been recruiting blacks since the Civil War. But even when they did join, the Montford Point Marines never achieved officer status and were assigned mostly to ammunition and supply duty.

Some fought at Iwo Jima and went to Japan to clean up the ash after the atomic bomb was dropped over Nagasaki.

Averitte Corley, 84, and Washington said basic training was brutal, their barracks were in ramshackle huts, and the Marines often were kicked and slapped during drills.

"They tried to make us better Marines," Washington said.

"Some didn't make it through," Corley said. "We were the first blacks, and they wanted to make sure you measured up," said Corley, whose platoon included former **New York City Mayor David Dinkins**.

Segregation reigned in the South of the 1940s, and life on base wasn't much better.

"We'd go to Camp Lejeune for dental appointments, and 20 of us would have to wait in the back of a covered truck while one Marine at a time went in for his appointment," Washington said. "When he was done, another guy would go in. It was hot waiting in the truck. It would take hours."

Corley, who now lives in Indianapolis, said that in talking to white Marines years later, he realized that all Marine drills were torturous. "Boot camp is boot camp," he said. Corley's duties in the Marines included guarding Japanese prisoners of war in Saipan and guarding naval installations in Norfolk, VA.

Washington said he joined at 17 when he lived in Mississippi because "I'd seen some pictures, and I liked the uniforms."

He stayed in the Marines for 30 years, achieving the rank of Sergeant Major and serving in three wars: World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Washington was an infantry squad leader in Korea and a First Sergeant in a 13-month tour of Vietnam, leading combat patrols in both wars. He now lives in Indianapolis.

Next year, the Marine Corps plans to teach all Marines about Montford Point. **Commandant General Jim Amos** – the first Marine aviator named to the Corps' top job – has made diversifying the staunchly traditional branch a top priority.

Corley said a little refresher course would be good for all Marines.

"A lot of these young guys don't know the history of the Marine Corps," Corley said. "They think blacks have always been there, and that wasn't the case. There was a lot of discrimination. But I think a majority of the guys who commanded us want to see some progress."

Editor's Note: Additional information about Montford Point Marines may be obtained from the following website.

<http://www.montfordpointmarines.com/>



Bombastic Bumper-Snicker:



Try not to draw fire... it will irritate
the people around you!



Marine Corps League
Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049
PO Box 804
Severn, Maryland 21144-0804

(Address Correction Requested)



Featured Foto



Marines with **Company C, 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division**, head toward shore in an amphibious assault vehicle during amphibious assault training conducted at Onslow Beach (Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.) on October 12th. Throughout the training, the battalion was supported by the **USS Ponce**, an Austin-class amphibious transport dock named for Ponce, Puerto Rico, a city in the commonwealth of Puerto Rico. [Photo by LCpl. Joshua J. Hines appeared on the website <http://www.marines.mil/Pages/Default.aspx>]