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## ON POINT

### USS BELLEAU WOOD —

*Ever closer to getting their sea legs*, Marines of 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit from Camp Pendleton, Calif., embark aboard USS Belleau Wood with seabags in hand in preparation for workup exercises as part of Expeditionary Strike Group 3. Also part of ESG3, are the amphibious warships USS Denver and Comstock; destroyers USS Hopper and Preble; cruiser USS Mobile Bay; and fast attack submarine USS Charlotte. ESG3 is the first naval flotilla to be commanded by a Marine Corps officer, Brig. Gen. Joseph V. Medina.

Photo by PH3(AW) Alex Stanislawski

▼ **CAMP BLUE DIAMOND, Iraq** – Staff Sgt. William R. Milligan, a mechanic with Truck Company, Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division, makes armor plates for the doors of the division's vehicles. The Marines of Truck Co. constantly work to protect and repair their vehicles from enemy attacks as well as dust, heat and hard driving conditions.

Photo by Cpl. Paul M. Vedina



“The raising of that flag on Suribachi means a Marine Corps for the next 500 years.”

— James Forrestal  
Secretary of the Navy, February 23, 1945

# Marines GOUGE

## DIVISIONS

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Okinawa Marines take aim at boredom and each other with paint guns during the Single Marine Program's Leprechaun Paintball Tournament. • *Marines reviews SOCOM II: U.S. Navy Seals for Playstation II* and the book, *Spare Parts* written by Buzz William Gotham. • The theme for this issue's crossword puzzle is "Where Am I."



### 40 | Over There

Marines patrol the streets of Iraq and exchange fire with terrorists, receive Purple Hearts, provide humanitarian assistance in Haiti and Afghanistan and train with explosives in Korea. Around the globe, Marines are ever present and prepared for action.



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# Marines

For Marines By Marines

April • June 2004

[www.usmc.mil/marinesmagazine](http://www.usmc.mil/marinesmagazine)

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## PUBLICATION DESIGN

Bates Creative Group, LLC

*Marines* (USPS 013-867) is published seven times annually (quarterly, plus three special editions) by the Division of Public Affairs, Marine Corps News Branch, HQMC, 2 Navy Annex, Pentagon Rm. 4B548, Washington, D.C. 20380-1775. Periodicals-class postage paid at Washington, D.C., and additional mailing stations. The Secretary of the Navy has determined that this publication is necessary in the transaction of business, required by law, of the Department of the Navy. Funds for printing this publication have been approved by the Navy Publications and Printing Policy Committee. All photos not credited are official USMC photos.

**Postmaster:** Send change of address to: *Marines*, Commandant of the Marine Corps, Code PAMCN, 2 Navy Annex, Pentagon Rm. 4B548, Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. 20380-1775 or e-mail to [mcnews@hqmc.usmc.mil](mailto:mcnews@hqmc.usmc.mil).

**Reader Comments:** *Marines*, Commandant of the Marine Corps, Code PAMCN, 2 Navy Annex, Pentagon Rm. 4B548, Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. 20380-1775 or e-mail to [mcnews@hqmc.usmc.mil](mailto:mcnews@hqmc.usmc.mil).

**Official DoD Units (Marine & Non-Marine):** Send a fax, letter, or e-mail requesting an individual activity code to: Commandant of the Marine Corps (PAMCN), 2 Navy Annex, Pentagon Rm. 4B548, Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. 20380-1775. The letter must contain a complete mailing address, point of contact, phone number, and number of copies required. Fax the request to 703/692-1814. E-mail: [mcnews@hqmc.usmc.mil](mailto:mcnews@hqmc.usmc.mil).

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## FEATURED CONTRIBUTOR



Cpl. Shawn Carlin Rhodes, 1st Marine Division, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Cpl. Shawn Carlin Rhodes is currently deployed to Iraq as a combat correspondent with 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

Rhodes was born in San Francisco, but grew up in Murphy, N.C. He became a Marine in 2001 at 18, and graduated from basic journalism and basic broadcasting at Fort Meade, Md. He was then assigned to the public affairs office at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Rhodes quickly gained field experience deployed with Task Force Tarawa from January to June 2003. He again deployed with 1st Marine Division in March of this year.

"When looking for a story in the field, I try to avoid 'overall picture' stories. When I read a story, I'm not going to remember the goal of the mission, I'm going to remember the fact that these guys haven't had a shower in three weeks, or that working in 110 degree heat is normal for them.

"Because I live and work around the infantry, the stories of the people to my right and left are the ones which appeal to me ... what was going through their minds when it happened – how they feel about it. As a Marine correspondent I'm given the opportunity to see firsthand day in and day out what these guys go through – and that is what makes a good story."

## Tell it to the Marines!



Here's your chance to write for *Marines*. Take a look at the photograph above and tell us what you think is happening. Submit your funny caption to [MCNews@hqmc.usmc.mil](mailto:MCNews@hqmc.usmc.mil). Include your name, unit and base. *Marines* will pick the best one to run in next quarter's issue.



**Last Issue's Funny Caption Winner:**  
I hope the GSA gas card covers feed, too!

— Sgt. Matt Scotten, Recruiting Station Indianapolis



## On the Cover

"Have bag, will travel." — A helmet bag belonging to Maj. Marvin Reed, a weapon systems officer, Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron 242, displays patches of country flags and exercises that characterize his military career.

Photo by Cpl. Paul Leicht

# Marines SOUND OFF

## Boots at Their Best

For generations Marines have prided themselves on their spit-shined black leather boots. They've spent countless hours in the quest for the perfect shine, even though spit-shined boots were never actually required. Boots only needed to have polish on them, but Marines wanted their boots looking as sharp as possible even in the field. Tins of polish and shining kits had as much a place in field packs as rifle cleaning gear and Meals, Ready to Eat.

## From the Editor

But as of Oct. 1, this long-standing tradition will slip away into the pages of Marine Corps history and become a story told about the "Old Corps." Marines officially say goodbye to black leather boots and welcome the new tan, rough-side-out Marine Corps Combat Boot – a boot requiring no polish at all.

But why would the Marine Corps turn its back on such a long-standing tradition such as spit-shined boots, something that to some is considered a hallmark of Marines? Why toss out a tradition that typifies the Marine spirit, which is to be the best at all times.

Technology.

It was inevitable that a better boot would come along; one that better meets the needs of a Marine Corps whose mission is changing with the world around it.

Marines currently conducting operations throughout the world need a boot that's flexible and durable enough to keep up with their operational tempo. Enter the Marine Corps Combat Boot – simply a better boot.

For the Marine Corps to resist moving to the rough-side-out boot simply to maintain a tradition would actually betray the very ethos the spit-shined boots came to represent. What's more important than having sharp looking boots, is what's done with them. Marines are best known for winning wars and doing what it takes to win them. We just look good doing it.

If the new boots bring the Marine Corps one step closer to being a more effective fighting force, then they'll still represent the Marine spirit of being the best at all times, just as the spit-shined boots did.

In this issue of *Marines*, we look at Marines on the move and their driving determination to accomplish the mission, no matter where in the world that may take them. From the Marines who change tires of vehicles in Iraq – sometimes while under fire – to the Marines training to deploy, one thing their stories all share, just as their boots will attest, is that Marines are always at their best. **M**

# Marines SOUND OFF

Dear General Mattis,

My husband – a two-tour Army gunship pilot in Vietnam – and I participated in the 17th annual Ride for Freedom in Washington, D.C., over Memorial Day weekend. As we rounded the turn on Constitution Avenue along with tens of thousands of other motorcycles, standing in the middle of the road in full dress uniform, at attention saluting each veteran who passed, was a young Marine.

The sight of this young man brought my husband and me to tears and as soon as we were able to park, we made our way back to where he was standing, hoping to learn his name and how we might thank him for such an astonishing show of respect.

Through Marine Corps Public Affairs, we learned that he is Staff Sgt. Timothy A. Chambers and that he is attached to your command. We also learned that he paid his own way from California to Washington in order to



**▲ Hailing "hogs," Staff Sgt. Tim A. Chambers, Ad Law Chief at Marine Corps Base 29 Palms, Calif., salutes participants of the 17th annual Ride for Freedom in Washington, D.C., over Memorial Day weekend.** Photo by Susan Olsen

participate, even buying a new uniform for the event (which, I am sure, did not survive the dirt and exhaust from more than 300,000 motorcycles).

My husband and I belong to an organization called Rolling Thunder, dedicated to continuing the work to find and bring home POWs and MIAs from all wars as well as ensuring that U.S. military veterans receive the recognition and support they have earned. I don't know whether this astonishing young man understands the impact he had but I wanted you to know how much his recognition and show of support meant to all of us.

That the Marine Corps produces such young men as Staff Sgt. Chambers is a source of pride to all who believe in the ideals of service to country and to God. And God willing, we will look for him next year and every year after that.

Respectfully,  
Susan Olsen

**Editor's Note:** This letter was sent to Maj. Gen. James N. Mattis, Commanding General of 1st Marine Division and a copy to *Marines* magazine.

More information on concert dates and community events can be found on the Community Relations Web site at <http://www.usmc.mil/commrel/120day.nsf/community>

If you have a calendar event of Marine Corpswide interest, submit it to [MCNews@hqmc.usmc.mil](mailto:MCNews@hqmc.usmc.mil).

# Marines CALENDAR

## 2004 JULY



Silent Drill Team

01 THUR

**< July 1**  
President's Own, Marine Band, plays at 7 p.m. at U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, Arlington, Va.

02 FRI

**< July 4**  
Silent Drill Platoon and Marine Band at Main Street, Belhaven, N.C., for Annual Independence Day Celebration.

03 SAT

**July 4, 1801**  
President Thomas Jefferson reviewed Marines and the Marine Band at the White House in observance of the new nation's 25th anniversary.

04 SUN

**July 8 >**  
President's Own, Marine Band, plays at 7 p.m. at U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, Arlington, Va.

05 MON

**< July 11, 1798**  
President John Adams approved "An Act for Establishing and Organizing a Marine Corps", and it became law. The following day, the president appointed William Ward Burrows the Major Commandant of the new Corps.

06 TUES

**August 5 >**  
President's Own, Marine Band, plays at 7 p.m. at U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, Arlington, Va.

07 WED

**August 7-13 >**  
East Coast Regional Men's Softball, MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.

08 THUR

**August 7-13 >**  
West Coast Regional Men's Softball, MCB Twentynine Palms, Calif.

09 FRI

**August 11**  
President's Own, Marine Band, plays at 8 p.m. at West Terrace, U.S. Capitol, Washington.

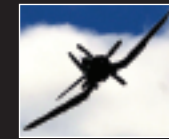
10 SAT

**< August 14-Sept 5**  
All-Marine Men's Softball Trials, MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.

11 SUN

**< August 11**  
President's Own, Marine Band, plays at 8 p.m. at West Terrace, U.S. Capitol, Washington.

## 2004 AUGUST



F4U Corsair

01 SUN

**< August 3, 1950**  
Eight Corsairs of VMF-214, the famed "Black Sheep" squadron of World War II, launched from the USS Sicily and executed the first Marine aviation mission in the Korean War in a raid against enemy installations near Inchon.

02 MON

**< August 7, 1990**  
President George H.W. Bush ordered U.S. military aircraft and troops to Saudi Arabia as part of a multinational force to defend that nation against possible Iraqi invasion.

03 TUES

**< August 11**  
President's Own, Marine Band, plays at 8 p.m. at West Terrace, U.S. Capitol, Washington.

04 WED

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11 WED

**< August 11**  
President's Own, Marine Band, plays at 8 p.m. at West Terrace, U.S. Capitol, Washington.

## 2004 SEPTEMBER



**< Sept. 11-18**  
All Marine Golf Trials, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

01 WED

**< Sept. 11-18**  
All Marine Golf Trials, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

02 THUR

**< Sept. 11-18**  
All Marine Golf Trials, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

03 FRI

**< Sept. 11-18**  
All Marine Golf Trials, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

04 SAT

**< Sept. 11-18**  
All Marine Golf Trials, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

05 SUN

**< Sept. 11-18**  
All Marine Golf Trials, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

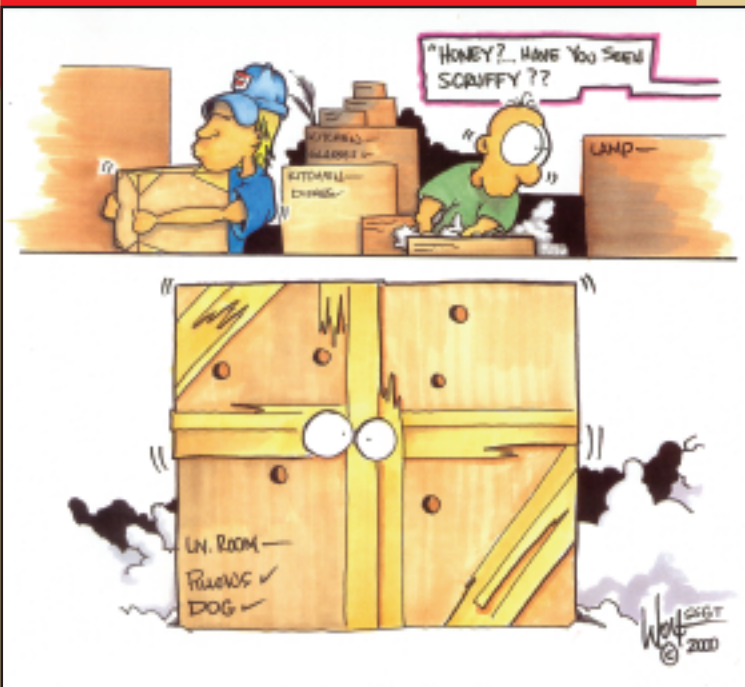
06 MON

**< Sept. 11-18**  
All Marine Golf Trials, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

07 TUES

**< Sept. 11-18**  
All Marine Golf Trials, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

### SemperToons By Staff Sgt. Charles F. Wolf



### Nowak By Paul Nowak

