



POST SOLANT AMITY

With the Members of "G" Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment



Volume 8, Issue 3

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Again, Revisionists Ask: "Why A Marine Corps?"

Every few decades the issue of the USMC's continued existence and/or ongoing defense role becomes the target of politicians and military revisionists. Well, "They'rre Baaaack!!!"

Daniel Goure Ph. D and writer for the Lexington Institute has defined the Corps' mission as part of a response to Defense Secretary Gates' suggestion that an in-depth review of the Corps' role in the 21st century is in order: "The official mission of the Marine Corps, as established in the National Security Act of 1947, is to be trained, organized and equipped for offensive amphibious employment. This means doing Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, Iwo Jima and Inchon. The Marine Corps is also to be a 'force in readiness' which is reflected in its non-amphibious role from Belleau Wood to Fallujah and now Afghanistan. But in its heart (and that of the American people) what makes the Marine Corps special strategically, operationally, tactically and morally is its dedication to assaulting hostile beaches."

In a piece written 22 August 2010 for *Milinet*, an intel resource for retired and prior service Marines, Colonels G.I. Wilson and H. Thomas Hayden criticized the Secretary's proposal. And, in a limitedly edited version, had the following to

say:

"Defense Secretary Robert Gates recently said that he had ordered a review of the future role of the Marine Corps amid 'anxiety' that the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan had turned the service into a 'second land army.'

"In remarks for a speech at Marines' Memorial Theatre in San Francisco, Gates said that the review would seek to define a 21st century combat mission for the Marines that is distinct from the Army's, because the Marines 'do not want to be, nor does America need' another ground combat force. According to the Los Angeles Times, 13 August 10, in ordering the Pentagon review 'Gates was deepening a long-running debate about the role of the Marine Corps, including whether one of its main missions, amphibious assaults on fortified coastlines, has become obsolete because of the changing nature of warfare and advances in precision weaponry.'

"The suggestion of an 'Amphibious

Trivia Question 1: Navajo Marines using language-encrypted military terms helped the U.S. prevail during a fair number of World War II Pacific battles, serving in every Marine assault in the South Pacific between 1942 and 1945. What term was used to describe the group? (Ans. 1, page 4.)

assault on a fortified coast line' is the dumbest and most ill informed or uninformed statement anyone can make. The beauty of amphibious shipping is that it can sail up and down a coast line and land Marines where the enemy is less likely to be defending a landing zone. No one in their right mind will do another World War II Tarawa-like landing. Anyone remember Inchon, Korea? It was a landing where the enemy was less prepared.

"So, again we see many questioning the need for a Marine Corps. There are those who always claim that there has not been another amphibious landing since WW II. This is nonsense and is a prime example of those ignorant of history and espousing their independent political persuasion and their preconceived



notions.

"Indeed, the last major amphibious operation was the start of the Afghanistan invasion and then before that was the Gulf War.

"Other than for training purposes,

Trivia Question 2: The last USMC combat of WWII occurred on what island? (Answer 2, page 4)

amphibious operations are classified and represented...to cite but just a few such circumstances...as follows: Assault (Afghanistan, VN and Korea); Demonstration of "might" (Beirut, Lebanon; Capetown, SA and Monrovia, Liberia) or as a Feint (Gulf War, Vietnam); a Raid (Gulf War, Mogadishu and Vietnam); Withdrawal (Korea, WW II).

"Too soon today's writers, political pundits and arm chair generals have forgotten the first major amphibious assault into The Republic of Vietnam—Operation Starlite (18-24 Aug 1965). The operation was a combined attack from land

and an amphibious assault from naval shipping — Amphibious Squadron 7 and embarked Battalion Landing Team 3/7. This major military operation destroyed the Viet Cong 1st Regiment. Simply *Google* 'Operation Starlite' should you choose not to believe

me. In '69 alone we had 14 amphibious operations in Vietnam.

"We had a major amphibious operation in the Gulf War — the demonstration or feint off Kuwait which tied down 7 Iraqi divisions while the Coalition forces invaded from the south.

"The first major attack into Afghanistan was an amphibious operation that landed Marines in Afghanistan from amphibious ships. Everyone needs to study what a Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) is all about - land-air-log. Then one may learn that the MAGTF combined arms team, fully self sufficient, is a unique capability that no other country in the world possess. A MAGTF (usually a battalion landing team, a helo squadron of Harrier AV-8B and tilt-rotor MV-22, and a logistics element) on board amphibious shipping is afloat in the Pacific and the Atlantic at

Does Gutfield's Proposed Islamic Gay Men Bar Have Mosqued Intentions?



Some of our former-active-duty Marines and Solant Amity shipmates have suggested our newsletter is not the place for politics. Maybe, just maybe, that is true. However, as a former FDNY firefighter, the father of a fire-fighting son that was the only surviving member of his midtown NYC Division as well as being a friend and comrade to the many uniformed and civilian victims of the *TERRORIST ATTACK* on that horrific day of nearly a decade ago, I have to admit that I got a real kick out of something I'd read recently. And, I wanted to pass it on to you.

Jon Bershad, contributing writer to the internet's Mediate and former editor for humor at The Rutgers Review, announced the honest-to-God stunning proposal being made by a late night TV personality in response to the building of a mosque at the site of the 9/11 tragedy at the World Trade Center.

"No, he wrote, "this is not a joke. In fact, it is instead one of the most brilliant pieces of provocations in recent years. **Greg Gutfield** from Fox News *Red Eye* announced via his blog that he is actively speaking to investors and plans on opening a gay bar next to the controver-

sial mosque being built near Ground Zero in New York.

"To make matters worse (better?) the



Greg Gutfield

bar will be specifically designed to cater to homosexuals of the Islamic

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

(Continued on page 2, column 2)

Mosqued Intent (Cont. from page 1)

faith. God, this is going to be an exciting block.

“Here’s Gutfield’s entire post:

So, the Muslim investors championing the construction of the new mosque near Ground Zero claim it’s all about strengthening the relationship between the Muslim and non-Muslim world. As an American, I believe they have every right to build the mosque – after all, if they buy the land and they follow the law – who can stop them?

Which is why, in the spirit of outreach, I’ve decided to do the same thing.

I’m announcing tonight, that I am planning to build and open the first gay bar that caters not only to the west, but also Islamic gay men. To best express my sincere desire for dialogue, the bar will be situated next to the mosque, in an available commercial space.

This is not a joke. I’ve already spoken to a number of investors, who have pledged their support in this bipartisan bid for understanding and tolerance.

As you know, the Muslim faith doesn’t look kindly upon homosexuality, which is why I’m building this bar. It is an effort to break down barriers and reduce deadly homophobia in the Islamic world.

The goal, however, is not simply to open a typical gay bar, but one friendly to men of Islamic faith. An entire floor, for example, will feature non-alcoholic drinks, since booze is forbidden by the faith. The bar will be open all day and night, to accommodate men who would rather keep their sexuality under wraps – but still want to dance.

Bottom line: I hope that the mosque owners will be as open to the bar, as I am to the new mosque. After all, the belief driving them to open up their center near Ground Zero, is no different than mine. 😊

Whatever your positions are on these two inflammatory situations, the ironic humor of Gutfield’s proposal is in-your-face funny.

Trivia Question 3: A tracked self-propelled light anti-tank system with six 106mm recoilless rifles had a name of Greek derivation. What was it called? (Answer 3, page 4.)

Why a USMC? (Cont. from pg 1)

almost any given time. The Capstone Concept for Joint Operations (CCJO) points out that diminishing overseas access is another challenge anticipated in the future operating environment. In war, this challenge may require forcible-entry capabilities designed to seize and maintain lodgments in the face of armed resistance.

“The third edition of the Marine Corps Operating Concept notes that in the past twenty years, U.S. amphibious forces have responded to crises and contingencies over 120 times, a response rate more than double that of the Cold War.

“Furthermore, during the same period, forward-postured amphibious forces continually conducted sea-based security cooperation with international partners—reflecting the philosophy that preventing war is as important as winning wars.

“The biggest reason there is a U.S. Marine Corps is simply because the American people love their Marines, need their Marines, want their Marines, and demand their Marines. Americans expect their Marines to be the first to fight and to do it to the enemy before the enemy does it to us.

Lejeune’s Cancer Fest

BENZENE... a longtime recognized carcinogen...contamination of Camp Lejeune’s water supply has once again reared its ugly head. Some months back, an official Corps document tried to minimize, indeed virtually refute, the problem as relatively insignificant. It appears there was an error in the reported data and, aside from the issue of whether or not reporting documents were doctored, the greater issue is to what extent personnel...including our own membership, some of whom having already died of cancer...were affected. Here is the internet link to the article, elaborating on the conditions found and some information about what is most appropriate for you:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100217/ap_on_re_us/us_toxic_tap_water

“Old Corps” Gunnery Sergeants

The selection requirements for Gunnery Sergeant as promulgated in congressional testimony of 1912 were as follows:

A candidate for appointment as Gunnery Sergeant in the United

States Marine Corps should be sufficiently proficient in the drill regulations to thoroughly drill recruits and to drill the squad and company. He should be thoroughly conversant with the nomenclature of the rapid-fire and machine guns used in the naval service and be sufficiently acquainted with their drill to be able to act as gun captains and to instruct the enlisted men in their duties at such guns. He should have knowledge of the kinds and quantities of ammunition used in those guns. He should have a thorough knowledge of the instructions pertaining to target practice.

He should have sufficient knowledge of the system of accountability of the United States Marine Corps to take charge of and properly render the accounts of a guard aboard ship, and should be competent in all respects to perform the duties of a first sergeant in charge of a guard on ship to which no Marine officer is attached; also a knowledge of the duties involved in the subsistence of men ordered on detached duty, as well as the duties of an officer in command of a part of a landing party on shore.

Gunnery Sergeants are selected from the sergeants of the corps on account of superior intelligence, reliability, and mechanical knowledge.

The grade was provided with the idea that they should be higher in standard than First Sergeants. That their knowledge of ordnance and of gunnery should be such that they would be able to make minor repairs; to supervise all work in connection with guns; and to command detachments of such size as not to warrant a commissioned officer being assigned to them.

They are at present in command of Marine detachments at naval magazines; are performing duty as First Sergeants of regularly organized companies at various posts; in connection with the repair of guns

(Continued on page 4, Column 4)

Trivia Question 4: The island of Iwo To was formally returned to the Japanese in 1968. By what name had it been more commonly known? (Answer 4, Page 4)

Who was that Marine?

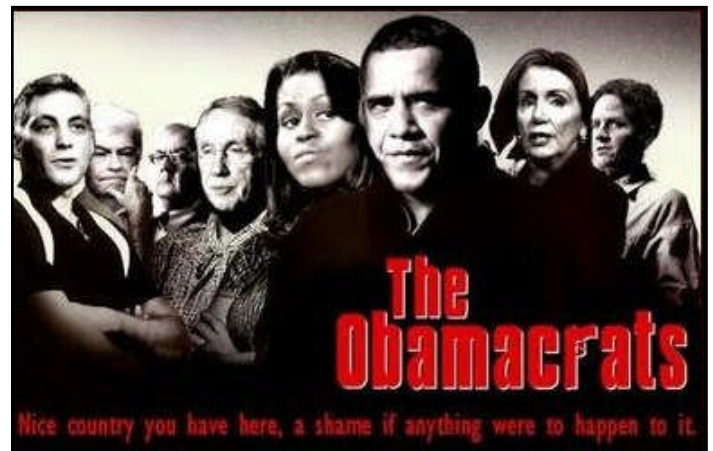
Born 5Jul28 and raised in Depoy, Kentucky, the son of Sarah Alice (née Mercer) and Bayless, he attended high school in Louisville. He enlisted in the Corps in the 50s and began acting in New York starring in a live television series *Studio One*, in 1957.

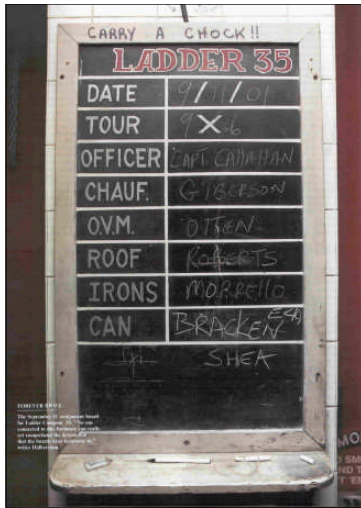
Moving to Los Angeles, he carved out a niche in western television programs: *Wagon Train*, *Tombstone Territory*, *Rawhide*, *Wanted: Dead or Alive*, *Have Gun-Will Travel*, *The Big Valley* and *Gunsmoke*. Something of a sidekick of director, and former Marine himself, Sam Peckinpah, our guy played a variety of roles on TV’s *The Rifleman* (1958–1963) and parts in two of Peckinpah’s early films *Ride the High Country* (1962) and *Major Dundee* (1965). In addition to Peckinpah, he worked with Leslie Stevens, Joseph Mankiewicz, Norman Jewison, John Milius, Phil Kaufman and Steven Spielberg.

He starred in *The Rise and Fall of Legs Diamond* (1960), and thrice co-starred with Peter Fonda. But it was his partnership with Sam Peckinpah that provided him with his two most famous roles. The first was Lyle Gorch in *The Wild Bunch* and, the second, in a role based on Peckinpah himself, our Marine played Bennie, a hard-drinking down-on-his-luck musician hoping to make a final score, in *Bring me the Head of Alfredo Garcia*.

A year before his death, in April of 1982, he co-starred with Bill Murray in *Stripes*, as the drill instructor Sergeant Hulka.

Think you recognize our man? If not, check out page 4, column 4.





Ladder 35-FDNY roster on 9/11. All but one died. Please: REMEMBER.

The Semper Fi Moment

Last Tuesday, as President Obama got off the helicopter in front of the White House, he was carrying a baby piglet under each arm.

The squared away Marine guard snaps to attention, salutes and says: "Nice pigs, sir."

The President replies: "These are not pigs...these are authentic Arkansas Razorback Hogs. I got one for Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and I got one for Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi."

The squared away Marine again snaps to attention, salutes and says, "Excellent trade, sir."

The \$2.99 Senior Special

We went to breakfast at a restaurant with a *senior's special* of two eggs, bacon, hash browns and toast for \$2.99.

"Sounds good," my wife said. "But I don't want the eggs."

"Well, you'll have to pay \$3.49 because you're ordering *a la carte*," the waitress warned.

"You mean I'd have to pay for not taking the eggs?" my wife asked incredulously.

"YES!!" insisted the waitress.

"I'll take the special then," my wife comely responded.

"How do you want your eggs?"

"Raw and in the shell," my wife said. She took the two eggs home and

Trivia Question 5: The Corps fielded four parachute battalions during all of WWII. Of the four, how many of them saw a combat air drop? (Answer 5 on page 4.)

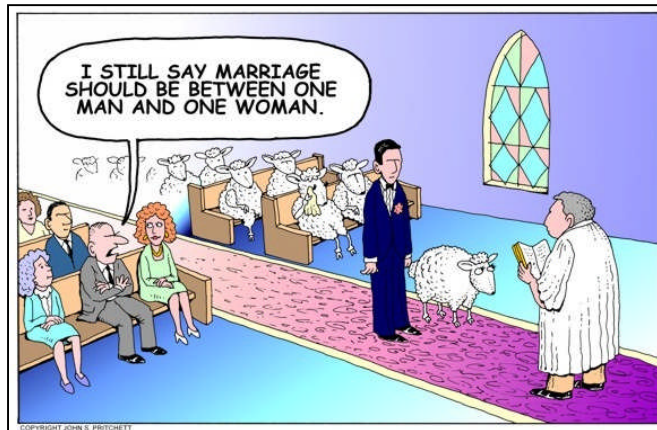
baked a cake.

The Bagpiper

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently, I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Kentucky back-country.

As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost; and being a typical man, I didn't stop for directions. I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight.

There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already



in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man.

And as I played 'Amazing Grace,' the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head hung low, my heart was full.

As I was opening the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen nothin' like that before, and I've been putting in septic tanks for over twenty years."

"Familiarity breeds....."

The Navy Chief noticed a new seaman and barked at him, "Get over here! What's your name sailor?"

"John," the new seaman replied. "Look, I don't know what kind of bleeding-heart pansy crap they're teaching recruits these days, but I don't call ANYONE by his first name. It breeds familiarity, leading to a breakdown in authority. I refer to my sailors by their last names only; Smith, Jones, Baker, whatever. And you are to refer to me as Chief! Do I make myself clear?" "Aye, Aye Chief!" "Now that we've got that straight, what's your last name?" The seaman sighed. "Darling, My name is John Darling, Chief." "Okay, John, here's what I want you to do"

Letter from the Afghan Front

Dear Mom;

When I joined the military it was illegal to be homosexual.

Then it became optional.

Trivia Question 6: Which WWII amphibious assault has come to be recognized as militarily unnecessary? A) Tarawa; B) Cape Gloucester, New Britain; C) Peleliu? (Answer 6, page 4.)

which produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him rather frail and, with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath. This made him...a super calloused fragile mystic, hexed by halitosis.

Then, there came an occasion when *two hydrogen atoms* met. One said to the other, "I've lost my electron." The other responded, "Are you sure?"

"Of course, I'm *positive*."

And, if that wasn't enough for you, there was the case of *two chilly Eskimos* sitting in a kayak. To keep warm, they lit a fire in the craft. Not surprisingly, it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

That's when....

One year, a husband decided to buy his mother-in-law a cemetery plot as a Christmas gift. The next year, he provided nothing.

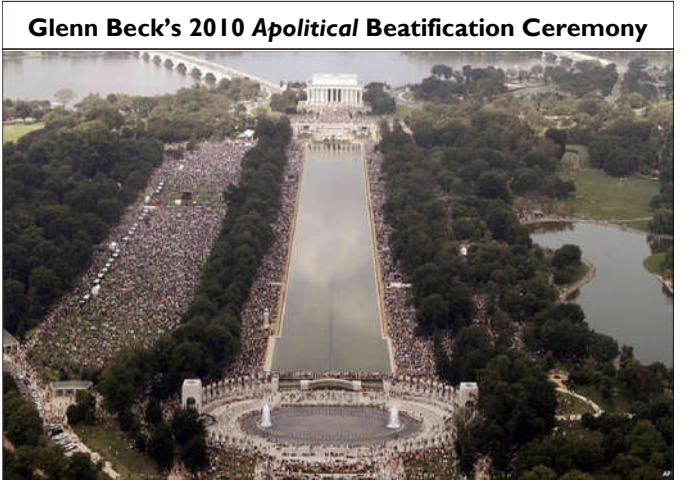
When she asked why, he replied, "Well, you still haven't used the gift I bought you last year!"

And that's when the fight started....

Last year, I asked my wife, "Where do you want to go for our anniversary?"

It warmed my heart to see her face melt in sweet appreciation. "Somewhere I haven't been in a long time!" she said. So I suggested, "How a 'bout the kitchen?"

Well, you guessed it, that's when the fight started....



SKIPPER'S PUB FOOD & SPIRITS

Enlightening Odds and Ends for your Reading Pleasure:

Bob Chichester along with **Otis Jones** and **Stan Morris**, all of the 1st Platoon, are the most recent of our lot to have been "found." Biographies and contact information are being sought at the time of this writing. Perhaps the most exciting thing though is that I learned from Bob that on 5September10, along with **Jose Balboza**, the quartet and their wives got together for a barbecue on Long Island.

Ed Hart has already expressed a desire to attend the next gathering of the flock.

How cool is that?

And this from the pen of **Paul Kelly**, former Machinist Mate on the Gearing: "Growing old is inevitable. Growing up is optional."

Ross Plasterer, Major General USMC-Retired and former Helo Pilot aboard the USS Hermitage during Solant Amity has provided the 1912 Congressional record requirements for USMC Gunnery Sergeant with the following caveat: "I received the following from a former Gunnery Sergeant and trusted source. As I'd always won-

dered where the expression had come from, I thought it might be of interest to all hands. Clearly, a second source would be nice. Semper fi." [See page 2, Column 2-bottom]



Chichester, Morris, Jones & Balboza

Our Major **Ken Skipper** USMC-retired and still longer "retired" former Commander of G-2-6 is well. He's still playing golf one to three times a week, fair weather permitting.

Before getting back to preparing a "gourmet" dinner for himself, we spoke of his days as an enlisted man in Nanking, China just after WWII and of a time some years back when a woman, learning of his being a Marine, asked him if he had any knowledge of Marine Corps activity in connection with the pirating of the Santa Maria. It seems the woman had family aboard.

Ed Shea and Eugenie spent two months sailing in Long Island Sound aboard his *Highlight*. In mid-

Trivia Question 7: An LST was a *Landing Ship, Tank*. An APA was an *Attack Transport*. To what use was an AKA put? (Answer 7 to the right.)

REMEMBER! This year and for all of your life....



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See the whole story at
SolantAmity.com

The First of the Corps to Land in Monrovia

August, the boat was secured in Northport, New York and the two *sailors* packed away their memories of the adventure and returned to their Delray Beach home in Florida.

"The 90⁰ plus temperature, high humidity and frequent storms made for difficult circumstances. And you've no idea how quickly you can grow bored with making a head call in little more than a broom closet.

"Ahhh, how I longed for and now appreciate the ever present air conditioning in my car, shopping, the movies, restaurants and, yes, even the bathroom. Hell, double 'Ahhhhh!' and pass me the twoply."

A special—in alphabetical order—thanks to the following contributors for providing cartoons, anecdotes, political insights and military history: *George Bitsoli, Donald Carter, Trevor Davies, Tom DeLange, Tom Poole, Ross Plasterer, Joe Teklits.*

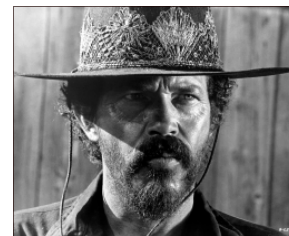
Trivia Question 8: What, now long recognized, carcinogen has been found to have existed in Camp Lejeune's drinking water since 1950? (Answer 8 below)

(Old School Gunnies From Pg2) at various Marine Corps stations in connection with the training of recruits; and, in general, performing duties that require the utmost reliability.

For years candidates for promotion to this grade were required to take a special course of instruction before receiving their warrants but recently, because of the lack of First Sergeants and the numerous small detachments organized, it has been necessary to detail many of them for duty as First Sergeants. As soon as there are a sufficient number of First Sergeants available, it is intended to re-establish the school and to give Gunnery Sergeants a thorough course of instruction prior to their permanent appointment to this grade, in order that they may be experts in all matters pertaining to the care and preservation of naval ordnance.

Trivia Answers:

- 1) Code Talkers
- 2) Peleliu, 17 March to April 1947(!) Nearly 100 Marines were assigned to ferret out Japanese secreted in caves since October of 1944.
- 3) Ontos, meaning "Thing." First used in VN, it proved impossible to reload under fire.
- 4) Iwo Jima. Iwo To was its name prior to WWII.
- 5) None. But three of them accumulated a number of distinguished combat records.
- 6) All three it was concluded, even before the war's end, should have been by-passed.
- 7) Attack Cargo Ship
- 8) Benzene



Warren Oates

Mailed as a black on white copy, a fully colorized version can be found at our website, where on page one you'll find a link to a downloadable version.

I hope you've enjoyed this latest effort. Send in your stories by e-or-snail mail to make for an even better next issue.

Semper Fi; *Ed Shea*