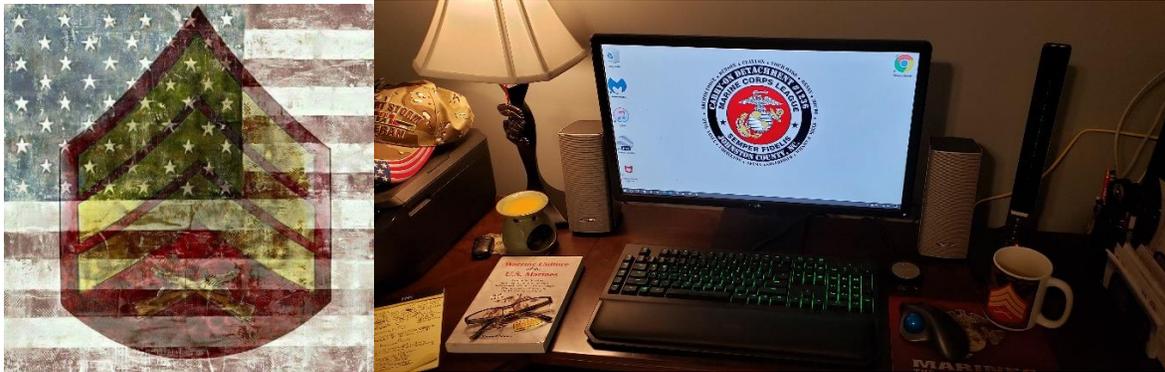


Johnston County, North Carolina

## FROM THE COMMANDANT'S DESK



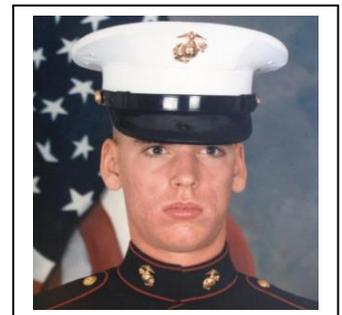
September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1986. 34 years ago, I stepped onto those famous footprints, becoming a recruit in platoon 1097 at Parris Island. Two days later I turned 18 and I thank God that the Drill Instructors did not know that. Through the first three years of high school, I had taken the right courses to pursue college and possibly become an architect. But reality kicked in and I knew there was no way my parents could afford college, so I had a decision to make. My older brother, David, was already two years into his enlistment in the Navy. I remember him coming home on leave a few times and he

always wore that navy blue “cracker jack” uniform. Thank you for your service, brother, but there was no way I was wearing those things. Our cousin, Rob, was an enlisted Marine at the time, and I decided that if I was going to enlist in the military, the Marine Corps was really the only choice. At the end of my Junior year, I and my parents signed the Delayed Entry paperwork and I knew exactly what I was going to do after graduation. I’m sure we can quote every cliché we’ve ever heard about becoming a United States Marine, but the bottom line for me was that I wanted to challenge myself. Mentally and physically. At



the end of the 13 weeks, I was handed that black Eagle, Globe and Anchor.

Ft. Leonard Wood, MO for Heavy Equipment Operator 1345 training. Off to Okinawa and 9<sup>th</sup> Engineer Support Battalion with a trip to Mt. Fuji during that year. Back to the states and 10th Marines. Teamwork '88 took us to Norway, Denmark and England. And then Desert Shield/Storm took us to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Kuwait. Three months after DS, I was right back at 9<sup>th</sup> ESB in Okinawa for what was to be my final year of enlistment after a failed attempt to re-enlist.



Along that previously stated timeline, I made a lot of friends and made a lot of memories. Oh, the stories Marines can tell. Sometimes it’s best that those listening to the stories decide on whether alcohol was involved or not.

Here I am now, about to turn 52 and this November will mark my 5<sup>th</sup> year as a member of the Marine Corps League. I was not sure what I was getting myself into at first, but I must say, I am once again making new friends and definitely some new memories. (Alcohol optional)

I always look back to that 6-year enlistment and what it meant to the direction of my life. Like every other Marine, I've had my ups and downs. Good decisions and bad decisions. And I own every one of them. To this day I still say my experience in the Corps was one of the best decisions I have ever made.

Now, with all of that being said, here is what I would like to see in our future newsletters. With your permission, of course, I would like to start doing small profile articles about our Carry-On Marines. If you would like to participate, please write up a small biography of yourself and your Marine Corps career. Preferably with a picture. (Keep it clean, Willie.) You can either email it to me at [wgdunn68@gmail.com](mailto:wgdunn68@gmail.com), or give it to me at our monthly meeting. I am willing to bet that someone will have an interest in your story. You already know that I will.

SEMPER FI, MARINES

*Respectfully submitted, Commandant William Dunn*



## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Eagle Scouts:** None to report or scheduled at this time.

**VA Hospital Visit Committee:** Visits postponed by the VA until further notice.

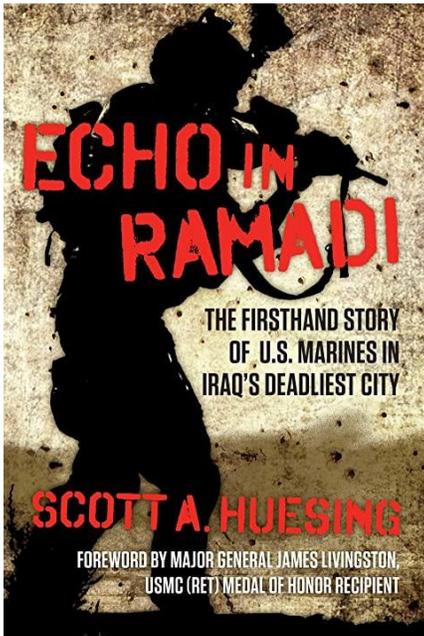
**Adopt A Highway:** We as a Detachment have decided to put off any further Highway clean up until after the Neuse River bridge construction is complete.

**Good Business:** We currently have a certificate to present to National Network Communications. We need to schedule a time to meet with them.

**Golf Tournament:** As of right now, a tournament will not be happening in the year 2020.

**Scholarship Committee:** Looking forward to 2021!

## NEED A GOOD BOOK TO READ?



**Echo in Ramadi: The Firsthand Story of US Marines in Iraq's Deadliest City** by Scott A. Huesing (Author), Major General James Livingston (Foreword)

Major Scott A. Huesing, the commander who led Echo Company through Ramadi, takes readers back to the streets of Ramadi in a visceral, gripping portrayal of modern urban combat. Bound together by brotherhood, honor, and the horror they faced, Echo's Marines battled day-to-day on the frontline of a totally different kind of war, without rules, built on chaos. In *Echo in Ramadi*, Huesing brings these resilient, resolute young men to life and shows how the savagery of urban combat left indelible scars on their bodies, psyches, and souls. Like war classics *We Were Soldiers*, *The Yellow Birds*, and *Generation Kill*, *Echo in Ramadi* is an unforgettable capsule of one company's experience of war that will leave readers stunned.

## OUR FUTURE

Tuesday, September 8th, 1900 hrs. The Carry-On Detachment 1236 Business Meeting.

## OUR PAST

2 September 1945: The Japanese officially surrendered to the Allies on board the battleship MISSOURI in Tokyo Bay. With General Holland Smith transferred home in July 1945, the senior Marine Corps representative at the historic ceremony was Lt. Gen. Roy S. Geiger, who had succeeded Smith as Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific.

15 September 1950: The 3d Battalion, 5th Marines landed on Wolmi-do Island in Inchon Harbor and secured it prior to the main landing. The 1st Marine Division under the command of Major General Oliver P. Smith landed at Inchon and began the Inchon Seoul campaign.

16 September 1814: A detachment of Marines under Major Daniel Carmick from the Naval Station at New Orleans, together with an Army detachment, destroyed a pirate stronghold at Baratavia, on the Island of Grande Terre, near New Orleans.

24 September 1873: One hundred and ninety Marines and seamen from the USS PENSACOLA and BENICIA landed at the Bay of Panama, Columbia, to protect the railroad and American lives and property during the revolution.

27 September 1944: The American flag was raised over Peleliu, Palau Islands, at the 1st Marine Division Command Post. Although the flag raising symbolized that the island was secured, pockets of determined Japanese defenders continued to fight on. As late as 21 April 1947, 27 Japanese holdouts finally surrendered to the American naval commander on the scene.

# OUR FALLEN

Tom Barrie. John Bullock. George Gillespie. Robert Moore. Willard Pleasants. Gordon Young. Mark Wayne Williams. Linwood Johnson. George Hartley. Patrick Goodrow.

