



Number 2-26 Spring

THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK'S **GROUND POUNDER**

Editor: Tom Wortmann PDC PPL

Send submissions to: newsletter@mclnewyork.org

DEADLINES ARE THE 10TH OF MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER AND DECEMBER

[For the Department website click here](#)



DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Commandant

David Wiggs

Sr. Vice Commandant

Micheal Pisciotti

Jr. Vice Commandant

Rosemarie Soto

Judge Advocate

Janis Lunger

Jr. Past Commandant

Dean Lawton Jr.

Adjutant

Deborah Serino

Chief of Staff

Carlos Garcia

Paymaster

Robert Ostrander

Webmaster

Vacant

Chaplain

Nick Paluszkiewicz

Sergeant at Arms

Susan Whitlow

NY Pack Leader

Dean Lawton Jr.

*For a complete list, or to report
discrepancies, contact the Adjutant.*



Commandant's Corner

David Wiggs



My fellow members,

Having concluded the 95th Department Convention, I would like to thank everyone that was able to attend and invite those that were not able to make it this year to attend next year's convention. I would also like to welcome back Michael Pisciotti as the Department Senior Vice Commandant once again and thank Cathleen Wiggs for stepping in as Department Senior Vice Commandant in his absence. I would also like to congratulate once again all those that were recognized during the convention for their outstanding service to their detachments and the department. The pig roast was another success again this year thank you to our Past Commandant Dean Lawton, Sr. for suggesting and doing it last year!

As we prepare to celebrate our nation's 250th birthday on July 4th, I ask everyone to take a moment to remember all those that gave the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy today. Let us also remember those that will not be able to celebrate with their families because they are serving abroad or away from home. I hope everyone has a great day on July 4th!



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Staff Officer Reports

Senior Vice Commandant *Michael Piscioti*

Marines and Associates,

I am honored and humbled to have been re-elected as your Sr. Vice Commandant. I remain committed to serving the Department of New York to the best of my ability.

I am already planning next year's Department Convention, but its success depends on our membership. I would ask that you plan on attending now and mark it on your calendar. Once the date is confirmed.

I would also like to congratulate all the newly elected and appointed officers of the Department of New York.

Lastly I want to wish everyone a Happy Fourth of July!



Junior Vice Commandant *Rosemarine Soto*

The Northeast Division Conference proved to be a productive event. The ideas shared, conversations held, and commitment demonstrated throughout the event highlighted the continued strength of our department. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to making it a positive experience. It is through participation and involvement that we continue moving our organization forward.

As we enter the summer season across New York, it serves as a good time to focus on growth and the future of our organization. Strong Detachments create a strong Department, and continued progress depends on each of us staying engaged and finding opportunities to strengthen membership and participation throughout the Marine Corps League Department of New York.

Membership development remains a top priority in my role as Junior Vice Commandant. Each member can play an Important role in helping our organization grow. Carrying Marine Corps League information, speaking with fellow Marines, veterans, family members, and supporters, or simply sharing what the League means to you can open doors for new membership opportunities. Community events, parades, and veteran functions continue to provide valuable opportunities to introduce others to our mission. Our Associate Members remain a vital part of our Marine Corps League and contribute greatly to our success. Together, Associate and Regular Members strengthen our ability to support veterans, serve our communities, and preserve the traditions and values represented by the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor.

As we continue through the year, let us remain focused on building stronger Detachments, supporting one another, and ensuring the continued growth and success of the Marine Corps League Department of New York. Together, we will continue honoring our mission while building for the future.

Semper Fi,





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THE JUDGE ADVOCATE SAYS

As I sit down to write this article, I want to begin with a heartfelt thank you. I am truly honored and humbled by the confidence you have placed in me by electing me to serve a second term as your Department Judge Advocate. When I accepted this role, I made a commitment to serve the Department of New York with fairness, integrity, and a willingness to help wherever needed. Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to work with members and detachments across our great State, answering questions, researching bylaws, discussing procedures, and occasionally helping navigate some challenging situations. Through it all, I have been reminded that the strength of our League lies not only in our traditions but in the Marines and Associate Members who dedicate their time and talents to its success.

Thank you for your trust, your support, and your continued commitment to the Marine Corps League.

As we move through the summer, I want to remind everyone that the Marine Corps League National Convention will be held in August. While I will not be attending in person this year, you can rest assured that I will be following the proceedings closely. One of the most important functions of the convention is the consideration of proposed changes to National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures.

These changes can have a direct impact on how Departments and Detachments operate, so it is important that we stay informed. Following the convention, I will review all approved changes and provide a summary of any updates that may affect our Department, our Detachments, and our members. My goal is to make sure the information is communicated clearly and that everyone understands how any new provisions may affect our operations moving forward.

In the meantime, I encourage all officers and members to take some time to review the current National, Department, and Detachment Bylaws and Administrative Procedures. A little time spent becoming familiar with these documents can prevent a great deal of confusion later.

As I often say, there is nothing wrong with not knowing an answer there is only something wrong with pretending to know one. When in doubt, look it up or ask for help.

As we prepare for another year of service, I would offer three simple reminders:

- Lead with professionalism and respect.
- Follow the bylaws and procedures that govern our League.
- Never hesitate to ask questions.

Remember, the Judge Advocate's role is not simply to interpret rules. It is to serve as a resource for the membership. Whether you are a newly elected officer, a seasoned Commandant, or a member trying to better understand a process, I am always available to help. If you have a question, concern, or need guidance, please reach out. I'd much rather answer a question early than help fix a problem later.

I look forward to continuing to serve alongside each of you during this second term. Together, we will continue to strengthen our Department, support our Detachments, and uphold the values and traditions of the Marine Corps League.

Thank you again for your confidence and trust.



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MILITARY
ORDER OF

DEVIL DOGS



"The Fun and Honor Society of the Marine Corps League"



\$5 New Pup Dues



Good evening, Dog Robbers and fellow KMA users!

Just sending out a friendly BARK as we keep GROWLING and adding new Pups to the Order! A reminder that from **March 1 through August 31**, New Pup Dues are only **FIVE BIG BONES** to the Kennel!

You'll notice the ever-helpful Data Dog already has the KMA set up to apply the correct fees automatically, no muss, no fuss!

Pro Tip: While you're collecting dues, go ahead and grab the **\$10 renewal for FY2027** at the same time and submit them both when you process the New Pup's first Transmittal. That way, you won't need to go back later this year to beg your Pups for another payment. One and done — easy, quick, and keeps your records clean!

Keep those tails wagging and those applications coming — because every new Pup helps our Order GROW stronger!



*Dog Robbers and Pound Keepers, please attend the KMA training classes on line to learn the new and easy check in process for the growls. It is easy and fun.



Unexpected intruders at the Pack Growl.



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MILITARY ORDER OF DEVIL DOGS

"The Fun and Honor Society of the Marine Corps League"



The Pack Leader opens the Growl.

We had a Growl! And we had fun.



Looks like giving away free chow, but it is the start of one contest.



And we were honored by the presence of the Honorable 63rd Chief Devil Dog, Joe 'Woody' DeAngelo.



Here, you had to make a bracelet out of Fruit loops and pipe cleansers using only one hand,



Here, you had to balance dice on a tongue depressor in your mouth and stack cubes on it..

Jay Hack with 3.6 seconds, won, Adam with 8.8, Rose with 9.6, The Chief took 13.8.



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"The Fun and Honor Society of the Marine Corps League"

New Growl Check-In Process

The KMA Check-In feature is OPTIONAL!!!

(but better)

It's simply a tool — use it if it works for you!

Whether you track attendance, Stamp Fees, fines, and donations through the KMA or stick with a paper sign-in, both are perfectly acceptable. As long as the Kennel receives a Passport Transmittal and the associated Bones after your Growl, we're happy Dogs!

After successfully using Check-In at the Gathering of the Dogs, many Pound and Pack Dog Robbers asked for access, so we opened it up for everyone to use if they choose.

Required KMA Functions:

- Transmittals (Dues & Passport)
- Dual Member Applications
- New Pup Applications
- Advancement Forms
- Reports of Installation of Officers

Everything else in the KMA is there to support you — and remains optional unless directed otherwise by the Kennel.

Our mission is simple: make your job easier, not harder. Use the tools that work best for your Pound or Pack and keep things running



Keep up the outstanding work — you are the reason the Order continues to grow and thrive!

If you missed the online classes, more information will follow.

WOOF WOOF,

PDD Helen "Mini" Breen

Your Honorable Dog Robber

Thank you for all you do,

Kennel Dog Robber Team



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MARINES HONOR EAGLE SCOUTS



(Above) An Eagle scout Court of Honor was held on 3/22/26. Richard Purpura III was elevated to Eagle scout at the ceremony. Richard is currently attending Farrell H.S. and will graduate in May and attend CSI in the fall. Both his Father and Uncle are all Eagle Scouts.



(above) A COH held at Holy Cross Orthodox Church with Brooklyn #1 Detachment. From left to right: Vasilios Amaxas, Volker Heyde, Christopher Angelo Menella. A third scout could not attend as he was away at school. His name is George Raphael Pavlakos.

(Right) Attended a COH for Grace Gaffney at St. Charles Church on Staten Island on 5/22/26. The good citizenship award was presented by Volker Heyde, Dept. of New York Eagle Scout Coordinator and also the Coordinator for the Sgt. Angel Mendez Detachment.



(below) A COH was held in Tonawanda, NY along with a representative of Conrad-Kania at St. Paul Lutheran Church May 30, 2026. The Eagle Scout is Jacob Nathan Burrow. It was also attended by The New York State Senate Minority Leader Robert Ort. From left to right Scott Macleod (Conrad-Kania Det.), Robert Ort, Jacob Burrow, and Volker Heyde.



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Spring Staff Meeting

Once again, we held our staff meeting at the Carman Ramputti detachment quarters, which are in the Veterans Memorial Hall in Beacon NY. Every veterans organization has a place here, be it the VFW, the Marine Corps League or American Legion. The detachment is always very generous to the Department members by serving us a continental breakfast and a full lunch. They have a large hall which they allow us to use for our meetings and the Growl. The Welcome room was back in out Hotel Friday evening in Fishkill NY. A number of issues were discussed, from Marine of the Year to Bylaw changes coming, to the need for a permanent Adjutant, to NY laws that are suppose to help disabled veterans and much more.



Good place to bat the breeze and ask questions before the meeting. (above and Below)



(above) members gather for the meeting.
(upper right) Marine Santiago Reyes is sworn in before the meeting started.
(below), I address the membership about the newsletter.



Andy Berry, Ph.D, Psy,D
ABPP speaks on PTSD

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Around the State



(Left) Members of the Sgt Angel Mendez Detachment presented the Manager of the Hylan Diner in Staten Island, a Certificate of Appreciation for taking very good care of them for their monthly detachment breakfast and our annual Devil dog Christmas dinner.

Pictured left to right are Doug DuVal, Volker Heyde, Ron Vales (manager) and Tom (your editor) Wortmann.

(Right) Members of the Rockland County Detachment in attendance at their Annual Iwo Jima luncheon held on March 10 2026.



The Rockland County Detachment marched the county's St Patrick's day Parade on March 22nd, 2026



The Ulster Detachment installs their new officers



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Around the State



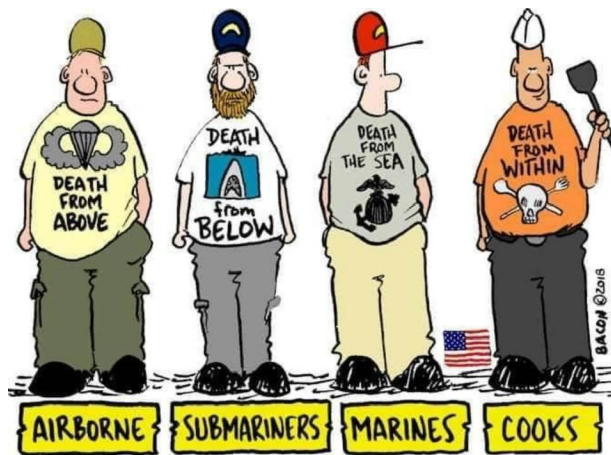
Pound 134 held a growl at the Ulster County Detachment with a SPECIAL GUEST, Jacob Bertin of the Department of P.A., Compliance officer of the Northeast Division. (in the Gold Cover)



Members of the Sgt Angel Mendez detachment attended the United Staten Island Veterans Organization Fund raising dinner which helps raise funds to pay for the Memorial Day Parade on Staten Island each year.



The Sgt Angel Mendez Detachment was gifted a bust of Navy Chaplain Fr. Vincent Capodanno from VFW Post 5090 for their services held each year at the Fr. Capodanno Memorial in Fort Wadsworth. Fr. Capodanno, who was killed in Vietnam, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. Accepting the bust is the Detachment Commandant, Dominic Castronovo. Presenting is Dr. Vincent Maligno.





Around the State

Richard Buck

Now here is a Area Vice Commandant who is mild mannered, quiet and still sports his boot camp hair cut but is he ever busy. I had to give him his own page to post all the things he does for his detachments and the Department.



Swearing in Middletown (above)

Yesterday, Tuesday April 21st. I had the honor to install the 2026-2027 Marine Corps League Middletown Detachment Officers. Congratulations to all Officers of **Middletown Detachment**



This afternoon, I joined a group of Navy and Marine Corps veterans in Mahopac for their annual luncheon. It was a pleasure discussing issues affecting our communities and our veterans. Thank you for inviting me to join you, and thank you all for your service.



(above) AVC Buck also awarded a certificate of Appreciation to Jack Duncan for his service as Detachment Commandant.

It was also his honor to install the Officers of the **Carmen Ramputi Detachment 861** for 2026 - 2027
 Congratulation to the Officers of Detachment 861
 Commandant - Edward DeGuisto
 SV Commandant - Anthony Pulliam
 JV Commandant - Robert Pucher

Judge Advocate - Harold Delamater
 Junior Past - Anthony Pulliam
 Adjutant - Harold Delamater
 Paymaster - Gary Sztumerski
 Chaplain - Michael Miller
 Sgt-At-Arms - James Metrandio



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Member Stories



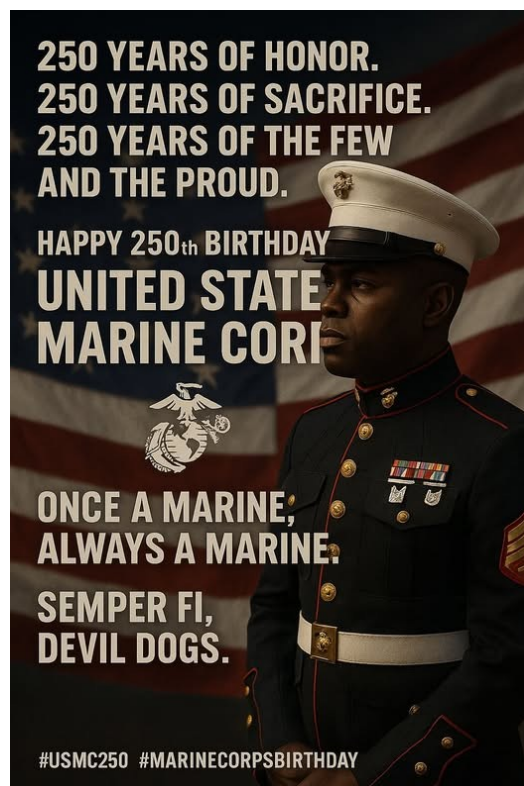
Detachment Commandant Steve Capirci is in the Outer Banks, NC and was invited to join the OBX Detachment for the St. Patrick's Day parade. What an honor to represent the Dept of New York. I even carried the Devil Dog cane for Pound #37



Sgt Angel Mendez was awarded a Citation by the New York State Assembly for his sacrifice while serving in Vietnam. Sgt. Mendez is the namesake of Detachment 246.



Long Island Area Vice Carlos Garcia says wear Red for the deployed and keep them in your prayers.



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Member Stories



The **Lockport Devil Dog Detachment #232**, held a fund raiser BBQ outside their detachment quarters, the Navy and Marine Corps Club, and from what I can tell from Facebook, it was a big success.

Below, (left and right) The **Sunrise and the Suffolk Detachments** together cooked for the Dan Daly Cup Poolee event. Also present was the commandant of **Dan Daly Detachment**. It's a yearly event where poolees from NYC compete with Long Island poolees under the watchful eye of Parris Island DI's. The event is run by Marine Corps recruiting District 1.
Submitted by Carlos Gracia



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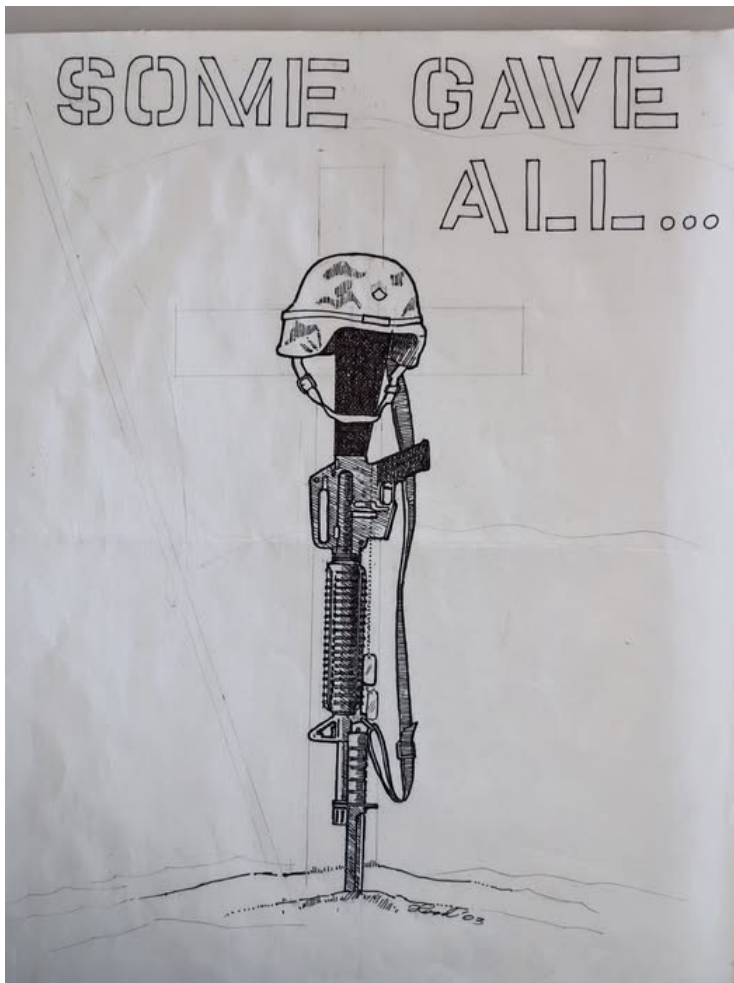
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Memorial Day Ceremonies



Respect



Honor



Salute

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Memorial Day



Detachment 861 (Carmen Ramputi) provided the Honor Guard for the Memorial Day ceremonies at the Castle Point VA Hospital in Wappingers Falls, NY, 22 May 2026.



Detachment 246 (Sgt Angel Mendez) marched in the Staten Island's Memorial Day Parade.



Rome Detachment members salute during the playing of taps in respect of those fallen in battle.



Well done to our Junior Vice Commandant Harry Sherblom of the Putnam Detachment at the Brewster Memorial Day service. This two tour Vietnam Marine spoke from his heart and soul. God bless and welcome home.



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DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Your Department Staff for 2026– 2027 being sworn in by PNC Dennis Tobin



Robert Olander



David Brisbane



Gail Goodson



Rickard Buck



Tom Gunnip



Awards were given out to the staff for outstanding work during the year

(left) Our very own Chaplain, Nick Paluszkiewicz was awarded Department Associate of the Year.

Gail Goodson received a Meritorious Unit Citation on behalf of the Ulster Detachment

Rich Buck received a Meritorious Unit Citation on behalf of the Rockland County Detachment both for their community service hours

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Did you know...

If you have been to a National Convention, you know about all the fun, if you haven't, time to go to one, and Indianapolis is not that far, because remember, in 2027, New York will host it in Buffalo.

It's worth the time, it's worth the cost and it is certainly worth the fun. Check it out.



MARINES... THE MISSION CONTINUES

★ IN INDIANAPOLIS! ★

The 2026 National Marine Corps League Convention is shaping up to be another unforgettable gathering of Marines, Devil Dogs, Associates, and proud supporters from across the nation.

★ Camaraderie ★ Leadership Meetings ★ Unforgettable Memories ★ Renewed Esprit de Corps

ONCE A MARINE... ALWAYS A MARINE.

The strength of the Marine Corps League is not just in the uniform... it's in the people. The friendships, mentorship, laughter, stories, and traditions shared at these conventions remind us why we proudly say:

"ONCE A MARINE... ALWAYS A MARINE."

★ JOIN YOUR FELLOW LEATHERNECKS IN ★

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

★ ★ AUGUST 10-14, 2026 ★ ★

Whether you are attending for networking, League business, ceremonies, history, or simply to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with fellow Marines again —

THIS CONVENTION IS FOR YOU.

Let's represent our Detachments, Departments, and the Marine Corps League with pride and professionalism as we continue building the future of our organization together.

— SEMPER FIDELIS MARINES —

★ INDIANAPOLIS 2026 AWAITS! ★

#MarineCorpsLeague #MCL2026 #Indianapolis2026 #SemperFi #MarinesForLife #DevilDogs #MarineVeteran #USMC #OnceAMarineAlwaysAMarine #VeteransUnited



(above) Bob Ziltz's challenge coin. Bob is the Vice Commandant of the Northeast Division.

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A Little Corps History

WEAPONS OF THE WWII PARAMARINES

SUBMITTED BY TIM FORBES

An elite unit whose members could be expected to fight as soon as they landed, Marine Corps Paratroopers, unofficially known as "Paramarines," required a special complement of firearms capable of being deployed immediately.

Although the U.S. Army explored the concept of dropping troops by parachute as early as World War I, it was not until late 1939/early 1940 they realized the need for designated airborne units for the American military became apparent. Fort Benning, Ga., was selected as the site for training the Army's new paratroopers. Not wishing to be left behind, the U.S. Marine Corps and Navy sent representatives to Fort Benning to observe the Army's activities in this regard. In the month of May 1940, the Marine Corps Commandant directed plans to be prepared for the organization and utilization of parachute troops.

It was decided that Marine Paratroopers needed small arms that could be carried during the descent and be immediately available for use upon landing. It was eventually determined that two non-standard firearms—the Model 55 Reising submachine gun and the Model 1941 Johnson light machine gun—would be the most suitable for arming the Paramarines.

Model 55 Reising Submachine Gun

In February 1941, the Marine Corps tested a submachine gun designed by Eugene Reising and manufactured by the Harrington & Richardson Arms Co., the Model 55, with a folding metal stock and a slightly shorter barrel without a compensator, which made for a compact firearm (22.5 inches with the stock folded) and weighed less than 6 pounds without a magazine. The Marines showed interest, as it was



Reising Model 55 Submachine Gun



Model 1941 Johnson Light Machine Gun
The selective-fire Johnson light machine gun, more properly described as an automatic rifle, fed from a 20-round, detachable-box magazine and weighed slightly more than 12 pounds. This snub by the machine guns, both designated as the "Model of 1941," to equip their colonial troops garrisoning. The guns chambered for the standard U.S. .30-'06 cartridge. Since the Johnson rifle and light machine gun had barrels that could be easily removed and quickly re-attached, however, initially, the Marines showed more interest in the Johnson light machine gun than the rifle.



It should not be inferred that the Paramarines were only armed with Reising submachine guns and the Johnson guns. As events transpired, for a variety of reasons, the elite Paramarines were never deployed in combat via parachute and were utilized in much the same manner as the Marine Raiders. Thus, there was no longer any incentive to provide firearms such as the Reising and Johnsons simply because of their perceived efficacy for airborne use. As related by PFC Goodin, he could have selected other types of weapons from the regimental armory, but chose a Johnson rifle, as did a number of other paratroopers. Other Paramarines that fought on Bougainville were armed with the same weapons used by the Raiders and other Marine Corps combat units. These included M1 Garand rifles, Thompson submachine guns, M1903 rifles, Browning Automatic Rifles and .30-caliber carbines, either the standard M1 variant or

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Interesting Information

Refusing evacuation, this Marine packed dirt into his wound and continued to fight submitted by PDC Tim Forsyth



Conducted from March 19 to April 19, 1967, Operation Prairie III was one of a series of movements by the 3rd Marine Division aimed at engaging and eliminating the communist units arriving in South Vietnam's demilitarized zone.

Marines were met with soldiers of the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN), more trained, disciplined and aggressive than the VC had been. Although the Americans had the benefit of complete air superiority and air support, the PAVN usually did the choosing between flight or fight..

On March 30, 1967, 5.9 miles northwest of Cam Lo in Quang Tri Province, it was known as the Battle of Getlin's Corner to the participants, that patch of contested real estate is also remembered for an officer who stood out in a field full of valor: 2nd Lt. John P. Bobo.

The New York native enlisted in the U.S. Marine Reserve in Buffalo, New York. Bobo shipped out to Vietnam the following month, where he was assigned a platoon in I Company, 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines.

On March 30, 1967, Bobo's platoon was among some 200 advancing and his men were establishing night ambush sites on Hill 70, west of Con Thien. At 3:00 p.m. that afternoon, the company came under attack by some 700 to 800 troops of the PAVN 324B Division. Bobo organized a hasty defense and fought to prevent his platoon from being overrun. Bobo seemed to be everywhere as described in his citation for the day's operation:

"Recovering a rocket launcher, he organized a launcher team and directed

When an exploding mortar round severed 2d Lt. Bobo's right leg below the knee, he refused to be evacuated and insisted upon being placed in a firing position to cover the movement of the command group to a better position, with a web belt around his leg serving as a tourniquet and with his leg jammed into the dirt to contain the bleeding."

Bobo was treated by the platoon corpsman, PO Kenneth Braun, Braun did what he could to improvise the makeshift tourniquet.

When they came under attack, he managed to shoot two enemy soldiers. More memorable to "Doc" Braun's men, perhaps, was his pulling 30 Marines to safety while himself being wounded three times.

Bobo reportedly "delivered devastating fire into the ranks of the enemy," according to his citation.

Bobo was "mortally wounded while firing his weapon.

Everyone later recovered in hospital. Bobo, Braun — who was subsequently awarded the Navy Cross — and numerous others each played a part in I Company's holding the line during the Battle of Getlin's Corner.

When Operation Prairie III concluded, it had cost 56 Marine dead, an estimated 252 PAVN killed and four prisoners of war.

Lt. Bobo's remains were interred at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Lewiston, New York. His family assembled in Washington, D.C. to receive his posthumous Medal of Honor from Secretary of the Navy.

