

# The Spot Report

Journal of the Marine Corps Interrogator Translator Teams Association



Volume VI, Issue 2

Fall 2008

## AN UNPRECEDENTED EVENT



USMC



USSR

Then Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Alfred M. Gray hosts the Chief of Marine Corps Affairs, General Staff of the USSR, Major General Ivan Sidorovich Skuratov at the Army and Navy Club, Washington, DC in June of 1988. Captain James J. Massie (Center) acts as General Gray's interpreter.

(See story on Page 4)

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# The Spot Report

The MCITTA News Journal

Volume VI, Issue 2- Fall 2008

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## From the TC

**Over the past several months** I've had numerous discussions with some of our members about the overall health of our Association. We are, as they say, at the knee of the curve regarding our membership numbers, member donations and member participation in events such as the Gathering. Some have suggested the organization is too "Vietnam Centric" and only caters to Marine Interrogators who retired before the Gulf War. Other Vietnam era Marines have said similar things and suggest a name change would help address these issues, in that the term Interrogator Translator (and ITT) went out of Marine Corps usage in the 1990s, and a name change would encourage Marine Interrogators from the 1980s and 90s to feel welcome and participate in the Association. However, during each of these conversations several issues continued to come up, all with a similar bottom line, "Do we need to change the organization?" And, if we do change, how do we do it?

Since an organization is composed of individuals, one might expect that in order to change the organization we need only change the attitude of the individual members— therefore, our individual members represent the necessary starting point. In other words, it is up to you and what you would like for this organization to become. I'd like to hear your thoughts on this issue. Send your letters to the editor and we'll publish them in open forum as we look for a better way.

We are forming an Election Committee and early next year we will begin our biannual election process for

a new Team Commander, Sub-Team Commanders and a Team Chief. Jeff Smith will be investigating ways we can vote on-line, while Mitch Paradis will also make a ballot available through the MCITTA *E-Bulletin*. I encourage all to participate in the voting process. Volunteers for office are solicited and needed.

Warren Smith has volunteered to serve as the MCITTA Historian, replacing Doug Brower who has experienced some ill health and his current job obligates much of his time. We certainly thank Doug for all his work to date.

Warren is excited to continue Doug's challenge to put together a comprehensive outline for the history of the Marine Corps Interrogator Translator field. Thank you, Warren, and we are grateful for your service.

Finally, as the year 2008 draws to a close I think we all can breath a sigh of relief and hope brighter days are ahead in the coming new year. From the serious financial crisis we find our Country in, the slide in our real estate values, to the passing of many good friends, 2008 has been a difficult year for many of us. Victoria and I wish each and every one of you Season's Greetings, and may all of us enjoy the brightest possible New Year in 2009.



*Semper Fidelis!*  
**Jim Haskins**

# Letters

## On the Trail of History...

Read the Summer *Spot Report* with great interest. Great reading the history. Personally, I believe that this issue of *The Spot Report* was the best ever.

Please send Curt Leslie my e-mail address with my appreciation of his jibe. I'd like to hear from him.

Thanks, Mitch, for all your efforts.

*Semper Fi*  
Al Loreth

I just finished reading the latest *Spot Report*— Superb! Well done!

A couple of thoughts came to mind: I don't recall Paul Anctil's comments about officers running the ITT's during the time period Curt specified, but I was the Division Interrogation Officer in Okinawa in 1980, reporting to Wayne Mason, G-2A. That was my last tour with the teams.

On the Khe Sanh story, my Vietnam tours were spent with MAG-13 in Chu Lai. As a LCpl, I of course wasn't privy to the big picture. I do, however, recall a few days when everyone had but one function— get aircraft (F-4's) refueled, rearmed and in the air. Regular duties didn't matter, everyone was on the flight line; pilots didn't leave the cockpit until they had 12 hours logged. They got a nap, and were back in the seat. The Group CO delivered chow and water to the snuffies, and during this period, everyone junior to him was a snuffy. The only thing we heard were the numbers 861 and 881. We didn't know what they meant at the time, but we knew Marines were in trouble, and we were going to do whatever was necessary to help them.

*Semper Fidelis*,  
Chuck Legeyt

Just read the new *Spot Report*. Seems like it keeps getting better with age. *The Spot Report* is turning out to be just what we all wanted, a way to keep our ITT history and memories alive. Great photos of you "OLD GUYS".

*Semper Fi*,  
Howard Young

Mighty fine article Jim Haskins wrote for the newsletter! No shortage of action up north.

Frankly, I preferred being South without the 132mm rounds which a large number of my Marine friends who served up north recalled over beers.

Jim Massie

Just read every word of the Spot Report. It is a superb publication with excellent articles and great participation by the members. I hope this is a signal that our history efforts will begin to bear fruit.

The full, colorized front and back page brings a certain professionalism to the journal. Well done!

Harry Todd

## A Personal Chronicle...

Thanks Jorge (Miranda),

This is exactly what I was hoping for, someone from the follow-on generation would respond. Most of the specific details associated with the migration of duties for both MOS's were unknown to me. I retired in 1990 and didn't share those experiences. Your point of the officer-career-path now being reopened to many former 0251's is very valid. But, as you so accurately noted, "...it takes many Lt's to make a Colonel, and many Colonels to make it to General" and that most of the ITT Capt's and Majors were LDO's. It was close to impossible for either community to get someone promoted to the 06 level and you reinforce precisely my point.

I recently had the pleasure of visiting the new Interrogation Training Center at NMITC. I was impressed with both excellent facilities and the truly professional instructor staff. From what I saw and heard they are producing as good an interrogator, if not superior to the 0251's that graduated from the schools available to my generation of interrogators. As always, the real professionalism will be developed in the teams and duties they are assigned in the future.

This whole discussion reminds me of some of the communication exercises we would engage in, where two people are sitting across each other at a table and both are looking at the same can of soup. Their duty is to communicate and convince the other party what they see on the can. Both are looking at the same soup can containing the same contents and both are absolutely correct and accurate in what they describe, but their personal perspective and position at the table cause them to become deadlocked and frustrated by not being able to understand what the other is saying. Compounded with the dynamics of the strong egos and intelligence normally found in a good interrogator, you can just imagine how the process really gets interesting.

I never dreamed my input to the Spot Report would generate so much discussion from the membership. It's great and it's healthy that we all share in the building the historical details of our MOS.

Thank you, and  
*Semper Fi*,  
Paul Anctil

**See MGySgt Jorge Maranda's response to Capt Anctil on Page 6 in this issue.**

**Many thanks to all the participants in this significant discussion.**

**All hands are encouraged to express their thoughts on these issues.**



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## A Moment in Cold War History

The **Cold War** was the state of tension, competition and pseudo-conflict that existed between the United States (US) and the Soviet Union (USSR) from the mid-1940s to the early 1990s. Throughout this period, rivalry between the two superpowers was expressed through military coalitions, propaganda, espionage, weapons development, industrial advances, and the space race. Both superpowers engaged in costly defense spending, a massive conventional and nuclear arms race, and numerous proxy wars. With the advent of **perestroika**, **glasnost** and **détente** the two nations, suspiciously approached each other. Major Jim Massie reports on one such personal encounter.

In June of 1988 while assigned to JSI-2C, the Pentagon, I received instructions from Headquarters, Marine Corps to interpret for the Commandant in an historic event. The Marshal of the Soviet Union, S. F. Akhromeyev, Minister of Defense and Chief of the General Staff of the Soviet Union had been invited to visit the United States by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral William J. Crowe, Jr. The initial reception of Marshal Akhromeyev and his staff would be held at the Washington, DC Army and Navy Club where the CMC, General Alfred M. Gray, would lunch with Major General Ivan Sidorovich Skuratov, Chief of Marine Corps Affairs, General Staff of the USSR. In an unprecedented event, the senior US Marine would meet with the senior Soviet Marine.

Prior to the luncheon, liaison with the Naval Attaché of the Embassy of the Soviet Union was required. Already dazed by the assignment of interpreting for CMC, I was further numbed by the requirement to visit the Soviet Embassy in Washington and to confer with the Attaché, Captain Ilyashenko. The outward facade of the Soviet Embassy met anyone's expectations of a grim, architecturally Byzantine establishment. My initial unease was reinforced by Ilyashenko's reception of our JCS party. On a hot Washington day in June, all the shades in the reception room were drawn to prevent prying eyes, and as hospitality for our thirst, there were a dozen cans of Coca Cola, all room temperature, presented on a central reception table. Two or three sips were all we could take.

Ilyashenko came across as the quintessential Soviet KGB officer; dominating, politely intimidating, slyly intimating to us that all events would be according to his orchestration. Taller than the average Russian at about six feet two, blond, long headed, intellectually quick and physically fit, Ilyashenko would challenge me repeatedly in interpreter duels in order to be top dog during the coming events involving Generals Gray and Skuratov.

Reporting to the Army and Navy Club on 8 July, I greeted General Gray: "Captain Massie, Sir, I hope everything goes well today." CMC gave me a quick inspection, and said: "Everything will be fine— just fine!" We entered the club and people seemed to automatically gravitate toward the Commandant, who reached out to everyone at hand. One female Navy Lieutenant Commander

approached CMC with a question about the future of Women Marines in combat which momentarily disrupted General Gray's equilibrium, but he promptly dispatched her with a quick lesson on the realities of combat and her own service's traditionally gentler approach to warfare.

When Marshal Akhromeyev and his full staff entered the club, the general atmosphere became quickly subdued as the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine guests measured their erstwhile Soviet enemies in full uniform and at close range for the first time. Not to be inhibited, Marshal Akhromeyev personally began a circuit of shaking hands and introducing him-

self cordially with all the American guests, regardless of rank. Nonetheless, the overall tension persisted until the Marshall came within range of General Gray.

As the Marshal neared me in the reception line, CMC struck me on the shoulder and told me to interpret exactly as he would speak. I braced up and was ready for action, but could hardly believe what followed. After Marshal Akhromeyev shook my hand, General Gray inserted his own hand on the Marshall's and said: "Marshal Akhromeyev, I want to introduce you to the most important man in this room." My interpretation thundered out, and all took notice, especially Marshal Akhromeyev, who for the first time, smiled warmly to the point and responded: "Ah, General Gray, I thought Admiral Crowe was the most important man in this room." At this point, all Army and Air Force officers present visibly grinned and showed anticipation for a bit of humor, while the Navy officers



Capt Jim Massie interprets for CMC, General Al Gray during a demonstration of USMC capabilities at Quantico for MajGen Skuratov, Chief of Marine Corps Affairs of the USSR. (Note the Russian interpreter (KGB) Capt Ilyashenko ducking the camera behind Gen Gray.)

present gritted their teeth. CMC responded: “No, Marshal, Crowe can’t even give you a drink, I’ll introduce you to someone who will!”

The adrenaline flowed through me as I interpreted for CMC when he grabbed the duty bartender by the arm, brought him forward, and said: “Marshal, meet Archie; Archie, meet Marshal Akhromeyev. THIS is the man who can make you a drink!” Everyone laughed heartily, including the full Russian staff, which openly enjoyed the humor of the situation. The wittiness was not shared by the uniformed US Navy officers present who sneered, but remained mum.

During the luncheon, CMC and Major General Skuratov had a lively conversation on amphibious doctrine and global warfare in general. Although initially reserved and ill at ease when he came face to face with General Gray, General Skuratov became visibly relaxed at CMC’s sincere approach, and was positively moved by the personal invitation to visit the Commandant’s home at Marine Barracks, 8<sup>th</sup> and I Streets. Unfortunately, the Soviet Staff, in my opinion probably due to Ilyashenko, subsequently denied this invitation to General Skuratov.

It was a hot Washington day at the club, and Admiral Crowe, whose overall body mass did not measure up to any Marine Corps standards, removed his white blouse for relief. General Gray immediately seized upon the situation and yelled out: “Hey Crowe, a little too hot for you here?” at which point the Navy crowd sullenly grumbled and groused at the effrontery. CMC remarked that when you rate a uniform, you ought to wear it, to which General Skuratov heartily agreed. Marshall Akhromeyev remained in full uniform, and appeared mildly amused at the exchange.

On the following day, CMC hosted General Skuratov at MCDEC, Quantico, and the following day at Camp Lejeune. As we arrived at Lejeune, a Marine colonel presented and began to report combat readiness of his unit, etc. General Gray cut him short with a yeah, I’ve heard it before comment followed by the advice that he and General Skuratov would inspect the troops personally, and the Marines themselves would let them know whether they were combat ready or not.

In all the scheduled activities, General Skuratov showed himself to be a thoroughly competent, insightful, and impressive tactical Marine leader. He knew his weapon systems from automatic rifles to artillery and grilled the Marines on their combat capabilities. Under his direction, I interpreted for a Krasnaya Zvezda (Red Star) military correspondent who interviewed the US Marines, then quickly “interrogated” me on the subject of language training and my professional background. I gave him the usual half lies and dodges which he saw through, and still ended up, to my chagrin, mentioned in a 25 August 1988 Krasnaya Zvezda article. My friends at DIA gave me a copy of the article with appropriate notes to chide me on a “job well done.”

Following CMC’s orders to follow Skuratov everywhere, I ended up at sea on the CVN Theodore Roosevelt for an exuberant naval air demonstration as the carrier headed for the Med. When the VIP party departed the ship without me, not being a VIP, I headed for the bridge for help and was fortunate to eventually get back to shore; lucky, in fact, to survive any day with General Gray setting the pace.

On the last day, we gathered at MCDEC, Quantico, for a final review to analyze all the events of the historic visit, and to answer any further possible questions about the US Marine Corps from

the Soviet side. Here, Captain Ilyashenko was at his Soviet KGB best, energetically deflecting any insightful questions posed by Major General Skuratov with his own evasive, simplistic interpretations, and sparring to offset technical insights into Marine aviation and command/control. Not to be deterred, I forced my own linguistic interpretations into the dialogue, which were intended to provide Skuratov the insights he needed and deserved. When we finally parted, I was rewarded with a firm handshake from General Skuratov who wished me “promotion to the rank of Major,” and by the brazen and contemptuous turning of his back to me by Captain Ilyashenko. In the end, I reflected, what more could you ask for—the enmity of your enemy, and the respect of a fellow Marine. ❖

**FOOTNOTE:** The Soviet ranks and titles used were copied verbatim from the invitation list of personalities produced by JCS before the event. The Soviet Embassy supplied the actual titles and ranks to JCS. Since that time, it appears that Skuratov has been promoted a rank. I don’t have the equivalent charts for the new Russian Armed Forces reorganization from the old Soviet structure, but the current *Colonel General* designation suggests higher than Major General. It is probably equivalent to our Lieutenant General, but I can’t verify. What’s doubly interesting is that Skuratov is still in service after all this time, still at the top.

As a Russian translator, I disagree with the term “Naval Infantry” as adopted by JCS and the British in Jane’s Intelligence Review. “*Morskaya Pekhota*” can arguably be translated as “naval” or Marine Infantry since “*morskaya*” is an adjectival form of “from the sea,” and is also translated as “maritime” when appropriate—the operative word being, “appropriate.” In our military lexicon, “naval infantry” indicates sailors who are armed and formed as a temporary unit to conduct operations on land. “Marine” however, indicates a fighting man specially trained, organized, and permanently equipped for amphibious warfare. Consequently, the word “Marine” is a proper noun always capitalized, whereas “marine” simply refers to the sea as does the Russian word “*morskaya*”. Russian Marines have their own distinct units, uniforms, equipment, organization, separate training and separate doctrine from the other Russian armed forces. Russian military people never refer to them as “*soldaty*”—soldiers, but as “*morpekh*”—an abbreviation of “*morskoi pekhotinets*” which could be translated as “Marine Infantryman” by me, but “naval infantryman” by others less disposed to recognizing them as such.

One more thing I would like to add: Please note that the Russians themselves translate their own “*morksoi*” in reference to “*Morskaya Pekhota*” as “Marine” and not “naval” as we do. In all publications, for example of the services monthly journal *Voyennye Znaniya* (Military Knowledge) the term “Marine” is used in the English edition of the Russian publication. Finally, if I am not mistaken, the Russian Marine force in terms of numbers and equipment is second only to our own US Marine Corps. Yet, the Marines of France, Italy, Spain, and South America are referred to as “Marines” although their collective strength may be no more than a brigade at best. ❖

**Major James J. Massie, USMC (Ret)** was an exceptional Russian linguist and intelligence officer who was frequently called upon for high level interpreter assignments, most of which were classified. He graduated from the IPW Course at Ft. Holabird in 1966 and the Russian language course at Monterey. Serving with the 9<sup>th</sup> ITT in Vietnam, he subsequently was selected for Warrant Officer followed by a commission as a 1st Lieutenant. Jim currently lives with his wife Sherry in Tucson, AZ.

## In response to Paul Anctil's article: *A Personal Chronicle of the "Rise and Fall" of the ITT – Spot Report, Volume V, Issue 2, Winter 07-08*

*I want to begin by thanking Paul Anctil for starting this fire. I think it gives the community the opportunity to learn from each other's generational challenges and perspectives.*

*I was fortunate enough to serve under Capt Anctil's leadership, as well as that of SNCO Interrogators you rightly mention in your article, such as MGySgt Cordero (El Gato Maestro) and others. Those days were the foundation of my Marine Corps upbringing. I started in this community as a Lance Corporal, and guess what?— some of us were paying attention and liked it enough to dedicate 26.5 years to it. To Capt Anctil and others I have mentioned, thanks for keeping the guidon high for the rest of us to follow. On to a couple of comments derived from the article:*

What happened to the SRIG and Intel Company? Based on my tour as II MEF G-2 CI/HUMINT Chief (2000-2002), the SRIG was dissolved somewhere in the late 1990's or early 2000's while I was out of the FMF at NMITC, when it became the MEF Headquarters Group (MHG), all administrative with no operational functions. The Intelligence Company was redesignated as Intelligence Battalion under the MHG, with all the old company's responsibilities and assets, responsible to the MEF on operational matters, and to the MHG for garrison/administrative purposes. Under the old SRIG and Intel Company structure, the IT and CI platoons (ITP & CIP), were combined and redesignated as the HUMINT Intelligence Unit (HIU), which I was a part of in Pendleton in the mid to late 90's. The HIU was again redesignated as CI/HUMINT Company under the Intelligence Battalion concept and still exists today.

A recurring and convenient theme that seems to permeate all generations of our community is the officer representation at the highest levels—I felt like that for many years as well. However, most, if not all, comments made thus far focus on the wrong level of representation— *in my opinion*. As we all know by now, CI-LDO(s) are obsolete— like the 0250(s) were years before I could even spell “*in-te-rrro-ga-tor*”. This is a key fact to know and understand when it comes to determining the real point of influence in the overall Marine Corps intelligence community. This fact indicates that having officer representation at the MEF, MARFOR, or HQMC levels is not enough today, nor was it yesterday, to avoid the butcher's block. The real influence lies at the O-6 and above levels of MC intelligence— somewhere between the G-2(s) and executive halls of

HQMC. Again, evidence is the example of the CI-LDO community, which had representation at all levels of the community, yet were powerless and void of enough influence to deter the outcome. While the CI-LDO community had a few (OK, more than a few) rough and rouge officers, true influence never rested there. (This is not a bashing session— a good number of them were extremely professional, and proficient individuals— as were the few IT-LDO(s) I had the privilege to meet.) What was needed then, and certainly needed now is what some of us call a “sea daddy”. A sea daddy is a Colonel or above— not just a member of the mess, but a seated, voting member of the committee—who looks upon you or your community with kindness and with your interests in mind. This has been the hope and part of the plan with the relatively new 0204 (HUMINT Officer) MOS. However, we haven't been able to convince any of them who reach the rank of Major to stay beyond that point. It takes many Lieutenants to make a Colonel, and many Colonels to make a General. Finally, take a look at the *Letters* section of the same *Spot Report* where you wrote your great article, you'll see what I mean.

Your statement of “...a new MOS 0211 with more emphasis on traditional CI activities” is where we part in perspectives. Speaking as someone who witnessed the transformation from two MOS(s) to a single asset, I can very confidently state that the new 0211 CI/HUMINT Specialist that surfaced after the ‘merger’ is more HUMINT than CI. For example, the basic course curriculum was severely gutted of CI like skills (investigations, surveillance etc.), to the overall emphasis on HUMINT during the final exercise. Not part of any ones ‘master plan’ mind you, but a series of sensible, common sense decision

that came about when all aspects of both communities were closely scrutinized during the ‘merger’. I happen to think that the advent of OIF/OEF placed greater emphasis on HUMINT activities, which aided the advancement of one skill over another, hence the end result and one reason for my point.

Also, you stated, “They (CI) came out on top”. This is another point where our perspectives part. To a greater extent, the point above is connected to this one, but besides that, there are plenty of additional reasons I differ in my opinion. Please consider the following single point which should come close to home for you: The point has been made by you and others that the demise of the 0251 MOS began when the Marine Corps decided to stop making the 0250 Warrant Officer and LDO. Well, the merger opened the door for former 0251s to convert over to MOS 0210 (Counterintelligence Officer), an opportunity closed to those of us who came up in the Interrogator ranks and didn't want to convert to another MOS. That fact alone speaks volumes for the amount of benefits the 0251 gained from the ‘merger’. By the way, the title *Counterintelligence Officer* doesn't fully describe the current 0210 Warrant Officer, who is a CI/HUMINT Officer (more HUMINT than CI).

The intent of my comments here is to meet and rise to your challenge and share my perspective, from another generation of interrogators. I hope you find it plausible and thought provoking. ❖

**MGySgt Jorge Miranda, USMC (Ret)** is the former CI/HUMINT Chief, HQMC and was an instrumental member of the review and revision committee to realign the HUMINT field of the Marine Corps. He currently serves in a Civil Service capacity with the MCIA at Quantico, VA.

## Translators in High Demand

The recently formed 51st Translator Interpreter Company at Fort Irwin, Calif., is the first unit of its kind in the Army. The company provides uniform-wearing interpreters and translators to units deploying to places such as Iraq and Afghanistan and will eventually include more than 140 native speakers of languages such as Arabic, Farsi, Pashtu, Kurdish and Dari. The Army is working to have every soldier contribute in some way to its language capability. Some 178,000 Soldiers have signed up to use the Rosetta Stone language learning software. Soldiers may also use the tuition assistance program to take language courses, even if they are not pursuing a degree.

Our nation's defense has always depended on the military's ability to glean information from foreign language newspapers, magazines, radio broadcasts and other sources. Nowhere is this more important than in the countries of Iraq and Afghanistan. The Army needs speakers of Middle-Eastern languages to serve as interpreter/translators on both active and reserve duty.

Currently there are more than 14,000 soldier-linguists stationed in the U.S. and around the world. To become an Army translator, applicants must either demonstrate an ability to speak one of the Middle-Eastern languages by passing the Defense Language Proficiency Test, or score 95 or better on the Defense Language Aptitude Battery (DLAB) to show they have the natural ability to learn a new language.

Applicants who pass the DLAB qualify to attend the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center. The Defense Language Institute is the primary foreign language training institution within the Department of Defense. It offers an accelerated program that teaches Soldiers to read, write, lis-

ten, and speak foreign languages. Soldiers who graduate from the program use their new



skills in military intelligence roles, listening in on communications or translating in the field.

All Army linguists are required to pass background checks and a security interview for (up to) a TOP SECRET security clearance. Many people find that having a security clearance increases their employment opportunities after leaving military service.

Being an Army linguist gives Soldiers the opportunity to learn new languages or hone their current language skills while serving a vital role in our nation's defense. As an added incentive, the Army is currently offering the following cash bonuses:

- \* Translator Aide (Middle-Eastern languages) bonus of \$10,000 for enlisting in the U.S. Army Individual Ready Reserve.
- \* An Army Civilian Skills bonus of \$5,000 for the Army (active duty) or \$15,000 for the Army Reserve for applicants with no previous military service experience.
- \* An additional \$20,000 Quick Ship bonus for those who are willing to report to basic training within 30 days.

These bonuses may be combined with the Army's other cash enlistment bonuses for a maximum combination of \$40,000 for a four-year enlistment. ❖

**Note:** In addition to regular pay and benefits, Army translators also qualify for up to \$1,000 a month in Foreign Language Proficiency Pay.

This article appeared on Military.com on 3 November 2008.

### ***Call for Articles – Please!***

**The Spot Report** desperately needs your contribution of articles of an historical nature that define the history and legacy of the Marine Interrogators and Translator, with emphasis on the development and expansion of the 0250/0251 MOS field from the ITTs through the incorporation of the HUMINT skill set into the current MOS designator. All material, official reports, anecdotal accounts, and/or researched documentary narratives are most welcome. We especially seek material from the period when the Marine Interrogator MOS was active from its inception in 1958 to its close in 2002. Please contact the editor, Mitchell Paradis, by phone at (902) 764-2070 or by email at [mitchcan@bwr.eastlink.ca](mailto:mitchcan@bwr.eastlink.ca).

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## The Arms Market—Somalia

By Doug Brower, USMC (Ret)

*U.S. Marines participated in combat operations in Somalia during Operations Restore Hope. While Restore Hope was designated as a humanitarian relief effort, Marine ground forces frequently engaged Somali militiamen in combat. Elements of Battalion Landing Team 2/9 with the 15th MEU were among the first troops to land in Somalia in December 1992, while Marines of Battalion Landing Team 3/1 participated in the final withdrawal of United Nations troops from Somalia in 1995.*

*This is a first hand account of a typical action conducted by HUMINT Marines, reminiscent of those Vietnam days.*

The biggest operation I participated in was the raid on the Bakaara Arms Market (made famous in the book *Black Hawk Down*); however, I have to preface this as “the first raid” on Bakaara Market to distinguish it from the battle involving Army units rescuing the downed Army airmen. The exact date eludes me, but it was months before the US Army raid in October 1993. Essentially, a reinforced company of the 9<sup>th</sup> Marines was dispatched on a raid to remove all weapons in the area of the market. From a historical chronology of Operation Restore Hope, I believe this raid was conducted on 11 Jan 1993 and called Operation Nutcracker.

We were fairly successful; however, like many military operations, this one did not go quite as planned. The plan was briefed in the Mogadishu Stadium (another US Compound). Sand tables and models were all prepared and everything looked so organized and set to go smoothly— and, for the most part, it did. The models and sand tables just didn’t play out like they were supposed to. The Grunt Marines were to move in and sweep north towards a blocking force at the northern end of the market. The ad-hoc HETs were to sweep behind, interrogate detainees left “cuffed and stuffed” in

their wake, and exploit the arms caches as they were discovered. PSYOPS was tasked to fly overhead and proclaim ...something.

The first “not as planned” event came when the PSYOPS birds overhead were completely unintelligible. I had a vocabulary of about 200 words in Somali by this time but couldn’t understand a word being broadcast. When asked, neither could my native interpreter. The raid began as planned, and fortunately, we survived first contact. The plan didn’t.

While the Marines went forward through the market, we were questioning all the detainees and other personnel in the area as well. We learned that the biggest and best arms caches were to the west, not north. So our twelve-man detachment of CI-IT guys started to follow the information west, while the Grunts continued north.

In the end, we all came out safe (although a few casualties were suffered from slingshot launched rocks). Our twelve-man team filled seven 5-ton trucks with weapons. The entire infantry company filled five. Little recognition was given the Intelligence Marines, but satisfaction in accomplishing the mission ran deep. ❖



Marine AH-1 Cobra over Mogadishu, Somalia



# Operation SHUFLY

It was the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 1962 that HMM 362, MAG 16, lifted off the deck of USS Princeton (LPH-5) to land at a World War II-era Japanese airstrip approximately 85 miles southwest of Saigon—the first Marine unit to deploy to Vietnam in an operation dubbed “Shufly.” Shufly provided the Marine Corps a way to test its “vertical assault” theories while supporting the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) against the Communist Viet Cong (VC). As a direct result of Shufly, the Marine Corps gained valuable experience and knowledge in helicopter tactics and troop lifts that would prove beneficial in later combat operations for the next ten years.



Trang, the Marine squadrons moved north to Danang. At the time, HMM-365 was the resident helo squadron. The ITT provided the squadron with French and Vietnamese linguistic support in a wide variety of duties. This language billet was originally manned by Captain Marr, who was mentioned in the book “*Street Without Joy*”.

Bob Spitz was the resident French linguist. He met me at the airstrip and brought me to our quarters. Night was almost upon us, so I unpacked quickly, and Bob brought me to our office area. It was small, simple, and to the point, and while Bob was giving me the “lay of the land” our conversation was interrupted as the manager of the E Club, one of the waitresses, and a Marine club member entered the hootch.

The waitress was in tears and totally distraught. The manager looked totally perplexed. The young Marine was wearing an expression of “Gosh! I’m sorry! I didn’t mean to do it!” Requiring some interpretation

I arrived in Hawaii in June, assigned to 1st ITT, HQFMFPac, at Camp H. M. Smith. The year was 1964. There I encountered Bruce Jones and Bob “Slats” Slater, whom I had met in DLIEC (formerly NLS) at Anacostia, DC. I also met “Top” O’Leary, and made the acquaintance of WO Dalrymple, who at that time was living on a sailboat in Pearl Harbor.

After spending couple of months enjoying Hawaii, I received orders for “in-country language training”. As a recently trained Vietnamese linguist, I was bound for Operation Shufly. I didn’t know what Shufly was but eager to go. I thought I was pretty good at Vietnamese (Northern Dialect) and wanted to prove it. Also, in 1964 very few people had war zone experience and I wanted to get that Expeditionary Ribbon. (Oh, how little I knew of the future.)

The KC-130 was droning on and on as the East China Sea and then the South China Sea passed below us. Taiwan passed and glimpses were seen of Tinian and Saipan. We were already too far west to raise the Philippines and stayed too far east to be bothered by China or North Vietnam.

Eventually, in the late afternoon, solid continental land was under us. From the altitude, the land looked primeval and rain soaked. The pilot informed us that we would have to wait for a break in the weather to land. Finally, after bouncing around in a C-130 for so many hours my backside was crying for relief, we landed.

“Shufly” was the “secret code name” for the Marine presence in Vietnam. Originally based in the Mekong Delta region at Soc

and clarification, I was eager to make a good impression and tried to decipher exactly what had happened from the waitress.

Well... she spoke a Central Dialect, and I spoke unadulterated Hanoi. It was similar to a Down Easter from Maine trying to converse with a Tarheel from the Smokies. Her pronunciation was different and her idiomatic colloquialisms were utterly incomprehensible from what my teachers had taught. I was beginning to get a deep sinking feeling similar to a parachute failure to open.

With much trying and patience and as she began to calm down, her words started to come through. It seemed the Marine had been sitting at the bar next to the waitress station with his elbow on the bar. As he turned toward the waitress, who was behind him, his elbow still elevated, he popped her right in the nose! On top of the obvious pain, she had taken it as a personal insult, as would nearly any Asian—being struck in the face) Unfamiliar with differing customs and the obvious language barrier, the situation was soon out of control. The frustrated club manager took all parties concerned to our ITT office to find someone who could make sense of it all. After my initial struggle with the nuances of Vietnamese dialects I was able to find some common understanding between us, the young waitress realized the incident had been completely accidental. Soon, all was forgiven and everyone appeared satisfied but not without warning of future cultural clashes and lessons to be learned. Mine was, I had better learn the local dialect— and fast! ❖

# MCITTA 2008 Annual Fund Drive

Since the founding of MCITTA, we have relied on the generosity of our members to financially sustain the organization by private donations through our Annual Fund Drive. From our inception we have purposely refrained from imposing dues or fees for membership being confident a sufficient number of Marine Interrogators would become invested in the Association and support for its charter purpose by providing the financial backing necessary to sustain our operation.

We are happy to report our faith in our fellow Marines was not misplaced. During this past year we have called for financial support and you have generously responded. Members have contributed over \$3,000 for the year 2008, less than the amount donated in 2007, yet generous enough to sustain operations for another year.

We are most grateful for your participation and support to continue the Association's promise and purpose. We gratefully acknowledge the following members and express appreciation for their financial contributions— we encourage all Marine Interrogators to pledge their support:

## LEGACY PLEDGES

### Platinum Level

**Jim & Victoria Haskins**      **Lee Ramey**      **Jeff & Regina (Jinx) Smith**  
**Mitch & Joan Paradis** – *In Memoriam for BGen Pete Rowe and CWO Pete Caudillo*

### Gold Plus Level

**Chuck & Pat Legeyt** – *In Memoriam for MGySgt George Simpson*  
**Willard "Luke" Thoma** – *In Memoriam for John Schindler*

### Gold Level

**Mike & Mary Ellen Bianchino**      **Daniel C. Boyd**      **Chuck & Lea Chlarson**  
**Felix Conde**      **Nancy East** – *In Memoriam for Major James T. East*  
**Richard J. Hornbeak** – *In Honor of Michael T. Murray*  
**Don & Lynne James**      **Kevin Judkins**      **Howard Kahn**  
**Jack Parker**      **Jim Riemer**      **Harry Todd**      **Robert Wekerle**  
**Samuel R. Plemmons** – *In Memoriam for MSgt Jacques Bourbonnais*

### Silver Level

**Silas Downs**      **Homero "John" Lopez**

### Bronze Level

**Peter Halle** – *In Memoriam for Daryl "Tony" Billups*  
**Oliver Hickock**      **W. S. Lawrence**      **Jim Massie**  
**Philip Mazzoni**      **Warren Smith**      **Harold Weist**

### Corporate Platinum

**Sans Soucy Vineyards** – Paul & Jackie Ancil



Your continued support in any amount is gratefully appreciated. Donations are accepted at any time. We are especially interested in obtaining corporate donors. Corporate donors will receive special recognition in each edition of the Spot Report as well as on our MCITTA website. The MCITTA is a nonprofit, war veteran's organization and all donations are fully deductible under 501(c)(19) of the IRS code. A receipt for all tax-deductible donations will be provided.

Make your check payable to **MCITTA** and send it to:

**MCITTA**  
Attn: Howie Kahn  
1282 Wolf Swamp Rd.  
Jacksonville, NC  
28546-9528

## Back Azimuth...

This column is dedicated to publishing news of our fellow Marine Interrogators— where are they and what are they doing now. Additionally, we'll use this space to post items in response to our "On the Shoulders of Giants" request. Please submit information of interest on yourself or your fellow Marine Interrogators. If you're looking for someone, let us know— we'll post it.



**EDITOR:** Apologies to our friend Tony Arbisi. Tony sent this interesting letter back in June of 2008, which I promptly misplaced and only recently discovered it buried in a pile of unfinished business. I hope Tony accepts my sincere apology; and I hope all our members enjoy reading his sentimental journey back some 37 years about a birthday for a respected member of the ITTs— Jim Wilson.

19Jun2008

Hi Mitch,

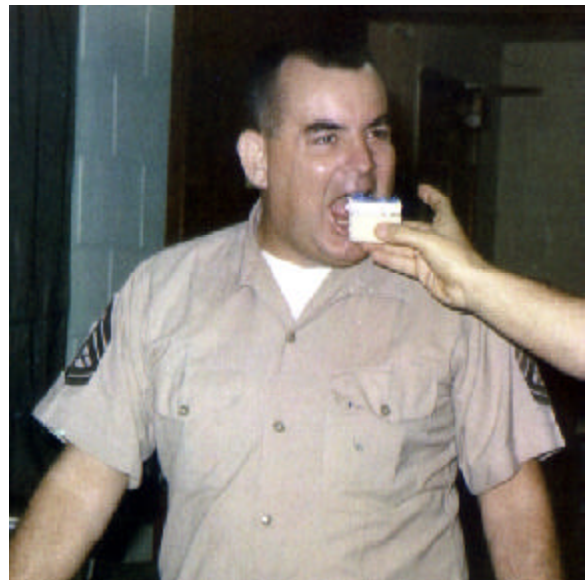
Hope you and yours are well? I was going through some photo albums after our move from Texas to here in Connecticut and came across on old photo of Jim Wilson from 1971 and had it made larger and cleaner so I hope it meets "copy" requirements. And, of course, that's if you can use it at all.

Background of photo is that when the G-2 dragged my butt up to Division after 6 months of freedom as the ITT Coordinator at Camp Hansen, I thought, hell misery loves company so I dragged Jim up with me. Jim and I had worked together at DaNang in '67 when I thought I was going down to 7<sup>th</sup> Marines and Task Force X-Ray was activated to go up north (PhuBai/Hue TAOR), where your team showed up too. Jim rotated back to the states and was in the advanced group with TF X-Ray!!

Anyway, Jim's birthday was a big event, I was only 3<sup>1/2</sup> years younger so he was the oldest of us guys. With the ITT's at Hansen we had "128" guys coming and going trying to trace everyone and gear as they came in from Vietnam and CONUS, what a mess!! Jim Haskins was there too as a very young new WO as were many others—

Anyway, hopefully you can use Jim's photo. Thanks. Take care of each other.

God Bless and Semper Fi,  
*Tony Arbisi*



10Dec71— Jim Wilson's 45th birthday celebration, 3rd MarDiv, G-2, Camp Courtney, Okinawa. (2nd Deck SSO/SIO outer facility)

**NOTES:** Jim Wilson retired from the Marine Corps as a MSgt. He passed away some years ago.  
Tony Arbisi retired as a Captain. He recently moved to Connecticut with his wife Jane to be closer to his family.

**NOTE:** This email has made the rounds through several channels: Paul Jungle; John Guenther; Jack Parker; and Harry Todd. It was received some time ago but delayed in publishing. Hopefully someone will be able to help this young woman learn about her father. Many of us served with and remember Bruce. Please address all information directly to her at: [Jennifer Jones Wilk \[joneswilk@yahoo.com\]\(mailto:joneswilk@yahoo.com\)](mailto:Jennifer.Jones.Wilk@joneswilk@yahoo.com). Please add an info copy to this editor: [mitchcan@bwr.eastlink.ca](mailto:mitchcan@bwr.eastlink.ca) for our history file.

Hello,

My Dad, [Maj] Bruce R. Jones, passed away nearly five years ago on Memorial Day weekend. He retired from the Marines after 24 years and stayed in Hawaii with my Mom.

The Vietnam War was such a big part of my dad's life. He completed six tours of duty in Vietnam, beginning in 1963 and ending with his final tour in 1971. Growing up, the only things I knew about my Dad during that period was that he spoke Vietnamese fluently, was in Intelligence and served as an Interrogator.

In going through old records after his death, I've learned the duty stations to which he was assigned and read about the medals he was awarded. During his 1967-68 tour, he was with the Revolutionary Development Corps Advisory Team #4, MACV in Quang Tri. He also served for a while with the 15th ITT, 3rd Marine Division in Dong Ha. I believe he earned two Bronze Stars and a Letter of Commendation during that tour.

[From his] 1965-66, there is a letter to the Director of Revolutionary Development for CORDS from HQ 3rd Marine Division allowing Dad to work in the Provincial Interrogation Center at Quang Tri.

I do feel like I've learned more about my Dad's dedication and hard work while reading through these papers. I would like to learn more about the role my dad played during the Vietnam War and about him as a Marine and a man.

If you remember my Dad, I hope that you can shed some light on the type of man he was and some of the work he was involved in. Besides providing some closure for me, I would love to share my Dad's legacy with my own two sons. Thank you very much for your time.

Aloha,  
Jennifer Jones Wilk

Following the publication of the last issue of The Spot Report, MSgt Ray "Andy" Anderton responded with this interesting letter providing some background to pre-Vietnam ITTs. —*Editor*



Mitch,

*I received my copy of the MCITTA Summer 2008 Spot Report a couple of days ago. I have now devoured the whole thing while mentally reliving some of my own experiences and the acquaintances of some of the article authors.*

I believe you remember I was assigned to the 1st Interrogation-Translation Team at Headquarters, FMFPac, when you and I, and 18 other assorted Marines, attended the IPW course at Fort Holabird in early 1966. I had joined the team in July 1965 while SSgt Ron Bragdon and GySgt "Dutch" Pfautz were away for in-country language training in Vietnam: Bragdon for Vietnamese and Pfautz for French. The next six months are kind of a blur for me. I've tried to remember all the members of the 1st ITT at that time, but this 71-year-old mind is starting to blur. Just before Sepp Rampsburger and I left Hawaii for Fort Holabird, a new officer joined the team, Captain Ernie Harris, a primary 1302 engineering officer, who had recently completed the Vietnamese Language Course at DLI. There were rumors we would be moving to Kaneohe to assist in establishing a short course at the Vietnamese language school.

I thought it would be interesting to note that during the time before going to Holabird I was tasked with keeping tabs on another "war" between India and Pakistan. Both countries were posturing along their common border in Northwestern India. MGySgt Jerry Walsh (later KIA in Vietnam as a WO-1), the G-2 Chief and my friend and mentor, told the G-2 and LtGen Krulak I would be ideal for doing this because of my "vast" intelligence experience. (I had been an 0241/0239 for eight years prior to attending language school.)

Upon my return from Holabird, GySgt (later WO and Captain) Pfautz, the Team Chief, informed me I was to be transferred to Hq, FMFPac, to work in the G-2 Section as the Force Language Chief. Captain Harris was also to be transferred and became the Force Language Officer and ITT Coordinator. The team had already prepared for transfer to Kaneohe, where they found a building with classrooms and other facilities to accommodate the Vietnamese Language School and the Team. I remember Bob Spitz was with the team and worked very closely with Captain Harris getting the school up and running. Of course there were other team members who were also instrumental in getting the school going, but memory fails.

Captain Harris and I became part of the Intelligence Collection Specialist Unit (ICSU), G-2, FMFPac, during the latter part of April 1966. One of our first assignments from the G-2 was to go to Camp Pendleton for liaison with the three new ITTs that were forming and would soon be deploying to Vietnam. We arrived at Camp Pen about a week before the 7th ITT was to deploy. One task was to determine what, if anything, we could do to ensure a successful deployment and the safe arrival of the team in country. We talked at length with the team members and determined the primary concern was, none of them were trained as interrogators. There was nothing we could

do about it except reiterate the plan that they coordinate and work closely with the 3rd ITT when they arrive in Vietnam. As an aside: I remember during this trip SSgt Rod Beadles invited me to his home for the two nights we were there where he and his wife and children fed me and made every effort to make my stay comfortable and enjoyable. Most generous.

Of note, Captain Harris was doing fact finding for the Vietnamese Language School being established in Hawaii at Kaneohe; thus, we visited the Vietnamese Language School (short course) at Camp Del Mar, Camp Pendleton. There, we met a young Sgt Al Loreth (now MSgt Retired). Al had established the Vietnamese Language School and was its primary instructor.

Over the next two and a half years, I was kept extremely busy. Captain Harris made arrangements for the Vietnamese Language School to hire two native Vietnamese as instructors, a mother and daughter team, *Ba* and *Co* Topping. He also coordinated the TAD assignments of a couple of RVN officers to assist us as instructors. We later found that although the schools at Kaneohe, Camp Pen and DLI were graduating a lot of people trained in the short Vietnamese Language courses, the folks on the ground in Vietnam were having a great deal of trouble identifying the graduates and utilizing their language skills. I was tasked with coming up with a way to identify as many of those trained in Vietnamese as possible. We strongly suggested that each and every graduate of the language schools be immediately given the secondary linguist MOS (this never happened.) Also, working with the data processing center at FMFPac, we developed a program where we forced a language designator into the records of language school grads and started issuing quarterly reports of trained linguists. These reports were distributed to every Company and larger unit in Vietnam with one or more linguist on their rosters.

In the interest of the interrogator field development, Captain Harris and I were involved in the TAD assignment of a polygraph operator and his machine to Vietnam to test the use of the Polygraph as a viable interrogation technique—with mixed results, by the way. We also experimented in the use of paraffin tests for the detection of nitrates from gunfire residue on skin to assist in identifying the Viet Cong guerillas; we found it couldn't work because we were providing Vietnamese farmers with nitrate based fertilizers and handling the fertilizer produced the same results as firing more than a magazine of ammo from an AK-47. Just a couple of the experimental methods we looked at to provide better interrogation tools. We may have lost sight of the greatest "tool" we had—the trained Marine Interrogator.

In 1967, Captain Harris was transferred to Vietnam and I lost track of him. He was, without a doubt, one of the finest young officers I ever had the pleasure of serving with. However, his replacement as Force Language Officer was Captain (former GySgt) Clifford "Robbie" Robinson, who was the class leader of my IPW class at Fort Holabird. The loss of Captain Harris was made easier when I discovered my friend and former classmate was his replacement.

Early in 1968, when my three years in Hawaii were drawing to a close, I bugged the 0251 monitor at HQMC several times to find out about my next assignment, being personally sure it would be one of the in-country ITTs. I harassed Captain Robinson to allow me to attend the 8-week Vietnamese Language course at Kaneohe because I was sure I was going to Vietnam. The day the course ended I learned my orders were in and I was assigned to the 5th ITT at Camp Pendleton. You can imagine my surprise and dismay. I called HQMC the following Monday to inquire and was told because of the super sensitive billet I had as Targets Chief for MAG-12 prior to attending language school and the highly classified nature of the target folders I handled, the monitor said I could not be assigned to a combat unit or a combat zone for five years since leaving MAG-12 in 1964. Consequently, I spent the next 15 months at Camp Pendleton before receiving orders to the 3rdMarDiv.

When I eventually joined the 3rdMarDiv on Okinawa, I found I was to be assigned as the S-2 Chief of 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, which was to become SLF Bravo thirty days after I reported. The G-2 Chief told me the Division was extremely short of personnel with intelligence MOSs and since I was an 0251/0231/0239, I was more needed as an analyst than an interrogator. I had been selected for promotion to MSgt and when we returned from our 120-day float I was reassigned to the 4th Marine Regiment as the S-2 Chief under Captain Walt Reeves (an LDO 0240). My primary duty at Regiment was making sure the scouts were trained and taking the wet globe

bulb temperature every hour. Needless to say this was a great waste, as far as I was concerned, and I soon joined the ITTs when Captain Johnson and GySgt Champine started speaking with the G-2 about the inappropriate use of my training. I returned to the 5th ITT at CamPen in 1970, shortly before the 1stMarDiv returned from Vietnam.

Hope this gives some perspective into what was going on in the "rear" during those crucial and seminal years of our 0251 field.❖

◆ See MSgt Anderton's companion piece on Page 14 ◆

**ROSTER OF MARINES IN IPW COURSE 66-V-5  
FT. HOLABIRD, MD—GRADUATED 1 APRIL 1966**

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Current Status</u>
GySgt	C. R. Robinson	Capt 0250 (Ret)
SSgt	R. D. Anderton	MSgt 0251 (Ret)
SSgt	R. I. McGearry	MSgt 0251 (Ret)
SSgt	S. P. Titel	MGySgt 0291 Deceased
SSgt	R. W. Wheeler	MSgt 0251 (Ret)
Sgt	B. D. Beatty	MGySgt 0291 Deceased
Sgt	A. V. Betancourt	MSgt 0251 Deceased
Sgt	P. D. Fields	MGySgt 0291 Deceased
Sgt	A. P. Fournier	UNK
Sgt	L. P. Glassburner	Capt 0402 Deceased
Sgt	H. Kahn	GySgt 0251 (Ret)
Sgt	P. A. Laluz-Nunez	UNK
Sgt	J. A. Lipscomb	MGySgt 0291 (Ret)
Sgt	M. P. Paradis	MGySgt 0291 (Ret)
Sgt	S. D. Ramsperger	UNK
LCpl	J. H. Dittus III	UNK
LCpl	J. J. Massie	Maj 0202 (Ret)
LCpl	C. D. Page	UNK

**MCITTA ELECTIONS** \*\*\*

**2009**



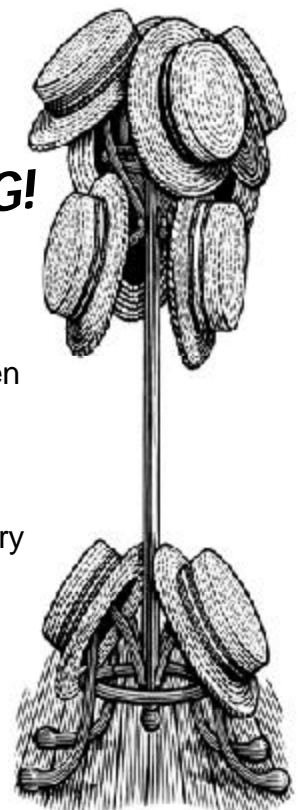
**THROW YOUR HAT IN THE RING!**

Candidates are needed to run for office in the MCITTA. It has been two years in office for the current slate and our constitution requires we elect new leaders. Your participation is needed to find that core leadership to move us to the next level of our growth and progress.

If you wish to see our Association continue in its endeavor to record our history as Marine Interrogators, if you have the initiative to take on a task that is worthwhile in its purpose, contact Jim Haskins to put your name on the ballot.

Elections will be held in August of 2009 with inauguration taking place at the next Gathering.

**Contact Jim at his email <jandv1@cox.net>**



## **The 5th ITT, 5th Marine Division, Camp Pendleton**

*MSgt Ray "Andy" Anderton recalls some of the activities ongoing at the 5th Marine Division and the 5th Interrogation Translation Team .*

**T**rying to remember things from forty years ago is getting to be more than a little difficult. When I joined the 5th Interrogation-Translation Team in the Summer of 1968 it was kind of like a transit team of personnel just recently returned from Vietnam or awaiting orders to go to Vietnam, or both. The team was housed in a Quonset hut at Camp Del Mar and co-located with the 5th Interpreter Team. The hut was the same one the 7th ITT, 9th ITT and 11th ITT were staging through in 1966 when Captain Ernie Harris and I made a liaison visit to offer assistance and seek information about the training and TO&E of the new teams.

The team commander when I reported aboard was a Captain Mullinax. The Team Chief was MGySgt Fred Clayton. Fred had well over 20 years in the Marine Corps at that time with many of those years in the Stewards' Branch as a general officer "steward" before such segregated MOS's were banned; as well as many years on embassy duty. MSgt Clyde Bates was the next senior enlisted. Clyde was a fine Marine who looked out for the welfare of his troops. One thing I will always remember about Clyde, who was Jewish and whose wife was very orthodox, was his jovial, daily penchant to ask one of the Sergeants or Corporals to go to the nearby NCO Club to buy him a "kosher" BLT for lunch.

There were four Russian linguists with the 5th ITT: Myself (GySgt), GySgt Rod Beadles, GySgt Nick Mahon and Sgt James O. Underwood. Nick Mahon was born in Harbin, China (his father worked for City Bank of New York and his mother was a "White" Russian) and was a member of the Russian Orthodox Church. We established an *ad-hoc* "in-country" language training program where we would make periodic trips to the Russian Orthodox Church in San Diego for practice conversation with the church's unofficial sextant (who happened also to have been born in Harbin, spoke Russian fluently and was a retired Marine CWO.)

Several years later, Mahon and Beadles were in my team at Las Pulgas in 1971 pending their retirement. Nick passed away just two years after he retired. About five years after I retired (Jan 1975) I was working as a loan officer for Aames Home Loans in the Oceanside office when I arranged a loan for one of Rod Beadles' daughters. She told me her dad was in very serious condition with cancer. Jim Underwood left the 5th ITT for duty with one of the ITT's in Vietnam. He was a fine young Marine who was, also, on my team at Las Pulgas. Jim got out of the Marine Corps and he and his wife formed a country/western band and later managed a honky-tonk in the Tamecula, CA area.

Other members of the team I recall were SSgt Earley, SSgt Bob Synan, and Sgt Peter Halle. I remember Pete as always being in superior physical shape. His goal was to become an opera singer (he had a hell of a voice) and would take long runs on a daily basis to build and maintain his lung capacity. I believe Jack Parker was also on the team, but don't remember the time frame.

The summer of 1969, I was tasked to provide classes on "Handling POW's" to Marine Corps Reserve units on active duty for training for two weeks at Camp Pendleton. The I & I officer of one of the units was Major Paul Tubach who had been



the 1st MarDiv photo interpretation officer circa 1960. It was he who told me to pack my gear and report to the 1st Marines for deployment to Guantanamo during the missile crisis. I later saw Paul in 1974 when he was the finance officer assigned to an exercise in the Philippines. He was then a LtCol- but, I digress.

After spending the summer teaching various classes for the reserves, the G-2, 4th Mar Div, requested my services in helping to train the newly formed reserve ITT's in Los Angeles and San Francisco. The G-2, 5th MarDiv, agreed and had blanket travel orders issued to accommodate my trips to LA and San Francisco. The G-2 4th MarDiv gave me near *carte blanche* on the types of training and exercises to conduct. He also understood my training would have nothing to do with language training since both teams were designated as "Chinese" and my languages were Russian and a smattering of Vietnamese. Later that summer, the team in San Francisco (actually Alameda) was scheduled to go into the field and asked if we could set up some interrogation exercises. I enlisted the assistance of three other interrogators, dummied up some exercises, got my "assistants" travel orders and headed for Alameda. The I & I staff seemed to appreciate they didn't have to worry about the "linguists" during the field exercises. One of the active duty ITT Marines who went with me and contributed a great deal in setting up and conducting the training was GySgt Sam Plemmons. I'll be darned if I can remember the other two who tagged along but do remember they were both Chinese-Mandarin linguists and the majority of the reserve ITT spoke Chinese-Cantonese.

Another accomplishment during this period was the assistance of the 5th ITT Russian linguists in the pre-deployment training of at least two counter intelligence teams headed for Vietnam. We had a heck of a time convincing them there was a distinct difference between "interrogation" and "interviewing". The CG, 5th MarDiv gave Mahon, Beadles, Underwood and me a letter of appreciation for our efforts. All the training was conducted in the field in Las Pulgas canyon.

I've been racking my brain to come up with more names of other ITT Marines during this period, but simply cannot. If I think of some in the future I'll put them down along with more anecdotal data as we endeavor to piece together our history. ❖

*Semper Fi,  
Andy*

## Lest We Forget...

The names of these Marine Interrogators will be inscribed in the Last Man Log and remembered at the MCITTA Memorial Services in September 2009.



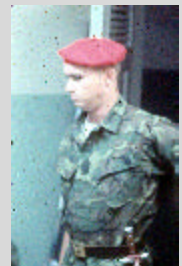
### SSgt Ronald E. Bragdon, USMC (Ret)

Fellow Marine Ron Bragdon passed away 15 January 2008 quite unexpectedly at his home in Houston following successful bypass heart surgery in September of 2007. Ron was born in South Portland, Maine in 1939. He is survived by his wife Susan. Ron was active in the MCITTA and his support was greatly appreciated. Services and internment were held in Houston.

### MSgt James R. Troglin, USMC (Ret)

Rick Troglin passed away on Sunday, August 17, 2008. Born in Oak Ridge TN in 1950, he retired from the Marine Corps in 1989 after serving 21 years. He proudly served his country in Vietnam, Helsinki, and Leningrad, as well as Geneva during the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT). He also served at Naval Intelligence Command in Maryland, the Fleet Marine Corps Pacific, and volunteered for recall during Desert Storm.

Following his Marine Corps career, Rick obtained a degree in Business Management and worked within the industrial construction equipment industry. He is survived by his wife of 24 years, Miriam. Following services in Maryland, MSgt Troglin was interred at Arlington National Cemetery in September 2008.



Troglin in Aggressor uniform c.1975

### MSgt William Hulsey, USMC (Ret)

Dave Lockhart sadly reported the passing of Bill Hulsey on August 15, 2008. Bill had been living in the Philippines for a number of years since his retirement, and recently was diagnosed with cancer. He died of complications as the cancer metastasized into his throat and neck. Following services at Clark AFB, Bill's ashes were transported to be interred near his children.

### SSgt John L. Schindler, USMC (Ret)

It was with great sadness that Harry Todd reported our friend John Schindler passed away on November 10, 2008, the 233<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Marine Corps. John suffered a debilitating stroke in 2001 and had been hospitalized since.

Harry Todd, who was stalwart in his friendship and support making several annual trips per year to North Carolina to visit, was asked by the family, at John's request, to deliver the eulogy at the remembrance service. In addition to John's family, attending the service was Blanche Nichols, Felix Conde, Howie Kahn, Jim Souders, John Cooney with members of the local chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and members of the Swansboro VFW, where John was a Life Member. A detail of Marines from Camp Lejeune rendered appropriate military honors as John was laid to rest in the Veterans Cemetery outside Camp Johnson (Montford Point), Camp Lejeune, the former home of the 2d MarDiv ITTs .

John is survived by his mother Lilian, sister Florence, and a son and daughter by a previous marriage, by his wife Pearl, his four stepdaughters, nine grand children and eleven great-grandchildren.

As news of John's passing spread, messages came in from all over expressing sentiments and memories of John as the finest of Marine Interrogators. Howie Kahn said, "*He was one of the best field Marines I've ever known and without a doubt one the best interrogators. If I had to be in combat today, John is one of the Marines I'd love to have with me.*" Zack Fuentes remembered, "*We were good friends at the 15th ITT at Camp Carol. John was always looking for action in Vietnam. I was very proud of his courage and commitment.*"

John's character is, perhaps, best summed by Jim Haskins, "*John was the epitome of a good field Marine and an outstanding combat interrogator that knew no fear. He was simply put— outstanding! In garrison John had the tendency to push the envelope as they say, but it is fitting to say that John Schindler fit into the same niche that so many in our history have— he was a character; albeit a special character in our special Corps. Semper Fidelis, John. You will be remembered fondly.*" Perhaps it is fitting that John should depart on November the 10th— a special day for all Marines.



SSgt John Schindler (c) at this retirement in 1980.

LtoR: Capt H. Lopez; MSgt R. Moran; GySgt H. Kahn; SSgt Winfrey; SSgt W. Woolfolk; MSgt Marlin; SSgt J. L. Poulain; SSgt W. Mayne.



## MCITTA 6th Annual Gathering – 2008

Like the old television show, *That Was The Week That Was*, the first week in September was such a week—and what week it was! Starting the Friday before, a few of our MCITTA members enjoyed an evening at the Marine Barracks, 8<sup>th</sup> and I Streets in Washington reviewing the Friday night Evening Parade. The



Commandant of the Marine Corps hosted the last parade of the summer season, with the President of the United States and the First Lady, George and Laura Bush, as the special guests of honor. Everyone was seated when the President and Mrs. Bush entered the Parade Deck through the main portico of the Barracks to a very warm, standing ovation from the assembled audience. At the conclusion of the parade, the President received the formal twenty-one-gun

salute. All in all, a stirring occasion to be remembered.

If this wasn't enough, the Evening Parade included the introduction of the newest in the line of Marine Corps mascots, PFC Chesty, the 13th in a series of mascots named after Marine Lieutenant General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller, Jr.

This propitious beginning heralded a spectacular week that included meeting notable groups of Marines and former Marines, including a United States Senator, a former Commandant of the Marine Corps, several general officers, and many former professional associates and colleagues from the other three intelligence associations during this second joint intelligence associations reunion.

Beginning **Tuesday**, under the direction of Don James, our group boarded our bus, "*The >> Interrogator Express*" and motored to Mount



Mount Vernon Group

Vernon, the plantation home of the first President of the United States, George Washington. Located on the picturesque banks of the historic Potomac River, we toured the iconic mansion, had lunch in the new Visitors Pavilion and took a photo op at the Purple Heart Society's memorial. A great day spent discovering, again, our first president, who preferred to be remembered as a "simple farmer" rather than a soldier, statesman, president.

Returning to our base of operations, the Hyatt Dulles Hotel, we gathered in the early evening for the Team Commander's Reception. Many of our members noted that the Team Commander's Reception was the highlight of the week. Set-up buffet style with the center pieces being a wonderful steamship round of roast beef and the other being a scrumptious seafood table, an open bar provided the stimulus for many stories. After hearty servings and several trips to the bar, accompanied by numerous stories and conversations, we all gathered together and listened as Team Chief Felix Conde described the meaning of the Last Man Standing, and paid tribute to all in attendance. Subsequently, Team Commander Jim Haskins presided over the presentation of awards assisted by Past Team Commander Harry Todd. Since the event was scheduled for two hours, we were politely asked to leave after over three hours of a very enjoyable evening.

**Wednesday** morning we conducted the Annual Business Meeting. The usual committee reports were delivered and several items of new business were brought forward. The minutes of the meeting can be found on our web site, [www.mcitta.org](http://www.mcitta.org). Of keen interest was the discussion and selection of a Gathering site for 2010. Tampa, Florida was selected by a close vote, as the site for



our Eighth Gathering, with Hipolito (Paul) Hernandez hosting. As always, volunteers are being sought. Contact Jim Haskins.

That afternoon we boarded *The Interrogator's Express*, and moved The Smithsonian Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia. The building, which opened December 2003, is huge, providing enough space for the Smithsonian to display the thousands of aviation and space artifacts that cannot be exhibited on the National Mall. The two sites together showcase the largest collection of aviation and space artifacts in the world and features the large Boeing Aviation Hangar in which aircraft are displayed on three levels. Our group was divided into a couple of smaller groups for ease of discussion and lecture by the museum docents. For the next three hours we walked among aircraft and small artifacts in display cases located on the floor, and viewed a wonderful display of aircraft hanging from the arched ceiling on elevated skywalks.

Returning to the hotel we freshened up in time to attend the Joint Marine Corps Intelligence Association Reception. A special treat was the entertainment provided by Buck Wheaton of the MCCA and the *Blue and Gray Chorus* of Inwood, West Virginia, a Barbershop Harmony group providing a variety of patriotic and inspirational songs for our entertainment. Buck invited our own Mitch Paradis to "ring" a song with them to round out a great evening of catching up with old acquaintances.

**Thursday** found us traveling south along Interstate 95 to the "Crossroads of the Corps", Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Virginia. Our first stop was to the Marine Corps Intelligence Activity (MCIA) where we were hosted by Brigadier General Richard Lake, DirINT for the Marine Corps. General Lake's Marines provided an outstanding static display of a variety of intelligence related activities and then the General himself provided a very informative briefing on the day-to-day activities of the MCIA in support of Marine Units in Iraq and Afghanistan. His presentation/discussion was informative and very well received by the audience.



Jim & Victoria Haskins with the Heritage Center spier

Again boarding our transportation we moved to the National Museum of the Marine Corps, situated on more than 135 acres adjacent to Marine Corps Base Quantico, the National Museum of the Marine Corps depicts great events of American history from the perspective of Marines who participated in them and demonstrates the steadfastness and strength of the United States Marine Corps.



Museum Tour



Gen Lake

The Museum's signature 210-foot stainless steel spire soars over the tree line and is clearly visible, day or night from I-95 and the surrounding area. To some this spire emulates the iconic image of the raising of the American flag over Iwo Jima, while to others it also evokes notions of swords at salute, aircraft climbing in to the heavens or a howitzer at the ready.

Inside, our group was given a special tour by Al Adler, a museum docent and member of MCITTA. Al took time off from his job to provide us with an enlightened tour of the Museum's exhibit galleries, that feature cutting edge multimedia technology that actually took us onto the beach at Iwo Jima, through a frigid winter night on watch against possible attack

with Captain Barber's F-2-7 in Korea as his company held off over 1500 Chinese soldiers for six days, and into a hot "LZ" at one of the outposts of the Khe Sanh Combat Base in Vietnam. It was interesting to witness some of our members as they exited the rear ramp of the CH-46 in the hot LZ looking around for a places to "hit the deck" out of the line of incoming fire. Combining such unique artifacts, such as the original flag raised on Iwo Jima, with documentary films, combat art, and Al's

unique insight into each exhibit, the galleries brought the wartime experiences of every Marine to life. One of the favorite exhibits of *(Continued on page 18)*

MCITTA participated in the Second Combined Convention of the MCCA, with three fraternal organizations of the Marine Corps Intelligence Community and held in conjunction with the Fall Symposium of Marine Corps Intelligence Officers hosted by the Director of Intelligence.



(Continued from Page 17)

our wives was the Making of Marines Gallery, where they were exposed to a few of the experiences of Boot Camp where civilians are transformed into elite warriors endowed with the Marine's warrior spirit. We owe Al a special note of thanks for taking his time to guide us around and for his in-depth knowledge of the Marine Corps history.

After our tour, the assembled group of intelligence associations moved to the three-acre Semper Fidelis Memorial Park, a place of remembrance and reflection dedicated to honoring the service of all Marines. Overlooking the Museum, the Memorial Park has interwoven paths crossing and meeting at rally points, where monuments erected to honor various Marine Corps organizations and those who served in them provide places for visitors to pause and contemplate. Here with the assembled group as his audience, Jim Riemer provided a reading of names of all intelligence occupational field Marines that have given the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country.

Commemorative bricks line the pathways throughout the park. Many of our members spent quite a few minutes searching out the MCITTA Commemorative Brick and others of a more personal nature.

After the moving memorial ceremony we headed to the gift shop, and as the calls for a "cool one" were getting louder, we bused a couple of miles south to the new home of the Globe and Laurel Restaurant, steeped in the historic traditions of the U.S. and the Royal Marine Corps, where we were joined by Pat Metcalf. Displays also honor law enforcement organizations from around the world. In fact, the unique collection of civil police shoulder patches is thought to be one of

the largest in the world. Other exhibits include military memorabilia dating from before the Civil War, displays that trace the evolution of the U.S. Marine emblem from its beginning to the present; and insignia displays from Marines around the world.

Retired Major Rick Spooner first opened The Globe and Laurel in Quantico town in 1968 and presently located in Stafford. The restaurant is known throughout the Marine Corps for its ambiance, which evokes the proud history and special traditions of the Marine Corps, not to mention the fine dining.

**TGIF!** In the morning we were off to and early start heading to Washington for a special tour of the Capitol of the United States as guests of Senator Jim Webb (D-VA). Arriving at the Russell Senate Office Building we were met by members of Senator Webb's staff. Quickly organizing our group into two, we were taken downstairs and boarded the underground Senate railway for a short trip to the Capitol Building. Two members of Senator Webb's staff, Mr. Patrick Day and Mr. Joshua Lawton were the tour guides for our two groups. Affable and very knowledgeable, these two young men made the tour of the Capitol building not only interesting, but also exciting.

Following the tour, as we waited in the senator's office for the groups to assemble, Senator Webb made a special trip from his home to meet us. The Senator spent time meeting and chatting with us as fellow Marines—a great pleasure and a highlight of the day. Unfortunately, we were so struck by Senator Webb's consideration we forgot to take pictures of this extraordinary meeting.



Memorial Service

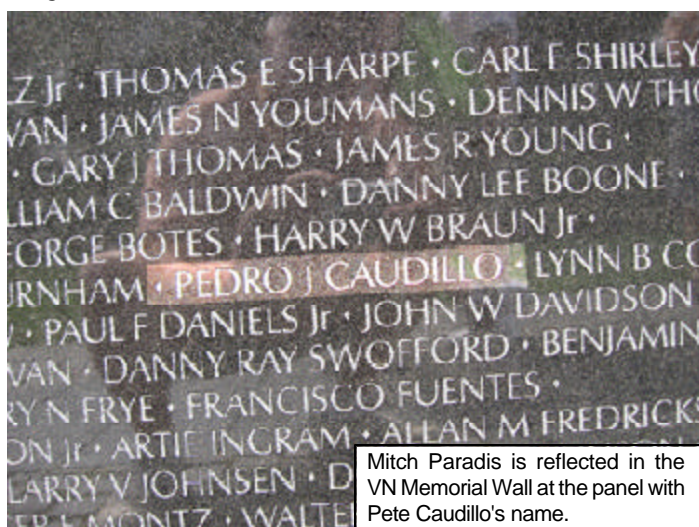


Dinner at the *Globe & Laurel*



Where's the bus?

Afterwards we proceeded to the Lincoln Memorial where we were given two and a half hours to tour the Vietnam War Memorial, where we made rubbings of the names of fallen comrades, the moving Korean War Memorial, and the new and spectacular World War II Memorial. A warm sunny day with the temperatures in the high 80s made the afternoon very pleasant and rewarding as we remembered our fallen brothers and all who have served through the generations.



Mitch Paradis is reflected in the VN Memorial Wall at the panel with Pete Caudillo's name.

Returning to the Hyatt we prepared for the final banquet, with cocktails starting at 1800. Despite some seating difficulties, the Guest Speaker, General James Mattis', frank discussion of situations around the world where Marines are deployed and the issues he sees arising in the future gripped us. After the formal part of the



Gen Gray & Jim Haskins

evening was over, dancing, drinking and good conversation was the order of the day. Besides the camaraderie between all the intelligence associations, highlights of the evening focused around special guest General Al Gray, General Mattis, MajGen Mike Ennis, BGen Lake and the special musical entertainment provided

by the talented Col Frank Cubillo— who knew?

**Saturday** found “Hard Hearted Hannah” pouring water on our plans for golf at the Medal of Honor Golf Course at Quantico. The leftovers of the tropical storm were relentless, so golf was out of the picture unless one was predisposed to water-golf. We opted instead for a farewell breakfast with our MCITTA



Bianchinos enjoy a dance, with the Massies in the background

people still yearning for more. After many goodbyes and “See you in San Diego next year” wishes, we watched the remnants of Hurricane Hanna put a serious damper on the remainder of the day— over seven inches of rain recorded at Dulles during the morning! The weather for the entire week was great, and only a few of the die-hard golfers were disappointed, but not with the splendid event of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual MCITTA Gathering. We said our goodbyes with hopes the San Diego Gathering would bring bright sunny skies.



Lynne & Don

To Lynne and Don James, many **Thanks**. We know you worked hard to make this a success, and because of you— it was!

### SAN SOUCY WINES – GIFT BASKET RAFFLE

It is with a great deal of heartfelt gratitude we say thank you to Paul and Jackie Ancil for their generosity in donating a splendid basket of their own fine wine products and a plethora of locally made accoutrements to raffle at the 6th Annual MCITTA Gathering. Despite the pressing duties of bringing in their grapes before Hurricane Hanna hit their vineyards, Paul drove to the Gathering personally to deliver the treasure.

The raffle of this fine gift basket garnered over \$800 for our treasury. Don James did a splendid job of promoting the raffle during the Joint Associations Reception. The drawing was held on Friday before the banquet, conducted by Lois Todd, with the winner being Larry Close, USAF (Ret) presently employed with SAIC, working on HUMINT systems for the Marine Corps. Larry said he was quite surprised and was most pleased with the quality of the wines and items in the basket.



Again, our thanks to Paul and Jackie for such a splendid gift, and our thanks to all our MCITTA members and the many others from outside our Association who contributed.

# The Marine Corps Interrogator Translator Teams Association



## MCITTA 7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GATHERING TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 29 Sep—Tuesday**  
 All Day Check-In  
 1300 Old Town Trolley Tour  
 1800 Team Cdr's Reception & Formal Dinner
- 30 Sep—Wednesday**  
 0900 Annual General Meeting  
 1300 *Jim Riemer Classic* and Outing  
 1800 San Diego Bay Dinner Cruise
- 1 Oct—Thursday**  
 0900 Tour of USS Midway Museum  
 1200 Lunch in Old Town San Diego  
 1830 Dinner in Seaport Village
- 2 Oct—Friday**  
 0900 Depart for MCRD San Diego  
 1000 Recruit Graduation  
 1200 Lunch at MCRD Bay View Restaurant  
 1400 Memorial Service at MCRD Chapel  
 1900 Informal Farewell dinner (TBD)
- 3 Oct—Saturday**  
 0900 Farewell Breakfast (TBD)



San Diego is renowned for its idyllic climate, 70 miles of pristine beaches and dazzling world-class attractions, including the San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park, Sea World, the Gas Lamp and Balboa Park. San Diego is idyllic for R&R and renewing friendships.

Highlighting our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering is an opportunity to revisit our roots and experience a Recruit Graduation at the famous San Diego Marine Corps Recruit Depot.

**RETURN TO YOUR MARINE CORPS ROOTS**  
*In Beautiful Southern California!*

**29 September – 3 October 2009 – San Diego, CA**



The projected site for the 2010 MCITTA Gathering will be Tampa, FL.

Paul Hernandez will host the event. Anyone who can volunteer to assist is encouraged to come forward.

You want Florida— you want Tampa Bay! A single day's itinerary might include breakfast at a waterside cafe, a visit to Busch Gardens Africa, The Florida Aquarium, a streetcar ride to Channelside Bay Plaza for shopping, topped off with a stay in at a luxury hotel or resort. Then on to historic Ybor City where the Cuban sandwiches are hot and crisp, the cigars are hand-rolled, and the colorful streets are lined with fun. The sugar white, sandy beaches are a must.

**>> This Gathering is sure to be unique. Plan on it! <<**