



Comments by the Chief Historian

WHAT IS NEW IN U.S. MARINE CORPS HISTORY

A presentation to the 2015 Army Historians
Training Symposium

Crowne Plaza National Airport



Subjects for Discussion

Where we have been

What we do today

Where we are going



The Beginning

Brevet Brigadier General Commandant Archibald Henderson provided the logic for history writing on 5 April 1848: “It is considered incumbent on the officers of the Marine Corps to have a faithful and impartial history written of the services of that portion of the Corps which has been on active duty with the Army and the Navy during the existing war with Mexico. Justice alone to the Corps, particularly to that part engaged in this arduous service, would require a record of this service.”



The Modern Program

Colonel Robert D. Heintz articulated the primary functions of the modern historical program in a March 1950 MARINE CORPS GAZETTE article:

1. Maintenance of historical archives.
 2. Preparation and publication of definitive official narratives.
 3. Operation of a working reference-collection.
 4. Applied research to provide answers to historical questions, which originate either within the service or the general public.
 5. Encouragement of semi-official or private historical research of military value.
 6. Arrangement for collection, preservation and display of historical objects.
 7. Establishment of a specialist Reserve historical component.
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What We do Today

From public law (U.S. Codes 5 and 10), and a variety of Department of Defense and Service regulations, the current authority and responsibilities of the Historical Division are:

1. To make the historical experience of the Marine Corps available for practical study and exploitation.
 2. To preserve a record of Marine Corps activities and tradition by collecting and maintaining papers and articles of lasting historical interest to the Marine Corps.
 3. To achieve a generally accepted realization within the Marine Corps that military history is a basic source of knowledge for solving problems and attaining advances in the theory and practice of military science.
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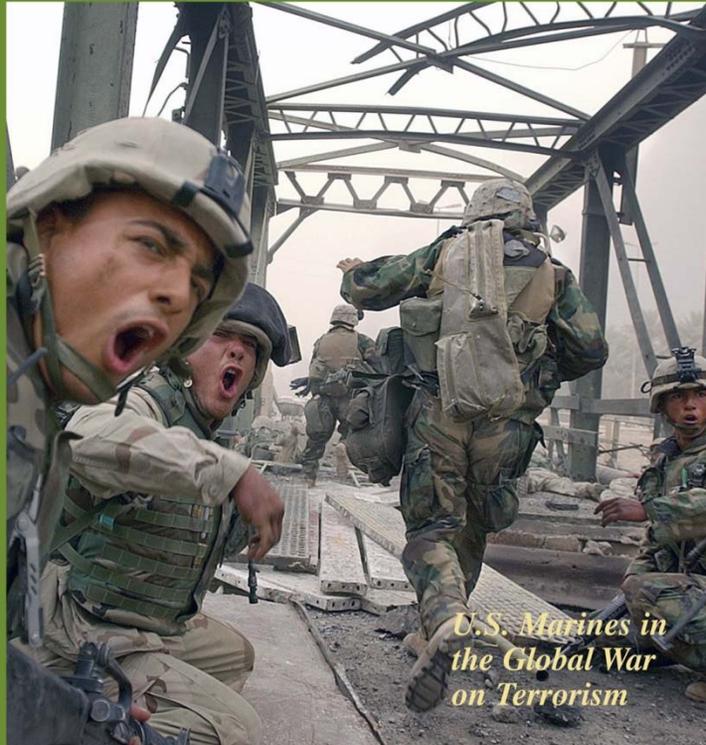
Histories Branch

The Writing Historians preserve and presents Marine Corps history through a variety of written products including monographs, articles, and conference presentations. Publications include official histories covering the Gulf War. Recent works are narratives about Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom and the Global War on Terrorism.



U.S. Marines in Iraq, 2003: BASRAH, BAGHDAD AND BEYOND

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*U.S. Marines in
the Global War
on Terrorism*

Reynolds



Reference Branch

The Reference Historians hold extensive files that cover five primary areas: subject matter, biographical, unit, geographic, and photographs. Through these, they track Marine Corps history and annually answers upwards of 8,500 questions from a wide customer base ranging from members of Congress and the Commandant's office to citizens writing about the Marine Corps. Major programs include the Unit Honors and Linage and Commemorative Naming.





Oral and Video History Section

The Oral Historians conduct and transcribe interviews of selected Marines. They gather career interviews on those Marines who shaped the setting of policy, doctrine or had a deciding affect on the Marine Corps as a whole. They are the repository for field interviews and support the Field Historians in their efforts.



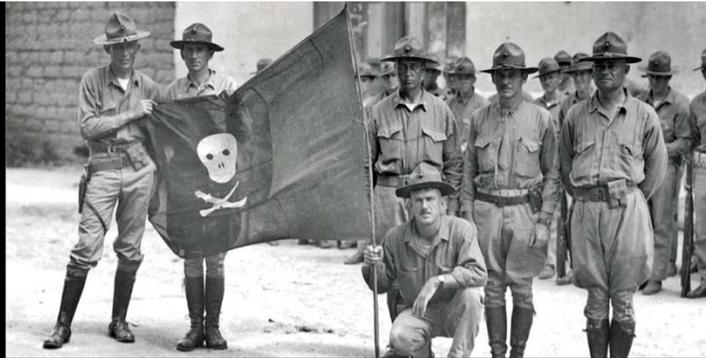


Field History Branch

Field History is a Marine Reserve Detachment. Their primary mission is to collect interviews from a wide variety of Marines, with the aim of capturing operational aspects from all command levels. The field historian also collects plans, orders, maps, overlays and the operational message traffic.



U.S. Marines and Irregular Warfare, 1898-2007:



ANTHOLOGY AND SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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**ANTHOLOGY AND SELECTED
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Colonel Stephen S. Evans

EVANS





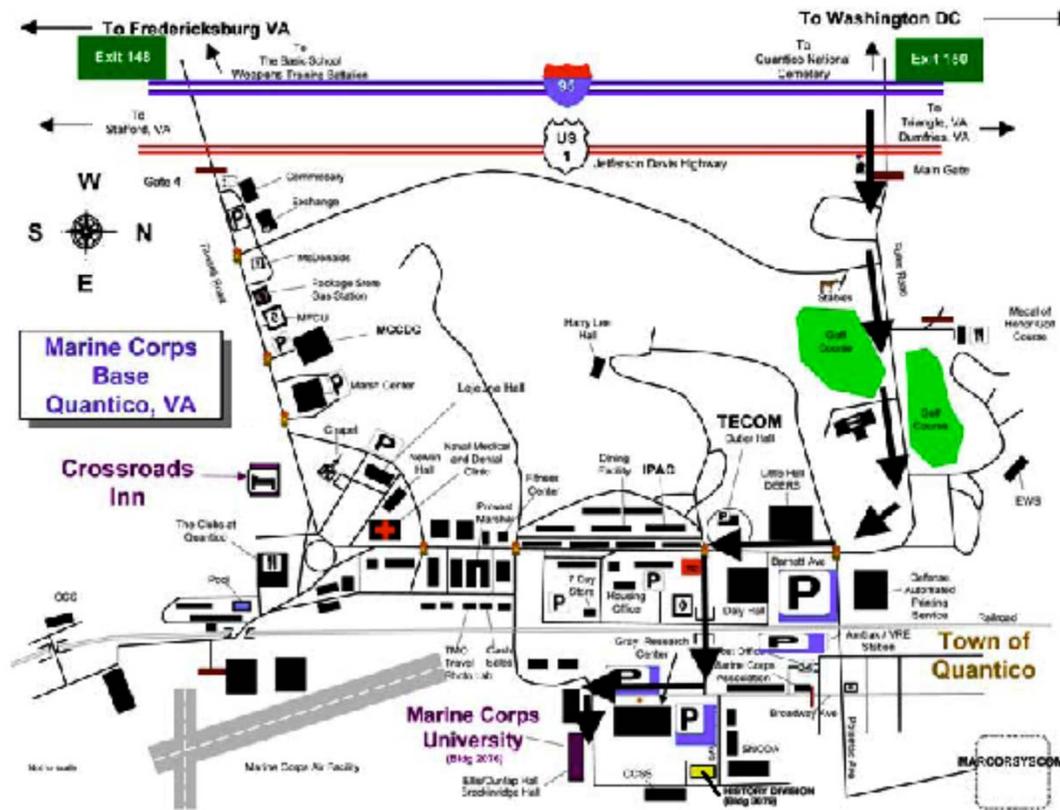
Editing and Design

Editing and Design prepares Historical and Marine Corps University Press manuscripts for publication. The section also produces illustrations for historical texts, including specialized map illustrations, photographs, and drawings.

Publications include official historical monographs, pamphlets, and occasional papers. In addition to its involvement in the division's publications, it is the editorial office for *Marine Corps History*, the division's historical periodical.



Marine Corps Base Quantico





Thank You

ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?

www.history.usmc.mil
