

Module 2

USMC History



Goals and Objectives

- Name three key events that helped shape the Marine Corps
- Describe the origins of the Marine Corps
- State the mission of the Marine Corps



Why Is USMC History Important?

- Provides insight into the Marine Corps' legacy of valor
- Builds a common foundation of knowledge between Marines and Civilian Marines
- Traces the source of honor, courage, and commitment all Marines possess
- Illustrates common history Marines and Civilian Marines share



Revolution and Evolution

Revolution and Evolution 1775 - 1918

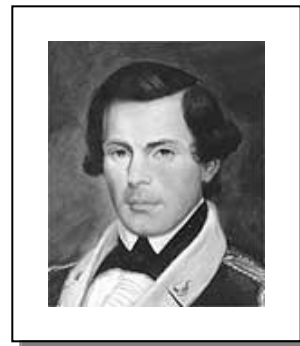
- Continental Marines
- Marksmen from the Fighting Tops
- Own the Sea—Own the Land
- From the Halls of Montezuma
- Civil War
- Seize and Secure
- Bush Wars
- First to Fight



Continental Marines—1775

The Birth of a Nation

- Marines' past is as old as the nation's
- Marines provided shipboard defense against hostile raiding parties and also became armed landing force
- Continental Congress decrees two battalions of Marines be raised, 10 November 1775—birth of the Corps!
- Marines land and fight at New Providence and later alongside George Washington

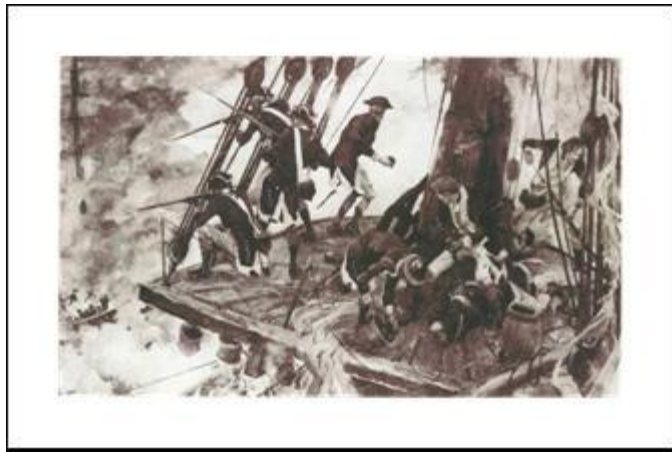


Capt. Samuel Nicholas



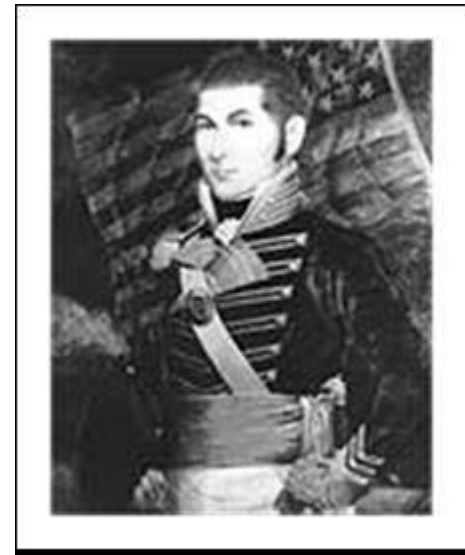
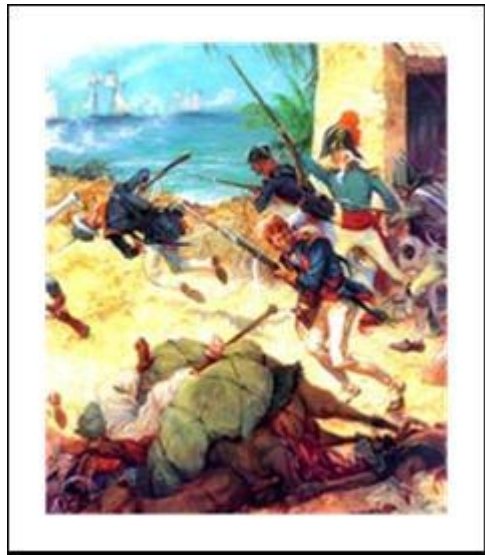
United States Marines

- We are a new nation—the United States
- Congress authorizes a Navy and Marine Corps to defend it
- Piracy prevails on the oceans—Barbary Coast pirates
- Marksmen from the Fighting Tops and Leathernecks



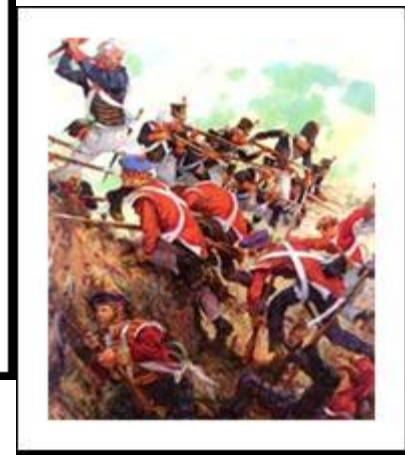
“To the Shores of Tripoli”

- Marines seize the Fortress of Derna
- First time the “Stars and Stripes” flies in victory over captured territory
- Lt. Presley O’Bannon exhibits great heroism, fortitude, and courage
- Immortalized in Marines’ Hymn

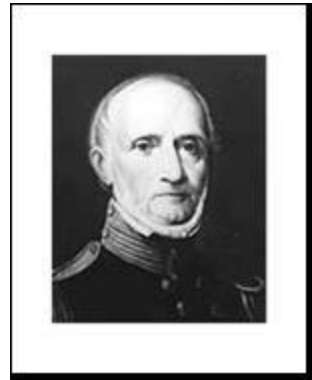


Own the Sea—Own the Land

- Reputation for fierce fighting aboard ship and on land
- Marines help build barracks and find a home at 8th & I, Washington, D.C.
- Home to the Commandant
- Marine's Band and public relations



Archibald Henderson



- Marines organize and fight as small detachments aboard ships
- Marines experience more land combat
- Archibald Henderson organizes Marines into combat regiment—Seminole Indian War
- First large-scale Marine Corps combat force



“Halls of Montezuma”

- 1846 War with Mexico—Marines seize California coast
- Battalion of Marines sent with U.S. Army to secure Mexico City—Marines are first to enter Mexico City
- Bloody and fierce battle to capture Castle at Chalpultpec—“blood stripe”
- Courage, sacrifice, and victory immortalized in Marines’ Hymn



Civil War



- Harper's Ferry insurrection
- Civil War erupts, dividing country and Corps
- Medal of Honor (MOH) created
- 297 Marine MOH recipients since 1861
- 17 in the Civil War



The Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States. Generally presented to its recipient by the President of the United States of America in the name of Congress, it is often called the *Congressional Medal of Honor*.



A Change for the Better

- Marine Corps' existence threatened
- Marines must evolve or perish
- Evolutions in officer selection and recruit training
- Emphasis on marksmanship, combat skills, and professional training programs



Seize and Secure



- The nation expands its territories globally
- Marines establish superiority over Army for mission operability
- Marine Corps proves its force agility to seize and secure objectives quickly
- Spanish–American War heralds Marines' amphibious landing at Guatanamo Bay, Cuba



Bush Wars

- Marines are sent to far corners of the globe—Philippines, China, Central America
- Frequent expeditionary landings
- Dangerous jungle fighting or hard terrain
- Origins of Marine small-unit leadership
- Marines exhibit abundance of resolve, stamina, and bravery



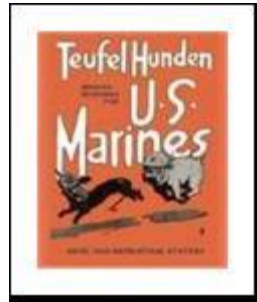
A Marine's Marine—Dan Daly

- Marine Corps legend
- “Fightingest Marine ever”
- Sees action in Haiti, Philippines, China, and World War I
- Receives two Medals of Honor for separate acts of heroism
- Famous battle cry at Belleau Woods



First to Fight

- Marines deploy to France—World War I
- Fight alongside U.S. Army
- Marines adopt the motto “first to fight”
- Battle at Belleau Wood
- Marine aviation takes off
- Bulldog becomes unofficial mascot



Teufel Hunden

GERMAN
NICKNAME
FOR

U.S. Marines



H

DEVIL DOG RECRUITING STATION

1409 ARCH STREET



Innovation

Innovation 1918 - 1975

- Birth of Fleet Marine Force (FMF)
- Amphibious Assault
- World War II
- Korea
- MAGTF



Innovation

- Institutional advancements in doctrine, tactics, training, and organizational management
- “Every Marine a rifleman”
- Artillery and aviation provide extra mission capabilities
- Marines construct three permanent training bases
- “Excel at all cost”



Fleet Marine Force Is Born

- Marine mission changes as political and defense priorities change
- Two missions: small-war operations and amphibious assault
- Pete Ellis predicts future mission of island-hopping amphibious assault
- New sea/air/ground team creates new structure—Fleet Marine Force
- Marines again sent into jungle/bush wars and small-unit operations



Amphibious Assault and WWII

- Interservice threat to USMC
- Marines develop landing craft/transports to ensure successful amphibious assaults
- Equipment and training adaptations
- WWII hits and supports Ellis' theory
- Campaign successes at Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa



Iwo Jima Flag Raising

- Historic photo taken on Mount Suribachi
- Marine Corps icon and basis for Marine Corps War Memorial
- Secures future of Marine Corps
- Exemplifies USMC esprit de corps, warrior ethos, and sacrifice

"Among the men who fought on Iwo Jima, uncommon valor was a common virtue."

Fleet Admiral Chester
Nimitz



Korea and the Cold War

- Marines fight with U.S. Army to push back communist North Korean People's Army
- Employ combined arms teams, expand roles for women and minorities, and introduce flak jackets
- Marines leverage close air support from jet aircraft and helicopters



Air + Ground = MAGTF

- Marines push potential for heliborne amphibious assault
- Navy builds new class of ships to support new air capability
- Task-driven organizational structure is born—Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF)
- Vietnam War showcases advantages of integrated air-ground team



Force in Readiness



Expeditionary Force in Readiness

- Recruiting—“the Few, the Proud, the Marines”
- Rapid Deployment Force—America’s 911 force
- Maritime prepositioned ships
- Middle East becomes hotbed of terrorism
- Marines are sent to Lebanon and Kuwait
- Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm



Global War on Terrorism— Operation Enduring Freedom

- Terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, change our world
- Operation Enduring Freedom—battle for Kandahar; topple Taliban and Al Qaeda
- Marines fight in remote, inhospitable mountainous terrain of Afghanistan



Operation Iraqi Freedom

- Marines deploy to Horn of Africa, Philippines, Iraq
- March 2003—war in Iraq begins
- Coalition forces take control
- Marines' new mission becomes security and stabilization



Operation Iraqi Freedom

- Three-block war requires new tactics and equipment modifications
- Marine mission—Security and stabilization and now training Iraq's military force
- Free elections and new Iraqi government established



Wrap-Up

What makes the Marine Corps different?
Our training.
Our history.
Our people.

Our mission—Making Marines and winning battles.



CMC VIDEO: 2007 Birthday Message, Belleau Wood

