



30 YEARS LATER: THE ENDURING LESSONS FOR SUCCESS FROM OPERATION DESERT STORM

by Lance Cpl. Alison Dostie, USMC

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Feb. 28, 2021 marked 30 years since the end of Operation Desert Storm. An operation that lasted only 43 days, Desert Storm was the United States' first major armed conflict with Iraq.

On Aug. 2, 1990, Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait and refused to disengage from the country. Former President George H. W. Bush, along with other coalition leaders, disapproved of the invasion. Thus began the Gulf War with the launch of Operation Desert Shield. After five and a half months of the operation, the United Nations Security Council authorized the use of "all necessary means" to remove the Iraqi forces in support of Kuwait. On Jan. 17, 1991, the combat phase of the war began: Operation Desert Storm.

The Marine Corps was a key asset from the very beginning. With 45,000 Marines deployed in vicinity of the Persian Gulf at the onset of Operation Desert Shield, the Corps was immediately able to commit thousands of Marines to Operation Desert Storm when called upon. January

29th started the heavy ground fighting and produced the first ground casualties. On Feb. 24, 1991, I Marine Expeditionary Force, along with other coalition forces, kicked off the final assault of the operation. Marine forces posing as the main effort positioned themselves in the Gulf to create the illusion of an amphibious raid. This illusion allowed time for allied forces to attack Iraqi forces from behind. After 100 hours, the assault had ended, and the allied forces had succeeded. On Feb. 28, 1991, Bush declared a cease-fire.

Camp Pendleton units played a large part in Operation Desert Storm, with I MEF Marines totaling 92,990. 1st Marine Division, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, and 1st Force Service Support Group all had a role in the attack. 1st Marine Division worked alongside 2nd Marine Division in ground combat. Aircraft provided by 3rd MAF participated in air operations, while 1st FSSG provided operational control.

John Carretti, the director of Range and Training Area Management, Marine Corps Installations - West, Marine

Continued page 2, Desert Storm

Marines from Bravo Company, 1st Bn, 3rd Marines in a captured Iraqi armored personnel carrier.



Desert Storm, Cont.

Corps Base Camp Pendleton, recalls his time with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment.

Having constant training in the jungle terrain of Hawaii, Carretti was initially surprised when he found out his unit would be deploying to Kuwait. As a rifle company, Carretti and his Marines were conducting constant training to participate in the unit deployment program in Okinawa. Because of this, a deployment to the desert was not something Carretti expected. This taught him to constantly be prepared for anything.

"You never know when you're going to have to go quickly into any type of situation," said Carretti. "Always be as prepared as you can, because you never know what is going to happen."

During his time in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Carretti had his hands in many different conflicts, and pulled lessons from each that he carries with him today. Most lessons were from the junior Marines under his command. He noticed that there were many Marines that took initiative - initiative that could make a difference, and potentially change the outcome of any situation. Carretti states that he noticed in tactical and operational environments, a lot of the time it is the most junior people that had the largest impact, and this made him more conscious of his junior leaders in and out of combat.

Carretti recalls a situation he witnessed when his Marines were on guard. A chemical announcement had just been given, to which the Marines immediately donned their gear, as was typical protocol. The prisoners took notice of the gear. Fear among the prisoners spread rapidly and was obvious to two of Carretti's Marines. They quickly took it upon themselves to remove their gear in the hopes of easing the nerves of the prisoners. Once they took action, more Marines followed suit and unsuited. As soon as each Marine had removed their gear, the prisoners were at ease. Carretti says that this simple act of empathy resulted in the dissolution of what could have been a larger situation.

Operation Desert Storm offered many lessons learned for Carretti and all Marines up and down the chain of command. Even today, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. David H. Berger, has put forth planning guidance that mirrors many of these lessons. One of Berger's main focal points is the concept of naval integration. Having forward deployed ships during the Gulf War allowed for the easy deployment of thousands of service members. Early on in the war, the naval ships located in the Arabian Gulf provided protection that held off Iraqi forces. Control of the surrounding sea not only ensured that airpower, gun fire and missiles were protected - it also ensured that enemies were denied port access to get any necessary materials. Similarly, today,

Berger emphasizes the integrated application of Navy and Marine Corps capabilities and how the Marine Corps can capitalize on them more intensely as we sail into the future.

30 years after the success of Operation Desert Storm, the Marine Corps still studies it as a tool for informing



U.S. Marine Capt. John Carretti, center, instructs training classes during Operation Desert Storm. (Courtesy photos)



U.S. Marine Capt. John Carretti, left and fellow company commanders from 1st Bn, 3rd Marines.



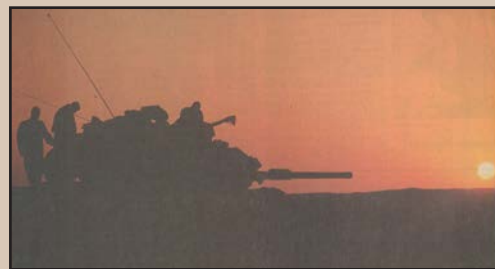
Bravo Company senior Navy Corpsman "Doc" Holliday; oil wells are burning in the background.

modern strategy and tactics. Although the technology is different today, and the battlefield of tomorrow can vary, the basics of warfare remain the same.



John Carretti, the director of Range and Training Area Management, Marine Corps Installations - West, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, poses for a photo in his office at 22 Area on MCB Camp Pendleton, California, March 23, 2021. Lt. Col. Carretti, USMC (Ret) served with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, during Operation Desert Storm.

Desert Storm Facts 1991



An M60 tank from Company D, 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division, heads out at dusk during a nightlong exercise during Operation Desert Shield. Photo Cpl. Kevin Doll, U.S. Marine Corps

Jan. 16 – Operation Desert Shield became Operation Desert Storm as forces of the allied coalition launched an all-out air assault against targets in Iraq and occupied Kuwait in an effort to liberate Kuwait and enforce the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. Overall, there were more than 415,000 U.S. troops and over 265,000 allied troops in the coalition.

Feb. 28 – Operation Desert Storm ended when the cease-fire declared by President George Bush went into effect. I Marine Expeditionary Force had a personnel strength of 92,990 making Operation Desert Storm the largest Marine Corps operation in history. A total of 23 Marines were killed in action or later died of wounds from the time the air war was launched on Jan. 16th until the cease-fire took effect 43 days later.

Source: Marine Corps History Division

President's Message

Richard B. Rothwell



Slowly and surely, we are emerging from COVID -19 restrictions. It has been a year since our Board of Directors has met in person.

Much has happened in the interim, some very sad and some very encouraging. We lost former Director Col. Don Gressly, USMC (Ret) earlier this year. Don joined our Board early on and for years was a tremendous part of our Events Committee. Not only did he play a central role in making our numerous successful events happen, he was a genuinely nice guy. You can read more about Don and the tributes of his many friends and admirers elsewhere in this edition of Groundbreaker.

On the good news side, we learned that the Commanding General, Marine Corps Installations West/Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton has favorably endorsed the CPHS offer to donate a monument to

the namesake of Camp Pendleton, Maj. Gen. Joseph H. Pendleton, USMC, for permanent placement aboard the Base. This is the initial step in a multi-phase approval process before the Marine Corps can accept our offer. But, the favorable review by the Base staff, including the blessings of staff judge advocates, gives us sufficient confidence in ultimate approval by the Under Secretary of the Navy, to officially open our campaign to fund this project. In anticipation of this occasion, CPHS has been setting money aside for this project and will match all donations, dollar for dollar, up to \$50,000. Additional information about this exciting project and how you can help can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Speaking of monuments, as you can also read in this newsletter about the "spa" treatment that CPHS and our partner non-profit, Angels Without Wings, arranged for our monument to Staff Sgt. Reckless, installed over four years ago. Exposed to the elements, she had begun to age but after some professional pampering, she

now looks like her old self.

Building on our huge success last year, CPHS will hold its 5th Annual "Golf with a Hero" golf tournament on Friday, April 30 at the beautiful Omni La Costa Resort and Spa. We have room for 144 golfers. Each foursome will include an active duty Marine or Sailor who will play for free. If you would like to play or to donate, please visit the CPHS website (camppendletonhistoricalsociety.org) for additional information. Fifty percent of the profits from the golf tournament will go towards the Maj. Gen. Pendleton monument project.

I hope that you and your families are well as the pandemic recedes and that we will all continue to do our parts keep our loved ones and communities safe. Thank you for your continued support. Without you, nothing good happens. I look forward to reporting to you again in the next edition of Groundbreaker.

Richard B. Rothwell

Major General Joseph H. Pendleton, USMC Monument Project

by Col. Richard B. Rothwell, USMC (Ret)

The Camp Pendleton Historical Society has embarked on an exciting new project - placement of a monument to Camp Pendleton's namesake, Maj. Gen. Joseph H. Pendleton, aboard the Base.

Surprisingly, except for hundreds of signs featuring his name, there is no public display of him as a person. I suspect that everyone who reads this article knows well the name Joseph H. Pendleton. But how many of you know who he was and why the base is named in his honor? If that fits you, read on. Even if you know his story please continue. I want to encourage everyone to help CPHS make this project a success.

Born June 2, 1860 in East Rochester, Pa., Joseph Henry Pendleton was commissioned a second lieutenant of Marines in 1884 following graduation from the United States Naval Academy. For the next 20 years, he served in various posts and stations in the United States, Caribbean, Central American, and the Far East. He was promoted to colonel in 1911. Three years later, Col. Pendleton was assigned as the commanding officer of Marine Barracks, Bremerton, Washington. In those days, Marine barracks provided the manpower for larger expeditionary forces when they were needed. His assignment proved to be interesting for Col. Pendleton and fortunate for the Marine Corps.

In 1914, San Diego, a town of about 35,000 people, was preparing to open a two-year long exposition in Balboa Park, celebrating the opening of the Panama Canal. The grand opening was to be Jan. 1, 1915. The event would be a tremendous opportunity to attract investors and new residents to the area. Civic leaders were concerned about Mexican bandits who had a history of cross-border forays. Their fear was that if banditry broke out, it would reduce the enthusiasm of investors and new residents. So, following civic and political pressure, the Marine Corps established the 4th Marine Regiment comprised of troops from posts and stations in the Northwest. Col. Pendleton became the commanding officer.

On arrival in San Diego, Col. Pendleton quartered his Marines in a tent camp on North Island known as Camp Howard. Later he placed a contingent in Balboa Park, where they served double duty: as a deterrent to banditry and as a popular attraction in the exposition. The public could observe Marines in garrison and enjoy watching their exercises and listening to their band concerts.

Col. Pendleton proved to be a visionary. Within days of arriving in San Diego, he addressed the city's Chamber of Commerce, advocating a permanent Marine Corps presence there - an advanced base as they were then known. There were good reasons for his proposal: the weather was perfect, there was a deepwater harbor for Navy ships, and the city was our closest West Coast point to the newly opened and strategically important Panama



Canal. Col. Pendleton did more than promote his idea locally; he forwarded it to superiors in Washington, D.C. Ultimately, his vision and actions became a reality.

In 1919, following the end of World War I, San Diego began to drain and fill a marshy area around the rim of the bay known as Dutch Flats. On that reclaimed land was built Marine Barracks San Diego, now known as Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego. When it was completed in 1921, Pendleton, by then a brigadier general, attended the dedication. His old regiment, the 4th Marines, made it their home. Pendleton retired in 1924 as a major general after 40 years of service and settled in Coronado. He served as mayor of that town from 1929-1930.

Maj. Gen. Pendleton died in February 1942 during the early days of World War II. His death occurred while the Marine Corps was negotiating the purchase of Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores which would become the world's largest amphibious training base. Because of his visionary foresight in championing a permanent Marine Corps presence in Southern California and his greatly admired military and personal qualities, the Marine Corps named the new base in his honor.

There was a minor obstacle to overcome, however. There was already an army base known as Camp Pendleton in Virginia Beach, Va. The Marines were not deterred. They named their new base Camp Joseph H. Pendleton.

Thanks in large part to Pendleton's foresight, the Marine Corps has a significant permanent presence in Southern California. The CPHS monument to him will visually honor his legacy and add to the beauty of Camp Pendleton. Please join us in making that happen.



***The Camp Pendleton Historical Society
invites you to join us in placing
a permanent monument on
Marine Corps Base Camp Joseph H. Pendleton
to the Base namesake,
Major General Joseph H. Pendleton,
U. S. Marine Corps
1860-1942***

***A visionary leader who championed
a permanent Marine Corps presence
in Southern California***



Monument Artist Scott Streadbeck's rendering of the proposed General Pendleton monument (scale will be 1.25 his height)

How do I participate in the Pendleton Monument Project?

Donations

If you would like to contribute by check, please send your check to the following address:

Camp Pendleton Historical Society
Attention: Pendleton Monument
PO Box 5497
Oceanside, CA 92052

Paying by credit card or Paypal?
Donate via the CPHS Projects website:
camppendletonhistoricalsociety.org/projects

Volunteer/Fundraising

For additional information, email us at:
pendletonmonument.cphs@gmail.com

For More Information / Track our Progress

Go to the CPHS Projects website:
camppendletonhistoricalsociety.org/projects



General Pendleton raises the flag at MARBKS San Diego. 1921.



Major General Pendleton in Quantico, VA. 1924.

***CPHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation dedicated to helping the Marine Corps preserve and tell the history of Camp Pendleton. Tax ID #83-0443585.
Consult with your tax advisor about listing your donation as a tax deduction.***

In Memoriam - Col. Donald "Don" Gressly, USMC (Ret)

Don Gressly passed away on Jan. 29, 2021, at the age of 80, with his beloved wife, Jean, at his side. Don is survived by his wife of 62 years, Jean, two sons, Donald W. Gressly Jr., (Tammy); Douglas J. Gressly; and one daughter, Julie Gressly-Helms; ten grandchildren; six great-grandchildren.

Don was born in Rochester, Pa. to Donald W. Gressly, M.D. and Jane H. Gressly. Don graduated from Springfield College, Mass. with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education in 1963, and a Master of Science in Education Administration in 1964. In 1970, he earned a Master of Science in Technology of Management from American University.

In 1964, Don was commissioned an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. After his initial training, he began leading Marines in the Amphibious Tractor LVTP-5 Series Vehicles (better known as "Amtracs"). He was deployed to Vietnam in 1965, where his combat experiences included leading an Amtrac platoon with Special Landing Forces-BLT 2/1 that made the first raids in country and with BLT 3/5 that made the first raid into the DMZ during Operation Hastings in 1966. Following this combat tour of duty, his other Marine Corps assignments included numerous command and staff positions. At the time of his retirement in 1994, Col. Gressly was serving as the Assistant Commander of



Calif. Of the many assignments of Don's long and distinguished Marine Corps service, one he found most rewarding was serving as the Marine Officer Instructor at the University of South Carolina. He was directly responsible for the commissioning of twenty-five Marine officers during his three-year tenure and often reflected on the unmatched rewards of following the service of the Marine officers he mentored.

After retiring from the Marine Corps, Don began a rewarding civilian career as the Legal Administrator of a multi-state law firm, Campbell, Volk & Lauter, where he worked for 15 years

before retiring again in 2009. During his retirement, Don dedicated many hours of his time to serve as a Director on the Board of the Camp Pendleton Historical Society.

A favorite pastime of his was a weekly lunch gathering, at the Pit Stop in Oceanside, Calif. Attendees were Marines who served in the fields of Amtracs or tanks, either as an operator or a maintenance expert. These gatherings were always entertaining and highlighted by some of the best story telling you can possibly imagine. These meetings have not been held since the beginning of the pandemic, but they will start up again, and when that happens, Don will definitely be missed!

Memorial services and interment with military honors will be conducted at Miramar National Cemetery (San Diego, Calif.) and will be announced at a later date. A Celebration of Life will also be announced at a later date when it becomes more suitable for gatherings.

In honor of Don, the family respectfully requests that in lieu of flowers, family and friends make memorial donations, if desired, to: Semper Fi & America's Fund, 825 College Blvd, Suite 102 PMB 609 Oceanside, CA 92057 or semperfifund.org.

“

Unquestionably one of the finest men I knew and a delight to just be around professionally or personally. He and Jean were a superb team.

**Lt. Gen. Ed Hanlon,
USMC (Ret)**

“

He was a senior leader I tried to emulate. He called himself "the MEF Gunny" and it was accurate. He was a servant leader in the best possible sense.

**Maj. Gen. Mike Lehnert,
USMC (Ret)**

“

Don was an outstanding Marine with the highest integrity and sense of responsibility. The Marine Corps has lost a very loyal and dedicated Marine; I've lost a friend and mentor and will always cherish our friendship!

**Col. Jerry Polyascko,
USMC (Ret)**

Upcoming Events

Save
the
Date!

CPHS Events - 2021

The Camp Pendleton Historical Society has planned a number of events throughout the coming year; the following are the currently planned events:



5th Annual "Golf with a Hero" Golf Tournament

April 30, 2021

Location: Omni La Costa Resort & Spa

Golf Tournament (In Partnership with MCRD Museum Foundation)

Oct. 14, 2021

Location: Omni La Costa Resort & Spa



2nd Annual "Old Corps" Marine Corps Birthday Celebration

TBD (Oct - Nov 2021)

Location: Omni La Costa Resort & Spa

Detailed information for the above events will be communicated via the CPHS Facebook page, CPHS web page, Eventbrite, and separate digital communication.



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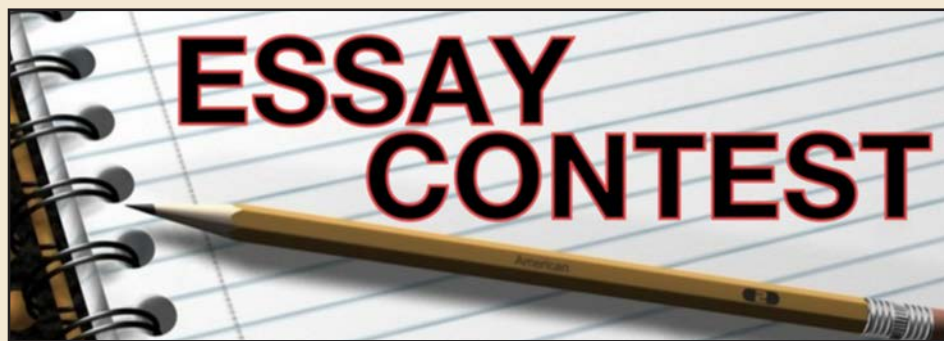
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A distinguished group of advisors is helping to guide us as we grow. We are pleased to acknowledge their support.

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CPHS is sponsoring its first Essay Contest on history of the land now known as Camp Pendleton. This scope includes the pre-history (archeology) of the land, its native American occupants, the Spanish exploration and mission era, the rancho era, and the history of the Camp as a significant cultural and economic institution in San Diego County since 1942. The goals of the contest are to discover and preserve Camp Pendleton history, encourage interest in Camp Pendleton, and provide students an opportunity to improve their research skills. We are happy to announce that we have seven entries representing four San Diego County universities. The winners will be announced in the fall of 2021.

www.camppendletonhistoricalsociety.org
Camp Pendleton Historical Society, Inc.
is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation.

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OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OR ANY OF ITS COMPONENTS AND IT HAS
NO GOVERNMENTAL STATUS.*

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome aboard to our newest members who recently joined our cause:

Richard and Lehn Goetz
Trina Lamkin
Frandy Laster
AnneMarie Leonard
Anne Morris
Joe and Julie Morris
Cristy Sellas

Many thanks to our loyal members for their recent membership renewal:

Allen (Bud) Carter
Bradley Lee
Daniel Leja
Michael Moreland
Thomas Morton
Bill and Pat Ticknor
Robert Warrick

Ranchero Level:

Richard Althouse
Dick Davidson
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Commander's Circle Level:

SgtMaj Robert Singer, Jr., USMC (Ret)

Lifetime Membership:

SgtMaj Anselmo Samson, USMC (Ret)

A special thanks to our donors:

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P.O. Box 5497
Oceanside, CA 92052