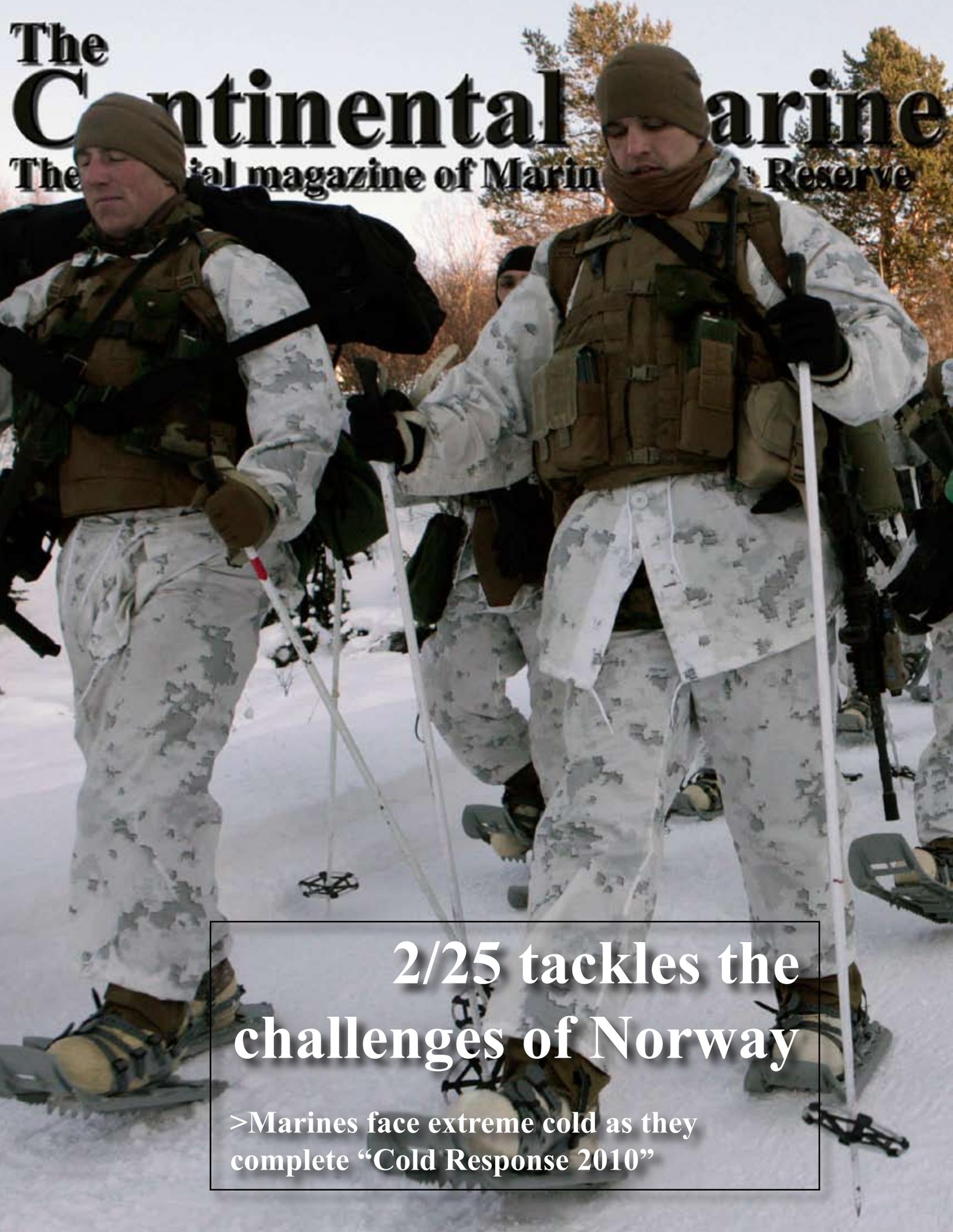


The Continental Marine

The official magazine of Marine Corps Reserve



2/25 tackles the challenges of Norway

>Marines face extreme cold as they complete “Cold Response 2010”



14

As we ring in a new year we also bring to you a brand new continental Marine.

In this issue we bring to you the conclusion of exercise Cold Response 2010, as 2/25, British, Dutch and Norwegian forces join together to brave the harsh, cold terrain.

Included is a look towards the future as the Commandant of the Marine Corps visits New Orleans for the "Lightening the load: Reducing the footprint in the expeditionary environment" energy summit.

As always we follow our Marines as they keep their skills sharp in the field and at home.

Finally, we take a glance at Marine Forces Reserve's participation in Mardi Gras.

We hope you enjoy this edition of your magazine.

*Semper Fi,
Cpl. Michael Laycock,
Print Editor, Continental Marine Magazine*



24



Marine Forces Reserve

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18

CONTENT

In Breif.....4
Energy Symposium.....5
Marine Forces Reserve Band.....6
Radio Operator Awarded Silver Star..8
Reserve Chaplian Of the Year.....9
Armed Forces Bowl.....10
Auxiliary Security Forces.....13
Shooting on the move.....14
Do or die.....16
The Final Push.....20
Narvick.....22
New Corporal's Course hit's MFR.....27

Anti-Terrorism Battalion **14**
hones skills at Ft. Rucker

Exercise Cold Response **18**
2010 comes to a close

Co. E. 2/24 enters the **24**
shoothouse

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In Brief

Celebrating the accomplishments of our Marines

Marine uses first aid training on South Carolina highway

Sgt. Rodney Hatley was trained in combat-centered first aid as he prepared for his 2008 deployment to Iraq, but he never expected to actually use it.

Especially not while on vacation.

South bound, on interstate highway 77 near Lexington, S.C., the reserve diesel mechanic was on his way to Florida with his wife when he saw the pile up Dec. 6th. A drunk driver had hit a police car that in turn jettisoned a station wagon onto the tow truck in front of it.

"I seen it, pulled over and ran to assist the injured people," explained the Charlotte, N.C. native.

It was too late for the tow truck driver, who was crushed between his truck and the station wagon, but there were three others still breathing. A police officer, the drunk driver and his passenger each needed first aid and Hatley kept a kit in his vehicle.

He didn't move any of the injured, a common precaution in automobile accidents that prevents further spinal damage, but he did what he could.

"It was just keeping people's necks straight, compression bandages, and keeping people calm just normal first aid," he said, adding one of the injured had a broken pelvis while the others suffered bruises and cuts. "It all just came natural."

Hatley tended to the dazed officer still in the patrol car and got her to call for help over the radio; he then turned on the vehicle's flashing lights in order to warn oncoming drivers and remained at the scene until emergency personnel arrived.

"He just did the things that are expected of him as a sergeant of the Marine Corps," said Gunnery Sgt. Scottie Carson, a motor transport floor chief at Hatley's unit, the 4th Maintenance Battalion in Charlotte, N.C. "I don't think any other Sgt. would have acted any differently."

Hatley's actions were recognized during a ceremony at the Lexington County Sheriff's Department Jan. 26 where he was given a plaque. □



MFR Marine recognized for professional excellence

MARINE FORCES RESERVE, New Orleans - A leatherneck assigned to the Public Affairs Office here recently captured honors in a Marine Corps-wide journalism competition.

Lance Cpl. Jad Sleiman, 20, took first place honors in the "Outstanding New Writer" category and second place in the "News Photography" category during the 2009 USMC Combat Correspondents Association and Division of Public Affairs Awards Program judging.

Sleiman, a native of Beckley, W.Va., submitted a package that included features detailing the humanitarian efforts of 4th Marine Logistics Group in Africa, pre-deployment training for 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion and the presentation of a Silver Star to a Korean War veteran some 50 years after the conclusion of hostilities.

"I like the 4th MLG story the best," said Sleiman, who went on to explain the challenges involved in writing the tale of a 12-year-old boy who proved very helpful during the U.S.-Benin Exercise SHARED ACCORD. "In order to get the story, I had to work with people of various military services, ethnicities and backgrounds... at one point, I even had to use translators for the tribal languages." □

Marine Forces Reserve Names Civillian of the year.

MARINE FORCES RESERVE, New Orleans - Four civilians were presented awards by MarForRes commander, Lt. Gen. John F. Kelly at a ceremony in the force theatre here Mar 12.

They were awarded for a "consistently high degree of job performance and professionalism in the execution of assigned duties."

"Clearly, we couldn't do without our civilian Marines," said Kelly.

Award recipients were:

John Quinton, a New York City native and MarForRes budget officer was named Senior Civilian of the Year. He ensures that funds are available to support the commander's mission.

Beverly Boyd, an Opelousas, La. native and MarForRes Protocol Officer who coordinates all events for the commander was named Junior Civilian of the Year and Civilian of the 3rd Quarter.

Kelly also awarded Quinton and Boyd, the Department of the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service medals, the second highest award provided to civilian employees within a federal agency.

Belinda Backstrom, a Haverhill, Mass. native and financial analyst here was named Civilian of the 2nd Quarter.

Linda Laine, a Shelby, N.C. native and also financial analyst here was named Civilian of the 4th Quarter. □



Energy symposium looks at reducing the Footprint of Marine Corps expeditionary operations

BY MAJOR BRANDON FRAZEE
MARINE FORCES RESERVE

The Commandant of the Marine Corps gathered Marines and energy industry representatives in New Orleans from Jan. 25 through 27 to explore ways of making deployed Marines more energy efficient and self sufficient.

During the Marine Corps Power and Energy Symposium, sponsored by the National Defense Industry Association, entitled “Lightening the load: Reducing the footprint in the expeditionary environment,” Gen. James T. Conway, Commandant of the Marine Corps, gave the audience an objective to work toward, exclaiming “Our goal is to be completely self-contained.”

“We have become a second land army and things must change if we are to be the world’s premier expeditionary force,” said Conway.

Conway’s major concern was reducing the risk to Marines responsible for delivering fuel and water to forward deployed troops. “We take 10 to 15 percent of casualties among Marines involved in the delivery of fuel and water,” he said. “We can do better.”

Conway explained that the force’s current reliance on contractors and vulnerable supply lines will not be available in future conflicts, telling the audience, “There will be other Afghanistans. The enemy is attracted to ungoverned spaces.”

“We’ve got to reduce our reliance on heavy batteries,” Conway said, referring to how the heavy logistical burden is borne by individual Marines. He also conveyed the need to operate current equipment more efficiently, citing a recent examination of generator usage at Camp Leatherneck that found 200 different generators running at an average of 30 percent efficiency as an example.

Colonel T.C. Moore, Marine Corps Operational Liaison to the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, was selected by the Commandant of the Marine Corps in Sept. 2009 to lead a fact-finding mission to Afghanistan. These Marines and civilian subject matter experts examined the fully burdened costs of delivering fuel and other essentials to deployed Marines.

The fully burdened cost, as defined by the defense acquisitions guidebook, is the purchase cost of a commodity plus the apportioned cost of delivery logistics and related force protection required beyond the point of sale.

Moore’s team, known as the Marine Energy Assessment Team, or

MEAT, determined that the fully burdened cost of a gallon of water delivered to Marines furthest from supply and logistics points, known as the tactical edge of the supply chain, was \$4.78, and the cost of a gallon of fuel delivered to those same Marines was \$11.70. While this is far less than \$400 per gallon of fuel as reported in an October 2009 United Press International article, Moore stated that he believes we can do better.

Based on their findings, the MEAT recommended that the primary near-term objective should be to reduce the risk to Marines. Noting that hostile acts against Marines delivering fuel and other supplies increase the farther they travel from operating bases, Moore said, “The Marine Corps should be focused on finding solutions at the tactical edge.”

Moore went on to explain that dependence on long and vulnerable supply lines has resulted in diluted combat power and increased casualties among combat service support Marines.

Some of the ideas generated by the MEAT’s work include developing a small-scale electrical grid linking together generators in forward operating bases to create greater efficiency and redundancy, introducing more energy-efficient structures and obtaining drinking water from local wells and aquifers when possible.

This last recommendation is particularly important to Marines at the tactical edge of the supply line where, according to Moore, hauling water makes up 51 percent of the logistical burden.

While guest speakers and subject matter expert round table discussions comprised a significant portion of the symposium, much of the event was devoted to vendors displaying the products that they believe will help the Marine Corps achieve expeditionary energy solutions.

Companies ranging in size from defense giants the likes of BAE Systems and Raytheon to small companies with fewer than 100 employees displayed solar arrays, portable wind turbines, energy efficient shelters and all manner of energy-saving and energy-producing devices.

The products on display included off the shelf technologies that can be purchased and deployed today, as well as futuristic products still in development.

One example of what the future might hold is a drinking water generation system being developed by HDT Engineered Technologies. According to Richard Treen, senior technical specialist with the Fairfield, Va. based company, the system will remove moisture directly from the air in order to make drinking water. □



Photo By Lance Cpl. Natasha Combs



Photo By Lance Cpl. Natasha Combs



Photo By Lance Cpl. Natasha Combs

**MARINE FORCES
RESERVE BAND
PARADES THROUGH
THE STREETS OF
NOLA FOR
MARDI GRAS**



Photo By Lance Cpl. Natasha Combs

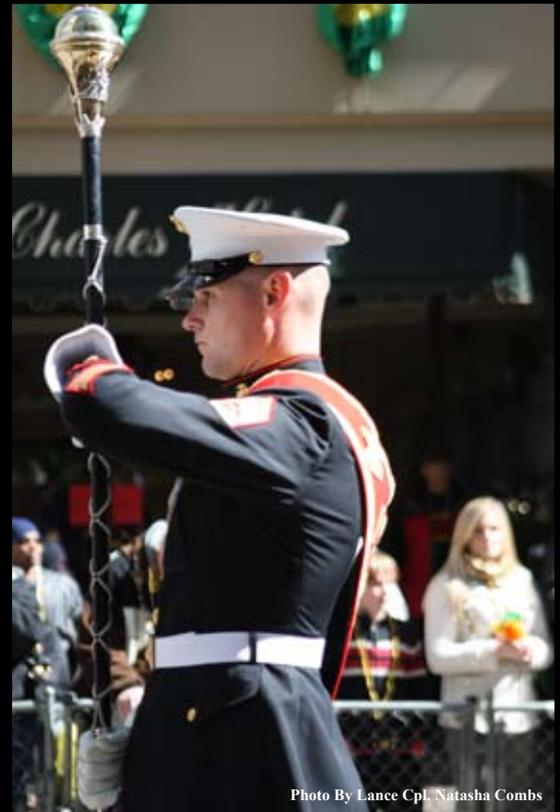


Photo By Lance Cpl. Natasha Combs

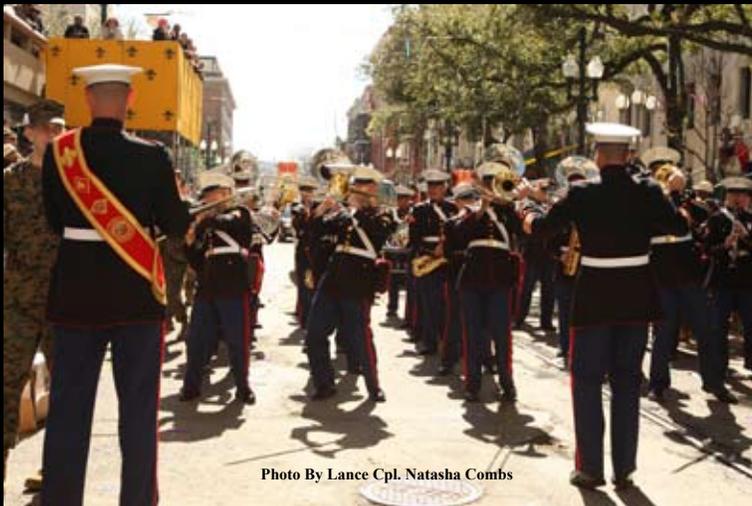


Photo By Lance Cpl. Natasha Combs



Photo By Lance Cpl. Natasha Combs

Radio Operator Awarded Silver Star

BY LANCE CPL. JAD SLEIMAN

MARINE FORCES RESERVE, NEW ORLEANS

Cpl. Daniel Gire found out he had to address the crowd minutes before the Marines' Hymn kicked off his Silver Star Medal award ceremony.

"I'm not very good at this kind of thing," he began as he stood in front of dozens of family, friends and fellow veterans.

At the Veterans Memorial in Columbus, Ohio, he spoke for less than 30 seconds after Lt. General John Kelly, commander, Marine Forces Reserve, pinned on his medal. Pausing with emotion, he thanked his family, his Marine Corps training and his fellow Marines for making sure he made it home from Iraq.

"I think in that situation any Marine would do what I did," said Gire, now medically retired for over a year. "It was just wrong place, wrong time."

On Feb. 13, 2007, Gire was serving as a radio operator with Supporting Arms Liaison Team D, 1st Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) supporting elements of a U.S. Army unit in Al Ramadi.

The troops were withdrawing under fire when they were hit by insurgent rocket propelled grenade and machine gun fire that wounded all the members of Gire's SALT team as well as one soldier. Gire, seriously injured by the blast of the RPG, rose to see his team scout and leader hit by machine gun fire.

"As bullets and rocket propelled grenades snapped by within inches of him," Gire roused his teammate and together they got their team leader into a house, his citation read.

The team realized they were stranded and that the quick reaction force vehicle sent to retrieve them had inaccurate coordinates.

Gire couldn't use his Squad Automatic Weapon because of his injuries, so, using a teammate's M-4 and firing from his weak hand, Gire braved direct enemy fire as he ran in the open toward one of the QRF vehicles and directed it back to the wounded men.

Back in the states it was the day before Valentines Day and Michelle Gire, Daniel's step-mother, was baking cookies.

"He normally says 'hey how you are doing' and he didn't say that," recalled Michelle. "I knew immediately something was wrong."

Instead, "Hey 'Chelle, where's dad?" was all he said over the phone as he was evacuated off the battlefield.

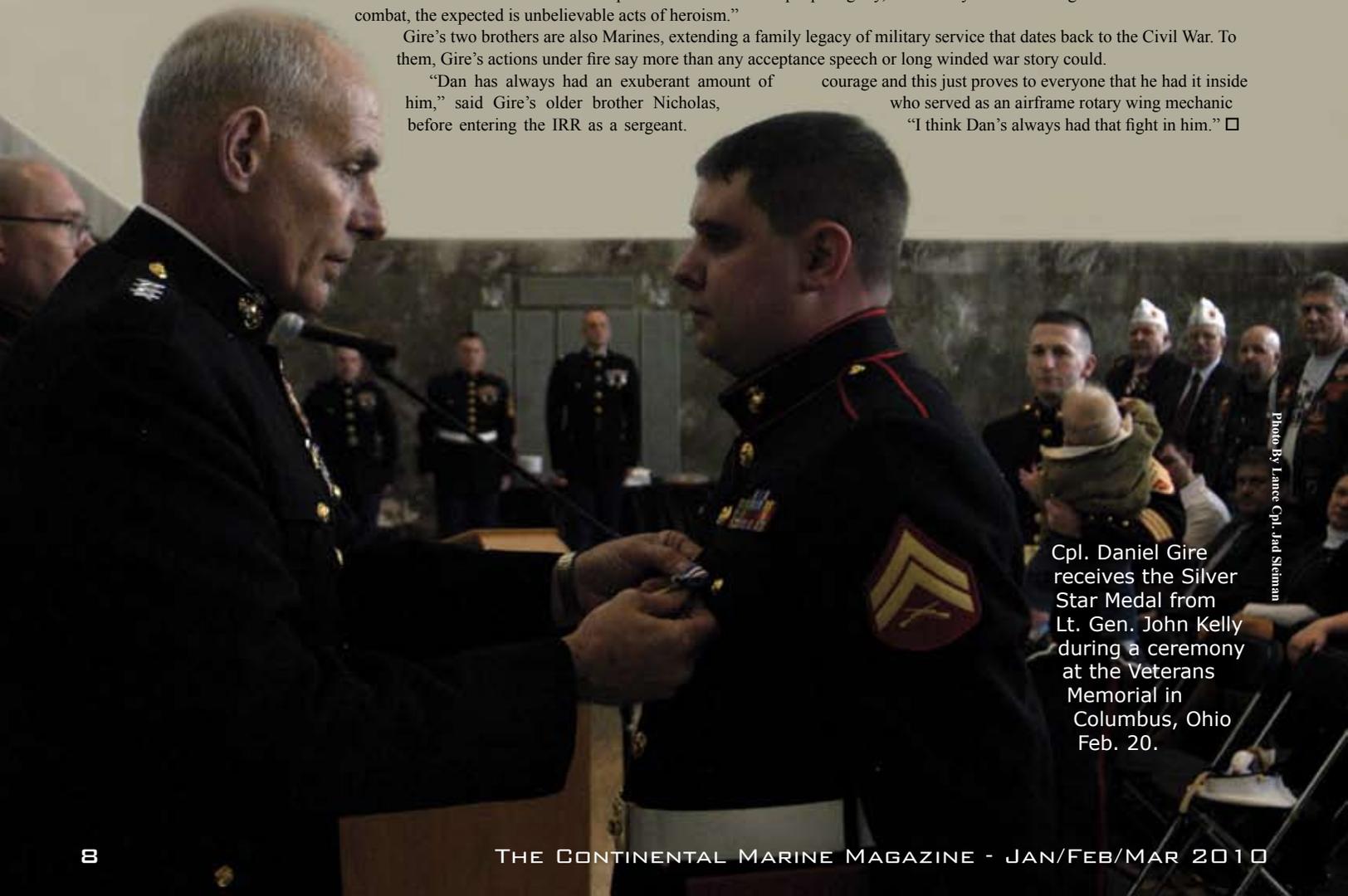
Now safely home with family in Ohio, Gire doesn't like to say too much about what he did, he's shy family said.

His family and fellow service members, however, recognized he had done something special.

"The United States Marine Corps does not decorate its people lightly," said Kelly before reading Gire's citation. "In combat, the expected is unbelievable acts of heroism."

Gire's two brothers are also Marines, extending a family legacy of military service that dates back to the Civil War. To them, Gire's actions under fire say more than any acceptance speech or long winded war story could.

"Dan has always had an exuberant amount of courage and this just proves to everyone that he had it inside him," said Gire's older brother Nicholas, who served as an airframe rotary wing mechanic before entering the IRR as a sergeant. "I think Dan's always had that fight in him." □



Cpl. Daniel Gire receives the Silver Star Medal from Lt. Gen. John Kelly during a ceremony at the Veterans Memorial in Columbus, Ohio Feb. 20.

Photo By Lance Cpl. Jad Sleiman

God, Country, Corps: MFR chaplain receives national chaplain of the year award

BY PFC. NANA DANNAPPIAH
MARINE FORCES RESERVE

Navy Cmdr. Phillip "Endel" Lee Jr., deputy force chaplain of Marine Forces Reserve, was named national chaplain of 2009 by the Reserve Officers Association in Washington D.C. Feb. 8.

He earned the Chaplain Vincent Robert Capodanno National Chaplain of the Year Award for "innovative and self-motivating, groundbreaking, tip of the spear ministry," according to the Navy Chaplain Corps.

"There was no one more fitting to receive the award because of the long, intense, dedication I've seen him give to his role as a chaplain," said Navy Capt. Timothy Lantz, force chaplain of MarForRes.

Lee provided spiritual support for funerals and military personnel in New York City after 9/11. He and other chaplains escorted family members of victims to ground zero to pray.

"It was the most challenging ministry, but also the most meaningful ministry I had the privilege to provide," he said.

In 2005, Lee provided ministry to the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Forces to Camp Fallujah, Iraq. When a Marine was injured from a roadside bomb during a convoy, Lee volunteered on the next convoy via a dangerous route to go pray for him.

"He has been there with people who have died, and provided spiritual comfort to the Marines and to the Sailors, and to family members of falling Marines and Sailors," said Lantz.

He returned home to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Lee mobilized to cater to the spiritual needs of the Coast Guard rescuers.

His current office at MarForRes is responsible for supplying all chaplains for MarForRes and Navy Reserve chaplains who report to active components.

Lee is very organized and focused on what he wants, said Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jaun DeJesus, a religious program specialist at his office. He is in D.C. receiving an award, but still sends text messages asking about tasks he wants complete.

"He does not give up on anything and expects the same from you," said Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Ashley N. Mays, also a religious program specialist at his office.

"I am humbled to be counted among those in the U.S. Armed Forces serving our country and the cause of freedom around the world," said Chaplain Lee in a ROA press release. "I pray this affirmation of the spiritual support chaplains provide will inspire others to serve as hero-helpers in like manner. □

"He has been there with people who have died, and provided spiritual comfort to the Marines and to the Sailors, and to family members of falling Marines and Sailors"

Navy Capt. Timothy Lantz
Marine Forces Reserve Force
Chaplain



Navy Cmdr. Phillip "Endel" Lee Jr., a reserve CHaplain, speaks to a Marine as the fly out fo Forward Operating Base Kalsu, Iraq. Lee deployed with 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force in 2005 as the battalion chaplain.

Marines add adventure to Armed Forces Bowl



Photo By Maj. Paul L. Greenberg

Marine Cpl. Patrick Treece, an air traffic control communications technician, explains the functioning of his remote landing site tower to 7-year-old Mathis Wilson at the Armed Forces Bowl "Adventure Zone" on the Texas Christian University campus in Fort Worth, Texas Dec 30, 2009. Treece, a Rowlett, Texas resident, is a reservist stationed with Air Traffic Control Detachment A, Marine Air Control Squadron 24, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing. The transportable air traffic control tower is used on expeditionary airfields in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Photo By Tech Sgt. Julie Briden

BY MAJ. PAUL L. GREENBERG

MARINE FORCES RESERVE

A dedicated group of leathernecks from several Marine Forces Reserve units in Texas and Louisiana sacrificed some of their holiday vacation to showcase their equipment at the 2009 Armed Forces Bowl festivities at Texas Christian University (TCU) here Dec. 30-31.

“The Marine equipment is tremendously instrumental at the Adventure Zone,” said Brant Ringler, the executive director of this seventh annual Armed Forces Bowl. “It lets families come out and see what the military is all about. When people meet the Marines and see, feel and touch the equipment they get a better idea of what it is all about, what our service members do.”

The Marines showcased their military hardware at the Adventure Zone, where troops from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces set up interactive exhibits across the street from the TCU stadium.

Marine Forces Reserve displays included small arms such as rifles and machine guns, as well as a 155mm Howitzer and a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System from the 14th Marine Regiment.

“This gives the Marines a good chance to get out of their comfort zone; instead of just performing maintenance and shooting these weapons, they are here to explain their capabilities in detail, and talk about what we do in the Marine Corps,” said Sgt. Derek Knight, a howitzer section chief with Battery O, 5th Battalion, 14th Marines. “This is a great educational experience for everyone.”

Many parents throughout the region brought their children to the Adventure Zone for this learning opportunity during this winter school break.

“He’s never been around the military much, and he’s amazed by the technology and the Marines and soldiers displaying it,” said Phil Sulak of Rosenberg, Texas, who brought his 11-year-old son. “His grandfather

fought with the Marines in the Pacific during World War II, so it’s great for him to meet the Marines here today.”

Marine Corps veteran Nick Cariotis, who served two tours in Vietnam with Lt. Col. Paul X. Kelley’s 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment between 1965-1968, was in his element at the Adventure Zone Dec. 30. Now the assistant district attorney for Dallas County, this was the seventh year in a row Cariotis has attended the Armed Forces Bowl festivities.

“This is what the Marine Corps is all about, these young Marines out here These guys are our spokesmen. They are why we have such a strong relationship with the public. They are why America loves its Marine Corps,” said Cariotis of the Marines in uniform on-site. “There is no such thing as an ex-Marine. I walk around with this hat on, and all day long people look at me, smile, and say ‘Semper Fi!’”

Pilots from Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 773, a reserve unit based in Belle Chasse, La., impressed visitors with the AH-1W Cobras, which they flew onto the TCU campus as part of the Adventure Zone Dec. 30.

The Cobra pilots and crew explained the helicopter’s capabilities to spectators as children got the opportunity to explore the inside of the aircraft.

“This is the perfect marriage between the military and the community,” said Gunnery Sgt. Bobby Adkins, who served in the Corps for 20 years as an air frames and hydraulic systems mechanic and retired in 2004, settling down in Fort Worth to work for an electronics repair company. “It’s great for these folks to come here and meet the reservists and understand what they do. The only thing that most Americans know about the military is what they see on TV. This is more real.”

The Marine displays also included a remote landing site transportable air traffic control tower from Air Traffic Control Detachment A, Marine Air Control Squadron 24. This high-tech piece of gear is used in expeditionary airfields in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the Marines who

U.S. Navy Admiral Michael Mullen, Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, accepts this year's Patriot Award from Armed Forces Insurance Chairman Colonel (ret) Tom Dials during a halftime ceremony at this year's Armed Forces Bowl Dec. 31, 2009.



Photo By Tech Sgt. Julie Briden



Photo By Maj. Paul L. Greenberg

Lance Cpl. Justin Roberts (left) explains the functioning of the MK-19 grenade launcher to 14-year-old Civil Air Patrol Cadet Rodney Johnson at the Armed Forces Bowl "Adventure Zone" prior to the football game at the Texas Christian University campus in Fort Worth, Texas Dec. 31, 2009. Roberts is an electro-optical ordnance technician with Headquarters Battery, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve.

operate and maintain this equipment must have the requisite skills and training.

"The best part of this is that the public can see the kind of bright young Marines we have today," said Master Sgt. James John, the staff non-commissioned officer in charge of Detachment A. "Many people think that all we do as Marines is carry guns and shoot at the enemy. These guys are highly skilled as operators and technicians. It's important that the public sees that."

Just prior to game time on Dec. 31, the Marines put away their gear and headed across the street to the crowded TCU stadium to watch the

football game.

Thousands of Marines and fellow service members braved the frigid weather, cheering for the Air Force Academy, who upset the University of Houston by a score of 47-20. This was good news for Air Force fans, who saw their team defeated by the Cougars last year.

"It's great having the Marines out here," said U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Samuel D. Cox, the commandant of cadets at the Academy. "Out here with the Air Force and all the other services, this is representative of the joint nature of our forces today. It's important that the American public sees this." □



Photo By Maj Paul L. Greenberg

A group of Marine Corps recruits take their oath of service during halftime at the Armed Forces Bowl football game at Texas Christian University's Amon G. Carter Stadium in Fort Worth, Texas Dec. 31, 2009.

AUXILIARY SECURITY FORCES ACADEMY

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. JAD SLEIMAN

MARINE FORCES RESERVE

When the need for extra security arises aboard Navy and Marine Corps installations in the New Orleans area Marines and sailors, otherwise serving as anything from cooks to data techs, strap on M9 service pistols and answer the call as part of the Auxiliary Security Forces.

Every few months another crop of trainees attends the three week Auxiliary Security Forces Academy aboard Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Belle Chase for lessons in baton strikes, vehicle searching, check point operations and detainee handling. The students also qualify with the M9 service pistol, the M-16

and the M500 shotgun.

The Marines and sailors cap off their training by being subjected to a liberal dose of pepper spray straight to the eyes.

Instructors said the training is meant to teach a service member how to do the job of regular, full time security forces.

“He (a Marine or sailor) can be a mechanic but if he comes here, and if we need him, he can pick up a weapon,” explained Petty Officer 1st Class Steven Gillissie, ASF Academy coordinator.

The most recent evolution ran Feb. 1-18. □



Photo By Lance Cpl. Jad Sleiman



Shooting of Anti-Terror squad

On the move: Anti-terrorism battalion practices offensive and convoy operations

BY LANCE CPL LUCAS VEGA
MARINE FORCES RESERVE

FT. RUCKER, Ala. -- Marines with Anti-Terrorism Battalion Company E. executed numerous squad offensive tactical exercises and practiced live fire convoy operations here Feb.27 as part of a 2-day training evolution.

The Marines were given a refresher course in infantry fundamentals led by Inspector and Instructor Cpt. Juan Cristales of E.Co while Inspector and Instructor E. Co 1st Sgt. Daniel R. Barnes Jr. led the period of instruction for the live-fire convoy operations.

"Mastering the basics ultimately leads to the success of squad level infantry," said Cristales, a 14-year veteran. "That's based off history, statistics and my personal experience."

The Marines performed squad offensive operations including: Military Operations on Urban Terrain, fireteam formations, attack positions, and squad movements-in order to develop unit cohesion.

During live-fire convoy operations, the Marines of Tallahassee, Fla., sighted in on green-silhouettes which would pop up spontaneously along the road only to be greeted by 5.56 mm rounds.

While second platoon conducted live-fire convoy operations, third platoon conducted a mock-assault on a MOUT town. They then rotated halfway through the training day.

After brief classroom instruction led by Cristales, of 3rd Platoon the Marines divided into squads and discussed their plan of assault.

First squad led the way, as second and third squads waited for their cues to begin their part of the attack.

First squad came to a halt as second-squad moved quietly into

the shrubs surrounding the area of attack. In this scenario, it was the dummy-town.

Second squad aimed down their sights, in anticipation of the squad leaders cue to begin fire on the town.

Rounds bombarded the city as first squad ran up to the entry point and waited until second squad ceased fire.

As soon as second squad ceased fire, first squad moved in; running through open terrain towards a mound of gravel which provided cover for the fireteams.

The fireteams then ran up to the building. The point man kicked in the door, and led the way as the fireteam cleared the rooms on the first and second story.

This mock-assault was conducted multiple times using blank rounds-during the day and night.

"The nature of the fight for the Marine Corps focuses on the squad," said Cristales. "It's part of their job as infantryman to know this basic stuff."

Cristales focused the evolution on small unit squad offensive operations while reiterating the importance of the mission of the Marine Corps rifle squad principle.

"The mission of the Marine Corps rifle squad is to locate, close width and destroy the enemy by fire and maneuver or to repel the enemies' assault by fire and close combat," third platoon would recite in unison as Cristales led the period of instruction.

"You operate better when you have that cohesive bond in your squads and fireteams," said Lance Cpl. Richard Szymanski, a rifleman with 3rd

Platoon. "When you go into combat you need to be able to know what you are doing and trust what your fellow Marines know too." □

**DO OR
DIE:
LAND
NAVIGATION
AND
OBSTACLE
COURSE
COMPETITION
ADDS
INCENTIVE
TO STRIVE
DURING
TRAINING**





BY LANCE CPL. LUCAS VEGA
MARINE FORCES RESERVE

FORT RUCKER, Ala. - The Marines of Anti-Terrorism Battalion Company E, 2nd and 3rd platoons began training early Feb. 26, with a friendly fire team competition testing their land navigation skills as well as their wits on a problem-solving obstacle course.

The victorious fire team had the privilege of being granted exemption from the long conditioning hike later that evening across uneven terrain and hills in near-freezing temperatures.

The fire teams located various points on the given map aboard the land navigation course. Meanwhile the other event had Marines scratching their heads as they figured out how to successfully transport ammunition across an open area using only a rope or narrow wooden boards to balance beam entire fire teams between wobbly-narrow platforms, as part of the 6-stage leadership reaction course.

At each station of the land navigation course, the fire teams were tested in combat lifesaver, Marine Corps martial arts, weapons assembly/dis-assembly and basic PRC-119 (radio) skills.

"You have three and a half hours to complete this portion gents," said Cpt. Juan Cristales, Inspector and Instructor of E. Co., shortly before the training kicked off.

The Marines then geared up in full armor and stepped off into the woods of the installation, fire team by fire team.

The fire teams marched through Mother Nature's obstacles using only a map and compass to locate the stations.

"We've got to book it to the next station," said Lance Cpl. Shane Padgett, a rifleman with E. Co., after successfully passing three of four of the practical application stations within the first hour of allotted time.

Upon completion of the course, the fire teams then reassembled one by one at the rally point.

"How many did y'all miss," 1st Sgt. Daniel Barnes Jr. would ask as the fire teams sporadically returned. The less assessments the Marines missed on the tests at each station as part of a total point system, the better their chances were of earning a ride back to the bivouac, in opposition to the hike.

"Who's going to be the fire team riding on the back of my seven-ton," Cristales asked while the Marines prepared for the movement to the final phase of the competition. "I'm not trying to embarrass anybody or kill anybody. The hike is roughly 4.1 miles; we will be walking at three miles an hour-Marine Corps

standard."

Leadership Reaction Course

The Marines of E Co. were challenged further with the absence of daylight during the leadership reaction course, a course typically done during hours of sunlight.

"I can't see a thing," Marines would repeat amongst themselves as they negotiated the obstacles.

The leadership reaction tested the Marines problem solving skills under the 6 unique scenarios at each station.

The scoring system for each station of the LRC was all or nothing; pass or fail.

Using only the aide of flashlights attached to their kevlar and the glowing full moon, the Marines scrambled to finish each obstacle in the 12 minutes they were allowed at each station.

The Winner is....

"Fireteam leaders take your score cards to Staff Sgt. Figueroa so we can hurry up and get back to the bivouac," hollered Sgt. Brandon Maple, a M1A1 tank crewman and 3rd Plt. Sgt.

The scores were tallied and one fire team, four Marines out of two entire platoons, jumped into the relative comfort of a blue-van, while the other Marines geared up for the hike back.

It was almost midnight when the Marines endured approximately one hour and 21 minutes of humping across Ft. Rucker. When they had finally reached the bivouac Cristales addressed the Marines on a job well done.

"That hump was approximately 4.1 miles gents, it's all about conditioning," said Cristales. "We stepped off about an hour and a half ago-three miles an hour-Marine Corps standard; you do the math."

"I would have rather been on the back of that seven-ton," said Lance Cpl. Bradford Smith, a rifleman and Miami, Fl. Native as he slowly regained his breath.

The platoons were then given the command to fall out, for the next part of their training: "Rack Ops." □

Exercise Cold Response 2010







THE FINAL PUSH

**MARINES WITH 2/25 FACE DEEP
SNOW, COLD TEMPERATURES
AS PART OF EXERCISE COLD
RESPONSE 2010**



BY CPL. TYLER J. HLAVAC
MARINE FORCES RESERVE

U.S. Marines with 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment faced deep snow, cold temperatures and Norwegian forces as they concluded their role in exercise Cold Response 2010 with a company-sized raid and a brigade assault Feb. 26 - Mar. 01.

During the raid, the U.S. Marines functioned as the lead company during a three-company raid coordinated by the United Kingdom's 45 Commando Group. The raid teamed up the U.S. Marines with two other Royal Marine companies with each company individually raiding a site.

The training scenario involved a number of improvised anti-ship missile launchers being placed at each raid site, guarded by a number of Norwegian military members posing as enemy forces. The British and U.S. Marine companies were charged with destroying launchers at each site as they posed a threat to the multi-national Amphibious Task Force in the area.

"The idea was for us to work together with the British Marines to take out these missile sites," said U.S. Marine Maj. Erik Morton, the commanding officer of Company F, 2nd Bn., 25th Marines. "This was a good opportunity for us to shine and show the other forces what we can do."

During the raid the Marines landed on the beach aboard Dutch and British military craft. Once on the beach, Company F met up with reconnaissance Marines from 4th Reconnaissance Battalion who had been stationed on the beach the night before to gather information for the raid.

Armed with information on the sites and enemy troop strength, the Marines quickly maneuvered across steep, rocky, snowy terrain to the raid sites. At the raid sites, the Marines encountered the mock enemy forces and, after shooting it out for several minutes, defeated the enemy forces and secured the objective.

U.S. Marine Cpl. Dave Truglia, a team leader with Company F, described the difficulties the company faced while fighting their way uphill towards their objective.

"Everything was like slow motion, the snow was so thick we could barely move through it," he said. "It was exhausting charging up the hill toward the enemy but a lot of fun for us as we go to do our thing as infantrymen."

The next two days were more low-key for the U.S. Marines as their time training in Norway came to an end. The final mission for the company was to function as a reserve infantry company for 45 Commando and clear and secure a highway route for a Finnish Mechanized Battalion participating in a brigade level assault on an objective.

Morton said the training missions were a success for the company.

"The raid was our opportunity to display our finesse, as well as observe the tactics of the British Marines and familiarize ourselves with amphibious landing craft. We had a lot of fun and 45 Commando was very pleased with our performance." □



U.S. Marines, NATO Allies gather to remember the Battle Of Narvik

BY CPL. TYLER J. HLAVAC
MARINE FORCES RESERVE

NARVICK, Norway -- U.S. Marines and their NATO allies took a pause during exercise Cold Response 2010 to conduct a brief ceremony in remembrance of the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Narvik Feb. 20.

The Battle of Narvik took place in 1940 and was one of many battles the German military conducted as part of the invasion of Norway during World War II. Narvik was captured in the initial invasion and liberated weeks later by Norwegians fighting alongside Polish, English and French forces. The Norwegians later went on to win several victories before being forced to surrender to the German military.

British Marine Maj. Gen. Buster Howes, the Maritime Component Commander for the Multi-National Task Force, spoke on behalf of the dozens of multi-national service members present at the ceremony.

“Our presence here at this time allows us to pay respects alongside our Norwegian, Dutch, German and Polish colleagues to those who lost their lives here in 1940. We have worked closely with the Norwegian National Joint Headquarters in the planning and conduct of exercise Cold Response 2010 and today we are also reminded of our most important historic ties.”

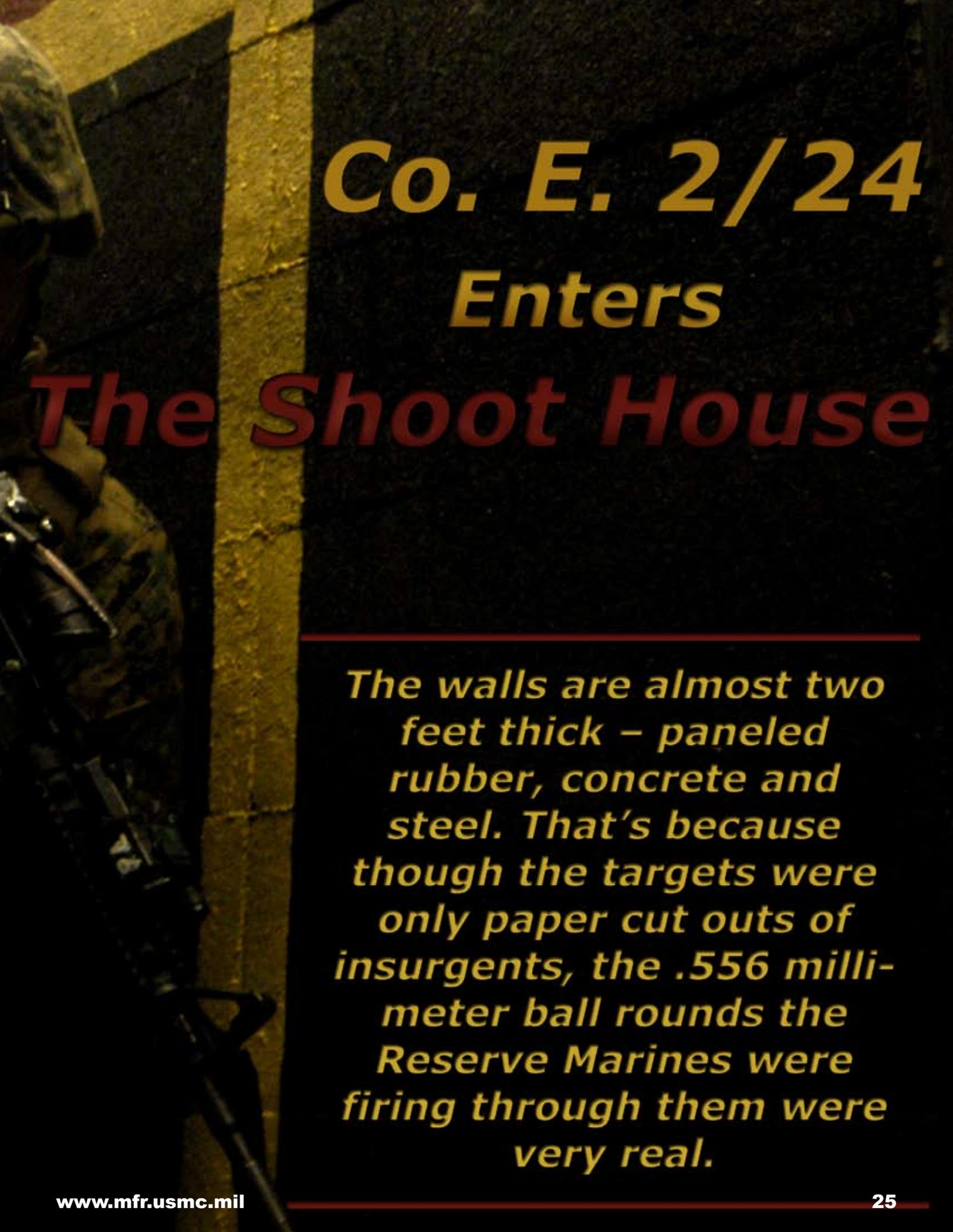
Lt. Col. Anthony Lanza, the battalion commander for 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, who attended the ceremony on behalf of the battalion, explained the importance of U.S. Marine attendance, even though U.S. military forces did not participate in the battle.

“We came to this ceremony today to represent the U.S. Marines and show our support to our NATO allies,” Lanza said. “It’s important that we learn about our allies’ history and show support for their militaries. These countries have been our friends throughout several conflicts and it’s important to support each other.” □





*Story and Photos By
Lance Cpl. Jad Sleiman*



Co. E. 2/24 **Enters** **The Shoot House**

The walls are almost two feet thick – paneled rubber, concrete and steel. That’s because though the targets were only paper cut outs of insurgents, the .556 millimeter ball rounds the Reserve Marines were firing through them were very real.



The Marine reservists of Company E., 2nd Battalion, 24th Marines polished their room clearing skills inside the Shoot House, a warehouse style building with numerous rooms and hallways on the first floor and an observation catwalk on the second, during a live fire exercise March 6 aboard Camp Dodge, Iowa.

"Confidence is everything," said Lance Cpl. Ross M. Hendricks, a rifleman with 2nd Bn., 24th Marines who deployed to Iraq with the unit in 2008. "I can't put a price on it."

Confidence, explained the Marines, in each other.

As the Marines poured through doors, rooms and hallways, flowing within inches of one another, each had a round chambered in his weapon. As they plugged away at targets on the move and in close quarters, one careless mistake could've meant tragedy.

"The live fire element brings to it an increased amount of danger," explained Staff Sgt. John Gillman, the training chief for Company E., as he paced across the catwalk and outlined the Marines' route of entry. "Once they go through this they'll have an increased amount of confidence in their teammates."

Sgt. George Schuab, a platoon sergeant with Company E., said this type of team building training, which hasn't been conducted since the unit's last deployment in 2008, is especially important for new joins who have never deployed.

"You have these new guys who haven't been in that long, who haven't put that many rounds down range," he said, "It's all reiteration, so that when they get to the battlefield they can do all this without thinking, it's automatic."

In the shadow of the real Shoot House, the Marines first tested their skills in the "tape house." Squad and fire team leaders watched as their Marines made their way through engineering tape laid out on the ground to recreate walls and doorways, stopping the action often to make corrections.

"I can see you and you can't even see me yet," said Cpl. Andrew Turner, a squad leader with weapons platoon, as he pointed to one of his Marines from within the tape house. "You're dead."

He was talking about perspective, what the Marine can see versus what the enemy can see.

"Basically, MOUT (Military Operations in Urban Terrain) is a game of angles," explained Cpl. Aaron Hummel, a fire team leader. "You have to dominate the angles, minimize vulnerability while maximizing killing power."

Later, Hummel would pretend to be a door way. He held the muzzle of another Marine's rifle to his side while that Marine maintained an alert stance.

"Your weapon needs to be right at the edge of the door, that's where the threat is going to be," he explained.

The senior men in the company scrutinized everything from foot to finger placement as, arms folded, they watched their Marines - lean left don't step left, look with your head not your rifle, finger straight and off the trigger.

The key to room clearing, however, is not getting lost in the details and staying flexible, the veteran members of the company explained.

"If we went through this room a thousand times it wouldn't be beneficial," said Turner, adding that every room is different because furniture, layout and debris are ever changing variables. "You can't have set in stone rules."

Indeed, the rules for room clearing, if there are any, vary from unit to unit and battle to battle.

"There are different SOPs (standard operating procedures), but the essential goal is always the same: clear as quickly and safely as possible," said Schuab.

From the tape house the Marines entered the real deal for a dry run without ammunition.

Gillman and 2nd Lt. Michael Tong ran the house, following fire teams of four Marines as they made their way through the building.

Gillman would line the Marines up at the end of each run and most were told they needed to be louder when they passed along commands and information about threats and room layouts. When live rounds started cracking off, with the noise amplified within the house's confined spaces, they had little trouble sounding off.

Lance Cpl. Timothy Horihan, who had never done similar live fire training and joined the unit too late to deploy, had the added responsibility of being the point man when his fire team went through the house. That means he was the first Marine to enter every room.

If he doesn't clear a doorway, neither does his team. If he fails to neutralize a threat, it threatens his team.

"You're a little bit nervous, but mostly you're just worried about getting through that door," he said.

Nerves aside, Gillman had little to correct after Horihan and his team got to the final room.

"Being able to put rounds through the target and not have to worry about your guys shooting you by accident, that's good stuff," said Horihan. □

NEW CORPORAL'S COURSE CURRICULUM HITS MFR

BY LANCE CPL. LUCAS VEGA
MARINE FORCES RESERVE

MARINE FORCES RESERVE, New Orleans – Eleven Marines in Class 27-10 from MarForRes Headquarters graduated Corporal's Leadership Course Mar.12 as the first class here to successfully complete the course under the revamped curriculum.

The course, which was overhauled with more emphasis on leadership skills, teaches qualified lance corporals and junior noncommissioned officers how to, "lead by example, and not be afraid to make mistakes."

"This new course focuses on developing the minds of our young leaders," said MarForRes headquarters battalion Sgt. Maj. Chris Bloebaum. "All the knowledge the Marines receive will help them develop into a sound noncommissioned officer."

As stated per Marine Administrative Message 375-09, the course now has a mastery/non-mastery evaluation method which ultimately grades Marines performance during the course, eliminating the previous curriculum's grade point average method. Marines must master seven of the nine courses' evaluations to graduate.

"It's easier Marine Corps wide to have a mastery/non-mastery method because it provides more consistent evaluation of the Marines across the board," said Bloebaum, who led various periods of instruction during the course including: Leadership Styles and Developing the NCO Mindset. "You either got it, or you don't."

The previous course curriculum demanded more Marine Corps drill, guidon

and sword manual, and physical training. The new curriculum spends more time in the classroom.

"I was impressed on what we learned with the sword and guidon," said Cpl. Karen Holliday, data network specialist, Headquarters, Marine Forces Reserve, who was named the honor graduate for the course. "I have never put my hands on a sword or guidon before, but I felt like I did really well."

The students also faced a different style of physical training.

"The PT is less green-on-green and more boots and utes, with crossfit and P90X added in," explained Bloebaum.

The course is more of a two-way street between the instructors and the students.

"They now have guided discussions, and the instructors allow the Marines to make decisions," Bloebaum said. "It allows the Marines to give their input which is a vital tool needed as a young leader."

The course ends with a short field exercise where they do land navigation and have a "Warrior's Night," where the Marines sit around a camp fire and reflect on the course.

Then followed a graduation ceremony with special guest, Sgt. Maj. Kim Davis, command sergeant major, Marine Forces Reserve.

"When they graduate they have a sense of accomplishment," stated Bloebaum. "Their toughest challenge then is to take the valuable skills they learned in those three weeks back to their sections and make a difference." □





Todd Olsen embraces 1st Sgt. Kevin Bowman after receiving his son's purple heart while his wife, Kim, looks on. Lance Cpl. Nigel Olsen, was killed in action March 4, respectively, by improvised explosive devices while supporting combat operations in Afghanistan's volatile Helmand province. Marines with Company C, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion gathered for a Purple Heart Medal ceremony March 23 to recognize the sacrifices of two of their fallen brothers. (Photo By Cpl. Tyler J. Hlavac)

**“He wanted to be the best of the best and was excited, yet anxious, to deploy to Afghanistan... The ceremony made us feel proud; our son's life was given, not lost.”
said Todd Olsen.**





NORWAY -U. S. Marines with Fox Company, 2nd Battalion 25th Marines, 4th Marine Division provide cover fire during a "RAID" for exercise Cold Response (CR10) on February 26, 2010. CR10 is a Norwegian sponsored, scheduled, and conducted multinational invitational exercise with the Norwegian armed forces focused on cold weather maritime/amphibious operations, interoperability of expeditionary forces, special and ground operations.

Participants include forces from Great Britain, the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, Germany, Austria and other NATO partners. This exercise, previously known as Battle Griffin, will occur entirely north of the Arctic Circle and will emphasize individual and unit cold weather capabilities.

Photo By Master Sgt. Michael Q. Retana

