

USMC MOTOR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Convoy Express
Newsletter

The logo is circular with a red border. Inside the border, the text "U.S.M.C." is at the top and "M.T. ASSOCIATION" is at the bottom. In the center, there is a yellow and red emblem featuring a Marine Corps globe and a motor transport vehicle. Below the circle is a red banner with the text "YOU CALL... WE HAUL!" in white.

The Official Newsletter of The USMC MTA

Founded Sept. 1997 - Incorporated Sept. 2008

“ PROUD MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MARINE CORPS COUNCIL ”



Reserve Marines Test Their Limits In Exercise Nordic Frost 18

Marines with Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 24th Marines, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, fire mounted MK-19 grenade launchers during exercise Nordic Frost at Camp Ethan Allen Training Site in Jericho, Vt., Jan. 19, 2018. The exercise allowed Marines to demonstrate their ability to operate in a cold weather mountainous environment, conducting land navigation, marksmanship training, demolitions, call for fire training and other core competencies. Photo By: Samantha Schwoch

(story page 7)

USMC MTA *on the web* usmcmta.org

Table of Contents **MTA Quick**

2 Contents

3 Officers

Officers Message

4 President's Letter

4 Secretary's Corner

4 Webmaster

4 MTAA President

5 Around the Corps

Kin Blue, Okinawa, Japan

MCAS Miramar, Calif.

Haramura Higashi Hiroshima, Japan

Okinawa, Japan

Articles

6 Americas Battalion Embarks On
An Amphibious Assault Ship

7 Reserve Marines Test Their Limits In
Exercise Nordic Frost

8-9 U.S., French Complete Pititol Deployment
In The U.S. 5Th. Fleet

10 Marine Corps Makes History With Mine
Plow Prototype For Assault Vehicle

Remembered

11 Taps

Form (s)

12 PX Order Form

13 Bakeless Bake Sale

Photo Credits

Front Page

Reserve Marines Test Their Limits
In Exercise Nordic Frost 18 Photo By: Samantha Schwoch

Around The Corps

Kin Blue, Okinawa, Japan Photo By: Lance Cpl. Charles Plouffe

MCAS Miramar, Calif. Photo By: Cpl. Jake McClung

Haramura Higashi Hiroshima, Japan
Photo By: Lance Cpl. Marcus Campbell

Okinawa, Japan Photo By: Sgt. Ally Beiswanger

Articles

Americas Battalion Embarks On An
Amphibious Assault Ship Photo By Sgt. Ricky Gomez

Reserve Marines Test Their Limits In Exercise
Nordic Frost 18 Photo By: Samantha Schwoch

U.S., French Complete Pititol Deployment In The
U.S. 5Th. Fleet Photo By: Jessica Licio

Marine Corps Makes History With Mine Plow Prototype
For Assault Vehicle Photo By: USMC: Courtesy Photo.

afterservice@usmcmta.org an email address, established for communicating so you can now contact us for information of employer(s) who are seeking out Motor Transport Veteran applicants. One must be a member in good standing. Further informations will appear here as we continue forward with this link. Please see Webmaster message in this newsletter.

Camp Lejeune: Past Water Contamination

From the 1950s through the 1980s, people living or working at the U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, were potentially exposed to drinking water contaminated with industrial solvents, benzene, and other chemicals. Learn about research on past chemical contamination. - See more at: <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/#sthash.SLw9Rrli.dpuf>

Bakeless Bake Sale

April has been designated as our Bakeless Bake Sale. This is a fundraiser for the Barrie O. Delp Schlorship fund. In the month of April we would like for all who can, to donate a little something. See Page 13 of this newsletter for details.

Scholarship's. MTA members,

it's not too early to talk to your children, grandchildren about the next scholarships. Remember one is awarded to a student going to attend a four year college and the other is for a student going to a vocational/technical school/college. June 30th is the submission deadline Forms are available email auxpresident@usmcmta.org

MTA is hosting a breakfast

three Sundays a month (1 thu 3) at the VFW. on Sunday's from 8 am till 11 am. Thanks to all of you for supporting us there.

The monthly dutch treat luncheons

are continuing in the Jacksonville area; contact Shirley Prevatte or any one of the area auxiliary members for info or email auxpresident@usmcmta.org

hqmc.marines.mil - Department of Defense

It is our honor to recognize the hqmc.marines.mil and Department of Defense and their contributions of story and photos presented within The Convoy Express and the following statement: The appearance of U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) visual information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement.

The United States Marine Corps Motor

Transport Association, Inc. is a 501 (c) (19) non-profit organization operating exclusively for the purpose beneficial to the interests of the Nation and United States Marine Corps Motor Transport Occupational Specialty Field. This Association was formed to bring together all Retired, Veteran Marine, Active Duty, Reserve and others who have served in or with the USMC Motor Transport Field.

USMC MOTOR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION INC.

Elected and Appointed Officers

To contact an officer use the following email addresses, where email is not noted contact the USMC MTA Secretary at secretary@usmcmta.org or call 910.450.1841

Elected Officers

President
Dwight Davidson
president@usmcmta.org

2nd Vice President
Humberto Gonzalez
2ndvp@usmcmta.org

1st Vice President
Robie Roberson
1stvp@usmcmta.org

Secretary
Marcel Arbelaez
secretary@usmcmta.org

Treasurer
Ron Rang
treasurer@usmcmta.org

Trustees
1 Year – Harold Clapp
2 Year – Joe Clark
3 Year – Bob Boni
trustees@usmcmta.org

Special Finance Committee
1st Vice President
Treasurer
2 Year Trustee

Immediate Past President
John Stump III

Past President's
Barry O. Delp
1997-1998*
Deceased

Gary L. Miner
1998- 2000

Robert H. Canning
2000- 2005*
Deceased

Honorary Past President
Albert Patterson
2000*
*Deceased



Appointed Officers

National Marine Corps Council
Cathy Stump
nat.mccouncil@usmcmta.org

Annual Reunion Advisory Committees (*Co-Chairs)
West Coast:
Jimmie Stewart
Jack McDermott
Laura Thorsell

Annual Reunion Advisory Chairman
1st Vice President
Robie Roberson

Annual Reunion Advisory Committees (*Co-Chairs)
East Coast:
Bob Boni
Al Weare

Appointed Officers

Sgt. at Arms
George Hanlin
sgtatarms@usmcmta.org

Chaplain
Marshall Jarvis
chaplain@usmcmta.org

Assistant Chaplain
Francisco B. Paras Jr.
chaplain.asst.@usmcmta.org

PX Manager
Charles Robinson
px@usmcmta.org

Public Relations
pr@usmcmta.org

Historian
Charles Robinson
historian@usmcmta.org

Webmaster / Newsletter
Don McCrary
webmaster@usmcmta.org

Assistant Webmaster
Daryl Rose
webmaster.asst@usmcmta.org

President

Dwight Davidson

Greetings, I hope that everyone is doing well.

We are very busy these days working on lots of different things.

First we are busy with the open house at building M-213 at national headquarters at 13.00 or one 1. PM on May 19th... Secondly there is the reunion for this year (2018) in San Antonio, which will again be held in the Holiday Inn Riverwalk located at 217 North ST Mary's St. Prices will be \$129 plus \$16.75 for taxes. We will be sending a letter out as to information of the reunion after we have the March Officers meeting.

The date of the reunion will be 16 –20 September.

The 2019 Reunion (east coast) will be held at Lake George NY. The ladies auxiliary are already working on this years Christmas party, which will be held in Jacksonville NC. We will get this all in the Newsletter and continue working on the events mentioned.

Wishing you all a very Happy Spring.

Take care.

Dwight Davidson

Secretary

Marcel Arbelaez

Happy Spring!! The warm weather is slowly making its way to us here in eastern North Carolina. With that travel time is upon us. The MTA is in the final steps of locking on the 2018 reunion in San Antonio, TX. Keep in mind it is important to inform the Motor Transport Association of any changes in mailing addresses, email addresses and phone numbers.

We want to be able to have the newsletters and information on gatherings for the reunion and open house arrive to our members in a timely manner. So please update any information and drop it to us by emailing to secretary@usmcmta.org.

Semper Fi,
Marcel Arbelaez

Webmaster

Don McCrary

As Dwight Davidson mentioned our own MTA reunion is approaching so make plans to attend, in Sept., Reunion information will be sent out as soon as the information is finalized and available. This will be our 21st reunion and going strong. Let Marines know everywhere we are always looking for "A Few Good Marines" to become MTA members.

Taking a moment to recongise the upcoming Florida Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion 2018 dates are April 19th to April 22nd. This will be the 31st. reunion. If you have never been, look into it especially the returning Vets today, be welcomed home by fellow Veterans., www.floridaveterans.com

If you see where a error has occurred on the website or the newsletter please contact me, webmaster@usmcmta.org and the correction will be made.

Semper Fi,
Don

MTAA President

Mary Jarvis

Welcome almost Spring and hello to our readers! We are in the midst of an unseasonal warm spell in mid-February here in coastal South Carolina where trees are blossoming and flowers are blooming. Birds are singing and golfers are golfing (well..some do that year round don't they!) I have planted the cool weather part of the garden and the radishes, onions and cucumbers are up and looking good! And, by the way...DO YOU ALL REMEMBER WHAT COMES WITH SPRING??? Well, yes daylight savings time and Easter, Passover, taxes ..but..guess again..

That's right! It's BAKELESS BAKESALE TIME! So, while you are thinking of it, please mark your calendar to get out your checkbook and send your contribution – think of what a couple pies or cakes or a couple dozen cookies would cost to make or buy and pop that amount or lots more if you can (no cash please) into an envelope. Every bit is important and makes a difference when you send it to our headquarters to help us continue with the great Barie O. Delp Scholarship program for years to come. We ask all MTA and MTAA members to do their best to help us out

with this fundraiser..your child, grandchild and so on may be the next recipient!

To reiterate, it's not too late to start request scholarship app for your senior high school student. Please request it from Secretary Shirley or me and then continue to motivate the applicant to complete and return it when all their information is obtained but remember the deadline for completed application is June 30th..no exceptions. I believe we have had 3 requests thus far this year.

The Auxiliary met in January with all officers and two trustees present. Our member has apparently dwindled to 48 ..come on MTA members..we need your significant other to join our ranks! An application form and \$15 per year is it!

The next audit will be completed on March 10th. In the last newsletter I mistakenly said in February but the audit includes February. Both the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were accepted as read/written and unanimously approved. There was no news about our next reunion to report so hopefully there will be info somewhere else in this newsletter. Our next Auxiliary Board meeting is scheduled for April 14th. Remember the monthly luncheon in the Jacksonville area; check with Shirley or Tina for the next location and specific date.

We continue prayers for our members in need...for both the MTAA and the MTA. We were saddened to learn of Hank Barrett's passing and special prayers and condolences to our member Terry. As always if you are aware of any member with illness or injury please let me or any of the officers know so that we may include them in our thoughts and prayers.

May God Bless our Country, our troops at home, deployed and those whom we have lost. May He give strength to those who struggle daily with health issues, injuries and PTSD and to those who work to support and heal those afflicted.

Until next time...Mary

Around The Corps



KIN BLUE, OKINAWA, JAPAN - U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Carlie Castillo (left) and Lance Cpl. Nathan Peterson (right) escort a convoy Jan. 23, 2018 on Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, during Exercise Samurai. During the exercise, Marines refine their skills to better support Division operations in an expeditionary environment. Castillo, a native of Marquette, Michigan, and Peterson, a native of Hamilton, Montana, are with Headquarters and Service Battalion, 3rd Marine Division. Photo By: Lance Cpl. Charles Plouffe

MCAS MIRAMAR, Calif. - Federal, state and local government stakeholders along with industry representatives met to discuss regional and Marine Corps autonomous vehicle proving grounds, to watch autonomous vehicles begin testing, and to tour the installation at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California, Feb. 21. The representatives came from the San Diego Association of Governments, California Department of Motor Vehicles, California Department of Transportation, California Energy Commission, California Highway Patrol, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Pacific (SSCPAC), Qualcomm Technologies, Inc., and MCAS Miramar. Photo By: Cpl. Jake McClung



HARAMURA HIGASHIHIROSHIMA, HIROSHIMA, JAPAN - A U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Dayshawn Franklin, a motor transport operator with Marine Wing Support Squadron (MWSS) 171, guides an MK-28 extended cargo truck during exercise Kamoshika Wrath 18-1 at Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force Maneuver Area, Haramura Higashihiroshima, Japan, Jan. 10, 2018. Kamoshika Wrath is a biannual, unit-level training exercise that focuses on providing field operation services and establishing a FOB. Additionally, it serves MWSS-171 as a building block for increasing squadron proficiency in command and control. Photo By: Lance Cpl. Marcus Campbell

OKINAWA, Japan - U.S. Marine Master Sgt. John W. Miles leads a convoy operation during Exercise Samurai Jan. 23, 2018, on Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan. Marines with Headquarters and Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Division trained to refine their skills for Division operations in an expeditionary environment. Miles, a native of Knoxville, Tennessee, supported the exercise as the administrative senior enlisted advisor. Photo By: Sgt. Ally Beiswanger



AMERICAS BATTALION EMBARKS ON AN AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT SHIP

By Sgt. Ricky Gomez, 3rd Marine Division



Americas Battalion prepares to embark on an amphibious assault ship

U.S. Marines with Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, form a conveyer belt to load sea bags into the back of a 7ton truck in Okinawa, Japan, Feb. 1, 2018. The Marines are preparing to embark on the amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD-6) going to Thailand to participate in Exercise Cobra Gold 2018. Cobra Gold 18 is an annual exercise conducted in the Kingdom of Thailand and runs from Feb. 13-23 with seven full participating nations. Photo By Sgt. Ricky Gomez

WHITE BEACH, OKINAWA, Japan --

U.S. Marines embarked on an amphibious assault ship headed to the Kingdom of Thailand Feb. 1, 2018.

3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division loaded onto the amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD-6) in route to the Kingdom of Thailand to participate in Exercise Cobra Gold 18.

“Cobra Gold is giving us the opportunity to rehearse a wide range of amphibious operations” Said U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Evan Ota, a Kealakekua, Hawaii Native and battalion operations officer.

“It is not every day you an opportunity to refine ship-to-shore movements.”

The Marines completed an extensive pre-deployment training program, focusing on live-fire maneuvers, vertical envelopment, infantry tactics, and military operations in urban terrain. However, this will be the first time most Marines will participate in a multination amphibious exercise.

“My squad and I prepared for this exercise by going over standard operating procedures and working on our small unit [tactics],” said U.S. Marine Sgt. Jace Pido, a Seabrook, Texas native and squad leader for Lima Company, 3rd Bn., 3rd Marines. “We also went

through the combat life savers course and did some training on radio operations.”

Exercise Cobra Gold 2018 is an annual exercise conducted in the kingdom of Thailand held from Feb. 13-23 with up to 29 nations participating. Cobra Gold 18 increases cooperation, interoperability and collaboration among partner nations in order to achieve effective solutions to common challenges.

The Hawaii-based battalion is currently forward-deployed to Okinawa, Japan as part of the unit deployment program.

Reserve Marines Test Their Limits In Exercise Nordic Frost 18

By Pfc. Samantha Schwoch , Marine Corps Forces Reserves



Marines with Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 24th Marines, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, fire mounted MK-19 grenade launchers during exercise Nordic Frost at Camp Ethan Allen Training Site in Jericho, Vt., Jan. 19, 2018. The exercise allowed Marines to demonstrate their ability to operate in a cold weather mountainous environment, conducting land navigation, marksmanship training, demolitions, call for fire training and other core competencies.

Photo By: Samantha Schwoch

JERICHO, Vt. --

In the mountainous terrain of northern Vermont, where temperatures drop below freezing and the snow covers the landscape, Marines were pushed to their limits as they battled against the extreme winter weather.

Marines with 1st Battalion, 24th Marines, 4th Marine Division, pushed through frigid conditions as they participated in the two-week exercise Nordic Frost on Camp Ethan Allen, Jan. 13-27, 2018.

The goal was to improve the unit's environmental capabilities by testing their squad and fire team level of defensive tactics in a winter environment.

"These Marines were in the deserts of Morocco last year," said Capt. John A. Faucette, the weapons company commander of 1st Bn., 24th Marines, 4th MarDiv. "This year, up here in northern Vermont, in very mountainous, snow covered terrain, they have done very well. We exposed the Marines to the cold weather by conducting live fire ranges, and various other exercises to include

small unit leadership. They took the training that was given to them, wore gear properly, stayed warm, and were able to fight."

This cold environment adds additional training to the operations the Marines would otherwise not see in warmer weather conditions. Leadership at all levels must ensure that all training was conducted in a safe manner. The Marines conducted exercises such as land navigation, marksmanship training, demolitions, call-for-fire training and other core competencies.

"Ultimately, our success was defined by safety," said Maj. Husein N. Yagham, the battalion operations officer with 1st Bn., 24th Marines, 4th MarDiv. "Marines are only effective if they are safe and capable, and we have the health in the field to complete the mission. So my guidance, down to the company commanders, was to be taking care of the Marines."

Safety is accomplished by knowing how to properly operate in the weather. The Marines were able to safely train and stay warm after

instruction on how to properly employ their cold weather gear.

"It's was down in the negatives some nights, and the Marines had to stay out in the field," said Faucette. "Utilizing the gear and the training that was given to them shows that we can still function and fight as a battalion, no matter what the conditions are. My company spent a couple nights out in the field without issue. The Marines continued to perform like they would if they were in a warm environment, or something that may have been a little more comfortable than the extreme cold."

Experiencing the cold weather training gave the Marines the confidence to trust that no matter what the conditions are, their equipment and gear, from weapons to warming layers, are effective in any climate and place.

U.S., FRENCH COMPLETE PIVOTAL DEPLOYMENT IN THE U.S. 5TH FLEET

By Staff Sgt. Vitaliy Rusavskiy, TF 51/5



A French landing craft unit transports U.S. Marine Corps medium tactical vehicle replacement trucks during an amphibious offload with French forces aboard French amphibious assault ship LHD Tonnerre (L9014). Tonnerre, with embarked Marines and Sailors from the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit and Naval Amphibious Force, Task Force 51, 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, is conducting maritime security operations within the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations to ensure regional stability, freedom of navigation and the free flow of commerce. Photo By: Jessica Licio

MANAMA, Bahrain --

On any given day, U.S. Marines and Sailors embark naval vessels in preparation for missions around the globe. With approximately 10 different U.S. Navy platforms available to deploy aboard, personnel with Naval Amphibious Force, Task Force 51/5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (TF 51/5) never anticipated receiving orders to board a foreign vessel – but that’s exactly what happened in November 2017 when nearly 150 U.S. Sailors and Marines embarked French Navy Mistral-class amphibious assault ship LHD Tonnerre for a two-month deployment in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations.

TF 51/5 Sailors and Marines joined a multinational landing force consisting of French infantry, French Armored Cavalry and commandos from the United Arab Emirates’ Presidential Guard. Throughout the deployment, TF 51/5 subordinate units with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force – Crisis Response – Central Command (SPMAGTF-CR-CC) and a U.S. Navy Role 2 Light Maneuver (R2LM) medical team with surgical capability conducted amphibious and maritime security operations within the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations.

“This bilateral operation provided an invaluable opportunity for our countries to enhance capabilities in critical mission sets inherent to the U.S. Navy-Marine Corps team operating in the region,” said Capt. Todd Glasser, commander of the combined U.S.-French landing force embarked aboard Tonnerre as part of TF 51/5. “France and the U.S. share a valuable partnership and a leading role in providing regional security and we welcomed the opportunity to work together to support regional stability, freedom of navigation and the free flow of commerce.”

The deployment, dubbed “Bois Belleau 100”, commemorated the 100th anniversary of the World War I Battle of Belleau Wood, where the U.S. Marine Corps’ 5th and 6th Infantry Regiments fought alongside French forces for a strategic stretch located in France’s Belleau Wood.

“The alliance between France and the United States is indeed a historic one, with the United States representing one of the first allies of France,” said Ambassador of the French Republic to the Kingdom of Bahrain Cécile Longé. “Paris and Washington share a long history of military cooperation, spanning more than two centuries, which includes France’s support during the American Revolution. This alliance is constantly reaffirmed. Today, in

an unstable and uncertain world, the United States is an essential partner – a strategic partnership based on joint security interests and joint perception of threats.”

According to Glasser, one of the first orders issued to the French Amphibious Task Group (ATG), comprised of the Tonnerre and the Horizon-class air defense destroyer Chevalier Paul, was to participate in Alligator Dagger – TF 51/5’s premier integrated combat proficiency training for subordinate units entering the U.S. Central Command’s (CENTCOM) area of responsibility. Specifically, this bilateral training (held off the coast of Djibouti) enables military forces to hone their skills in amphibious operations, air defense, non-combatant and medical casualty evacuations, replenishment-at-sea, tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel as well as combat marksmanship and visit, board, search and seizure evolutions.

The U.S.-French team followed up with a series of exercises throughout the Middle East, aimed at building capacity and capability with regional militaries including Kuwait and United Arab Emirates (UAE).

(continued on page 9)

U.S, FRENCH COMPLETE PIVOTAL DEPLOYMENT IN THE U.S. 5TH FLEET

By Staff Sgt. Vitaliy Rusavskiy, TF 51/5

“The deployment started with amphibious operations in Djibouti during Alligator Dagger and moved to the Arabian Gulf with Alligator Thunder,” said U.S. Marine Maj. Christopher Warnagiris, operations officer for the U.S. landing force command element aboard Tonnerre. “We ended with an exercise in Kuwait during Alligator Lightning, where we employed SPMAGTF-CR-CC to conduct our first tactical use of the MV-22 Osprey aboard a French ship, which entailed deck landings and amphibious raid exercises.”

Warnagiris noted that while there were many firsts during the deployment, the inclusion of a new R2LM team was one of the highlights. Although it was designed to support U.S. and North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces or allied ships to perform en route emergency care, the R2LM team offered critical care capabilities during the multilateral exercises aboard Tonnerre.

“We successfully integrated with the French medical team and proved that we can conduct maritime operations on a NATO-allied vessel and various medical

and amphibious operations,” said Lt. Cmdr. Patrick Magajna, a R2LM emergency medicine physician aboard Tonnerre. “Even though we did business a little differently and experienced a language barrier in the beginning, we managed to work through the challenges quickly.”

According to Glasser, the integration of U.S. and French forces aboard Tonnerre ranged from communication support and intelligence to administration and logistics operations. The exercises were a continuation of the professional development of our forces, allies and partner nations and furthered our efforts toward ensuring regional stability in one of the most dynamic regions in the world.

“It is important that we take a moment to recognize the significance of our partnership with our countries over the last century,” said Glasser. “Though decades have passed, our resolve to work together to preserve regional stability remains steadfast. We are proud to call the French an invaluable partner and more importantly, our friends.”

French Tonnerre sailors echoed the sentiments of Glasser.

“Working with the U.S. Marines and Sailors aboard the Tonnerre was a very good experience,” said Second Master Marine LePage with the information management cell aboard Tonnerre. “It wasn’t easy at first because of the language barrier, but it was great because we discovered a lot and used the occasion to improve our English and learn from each other. If I have another opportunity, I’d really appreciate working with the U.S. again. The Tonnerre deployment was a great time and it was nice to work with the U.S.”

The ATG operated in the CENTCOM area of responsibility from November 2017 to February 2018. The Tonnerre’s Air Task Group reported to Commander, U.S. 5th Fleet and was under tactical control of TF 51/5 but also remained flexible to conduct multiple missions simultaneously in support of France’s national tasking operations as required.

MARINE CORPS MAKES HISTORY WITH MINE PLOW PROTOTYPE FOR ASSAULT BREACHER VEHICLE

By Kaitlin Kelly, MCSC Office of Public Affairs and Communication, Marine Corps Systems Command



U.S. Marines from 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, conduct the first amphibious landing in an Assault Breacher Vehicle with a Modified Full Width Mine Plow prototype during Exercise Steel Knight on the west coast. Marine Corps Systems Command tested the prototype which will make it easier to transport the ABV from ship to shore. (Marine Corps Courtesy Photo.)

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, VA --

The Marine Corps' Assault Breacher Vehicle made history last year when it conducted its first amphibious landing with a Modified Full Width Mine Plow prototype during a long-range breaching exercise in the western United States.

In December 2017, Marine Corps Systems Command used Exercise Steel Knight as an opportunity to test the Modified Full Width Mine Plow prototype for the first time. Steel Knight is a division-level exercise designed to enhance command and control, and interoperability with the 1st Marine Division, its adjacent units and naval support forces.

In the future, this piece of equipment will make it easier for Marines to land and deploy an ABV from a Navy Landing Craft Utility boat to the shore to complete their mission.

“Our legacy Full Width Mine Plow on the ABV could not fit onto an LCU because it was too wide,” said Timothy Barrons, ABV project officer for Engineer Systems at Marine Corps Systems Command. “The prototype we are testing fills a current capability gap and gives commanders the flexibility to use multiple surface connectors to get ABVs in the fight.”

The modified plow prototype is not only easier to transport, but safer to use, Barrons said. Once

the LCU drops the bow ramp onto land, Marines can drive the ABV off the boat, open the plow and breach the area to ensure they eliminate any unsafe obstacles.

“The Assault Breacher Vehicle is the premiere breaching tool in the Marine Corps, and there is no other tool like it,” said Alvin “Tommy” West, ABV platform engineer. “It can carry two Linear Demolition Charges (commonly referred to as the line charge) on the back with over a thousand pounds of C4 explosives in each of the charge. A rocket is attached to each line charge to propel the charge, which is critical when clearing a path through mine fields.”

After the line charge detonates, landmines in its path are destroyed or rendered ineffective. Marines use the mine plow to sift through the mine field and push any remaining landmines off to the side, leaving a safe path for the assault force.

“This plow prototype makes the ABV transportable and gives the commander options to accomplish his tasks on the battlefield,” said Barrons. “The capability makes the force more lethal because it helps keep other combat vehicles intact and saves the lives of Marines.”

The ABV Program Team plans to take the information and feedback from Marines gathered at Steel Knight to refine the design and

improve the overall performance of the modified plow. The team wants to ensure the modified plow will meet all requirements of the legacy mine plow in performance and survivability. After the redesign is completed, the articles will be tested at the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center in Maryland.

“Because the plow is foldable and deals directly with explosives, it is going to take some hits, so we need to ensure it is more reliable than the legacy mine plow which was not hinged or foldable,” said West. “There is no other piece of gear in the Marine Corps that does what the ABV with the Full Width Mine Plow does. Our goal is to make the new plow even more reliable and easier to maintain.”

The ABV Program is a part of Engineer Systems under the Logistics Combat Element Systems program at Marine Corps Systems Command.

TAPS

To report a death, notify the USMC MTA Secretary, at secretary@usmcmta.org or call 910-450-1841. Names will be printed after notification of a member passing. The names will remain on this list until the ringing of the bell, in their honor, at the next Reunion. The Motor Transport Association would like to extend their heartfelt sympathy to the survivors during the time of bereavement for their loved ones.

Flihan, Fredrick J. Major (RET) Sept.18th.
Coleman, Ricky P. CW05 (RET) Sept.29th.
Page, Robert H. CW04 (RET)
Barratt, Hank Major (RET) Dec. 16th.

Almighty Father, whose command is over all and whose love never fails, make me aware of Thy presence and obedient to Thy will. Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and deed and helping me to live so that I can face my fellow Marines, my loved ones and Thee without shame or fear. Protect my family. Give me the will to do the work of a Marine and to accept my share of responsibilities with vigor and enthusiasm. Grant me the courage to be proficient in my daily performance. Keep me loyal and faithful to my superiors and to the duties of my country and the Marine Corps have entrusted me to. Make me considerate of those committed to my leadership. Help me to wear my uniform with dignity, and let it remind me daily of the traditions which I must uphold.

If I am inclined to doubt, steady my faith, if I am tempted, make me strong to resist: if I should miss the mark, give me the courage to try again.

Guide me with the light of truth and grant me wisdom by which I may understand the answers to my prayer.

Amen

National Chaplain
Marshal Jarvis

PRINT CLEARLY

Effective June 2014

ALL PREVIOUS FORMS ARE OBSOLETE

PX Order Form

**ADD
\$2.00 FOR EACH**

SHIRTS/W LOGO	SMALL	MED	LARGE	X-LARGE	2X	3X	UNIT PRICE
LIGHT BLUE							Qty X \$22.00 =
NAVY BLUE							Qty X \$22.00 =
HUNTER GREEN							Qty X \$22.00 =
BLACK							Qty X \$22.00 =
RED							Qty X \$22.00 =
MAROON							Qty X \$22.00 =
WHITE							Qty X \$22.00 =
MTA T-SHIRTS	SMALL	MED	LARGE	X-LARGE	2X	3X	UNIT PRICE
BLUE							Qty X \$10.00 =
RED							Qty X \$10.00 =
GRAY							Qty X \$10.00 =
WHITE							Qty X \$10.00 =
RED Windbreaker							Qty X \$27.00 =
NAVY Windbreaker							Qty X \$27.00 =
*** WITH NAME ADDED ON ANY ITEM LISTED ABOVE ADD \$5.00 PER ITEM*** ->							Qty X \$5.00 =
USMC FLAG 3 X 5 Cotton							Qty X \$5.00 =
USMC RETIRED FLAG 3 X 5 Cotton							Qty X \$5.00 =
AMERICAN FLAG 3 X 5 Nylon							Qty X \$17.00 =
MTA LOGO LICENSE PLATE (Metal backing, vinyl inlay with Reflective Coating)							Qty X \$15.00 =
MTA NAME TAG ** SHIPPING IS ENCLUDED IN THE PRICE** This item only							Qty X \$10.00 = No S/H
MTA LOGO CHALLENGE COIN							Qty X \$6.00 =
MTA LOGO HATS (One size fits all) BLUE BLACK RED WHITE MC GREEN							Qty X \$15.00 =
USMC MTA LOGO PATCH							Qty X \$3.00 =
USMC MTA Window Decals Inside Outside							Qty X \$1.00 =
USMC MTA MEMBERSHIP PIN							Qty X \$3.00 =
RED VEST (SPECIAL ORDER ONLY) Not an stock item **Indicate Size Here >>>							Qty X \$25.00 =
Add \$5.00 if you want your name added: Print Name Clearly Here >>							Qty X \$5.00 =
USMC MTA REUNION PINS							
1st NC 2nd NV 3rd TN 4th CA 5th SC 6th MO 7th NY 8th CO							Qty X \$3.00 =
9th GA 10th TX 11th MD 12th HI 13th IN 14th AZ 15th							Qty X \$3.00 =
16th WA 17th VA 18th CP, CA							Qty X \$3.50 =

SUB TOTAL =

SHIPPING AND HANDLING

Shirts, Vests, T-Shirts, Hats, License Plates and add \$6.00 S&H for any one (Single) item. If ordering 2 items add \$7.00, 3 items add \$8.00, 4 items or more add an additional \$.50 per item for S&H. MTA Challenge Coins add an additional \$1.25 for S&H. MTA LOGO Patches, Decals and Pins add \$1.00 for S&H any amount. (If shipped with items listed above there is no S&H charge for these items)

Shipping & Handling =

Total Payment =

Prices & Inventory subject to change without notice

Make Check/Money Orders to: USMC Motor Transport Assoc. Inc.

Please allow two to six weeks for delivery

U. S. FUNDS ONLY

Mail Order form with proper payment to:
 USMC Motor Transport Association Inc
 Attn: PX Manager
 P.O Box 1372
 Jacksonville, NC 28541-1372

SHIP ORDER TO:
PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY
 Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone #: _____
 Email: _____

CREDIT/DEBIT CARD INFORMATION
 (Circle One) Discover Card—Visa—MasterCard
 Card # _____
 Amount \$ _____ Zip Code _____
 Exp. Date _____ *CVC # _____
 Signature: _____

There will be a \$10.00 Service Charge on any returned checks, debit or credit card due to NSF.

* Card Validation Code: For Visa, MasterCard and Discover Card; the CVC appears on the back of your in the signature section. The code is 3 digits long.

NEVER SEND CASH THROUGH THE MAIL

Bakeless Bake Sale

*A bit of news we have today, a bakeless bake sale is on it's way.
In these busy days who wants to bake pies, cookies or even cake.
You would be suprised if you counted the cost, materials, heat and the
time you have lost*

*Baking for sales is extra work. Yet nobody really wants to shirk.
So we have thought of a plan and feel quite sure you will understand.
In an envelope, please put the price of a pie or a cake or something nice.*

Without fuss or bother, you have done your part.

We hope you will give with a willing heart.

*This is the end of our little tale, wishing success for our
Bakeless Bake Sale.*

April has been designated as our Bakeless Bake Sale month. This is a fundraiser for the Barrie O. Delp Scholarship Fund. In the month of April we would like for all who can, to donate a little something. All donations are greatly appreciated for the worthy cause.

Thank You

Make checks payable to: USMC MTAA

**USMC MTA AUXILIARY
ATTN; SCHOLARSHIP FUND
P.O. BOX 1372
JACKSONVILLE, NC 28541-1372**