

# Scuttlebutt



**MILITARY SEA SERVICES MUSEUM, INC.**



**Jan/Feb 2023**



**John Cecil**

## **A message from the President**

This has been a very good year and I'm looking forward to a great 2023. The Veterans Parade was cancelled because of inclement weather. Many veterans were recognized for their service at small gatherings throughout the county. The Sebring Christmas Parade featured the museum's newest fleet addition, the volunteer built UCSGC Munro. The museum's fleet now numbers 3, including the USS Samuel B. Roberts DE 413, the USS Enterprise CV6 and Munro.

With the assistance of an engineer and contractor, a planning session is forthcoming regarding the expansion of the museum. Continuous donations have enabled us to start moving forward with this project.

Regrettably the Sheriff's Dept. no longer allows trustees out on cleaning details. In an effort to have a safe and sanitary environment for our visitors and members, the BOD has contracted Lupey Reyes to clean the museum monthly.

## **Museum Happenings**

**Check out the MSSM Video @**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGehKclhcVM>**



On October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the MSSM celebrated the 247<sup>th</sup> birthday of the United States Navy. The youngest sailor present was Al Whitbeck, former MM3 (SS) pictured in the background, and the oldest was Peter Goss, CPO Ret, pictured in the foreground. The two completed the ceremonial cake cutting to kick off the celebration, with ice cream supplementing the delicious cake. Sea stories abounded and all in attendance had an enjoyable afternoon.



The Sebring Arts and Crafts Festival was held on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The MSSM's newly completed parade float, USCG Cutter Munro was on display after completing its shakedown cruise. The brilliant white model captured the eye of many fair goers and drew them down to the display kiosk. Brothers Chris & Fred Carino, Juan Rivera, and Al Whitbeck provided information to all visitors regarding the museum, its contents, and visitation hours. The number of visitors at the display was beyond expectations.



**Due to hurricane Nicole, the 247<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Birthday celebration was moved from 10 Nov 2022 to 12 November 2022.**



Holding with tradition, the oldest and youngest Marine present had the honor of cutting the cake to celebrate the Marine Corps 247<sup>th</sup> Birthday. In the foreground is William (Bill) Schroder, oldest and Keith Braden in the background the youngest. Quite a large turnout was present to enjoy the festivities.



## **US NAVY SEALs established on 1 January 1962**

The United States Navy Sea, Air, and Land (SEAL) Teams, commonly known as Navy SEALs, are the U.S. Navy's primary special operations force and a component of the Naval Special Warfare Command. Among the SEALs main functions are conducting small-unit special operation missions in maritime, jungle, urban, arctic, mountainous, and desert environments. SEALs are typically ordered to capture or to kill high level targets, or to gather intelligence behind enemy lines. All active SEALs are members of the U.S. Navy. The CIA's highly secretive and elite Special Operations Group (SOG) recruits operators from SEAL Teams, with joint operations going back to the MACV-SOG during the Vietnam War. This cooperation still exists today, as evidenced by military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

President John F. Kennedy, aware of the situation in Southeast Asia, recognized the need for unconventional warfare and special operations as a measure against guerrilla warfare. In a speech to Congress on 25 May 1961, Kennedy spoke of his deep respect for the United States Army Special Forces. While his announcement of the government's plan to put a man on the moon drew most of the attention, in the same speech he announced his intention to spend over \$100 million to strengthen U.S. special operations forces and expand American capabilities in unconventional warfare. Some people erroneously credit President Kennedy with creating the Navy SEALs. His announcement was only a formal acknowledgement of a process that had been underway since the Korean War.

The Navy needed to determine its role within the special operations arena. In March 1961, Admiral Arleigh Burke, the Chief of Naval Operations, recommended the establishment of guerrilla and counter-guerrilla units. These units would be able to operate from sea, air or land. This was the beginning of the Navy SEALs. All SEALs came from the Navy's Underwater Demolition Teams, who had already gained extensive experience in commando warfare in Korea; however, the Underwater Demolition Teams were still necessary to the Navy's amphibious force. The first two teams were formed in January 1962 and stationed on both US coasts: Team One at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, in San Diego, California and Team Two at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Formed entirely with personnel from UDTs, the SEALs mission was to conduct counter guerilla warfare and clandestine operations in maritime and riverine environments. Men of the newly formed

SEAL Teams were trained in such unconventional areas as hand-to-hand combat, high-altitude parachuting, demolitions, and foreign languages. The SEALs attended Underwater Demolition Team replacement training and they spent some time training in UDTs. Upon making it to a SEAL team, they would undergo a SEAL Basic Indoctrination (SBI) training class at Camp Kerry in the Cuyamaca Mountains. After SBI training class, they would enter a platoon and conduct platoon training.

According to founding SEAL team member Roy Boehm, the SEALs' first missions were directed against communist Cuba. These consisted of deploying from submarines and carrying out beach reconnaissance in a prelude to a proposed US amphibious invasion of the island. On at least one occasion Boehm and another SEAL smuggled a CIA agent ashore to take pictures of Soviet nuclear missiles being unloaded on the dockside.

The Pacific Command recognized Vietnam as a potential hot spot for unconventional forces. At the beginning of 1962, the UDTs started hydrographic surveys and along with other branches of the US Military, the Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) was formed. In March 1962, SEALs were deployed to South Vietnam as advisors for the purpose of training Army of the Republic of Vietnam commandos in the same methods they were trained themselves.

The Central Intelligence Agency began using SEALs in covert operations in early 1963. The SEALs were later involved in the CIA sponsored Phoenix Program where it targeted Vietcong (VC) infrastructure and personnel for capture and assassination.

The SEALs were initially deployed in and around Da Nang, training the South Vietnamese in combat diving, demolitions, and guerrilla/anti-guerrilla tactics. As the war continued, the SEALs found themselves positioned in the Rung Sat Special Zone where they were to disrupt the enemy supply and troop movements and in the Mekong Delta to fulfill riverine operations, fighting on the inland waterways.

Combat with the VC was direct. Unlike the conventional warfare methods of firing artillery into a coordinate location, the SEALs operated close to their targets. Into the late 1960s, the SEALs were successful in a new style of warfare, effective in anti-guerrilla and guerrilla actions. SEALs brought a personal war to the enemy in a previously safe area. The VC referred to them as "the men with green faces," due to the camouflage face paint the SEALs wore during combat missions.

In February 1966, a small SEAL Team One detachment arrived in South Vietnam to conduct direct action missions. Operating from Nhà Bè Base, near the Rung Sat Special Zone, this detachment signaled the beginning of a SEAL presence that would eventually include 8 SEAL platoons in country on a continuing basis. SEALs also served as advisors for Provincial Reconnaissance Units and the Lein. This short article is but a condensed clip of the Seal articles available. Google US NAVY SEALs and you will be afforded a veritable cornucopia of information concerning this elite fighting force.





# February is Black History Month

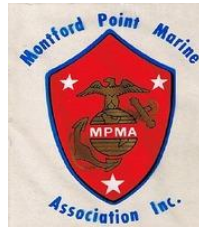
## The Montford Point Marines

The opportunity for African Americans to enlist and serve in the Marine Corps came in 1942 as the Corps began to recruit qualified African American men. The men who enlisted, completed recruit training at Montford Point, North Carolina during a time and place where racism and segregation were a part of everyday life.

Between 1942 and 1949, approximately 20,000 African American men completed recruit training and became known as the "Montford Point Marines." Despite the challenges presented to those Montford Point Marines, their valor and performance at Peleliu, Iwo Jima, the Chosen Reservoir, Vietnam, and more paved the way for our present integrated armed forces.



U.S. Marines jump over an obstacle during basic training at Camp Montford N.C



Cpl. Alvin Ghazlo, demonstrates a disarming . technique

The Corps looked specifically for men with the skills needed to build the facilities where Black Marines would train. They quickly filled the 900-man quota, and that summer the first class of black recruits arrived. "When you got to the gate it was nothing but wilderness" said St. Louis native Walter Thompson Jr. The training grounds were just a few miles away from Camp Lejeune, built that year for \$14 million, where the white recruits were trained. It would be another seven years before the federal government intervened to prohibit racial segregation. When Montford Point was established, everyone in charge was white. The Corps' goal was to train Montford Marines to take over the training of future black recruits. By late 1943, the staff had chosen black Marines to replace the white instructors. "When we took over as weapons instructors and so forth," Archibald Mosley, a Montford Pointer said in a previous interview, "we (blacks) were worse on our own than the whites were on us when they were in charge. I think whites realized that, well, now we don't want to act like we don't like blacks or that we are bigots

or so forth.” Colonel Samuel A. Woods, Jr., was the first commander at Montford Point and mandated that black recruits receive the same training as the whites. “I have found that any soldier anywhere will respond to his duties if treated like a human being. The same is true of the Negro Marines as of all other persons in the service,” Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Carpenter, who trained at Montford Point in 1943 recalled that black recruits were relieved when black drill instructors began replacing the white ones, hoping they wouldn’t be as tough. The opposite turned out to be true. “They, the blacks, were determined to make us succeed and to be real Marines. Their main goal was to ensure that we were going to be better than everyone else.”

**It was May 1943, and the young man in his \$54 dress blues just wanted to get away from base and the stress of wartime, take some liberty, and see his family. But when he got to Cleveland, Pfc. R.J. Wood was arrested and charged with impersonating a Marine, according to Bennie J. McRae's "The Montford Point Marines" Web site. Like most Americans at that time, the Cleveland police had never seen an African American Marine before.**

Wood was one of 21,609 African Americans trained at Montford Point, N.C. They all soon proved that they were real Marines, many of them at places like Iwo Jima. Today's Marine Corps, like its sister services, is fully integrated, but for decades, the Marines did not admit African Americans. In 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 8802 to establish the Fair Employment Practice Commission, banning discrimination "because of race, creed, color, or national origin" in all government agencies.

By 1945, all drill instructors and many NCOs at Montford Point were black. The Montford Marines performed well in their duties at home and abroad, despite the restrictions placed on them by society in their era. In practice, these men surpassed all anti-aircraft gunnery records previously set by Marines and named their weapon "Lena" after their favorite singer, Lena Horne.

Most important, the men of Montford Point made it impossible for the Marine Corps to return to its prewar policy. President Harry S. Truman eliminated segregated units in 1949. But the Montford Point Marines have not been forgotten. In 1998, Parris Island drum major Staff Sgt. Vernon Harris composed the music to a song, "I'll Take the Marines", commemorating the group. The words had been written by a Montford Marine, LaSalle Vaughn. "If African Americans at that time could go through the rigorous training of Marines when it was segregated and they were looked down on and still be proud Marines ... it encourages all Marines to look forward and recognize our progress", Harris said.



# January 2023

<i>SUN</i>	<i>MON</i>	<i>TUE</i>	<i>WED</i>	<i>THUR</i>	<i>FRI</i>	<i>SAT</i>
1 	2 <b>Vietnam Veterans Assn Meeting 1800</b>	3 	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 <b>MSSM Board Mtg 1630</b>	12	13 	14
15 	16 	17	18	19	20	21
22 <b>MSSM Monthly Dinner 14:30</b>	23	24 	25	26	27	28
29	30 FDR Born 1882 	31				
	<p>The Holocaust, also known as the Shoah, was the genocide of European Jews during World War II. Between 1941 and 1945, Nazi Germany and its collaborators systematically murdered some six million Jews across German-occupied Europe; around two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population. The murders were carried out in pogroms and mass shootings; by a policy of extermination through labor in concentration camps, and in gas chambers and gas vans in extermination camps throughout Germany and Poland.</p>					



## February 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1 	2 		
5	6 <b>Vietnam Veterans Assn Mtg 1800</b>	7	8 <b>MSSM Board Mtg</b>	9	10	11
12 	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 	20	21 <b>FAT TUES DAY</b>	22 	23	24	25
26 <b>MSSM Dinner 1430</b>	27	28				
	<p>The MSSM wishes to thank Coker Fuel Inc, for their generous donation again this year. Coker fuel has been providing fuel products for over 50 years. One can pick up their product at Cokers friendly office, or, if larger quantities are necessary, deliveries are always made by, on time, courteous drivers. The Military Sea Service Museum is proud to be associated with this exemplary local company.</p>					

# January

Jan 01, 1942 – WW2: The War Production Board (WPB) ordered the temporary end of all civilian automobile sales leaving dealers with one half million unsold cars.

Jan 06, 1941 – WW2: President Franklin D. Roosevelt asks Congress to support the Lend-lease Bill to help supply the Allies.

Jan 12, 1991 – Gulf War: An act of the U.S. Congress authorizes the use of military force to drive Iraq out of Kuwait.

Jan 14, 1969 – An accidental explosion aboard the USS Enterprise (CVN-65) near Hawaii kills 27 people.

Jan 18, 1911 – Naval Lieutenant Eugene Ely became the first man ever to land an airplane on the deck of a ship, the converted cruiser USS Pennsylvania, in San Francisco Bay.

Jan 23, 1968 – North Korea seizes the USS Pueblo, claiming the ship had violated their territorial waters while spying.

# February

Feb 01, 1945 – WW2: U.S. Rangers and Filipino guerrillas rescue 513 American survivors of the Bataan Death March.

Feb 05, 1918 – WWI: Stephen W. Thompson shot down a German airplane. It was the first aerial victory by the U.S. military.

Feb 09, 1942 – WW2: Japanese submarine bombards Midway Atoll.

Feb 16, 1804 – 1Lt. Stephen Decatur led a successful raid into Tripoli Harbor to burn the U.S. Navy frigate Philadelphia, which had fallen into the hands of pirates.

Feb 19, 1945 – WW2: Battle of Iwo Jima (Operation Detachment) – about 30,000 United States Marines land on Iwo Jima commencing a battle that lasts 35 days. Casualties and losses: US 26,038 - JP 22,060.

Feb 28, 1893 – The USS Indiana, the lead ship of her class and the first battleship in the United States Navy comparable to foreign battleships of the time, is launched.

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**Military Sea Services Museum**  
1402 Roseland Avenue, Sebring,  
Florida, 33870 Phone: (863) 385-0992

E-Mail: [navmargrd@gmail.com](mailto:navmargrd@gmail.com)

**Hours of operation**  
Wednesday through  
Saturday  
Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Web site: <http://milseasvmuseum.org>