

History and Museums

Division



MISSION

The mission of HD is to collect items of permanent value to the history of the Corps, preserve them for future use, and distribute the history of the Corps through exhibits, publications, and other programs, in order to aid combat and non-combat decision making, support PME, motivate Marines, and inform the American public.

HISTORY BRANCH

The History Branch sections are Archives, Reference and Writing, and is the central repository for command chronologies, operational reports, oral histories and a large collection of maps and overlays. The reference section is responsible for the Unit Honors and Linage Program, Commemorative Naming, holds a large file of unit diary and morning reports, a robust collection of photographs and the invaluable casualty cards from WWII, Korea and Vietnam. The HD library began in 1843 and was at one time CMC's personal reference section. The library now contains over 40,000 volumes ranging from cruise books, unit histories and volumes detailing Marine and Naval history, the development of amphibious warfare and related subjects. Archives, Research and the Library respond to over 14,000 requests for help every year, across a wide range of researchers and the collections are available to MCU students for research and writing projects.

MUSEUMS BRANCH

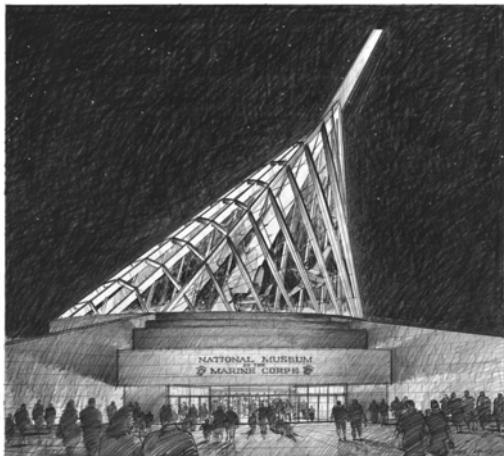
HD operates the Marine Corps museum in Building 58 on the Washington Navy Yard. The Museum is open from 1000-1600, Monday through Friday, year-round; and during the summer parade season at Marine Barracks, from 1600 – 2000 Friday nights. Artifacts on display include the flag made immortal by Joe Rosenthal's photograph from the top of Mt Suribachi, Iwo Jima. In the Special Exhibits Gallery is the Korean War 50th anniversary commemorative exhibit, and the changing exhibit space displays movie, recruiting and home front posters from WWII. The museum is designed to be self-guided; a guide is available on request. The museum is an excellent method to introduce resident students and individual Marines to their history and heritage. The old Air-Ground Museum at Quantico is closed and the space now used as climate control artifact storage.

FIELD HISTORY BRANCH

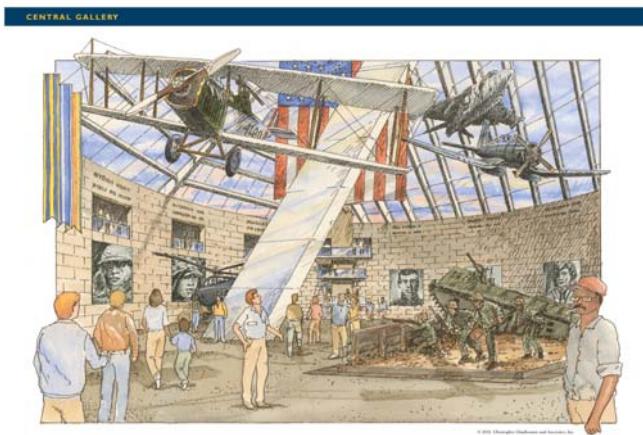
The Field History Branch gathers Marine Corps history as it happens. An IMA Detachment, reporting to the Director, Field History deploys historians with the major combat commands and sends those Marines out to the front lines to record history in the making. During primary combat operations for OEF/OIF, Field History deployed 11 Marine historians and 2 combat artists to the different commands, including one historian to the Horn of Africa. These historians collect and generate the raw data that becomes the primary sources for topical monographs and official Marine Corps history publications. The primary mission is to collect oral history interviews from a wide variety of perspectives from the Marine executing the plan and from the commander and the planner, with the aim of capturing all aspects of the operation from all command levels. The field historian also collects written plans, orders, maps, overlays and as much of the operational message traffic as possible. The history collects both classified and unclassified material. On occasion, the historian collects 3-dimensional artifacts from the battlefield or the Marines involved. Equipped with digital recorders and cameras, laptops and fax lines, the emphasis is on getting the material back to the rear as soon as possible so that processing begins in a timely fashion with the information quickly ready to use. Presently, the Branch has two historians deployed in theater, on six-month rotations and two others standing by to take the next go-round.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

The major project for HD is the planning and construction of the new National Museum of the Marine Corps (NMMC). Located on 135 acres just outside the main gate at MCB Quantico, groundbreaking was on 25 September 2003, with the grand opening scheduled for 10 November 2006. NMMC is a public private venture, with the Marine Corps working closely with the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation.



Artist's rendition of entrance to the NMMC



Artist's rendition of the central gallery

HD stands ready to assist operating force commanders in developing historical programs to promote unit cohesion, esprit, and a greater sense of unit history. We encourage commanders to contact HD to identify specific requirements. MCO P5750.1G explains in detail the support and assistance available to the commander.

WEBSITE <http://hqinet001.hqmc.usmc.mil/HD/>