



## **Marine Corps History and Museums Division** **Washington Navy Yard, DC**

### **Mission Statement**

HD's mission is to collect artifacts and official records of permanent historic value to the Marine Corps, preserve them for future use and present the history of the Marine Corps through exhibits, publications and other programs in order to inspire Marines, educate leaders and inform the American public.

HD's mission is accomplished by three interrelated branches: History, Museums and Field History. Among other component parts, the Library was established on 2 October 1843 followed by the Historical Section on 8 September 1919. Just before World War II, the Museums Branch was authorized by CMC on 2 October 1940, followed by the Command Chronology and Oral History Programs in 1969. On 14 October 1973, HD integrated the Combat Art program with Museums Branch. 12 May 1977 was the official opening of the Marine Corps Historical Center on the Washington Navy Yard. HD merged with the Marine Corps University on 1 October 2002. A new museum, The National Museum of the Marine Corps (NMMC), planned since 1995, is a joint project of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation and the Marine Corps. Scheduled to open in 2006, the NMMC will be the centerpiece of a multi-use heritage center welcoming Marines and international visitors to a campus of buildings and wooded parkland located just outside the Main Gate at the "Crossroads of the Marine Corps", Marine Corps Base Quantico.

HD collects and maintains printed and written documents and oral history tapes of lasting historic and sentimental value to the Marine Corps to ensure effective planning for the future through evaluation of the past. Other responsibilities are: to ensure that historical facts are presented in clear, reliable and academically reputable form; determine the eligibility of Marine Corps units for unit awards, campaign and service streamers; coordinate the efforts of the Division to preserve, collect, exhibit and exploit objects, memorabilia, art and personal papers of lasting historical and traditional value to the Marine Corps. HD has over 200 publications available written by staff civilian historians and reserve Marine field historians. A series of monographs on the Korean War is now complete with 11 volumes published over three years. A CD of the entire series is due for release in 2004. Over the years, more than 12,548 oral histories have been compiled and catalogued. The Archives Section holds over 15,000 biographical records on individual Marines and hundreds of thousands of official documents. History Branch sections fielded over 9969 separate inquiries in 2003 and hosted 1024 researchers. Artifacts, paintings, salon prints, and other items

are on loan to museums and Marine installations worldwide. The former Air-Ground Museum at Quantico is now used for temperature and humidity controlled storage for the large collection of artifacts held by HD. Museums Branch holds tens of thousands of artifacts including uniforms, medals, weapons, tanks, tracked and wheeled vehicles and aircraft.

HD sees its continued value in mission critical efforts of: maintenance of permanently valuable records in compliance with U.S. Codes; providing a resource for command decision-making; an invaluable research tool for all MCU students and as a resource for educating and training Marines.



### **Principal Staff**

\*Civilian staff in the two locations is 44. Marine staff is 20 (16 active duty / 4 reserve).

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