

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Without question no one can write a book concerning such complex subject as found within the Marine Corps Cryptologic/Signal Intelligence community without the help and assistance of others. One reason for this is because there was not central place to find historic information. Most likely the reason for this was security and need-to-know, as intelligence units tend to safeguard their work. Therefore, this effort was an exercise in search and discovery from the time I first thought of writing a short article about only one of our units. I had read some interesting history in our Marine Corps Cryptologic Associations (MCCA) Radio Log written by retired Marines Lieutenant Colonel LtCol) Palmer “Pete” Brown and Colonel (Col) James L. McIntire. Later I would find some outstanding information in our Navy counterpart, the Navy Cryptologic Veterans Association’s Cryptolog, but that was it and the search began.

Some time around 2000 I called Col James R. Quisenberry (USMC Retired) and inquired if any one was writing a book about our units and Marines. He could think of no one at that time, but said, “Go ahead anyway. As it is better to have two accounts concerning such as field.” I don’t really know if he knew what he started by giving me the “Go Sign” for he is respected as one of the foremost authorities in our field. To me it was like getting a direct order and I’d best get moving on it. In other words I took it very seriously, yet, I did not want to step on anyone’s toes that might be doing it. Since that time we have visited at reunions, wrote each other letters and eat up countless man hours on our computers – not to mention I was honored to have him come visit us in Arkansas to discuss our units history. I dealt with one flood, one computer virus and a lot of misspelled words, which tends to keep every one busy at times. Yet, in spite of all the problems he has continued to reinforce my work and research by editing...and doing re-writes. You might say he educated me in what we call “Q” fashion, which is anything worth doing should be done right. At any rate how do I thank such a man and who is still living among us. Also, I am happy to say he has continued to play an important role in seeing this project completed for I am still a ways from the finish line.

Another individual, LtCol James S. Rayburn, joined in overseeing my work to insure it was being put together in a professional manner as possible...meaning he has known Tom Hunnicutt for a long time. One thing he did not know was I had a learning disability (dyslexia), for I had not informed anyone about it. Shortly after he started helping me I decided to let everybody know about it, by getting it out there because I could no longer hide it. At times it is a blessing to have a handicap, but in many cases that handicap will drive other people crazy...unless they know about it. Jim is somewhat like “Q”, as he has a vast amount of knowledge concerning our units, missions and personnel. Perhaps this is because he worked under “Q” for a few years in the Washington, DC area. I can’t thank him enough and I shall always be grateful.

Later, Col Stanley C. Wiggins, a retired Marine and University Professor of English and Speech at the “Our Lady of Lake University; the University of Texas in San Antonio; Wayland Baptist University, St. Phillips College; Park College and Campus Director at Hallmark Institute of Technology in Antonio, Texas, got into the act. In the spring of 1970, he was the Operations Officer of 1<sup>st</sup> Radio Battalion (Bn) in South Vietnam and the officer that picked me to become the 5<sup>th</sup> Platoon Sergeant working with the Army in Southern I-Corps. I later became the Platoon Commander and then Major (Maj) Wiggins came on a regular basis to help me and guide me concerning our goals and mission. Now, he was editing my work concerning the history of our units and Marines. Again, how does one thank such an individual? In war and peace he has been a part of my life and that has been a blessing too.

Still other individuals also contributed value information in the way of old orders, rosters and pictures...and those items are invaluable to the overall project, which goes beyond Volume One. Also, since all of them are retired Marines. Therefore, I will only mention it at this point. They are: Col John K. Hyatt, Jr; .Col Carl W. Kachaukas, Col John J. Guenther; Col James L. McIntire, Jr.; Master Gunnery Sergeant (MGySgt) Raymond G. Chase; Private (PVT) John Maynard (Retired Idaho Judge); Sergeant (Sgt) Bob Page; Cpl Clavin C. Christensen; Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Rick Swan; Corporal (Cpl) James Vance; Col William M. Whaley; Maj Robert A. Baer; Cpl Wayne "Willie" Whitehead; Sgt Rob Charnell; Maj Donald C. Cook; Maj Edward D. Dauksz; PVT Robert C. Feist; MSgt Jimmy Weeks; Sgt Bob Bomback (Retired from NSA April 1990); Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) Leo P. Gagnon; CWO Donald C. Lanson; Master Gunnery Sergeant (MGySgt) Thomas B. Hartshorn; Maj Genaro Huerta, Jr.; Maj Mike Letho; Maj L. K. Russell; Sergeant Major (SgtMaj) Dolphus C. Reeves; GySgt Vicente Cruz Aguilar; Capt Arthur J. Kidd; and SgtMaj Ron Drago.

### **Active duty Marines:**

Col Frank Cubillo and LtCol Guy Jordan.

**U.S. Navy Retired:** Commanders James B. Lasswell and John D. Lasswell; CTC Robert R. Payne; and CTC Robert Balwin.

No, research writer can do with input and the above names individuals added greatly to my data base, which will be used for most of the volumes I am attempting to write. Also, I should mention, in addition to providing editorial assistance, Col Quisenberry; Col Wiggins and LtCol Rayburn contributed by providing pictures, orders and general information, which was equally as important. Therefore, they get a double thank-you!

Lastly, three other none military individuals need to be thanked. I must thank my wife, Joan, for supporting me in this research and writing, as she too spent endless hours proof reading my work to insure the mistakes were corrected. Where she lacked in the subject knowledge she made up for it in showing me I needed to explain some point better. As I also mentioned in Introduction Section...I am writing this story in a manner that allows for the none-professional to understand it too. Yet, two other wives have also had to put up with me sending, resending and continuing to send request for help. They are Diana Quisenberry and Carolyn Rayburn and I know without a doubt at times they most likely would have preferred that the Hunnicutt Questing Machine take a break or go away. In other words, sometimes I am a pest! Well, maybe only a nuisance, but I hope a likeable one! I do thank them from the bottom of my heart for us old Marines would be lost without them. Such wives should never be forgotten...so Joan, Diana and Carolyn thanks for supporting us in our endeavors.

**((Other names will be added to this section as time goes by, as more information is still coming in.))**