



# More than Scuttlebutt....

2d Quarter FY 2011

National Museum of the Marine Corps, 18900 Jefferson Davis Highway,  
Triangle, Virginia 22172 [www.usmcmuseum.org](http://www.usmcmuseum.org)

## Jan—March '11 Highlights:

- \* 96,471 people visited the Museum during this quarter.
- \* A new temporary exhibit opened commemorating the 20th anniversary of Desert Shield/Desert Storm.
- \* Docents spent 4,700 hours giving tours and assisting visitors during this quarter .
- \* The Museum has more than 18,300 Facebook fans. Are you one yet?
- \* The Museum's docents and Marine Detachment were featured in the latest edition of *Marines Magazine*.
- \* The NMMC was seen on the Super Bowl pre-game show with NFL Hall of Famer (and former Marine) Art Donovan.

Visit [www.usmcmuseum.org](http://www.usmcmuseum.org) or join as a fan on Facebook to learn about exciting events at your community's museum.

## 3d Artifact Road Show a Success

On a Saturday morning in February, the National Museum of the Marine Corps (NMMC) hosted the 3d Annual Artifact Road Show. Curators from the Museum's ordnance, art, general, uniforms & heraldry, and aviation sections gathered on the 2d deck overlook to provide historical background for the objects visitors brought and give advice for the care of those objects. Approximately 30 visitors brought their personal artifacts and stories to NMMC.

This year the curators saw a variety of objects, to include a pewter beer mug from the Staff NCO Club in Peking, China, 1947; German Army and police headgear from World War I and World War II; a Japanese helmet and Arisaka rifle from World War II; a collection of Marine Corps Eagle Globe, and Anchor insignia spanning 50 years; a signal flag;



Weapons Curator Al Houde and Uniforms and Heraldry Curator Owen Connor survey a Japanese rifle and helmet during the 3rd annual Artifact Road Show.



Aviation Curator Ben Kristy inspects a Japanese poster brought in by a visitor during the Artifact Road Show.

World War I medals; aviation logbooks and equipment; and an operation order from a Reserve unit for amphibious training at Quantico in 1935. The curators were stumped on one Japanese object because the accompanying directions for its use were in Japanese. The stories from the visitors as to how they acquired the objects were as varied as the objects presented. Some items were found in flea markets, others were presents from friends, but most were handed down from other family members.

Curators and visitors enjoyed the interaction, the opportunity to peek into a family's past, and the excitement of holding or reading a significant part of Marine Corps history.

## Director's Log

Every member of the Museum team goes above and beyond to make NMMC an unforgettable experience for our visitors. Every week I hear from guests who had a great time, a moving conversation with a docent, or special help from a staff member. I recently had an opportunity to turn a little boy's tears of disappointment into joy and his father sent us an email. This kind of "fan mail" motivates us and reminds us why we do what we do. We make a difference!

*I wanted to take the time to thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you did for my son Landon and myself. In a day that seems full of people always in a hurry and rarely has time for others, what you did really impressed me.*

*To refresh your memory, my son and I were the ones that showed up after hours to your wonderful museum and you took your personal time to not only allow him to enter the National Museum of the Marine Corps, but gave him a personally guided tour.*

*I want you to know that my son not only absolutely loved the museum and tour but has told everyone he crosses paths with that it was his favorite part of our trip to Washington D.C. He also says it was the best birthday present ever. He has not stopped talking about your kindness, and wants me to tell everyone about what happened as well.*



*In a day and age when so many people are selfish, your actions in my opinion were selfless and praise worthy. You provided a memory in time that neither my son nor I will ever forget.*

*Thank you so much, we plan to come visit your museum again one day, and we have and will direct any who will listen your museum's direction as well.*

*Thanks again*



## Museum Educators' Workshop

In January, the Education Department hosted a Museum Educators' Workshop for 15 museum professionals from 8 museums. The workshop was designed for museum educators offering WW II programs for preschool thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade children and their families. It was an opportunity for the educators to meet and share strategies for teaching a subject not specifically covered by the K-5 Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs).

The idea for the workshop was born at a meeting in Richmond for Virginia-based museums that focus on World War II. NMMC Director Lin Ezell offered to host an educators' workshop with the hope that attendees would bring samples of hands-on activities to share. Planned by the education team at NMMC, with input from other colleagues, the workshop was much more!

Guest Speaker Ken Bassett, Curriculum Supervisor for Prince William County Schools, advised the educators on how to communicate successfully with regional teachers so that their museums, too, could form a successful relationship with local school districts. He also spoke on how best to broadly interpret the SOLs in museum programming so as to appeal to school teachers and administrators. The primary goal of the workshop was for everyone to be able to return to their museums and look at their galleries and collections in a new light and to use the lessons shared as they developed programming for the future. Although most of the participants were from Virginia, educators from Wisconsin and California also attended. All were enthusiastic in recommending a repeat performance of the one-day event that combined classroom and hands-on opportunities for museum professionals.

## Museum Hosts Geography Week Event

The National Museum of the Marine Corps hosted "An Afternoon at the Museum," a hands-on geography event for students in grades 5-12 on 6 January 2011. The symposium-style event featured activities located throughout the Museum. The offerings included 10 hands-on activities distributed on tables in Leatherneck Gallery, a "Family Feud" style geography game in the classroom, and movies and speakers in Scuttlebutt Theater.

Approximately 400 visitors attended the event including students and teachers from local schools as well as students from local Girl Scout Troops and their families. The teachers and parents who were in attendance were pleased with the activities, prizes, and the general level of interest in the activities.

Presenters included:

- Virginia Geographic Alliance
- Library of Virginia
- University of Mary Washington
- Educational Geographic Games, LLC
- National Geographic Society
- National Council for Geographic Education
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- US Geological Survey, National Geospatial Program
- GeoEye
- Herff Jones/ Nystrom

The Museum is already looking forward to Geography Awareness week in 2011 with plans under way to host similar events on 12 and 15 November. The partnerships formed for the January event promise to heap benefits all year long as we help students and teachers discover "Where in the world are the Marines."



Attendees of the Geography Week Event participated in hands-on activities, games and lessons geared to give them a better understanding of the world around them.

## Visitor Services Keeps the Team on their Toes

The Visitor Services Branch continued its primary function of extending the best possible experience to all visitors during the cold winter months. As attendance numbers declined, keeping the staff on their toes was a priority and to that end, the VS Branch decided that increasing knowledge through classes and seminars would be a good direction in which to head.

Several docents "stepped up" to provide training sessions during the monthly docent meetings. At the January session, Gerry Hoffman delivered a class on Navy amphibious craft in WWII, specifically LSTs. In February Gil Gibson reminded staff and docents that the services provided by Navy chaplains play an invaluable role to the Corps. The quarter ended with Norm Hatch teaching about Combat Cameramen during the island hopping campaigns in WWII.

The Visitors Services team is also in the fifth week of a new docent training class with 22 students. The dedication and hard work of the class instructors, notably senior docents Dave Vickers, Bill Peters, and Carol Bausser, help ensure that these students will become the great volunteers Museum visitors praise.

Continuing the education focus, VS chief Patrick Mooney was a panel member at this year's Virginia Association of Museums' Annual Conference. His session was entitled "Volunteers: How to find them, train them and keep them."

The Visitor Services Marines continued to impress guests with their knowledge of history and seven of them are attending the new docent training class. There has been quite a turnover in Marine personnel during this period: Sergeants Black and Scale moved on to new duty assignments, and the Museum gained Sgt Janelle Brown, the first female Marine assigned to the detachment, as well as Corporals Skorno and Young-Monteque!

## Collecting and Restoring the Past for the Future

The artifact restoration team has been working with the curators to develop a prioritized list of large objects for exhibition in our Phase 2 galleries. They aren't, however, waiting for the list to be completed to start working on the aircraft, tanks, and other large vehicles that will be featured in future galleries.



Dauntless SBD: Assembly of the center wing section is progressing. This is a slow process, installing hundreds of components with thousands of rivets. The engine for the SBD is being assembled primarily by our volunteers.



The Museum recently added an M1A1 Abrams tank to the collection. The 70-ton vehicle will be the centerpiece of the planned new museum display storage facility.

The M1A1 Abrams tank is the only tank currently in the Marine Corps inventory. It began active service in the United States Army in 1980, but the Marine Corps did not procure them for about another decade. The Abrams was used by the Marine Corps in Operation Desert Storm and has been more extensively used by Marines in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and more recently, in Afghanistan.

This particular M1A1 has combat provenance linking it to Operation Iraqi Freedom. It was stationed to provide security for Alternate Supply Route Michigan, near Habbaniyah, Iraq, in the Al Anbar Province. On 2 August 2006, the tank, then commanded by Sgt George M. Ulloa, was hit by two Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and small arms fire. The next day, when

Sgt Ulloa's tank was hit by another IED, shrapnel severed his carotid artery. Tragically, he succumbed to his wounds.

Even with the punishing conditions and attacks this Abrams remained in operation until a much larger blast eventually disabled the tank several months later. This blast damage is evident on the bottom, in the front right of the tank. Additionally, there is damage to the undercarriage and wheels. There are no plans to repair the damage, because of its historical significance. NMMC is extremely honored to have acquired this important historical vehicle.