



85TH 1st Marine Division
ANNIVERSARY
February 20, 2026



SEQUENCE OF EVENTS



Pre-ceremony Music

Chaplain's Invocation

National Anthem

Honors to MajGen Savage

Battle Streamers Rededication

Awards

Remarks by MajGen Savage

Waltzing Matilda

Anchors Aweigh

Marines Hymn

AWARDS

Marine of the Quarter:

Cpl. Akarapon Tungjairob, (1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment)

Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter:

Cpl Jose M. Nava-Cabrera, (3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment)

Marine of the Year:

LCpl Max E. Son, (1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment)

Noncommissioned Officer of the Year:

Cpl Akshath Aravindakshan, (1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment)

Senior Sailor of the Year:

HM1 (FMF) Cory R. Holmes, (Headquarters Battalion)

Junior Sailor of the Year:

HM2 (FMF/SW) Samuel J. Goodwin, (1st Marine Regiment)

Bluejacket Sailor of the Year:

HM3 (FMF) Holly C. Pennington, (1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment)

Senior Sailor of the Quarter:

HM1 (FMF/SW/AW) Emilie A. Lawson (3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment)

Sailor of the Quarter:

HM2 (FMF) Jenson G. Yalunggonzalez (Headquarters Battalion)

Junior Sailor of the Quarter:

HM3 (FMF) Lecorbius J. Higgins, (1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment)

Bluejacket Sailor of the Quarter:

HN (FMF) John M. Abbott Jr., (1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment)

Infantry Battalion Career Counselor of the Year:

SSgt Erick D. Zambrano, (3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment)

Career Counselor SNCOIC of the Year:

GySgt Joseph L. Martinez Jr., (7th Marine Regiment)

Marine Corps Equal Opportunity Advisor of the Year:

GySgt Lindsey M. Dabdoub, (Headquarters Battalion)

DAP Coordinator of the Year:

SSgt. Ernesto Camacho (5th Marine Regiment)

Independent Bn Unit of the Year:

SSgt. Susan E. Vesco-Marrujo (Headquarters Battalion)



LETTER TO DIVISION



COMMANDING GENERAL
1ST MARINE DIVISION (REIN), FMF
CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA 92055-5380

1 Feb 2026

Marines and Sailors of the 1st Marine Division,

Today, we honor the 85th Anniversary of the 1st Marine Division. On this occasion, we celebrate the unwavering spirit and enduring legacy of the Blue Diamond Marines and Sailors. Activated on February 1, 1941, the 1st Marine Division has established itself as the oldest, largest, and most decorated Division in the Marine Corps. As we gather to commemorate this milestone, we do so with profound gratitude for all who have served within the Blue Diamond.

The foundation of this legacy was laid by the bravery, resilience, and unyielding determination of our Marines and Sailors through conflicts and operations from World War II to today. We honor all who have worn the Blue Diamond, recognizing that we stand on the shoulders of the heroes who came before us.

I am immensely proud of the Division's current generation. Every day, we relentlessly hone our warfighting skills to remain a lethal force, ready to deter our nation's adversaries and, when called upon, to fight and win. This past year, the Blue Diamond continued its global mission. We've deployed ready and capable formations across the world and have answered the call for missions to protect our borders. Our Marines and Sailors have once again proven their excellence in every clime and place, adding another chapter to the storied history of this Division. Our purpose remains clear and our commitment steadfast as we prepare to meet any challenge that lies ahead.

Thank you for your honorable service, courage, and commitment to our legacy. It is my privilege to serve with you. Happy Birthday, Blue Diamond!

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TBS'.

Thomas B. Savage
Major General, U.S. Marine Corps



COMMANDING GENERAL

MAJOR GENERAL THOMAS B. SAVAGE

Major General Savage enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1986, is a graduate of California State University, Chico, and was commissioned in August 1991. He is a graduate of The Basic School, the Infantry Officer Course, the U.S. Army Infantry Captains Career Course (honor graduate), the Marine Corps Command and Staff Course (distinguished graduate), the School of Advanced Warfighting, the Naval War College (with distinction), and the United Kingdom Higher Command and Staff Course. He has also completed U.S. Army Ranger School, U.S. Army Airborne School, and the USMC Basic Reconnaissance Course.



His service in the Operating Forces includes: Platoon Commander with 1st Battalion, 9th Marines (June 1992-June 1994); Company Executive Officer with 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines (June 1994-January 1996); Logistics Officer, Company Commander, and Operations Officer for 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines (May 1999-August 2002); Aide de Camp to the Commanding General I Marine Expeditionary Force (August 2002-June 2004); G-3 Operations Officer 1st Marine Division (July 2006-June 2007); Operations Officer and Executive Officer for 1st Marine Regiment (June 2007-January 2010); Commanding Officer for 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (January 2010-January 2012); Commanding Officer Headquarters Battalion 1st Marine Division (January 2012-June 2012); Commanding Officer for 2d Marine Regiment (August 2014-March 2016); Assistant Division Commander, 2d Marine Division (March 2016-June 2016); Deputy Commanding General I Marine Expeditionary Force/Commanding General 1st Expeditionary Brigade (July 2019-May 2021); Deputy Director for Operations, USAFRICOM (May 2021-July 2023); and Commanding General, Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command and Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (June 2023-November 2024).

His service outside the Operating Forces includes: Amphibious Raid Instructor at Expeditionary Warfare Training Group, Atlantic (January 1996-May 1997); Assistant Officer in Charge of the Amphibious Reconnaissance School (August 1997-January 1998); Fellow on the Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group (September 2013-June 2014); Strategic Plans Advisor for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Plans, Office of Secretary of Defense (Policy) (June 2016-July 2018); and Executive Assistant to the Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies, and Operations, Headquarters Marine Corps (July 2018-July 2019).



HONORS AWARDED



THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION STREAMER



THE JOINT MERITORIOUS UNIT AWARD STREAMER



THE NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION STREAMER



THE MEXICAN SERVICE STREAMER



THE DOMINICAN CAMPAIGN STREAMER



THE HAITIAN CAMPAIGN STREAMER



THE MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY STREAMER



THE WORLD WAR I VICTORY STREAMER



THE CHINA SERVICE STREAMER



THE AMERICAN DEFENSE STREAMER



THE ASIATIC PACIFIC CAMPAIGN STREAMER



THE WORLD WAR II VICTORY STREAMER



THE NAVY OCCUPATION SERVICE STREAMER



THE NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE STREAMER



THE KOREAN SERVICE STREAMER



THE ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY STREAMER



THE VIETNAM SERVICE STREAMER



THE SOUTHWEST ASIA SERVICE STREAMER



THE AFGHANISTAN CAMPAIGN STREAMER



THE IRAQ CAMPAIGN STREAMER



THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM EXPEDITIONARY STREAMER



THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM SERVICE STREAMER



THE KOREAN PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION STREAMER



THE VIETNAM CROSS OF GALLANTRY WITH PALM STREAMER



THE VIETNAM MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION CIVIL ACTIONS STREAMER

DIVISION HISTORY

OVERVIEW

1st Marine Division was activated aboard the battleship USS Texas on February 1, 1941. It is the oldest, largest and most decorated division in the United States Marine Corps. The Division is comprised of Headquarters Battalion, 1st, 5th, 7th, and 11th Marine Regiments, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st and 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalions, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion and 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion. These units represent a combat-ready force of more than 20,000 Marines and Sailors.

FORMING THE REGIMENTS

Division regiments were in existence as early as March 8, 1911, when the 1st Marine Regiment was formed at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The Marines saw action in Haiti in 1915, the Dominican Republic in 1916, and throughout the Caribbean during World War I. The 5th Marine Regiment was established on July 13, 1914, in Veracruz, Mexico. In 1925, they served in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and participated in 15 major engagements during World War I. These include Belleau Wood, Chateau -Thierry and St. Mihiel. On August 14, 1917, 7th Marine Regiment was activated in Philadelphia. It spent the duration of World War I in Cuba and was disbanded after the war. It was reactivated in 1941. 11th Marines was formed in January 1918 in Quantico, Va., as a light artillery regiment. The Regiment went to France as an infantry unit, providing a machine gun company and a guard company. Decommissioned and reactivated twice between world wars, the Regiment again served as infantry in Nicaragua. Re-formed in 1940 as a full-fledged artillery unit, 11th Marines joined 1st Marine Division.

WORLD WAR II IN THE PACIFIC

Guadalcanal was the first major American Pacific campaign in World War II and the first time 1st Marine Division conducted combat operations as a division. The Division's actions during this operation won it the first of three Presidential Unit Citations during the war. The battles of Peleliu and Okinawa culminated in additional citations. Three weeks after Japan surrendered, the Division was dispatched to North China for occupation duty.

KOREAN WAR

When war broke out in Korea, 1st Marine Division provided support as the Pusan Fire Brigade and later landed in Inchon during the largest amphibious operation conducted at that time on September 15, 1950. The Division, as part of the U.S. Army X Corps, subsequently pushed back enemy forces north into mountains around the Chosin Reservoir before being surrounded by Chinese forces, who suffered more than 40,000 casualties trying to stop the Marines' withdrawal from the reservoir. This battle, including actions between April and September, earned the Division three Presidential Unit Citations.

CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

In 1962, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, deployed to Guantanamo Bay for two months during the Cuban Missile Crisis. More than 11,000 Marines of the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade participated in the naval blockade, which forced the withdrawal of the missiles from Cuba.

VIETNAM

In 1965, 7th Marine Regiment participated in the first major engagements for American ground troops in South Vietnam. In March 1966, 1st Marine Division Headquarters was established at Chu Lai. By June, the entire Division was in South Vietnam. Its zone of operation included the southern two provinces of I Corps, Quang Tin and Quang Ngai.

Between March 1966 and May 1967, the Division conducted 44 named and unnamed operations. Major engagements included Operations Hastings and Union I and II. During the 1968 Tet Offensive, the Division was involved in fierce fighting with both Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army elements. It successfully defended every enemy assault in its area of operations, pursuing

the enemy back to their strongholds. It was during this period that the Division earned its seventh and eighth Presidential Unit Citations.

After six years, 1st Marine Division returned to California in 1971. In 1975, the Division supported the evacuation of Saigon by providing food and temporary shelter at Camp Pendleton for Vietnamese refugees as they arrived in the United States.

OPERATIONS DESERT SHIELD AND DESERT STORM

In 1990, 1st Marine Division formed the core of the force sent to Southwest Asia in response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. During Operation Desert Shield, the Division provided the ground combat element of I Marine Expeditionary Force in Saudi Arabia. In 1991, the Division fought alongside 2nd Marine Division and the rest of the coalition forces in Operation Desert Storm. In 100 hours of offensive ground combat, 1st Marine Division destroyed the enemy in its path as it led the breakthrough to Kuwait City.

DISASTER RELIEF AND SOMALIA

Immediately following the Persian Gulf War, the Division sent units to assist in disaster relief efforts in Bangladesh through Operation Sea Angel and the Philippines through Operation Fiery Vigil. In 1992, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment and the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit brought relief to famine-stricken Somalia. The final phase of the operation involved the transition to a United Nations peacekeeping force. U.S. Marine involvement in Operation Restore Hope officially ended April 27, 1993, when the humanitarian relief sector of Mogadishu was handed over to Pakistani forces. Elements of the Division participated in the extraction of U.N. forces from Somalia.

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

In early 2003, the Division deployed by air and sea to link up with its advanced headquarters deployed to Kuwait under I Marine Expeditionary Force. In a high-speed attack, and in conjunction with 1st (UK) Armoured Division and the U.S. Army 3rd Infantry Division, 1st Marine Division conducted the longest ground march in Marine Corps history.

The Division attacked to Baghdad alongside the U.S. Army and seized Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit. Afterward, the Division conducted stability operations in Baghdad, Tikrit and south-central Iraq from May to October 2003. These actions earned the Division its ninth Presidential Unit Citation.

In March 2004, 1st Marine Division relieved the 82nd Airborne Division in Iraq's Sunni Triangle. During Operation Iraqi Freedom II, the Division conducted counter-insurgency operations throughout the Al Anbar Province, culminating in Operation Al Fajr, which liberated the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah and enabled the first legitimate elections to occur in Iraq. During February and March 2005, 1st and 2nd Marine Divisions successfully conducted the largest relief in place in the history of the Marine Corps. In 2006, 1st Marine Division once again deployed to Iraq as the ground combat element for I Marine Expeditionary Force.

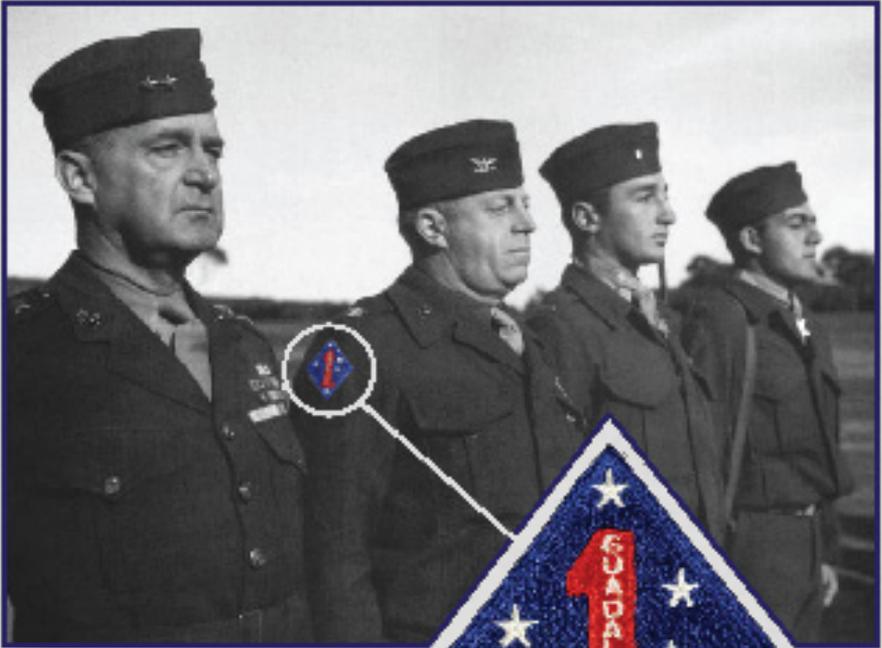
OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

Throughout the course of the war, 1st Marine Division personnel and units deployed to Afghanistan to provide both advisory support and maneuver elements. In 2010, 1st Marine Division (Forward) deployed to Helmand province, Afghanistan, as part of the surge of more than 30,000 troops into the country. While in Afghanistan, the Division served as the ground combat element for Task Force Leatherneck, leading a multinational coalition and working alongside Afghan National Security Forces. They conducted large-scale offensive operations throughout Helmand province, including Sangin and Musa Qaleh districts.

CURRENT OPERATIONS

Today, the Blue Diamond continues to provide fully trained and equipped, combat-ready formations in support of Global Force Management requirements deploying as part of the MEUs, UDPs and Marine Rotational Forces. Simultaneously, the Division maintains warfighting readiness through several annual exercises such as Steel Knight and Freedom Shield while also advancing modernization efforts for the Service through experimentation with new formations, equipment and technology.

DIVISION PATCH ORIGIN



The 1st Marine Division logo descended from the shoulder patch that was designed by LtCol Merrill B. Twining, U.S. Marine Corps, the G-3 operations officer during the Guadalcanal Campaign. He doodled the design on an envelope while flying from Noumea to Brisbane with General Vandergrift, shortly after Guadalcanal.

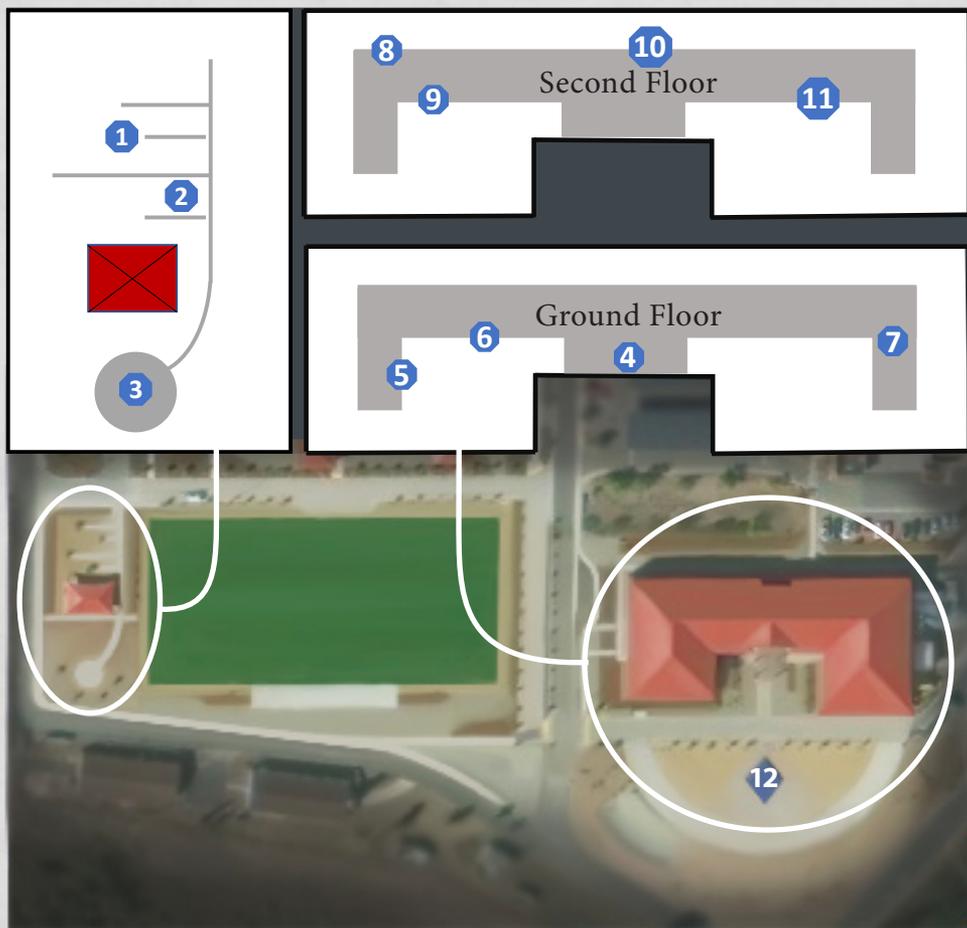
Insignia
designed by
LtCol Merrill
Twining

The 1st Marine Division shoulder patch was originally authorized for wear by members of units who served with or were attached to the division in the Pacific in World War II; this was the first patch to be approved in that war, and specifically commemorated the division's sacrifices and victory in the battle for Guadalcanal.

It features the National Colors - red, white, and blue - in its diamond-shaped blue background with the red numeral "1" inscribed with white lettering "GUADALCANAL". The white stars are in the arrangement of the Southern Cross constellation, under which the Guadalcanal fighting took place.



CP HISTORICAL LAYOUT



ARTIFACT LAYOUT

1. Chosin Reservoir Memorial
2. Afghanistan Monument
3. Campaign Memorials
4. Division Museum
5. OEF photos

6. OIF photos
7. Desert Shield/Storm photos

8. Gifts to the Division
9. Vietnam War photos
10. Korean War photos
11. World War II photos
12. The Blue Diamond

WALTZING MATILDA

Once a jolly swagman camped by a billabong,
Under the shade of a coolibah tree,
He sang as he watched and waited 'til his billy boiled
You'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me.

Waltzing Matilda, Waltzing Matilda
You'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me.
He sang as he watched and waited 'til his billy boiled,
You'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me.

Down came a jumbuck to drink at the billabong,
Up jumped the swagman and grabbed him with glee.
He sang as he shoved that jumbuck in his tucker bag,
You'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me.

Waltzing Matilda, Waltzing Matilda
You'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me.
He sang as he shoved that jumbuck in his tucker bag,
You'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me.

Up rode the squatter, mounted on his thoroughbred,
Up rode the troopers, one, two, three,
With the jolly jumbuck you've got in your tucker bag?
You'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me.

Waltzing Matilda, Waltzing Matilda
You'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me.
With the jolly jumbuck you've got in your tucker bag?
You'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, you scoundrel with me.

Up jumped the swagman and sprang into the billabong,
You'll never catch me alive, said he.
And his ghost may be heard as you pass by that billabong,
You'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me.
Waltzing Matilda, Waltzing Matilda

You'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me.
His ghost may be heard as you pass by that billabong,
You'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me.
Oh, you'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me.