

# BRIDGING

## THE GAP



GRAND ARMY  
OF THE REPUBLIC



THE CAT HOUSE



AFRICAN AMERICAN  
HERITAGE CELEBRATION





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*Interested in becoming a member of the SEP Group?  
Please contact LaVonne Roesntal at the email address listed above.*

## LETTER FROM THE CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Just for the fun of it, I googled the word 'Diversity' and received 233,000,000 results. Next I googled the phrase 'Diversity Definition' and got 64,500,000 results. Amazing.

I was curious as to what is out there for a definition since this publication focuses on diversity and we have never actually defined what that means. So, here goes...

As to the definition, I went to the first hit in the list, from Merriam-Webster:

1. the condition of having or being composed of differing elements: variety; especially: the inclusion of different types of people (as people of different races or cultures) in a group or organization.
2. an instance of being composed of differing elements or qualities: an instance of being diverse.

Merriam-Webster also has a definition specifically for English language learners:

1. the quality or state of having many different forms, types, ideas, etc.
2. the state of having people who are different races or who have different cultures in a group or organization.

In addition, there is a definition for kids:

1. the condition of being different.
2. an instance or a point of difference.

In essence, diversity is what makes each of us different from one another, and it is what also puts us in different groups or categories with others. When discussing diversity in the workplace we tend to mostly focus on culture, religion, race, gender, age, etc. Yet if you think about it, there are many other categories that make us unique and diverse. Peoples' diverse interests put them into a variety of groups that make them unique, such as sports, sewing, cooking, biking, foods, space, games, reading, etc. All of these elements make us who we are and makes us each unique and special. For instance, I'm German/Irish/Scottish/Czech, a female, LDS, a single Mom, a trekkie, graphic designer, allergy sufferer, six feet tall, U.S. citizen, Nebraskan, etc.

It's great to learn about our differences and it's also fun to discover what makes us similar. Diversity has so many sub-categories that it really is an unending topic for discussion, writing and reading.

Next time you're with a group of people (your friends for instance) you can play a fun game and make a list of who you are and the things that make you unique. Then compare and contrast. It could generate hours of discussion and help you get to know each other better. Go one step further and list all the things you have in common, going past the obvious gender and ethnicity to education, family, geography and so on.

Enjoy reading about diversity in this and many issues to come. We take great pride in bringing you this special bi-monthly publication. We hope you have as much fun learning about this diverse topic as we do.



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NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD



## THE NEBRASKA MILITARY DEPARTMENT VALUES DIVERSITY

*The purpose of the SEP Group is to work with leadership and management in carrying out their joint responsibility to identify barriers to the recruitment and advancement of special emphasis groups, devise solutions, and draft plans to implement the solutions.*

*In addition, the SEP Group provides opportunities for positive exchange among diverse groups through community outreach, education and cultural diversity awareness.*



# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DoD) DIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

*By Brig Gen Jon Fago*

In doing some self-reflection before starting to write this article, I asked myself the question: "What do I want to get out of this endeavor for myself and others?" My answer was to become a little more educated on diversity as it applies to my career in the United States Armed Forces and to share it with my fellow Nebraska Military Department employees. During my research I found the following quote:

"Watch your thoughts, for they become words. Watch your words, for they become actions. Watch your actions, for they become habits. Watch your habits, for they become character. Watch your character, for it becomes destiny." G. Mustafa

Which leads me to ask: "Is diversity destined to be forever in the culture of our military profession?"

General Craig McKinley, Chief of the National Guard Bureau and newest member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said, "Diversity isn't a program you do for a specified period of time and declare victory. It's an everyday thing. Take advantage of the opportunity to meet and learn from each other while we are here."

To begin writing this article and educate myself and others, I started with the latest Department of Defense (DoD) directive for definition and direction concerning the DoD policy on diversity.

Diversity, as defined by the Department of Defense directive number 1020.02 dated 5 February 2009 and signed by the Honorable James England is "the different characteristics and attributes of individuals."

From difference comes an opportunity for advantage. During the 1990s a new field in the business world was being

created. The field of Diversity Management was establishing itself as the business branch of multiculturalism. The new diversity consultants proclaimed the days of the one size fits all employee were gone and that today's women, immigrants and American minorities in the workforce wished to be themselves. Also, employers were going to need to adjust their standards and practices to the cultural identities of their workers, and not the other way around.

Diversity management, as defined by the same directive is, "the plans made and undertaken to identify in the aggregate the diversity within the Department of Defense to enhance DoD capabilities and achieve mission readiness."

The service member's individuality is a source of innovation, creativity and imagination. Ideas come from individuals, which are borne from experience, socio/economic background and family and cultural influences. Diversity derives its strength from the varying cultural backgrounds and personal histories of the workforce. These bundles of personal histories have allowed the United States Armed Forces to continue to function as the premier military in the world, characterized by unique capabilities possessed by no others and a state of readiness unmatched by any state or nation.



The same directive states that "the defense of the Nation requires a well-trained volunteer force, military and civilian, Active and Reserve. To provide such a force, the Department of Defense must ensure the attractiveness of the DoD career, providing opportunities for all DoD personnel to rise to as high a level of responsibility as their abilities allow. In doing so, the Department of Defense must maximize the productive capacity represented in the diversity of those recruited, hired, developed and promoted."

We are no longer our fathers' military! The demographics have changed considerably since 1977. Today's military man or woman is older, better educated, multicultural and married. The military is

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*Diversity Management Program*  
by Brig Gen Fago continued from Page 3

no longer made up of prototypical Airmen, Sailors, Soldiers and Marines; it is made up of individuals with varied ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Today's radically diverse military members have a variety of life experiences, skills and knowledge to offer, and it is incumbent on the leaders of today and tomorrow to figure out how to recruit, retain, develop and promote these assets.

General Harry M. Wyatt III is quoted as saying "Our Airmen [and Soldiers] are indeed our most vital asset. As leaders, we owe them our very best efforts, and it cannot be with closed minds that we undertake this endeavor. We must train, equip and educate in the functions and expertise that are required to secure our nation at home and defend freedom around the world."

The DoD diversity management program, according to the same directive "shall

1. Encourage DoD organizations to value diversity, thus establishing a DoD culture that values inclusion of all DoD personnel, military and civilian, as part of the DoD team and views diversity throughout the workforce as a potential force multiplier in DoD mission accomplishment.
2. Ensure that all military and civilian personnel understand they are valued; ensure they are able to achieve their full potential while contributing to accomplishment of the DoD mission.
3. Establish training, mentoring and development approaches that ensure all DoD personnel have the skills to navigate career progression successfully.
4. Provide culturally aware training and appropriate assistance to enhance organizational capabilities.
5. Develop management systems that measure and report diversity management and EO progress."

Many of those who do not understand what diversity is and how it translates to organizational advantage look at it

***"The world in which we live is far too competitive to pass up available resources. You'll not win races for long, firing on only half of the cylinders in your engine...In my opinion; the only way to be competitive is to use all the talent you can muster, no matter how it is packaged."***

***~Jack MacAllister, CEO of US West***

as another affirmative action program designed to discriminate against the white male. Affirmative action is essentially "proportional representation for women and minorities." This means that women and minority representation in the workforce should be proportional with that of the community or society.

The military has a highly diverse organization that, because of its diversity, acts as a force multiplier with regard to innovation and creativity. Fostering awareness and increasing knowledge of multicultural issues will help increase respect for one another and improve working relationships. Managing all the aspects of diversity can provide long-term benefits to the organization.

Organizational culture can be defined as a pattern of basic assumptions which are invented, discovered or developed by a given group as it learns to cope with problems or external adaptation and internal integration that has worked well enough to be considered valid. Culture is therefore taught to new members as the correct way to perceive, think and feel in relation to those problems. In other words, organizational culture is normal behavior within an organization, evolved over time and taught to new members of the organization. "Our nation's security and prosperity depend on our ability to develop and employ the talents of our diverse population. Equal opportunity is not just the right thing to do; it is also a military and economic necessity" (from prepared remarks of Frederick F.Y. Pang, assistant Secretary of Defense for force management policy, the 47th Annual National Education Conference of the American GI Forum, Albuquerque, New

Mexico, Thursday, August 3, 1995, where he quoted former Secretary of Defense, William Perry).

Under the responsibilities segment of this directive, "the Heads of the DoD Components shall ensure that all their internal DoD diversity management program policies are disseminated widely, understood, and implemented at all levels within their Components. The Heads of the DoD Components shall ensure their Components comply with the applicable EEOC (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission), OPM (Office of Personnel Management), OMB (Office of Management and Budget), and DOJ (Department of Justice) guidance, this directive, and all implementing DoD issuances. The Heads of the Components shall treat the DoD diversity management programs as essential elements of readiness that are vital to the accomplishment of the national security mission. The Heads of the Components shall ensure programs are managed by officials senior enough to have direct access to the Component Head to ensure visibility and priority for the Diversity Management programs and assign sufficient staff and resources to assure viable programs."

Making the commitment to harness the power that diversity brings to an organization will provide long-term benefits to both the organization and its people. A diverse workforce provides the synergy necessary to create benefits and outcomes that would be greater than those possible with a homogenous workforce. Synergy is all about taking different parts and putting them together

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# GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

By Pam Makovicka

Before there was an American Legion, there was the Grand Army of the Republic, or GAR, formed in the immediate aftermath of the Civil War. I was reading the American Legion magazine Veteran's Day edition and was struck by the story "Bound by a Tie Others Know Not" telling of our entire nation uniting to celebrate the valor and patriotism of the soldiers who fought in defense of the Union. A handful of Union Army Veterans established the first GAR post in Decatur, Illinois, and from there the GARs swelled to include hundreds of thousands of soldiers and sailors.

The GAR served as a model for the American Legion and other veterans organizations. They were totally different in that they were exclusive to Civil War Veterans, while other veteran's organizations allowed veterans of other wars. In other ways they were quite similar with hometown posts being the lifeblood of the veteran's organization. While the Civil War era was a time of exclusion and segregation (being the norm) the GAR welcomed veterans,

both White and Black. They recognized that Black and White soldiers were comrades. These men visited each other's meetings and attended social events, such as picnics and bean bakes. They also attended each others' funerals to insure that veterans, regardless of their color, received full military honors.

The GAR was born in 1866 and ended in 1956 when the last Civil War Soldier passed away. The organization had two distinct phases. In the first decade the GAR flourished, but accusations of partisanship and the institution of an unpopular new ritual that recreated military ranks, led to its decline. In 1880 the GAR experienced a rebirth transforming it into an organization that emphasized charity, patriotism and good fellowship. They worked tirelessly to improve veteran's benefits and fought for the rights of Black soldiers to vote. It

was their efforts that led to Congress passing the Dependent and Disability Pension Act. It provided pensions for Union Army veterans who could no longer perform manual labor. The law also provided pensions for minors, dependent parents and widows. In Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address he charged the nation with caring for "him who shall borne the battle, and for his widows and orphans."



*The Stephenson GAR Memorial, located on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.*

The GAR led the way that inspired the Legion and other organizations to do the same.

GAR posts sponsored social events, contributed to relief efforts for veterans and their families and led patriotic observances. Probably the most important GAR observance is still celebrated today: Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day. In 1868, General John A. Logan, first commander-in-chief of the GAR, designated May 30 to honor the Union Army's war dead.

The Civil War veterans' bond had been forged in shared suffering, they had gone on long weary marches, lay down with the ground as a couch and the sky for a covering, felt the keen pangs of hunger and burning thirst, facing death together and being bound by a tie others know not. The GAR had the ability to break racial barriers. Like today's veterans the GAR understood that war doesn't always end when the guns fall silent.

## Sources

Wikipedia  
American Legion magazine Veteran's Day edition



*The members of Charles W. Carroll Post 144 pose on the steps of the Norfolk County Courthouse in Dedham, Massachusetts on Dedham's 250th anniversary in 1885.*



*Rio*

Anyone who has ever spent time around cats knows that, just like people, they come in a multitude of colors, shapes, sizes, abilities and temperaments. Some variance in these categories can be catastrophic in the feline world, making homes and guardians hard to find. The Cat House (TCH) in Lincoln, Nebraska is a shelter that serves not only as a home for a diverse population of cats, but is also a place that adds necessary diversity to the shelter landscape itself. All shelters seek to provide a safe and humane shelter for animals in need. They are a place where people who are looking to adopt a pet can go and feel good knowing that by adopting from a shelter they are helping a population that is, often times, in dire need of finding a home.

This being said about shelters, The Cat House is still the only one in Lincoln that takes in homeless cats regardless of conditions or situations that would make them hard to place. Cats that come in with injuries sometimes leading to amputations, those infected with Feline Immunodeficiency Virus or Feline Leukemia Virus, cats born with birth defects, elderly cats as well as skittish cats who will require love and patience to become socialized before being placed into a forever home. These cats do not live in cages while at TCH, instead they reside in spacious, homelike rooms. TCH is volunteer run, and receives no state funding. Perhaps the detail that sets TCH the furthest apart from other shelters is that it is the only no-kill cat shelter in Lincoln. Once a cat enters TCH, they are there until they are adopted or such

# THE CAT HOUSE

*By Ann Stubbendeck*

a time comes that it is only right for the cat's life to end due to failing health. This is why it's called The Cat House, not The Cat Shelter. If need be, TCH will serve as a forever home to some of these cats.

Resilience is a key feline trait. This is clearly evidenced in the tripod cat population. Tripods, or cats with only three legs, may not look like typical cats, but most certainly behave as such. They still find ways to run, jump, play and perform many of the same wacky cat antics as their four-legged counterparts. These cats certainly don't waste any time feeling sorry for themselves, there is really no option for them but to adapt to the situation.

Two tripod cats who have been successfully adopted from TCH are Rio and Bobby. Rio came to TCH with one rear leg already amputated and was adopted by Faye Stevens, TCH President. Rio also developed kidney disease at a young age. Faye says neither of these slow him down, and that he just doesn't know he's any different from

her other cats. Bobby came to TCH as a kitten. He had been found injured and appeared to have been hit by a car. One of Bobby's front legs was badly broken and was splinted and monitored for several weeks before it was decided that the leg would have to be amputated. He made a full recovery and was able to find a forever home. As of this writing, TCH has one tripod still looking to be adopted. Princess, a plump girl cat who was on the brink of being euthanized because it was thought that an overweight, three-legged cat could not possibly have any quality of life. Thankfully, Princess is living happily in a foster home, awaiting her forever home.

*“Thousands of years ago, cats were worshipped as gods. Cats have never forgotten this.”*

*~Anonymous*

TCH has a special unit designated for cats living with Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) or Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV). These cats have compromised immune systems which puts them at risk of developing other illnesses, but with proper care, the

diseases can be managed allowing the cats to live many healthy years. Both

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*Princess*



*The Cat House continued from Page 6*

FIV and FeLV are incurable and can be transmitted to other cats through prolonged exposure to saliva and other body fluids. Having a special unit for these cats protects both them and the rest of the cat population at TCH. Cats with FIV and FeLV would not be viewed as adoptable at many other shelters and would face euthanasia, but these cats look and behave no differently than non-infected cats and are just as worthy of loving homes. Potential adopters entering TCH can be informed about the factual reality of what adopting one of these cats means, which may dispel some previously held concerns.

Birth defects are a part of the natural world. When these occur within the cat population, it can mean a certain death. TCH has successfully adopted out deaf cats, blind cats and cats with only one eye, and just like with people, sometimes what makes these cats different is what makes them special. TCH (as of this writing) has one cat with Manx Syndrome named Roo. Manx Syndrome is a condition in which

***If we treated everyone we meet with the same affection we bestow upon our favorite cat, they, too, would purr.***  
 ~Martin Buxbaum

the tailless gene of the Manx cat breed shortens the spine too much. It can damage the spinal cord and nerves as well as cause bladder, bowel and digestive issues. Roo's rear legs do not work the same as those of other cats, but she certainly gets around just fine despite this. Roo is a speedy little devil who runs and jumps around in a manner that is not to be believed. She is certainly propelled by something other than her hind legs. Cosmo is another TCH cat



**Roo**

sweet and cuddly cat who requires a little extra tolerance and care.

who is developmentally disabled. He went through a phase where he would bite at his paws until they bled. He's currently living in a foster home under the patient care of people who help him when he gets confused and "lost" in the home. He's a very

The Cat House understands that sometimes it takes the right kind of person to see the value in a cat that does not fit into what is typically considered to be the norm. All of the cats at TCH are awesome in their own way. They are waiting to meet their equally awesome human companions, people who understand that once you love something it becomes lovely. At TCH, it is being different that truly makes a difference in the lives of the cats they take in as well as in the lives of the humans who are lucky enough to experience the joyous reward of knowing these cats.



*Diversity Management Program*

*by Brig Gen Fago continued from Page 4*

to create something greater than could be created alone, so that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

In recruiting, reputation is everything. Just ask University of Nebraska football head coach Bo Pelini! Over the last twenty years the United States Armed Forces has made substantial strides in becoming more representative of society as a whole. As the military's reputation for being a culturally diverse organization and one that is respectful of that diversity, it will become easier to recruit and hire the all-volunteer Armed Forces of tomorrow!

Men and women in today's military serve because of the intangibles of the profession: pride in serving one's country,

being valued for individual contributions and being respected for who they are and what they do in accomplishing our nation's security mission is why men and women make the military a career. To continue to keep these great Americans, the United States Armed Forces must continue to provide and ensure a respectful, diverse organizational culture and a supportive work environment for all people.

The advantages of understanding and valuing diversity are too great to ignore. Once sensitivity to the differences between people is realized, the task of ensuring that each military service member feels that he or she is respected as an individual can begin. The key to managing diversity is commitment. With

the full support of all levels of leadership, through all the ranks, cultural change is possible. There is no simple way to make a cultural change; it requires setting clear and specific goals, ensuring commitment at all levels, breaking from past practices, and most of all communicating the desire to change throughout the military. Leadership must "walk the walk and talk the talk" for success. I believe this latest DoD directive is another step in the walk and a voice in the talk toward success!

Finally, I personally believe that diversity is the destiny of our military culture. And if you like, please feel free to quote me on that!

Aim High...Fly, Fight, & Win! Army Strong! Go Huskers! Fly Delta!





# BOOK REVIEW: DECISION POINTS

*Written by George W. Bush  
Crown Publishing Group; November 2010  
Book Review By MAJ Drey L. Ihm*

I purchased this book in 2011 as a gift for my husband. We both thought President Bush displayed great leadership during his time as President and we were very interested in his personal story during his time in the White House. I must admit, I have not been as proactive politically until this past decade. I have entrenched many of my views during this time period.

I finally snagged the book from my husband and began to read it over the Christmas holiday this past year. Although I have the utmost respect for our former President, there were decisions he made that I did not agree with. Through reading this book I was able to learn where he was coming from in his decision making process on some of those issues. It made me respect him even more, even though I hold a different view on such topics as stem cell research, education and the right to life as a choice, just to name a few.

In the beginning of his book, President Bush describes important decisions he made that shaped his personal life and his presidency. It begins with his personal choice to address a drinking problem he had and his conversion to Christianity. This personal growth came from a sense of obligation to his family and desire for public service.

I was very surprised to read of his fond account of his cooperative relationship with many Democrats, in particular with the late Senator Edward Kennedy.

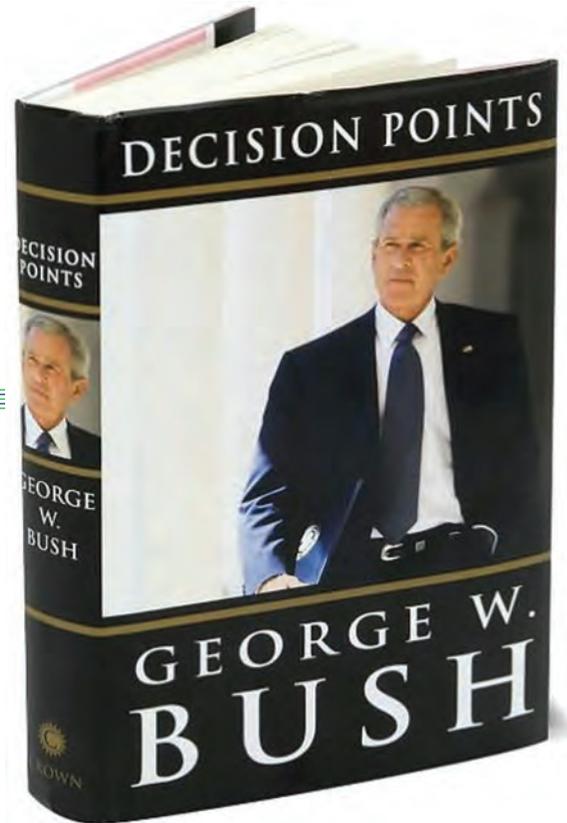
They both agreed upon and worked toward comprehensive immigration reform and No Child Left Behind bills. I was always impressed with his demeanor in the public. He was a President who tried to bring the Senate and Congress, Democrats and Republicans together on important issues he believed needed to be addressed.

Bush wanted his presidency to be able to focus on more domestic issues. However, 9-11 changed his presidency and the history of our Nation. He states, "History can debate the decisions I made, the policies I chose, and the tools I left behind. But there can be no debate about one fact: After the

*Years from now, historians may look back and see the surge as a foregone conclusion, an inevitable bridge between the years of violence that followed liberation and the democracy that emerged. Nothing about the surge felt inevitable at the time. Public opinion ran strongly against it. Congress tried to block it. The enemy fought relentlessly to break our will.*

nightmare of September 11, America went seven and a half years without another successful terrorist attack on our soil. If I had to summarize my most meaningful accomplishment as president in one sentence that would be it."

President Bush does not give explanations for why a decision about a certain topic did not work out as planned. He takes full responsibility for everything that occurred during his tenure. This is so refreshing for me to read about, because we live in an age where, in my opinion, it's too easy



for people to pass the "buck" elsewhere. If you are a leader, you should take full responsibility for everything, even if you had no control over the situation.

That is part of being a leader. You take responsibility to learn from lessons in life and make the world a better place for future generations. How can a leader do this if they are not willing to take the bad with the good?

I especially enjoyed the final chapters of the book where he discussed his final days in the White House and the transition he and President Barack Obama had. He finishes with a warm reflection of his staff, the people he worked with and excitement for what's to come next in his life. He mentions how grateful he is to be the only president to leave office and still have his parents to share in his life. He is a fascinating person and the book is a fast and captivating read. You feel as though you can relate to him as a person outside of the office he once held. Anyone interested in reading this book is more than welcome to borrow it as I highly recommend it as a must read. 



# TRIVIA:

## UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS (USMC)

*A Marine is a Marine. I set that policy two weeks ago - there's no such thing as a former Marine. You're a Marine, just in a different uniform and you're in a different phase of your life. But you'll always be a Marine because you went to Parris Island, San Diego or the hills of Quantico.*

*There's no such thing as a former Marine.*

*-General James F. Amos, 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps*

- What animal is the Marine Corps mascot?
  - Boxer
  - Pit Bull
  - Bulldog
  - Pug
- What three elements make up the Marine Corps emblem?
  - Eagle, Trident, Globe
  - Eagle, Globe, Anchor
  - Trident, Anchor, Pistol
  - Pistol, Eagle, Globe
- Who was the first Commandant of the Marine Corps?
  - John A. Lejeune
  - Archibald Henderson
  - Jacob Zielin
  - Samuel Nicholas
- The Marine Corps birthday is celebrated on what day?
  - November 10
  - April 24
  - December 14
  - June 15
- "Devil Dogs" was a nickname given to the Marines.
  - True
  - False
- Who was the only Marine to earn five Navy Crosses?
  - Dan Daly
  - Smedley Butler
  - Chesty Puller
  - Presley O'Bannon
- I am considered the Father of Marine Corps aviation. Who am I?
  - Ross "Rusty" Rowell
  - Alfred A. Cunningham
  - Marion E. Carl
  - Christian F. Schilt
- What is the oldest active post in the United States Marine Corps?
  - Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Virginia
  - Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, California
  - Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina
  - Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C.
- During what war did the first Marine receive the Medal of Honor?
  - Revolutionary War
  - War of 1812
  - Civil War
  - World War I
- Who was the first woman to enlist in the Marine Corps?
  - Opha Mae Johnson
  - Minnie Spotted Wolf
  - Anne Lentz
  - Barbara Olive Barnwell

*They (Women Marines) don't have a nickname, and they don't need one.*

*They get their basic training in a Marine atmosphere, at a Marine Post.*

*They inherit the traditions of the Marines. They are Marines.*

*-LtGen Thomas Holcomb, USMC  
Commandant of the Marine Corps, 1943*



# RESTAURANT REVIEW: THE GREEN PAPAYA

*Review By MSgt Jennifer Eloge*

2701 North 27th Street, #B; Lincoln, NE ; 402-325-6842

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Green-Papaya-Restaurant/138999059444870>

First off I must admit I LOVE good food but I am probably one the pickiest eaters around. I must clarify that I don't throw fits or anything with the waiters or waitresses if I don't like the food, I just simply whine to whomever is with me.

I am very adventurous when it comes to trying new restaurants. I love seedy looking places which, in my experience, seem to serve delicious food.

So, when my favorite Vietnamese restaurant closed, I was on the lookout for a new venue here in town. I love Vietnamese soups and un-fried spring rolls (known as summer rolls in some states). One day, as I was out on an errand, I saw The Green Papaya located on 27th Street heading south from Cornhusker, located in a small strip mall right before the bridge.



The restaurant looks like your typical strip mall restaurant, like a hole in the wall place and I had to give it a try.

The first thing you notice is that getting in and out of the location can be

a bit tricky due to the way the traffic flows on 27th. However, any frustration from that should cease once you sit down and eat. The restaurant is clean and well lit with big windows. It has booths and tables and looks bigger inside than it does from the outside. The temperature always

seems to be perfect, never too cold or hot and the music is at just the right volume.

For this visit, we timed it so that we arrived as they were opening for the day, so it was not crowded or super busy. The waitress was extremely nice and helpful. I took my



boss with me (a Vietnamese food newbie) so the waitress was a big help in explaining the different items on the menu. The service was fast for a sit down.



The prices are very reasonable for the portion size. The majority of the meals are under \$8 and the portion sizes are huge. For example, I am able to get two meals out of one soup. The food is served very fresh. The spring rolls and peanut sauce are just right (firm, not slimy). The spring rolls are filled with fresh shrimp and rice noodles and are un-fried. The duck soup was served piping hot with fresh bean sprouts, herbs, duck pieces and broth. The duck is flavored in almost a curry/ginger seasoning. You will love how fresh the herbs are and the crispy bean sprouts just add the perfect crunch.

On this day I opened up my horizons and tried a mango bubble tea drink. This drink is very odd to me as it is sort of like a smoothie except it has large tapioca balls on the bottom. You get a very large straw and you suck up the creamy fruity drink and the chewy tapioca balls. The sensation of drinking and chewing is odd yet the flavor is very good. I suggest that everyone try it at least once in their life.

I highly recommend The Green Papaya to those who are Vietnamese foodies and to those who want to be adventurous and try Vietnamese food for the first time. You won't be disappointed. Take it from my boss (the newbie) who loved the food!



# 2012 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION

By TSgt Sharon Okra-Goll

January 26, 2012 marked the day the Nebraska Military Department celebrated African American Heritage month at the Penteman Armory. The official African American Heritage month, mandated by the President of the United States, is actually February. As in the past, I felt lucky and honored to be a part of this year's celebration. This year, I had the privilege to hear former Nebraska Cornhusker football player, author, co-author, father, husband, consultant and motivational speaker Aaron Davis speak. Being able to listen to Mr. Davis was more than hearing or listening to someone speak... it was also an opportunity to learn, as he proved to be a great teacher as well as a great speaker.

Mr. Davis is a former classmate of mine and a graduate of Lincoln High School. He is as humble now as he was back then. The theme of his speech was, "If they made it through that, you can make it through this." At first, I thought the speech was going to be a history lesson about the Civil Rights Movement and other past events that involved African Americans. It was in a sense a small history lesson, but it was also an opportunity for everyone in the audience (including myself) to reflect on our life... the past, present and what's to come in the future. The speech given by Mr. Davis was about resiliency, determination,



overcoming adversity and making it through. He shared not only personal stories but also stories that everyone could relate to. His speech crossed color lines, gender lines, generational lines, etc. It was truly a dialogue that embraced diversity in every aspect. It was not a speech that left anyone out, because we can all relate to facing adversity whether it is through

work, school, family or something else. Mr. Davis' motivational speech left me feeling energized and eager to move forward. After listening to a little bit of history (African Americans in this country have overcome so much), after listening to his personal struggles (he also has overcome so much), I left with a better sense of the personal strength that I have to overcome my challenges. It's easy to remember: "If they made it through that, you can make it through this."

Mr. Davis was humorous, insightful, intelligent and gracious. He gave thanks to the military and was very happy to be a part of the Nebraska National Guard African American Heritage month celebration. This event has been one of my favorite heritage luncheons so

far, as Mr. Davis was sincere and encouraging.

The lunch itself was catered by Phat Jacks (11th & Cornhusker)

– pulled pork sandwiches, baked beans and corn casserole. A wonderful speaker, a wonderful lunch...another great event put together by the Special Emphasis Program Group!

I would also like to add (along with a very big thank you), that MSgt Gene Ernst and Capt Tyler Sandberg were gracious enough to take time out of their schedule to give Mr. Davis (and several community members) a tour of the Tanker. The tour was a key highlight to end a successful day and was much appreciated by all. Thanks MSgt Ernst, Capt Sandberg and 155th Maintenance Squadron. 🌍





# SEP MEMBER HIGHLIGHT:

## MAJ GUY MOON

### EDUCATION AND INCENTIVES BRANCH MANAGER, G1

MAJ Moon was born and raised in Hawaii. He moved to Nebraska to attend Creighton University in Omaha. His first visit to the continental United States was landing at Eppley Airfield in Omaha. Just like many of our Soldiers, he enlisted into the Nebraska Army National Guard for the educational benefits.

His first assignment was in C Company/67th Forward Support Battalion in Omaha as a medic and Gamma

Goat (6-wheeled amphibious vehicle) driver.

Other assignments included 31C Communications/Radio Teletype Operator with the Long-range Surveillance Detachment and as a medic squad leader with the 110th Ambulance Company before entering Officer Candidate (OC) School in class OC33 where he graduated as the Distinguished Honor Graduate in 1990. MAJ Moon attended the Armor Officer Basic and resident Advanced Course at Ft. Knox, Kentucky, and has completed both the Combined Arms and Services Staff School and Command and General Staff College. He has a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Bellevue University and will graduate with his second Master's Degree of Homeland Security in Public Health Preparedness from Penn State University.

MAJ Moon has served in numerous positions in the Nebraska National Guard including Support Platoon Leader, Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 1/134th Infantry



Battalion (Mechanized); Tank Platoon Leader, Delta Company, 195 Armor Company; Army Medical Department (AMEDD) Recruiter, State Recruiting and Retention Office; Personnel Officer (S1), 1/134th Infantry (Mechanized); Commander, HHC, 1/134th IN (M); Executive Officer (XO)/Administrative Officer (AO), 1/134th Infantry Battalion (Mechanized);

Operations and Training Officer (S3)/ Administrative Officer (AO), 867th

Quartermaster Battalion; Anti-terrorism Officer; Operations Officer, 67th Area Support Group, Al Asad Airbase, Iraq; Personnel Officer (S1)/ Administrative Officer (AO), 209th Regional Training Institute; Deputy J5 Plans; Marketing and Production Officer, Agribusiness Development Team #3; and is currently assigned as the G1 - Education and Incentives Branch Manager.

MAJ Moon has one son, Phillip who is a 2011 graduate of Burke High School in Omaha. He now attends Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs, Iowa and is majoring in Media Productions. "Being a single-father has been my greatest challenge and greatest reward. I'm really proud of how far he's come and thankful for the opportunity to be there for him." 

## HAWAII FACTS

<http://www.50states.com/facts/hawaii.htm>

1. The state of Hawaii consists of eight main islands: Niihau, Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Kahoolawe and the Big Island of Hawaii.
2. The first Asian American in the United States Senate was Hawaii's Hiram Fong. Descended from Chinese immigrants, Fong was elected to the Senate in 1959.
3. Hawaii was the 50th state admitted to the union on August 20, 1959.
4. There are no racial or ethnic majorities in Hawaii. Everyone is a minority. Caucasians (Haoles) constitute about 34%; Japanese-American about 32%; Filipino-American about 16% and Chinese-American about 5%. It is very difficult to determine racial identification as most of the population has some mixture of ethnicities.
5. Hawaii is the most isolated population center on the face of the earth. Hawaii is 2,390 miles from California; 3,850 miles from Japan; 4,900 miles from China; and 5,280 miles from the Philippines.
6. More than one-third of the world's commercial supply of pineapples comes from Hawaii.
7. The Hawaiian Islands are the projecting tops of the biggest mountain range in the world.
8. Hawaii has its own time zone (Hawaiian Standard Time). There is no daylight savings time. The time runs two hours behind Pacific Standard Time and five hours behind Eastern Standard Time.





# SEP MEMBER HIGHLIGHT:

## STAFF SERGEANT JARELL ROACH

### COUNTERDRUG SUPPORT PROGRAM – CIVIL OPERATOR

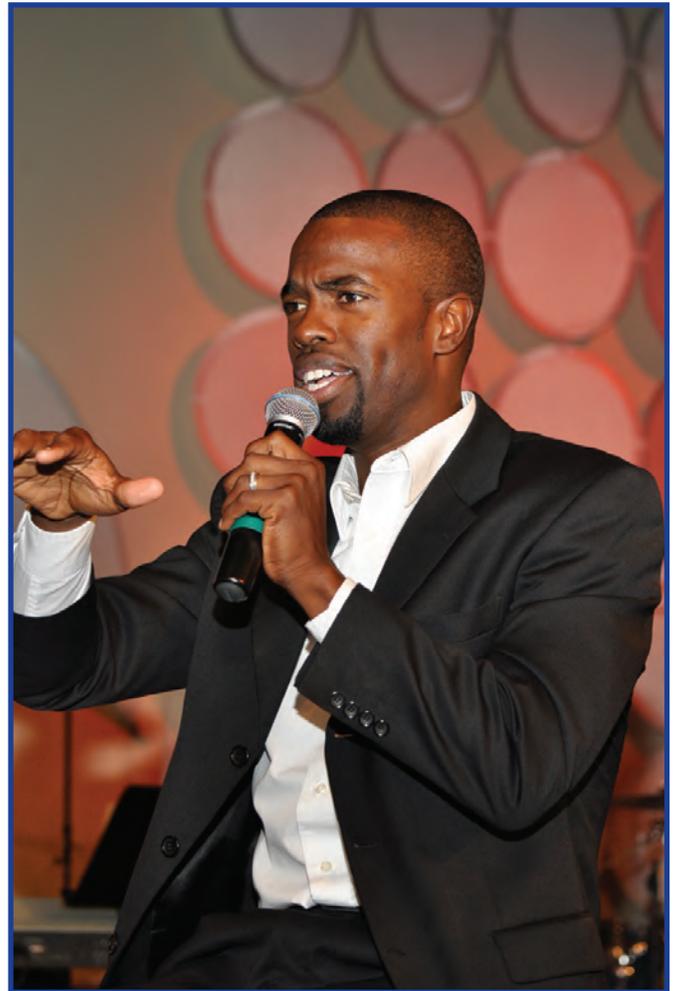
SSgt Jarell S. Roach is a native of Lincoln, Nebraska and currently resides in the city of Bellevue, where he and his wife Kinesha are honored parents of three wonderful children. The Roaches are faithful members of Eagle's Nest Worship Center in Omaha. SSgt Roach has been a member of the Air National Guard since 2002, where he serves in the Civil Engineer Squadron. Since his involvement as a Civil Engineer he has functioned as a Unit Career Advisor, mentor and Base Honor Guard member. More recently he has become the Vice President of the base's First Five forum, where he desires to become an empowering voice for Nebraska's Airmen.

SSgt Roach is approaching his fourth year with the Counterdrug Support Program as a Civil Operator, which he truly loves and enjoys. Throughout the years he has developed and established very successful bonds within the community among students and youth development advocates alike. He has given well over 20,000 presentations among diversified audiences and as a result, has become well received in our public schools and drug prevention coalitions. Over time, SSgt Jarell Roach has been vital in expanding Counterdrug's partnerships throughout Nebraska by exemplifying trademark marketing skills. He has designed presentations, not only in the sphere of drug education, but also in career, leadership, personal and small team development; bullying prevention, and decision-making. He has served organizations in public, parochial and alternative school programs; JROTC, Army and Air National Guard; youth empowerment conferences, workshops and faith-based groups, criminal offenders, and other high risk groups.

SSgt Jarell Roach is the co-founder of two

self-operated businesses, both which function mainly in the realm of public presentations. *The L.O.U. Project* is a comedic group, created to give the gift of clean humor to all audiences, grow philanthropy efforts and create opportunities for others to train in fine arts and entertainment. The second business is *He That Has an Ear* presentations. It functions as an empowerment resource to youth advocate organizations, businesses, educational organizations, etc. The overall emphasis lays in the development of leadership by acquiring effective principles which can be used to enhance lives, both personally and professionally. He believes that by God's grace, both businesses are growing rapidly and making lasting marks in Nebraska communities.

SSgt Jarell Roach has served as an instructor in several settings. He started his journey as a staff member of the University of Nebraska's Educational Talent Search Summer School Program. His experience evolved through practices in elementary education, summer programs and mentoring. He is the founder of two afterschool programs, designed to influence African American males and females by building positive self-images and taking responsibility



in the community. He is completing his sixth season as a track and field coach. More recently, he has served as a contracted instructor with Sarpy County's local youth detention center working with teenage males going through a diversion program. He has worked as a college instructor as well, teaching a nine-week student success curriculum at Southeast Community College. SSgt Roach is a proud member of Cornerstone Christian School Board, where they are currently hosting a capital campaign for the expansion of a new school building in Bellevue.





Marine Corps Trivia continued from Page 9

## UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS (USMC) TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. c. The Bulldog is the Marine Corps mascot and has been since 1922. Major General Smedley Butler, USMC, introduced the first Marine mascot. In a formal ceremony on October 14, 1922, "Pvt Jiggs," a registered English Bulldog, was enlisted in the Marine Corps. Living at the Marine base at Quantico, Virginia, "Jiggs" performed his official mascot duties magnificently and was soon promoted to the rank of Sergeant Major. SgtMaj Jiggs' death in 1927 was mourned throughout the Corps; he was interred with full military honors. During the 1930s, 40s and early 50s, bulldogs continued to serve faithfully; this time all named "Smedley," a tribute to General Butler.



*Sgt. Jiggs in 1925, after rising from the rank of private to corporal to sergeant to sergeant major in just 3 years.  
Photo: Library of Congress*

In the late 1950s the Marine Barracks in Washington, D.C. became the new home for the mascot. Renamed "Chesty" to honor Lieutenant General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller, Jr., the mascot made his first formal public appearance at the Evening Parade on July 5, 1957. Wearing his canine Dress Blues, Chesty became an instant hit. The current mascot is the 13th in a series of mascots named "Chesty."



*Col. W. Blake Crowe, commanding officer of Marine Barracks Washington, pins the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal on Sgt. Chesty XII, the former mascot of the Barracks, during his retirement ceremony in Washington, July 25. Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs; Marine Barracks 8th & I.*

2. b. The Eagle, Globe and Anchor. The eagle represents the proud nation we defend. It stands at the ready with our coastlines in sight and the entire world within reach of its outstretched wings. The globe represents our worldwide presence. The anchor points both to the Marine Corps'



naval heritage and its ability to access any coastline in the world. Together, the eagle, globe and anchor symbolize the Marine Corps commitment to defend our nation - in the air, on land and at sea. The Eagle, Globe and Anchor emblem has been part of the Marine uniform since 1868 and became the official emblem of the Marine Corps in 1955.

3. d. Samuel Nicholas, commissioned a "Captain of Marines" by the Second Continental Congress, was the first officer commissioned in the United States Continental Marines, and by tradition is considered to be the first Commandant of the Marine Corps. He served from November 28, 1775 – August 27, 1783.



John A. Lejeune started the tradition of the birthday ball with Marine Corps Order 47, which is still read annually. He served as Commandant from July 1, 1920 – March 4, 1929.

Archibald Henderson

was the longest-serving Commandant (known as the "Grand old man of the Marine Corps"). He is known for his role in expanding the Marine Corps' mission to include expeditionary warfare and rapid deployment. He served as Commandant from October 17, 1820 – January 6, 1859. He also served as acting Commandant from September 16, 1818 – March 2, 1819.



Jacob Zeilin became the Marine Corps' first general officer. He officially approved the design of the Eagle, Globe and Anchor as the emblem of the Marine Corps. He served as Commandant from June 10, 1864 – October 31, 1876.

4. a. The Marine Corps was formed on November 10, 1775, at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. On this day a committee of the Continental Congress met to draft a resolution calling for two battalions of Marines able to fight for independence at sea and on shore. In 1834, the Marine Corps became part of the Department of the Navy.



Marine Corps Trivia continued from Page 14

*The United States Marine Corps,  
with its fiercely proud tradition of excellence in combat,  
its hallowed rituals, and its unbending code of honor,  
is part of the fabric of American myth.*

*Thomas E. Ricks; Making the Corps, 1997*

5. a. True. According to tradition, the nickname "Devil Dogs" was given by the Germans to the Marines who fought in the Battle of Belleau Wood (1918) during World War I. During this battle, the Marines earned their reputation



*The moss-covered Devil Dog fountain located in Belleau, France, and symbolizes the spirit of the Marines who fought there in World War I. The area was renamed to Bois de la Brigade de Marine to commemorate the Marines of 4th Brigade who stopped the Germans from entering Paris.*

*Lisa R. Strickland; Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point*

of being a fierce and tough fighting force.

Marines and the American media reported that Germans had nicknamed them Teufel Hunden, meaning "Devil Dogs." However, there is no evidence of this in German records (as Teufelshunde would be the proper German phrase). Nevertheless, the name stuck.

Sergeant Major Daniel Joseph "Dan" Daly was a United States Marine and one of only nineteen men (including seven Marines) to have received the Medal of Honor twice. He was also awarded the Navy Cross for "repeated deeds of heroism and great service" during the Battle of Belleau Wood in World War I.



During his 34-year career as a Marine, Major General Smedley Butler participated in military actions in the Philippines, China, in Central America and the Caribbean during the Banana Wars, and France in World War I. By the end of his career, he had received 16 medals, five for heroism. He is one of nineteen men to twice receive the Medal of Honor, one of three to be awarded both the Marine

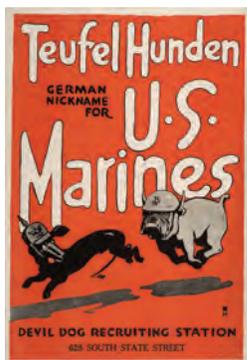


Corps Brevet Medal and the Medal of Honor, and the only man to be awarded the Brevet Medal and two Medals of Honor, all for separate actions.

Presley O'Bannon was an officer in the United States Marine Corps and became famous for his actions in the First Barbary War. In recognition of his bravery, he was presented a sword for his part in attempting to restore Prince Hamet Karamanli to his throne at Tripoli. This sword became the model for the Mameluke Sword adopted in 1825 for Marine Corps officers. The sword is part of the Marine Corps officer dress uniform today.



6. c. Lieutenant General Louis B. "Chesty" Puller is the most decorated Marine in Marine Corps history. He was awarded 52 ribbons in all, including five Navy Crosses (the second highest award a Marine can receive), the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, two Legions of Merit with "V" device, the Bronze Star with "V" device, the Bronze Star, three Air Medals and the Purple Heart.





*Marine Corps Trivia continued from Page 15*

7. b. First Lieutenant Alfred Austell Cunningham reported for aviation duty on May 22, 1912, to Naval Aviation Camp in Annapolis, Maryland. 1stLT Cunningham became the first qualified Marine aviator when he soloed after two hours and forty minutes of flight instruction. From October 1912 to July 1913, 1stLT Cunningham made almost 400 flights.



Ross E. "Rusty" Rowell was an aviator in the Marine Corps. He was commissioned on August 3, 1906, and enjoyed a 40-year career with the Marine Corps. He served as Director of Marine Corps Aviation from May 30, 1935 until March 10, 1939.

Marion E. Carl was listed as the first Marine Ace. He was

a pilot during WWII and attached to Marine Fighter Squadron 223, VMF-223. Carl would eventually shoot down 18.5 Japanese aircraft. After the war he became the first Marine Corps pilot to land jet aircraft aboard an aircraft carrier in 1946 and in 1947 set a world speed record as a test pilot. He retired as

a Major General.



Christian Schilt was one of the first Marine Corps aviators and a Medal of Honor recipient. He received the Medal for flying his biplane in and out of a besieged Nicaraguan town ten times to evacuate wounded Marines and bring in needed supplies. He retired at the rank of General in 1957.



8. d. Established in 1801, Marine Barracks Washington, also known as "8th & I," is the oldest post of the Corps and has been the residence of every commandant of the Marine Corps since 1806. Located on the corners of 8th & I Streets in southeast Washington, D.C., the Barracks supports both ceremonial and security missions in the nation's Capitol. The selection of the location of Marine

Barracks Washington was of national and strategic interest. President Thomas Jefferson, accompanied by the second commandant of the Marine Corps, LtCol William Ward Burrows, searched for a suitable location to station the Marines within proximity to the Washington Navy Yard and within "an easy marching distance of the Capitol."



*Commandant of the Marine Corps' house at 8th & I.*

Camp Lejeune, located in Jacksonville, North Carolina, was established in 1941 and is home to the 2nd Marine Division.

Camp Pendleton, located in Oceanside, California, was established in 1942 and is home to the 1st Marine Division.

Quantico, Virginia was built in 1917 and is a training base. The Marine Corps Officer Candidate School, the FBI Academy and the Drug Enforcement Agency Training Academy are all located on Quantico.

9. c. The first Marine to receive the Medal of Honor was Corporal John Mackie. During the Civil War, while onboard the USS Galena at the Battle of Drewry's Bluff, Virginia, heavy fire from Confederate forces killed or wounded much of the crew. Cpl Mackie bravely risked his life to lead the gun's operation for the rest of the battle. The Medal of Honor was created during the Civil War and is the highest military decoration presented to a member of the U.S. Armed Forces by the United States government.



10. a. In 1918, the Secretary of the Navy allowed women to enroll for clerical duty in the Marine Corps. Officially Opha Mae Johnson is credited as the first woman in the Marine Corps – enrolling for service on August 13, 1918. The role of the women was to take over stateside clerical duties



*Continued on Page 17*



Marine Corps Trivia continued from Page 16



Three Marine Corps women reservists, Camp Lejeune, N.C. Left to right: Minnie Spotted Wolf (Blackfoot), Celia Mix (Potawatomi), and Viola Eastman (Chippewa). U.S. Marine Corps photograph, October 16, 1943.

from "battle-ready" Marines who were needed overseas. During the first year, approximately 300 women entered the Marine Corps.

In 1943, Captain Anne Lentz was the first commissioned officer.

In 1943, Minnie Spotted Wolf became the first Native American to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps Women's Reserve.

In 1953, Staff Sergeant Barbara Olive Barnwell was the first female Marine to be awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for Heroism.

The Marine Corps Women's Reserve was established in February 1943. And on June 12, 1948, Congress passed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act and made women a permanent part of the regular Marine Corps.

<http://www.mcleague.com/mdp/index.php?module=ContentExpress&func=display&ceid=46>  
[http://www.womenmarines.org/wm\\_history.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1](http://www.womenmarines.org/wm_history.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1)  
<http://www.marines.mil>  
<http://www.marines.com/history-heritage>  
<http://www.greatfalltribune.com/multimedialStories/spottedwolf.html>  
<http://www.marines.mil/news/publications/Pages/75YearsofMarineCorpsAviation.aspx>  
[http://www.dmairfield.com/people/rowell\\_rel/index.html](http://www.dmairfield.com/people/rowell_rel/index.html)  
[http://acepilots.com/usmc\\_carl.html](http://acepilots.com/usmc_carl.html)  
<http://www.marines.com/history-heritage/timelines/timelines/decade12>



## BTG DIVER-CIPE CORNER

Submitted by  
MSgt Jennifer Eloge

*This meal was one of my favorites growing up. Nearly every Christmas and Canadian Thanksgiving (around our Columbus Day in October) we went to Drummondville, Quebec to see my grandparents. My grandmother Germaine used to make this every holiday, although she never did reveal her recipe. My grandparents didn't speak a lick of English so communication was hard anyway. I learned enough French in high school to communicate with my grandmother without my dad translating. That was great, but she still wouldn't tell. I swear she really didn't have a recipe written down. My dad and I have explored many different recipes along with help from my dad's cousin's wife to come up with this version. It is a medley of recipes and very tasty. The gin is a touch my dad's cousin's wife adds. I like it but my dad prefers without. This is easy to make and I typically double the ingredients and make two pies, which freeze well. My dad and I really like to eat it with ketchup, but this is a personal choice.*

## FRENCH CANADIAN MEAT PIE



### Ingredients

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1/2 teaspoon salt   | Pinch of nutmeg  |
| 1/4 cup water   | 1/4 tsp celery salt                                    |
| 1 1/2 pounds combined ground pork and beef (or ground veal – my personal favorite)    | 1 small onion, ground or minced fine                   |
| 1/4 teaspoon black pepper   | Splash of gin (optional)                               |
| 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon each poultry seasoning, cloves, and cinnamon (according to taste) | 1/2 cup bread crumbs                                   |
|   | 2 ready-made, 9" pie crusts (or you can make your own) |

Combine all ingredients (except bread crumbs) well and simmer, covered for 1/2 hour. Stir and break up meat several times. Drain off liquid. Let stand for fat to rise to top. Discard fat and return rest of liquid to meat mixture. Add 1/2 cup bread crumbs. Place in pastry-lined pie tin. Cover with top crust and bake at 400 degrees for 25 minutes or until browned. Meat mixture may be made the day before and refrigerated until ready to use. Makes one 9 inch pie.

