

rent progress into the development of electromagnetic launchers (EML) or railguns, lasers (optical and X-ray), and the promising particle beam (PB) weapons systems.

In the latter part of the book the author makes the point that long-range planning by the U.S. Armed Forces is currently hampered by a lack of understanding and appreciation for trends in space and their implications on earth. This attitude prevails even though the defense communities' dependence upon support from space is great and growing. For example, orbital sensors continue to supplement, and in some

cases are replacing, land-based strategic warning, surveillance, weather, and navigation systems. In addition, approximately 70 percent of all types of military communications currently involves the use of satellites.

The final paragraph of the book examines a question posed by then-Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger in 1974, when he wondered about the definition of "strategic superiority." The author concludes that it "is the unilateral control of space, which overreaches planet earth, all occupants, and its entire contents." It is further pointed out that whoever attains strategic superi-

ority might be capable of imposing their will upon the entire globe without resorting to war, a feat which the ancient Chinese author Sun Tzu stated some 25 centuries ago to be "the acme of skill."

For those Marines interested in gaining additional insight into challenges the United States may face in future wars, I recommend this book for their professional libraries.

USMC

>Col Shaver, formerly with the US Space Command, is currently serving at FMFPac Headquarters at Camp Smith, HI.

## UCMJ in Vietnam

reviewed by Gen Wallace M. Greene, Jr., USMC(Ret)

**MARINES AND MILITARY LAW IN VIETNAM: Trial by Fire.** By LtCol Gary D. Solis, USMC. History and Museums Division, HQMC, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1989, 295 pp., \$17.00. (Member \$15.30)

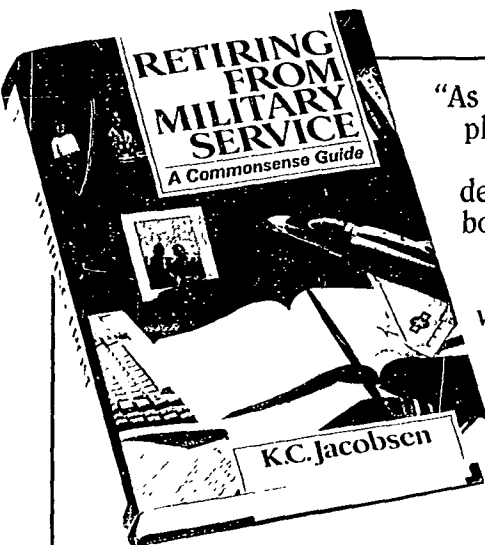
Over 50,000 Marines served in Vietnam. Among these were some 400 Marine Corps lawyers. *Marines and Military Law in Vietnam*, by LtCol Gary D. Solis, initially tells the story of their experiences in trying to carry out the provisions of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) in a combat

zone. The almost universal conclusion of these Marine lawyers and their commanding officers was that the UCMJ was not capable of performing its intended role under combat conditions. The system simply did not work from either the military or judicial viewpoints. It proved to be a miserable failure in promoting discipline and bringing justice to a zone of war.

Illustrations of its failure to promote discipline abound. When MajGen William K. Jones ended his tour as Commanding General, 3d Marine Division in Vietnam, he was quoted as saying, "I was absolutely astounded and horrified by the breakdown of discipline that I witnessed." In 1970 the 1st Marine Division suffered 47 fragging incidents in which 1 Marine was killed and 43 were wounded. That same year there were 11,058 apprehensions for drug abuse. Trial by court-martial proved to be an awkward, delayed, ineffective, and expensive means of dealing with such a large-scale drug problem. In March 1971, Navy Secretary John H. Chafee was quoted as saying, "drug abuse in both the Navy and Marines is out of control."

In 1970, 1,060 violent racial incidents occurred throughout the Marine Corps resulting in 79 Marines being seriously injured and 2 killed. Until retiring in 1988, LtGen Frank Petersen, Jr., was the Marine Corps' highest ranking black; he was also its first black pilot and first black squadron commander in Vietnam, where, he recalls, "racial tensions reached a point where there was an inability to fight."

As a reflection of the national attitude and disenchantment with the Vietnam War, the Marine Corps was also suffering the highest desertion rate in modern Marine Corps history.



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The UCMJ simply did not provide reasonable procedures for dealing with such problems while engaged in a challenging conflict. Thus administrative discharges became a quick fix in many cases for dealing with malcontents, returned deserters, and drug abusers, all of whom by their sheer number threatened to overwhelm the military justice system.

There is a tremendously important lesson to be learned from all of this if we are to avoid similar or even worse experiences of this sort in future operations—especially prolonged ones. The UCMJ obviously won't work under combat conditions and should be revised by congressional action. Perhaps the Code can be restructured in a two-tier system: one level for use in peacetime, essentially in its present form; the other tier for use in the field under combat conditions, a version similar to the regulations that were a success prior to the adoption of the UCMJ and that would once again permit rapid and arbitrary action by commanding officers in a combat zone.

Not just the Marine Corps but all of the Armed Services and the Department of Defense are confronted with this extremely serious problem involving the proper application of military law and discipline in time of war. The British general Sir Archibald Wavell reminds us: "The soldier does not mind a severe code, provided it is administered fairly and reasonably." If the UCMJ, in its present form, continues to remain applicable in future wartime operations, the military Services and Department of Defense, while encouraging Congress to act, should analyze the lessons learned and issue provisional instructions on how best to cope with the disabilities of the UCMJ that were so obviously proven by our experiences in Vietnam.

Producing *Marines and Military Law in Vietnam* was LtCol Solis' final duty. A judge advocate, he retired a few weeks before the book was published and lives in England where he is both a consultant on military law and a graduate student. Both he and the publisher have done an important service in bringing the failure of the UCMJ in Vietnam to light. It belongs in every commander's library and should be read with care and reflection by all Marines.

USMC

## Former Commandant Joins Fifty Year Club

*With this book review, Gen Wallace M. Greene, Jr., joins a select group of Gazette authors whose published articles span 50 or more years, a splendid accomplishment in longevity, authorship, professionalism, and contribution to the Corps.*

As a young captain in China during the Sino-Japanese hostilities (1937-38), Wallace Martin Greene, Jr., decided his rifle company needed a few changes to make it effective in handling street riots. Company E, 2d Battalion, 4th Marines became a riot company of 90 Marines consisting of 3 platoons, each having 6 teams of 4 Marines. The heart of the company was its four-man fire teams.

When Capt Greene returned to the States he wrote an article for the *Gazette* on employing the rifle company in street riot operations (MCG, Mar40). More than four decades later he returned to the four-man fire team with an article on the evolution of the fire team through World War II (MCG, Dec84).

Gen Greene, a 1930 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy who became the Corps' 23d Commandant on 1 January 1964, wrote his first *Gazette* article in 1936, an essay on selecting and training recruits. That first effort was judged the winner of the Marine Corps Association's first prize essay contest. A November 1939 article won second prize in that year's prize essay contest.

During Gen Greene's second year as Commandant, the 6th Marine Brigade was committed to the Dominican Republic to protect American lives and property. Earlier that year an even greater involvement began in Vietnam and Gen Greene's Marine Corps escalated in size to nearly 300,000 by the time of his retirement 31 December 1967.

Besides his writing, Gen Greene has been a true and consistent friend of the *Gazette* over the years, alerting the editors to subjects that deserve coverage, encouraging the staff with kind words, and suggesting changes and improvements.

He lives in McLean, VA, and at age 82 remains active in the Marine Corps Historical Foundation and other Marine Corps related projects. His *Gazette* articles, appearing over a span of 54 years, include:

"Selection and Training of Recruits"—Nov36 (1st Prize Essay).

"The Combat Board"—Nov39 (2d Prize Essay).



Visiting Marines in Vietnam in 1964.



Active in Marine Corps projects today.

"Employment of the Marine Rifle Company in Street Riot Operations"—Mar40 (Honorable Mention Essay).  
"Special Message from New CMC"—Jan64.

"Shanghai, 1937"—Nov65.

"Reorganizing the JCS"—Sep82.

"What Is Right"—Jun84 (a finalist for 1984 Wilcox Award).

"The Quick Or the Dead"—Aug84.

"Fire Team: Comrades in Battle"—Dec84.

"Outpost On San Miguel Island"—Nov85.

"UCMJ in Vietnam"—May90.

The *Gazette* is honored to have him as a contributor and welcomes him to its Fifty Year Club.