

The 20th Modern Day Marine

Story and photos by R. R. Keene



Nine replicas of the flag raising on Iwo Jima awaited presentation by the Marine Corps League to eight Marines and a corpsman in honor of their contributions to the betterment of their jobs, their units and their Corps.

It was the 20th Modern Day Marine Military Exposition, sponsored by the Marine Corps League, and all the big guns were present—from the leading defense contractors in the nation and from overseas to the top brass of the Marine Corps from every clime and duty station.

They came to show off their wares, window shop and honor eight Marines and a corpsman during the annual Enlisted Awards Parade and Presentation at the Marine Corps Air Facility, Quantico, Va., Sept. 20. Presenting each award, a sculptured replica of the second flag raising on Iwo Jima, were Lieutenant General Bruce Knutson, Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Quantico; Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Alford L. McMichael; and Diana Dils, National Commandant, Marine Corps League.

Rifle companies from Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., including the Silent Drill Platoon and the Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps, provided the military backdrop as the honorees looked on from the reviewing stand. The awards were presented as follows:

The Sergeant Major Wilbur Bestwick Award, for significant contributions in a ground combat element, went to Sergeant James S. Long, 1st Radio Battalion, Marine Corps Forces Pacific, Hawaii.

The Gunnery Sergeant Carlos N. Hathcock II Award, for significant contributions to the improvement of marksmanship training, went to Staff Sergeant Waldy V. Sulik, Marksmanship Training Unit, Second Force Service Support Group, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The Sergeant Harry D. Myers Award, for significant contributions to combat readiness in a service support element of the Marine operating forces, went to SSgt Diane M. Durden, Enhanced Equipment Support Division, Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

The Chief Hospital Corpsman George W. "Doc" Piercy Award, for significant contributions to combat readiness in a medical support element of the Marine operating forces, went to Hospital Corpsman First Class Tavita F. Saelua, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, Okinawa, Japan.

The Sergeant Major Frederick B. Doug-

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lass Award, for significant contributions to increased combat readiness in an aviation element of the Marine operating forces, went to Master Sergeant Karl L. Hunnicutt, Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron (VMAQ) 2, Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, N.C.

The Marine Corps Drill Instructor of the Year Award, for contributions to the improvement and training of recruits, went to GySgt Michael D. Tausch, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

The Sergeant Major Bertha Peters Award, for sustained exceptional performance of duty while serving with a Marine operating unit, went to Sgt Brandy R. Vaughn, VMAQ-2, MCAS, Cherry Point.

The United States Marine Corps Recruiter of the Year award, for noteworthy performance in the recruitment of quality individuals, went to SSgt Alain Reyes, Marine Corps Recruiting Station, Chicago, 9th Marine Corps District.

The United States Marine Corps Reservist of the Year, chosen for contributions to increased combat readiness in a Reserve unit, went to Sgt Wilfred E. Sa-Onoy, 6th Motor Transport Bn, Fourth Marine Division, Red Bank, N.J.

Two other individuals were honored in separate ceremonies by the Marine Corps

League. Lawyer James F. Jordan received the 2000 Iron Mike Award for service to the nation and to the Marine Corps in particular. Mrs. Katie K. Dixon won the Dickey Chapelle Award for her contributions to the morale and well-being of the service.

Each year, the exposition provides visitors with a future glimpse into the Marine Corps' war-fighting potential. The equipment and technology displayed highlight the changing scope of global politics and future challenges to Marine operating forces.

In 44,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor exhibits, more than 200 exhibitors this year displayed the tools of war: combat equipment, weapons, communications systems, training apparatus and services that maintain and support Marines. It was among these booths that Marines of all ranks exchanged and discussed military ideas.

Each expo serves as an informal gathering by which Marines can take a look at the latest in equipment, benefits and programs and have the opportunity to talk to factory and industry representatives about product designs and improvements.



The award recipients—and their guests—reviewed a parade in their honor at MCAF, Quantico, staged by members of MB, Washington.

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Modern Day Marine Awards



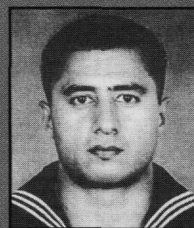
Sgt James S. Long
SgtMaj Wilbur Bestwick Award



SSgt Waldy V. Sulik
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SSgt Diane M. Durden
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HM1 Tavita F. Saelua
HMC George W. "Doc" Piercy Award



MSgt Karl L. Hunnicutt
SgtMaj Frederick B. Douglass Award



GySgt Michael D. Tausch
Drill Instructor of the Year



Sgt Brandy R. Vaughn
SgtMaj Bertha Peters Award



SSgt Alain Reyes
Recruiter of the Year



Sgt Wilfred E. Sa-Onoy
Reservist of the Year