

U.S. Marines in the Persian Gulf, 1990-1991

reviewed by Robert T. Foley

From every war comes valuable lessons that are of use to the military in future conflicts. It is usually the job of military analysts, doctrine experts, and historians to distill these lessons from documents, orders, and eyewitness accounts after the completion of hostilities. The ability to draw lessons and provide accurate accounts is limited by the availability and quality of sources, be they documents or eyewitnesses. This often overlooked duty to preserve records for historical purposes was expressed well during World War I by the commander of the German 102d Reserve Infantry Brigade when he delivered an order exhorting his subordinate commanders to:

Save everything. Save every scrap of paper that is seemingly unimportant, every notice, every word, even the most insignificant-looking piece of paper as long as it has even a remote bearing upon the phases of combat.... Otherwise, much valuable material will be lost...

While the historian's objectiveness often benefits from the passage of time, the memories of participants are dimmed, and documents are destroyed

U.S. MARINES IN THE PERSIAN GULF, 1990-1991: Anthology and Annotated Bibliography. Compiled by Maj Charles D. Melson, Evelyn A. Englander, and Capt David A. Dawson. History and Museums Division [GPO], Washington, DC, 1992, 258 pp., \$15.00. (Member \$13.50)

WITH THE 1 MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE IN DESERT SHIELD AND DESERT STORM. By Col Charles J. Quilter, II. History and Museums Division [GPO], Washington, DC, 1993, 131 pp., \$10.00. (Member \$9.00)

WITH THE 1ST MARINE DIVISION IN DESERT SHIELD AND DESERT STORM. By LtCol Charles H. Cureton. History and Museums Division [GPO], Washington, DC, 1993, 154 pp., \$10.00. (Member \$9.00)

WITH THE 2D MARINE DIVISION IN DESERT SHIELD AND DESERT STORM. By LtCol Dennis P. Mroczkowski. History and Museums Division [GPO], Washington, DC, 1993, 107 pp., \$10.00. (Member \$9.00)

the Persian Gulf, 1990-1991, of seven monographs that cover Marine participation in the war.

MTU DC-7 is a Reserve unit made up of historians, archivists, combat artists, and museum specialists who support the Marine Corps' History and Museums Division programs. Each member of this small unit has a standard military occupational specialty but also has additional qualifications in one of the above disciplines.

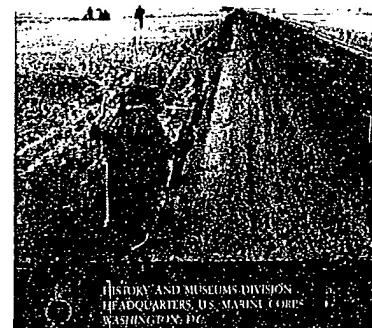
The first of these monographs, *U.S. Marines in the Persian Gulf, 1990-1991: Anthology and Annotated Bibliography*, provides a useful collection of previously published articles that deal with Marine involvement in the Gulf War. Chosen primarily from the *Gazette*, *U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings*, and *Field Artillery*, the articles are intended to serve as an interim reference until the other six monographs are completed. They range in topic from the buildup of forces to the tactics of artillery raids to the role of the media in the war. Included also is an annotated bibliography of published articles concerning Marines in the Gulf.

The second monograph published is

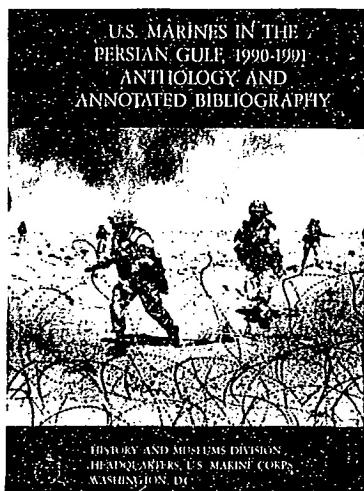
U.S. MARINES IN THE PERSIAN GULF 1990-1991: WITH THE 1 MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE IN DESERT SHIELD AND DESERT STORM

or discarded.

In compiling a history of Marines in the Gulf War, the Marine Corps attempted to circumvent this dilemma by assigning trained historians to serve as unit historians during the conflict. These members of Mobilization Training Unit (History) DC-7 (MTU DC-7) were on hand at the major Marine commands to gather and filter material of enduring value for use in histories after the war. The material they collected then and since is now being correlated and printed as a series, *U.S. Marines in*



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WITH THE 1ST MARINE DIVISION
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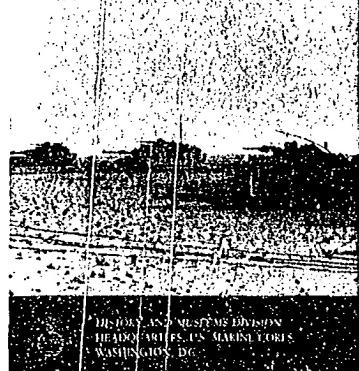
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of, Col Quilter. The monograph covers the operations of I MEF from the deployment of the 7th Marine Expeditionary Brigade and the establishment of I MEF staff in Jubayl to the retrograde following the war's conclusion.

With the 1st Marine Division in DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM by LtCol Charles H. Cureton, USMCR, and *With the 2d Marine Division in DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM* by LtCol Dennis P. Mroczkowski, USMCR, were the next two monographs to be completed. As their titles imply, they cover operations from the perspective of the 1st and 2d Marine Divisions, respectively. Their authors, both of whom accompanied their division during the action, use the command chronologies of the divisions, interviews, and personal experiences in the writing of these works.

Each volume of the series is well illustrated with photos, maps, and art work. The illustrations confirm that while the war in the Gulf was short, it was certainly intense and violent. Each monograph also contains appendixes that supply vital information, such as unit commanders and staffs, unit organization and equipment, Marine uniforms, and event chronologies.

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IN DESERT SHIELD AND
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entitled *With the 1 Marine Expeditionary Force in DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM* and is written by Col Charles J. Quilter, II, USMCR, who is also the commanding officer of MTU DC-7 and who served as the command historian of I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF). The monograph was written using the command chronologies and the combat operations center journal of I MEF as well as interviews by, and personal observations

The remaining three monographs, which will cover the Marine forces afloat, the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, and Marine participation in relief operations in Northern Iraq, will follow the same format as the earlier monographs.



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Security in the Caribbean

reviewed by Russell W. Ramsey

CONFFLICT, PEACE, AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN. By Jorge Rodriguez Beruff, J. Peter Figueroa, and J. Edward Greene, Eds. St. Martin's Press, New York, 1991, 294 pp., \$55.00. (Member \$49.50)

This volume of essays on Caribbean security issues can be viewed as a sequel to Dion E. Phillips and Alma H. Young, eds., *Militarization in the Non-Hispanic Caribbean* (Boulder, Colorado: Lynne Reiner, 1986). Several of the contributing scholars are the same, and they visit the same island republics to analyze force development against security challenges. This book is the outcome of a "Peace and Development in the Caribbean" conference held in 1988 at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, in Jamaica.

The individual essays on security forces in the Dominican Republic and Barbados are the best single country entries. Pablo A. Martinez, in the fourth essay, finds a disturbing tendency among Dominican military officers to express U.S. foreign policy views as their own (*entreguismo*, in Spanish), but acknowledges increased military professionalism. In the sixth essay, Dion E. Phillips describes in careful terms the rise of a professional Army in Barbados—a departure from earlier dependency upon militia and police. Phillips has somewhat mollified the shrill, anti-U.S. view seen in the earlier 1986 book that he edited, probably reflecting the reduction in Cold War regional activity.

Raul Benitez Manaut, in the eighth essay, offers the best assessment of Caribbean-Central American security issue linkage ever written by a regional

scholar. He shows why President Ronald Reagan viewed the combination of Cuban and Nicaraguan Sandinista military power as a legitimate threat to the region, not just to the United States.

There are two unifying theses in this work. First, the Caribbean island republics are converting their security forces from police and coastal patrol units into small, professional armies, with supporting sea and air assets. Second, the United States is playing a stronger role in this process, replacing earlier British, French, and Dutch military security influence. One only wishes that this distinguished collection of scholars would have acknowledged more strongly the fact that the narcotics kingpins offer genuine military security challenges to the region.



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