

THE RADIO LOG

Marine Corps Cryptologic Association Newsletter
Spring 1991 Volume 1 Number 3

HISTORY AND TRADITIONS

by LtCol Pete Brown, USMC (Ret)

This is the third in a continuing series of articles on Marine Corps Cryptologic History. The first two articles covered the lineage and honors of the 1st and 2nd Radio Battalions. The primary source for the official lineage and honors for these units was published by HQMC. The official lineage for the unit we are featuring in this issue, the Marine Support Battalion is very short, listing the activation as Company G, HqBn, HQMC in 1958, its redesignation as MarSptBn in 1961 and one relocation. Also, the only honor listed is the National Defense Streamer. In actuality, the unit's history goes back further than 1958, and the Battalion's subordinate companies rate many more awards.

LINEAGE

The beginnings of the Marine Support Battalion can be traced to mid-1954. In an exchange of correspondence amongst the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) and the Director, National Security Agency (DirNSA), it was determined that the U.S. Marine Corps would furnish some 19 officers and 39 enlisted Marines for duty at the NSA (then located at the Naval Security Station (NSS), Washington, DC, and Arlington Hall Station (AHS), Arlington, Virginia) as the Marine Corps' contribution to the Department of the Navy supporting the NSA. These personnel were not organized as a separate and distinct unit, but rather were carried on the rolls of Headquarters Battalion (HqBn), Headquarters Marine Corps (HQMC) primarily in Casual Company.

On 10 April 1956 CMC directed the activation of two special communications platoons and on 15 May 1956 the 1st and 2nd Special Communication Platoons were activated at Marine Corps Recruiting Depot, San Diego, California. These platoons each had an authorized strength of 43 Marines (officers, five staff NCOs and 36 sergeants and below. (see roster for a list of personnel assigned to these platoon}). These were the first organizational units in what was to become the Marine Support Battalion (MarSptBn). The 1st Platoon commanded by Captain Alfred M. Gray, Jr. (now our Commandant) relocated during June 1956 to the then Naval Communications Facility, Yokosuka (later NAVCOMFAC Kami Seya), Japan, where it eventually evolved into Company E, MarSptBn. The 2nd Platoon commanded by Captain Bill H. Allen relocated during July 1956 to the U.S. Advanced Naval Base, Bremerhaven, Germany, where it eventually evolved into the present Company B, MarSptBn.

By March 1957, the Marine Corps participation in the Department of the Navy cryptologic activities had increased to 25 officers and 121 enlisted Marines and on 19 March 1957 a billet was established for a Marine Officer in the Naval Security Group

Headquarters with duties as an Assistant to the Director, Naval Security Group (DirNavSecGru) for Marine Corps Plans.

By March of 1958, the increasing number of personnel and locations of Marines participating in NavSecGru activities had grown to the extent that separate single headquarters to coordinate and administer the units was required, and on 1 April 1958 Company G, HqBn, HQMC was activated at the U.S. Naval Security Station, 3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. The first Unit Diary (Diary No. 1-58, dated 1 Apr 58) submitted by this newly formed Company listed an authorized Marine Corps strength of 62 officers and 958 enlisted. This same Unit Diary listing of personnel assigned to the Company showed an on-hand strength of 27 Officers and 102 Enlisted Marines. (an extract of this unit diary and a roster of personnel assigned is included)

When Company G was activated the 1st and 2nd Special Communications Platoons were re-designated as detachments of Company G and, between April 1958 and June 1960 at least eight such Detachments were formed. In late-1958/early-1959 the authorized strength of Marine Corps participation in the Department of the Navy cryptologic activities was reduced. The previous authorized strength of 62 officers and 950 enlisted Marines was reduced to 55 officers and 695 enlisted Marines. Actual manning would never reach this new authorized strength. (It should be noted this reduction of some 7 Officers and 263 Enlisted provided the billets, not the personnel, needed for the new Radio Company, which was activated on 15 September 1958 at Camp Smith, Hawaii).

In early-1960 the detachment at Sidi Yahia, Morocco had been deactivated and the other detachments of Company G were redesignated as separate detached, self-administrating sub-units of the Company. By June 1960, in addition to the personnel at NavSecSta and NSA, Company G had seven numbered sub-units located as follows:

- Sub-Unit #1 Adak, Alaska
- Sub-Unit #2 Bremerhaven, Germany
- Sub-Unit #3 San Miguel, Philippines
- Sub-Unit #4 Hanza, Okinawa, Japan
- Sub-Unit #5 Kami Seya, Japan
- Sub-Unit #6 Karamursel, Turkey - with a detachment on Cyprus
- Sub-Unit #8 Sabana Seca, Puerto Rico

On 1 October 1961, Company G, HqBn, HQMC was re-designated as the Marine Support Battalion by SecNav Notice 5450 of 23 September 1961 with the mission of "providing for Marine Corps participation in the operations of the Naval Security Group." The Marine Support Battalion was to function as a separate command, responsible to and under the direct control of the Commandant of the Marine Corps. The Commanding Officer also performs duties as a Special Assistant to the Commander, Naval Security Group Command. At the same time Company G was re-designated as Marine Support Battalion, the sub-units were re-designated as letter companies and the Officers-in-Charge were designated as commanding officers of their respective letter companies. The re-designations were as follows:

Company G	Marine Support Battalion, NavSecSta
Sub-Unit #1	Company "A" Adak, Alaska
Sub-Unit #2	Company "B" Bremerhaven, Germany
Sub-Unit #3	Company "C" San Miguel, Philippines
Sub-Unit #4	Company "D" Hanza, Okinawa, Japan
Sub-Unit #5	Company "E" Kami Seya, Japan
Sub-Unit #6	Company "F" Karamursel, Turkey
Sub-Unit #8	Company "G" Sabana Seca, Puerto Rico

On 1 September 1962, the Detachment of Company "F" located on Cyprus was redesignated and activated as Company "I" and twelve years later, on 28 March 1974, Company I was relocated to Adak, Alaska, where it is today.

On 1 February 1963, Company "H" was activated at Key West, Florida and on 1 August 1967 this Company relocated to Homestead AFB, Florida where it remains today.

On 20 April 1963, Company "B" relocated from Bremerhaven, Germany to RAF Edzell, Scotland where is it still located.

The next company to be established was Company "K", the company responsible for cryptologic training. Cryptologic training for Marines was originally conducted at the Naval Radio Station, Imperial Beach, California starting in 1956. During 1960 the Naval Communications Training Center with Marine instructor personnel moved to Corry Field, Pensacola, Florida, and the first class convened there on 3 January 1961. Initially, the Marine staff and instructor personnel were carried as a detachment of Headquarters Company, MarSptBn with the student personnel being administered by the Marine Aviation Detachment, Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida. On 1 September 1963, the detachment was re-designated and activated as Company "K", MarSptBn. Company "K" was at various times responsible for two subordinate detachments: one at Defense Language Institute (DLI) at Monterey, California, and one at Goodfellow AFB, Texas, to handle the cryptologic language training at those two locations. The two detachments have since become separate Marine Corps administrative detachments.

The final company of MarSptBn to be established was Company "L", which was originally established at Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam. The Marine cryptologic unit at Phu Bai was originally established by the 1st Radio Battalion in January 1962. By 1964 these personnel had been replaced by Marines of MarSptBn from Company "C" in the Philippines and was designated Sub-Unit 1, Company "C" MarSptBn. On 15 January 1965, Company "L", MarSptBn was activated at Phu Bai and Sub-Unit 1, Company "C" was deactivated.

By 1965 the organizational structure of the Marine Support Battalion was completed. Changes since then have been in the location of the various companies, and companies being deactivated, relocated and reactivated. These changes include the following:

Company "A", Adak, Alaska, was deactivated on 15 July 1965.

Company "F", Karamursel, Turkey relocated to Bremerhaven, Germany.

Headquarters Company, located at Fort Meade, Maryland, was redesignated as Company "A" and on 1 July 1966, Headquarters Company was activated at NavSecSta, 3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.

Company "L" relocated in December 1970, when Sub-Unit 1, Company "L" was activated at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. In June 1971, Company "L" at Phu Bai was deactivated and Sub-Unit 1 at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba was redesignated as Company "L". In July 1971, Company "L" assumed the command and responsibility for Naval Security Activity Guantanamo. Although the command relationships changed somewhat, the CO of NavSecGruActy, Guantanamo, was still a Marine with a separate command structure for Company "L".

Company "E" was relocated from Kami Seya, Japan to Misawa, Japan, on 20 June 1971. Company "C" was relocated from San Miguel, Philippines, to Naval Communications Area Master Station, Guam, on 25 June 1972.

Company "F" was relocated from Bremerhaven, Germany, to Rota, Spain, on 6 August 1972.

Company "G" located at Sabana Seca, Puerto Rico, was deactivated on 24 February 1974, but was later activated again.

On 1 September 1985, Sub-Unit 1, Company "E" was established at Pyong Taek, Korea. In September 1989 this Sub-Unit was redesignated as Company "G", MarSptBn.

Company "D", commencing on 1 October 1984 began relocating from Hanza, Okinawa, Japan, to Galeta Island, Republic of Panama, and by January 1985 had completed the move.

That completes the Lineage of Marine Support Battalion to date. In case you are still confused as to where each unit is located, the following list is provided (until some units are relocated again):

Hqs & Hqs Company	NavSecSta, Washington, DC
Alpha Company	Fort Meade, Maryland
Bravo Company	Edzell, Scotland
Charlie Company	NAVCAMSWESTPAC, Guam
Delta Company	Galeta Island, Panama
Echo Company	Misawa, Japan
Foxtrot Company	Rota, Spain
Golf Company	Pyong Taek, Korea
Hotel Company	Homestead AFB, Florida
India Company	Adak, Alaska
Kilo Company	Pensacola, Florida

Lima Company

Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

ROSTER OF 1ST SPECIAL COMMUNICATION PLATOON

15 JUNE 1956

GRAY, Alfred M. Jr.	056067/0802/0302	Capt
HEDRICK, Joseph C.	063907/2502/0430	1stLt
LOWLING, Thomas B.	065608/2502	1stLt
CRAMER, Donald C.	520243/2539	MSgt
HUNTER, Walter F. Jr.	669985/2539	TSgt
STARCALA, John E.	1132755/2539	TSgt
POLLMILLER, Lawrence A.	1191503/2536	SSgt
BRYANT, Frederick A.	1125865/2536	SSgt
FLATTERS, James G.	1515316/2536	Cpl
HAYDEN, Charles W.	1530713/2536	Cpl
KITT, Edgar (n)	1532952/2536	Cpl
LINTHICUM, Charles J.	1438179/2536	Cpl
MARTIN, Charles T.	1529202/2536	Cpl
TIMM, Leland K.	1517716/2536	Cpl
YATES, Buddy D.	1528038/2536	Cpl
BANGS, Lawrence N.	1497476/2536	Pfc
BEHNKE, Donald G.	1530660/2536	Pfc
BOWMAN, William, A.	1539953/2536	Pfc
CARNAKO, George (n)	1542092/2536	Pfc
CATER, Francis C.	1530646/2536	Pfc
COGSWELL, Kenneth G.	1517680/2536	Pfc
EGAN, Roger F.	1529191/2536	Pfc
GASSAWAY, Arthur W.	1530639/2536	Pfc
HARVICK, Albert S.	1470040/2536	Pfc
HIGHSMITH, Reginald B.	1535151/2536	Pfc
HILL, Elijah (n) Jr.	1541111/2536	Pfc
HOWELL, Harry "J"	1532058/2536	Pfc
JENSEN, Ronald K.	1626188/2536	Pfc
JONES, Donald S.	1532096/2536	Pfc
KRUGER, James F.	1542063/2536	Pfc
LATVALA, Paul S.	1528003/2536	Pfc
MARCY, Lyle D.	1504344/2636	Pfc
MC CLELLAND, Norman L.	1529192/2536	Pfc
MC MANUS, Robert E.	1530752/2536	Pfc
MEYERING, Thomas J.	1500159/2536	Pfc
PAGE, Robert W.	1541115/2536	Pfc
PAYNE, Robert A.	1512334/2536	Pfc

ROCKENBACH, Floyd M.	1517407/2536	Pfc
SNODGRASS, Jack B.	1534055/2536	Pfc
SMITH, Oscar L.	1539345/2536	Pfc
SULLIVAN, Michael L.	1541119/2536	Pfc
TROK, Michael L.	1532254/2536	Pfc
WILEY, David O.	1530589/2536	Pfc
ZEMBLE, Jerry F.	1535349/2536	Pfc

ROSTER OF 2D SPECIAL COMMUNICATION PLATOON

15 JUNE 1956

ALLEN, Bill Hamilton	056304/2715/2705	Capt
COX, Donald Lamar Jr.	060545/2502	1stLt
VAN MANEN, Charles Max	064170/2502/2630	1stLt
CALLAHAN, Richard F. Jr.	302839/2529/2539	MSgt
TENNEY, James R.	632773/2539	TSgt
LA ROSE, Glen A.	1059040/2536	SSgt
RAPER "R" "C"	1139364/2536	SSgt
ZERBATO, Silvio J.	1137293/2536	SSgt
MERCADO, Jack O.	1443196/2536	Sgt
ERBE, Frederick B.	1354402/2536	Cpl
PEREZ, Tomas M.	1076395/2536	Cpl
ADAMS, Kenneth R.	1515324/2536	Pfc
AMUNDS, Larry C.	1514114/2536	Pfc
ANDREWS, Billie J.	1496791/2536	Pfc
BASSETT, William C.	1507210/2536	Pfc
BOURLAND, Billy P.	1508250/2536	Pfc
BRADY, William A.	1520786/2536	Pfc
BRYAN, Jerald L.	1535170/2536	Pfc
BULOCK, Cecil C.	1501856/2536	Pfc
CATURA, Garry L.	1542086/2536	Pfc
CLINKENBEARD, Ronald D.	1535348/2536	Pfc
FIVECOAT, Ronald G.	1542106/2536	Pfc
HAWKINS, Dicky E.	1530594/2536	Pfc
HOUSE, Reginald C.	1542098/2536	Pfc
KROMER, Fred M.	1530653/2536	Pfc
LEE, Allan L.	1535723/2536	Pfc
MARTIN, Danny K.	1534107/2536	Pfc
MCKISSICK, Billy D.	1528054/2536	Pfc

NECESSARY, James G.	1532292/2536	Pfc
NINNEMANN, David M.	1535715/2536	Pfc
OLSZEWSKI, Fred P.	1542069/2536	Pfc
OSTERFELD, James L.	1529227/2536	Pfc
RHODES, Charles C.	1512315/2536	Pfc
ROENFELDT, Verne L.	1539393/2536	Pfc
SCHAUB, Frederick W.	1542097/2536	Pfc
SCHMIDT, Richard J.	1535652/2536	Pfc
SCHROEDER, Edward W.	1532397/2536	Pfc
SMITH, Joseph C.	1532240/2536	Pfc
SNODGRASS, Nathaniel L.	1532398/2536	Pfc
STASTNY, Leonard J.	1535360/2536	Pfc
TALBOTT, Robert E.	1529203/2536	Pfc
WALLENMEYER, Donald E.	1532405/2536	Pfc
WILSON, Paul E.	1541084/2536	Pfc
WRIGHT, Gary T.	1539400/2536	Pfc

G Company, HqBn, HQMC Unit Diary Extracts. Derived from Unit Diary No. 1-58 dated 1 April 1958.

G Co HqBn HQMC NavSecSta Washington, DC

Actd auth CO HqBn HQMC ltr HQBN:WTP:BVL over A2 of 26Mar58

This is initial UD

Auth Strength	USMC	52 Off	958 Enl
	NAV	0 Off	0 Enl.

RUC 54011	Off	EnlTotal
Jd Chg	3	710
Total Joined	3	710

G CO HQBN HQMC
MRI 9 HQMC
30 APRIL 1958

ALLEN, Bill H.	056303/2715	Capt
ALLEN, Robert H.	081110/0302	LtCol
APLINGTON, Henry	06648/0302	LtCol
BEDNARSKY, Vince	045443/2502	Maj
BLAKELY, James A.	021967/2502	Maj
BRASSFIELD, John T.	060530/2502	Capt
BUTLER, Jack H.	046945/1802	Maj

CLAUDE, Eugene P.	012642/2502	LtCol
COSTANZA, Frank	036238/2502	Maj
COULTER, William	055448/0130	Capt
COX, Donald L	060545/2502	Capt
DERR, Norbert M.	055465/0202	Capt
FRANZMAN, Freddi	041849/0302	Maj
GRAY, Alfred M., Jr.	056067/0802	Capt
HEDRICK, Joseph	063907/2502	1stLt
HYATT, John K. Jr.	061147/2502	Capt
JOHNSON, Lee R.	056017/2502	Capt
JOHNSON, Victor	019225/2502	Maj
JOYCE, John J., Jr.	068965/2502	1stLt
LOLLI, Francis J.	068783/0130	1stLt
LYLE, Charles C.	026980/2710	Maj
QUISENBERRY, James	054087/2502	Capt
ROGERS, George F.	060280/2502	Capt
VANMANEN, Charles	064170/2502	1stLt
WESTON, Bruce L	066099/0302	1sLI.
WIGHTMAN, Gene F.	023140/2710	Capt
WRENN, Joe B.	09071/2502	CWO4
AMUNDS, Larry C.	1514114/2536	Cpl
ANDERSON, David	1539183/2536	Pfc
ANDREWS, Billie	1496791/2536	Cpl
AVANT, Joe D.	1206729/0141	Set
BANGS, Lawrence N.	1497476/2536	Pfc
BARRON, Carroll	1387392/0141	SSgt
BEACH, Rex E.	1607678/2536	Pfc.
BEAN, Lloyd G.	376169/2536	Sgt
BEHNKE, Donald G.	15306.60/2536	Plc
BENTLEY, Leland	1607699/2536	Pfc
BERNHARDSON, Allen	1619851/2536	Pfc
BOGGS, Ronald H.	1433012/0141	Sgt
BOWMAN, William A.	1539953/2536	Cpl
BOWMAN, Willmer	638769/0141	SSgt
BRADY, William A.	1520786/2536	Cpl
BREDEN, Olin A.	643095/0141	Sgt
BRYANT, Frederick	1125865/2536	SSgt
BULOCK, Cecil C.	150185 ⁶ /2536	Cpl
CALLAHAN, Richard F., Jr.	302839/2529/2539	MSgt
CASSER.LY, William	1085574/0141	Sgt

CATER, Francis C.	1530646/2536	Cpl
DAVENPORT, William	576258/3041	SSgt
EGAN, Roger F.	1529191/2536	Cpl
EMERICK, George	1438429/3011	Cpl
FAGAN, Michael 1.	1373967/0141	Sgt
FISCHER, Frederick J.	1312669/2536	SSgt
FIVECOAT, Ronald 0.	1542106/2536	Cpl
FLATTERS, James G.	1515316/2536	Sgt
GASSAWAY, Arthur W.	1530639/2536	Cpl
GEORGE, Leonard	1125330/0141	Sgt
GREENE, George	312898/0141	MSgt
GUEST, George L.	608745/0141	SSgt
HANBECK, Raymond	653193/0141	SSgt
HARPER, Oliver D.	1632027/0141	Pfc
HART, Robert R.	1600904/2536	Pfc
HARVICK, Albeit S.	1470040/2536	Pfc
HASH, James W., Jr.	1111247/0141	SSgt
HAWKINS, Dicky B.	1530594/2536	Cpl
HAYDEN, Curies W.	1530713/2536	Sgt
HIGHSMITH, Reginald B.	1535151/2536	Cpl
HILL, Elijah (n), Jr.	1541111/2536	Cpl
HOWELL, Harry "J"	1532058/2536	Cpl
HOYLAND, Hollis	1154048/1441	SSgt
HUNTER, Walter F., Jr.	669985/2539	TSgt
JENSEN, Ronald K.	1626188/2536	Cpl
JONES, Thomas A.	1342832/0141	Sgt
KITT, Edgar (a)	1532952/2536	Sgt
KROMER, Fred M.	1530653/2536	Cpl
KRUGER, James F.	1542063/2536	Cpl
LATVALA, Paul S.	15280133/2536	Cpl
LEE, Allan L	1535723/2536	Cpl
LUDKE, Herbert J.	545425/0141	TSgt
MARTIN, Charles T.	1529202/2536	Sgt
MARTIN, Danny K.	1534107/2536	Cpl
MC CLELLAND, Norman L.	1529192/2536	Cpl
MCDONUGH, Donald	1561805/2536	Pfc
MCKISSICK, Billy D.	1528054/2536	Cpl
MC MANUS, Robert E	1530752/2536	Cpl
MERCADO, Jack 0.	1443196/2536	Sgt
MEYERING, Thomas J.	1500159/2536	Cpl

MORGAN, Freddie	1133275/0141	SSgt.
MOSLEY, Thomas E	1676382/0141	Pfc
NECESSARY, James G.	1532292/2536	Pfc
NEGLEY, Elmer D.	272245/3099	MSgt
NINNEMANN, David M.	1535715/2536	Cpl
OLSZEWSKI, Fred P.	1542069/2536	Cpl
ONEAL, Edward R.	624284/0141	TSgt
OSTERFELD, James L	1529227/2536	Sgt
PAGE, Robert W.	1541115/2536	Cpl
PASCOE, Robert H.	1371667/0141	SSgt
PAYNE, Robert A.	1512334/2536	Cpl
POLLMILLER, Lawrence A.	1191503/2536	SSgt
RICHARDSON, John	1128030/0141	SSgt
ROCKENBACH, Floyd	1517407/2536	Cpl
ROENFELDT, Verne L.	1539393/2536	Cpl
RUCKER, Kenneth	1358475/0141	Sat
SCHAUB, Frederick W.	1542097/2536	Pfc
SCHMIDT, Richard J.	1535652/2536	Cpl
SCHROEDER, Edward W.	1532397/2536	Cpl
SEHORN, Herbert	039603/0141	Sgt
SHAPEL, William	463835/3049	TSgt
SMITH, Joseph C.	1532240/2536	Cpl
SMITH, Oscar L.	1539345/2536	Cpl
SNODGRASS, Jack B.	1534055/2536	Cpl
SNODGRASS, Nathaniel L	1532398/2536	Sgt
STARCALA, John E.	1132755/2539	TSgt
STASTNY, Leonard J.	1535360/2536	Cpl
SULLIVAN, Michael L.	1541119/2536	Cpl
TALBOTT, Robert E.	1529203/2536	Plc
TAYLOR, Charles	1434215/0141	Sgt
TIMM, Leland K.	1517716/2536	Sat
TROK, Michael L.	1532254/2536	Cpl
VANLEHN, Glen I.	553523/2539	MSgt
WALLENMEYER, Donald E.	1532405/2536	Cpl.
WHITE, Billy D.	1300510/0141	Sgt
WILEY, David O.	1530589/2536	Cpl
WILSON, Paul E.	1541084/2536	Cpl
WRIGHT, Gary T.	1539400/2536	Cpl
YATES, Buddy D.	15281338/2536	Sgt
ZEMBLE, Jerry F.	1535349/2536	Sgt

ZERBATO. Silvio J.
ZOK, Joseph E.

1137293/2536
361474/0141

TSgt
TSgt