

**BLESSING OF 2D MARINE DIVISION  
ASSAULT CRAFT FLEET**



**1530**

**MARSTON PAVILION  
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA**

## SMALL CRAFT COMPANY

Commanding Officer	Major E. J. Boekenkamp
Executive Officer	1stLt J. W. Capdepon
Company First Sergeant	GySgt (1stSgt Sel) D. P. Gagne
Company Gunnery Sergeant	SSgt E. A. Elmore
Company Senior Corpsman	HMI V. E. Ates
RAC Platoon Commander	1stLt J. W. Capdepon
RAC Platoon Sergeant	SSgt F. L. Sizemore
Small Boat Platoon Commander	SSgt G. Stanton
Small Boat Platoon Sergeant	Sgt J. A. Rzonca
Maintenance Platoon Commander	SSgt R. B. O'Neal
Maintenance Platoon Sergeant	SSgt J. M. Wailand

"QUE CADA PALO AGUANTE SU VELA"

"LET EVERY MAST CARRY ITS OWN SAIL"

Christopher Columbus to crews of Nina, Pinta, and The Santa Maria on departure for the new world in 1492, implying every man must be ready, willing and able to meet all challenges. Selected as a company motto by plankowners.

# **SEQUENCE OF EVENTS**

**Welcome**

**Invocation**

**Publish Activation Order**

**Presentation of Guidon**

**Blessing of the Fleet**

**Celebrant: Lt P. Carmichael, CHC USN (Orthodox)**

**Assistant Celebrants: Capt J. L. Apple, CHC USN (Jewish)  
LCDR H. G. Carter, CHC USN (Protestant)  
Lt L. Smith, CHC USN (Roman Catholic)**

**Troop The Line of Boats**

**Benediction**

**Demonstration**

**Orientation**

**Refreshments, Pig Pickin', and Entertainment**

## HISTORY OF SMALL CRAFT COMPANY

In early 1987, LtGen A. M. Gray, Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, directed Col D. N. Noble, Officer-In-Charge, Special Operations and Training Group (SOTG), to procure watercraft capable of providing Battalion Landing Teams (BLTs), the ground combat elements of Marine Amphibious Units [(Special Operations Capable) MAU (SOC)], with an improved over-the-horizon surface amphibious raid capability. After extensive research by Major J. R. Crockett, Head, Special Missions Branch, SOTG, 36 Rigid Raiding Craft (RRC) were purchased from Boston Whaler Corporation and equipped with twin 70 HP OMC outboard motors for that purpose. These boats, together with the Combat Rubber Raiding Craft (CRRC), manufactured by ZODIAC Corporation and powered by a 55 HP OMC outboard engine, then already in the BLT special equipment inventory, provided a dependable, long range means of landing a large raid force on almost any coastline.

With assistance of Col P. Collins and SgtMaj R. M. Potter, Royal Netherlands Marine Corps, who arranged visits to Poole, England, SOTG personnel developed a small boat coxswain training program modeled on Royal Marine Special Boat Service coxswain training in late 1987. In February 1988, BLT 1/8 became the first unit to receive a section of the RRCs (twelve boats) and underwent coxswain training for them at Courthouse Bay, Camp Lejeune. It was followed by BLT 2/4 some months later.

Twelve additional RRCs were purchased in early 1989 to meet maintenance and training requirements. As the infantry battalions that were the nucleus of the BLTs were sourced exclusively from 8th Marines at the time, the commander of the regiment, Col R. Smith, formed a small boat platoon to capitalize on growing small craft experience and expertise, and provide consolidated maintenance. The following year the Commanding General, MGen W. Keys, directed exploratory work be done on proposals to establish a 2d Marine Division boat company. This effort was temporarily interrupted by Division participation in Operation Desert Shield/Storm. Shortly after the Division returned from SouthWest Asia in 1991, all battalions of the "Follow Me" Division infantry regiments were assigned to the BLT rotation scheme, and the 8th Marines Boat Platoon was transferred to Headquarters Battalion. This realignment, ordered by the Commanding General, BGen P. K. Van Riper, was directed to support 2d Marine Division riverine warfare initiatives as well as to provide RRCs and CRRCs to BLTs now formed principally from battalions of 2d, 6th and 8th Marines.

In recognition of the ever increasing importance of the capability to conduct riverine warfare, the Commandant, Gen A. M. Gray, ordered the purchase of prototype Riverine Assault Craft (RAC) in 1989. In August 1990, Col S. J. Bathurst, Director of Training, LFTCLANT, was charged with conducting a field Ouser evaluation of the new craft. A month later the RAC Platoon, formed from 1st Bn, 6th Marines, and under the command of 1stLt Greenwood, began training Pat Little Creek, Virginia. Following training and the craft trials in January 1991, the platoon joined 6th Marines (Rear), and that summer deployed to South America as part of Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force (SPMAGTF) MUNITAS. On return to Camp Lejeune, the platoon was initially reassigned to Headquarters Battalion as a separate unit. In August 1992, it was consolidated with the Small Craft Maintenance Platoon (formerly 8th Marines Boat Platoon) to form the fledgling Small Craft Company.

During the summer of 1992, Major E. J. Boekenkamp, then Executive Officer, Headquarters Battalion was directed to organize the company and the formation of the unit began in earnest. In the months since then, the company has provided small craft, typically 12 RRCs and 18 CRRCs, to four BLTs; deployed Mobile Training Teams (MTTs) to South America; and conducted joint and combined riverine warfare training, including deploying RACs, to Argentina and Panama; as well completing the host of tasks associated with the formation of a new specialized unit.

# SMALL CRAFT COMPANY PLANK OWNERS

All personnel either currently assigned or served with unit after August, 1992

## HEADQUARTERS ELEMENT

COMMANDING OFFICER	Major E.J. Boekenkamp
(EXECUTIVE OFFICER	1st Lt J.W. Capdepon
COMPANY FIRST SERGEANT	GySgt(1stSgt Sel) D.P. Gagne
COMPANY GUNNERY SERGEANT	SSgt E.A. Elmore
OPERATIONS CHIEF	SSgt C.L. Fabian
SENIOR CORPSMAN	HMI V.E. Ates
PLATOON SERGEANT	Sgt P. Gilgallon

MSgt J.R. Ortega	Cpl E.S Pratt	Cpl T. Santana
Sgt L. Cromwell	Cpl M.K. Keller	LCpl C.S. Butaud

## RIVERINE ASSAULT CRAFT PLATOON

PLATOON COMMANDER	1stLt J.W. Capdepon	
PLATOON SERGEANT	SSgt F.L. Sizemore	
Sgt M.E. Bailey	Sgt M.K. Bergin	Sgt J.R. Elkins
Sgt J. A. Rodriguez	Sgt M.E. Wilcox	Cpl R.P. Brown
Cpl M.E. Gingles	Cpl E.I. Guzman	Cpl S.B. Johnston
Cpl R. Ortiz	Cpl J.S. Puhlovsky	Cpl R. Santiago
HM3 B.D. Johnson	LCpl D.D. Bryant	LCpl G. Castro
LCpl C.M. Earp	LCpl A.A. Feola	LCpl A.J. Gonzales
LCpl F.E. Gonzalez	LCpl R.A. Gubernath	LCpl M. Gutierrez
LCpl R.W. Jamison	LCpl G.D. Knowles	LCpl J.A. Miller
LCpl J.R. Nobles	LCpl W.G. Owens	LCpl B.J. Parker
LCpl B. Prietocastro	LCpl A.M. Rodriguez	LCpl P. Uhlir
LCpl D.E. Watson Jr		

## MAINTENANCE PLATOON

PLATOON COMMANDER	SSgt R.B. O'Neal	
PLATOON SERGEANT	Sgt J.M. Wailand	
Sgt D.E. Hennen	Cpl B.W. Anderson	Cpl R.L. Dickinson
Cpl R. Buitrago	Cpl G.B. Gorby	Cpl K.R. Gray
Cpl J.T. Haas	Cpl C.M. Kahn	Cpl J.D. Leishman
Cpl C.S. Lewis	Cpl S.W. Morgan	Cpl L.A. Neves
Cpl J.D. Roberts	Cpl K.E. Samuel	Cpl B.A. Vinciguerra
LCpl P.R. Austin	LCpl K.A. Brassard	Cpl K.C. Gaul
LCpl F.A. Dawley	LCpl W.T. Gibbs	LCpl D.R. Hall
LCpl J.D. Holshouser	LCpl R.A. Johnston	LCpl R.O. Mills
LCpl J.C. Perez	LCpl S.M. Russell	LCpl R.J. Santiago
LCpl J.C. Silvia	LCpl M.D. Thomson	LCpl A.P. Cohen

MAINTENANCE OFFICER

MSgt D.A. Bauer

## SMALL BOAT PLATOON

PLATOON COMMANDER

SSgt G. Stanton

PLATOON SERGEANT

Sgt J.A. Rzonca

Cpl T.D. Grewe

Sgt C.D. Sisak

Cpl C.S. Ainsworth

Cpl T.D. Ortiz

Cpl A.M. Febles

Cpl P.L. Green

LCpl T.Q. Bonner

Cpl K.A. Kessler

Cpl J.P. McClain

LCpl F.L. Campos

LCpl C.J. Beard

LCpl R.T. Bobick

LCpl W.K. Erving

LCpl M.A. Brown

LCpl S.G. Brown

LCpl M.A. Griffin

LCpl R.G. Creasy Jr.

LCpl J.E. Cambridge

LCpl L.G. Lahring

LCpl S.N. Gala

LCpl S.D. Gonzalez

LCpl S.H.K. Maria

LCpl J.W. Haga

LCpl M.J. Hall

LCpl A.G. Morell

LCpl C.A. Lancaster

LCpl C.D. Law

LCpl C.F. Perras

LCpl J.P. McCarthy

LCpl W.S. McClure

LCpl D.D. Roark

LCpl A.D. Morris

LCpl S.P. Morrisroe

LCpl S.C. Surface

LCpl L.L. Potee

LCpl J.J. Reese

LCpl J.T. Wharton

LCpl J.M. Segura

LCpl E.C. Stiles

PFC T.W. Colston

LCpl P.R. Trusskey

LCpl W.S. Weis

PFC N. Guillot

LCpl C.A. Wingard

PFC C.D. Cecil

PFC M.R. Kico

PFC S.J. Deyermond

PFC C.D. Gil

PFC M.A. Rising

PFC J.E. Hodnett

PFC C.M. James

PFC R.J. Stephan

PFC D. Morales

PFC R.D. O'Brien

PFC H.D. Weaver

PFC R.A. Royea

PFC B.L. Salts