UCF Veterans Legacy Program

UCF VLP Presents: US Marine Corps History
Episode Three: Marines Remember Their Cold War
Written by Jim Stoddard
Edited by Sebastian Garcia

AMBROSE: At 8:15 in the morning, on August 6th, 1945, the United States dropped a nuclear bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. The bomb generated a sudden and disorienting flash that blinded Hiroshima and its surrounding areas. Its detonation produced a sharp crack that ripped through the earth that Hiroshima stood upon, followed by a sustained roar that stunned Hiroshima and the globe in a state of paralysis. Three days later, after Japan's continued refusal to surrender, Nagasaki suffered a similar fate. The light, the crack, and the roar of the nuclear bombs coalesced to a world being undone and remade. In this new world, the United States stood as the lone superpower, but not for long. Only two years after the US's nuclear attacks against Japan to end World War II, the Soviet Union recreated the atomic bomb, posing a great challenge to the US's efforts to establish a postwar world in its own image. The light, the crack, and the roar of August 6th and 9th, 1945, continued to haunt the US, the Soviet Union, and the rest of the world for the remainder of the twentieth century.[1]

AMBROSE: I am Liam Ambrose and this is ***UCF VLP Presents: US Marine Corps History*, Episode Three: Marines Remember Their Cold War.**[2] After six years of global carnage, World War II ended with the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the US. This finale ushered a new chapter in US foreign policy, as the cataclysmic capabilities of nuclear weapons restructured the global stage. In 1945, the US stood alone among the world's nations regarding possession of atomic bombs. Two years later, in 1947, the Soviet Union developed an atomic bomb, kickstarting an intense, yet cold, nuclear arms race that defined the latter half of the twentieth century. These two superpowers also disagreed on whether capitalism or communism should form the basis of the postwar world, and their disagreement also fueled this cold war. Neither superpower desired to turn the war hot with their nuclear arsenals, as that meant global extinction. As a result, their simmering ideological and militaristic tension often bled into proxy wars across the globe. For the US Armed Forces, the two most prominent of these proxy wars occurred in Korea and Vietnam.

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[1] Light, crack, and roar sounds come from two primary sources: footage from an underwater atomic bomb test at Bikini Atoll in 1946 and footage from an atomic blast at Yucca Flat, Nevada, in 1953. US Military, "Underwater Atomic Bomb Test At Bikini Atoll," 1946, Public Domain, via Wikimedia Commons, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Underwater_Atomic_Bomb_Test_At_Bikini_Atoll.webm; "Atom Blast, Yucca Flat, Nevada," March 17, 1953, Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, Motion Picture Films from the Army Library Copy Collection, National Archives at College Park, College, Park, MD, https://catalog.archives.gov/id/25979.

[2] Theme music sourced from the United States Marine Band's "March, 'Semper Fidelis': John Philip Sousa," https://www.marineband.marines.mil/Portals/175/Docs/Audio/Ceremonial/semper_fidelis.mp3.

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AMBROSE: The introduction of nuclear weapons also affected US military strategy, as many within the defense establishment questioned the need of traditional fighting forces in the atomic age, like the Marine Corps. When the Cold War heated up in Korea, the Marines silenced any doubts about their centrality in this new, cold world. But how exactly? What did the Marines do during Korea that validated their necessity in the age of the atom? How do Marines continue to remember the so-called forgotten war of the twentieth century? How does their remembrance of this conflict differ from Vietnam, the unpopular war of the twentieth century? To answer these questions, we first head to the halls of the Capitol, as the specter of nuclear warfare, previewed at the end of World War II, sparked debates about restructuring America's military; we then follow Marines, like Lou Boria, to Korea to understand how the Corps proved their value in the atomic age; we then spend time with Mr. Boria's sons, who fought in Vietnam; we lastly take a bow at the Global War on Terror which brings the historical narrative of the Marine Corps to the present.

AMBROSE: Parades, celebrations, and homecomings filled the streets of the United States following the end of World War II. Abroad, the US military maintained an occupation force in Germany and Japan, and a Veteran corps of soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines remained in uniform. Yet, for the most part, the Armed Forces demobilized and sent home the mass majority of those who fought in the war. The Marine Corps, which ended World War II with six divisions, downsized significantly.

STODDARD: World War II ends and it's a whole demobilization effort. My name's Jim Stoddard. I am a Marine Corps Veteran and doctoral candidate at the University of Central Florida in its Text and Technologies program. My dissertation deals with Marine Corps history and culture. The Marine Corps was near 500,000 Marines, and they cut it down to under 100,000, and most of them were occupation duty and reservists, sent back home, but still be ready for a phone call kind of thing.

AMBROSE: The dawn of the nuclear age raised questions about the future of warfare. The military establishment embraced nuclear technology and actively worked to adapt it into their doctrines and arsenals. Senior Marine Corps leadership, while they explored the tactical use of nuclear weapons, mostly concerned themselves with ensuring the Corps had a place on the nuclear battlefield.

STODDARD: World War II ended because of an atomic bomb and now we're in this atomic age, and the questions in Washington were about what kind of armed forces do we need in this nuclear era? When we can destroy cities with bombs from airplanes, why do we need amphibious landing craft? Why do we need small arm tactics? Why is a rifleman important anymore? Anymore than, coming in maybe after the fact, after the bombs have been dropped? Because no one at that time is looking

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at nuclear weaponry as something we shouldn't use, but as another tool in our arsenal.

AMBROSE: While those in Washington reconsidered the US Armed Forces' role in the nuclear age, the country's defense establishment initiated a massive reorganization.

STODDARD: Between '45 and '50, there's this whole process of unification within the now becoming Defense Department. The Air Force is carved out as a separate branch from the US Army. As they're doing this, it comes down to money and the budgetary allocations of who's gonna get what, and the Navy, the Air Force, and the Army are all wanting to take the biggest pieces of the pie, and a lot of that is focused on how we can use nuclear weapons, and how that money can go to that as we're trying to draw down more conventional forces.

AMBROSE: To many in uniform who asked for funds and those in the halls of Congress who wrote the budgets, especially when compared to the strategic air power of the brand new Air Force, the Marine Corps looked outdated and, possibly, obsolete.

STODDARD: It leaves the Marine Corps out there as this kind of a stepchild of the old days of hitting the beach and shipboard security and all this kind of stuff, and like, what do we do with them? They don't have a nuclear capacity. A nuclear bomb could take out their landing fleet as it's coming in. There's no purpose for this. We're not gonna have amphibious landings anymore on these beachheads across the sea because warfare's changed.

AMBROSE: In May of 1946, before the Senate's Committee on Naval Affairs, 18th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Alexander A. Vandergrift, defended the independence and value of the Corps. His testimony responded to a recent Senate bill and War Department reorganization plans that proposed absorption of Marine Corps missions into the Army and reduction of his Corps to a minor force. Vandergrift reminded the committee of the Corps', then, 170-year history of battlefield success. He pointed to the amphibious expertise of the Corps, which directly led to the recent victory in World War II. He also cautioned, however, that sentiment alone should not determine the future of the Corps. While Vandegrift believed the Marine Corps earned the right to exist into the future, he famously stated that "the bended knee is not a tradition of our Corps."[3] He argued that Marines earned the right to exit history

[3] Alexander A. Vandegrift, "Bended Knee Speech," Congressional Testimony, Washington D. C., May 6, 1946, Documents, Orders, and Speeches, Marine Corps History Division, https://www.usmcu.edu/Research/Marine-Corps-History-Division/Frequently-Requested-Topics/Historical-Documents-Orders-and-Speeches/Bended-Knee-Speech/.https://www.usmcu.edu/Research/Marin

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with honor rather than face subjugation and uselessness through reorganization of the defense establishment.

AMBROSE: After much debate, testimony, and back-channel negotiations, Congress passed the National Security Act of 1947, which President Harry S. Truman signed into law on July 26th, 1947. The act restructured the nation's military and intelligence agencies. It merged the Department of War and the Department of the Navy into a new Department of Defense. The law also created the Cabinet-level position of Secretary of Defense, and established an independent US Air Force. Most importantly to the Corps, however, the legislation protected the US Marine Corps as a distinct service branch within the Department of the Navy, under the new Department of Defense, and enshrined into law that the Marine Corps included organic land, air, and service forces.[4] General Vandergrift succeeded in maintaining all the tools the Corps needed to continue its mission and maintain its service identity. Even with this legislative win, many in the Marine Corps still felt anxious to prove their service in this new era of warfare.

JOHN FORD: And this is Korea. A peaceful land once, with lakes, and villages, and mountains where the rice grew. Men and women worked, and people lived for a living, until the ruthless red hand of communism reached out to snatch it.[5]

AMBROSE: Following World War II's conclusion, the Allies divided the Korean Peninsula into north and south and worked to remove Japanese occupation and hegemony over the Korean people. Each side wanted reunification of the peninsula, but over time, reunification meant the supremacy of one government over the other: the north's Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) or the south's Republic of Korea (ROK). The divergent governments shared the ideological difference at the foundation of the Cold War. Guided by the Soviet Union, the DPRK formed a communist government. Under the influence of the US, the ROK developed into a democracy.

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e-Corps-History-Division/Frequently-Requested-Topics/Historical-Documents-Orders-and-Speeches/Bended-Knee-Speech/Vandegrift, "Bended Knee Speech."

[4] U.S. Congress, "National Security Act of 1947," Congressional Act, Washington D. C., July 26, 1947, National Archives and Records Administration, https://nsarchive.gwu.edu/document/28653-document-9-national-security-act-1947-26-july-1947.https://nsarchive.gwu.edu/document/28653-document-9-national-security-act-1947-26-july-1947U.S. Congress, "National Security Act of 1947."

[5] Narration comes from a 1951 film titled *This is Korea!*, directed by John Ford, in conjunction with the US Department of the Navy. The film documented the experience of the 7th Fleet and the 1st Marine Division during the Korean War. Given that the film does not credit the narrator, and contemporary sources cite several possible candidates, we have elected to credit the director, John Ford, in our script as the voice for any spoken word from the film. *This is Korea!*, directed by John Ford and the US Department of the Navy, (1951), Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:This_is_Korea_(Parts_1_and_2).webm.

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FORD: This is Korea.[6]

AMBROSE: On June 25th, 1950, with permission from the Soviet Union, the DPRK pushed south past the 38th Parallel, which demarcated the two countries. Though the ROK's leadership felt wary of the hostile intentions of the DPRK, they did not expect an invasion from the North. As the South Koreans fought to defend their country, President Truman authorized the use of troops on June 30th. The next day, the first American ground forces arrived on the Peninsula.

STODDARD: So when Korea happens in June of 1950, when the North Koreans invade the South, the closest forces to Korean Peninsula are the army occupation forces in Japan.

AMBROSE: In a matter of weeks, Seoul, the capital of the ROK fell as DPRK forces pushed the South Korean military and their American and United Nations allies down the peninsula.

STODDARD: There are some Veterans, but a lot of them are individuals that join the army after World War II is over. So they are pure occupation troops. They are not combat-hardened Veterans. So they get sent over, and they get rolled up.

AMBROSE: Though soldiers fought valiantly to hold back the onslaught of the Korean People's Army (KPA), they remained focused on trading space for time. They sacrificed to slow the northern forces' momentum, so the US and UN had more time to get troops into the Pusan Perimeter, which they hastily formed in the southeast corner of the Korean Peninsula.

AMBROSE: As the US Army activated and organized its combat units stateside, the 19th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Clifton B. Cates, urged that his Marines take part in the defense of South Korea.

STODDARD: And while this is all going on, the Commandant of the Marine Corps is lobbying to say, "Send the Marines. We still have a core group of Veterans. We have our reserves we can call up. Send us over. We can be ready in weeks." In a lot of cases, kinda over-promising that timetable, but we made it happen.

AMBROSE: Lieutenant General Lemuel C. Shepherd, commander of Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, worked with General Douglas MacArthur, the commander of all US

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[6] *This is Korea!*, directed by John Ford, (1951), https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:This_is_Korea_(Parts_1_and_2).webm. The sounds of war that follow and underscore this entire segment of the Korean War come from several scenes of this film.

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and UN forces in Korea, to put the Marines into the fight. MacArthur requested a Marine regimental combat team on July 2nd, 1950, which the Joint Chiefs of Staff approved the following day. The 1st Provisional Marine Brigade was activated at Camp Pendleton, California on July 7th. Elements from the 1st, 5th, and 11th Marine Regiments, plus two squadrons from Marine Aircraft Group 33 came together and deployed to Korea. In just a few weeks, the Marine Corps created, formed, and deployed a combat unit to the Pusan Perimeter. The 1st Provisional Marine Brigade arrived in Pusan on August 2nd and began operations on the 6th.

STODDARD: The promises were kept, and then that first provisional brigade gets sent over and becomes the fire brigade on the Pusan Perimeter, basically going where all the hotspots are.

AMBROSE: While the Marine Fire Brigade and their Army comrades fought to hold the line along the Perimeter, the US Armed Forces organized more units for deployment to Korea.

STODDARD: And that allowed time for the 1st Marine Division, which really wasn't a full division. It was the regiments that were the most quickly stood up, and that's because the Marine Corps gutted the 2nd Marine Division out of Camp Lejeune to build up the 1st Marine Division in Pendleton in California to send them over to the Korean Peninsula.

AMBROSE: As Marines from the 2nd Division and Reservists from across the country arrived at Camp Pendleton to rebuild the 1st Marine Division, General MacArthur formulated a plan for the Division's use in Korea. Because the KPA focused almost exclusively on crushing the Pusan Perimeter, MacArthur and his staff saw their rear as vulnerable. With water on three sides of the war zone, an amphibious assault offered the best way to attack that vulnerability. The debate centered on where to land. His staff considered numerous locations, but MacArthur settled on Inchon. It constituted a strategic port on the west coast of South Korea, just twenty-five miles from Seoul. Despite the natural hazards and a tidal range of thirty feet, Inchon marked the landing site of Operation Chromite. MacArthur set D-Day for the operation as September 15th, 1950.

STODDARD:[7] They get over there, and they do the thing that the wizards of smart in Washington said would never happen again. They do an amphibious landing in Inchon. Coming around the rear of the enemy, catching them off guard at a very logistically difficult amphibious landing, arguably the most difficult one pulled off in

[7] The ocean crashing sound comes from Ford's *This is Korea!* 1951 film, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:This_is_Korea_(Parts_1_and_2).webm.

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the 20th century because of just the tide changes, up against the sea wall, going into enemy territory.

AMBROSE: Lou Boria, a Veteran of World War II, was one of the Marines reactivated for Korea.

BORIA: I got called back August 6th, 1950. We reported to Camp Pendleton. And we helped load the ship, got aboard ship, and right into Incheon.

AMBROSE: He was with the 1st Marine Division when it landed at Inchon. He recalled the difficulty of just loading the landing craft.

BORIA: You're climbing down into the boats, maybe, maybe four stories up, five stories, right? Now that boat, it's pulling out, slam the ship down, up. Now you're climbing down. You get down, drop your pack, and put a hold on the net. And your feet are dangling in the air, and you're still holding on to that, 'cause you don't wanna let the ship or the boat come by, pin a guy and crush him. Now some of the guys, their helmets are coming down, their rifles, and then the guys get stuck. You gotta climb up, take his rifle, and help him down into the boat, till all the boats are loaded. And you're just going. And this is a flat bottom boat. So as you get in that boat, and then as it starts to turn, the boat in front of you, this wave hits this. So within five minutes you're soaked right through. Every part of you is just soaked. Another five minutes, everybody is throwing up the ham and eggs.

AMBROSE: Despite the challenges, the 1st Marine Division successfully landed at Inchon. The landing drew the KPA's attention away from Pusan long enough for the Army to breakout and fight up the peninsula.

STODDARD: And the Marines of the 1st Marine Division pull that off. And that is what allows the breakout from the Pusan Perimeter. That is what allows the entire United Nations force to roll up the North Koreans all the way up to the Chinese border, up to the Yalu River, and, in a sense, liberate all of the Korean Peninsula from communist rule and communist government of the North out of Pyongyang.

AMBROSE: After the liberation of Seoul on September 28th, 1950, the 1st Marine Division returned to Pusan and prepared for a second amphibious landing, this time at Wonson on the east coast of North Korea. Due to landing delays caused by mined waters, South Korean forces reached Wonson by land and ensured an unopposed landing for the Marines on October 26th. From there, the Marines pursued the KPA north towards the Chinese border.

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STODDARD: And then, of course, getting too close to China. You get this Red tide pouring over the line, over the Yalu River into the Chosin Reservoir, and that brings up the Frozen Chosin, the chosen few fighting a withdrawal out of North Korea and back into the South.

FORD: Snow, ice, and wind. At the reservoir, wounds and frostbite take their toll. Then the heartbreaking withdrawal order comes. Burn everything and bug out.[8]

AMBROSE: As the 1st Marine Division fought its way back to the coast, soldiers and civilians fell in line with the Marines.

STODDARD: It's a fighting withdrawal out the border to the Hungnam to, not only withdraw the Marines, but whatever soldiers are left and thousands of North Korean civilians that do not wanna be in North Korea anymore. They'd rather be in the South. They'd not want to be overrun by the Chinese or anything like that. So as the Marines are fighting out of the Chosin Reservoir area, the refugees are coming in with them, falling into the lines, and it just becomes this long fighting train to get to the coast.

AMBROSE: By the end of 1950, the first phase of the Korean war concluded. The conflict stalled into a fight over the 38th parallel, as peace talks lasted through 1953. For the Marines, however, their combat on the battlefield of Korea legitimized their arguments made before Congress a few years prior about their continued necessity in the nuclear age.

STODDARD: And everything kinda stabilizes back to where it started, but it's because of all that effort where with the Marine Corps being saved by Korea, in a sense, and them re-demonstrating that there is a combat role for a non-nuclear force in the nuclear age, in turn, the Marine Corps has done its best to not forget Korea in the way that the other branches may in the way they tell their history.

FORD: Well, what's it all about? You tell us. Ask any of these guys what they're fighting for, and they can't put it into words. Maybe it's just pure cussedness and pride in the Marine Corps. A job to do, with beauty. And wounds don't count. For this is everybody's fight. For the doctrine of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness shall not perish from this earth. Remember us. And remember us.[9]

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[8] *This is Korea!*, directed by John Ford, (1951), https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:This_is_Korea_(Parts_1_and_2).webm. The sounds of war that follow also come from this film.
[9] *This is Korea!*, directed by John Ford, (1951), https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:This_is_Korea_(Parts_1_and_2).webm.

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AMBROSE: The Marine Corps remembers and proudly teaches its Korean War history to its recruits. The Corps refuses to forget the so-called Forgotten War.

STODDARD: Korea is often remembered as the forgotten war. Well, that's not the case within the Marine Corps. It is as remembered, and if I recall, in most of those *Guidebooks for Marines* editions and in their recruit knowledge books, the Korean War has as big of a section as World War I and World War II. And by doing that, it visibly puts it on the same pedestal as those larger, very often remembered conflicts within US memory.

AMBROSE: Though he sustained injuries shortly after the fight for Seoul, Lou Boria survived his second war. His injuries precluded him from participating in the Chosin Reservoir Campaign.

BORIA: I got home Christmas Eve. 6:30, Christmas Eve. So I went from August, that cycle, combat, hospital, and wound up, and I got wound up back in the States for Christmas.

AMBROSE:[10] While the Marine Corps remembers their Korean War in a narrative of gallantry and identity, the Corps recounts its history in the Vietnam War through a more straightforward retelling of events that grapples with an unpopular war.

AMBROSE: We at the UCF VLP explore the history of this controversial conflict in a three-part podcast series entitled ***UCF VLP Presents: The Vietnam War***.[11] We invite you to listen for a more complete history of that conflict. To understand the Marine Corps narrative to the Vietnam War, this episode will focus on the lessons of Marine Corps JROTC and personal stories from the war.

AMBROSE: The Marine Corps JROTC curriculum considers Vietnam as “one of the most complex conflicts in the history of the United States Marine Corps.”[12] Ray Fullard describes how he talks about Vietnam to his cadets.

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[10] Sound effect comes from historical footage of the US Army spraying Agent Orange. See, “US Army Newsfilm V-73-69: Weed Killer Knocks Out VC's Riverbank Ambush Sites, South Vietnam [VC Weed Killer],” 8-11 February 1969, Michael Sheets Collection, *Vietnam Center and Sam Johnson Vietnam Archive*, Texas Tech University, https://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/virtualarchive/items.php?item=987VI0672.

[11] Link to the first episode of our three-part podcast series on the Vietnam War: https://vlp.cah.ucf.edu/podcasts/Vietnam/EP1-ColdWarCommunism.html.

[12] Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, ed., *Overview of The History and Traditions of the Marine Corps* (Marine Corps Training and Education Command, n.d.), accessed September 29, 2026, https://silkweb.com/wp-content/uploads/MCJROTCLE1/Overview-of-The-History-and-Traditions-of-the-Marine-Corps/content/index.html#/lessons/-HXxYOl6DOdZSRIcpO88RgtcH9M1_KII.

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FULLARD: Vietnam is one of our wars that, And I don't wanna get political, but it was. And, it shows them that, no matter what we're doing though, we still maintain who we are. I am Sergeant Major Ray Fullard. I did twenty-seven years plus in the Marine Corps, had several jobs in the Marine Corps as a supply guy, an interrogator intel chief, and finally as a first sergeant sergeant major.

AMBROSE: The lessons steer the cadets towards the Corps' successes in Vietnam. In 1965, Operation Starlight began, the Corps' first major ground offensive in Vietnam, and the first event to open the narrative. In South Vietnam, small groups of Marines deployed to villages to live with, train up, and patrol alongside local forces. Known as the Combined Action Program, the Marines worked to win the hearts and minds of the local population.

FULLARD: And, as part of it, Operation Starlight comes to mind. Da Nang, comes up.

AMBROSE: Arguably the most notable battles the Marines fought during the Vietnam War occurred in 1968. In January of that year, the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) launched an assault on the Marine outpost at Khe Sanh. Over seventy-seven days, the Marines fought constant artillery bombardments and bad weather. With the aid of consistent air support, the Marines held off the enemy. While the battle of Khe Sahn raged, a much larger offensive took place across South Vietnam. Known as the Tet Offensive, the NVA and their guerilla allies, the Viet Cong, attacked South Vietnamese cities and US bases. For the Marines, this meant the Battle of Hue City, the war's largest battle in urban combat, and the defense of the US Embassy in Saigon.

FULLARD: The Embassy at Saigon comes up where we only lost five Marines there, but we held off an overwhelming number of communists trying to take the city and the embassy.

AMBROSE: At all times, Fullard connects these battles and events to larger themes of Marine Corps history and tradition.

FULLARD: All those things come up, and we connect that to the tenacity of our Corps to do what we're supposed to do and not give up. That's the biggest thing. That's the biggest lesson we try to teach them, that you don't give up. You push, push, push, push, push. You don't give up.

AMBROSE: For Lou Boria, Vietnam was a personal, family affair. Four of Mr. Boria's sons joined the Marine Corps: Corporal Lou Boria III, Lance Corporal Joey Boria, Lance Corporal Gregory Boria, and Private First Class Ken Boria. Two of them, Lou

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III and Gregory, rest in National Cemeteries. As a Veteran of the Corps himself, Mr. Boria supported his sons joining but understood what their service could mean.

BORIA: Well, my thing with the Marine Corps is, I know the kind of training you're gonna get, and I know the kind of camaraderie that these guys, and the percentage of the troops in the Marines are mostly all volunteers. So there's a difference in attitudes, when you're a volunteer than when you're a draftee. So that, to me, going into the Marines, I said, "I, if anything, I'd rather see them in the Marine Corps 'cause I know the kind of training they're gonna get." I felt that if they're gonna be, they wanna volunteer, okay.

AMBROSE: Corporal Boria III fought with a machine gun platoon at Khe Sahn. While on patrol with three other Marines, they entered into a firefight with the enemy.

BORIA: Out on a patrol, and four guys, he was the only guy that survived. And actually survived, he was the only guy that was still alive. The other three guys were killed. He was up in Khe Sanh really bad. Took months before we can get him home. Every time they'd put him on a plane, they'd have to land and give him medical attentions. So he got shot twice in the stomach.

AMBROSE: Gregory and Joey joined the Corps together.

BORIA: Gregory, at the time, was starting his first year in college. And, he came home one day and he told me, "Dad, I'm gonna wanna go in the Marines." Then Joey says, "Well, if he's gonna go, I'm gonna go."

AMBROSE: Both Gregory and Joey survived their time in the Corps and returned home. The youngest of Mr. Boria's Marines, Ken, joined later. He served on the peacekeeping force deployed to Beirut, Lebanon in 1983. Present when terrorists attacked the Marine Barracks on October 23rd and killed 220 Marines, Ken too survived his service and returned home.

AMBROSE: In 1973, when US involvement in Vietnam ended, its military worked to move on from Vietnam while maintaining lessons learned from the conflict. Through the 1970s, the branches retooled to the new All Volunteer Force. The Marine Corps shrank from a Vietnam Era height of 300,000 to 185,000 troops.[13] Recruitment ads of the time reflected this leaner Corps and asked for "A Few Good Men," which called back to a recruitment pitch from the era of the Continental Marines. To make it clear the Corps still maintained its high standards, another ad stated "We Don't Promise You a Rose Garden." Into the 1980s, the Cold War and small scale interventions

[13] John Prados, "The Marines' Vietnam Commitment," *Naval History* 29 (April 2015), https://www.usni.org/magazines/naval-history-magazine/2015/april/marines-vietnam-commitment.

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came back into focus. In these times, the Marine Corps reemerged as America's 911 Force. Ray Fullard joined the Corps in 1983 and, to enhance his classroom instruction, he tells his cadets about his time in service.

FULLARD: For me personally, I connect the things that I've done. Operation Just Cause down in Panama, going to Iraq a couple times, cause they ask about those things, and we tell them. Fortunately I have some experience with those things. I can tell them about them. But we touch on it in the aspect of why it was important and what we're doing there.

AMBROSE: The Soviet Union dissolved in December 1991. Its dissolution marked the end of the Cold War, and consequently, a shift in the military posture of the United States. The US no longer considered an imminent nuclear attack from the Soviet Union as a grave threat. Instead, the US worked with coalitions to evict the Iraqi military from Kuwait, combat genocide in the Balkans, and respond to humanitarian crises around the world. Retired Marine Sergeant Major Marc Chabot recalls this time.

CHABOT: Terrorism was on the rise. The Khobar Towers. The Civil War in Yugoslavia. All kinds of little skirmishes. Somalia, Liberia.

AMBROSE: Then, suddenly, on September 11, 2001, the world changed again.

CHABOT: I was in Twentynine Palms. My wife called me. My cellphone rang at 08:30. She's like screaming on the other phone, "America's under attack. You need to turn on the television." So I said, "All right." I turned on the television and saw those holes in the Twin Towers. That one day, changed twenty years of military service, and changed so many young Americans' lives that were lost, maimed, missing limbs, families losing their loved ones. All those dynamics, in play.

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH: I, uh, I want you all to know—it can't go any louder. I want you all to know that America today, America today is on bended knee in prayer for the people whose lives were lost here, for the workers who work, for the families who mourn. This nation stands with the good people of New York City, and New Jersey, and Connecticut, as we mourn the loss of thousands of our citizens. [CROWD**:** George, we can't hear you!] I can hear you! I can hear you! The rest of the world hears you! And the people, the people who knock these buildings down, will hear all of us soon![14]

[14] This excerpt comes from President George W. Bush's "Bullhorn Address," delivered to first responders at Ground Zero three days after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. "Arrivals, Departures, and OTRs Tape #1 - Trip to New York: Tour of Murray Street and West Street Disaster Site," September 14, 2001, GWB-WHCA: Records of the White House Communications Agency

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AMBROSE: In response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the United States launched the Global War on Terror. Over the following decades, servicemembers from all of America's military branches deployed across the globe, most notably to Iraq and Afghanistan. True to form, Marines always find a way to connect new battles to older ones.

FULLARD: The Battle of Fallujah, the first one, understanding that, it goes back to learning the lessons from Hue City and house-to-house fighting. So, like again, everything touches on what we've done in the past and how we're gonna do it in the present and the future.

AMBROSE: No matter the clime or place, the era or enemy, the United States Marine Corps has always answered its country's call.[15] From the 18th century battlefields of the American Revolution to the 21st century battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan, Marines fought and sacrificed for their nation and for one another. The motto of the Marine Corps is Semper Fidelis, Always Faithful. Always faithful to their country, always faithful to their Corps, and always faithful to their fellow Marines. As this podcast series has demonstrated, the Corps also remains faithful to its history. It reverently etches each action into its narrative, diligently recounts these stories to new generations, and fights each new battle with a commitment to honor the Marines who came before.

AMBROSE: Thank you for listening to ***UCF VLP Presents: US Marine Corps History***, an educational podcast produced by the University of Central Florida's Veterans Legacy Program. I'm your host, Liam Ambrose.

AMBROSE: ***UCF VLP Presents: US Marine Corps History*** is made possible by the University of Central Florida's Veterans Legacy Program. The UCF VLP is a US Department of Veterans Affairs-funded partnership with the National Cemetery Administration through which UCF students, faculty, staff, and K-12 educators across Florida collaborate to extend the memorialization of Veterans buried in National Cemeteries across the state by using cutting-edge technology and innovative pedagogy.

AMBROSE: This episode of ***UCF VLP Presents: US Marine Corps History*** is researched, written, and produced by Jim Stoddard. This episode is edited and

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(George W. Bush Administration) Collection, White House Television (WHTV) Video Recordings Series, George W. Bush Library, Dallas, TX, https://catalog.archives.gov/id/6171391.

[15] Music comes from the United States Marine Band's "Marines' Hymn (slow version)," https://www.marineband.marines.mil/Portals/175/Docs/Audio/Ceremonial/the_marines_hymn_slow_version.mp3.

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mixed by Sebastian Garcia. Music and sound effects sourced from the US National Archives and Records Administration and the United States Marine Corps. Executive producers are Dr. Amelia Lyons and Sebastian Garcia.

AMBROSE: Special thanks to Sergeant Major Ray Fullard of Edgewater High School's Marine Corps JROTC and Sergeant Major Marc Chabot, host of the *Left Right Left Podcast,* for their expertise throughout this episode. We also thank Marine Corps Veteran Lou Boria for sharing his and his family's story. The UCF VLP thanks them for their service.

AMBROSE: To learn more about the Veterans featured in this episode, visit our website which also contains the other deliverables we produce as part of our VLP work, such as grade-level Veteran biographies, cemetery mini-tours, K-12 lesson plans, and more, visit our website.

AMBROSE: Thanks again for listening. This has been ***UCF VLP Presents: US Marine Corps History*.**

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