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Control Number NWDNS-127-N

Media Photographs

Descr. Level Series

Record Group 127

Series N

Title General Photograph File of the U.S. Marine Corps

Dates 1927-1981

Coverage Dates 1775-1981

Date Note Bulk Dates: 1942-1970

Creating Org. Department of Defense. U.S. Marine Corps.

Scope & Content Photography has been an important element in recording the history of the Marine Corps since the 1920s, when concerted efforts seem to have been begun to compile a historical record of the Corps' activities. Beginning around 1942, USMC Headquarters in Washington, D.C. established a centralized system for receiving photographs from all Marine Corps units and bases in the United States and overseas. In addition to handling current photography, Headquarters also administered the duplication of earlier photographs, sketches, and paintings in the Marine Corps collection.

The negatives and transparencies which comprise this series document the many and varied activities which have formed the history of the Marine Corps, from its earliest campaigns in Tripoli to its battles in Vietnam. In addition, the recruitment and training of Marine Corps personnel is documented in this series, as are the many military and civilian personalities who have been involved with the Corps over the years. The result is a comprehensive pictorial record of the Marine Corps' presence in American history.

This series is comprised of three distinct groups: the first group consists of images given plain numbers from 800 to 546662, and the photographs document the Corps from 1775 to 1950. The next group contains an "A" prefix before the numbers, running from A32 to A900446. These images pertain to Corps' activities from the Korean Conflict to about 1978. The third group contains a "B" prefix before the numbers, running from B100000 to B200546. These images cover the period 1978 to 1981, at which time the Marine Corps' photography was subsumed into the Defense Department's global collection of photography from all service branches.

There are two main finding aids for this collection: the first is the collection of original logbooks created by Headquarters which provide access to captions, dates, and photographers for specific image numbers. These logs also provide a limited amount of subject access; see the description for RG 127, Series PL.

The other finding aid is the personality index created by Headquarters. This is in two parts, 1927-1958 and 1959 - 1981. Entries are arranged alphabetically by surname. See the description for RG 127, Series PX.

There are many missing negatives in this collection; the profusion of charge out slips indicates that many images were never returned before the collection was accessioned by the National Archives. However, copy prints found in the many print series in RG 127 are frequently used by the Still Picture Branch to make copy negatives for reproduction purposes.

Agency Hist Note For a history of the U.S. Marine Corps, see the description for RG 127, Series GG.

Medium Negatives

Number: 355,000

Process: Cellulose Acetate, Polyester, Gelatin Dry Plate

Dimensions: 4"x5", 5"x7"

Medium Transparencies

Number: 700

Process: Chromogenic

Dimensions: 4"x5"

Note: These are filed in the Cold Vault.

Medium Slides

Number: 695

Process: Chromogenic

Dimensions: 35mm

Note: These are filed in the Cold Vault.

Copy Information Duplicate negatives and interpositives have been made for some of these images. Also, copy negatives are periodically added to the collection as replacements for missing originals.

Arrangement Arranged chronologically and numerically in 3 groups documenting the history of the Corps from 1775 to 1950 and numbered 800 to 532582; 1950 to 1978 and numbered A32 to A900446; 1978 to 1981 and numbered B200000 to B200546.

Numbering Note Record Group, Series, Letter Prefix if Applicable, Item Number. EXAMPLE: 127-N-A277135.

Finding Aids An index to personalities in in RG 127, Series PX. The original logbooks for these images, which provide caption information, are in RG 127, Series PL.

See Also Record Group Description

Subject Ref. World War II; Korean Conflict; Vietnam War; U.S. Marine Corps; Military History; Military Photography

Geographic Ref. World

Access Unrestricted.

Use Restrictions None. Items in 431E are in cold vault storage. Please allow at least 2 hours for items to come to room temperature.

Items 356395 image(s)

Containers-cs1 195--Roller Drawer, 4 inch

50--Photograph Box (4x5 shoebox)

4--Photograph Box (5x7 negative)

2--Photograph, 8x10 Half-Size

1--Photograph, 6x9 Grey White

Cf-copy set 1 318.777

Total Cubic Feet 318.777

Linear Measure 1,417 ft.

Contact Still Pictures Branch (NWDNS), National Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001 PHONE: 301-837-3530 FAX: 301-837-3621

Location National Archives at College Park, stack 532: 013/12/1 through 013/19/1 containers #1-47 Boxes contain 10525 - A701768 with gaps, and 5 x 7 negatives. Boxes are only on shelf 1 of each compartment.

National Archives at College Park, stack 532: 013/20/1 containers #1-6 Dupe negatives and interpositives for selected images

National Archives at College Park, stack 532: 013/13/Drawer 1 through 014/16/Drawer 2 containers #1-140 Negatives 800 - 532582 with gaps, and A320 - A900070 with gaps

National Archives at College Park, stack 431E: 032/1/Drawer 1 through 032/10/Drawer 1 containers #1-55 Four groups: A17551 - A40178, A102171 - A103833, A134241 - A900446, B100000 - B200546

National Archives at College Park, stack 431E: 032/1/3 containers #1-4 Color negatives and transparencies, 10766 - 531495 and A44187 - A566312C

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