



*THE BASIC SCHOOL
PRESENTS
A DEDICATION CEREMONY
FOR
GONZALEZ HALL*



*FRIDAY, JULY, 13 2007
10:00 A.M.*

Schedule of Dedication Ceremony

INVOCATION

Chaplain Lee

***Opening Remarks by
Lieutenant Colonel James D. Davis
Commanding Officer,
Instructor Battalion, TBS***

***Guest of Honor
Brigadier General James B. Laster
Commanding General
Training Command***

***Major General Ray Smith (Retired)
Remarks***

Plaque Unveiling

Ribbon Cutting

Benediction

Gift Presentation

***Reception in
Green Carpet area of
O'Bannon Hall***

WHERE WE CAME FROM,

WHERE WE ARE GOING...

The Basic School as we know it was established at Camp Barrett in 1958. Since its inception in 1891 as "The School of Application", The Basic School has undergone numerous organizational changes. From the very beginning, enlisted Marines have supported its mission of preparing young lieutenants to lead. Over the years, the nature of this enlisted contribution has evolved in its own way. Initially, enlisted Marines comprised The Basic School "Headquarters and Service Battalion", with a Headquarters and Service Company (H&S Co) and an Enlisted Instructor Company (EI Co). Marine Corps Base Quantico provided additional support until decision was made to add a Training Support Company and the name was later changed to "Support Battalion".

In the Fall of 1986, and still comprised of three companies, H&S Co, EI CO, AND TS Co, the next twelve years saw the Battalion carrying on the tradition of providing crucial logistics and training support to The Basic School.

In the late summer of 1998, Support Battalion was redesignated "Instructor Battalion." TS Co was deactivated, and its personnel and assets divided between H&S Co and the newly formed Combat Instructor Company (CI Co). The "Instructor Battalion" that emerged from this reorganization emphasizes the role of enlisted Marines at the Basic School.

The enlisted Marines assigned to the Battalion are an integral part of The Basic School rather than an external supporting unit. They represent the first opportunity the officer student is afforded to observe and interact with operational enlisted Marines, not unlike the enlisted Marines they will lead upon graduation from The Basic School.

Instructor Battalion maintains an operational combat capability in infantry, weapons, field artillery, mechanized operations and combat engineering. As well as an operational combat service support capability in ordnance, supply, motor transport, and communications. More than half of the enlisted Marines of Instructor Battalion are directly involved everyday in teaching some aspect of "Warfighting" to the Corps' newest officers. And while some Marines of Instructor Battalion may not always be directly involved in instruction, they set the standard for enlisted Marines the Lieutenant can expect to find in the operation forces. Most importantly, the Marines of Instructor Battalion are experts in their occupational specialties and are expected to be able to share their expertise at a moment's notice. Providing the resident expertise for instruction and support to The Basic School mission to educate and train the Marine Corps newest officers.

Alfredo Gonzalez



Medal of Honor Recipient Alfredo "Freddy" Gonzalez was born on May 23, 1946, in Edinburg, Texas, to Andres Cantu and Dolia Gonzalez. Gonzalez's mother raised him by herself for most of his life, supporting them on a waitress' salary. Gonzalez grew up picking cotton with his family. He played football at Edinburg High School before graduating in 1965. Gonzalez enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in San Antonio on June 3, 1965, and then enlisted in the regular Marine Corps on July 6, 1965. After completing his training he was assigned to the Headquarters and Service Company, First Reconnaissance Battalion,

First Marine Division, as a rifleman. On January 1, 1966, Gonzalez was promoted to Private First Class and transferred to Company L, Third Battalion, Fourth Marines, Third Marine Division in Vietnam. In October of that year he was promoted to Lance Corporal, and the following December was promoted to Corporal. Gonzalez completed his tour of duty in Vietnam and returned to the United States in February 1967. He was stationed with the Second Battalion, Sixth Marines, Second Marine Division, at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Gonzalez hoped to be transferred to the Marine contingent stationed at the Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi, which would put him close to his family, friends, and girlfriend back home. Instead, he was chosen to instruct Marines at Camp Lejeune to prepare them for the guerilla warfare they would face in Vietnam. He told his friends that he would never return to Vietnam, partially because he felt a kinship to the Vietnamese who worked hard in the fields as he had as a boy.

However, Gonzalez soon learned of an ambush which wiped out an entire platoon, including men who had served under him during his tour of duty. His friends insisted that he had already honorably served his country, but Gonzalez's sense of responsibility to his fellow Marines urged him to request transfer and serve another tour in Vietnam. He spent May and July of 1967 in a staging battalion at Camp Pendleton, California, during which he was promoted to Sergeant. Gonzalez was then assigned as a platoon commander to Company A, First Battalion, First Marines, First Marine Division in Vietnam.

On January 31, 1968, Gonzalez's unit was involved in the initial phase of Operation Hue City and deployed by truck convoy to reinforce other units fighting in the city. The convoy was attacked near the village

of Lang Van Lrong and drew heavy enemy fire. Gonzalez immediately positioned his men and directed their fire until the area was free of enemy snipers. The convoy moved on and was attacked again after crossing a river south of Hue. A Marine standing on a tank was wounded and fell to the ground in a position exposed to enemy fire. Gonzalez ran to the Marine, picked him up and carried him to a protected area. During the rescue, Gonzalez was wounded by fragments of exploding grenades. As the convoy was pinned down by an enemy machine gun bunker up the road, Gonzalez led his platoon to the bunker and destroyed it with hand grenades.

The convoy eventually reached Hue, where Gonzalez and his unit fought against heavy enemy resistance. He was seriously wounded on February 3, but refused medical treatment in order to stay with his men. The following day, his unit was pinned down by a large enemy force and suffered heavy casualties. Gonzalez used several antitank weapons against heavily fortified enemy positions while exposed to enemy fire. He held back the enemy advance and destroyed an enemy rocket position before he was mortally wounded. Gonzalez was hit by the last rocket fired by the enemy, and died in the Saint Joan of Arc Catholic Church, where he had taken cover. For his actions between January 31 and February 4, 1968, Gonzalez was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. His Medal of Honor was presented to his mother on October 31, 1969, by Vice President Spiro T. Agnew at the White House. In 1996, the USS Alfredo Gonzalez, a guided missile destroyer, was commissioned in Corpus Christi. There is a permanent display of his uniform and medals at the Hidalgo County Historical Museum. In Edinburg, Freddy Gonzalez Elementary School and the Alfredo Cantu Gonzalez American Legion Post are both named in his honor. Students at Edinburg High School can receive the Alfredo Gonzalez Athletic Award. The Alfredo Gonzalez Dining Hall at the Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi is named for him, as is Alfredo Gonzalez Boulevard at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. There is also a Freddy Gonzalez Drive in Edinburg. Gonzalez is buried at the Hillcrest Cemetery in Edinburg.

The headquarters building for Instructor Battalion, The Basic School on board Camp Barrett, Marine Corps Base, and Quantico, Virginia was completed in January 2007. The Marines of Instructor Battalion chose to name the building in honor of Sgt Alfredo Gonzalez because his spirit and dedication to our Corps is reflected in the enlisted Marines mission of Instructor Battalion, to train and develop our future leaders.

Medal of Honor Recipient

SERGEANT ALFREDO GONZALEZ
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as platoon commander, 3rd Platoon, Company A. On 31 January 1968, during the initial phase of Operation Hue City, Sgt. Gonzalez' unit was formed as a reaction force and deployed to Hue to relieve the pressure on the beleaguered city. While moving by truck convoy along Route No. 1, near the village of Lang Van Lrong, the marines received a heavy volume of enemy fire. Sgt. Gonzalez aggressively maneuvered the Marines in his platoon, and directed their fire until the area was cleared of snipers. Immediately after crossing a river south of Hue, the column was again hit by intense enemy fire. One of the Marines on top of a tank was wounded and fell to the ground in an exposed position. With complete disregard for his safety, Sgt. Gonzalez ran through the fire swept area to the assistance of his injured comrade. He lifted him up and though receiving fragmentation wounds during the rescue, he carried the wounded Marine to a covered position for treatment. Due to the increased volume and accuracy of enemy fire from a fortified machine gun bunker on the side of the road, the company was temporarily halted. Realizing the gravity of the situation, Sgt. Gonzalez exposed himself to the enemy fire and moved his platoon along the east side of a bordering rice paddy to a dike directly across from the bunker. Though fully aware of the danger involved, he moved to the fire-swept road and destroyed the hostile position with hand grenades. Although seriously wounded again on 3 February, he steadfastly refused medical treatment and continued to supervise his men and lead the attack. On 4 February, the enemy had again pinned the company down, inflicting heavy casualties with automatic weapons and rocket fire. Sgt. Gonzalez, utilizing a number of light antitank assault weapons, fearlessly moved from position to position firing numerous rounds at the heavily fortified enemy emplacements. He successfully knocked out a rocket position and suppressed much of the enemy fire before falling mortally wounded. The heroism, courage, and dynamic leadership displayed by Sgt. Gonzalez reflected great credit upon himself and the Marine Corps, and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.



Lieutenant Colonel James D. Davis



Lieutenant Colonel James D. Davis graduated from Ottawa (KS) University in 1988 and arrived at Quantico Virginia in 1989 to attend Officer Candidate School. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant on 7 December 1989.

Upon completion of the Basic School in 1990, Second Lieutenant Davis was assigned to Second Battalion, Fifth Marines, where he served as a Rifle Platoon Commander for Operation DESERT SHIELD/STORM, Weapons Platoon Commander, HMG/TOW Platoon Commander, Weapons Company Executive Officer and Headquarters & Service Company Commander.

During his tour with Second Battalion, Fifth Marines

First Lieutenant Davis also deployed to Okinawa and with the 11th MEU to conduct operations in Somalia and Burundi.

In 1994, Captain Davis transferred to Quantico Virginia where he was an Instructor at The Basic School, a Staff Platoon Commander and an Instructor at the Infantry Officer Course. While at Quantico, Captain Davis completed Amphibious Warfare School in 1998.

In May of 1998, Captain Davis received orders to Third Battalion, Eighth Marines at Camp Lejeune NC, where he initially served as Company Commander, Company I and deployed with the 26TH MEU to the Mediterranean and Adriatic Seas for security operations in Albania, peace-keeping operations in Kosovo, and humanitarian assistance operations in Turkey. Upon returning to CONUS, Major Davis assumed duties as Operations Officer, Third Battalion, Eighth Marines Regiment prior to deploying for Operation EASTERN ACCESS in Vieques, Puerto Rico. He then transferred to Second Battalion, Eighth Marines to assume duty as Executive Officer where he deployed to the Mediterranean with the 24TH MEU and further service in Kosovo in conducting peace-support operations.

Following his tour with Eighth Marines, Major Davis attended the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the School of Advanced Military Studies at Fort Leavenworth, KS from 2002 until 2004.

In 2004 Maj Davis received orders to U. S. Marine Corps Forces Command, Norfolk, Virginia where he was promoted to his current rank and served as a United States Central Command Planner in the G-3/5, Aide-de-Camp, and deployed to Iraq to serve as a Future Operations Planner with II MEF (FWD).

Lieutenant Colonel Davis' personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with 1 gold star, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with 2 gold stars and the Combat Action Ribbon with 1 gold star.

Lieutenant Colonel Davis is married to Dixie Lee. They have 3 children: Westin (12) Shelby (10) and Megan (4). The Davis family resides in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Brigadier General James B. Laster



Brigadier General Laster is a native of Dallas, Texas, and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1978 through the Platoon Leaders Class Program. Upon completion of The Basic School, he reported to 3d Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, where he served as a rifle platoon commander and rifle company executive officer. In January 1981, First Lieutenant Laster transferred to Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C. where he served as a platoon commander, company executive officer, and White House Social Aide. In November 1983, Captain Laster was assigned to 7th Marines and served two years as a rifle company commander, one year as weapons company commander in 3d Battalion, 7th Marines and

completed his tour as the regimental Assistant Operations Officer.

In December 1987 he attended the Army Airborne School and Advanced Infantry Officers Course at Fort Benning, Georgia, and was a Distinguished Graduate. Captain Laster transferred to 25th Marines in September 1989 and assumed duties as Inspector Instructor for Company A, 1stBn, 25th Marines, and served as the I-I Operations Officer for 25th Marine Regiment. In May 1991, Major Laster was assigned as Aide-de-Camp to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General C. E. Mundy, Jr. He subsequently attended Marine Corps Command and Staff College and graduated with distinction.

Returning to the Fleet Marine Force in June 1993, he commanded Headquarters and Service Company, I MEF, and Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Intelligence Group. In January 1995, he assumed duties as Executive Officer, 1st Battalion, and 1st Marines and deployed to the Arabian Gulf with 15th MEU (SOC). During this assignment he also served as Commander, Maritime Special Purpose Force (MSPF), 15th MEU (SOC). In August 1996 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and assumed duties as Operations Officer of 15th MEU (SOC), and deployed again to the Arabian Gulf/CENTCOM AOR. In November 1997, he was assigned as Deputy AC/S G-7 and Inspector, 1st Marine Division. During the period January to March 1998, Lieutenant Colonel Laster deployed to Africa as J-3 of Joint Task Force Kenya in support of Operation Noble Response, Humanitarian Relief operations in Kenya, East Africa. Lieutenant Colonel Laster assumed command of 3d Battalion, 4th Marines in May 1998 and moved the battalion to Twentynine Palms, California. He relinquished command in June 2000 and was transferred to the National War College.

Upon completion of the National War College, he was promoted to Colonel, and was assigned to the Joint Staff as Chief of War Plans, J-7. Following the events of 11 September, he assumed duties in the Joint Staff J-3 as Assistant Chief, Future Operations Group. From 2003 to 2005 Colonel Laster Commanded The Basic School, and then assumed duties as Chief of Staff, Training and Education Command (TECOM).

In May 2006, Brigadier General Laster took command of Training Command. Brigadier General Laster is a graduate of New Mexico Military Institute and Southwest Texas State University. He holds a Master of Science degree in National Strategy from the National War College.

OPERATION HUE CITY,
Thua Thien, Republic of Vietnam, August 1967
Company commander, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion,
1st Marines 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
Retired MAJOR GENERAL RAY SMITH



Major General Smith is a native of Oklahoma. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in Montana in December 1965. He graduated as the Platoon and Series Honorman at MCRD, San Diego in 1966. In March of 1967, he graduated from OCS and from TBS in August of 1967. During his first tour in Viet Nam, Lt. Smith served as a Platoon (4 months) and Company Commander (9 months) in Alpha 1/1, seeing combat action in Hue, Khe Sanh, the Rockpile, Con Thien, Dodge City and south of DaNang. His next assignment was in the 5th Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, CA where he served in 3/28 as a Platoon Commander, Company Commander and as interim Aide for General Ross Dwyer. In November 1969, Lt. Smith was assigned to a one year Vietnamese Language School in Arlington, Virginia.

Late in 1970 he returned to Camp Pendleton for duty on an Interrogation Team for four months and was then assigned to 2/5 until he was sent to the John F. Kennedy School of Special Warfare at Ft. Bragg, NC. Captain Smith returned to Viet Nam in November of 1971 for duty with the Marine Advisory Unit. He was with the Vietnamese Marines during the Easter Offensive and Counter Offensive of 1972. After this tour Captain Smith was assigned as a student at the Amphibious Warfare School in Quantico, Virginia and then from 1973 to 1976 as a Company XO, SPC and Tactics Instructor at The Basic School. In July of 1976 he was ordered to MEPCOM at Ft. Sheridan, Illinois where he served two years as the Secretary to the General Staff. He was promoted to Major in August 1977.

Major Smith was selected to participate in the Bootstrap Program and reported to Oklahoma State in August of 1978. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Asian Studies in January 1980 and was then transferred to the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, VA. In July of 1980, Major Smith reported to Camp Lejeune, NC and was assigned as the XO of 2nd Bn, 8th Marines until July 1981 when he was assigned as the S-3 of the 8th Marine Regiment. In 1983, now Lt. Col. Smith, after assignments as the XO of the 8th Marine Regiment and as the G-3 OPS of the 2nd Marine Division, took command of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment. He commanded BLT 2/8 in Grenada and Beirut.

Lt. Col. Smith next attended the Naval War College in Newport, RI where he earned a Master's Degree in Military Science. While there he also earned a Master's Degree in International Relations from Salve Regina College. In July of 1985 he reported to Headquarters Marine Corps for assignments in Training and then in Operations. Returning to Camp Lejeune in May of 1988, Lt. Col. Smith took command of the 8th Marine Regiment. He was promoted to Colonel in November of 1988. In July of 1990, Colonel Smith was assigned to the Joint Staff at the Pentagon where he was Chief, Asia-Pacific Branch, and J5. He was As a General Officer his assignments were: Deputy CG, Marine Corps Bases, Japan ; CG, 3rd Marine Division ; Assistant Chief of Staff for Plans and Policy, CJ-5, Combined Forces Command, United States Forces Korea ; Deputy CG, IIMEF ; CG, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, NC. General Smith's personal decorations include: the s selected for promotion to Brigadier General in December of 1991. Navy Cross, Silver Star Medal with gold star; Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Distinguished Service Medal; Legion of Merit with gold star, Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V", Purple Heart with two gold stars, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" and gold star, and the Combat Action Ribbon with two gold stars.

Major General Smith retired on 1 September 1999. On his last day of active duty he gave the Convocation Address at Campbell University and received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws. Since retiring, Gen. Smith has opened a consulting business, E-TOOL ENTERPRISES, and is a partner in Neuse Timber Land Company. Gen. Smith is the president of the board developing the Marine Corps Museum of the Carolinas, on the Board of BOLD, and the Board of Caring Communities. He has served on the Jacksonville USO Executive Council, and the Board of Jacksonville-Onslow Chamber of Commerce 2000-2001 He was also inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame and received the Downeast NCOA Mack McKinney Award. He is a member of the North Carolina Advisory Commission on Military Affairs. He is the co-author of The March Up / Taking Baghdad with the 1st Marine Division.



The Marines' Hymn

*From the Halls of Montezuma,
To the Shores of Tripoli;
We fight our country's battles
In the air, on land, and sea;
First to fight for right and freedom
And to keep our honor clean;
We are proud to claim the title of
United States Marine.*

*Our flag's unfurled to every breeze
From dawn to setting sun;
We have fought in every clime and place
Where we could take a gun;
In the snow of far off northern lands
And in sunny tropic scenes;
You will find us always on the job
The United States Marines.*

*Here's health to you and to our Corps
Which we are proud to serve;
In many a strife we've fought for life
And never lost our nerve;
If the Army and the Navy
Ever look on Heaven's scenes;
They will find the streets are guarded by
United States Marines.*

