

submitted a brand new UUNS for 185 armored vehicles. A subsequent submission for 1000 MRAP brought the total requirement to 1,185 which the Marine Corps pursued in the DOD and in Congress.

The portrayal: Franz Gayl, a whistleblower, created his first whistleblower brief in March of 2007. It was not MRAP focused and only one slide (of 31 slides) focused on MRAP. Gayl, despite scant firsthand knowledge about MRAP needs, became the “MRAP whistleblower”. Gayl published his study in Jan 2008 prompting the DOD Inspector General (DODIG) to investigate MRAP. Both the study and the DODIG report were flawed. Senator Biden, in conjunction with Gayl, established the “Marine Corps negligence” story in the mainstream press.

The simple facts concerning the MRAP need are enough to dispel the MRAP negligence falsehoods. A summary of the facts is as follows:

Marine forces in combat drive the initiation of urgent new capabilities by submitting UUNS. These forces may be regarded as “the customer” that drives the rest of the support system. If the customer does not want it, it is not deployed. If deployed Marines do not ask, they do not receive.

Over the period of decades before the 2005 Hejlik UUNS, several mid-level Marines noted the effectiveness of MRAP-type vehicles and wrote several articles/papers about them. They did not convince their leadership to take action, nor did they aggressively pursue MRAP-type vehicle purchases. The rest of the combat development community did not develop a need for MRAPs. Other Services, the Joint community, the DOD, and other civilian organizations that are not Marine Combat Developers could have developed MRAP-type vehicle needs and did not.

In February 2005, BGen Hejlik (I MEF) submitted an UUNS for 1,169 MRAPs. That UUNS was received by most major support commands. The need was immediate and there were significant concerns about material availability and manufacturing ability.

The UUNS was briefed at the Marine Corps Executive Safety Board (ESB—March 05) and the Marine Corps Executive Off-Site (EOS—May 05). Between the two briefs, the entirety of the Marine Corps Executive body was briefed and considered MRAP-type vehicles. This included the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC). CMC selected the m1114 (armored HMMWVs) with advice from his Executives and with the full knowledge of the Hejlik UUNS. The CMC decision to answer the 2005 Hejlik UUNS with m1114s effectively ended the urgent status of the 2005 Hejlik UUNS.

A key point is that I MEF (Fwd) in Iraq was asking for m1114s as a solution for the Hejlik UUNS. M1114 procurement was a decision supported by the MEFs in (or going to) Iraq.

Marine Executives continued to be briefed on the Hejlik UUNS through August 2005. In August of 2005 Marine Executives ended consideration of the Hejlik UUNS as the m1114 decision by CMC was implemented. Over ten other senior Marine Corps Commands with MRAP decision responsibilities also ended their considerations. These commands did not simultaneously “lose” or “bury” the request as has been falsely insinuated by Gayl and the press.

The 2005 Hejlik UUNS was downgraded to an UNS which changed the status of MRAPs away from a critical need by a Commander involved in operations to save lives. The reduction to an UNS placed MRAP in the regular combat development process with other trucks where it continued to be considered by Systems Command as a potential vehicle solution for future needs. Marine Forces Pacific (MARFORPAC) reflected this reduction

in its UUNS tracker and reflected the 2005 Hejlik UUNS as complete. The reduction to a regular UNS shows that the need was no longer required by the forces in Iraq to prevent undue increases in casualties.

II MEF (2005–2006 deployment), in Iraq, did not pursue the 2005 Hejlik UUNS or any different request for MRAPs. I MEF (2006–2007 deployment), in its prioritized listings before deployment neither listed MRAP as a priority nor as a need at all. The forces in combat or going to combat simply were not requesting MRAPs during this timeframe. The entire combat development community to include the MEFs, MARFORs, Advocates and Executives regarded the Hejlik UUNS as resolved and reduced to an UNS. The DODIG would later incorrectly summarize BGen Hejlik’s assertion that the UUNS was reduced as a fabrication.

A separate Marine Corps I.G. of I MEF (Fwd) that concluded in May of 2006 found no documented need for MRAP. I MEF (Fwd) did nothing to indicate any existing MRAP UUNS during this I.G. once again indicating an absence of demand. I MEF had the opportunity to identify a MRAP need (new or old) to the Marine Corps I.G. and did not do so. The I.G. process allowed for review by CG I MEF (Fwd) and yet there was still no MRAP demand. This is evidence that I MEF was not pursuing MRAPs at this time.

Approximately nine months after Hejlik UUNS removal from MROC consideration, I MEF (back in Iraq) submitted a new UUNS for 185 vehicles (May 2006). The name requested was not MRAP. The number requested was not 1,169 (the number requested in the Hejlik UUNS). Combat developers pressured I MEF to ask for more vehicles and to submit for joint funding. I MEF initially refused to ask for more than 185. There is no logic in Gayl’s or the DODIG’s contention that I MEF simultaneously wanted 1,169 MRAPs, but also did not want more than 185 MRAPs. The fact is that the Hejlik UUNS was satisfied by the provision of m1114 and was no longer an active urgent request.

Eventually I MEF submitted a second request for 1000 more vehicles (July 2006), this time calling them MRAP.

Starting in May 2006 the Marine Corps supporting establishment, to include MCCDC, diligently processed and worked the new request even before it was officially submitted. Congress was briefed. Marine Corps leadership, up to and including the CMC, advocated for MRAP. Testing of different MRAP-type vehicles from different companies occurred in 2006. Budget issues were worked for MRAP. The program office was created and MRAP became the Marine Corps’ number 1 priority. Congress and DOD leadership were supportive of Marine efforts.

A contract was awarded for 200 vehicles in Feb of 2007 with the intent of fielding capability immediately. The Marine Corps MRAP need was considered to be over 800 with expectations of a higher number required. That expectation was realized as the joint requirement in Feb 2007 grew to almost 7,000 vehicles. The MRAP program was recommended for “high priority” status. In May 2007 SECDEF Gates finally designated MRAP as the number one DOD priority.

The Marine Corps was accused of negligence, and did not sufficiently battle these scurrilous accusations. The effort (and success) in smearing the Marine Corps is summarized below.

In 2007, while the Marine Corps was in combat, Gayl was fabricating a case against the Marine Corps. He stated that it was only a case against Quantico, but those who understand the Marine Corps also understand that combat development is a Corps-wide effort. Gayl’s study reflects his inadequately developed or erroneous beliefs. Most of his impor-

tant points are incorrect. Others are fabricated. Despite the myriad of inaccuracies, Gayl’s study was perceived as credible.

A further repudiation of the Gayl study may be developed in a review of the actions of the Advocates. The Marine Corps developed a system of Advocacy to support the deployed forces. The “Advocates” act as a type of lawyer, ensuring the deployed forces’ (MARFOR and MEFs) requests (including UUNS) are handled appropriately. The cover page from Gayl’s study cites his whistleblower credential as the “GCE Advocate S&T Advisor”. Advocate responsibilities are delineated in order and directive and are also included on the cover page of every UUNS. The Advocate (including Gayl) has sole responsibility for several UUNS steps and is a contributor for many others. Gayl’s critique of the Marine Corps is either a criticism of his own job performance . . . or his critique is fatally flawed (the latter is actually the case).

The Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps asked for a DODIG to look into the accusations in Gayl’s study. The MRAP DODIG occurred over two years after the events it was investigating. Marines had rotated out of their billets and emails were deleted. The DODIG failed to uncover key evidence contradicting Gayl’s claims. While the DODIG did not validate the great majority of Gayl’s claims, it did not fully disprove his study. They were not as thorough as they should have been.

The “whistleblowing” continued and on 14 May 2009 Gayl testified before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on the Whistleblower Protection Act. Gayl’s study on MRAP was quoted for the record. Both the testimony and the study were flawed.

In addition to the outright rejections, there were a series of documents proving that I MEF did not desire or pursue MRAPs beyond the provision of the m1114s. Despite having ample opportunity to manifest any sort of new MRAP requirement (or dissatisfaction with the m1114 solution) in several documents, the deployed forces and their parent commands did not once do so. This absence of requests is reflected in mandated reports. They all show an absence of any unprovided need from the Hejlik UUNS. The numerous official documents that did not identify an MRAP need reflect one thing: the absence of MRAP need. There was never any “constant demand” and the portrayal of a “constant demand” was a fabrication or outright lie.

The press remains woefully ignorant of the Marine Corps combat development process yet, even today, feels comfortable criticizing portions of it. Gayl’s thousands of errors were not scrutinized by the press. Gayl’s accusations were sensational and received widespread coverage but the press did not believe it necessary to check Gayl’s “facts” before reporting.

The study “Blowing the Whistle on a Whistleblower: The Real MRAP Story” serves to contest the previous versions of events that disparaged the Corps’ dealing with MRAP needs from 2005 to late 2006. The reputation of the Corps suffered as a result.

RECOGNIZING SPRING HILL,
FLORIDA

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Spring Hill, Florida

as the community celebrates its 50th Anniversary.

Spring Hill was founded in 1967 by the Mackle Brothers' Deltona Development Corporation as a sister city to Deltona. The Spring Hill waterfall, located at Spring Hill Drive and US 19, marks the original entrance to the community. The Mackle Brothers developed a fly and buy program where they would fly potential buyers down to play golf and see the community. The Mackle Brothers marketing strategy brought huge crowds to the community and within three years the majority of the 28,500 platted lots were sold.

Today, Spring Hill's award-winning golf courses and gated communities attract newcomers to the area. Situated near Weeki Wachee Springs and the Gulf of Mexico, Spring Hill has developed itself into the largest community in Hernando County.

I congratulate the people that live and work in Spring Hill. It is truly an honor to serve the residents of Spring Hill, and I thank them for their tremendous contributions to Florida's Adventure Coast.

RECOGNIZING BALDWIN FAMILY HEALTH CARE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Baldwin Family Health Care, a community health center in Baldwin, Michigan, for their 50 years of dedicated service. On Friday, August 11, 2017, they will celebrate this momentous anniversary.

Founded in 1967, Baldwin Family Health Care is a non-profit, Federally Qualified Health Center that provides quality, integrated, and comprehensive health care services that are accessible to all. At the time, it was the nation's third community health center and the first of its kind in Michigan.

Committed to providing primary health care to families in the surrounding communities, Baldwin Family Health Care offers one-stop medical shopping opportunities. This includes primary medical care, dental, lab, x-ray, pharmacy, behavioral health, health education, perinatal services, and vision services. They also provide school-based child and adolescent health centers for the Baldwin area.

Baldwin Family Health Care serves the uninsured and underinsured in Lake County. Baldwin Family Health Care is purposely located to care for families in need, especially those in Lake County's nearby public housing. Baldwin Family Health Care is implementing new health initiatives to further strengthen health services for the poor. It is more than just treatment for illnesses and injuries; there is also an emphasis on education and prevention that promotes wellness to help people lead healthier lives.

Today, they have additional centers in White Cloud, Grant, Cadillac and McBain. In all, Family Health Care serves 30,000 medical patients and nearly 8,000 dental patients.

The efforts and success of Baldwin Family Health Care in providing health education, health care, and community services should be celebrated. Congratulations to Baldwin

Family Health Care on your 50th Anniversary, and thank you for your compassion for communities in West Michigan.

HONORING THE SELMA 15U ALL STAR BASEBALL TEAM

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Selma 15U All Star baseball team for winning the 2017 Dixie Baseball World Series. It has been 45 years since a team paraded the World Series trophy through the streets of my hometown, Selma, Alabama, but this losing streak finally came to an end on Sunday, July 23, in Independence, Louisiana.

After falling short of winning last year's title, the team was ready for a taste of redemption. In a hard fought, 8–3 win against Hattiesburg, Mississippi, the Selma 15U All Stars secured their place in history and brought home the gold. An enthusiastic crowd of family and community members was waiting to welcome their hometown champions back to Selma.

The team is comprised of 14 boys: Dione Allen, Alex Colquitt, Tevin Craig, Matthew Davis, Trovonn Davis, Joseph Estes, Xavier Green, Jeremy Lee Jr., Amaron Molette, Octavious Palmer, Jacob Peavy, George Turner, Milam Turner, and Richard Allen Waters.

They come from a combination of Dallas County High School, Meadowview Christian Academy, Morgan Academy, and Selma High School. Built on a foundation of diversity, this team showcases what can happen when communities are united in a common cause. Through their hard work and dedication, these boys displayed what it means to be a leader in their communities. Selma is often portrayed as a city lacking in opportunities for civic engagement, but the Selma 15U All Stars is a direct antithesis to this misguided characterization.

The man behind this remarkable group of young men is Head Coach Ricky Waters. I had the great privilege of going to grade school with Ricky in our hometown of Selma. I know that this victory is of special importance to him since he took the field against the same opponent, Hattiesburg, at the Dixie Baseball World Series when he was a player, 38 years ago. Although Ricky's time at bat ended in a loss, he was able to lead this team of Selma 15U All Stars to victory in 2017. Ricky, along with Coaches Richard Davis, Jake Peavy, and Jason Foti, created a winning team of boys that everyone in Alabama should be proud of.

As every sports fan knows, behind every great team is an even greater community. A raucous crowd of over 100 cheering fans and the blaring sirens of police cars and firetrucks welcomed the team of champions home. It was a bright day for Selma as the city came together to celebrate these young athletic ambassadors and their competitive triumph.

This extraordinary group of young men and their dedicated coaches are a shining example of the positive impact sports can have on a community. I am proud to represent these local heroes, and I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the 2017 Dixie Base-

ball World Series champions, the Selma 15U All Star Baseball Team. Congratulations.

HONORING THE 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF FORT LEWIS, WASHINGTON

HON. DENNY HECK

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. HECK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to share my admiration and appreciation for the institution of Fort Lewis, which this year is celebrating 100 years in Washington's South Sound. In 1917, as the United States was fighting at the peak of World War I, the people of this community came together to show solidarity and sacrifice. Pierce County overwhelmingly passed a bond to raise \$2 million dollars to purchase and donate over 60,000 acres to the Army in order to found Camp Lewis. Civil-military partnerships and cooperation are a heritage we proudly continue to this very day.

What started as a modest training area has grown to become the premier power projection platform on the West Coast. Camp Lewis became Fort Lewis in 1927 and then Joint Base Lewis-McChord in 2010. It is now the fourth largest military base in the world, with active duty service members, National Guard, Reservists, and civilians working side by side to ensure our national security.

The soldiers stationed at Camp Lewis fought valiantly in World War I. The Ninety-First Division took part in the Battle of Flanders where it captured 2,300 German prisoners and 400 machine guns, despite facing enormous odds. Incredibly, five members of the Division were awarded the Medal of Honor for their bravery, including First Lieutenant Deming Bronson, a graduate of the University of Washington.

America's 34th President, Dwight D. Eisenhower, served at Fort Lewis as Chief of Staff of Third Army Division with the rank of Colonel between 1940 and 1941 before going on to become the Supreme Allied Commander in World War II. In that conflict, Fort Lewis units, including the 41st Infantry Division and the 3rd Infantry Division, deployed to New Guinea, North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France, and Central Europe. Their record was astounding; soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division earned 16 Medals of Honor.

From early on, Fort Lewis was a bastion of diversity. In 1943, Fort Lewis was home to the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, with heroic women serving in the motor pools, on sentry duty, and as medical technicians. The military, under President Truman's Executive Order, helped lead society toward desegregation in the 1940's and 50's. When the segregated "South Fort Lewis" and the black soldiers there joined ranks with the rest of the post, both the units and soldiers became stronger.

The storied history of Joint Base Lewis-McChord has chapters in Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq. The Soldiers and Airmen stationed there have fought for freedom and democracy across the globe and back here at home. The base is now home to the Army I Corps, the Air Force 62nd and 446th Airlift Wings, the 7th Infantry Division, the 1st Special Forces Group, the 2nd Battalion of the 75th Ranger Regiment, and Madigan Army