

During his tenure as Commanding General of Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, as North Vietnamese forces closed in, the evacuation of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon was ordered, using ships of the U.S. Seventh Fleet and embarked marines from Okinawa, including then-COL Al Gray's 4th Marines. As the day wore far longer than had been planned due to the panicky influx of hundreds more evacuees than the embassy had planned for, the operation continued through the night and into the wee hours of the following morning.

About 3 a.m., word came into the command center in Hawaii that the Seventh Fleet Commander had signaled that the helicopter crews which had been flying since early that day had reached their administrative maximum allowed flying hours and that he intended to suspend flight operations to allow crew rest, even though a hundred or more marines still remained in the besieged embassy.

Although he was not in the direct chain of command for the operation, an infuriated General Wilson immediately sent back a message stating that under no circumstances would such an order be given, that Marine helicopters would continue to fly so long as marines remained in Saigon, and that if the Seventh Fleet Commander issued such an order, he, Wilson, would personally prefer court martial charges against him. The order was never issued, the helicopter crews kept flying, and the remaining marines were evacuated.

A year later found the Secretary of Defense looking for a new Commandant, and "Wilson" was a name high on the list. While many important people are involved in the naming of any new Commandant, there are a couple who merit special note in this case.

The Wilsons had become very happy in Hawaii, and nearing the point at which his career might come to an end, he had been extended a lucrative job offer; Janet was a senior in high school; and Jane had found a "Dream House" on the slopes overlooking Waiala Golf Course and the blue Pacific. As the likelihood of his being nominated to become Commandant took shape, the Wilsons sat down for a family conference to discuss the choices. After a brief discussion, Janet brought a decisive end to their deliberations when she said, "Dad, you've talked for a long time about all the things that are wrong in the Marine Corps. This is your chance to fix them." He thought for a moment, and then responded, "OK, we'll do it." And so, perhaps history should record that it was Miss Janet Wilson who, as much as anyone, brought us the 26th Commandant!

But there was another player who should not go without note. When the selection was made, Secretary of Defense Jim Schlesinger directed an assistant to "get General Wilson in Hawaii on the phone." Moments later, the assistant reported, "Sir, he's on the line". Schlesinger picked up the phone and said, "Lou, I'm delighted to inform you that the President has selected you to be the next Commandant of the Marine Corps." There was a pause, and the voice at the other end of the line responded, "Sir, I'm deeply honored by your call. I've always had great admiration for the Marines, but do you really think I'm qualified to become Commandant?" Schlesinger's assistant had dialed the Commander of Pacific Air Forces in Hawaii—also a Lieutenant General named Lou Wilson!

A few minutes later, when the right Wilson was reached, Schlesinger repeated the same congratulatory message, but ended by saying: "However, Lou, you should know that my first call turned me down!" So perhaps—in the spirit of jointness—we also owe the U.S. Air Force a debt of gratitude!

Lou Wilson became Commandant at a time when the Corps needed him. Fewer than 50%

of those who filled our ranks were high school graduates. Illegal drug use was rampant. Lingering Vietnam era recruiting had brought a fair number of criminals into the Corps. Riots and gang intimidation were common. His comment when he assumed command, set the stage for his attack on these problems: "I call on all marines to get in step and do so smartly!"

His tenure as Commandant would be marked by firm initiatives to "get the Corps in step" again. Overweight marines, "high-water" trousers, shaggy haircuts, and moustaches became early points of focus. The word went out: "If I see a fat marine, he's in trouble—and so is his commanding officer!" More than a few commanders got early morning calls from the Commandant that began: "Who's minding the store down there? Seems like you might be looking for a different line of work!" Prompt administrative discharges from the Corps for "those who can't, or don't want to measure up to our standards" were authorized. The Air-Ground Combat Center at 29 Palms came into being to cause marines to prepare for the next war, instead of the last one—and it might be recalled that the "next big one" after Vietnam was in the desert sands of Kuwait, and the Combined Arms Exercises at 29 Palms were the training grounds.

The Wilson years, and those that followed would rehone the Marine Corps into what it remains today—the finest military organization in the history of the world.

But if Fonte Hill on Guam, and the Medal of Honor was the early signature of Lou Wilson, it may be that his enduring mark on the Corps—and our entire joint military establishment—is that which he achieved in his final "Hill" battle near the end of his tenure as Commandant.

A quarter-century earlier, after a period of intense debate as to the role of the Marine Corps in the national defense establishment, the National Security Act had made the Commandant of the Marine Corps a "part-time" member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff only when matters of Marine Corps interest were at issue. This denigration of the Corps to second-class citizenship had long been an insult and irritation. Within the organization of the Joint Chiefs, a policy existed that when the chairman was absent from Washington, the next ranking chief would assume authority as "acting chairman".

In early 1978, the Chairman and all other chiefs of service, except General Wilson, were absent from Washington. A memorandum from the Director of the Joint Staff indicated that in the absence of the chairman, and the Chiefs of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, the vice chief of staff of the Army was appointed "acting chairman". An irritated inquiry from the Marine Corps gained a response from the Director that "the Commandant cannot be appointed acting chairman because he is only a part-time member of the Joint Chiefs."

Like when Miss Jane Clark drove by four decades earlier—already with a "steady" and "no chance"—or when the Seventh Fleet Commander was about to suspend flight operations: Wrong Answer!

General Wilson quietly and without fanfare, took the issue to Capitol Hill, and when the 1979 Defense authorization bill came out, it contained a provision that made the Commandant of the Marine Corps a full-fledged member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Indeed, the legacy achieved by its 26th Commandant for the Corps sits before us today. Without Lou Wilson's personal perseverance and victory, it is not likely that GEN Pete Pace, the chairman designate, or GEN Jim Jones, the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, or GEN Jim Cartwright, the combatant commander, U. S. Strategic

Command, would be in their positions today. Lou Wilson elevated his Corps from a bureaucratic, second-class category to co-equal status with every other branch of the armed services . . . and his country—and the profession of those who bear arms in its defense—will be forever the beneficiaries.

And so, as we assemble today to bid farewell to one of the true giants of our Corps and our Nation, let us do so with gratitude that America produces men the likes of Louis Wilson—and that "they" choose to become Marines. *Semper Fidelis*

Mr. President, I would like to associate myself with these exceptional remarks by General Mundy. I recall my modest service in the Marine Corps during the Korean War and later as Secretary of the Navy, where I witnessed firsthand the impact of General Wilson's efforts in the Corps. His tremendous legacy will forever challenge future Marines to become part of the best fighting force on the Earth. While I am saddened by the General's passing, I am proud that America produced such a fine gentleman who valiantly answered the call to defend these United States. Recalling our national anthem, I say, we would not be "the land of the free" were we not also the "home of the brave."

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN KENNETH J. PANOS, USN

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise to recognize and pay tribute to CAPT Kenneth J. Panos, U.S. Navy. Captain Panos will retire from the Navy on September 1, 2005, having completed an exemplary 26-year career of service to our Nation.

Captain Panos was born in Union, NJ, and is a 1979 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. He also earned a masters degree in Financial Management from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA.

During his military career, Captain Panos excelled at all facets of his chosen profession. As a naval aviator, he deployed to South America and the Caribbean. While serving aboard USS *Paul* (FF 1096), Captain Panos participated in peacekeeping operations in the waters off Beirut, Lebanon.

In 1986, Captain Panos was redesignated a full-time support officer in the Navy Reserve. He reported aboard Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (Light)-94 as the head of the Maintenance, Training and Administration Departments and achieved 1,000 flight hours in the SH-2F Seasprite while deployed aboard various Navy Reserve Force frigates. His outstanding capacity for leadership was recognized when he was selected as the HSL-94 Junior Officer of the Year in 1988. During Captain Panos' tour as the assistant reserve programs director/reserve service officer and later department head at Naval Air Station Willow Grove, he transitioned to fixed-wing aircraft and achieved an airline transport pilot rating while flying the UC-12B transport.

Captain Panos made good use of his graduate degree in financial management with assignments in the Aviation

Budgets and Requirements Office; the Chief of Naval Operations' Staff where he was assistant for aircraft procurement; research, design, test & evaluation; and ship construction appropriations; the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Financial Management; and as the director, Programming and Financial Management Division for the Chief of Navy Reserve. Many of my colleagues know Captain Panos from his service as the Navy's legislative affairs liaison for Reserve matters and anti-terrorism/force protection programs.

The U.S. Navy is a better Navy thanks in part to the talent and dedication of CAPT Kenneth J. Panos. While Captain Panos' retirement means the Navy will lose a fine officer, I am happy to report to this body that he has found a replacement. His oldest son, Michael, is currently a midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy. His youngest son, Robert, is a sophomore at Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax, Virginia. I know all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Ken, his hometown sweetheart and wife Karen, as well as Michael and Robert, on the completion of an outstanding military career.

ROMANIA

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to express solidarity with the people of Romania in the aftermath of the fatal floods that occurred earlier this month. As a consequence of the heavy rainfalls that occurred in Romania from July 1 to July 17, 2005, 24 people are reported to have lost their lives, and some 800 towns and villages suffered damage to road infrastructure, farmlands, and utilities.

The United States and Romania have a strong and continuing relationship. In April 2003, the Senate voted unanimously to bring Romania into NATO. It represented a vote of confidence in the Romanian people and I was honored to witness that expression of American support as chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations. Romania's commitment to the Alliance is evident in its active participation in the Balkans, Afghanistan and Iraq. I am hopeful that Romania will be invited to join the European Union in the near future.

The United States and Romania cooperate closely in a number of areas. Following the terrorist attacks on September 11, Romania has been fully supportive of the global war on terrorism. Among other actions, it contributed transport aircraft and more than 400 troops to Afghanistan. In addition, Romania permitted the use of its territory—land, airspace and seaports—for the U.S.-led military action against Iraq, and dispatched non-combat troops to the region. Romania currently has approximately 900 troops in Iraq, and approximately 500 troops in Afghanistan.

I commend Romania for its consistent contribution to international

peace and stability. Since 1991, it has participated in United Nations peace-keeping operations in the Gulf, the former Soviet Union, Africa, and the Balkans. Just yesterday, the Department of State issued a press statement welcoming the decision by the Romanian cabinet to accept approximately 450 Uzbek asylum seekers on a temporary basis as part of the resettlement processing. The asylum seekers had sought initial refuge in the Kyrgyz Republic following the May violence in Uzbekistan. Romania stands as a role model in the international community for those who are committed in words and actions to the United Nation's principles.

CONGRESS' EFFORTS TO IMPROVE AGRICULTURE SECURITY

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I have come to the floor again to speak about the ability of the United States to prevent and respond to a terrorist attack on American agriculture, a topic that I believe deserves more attention from the Congress and the administration.

That is why I commend the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry for holding a hearing on agroterrorism last week. This was their first hearing on the subject, and I welcome their interest because I have been pursuing the passage of legislation on agriculture security for the past 3 years.

I first introduced agriculture security legislation, S. 2767, the Agriculture Security Preparedness Act, which was referred to the Agriculture Committee, in the 107th Congress. Unfortunately, it was not acted upon in that Congress. I reintroduced my legislation in the 108th Congress and again in the 109th. I am pleased that S. 573, the Agriculture Security Assistance Act, was included in S. 975, the Project Bioshield Act of 2005, and I thank the bill's chief sponsor, Senator LIEBERMAN, for that inclusion.

The strong potential for the American food supply system to be a target of terrorist attack and the severe repercussions such an attack would cause are widely accepted among experts. At the July 20 Agriculture Committee hearing, Mr. John Lewis, Deputy Assistant Director, Counterterrorism Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, testified:

Most people do not equate terrorist attacks with agroterrorism. But the threat is real, and the impact could be devastating.

Another witness, Dr. Robert Brackett, Director, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Food and Drug Administration, FDA, added:

A terrorist attack on the food supply could have both severe public health and economic consequences, while damaging the public's confidence in the food we eat.

According to the Department of Agriculture, USDA, the United States food and fiber system accounts for approximately 12 percent of our gross domestic product and employs 17 percent of the

U.S. workforce. Yet the infrastructure that composes this sector of the economy, which is central to American prosperity, is often not viewed as critical as power lines, bridges, or ports. We cannot underestimate our dependence on America's breadbasket.

On March 9, 2005, the same day I introduced my two agriculture security bills, S. 572, the Homeland Security Food and Agriculture Act, and S. 573, the Government Accountability Office, GAO, released a report I requested entitled, "Much is Being Done to Protect Agriculture from a Terrorist Attack, but Important Challenges Remain" (GAO-05-214). The GAO report reviews the current state of agriculture security in the United States and points to a number of key areas where improvement is necessary, such as the inability of USDA to deploy animal disease vaccines in 24 hours and the lack of foreign animal disease knowledge among USDA-certified veterinarians.

GAO also confirmed information I had received from the National Association of Agriculture Employees that the agricultural mission of Customs and Border Protection, CBP, was insufficiently prioritized. GAO found that the number of agricultural inspections at U.S. borders had declined by 3.4 million since the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, took over the border inspection responsibility from USDA.

In February 2005, I wrote to then-DHS Undersecretary for Border and Transportation Security Asa Hutchinson expressing my concern over the decline in border inspections because I know how important they are to the economy of Hawaii—home to more endangered species than any other State. In response, I received a commitment from DHS to hire additional agriculture specialists at CBP to ensure the agricultural mission does not go unmet.

Also noted in the GAO report were shortcomings in DHS's Federal coordination of national efforts to protect against agroterrorism. The Federal agencies involved in agriculture security—DHS, USDA, FBI, and FDA, to name a few—claim they are working closely with each other. However, one only need look at the June 2004 incident in Washington State, where 18 cattle developed chromium contamination, to see that there are communication gaps at the Federal level. Agroterrorism was suspected, yet neither USDA nor DHS were notified.

In May 2004, representatives from the FBI, FDA, and USDA gave a presentation at an agroterrorism conference in Kansas City, MO, on lessons learned from the Washington outbreak which included a slide stating that the following agencies should be contacted if agroterrorism is suspected: a State's Department of Agriculture, FDA, USDA, FBI, local law enforcement, and State and county public health officials.

Why was the Department of Homeland Security not on the list?