

War College ceremony recognizes 243rd USMC birthday

By Curt Keester 08 November 2018



Marine Corps Lt. Col. Aaron Doty cuts a traditional birthday cake with a Mameluke sword during the Army War College's ceremony celebrating the 243rd birthday of the United States Marine Corps.

CARLISLE, Pa. (Nov. 8, 2018) – Army War College graduate and 13th Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, Gen. John A. Lejeune, directed on Nov. 1, 1921, that a reminder of the honorable service of the Marine Corps be published by every command, to all Marines throughout the globe, on the birthday of the United States Marine Corps.

In recognition of the wishes of its alum, the Marines of the Army War College class gathered with their classmates in Bliss Hall today for a cake cutting ceremony commemorating the 243rd birthday of the Marine Corps.

In keeping with a long-standing tradition observed around the globe, the Marines escorted a birthday cake onto the stage of Bliss Hall, and Lt. Col. Aaron Doty cut the cake with a Mameluke sword. The Mameluke sword is worn by all Marine Corps officers, and was first presented to 1st Lt. Presley O'Bannon in 1805 by Prince Hamet of the Ottoman Empire.

Doty presented a piece of cake to the oldest Marine present, David Bennett a Marine aviator who left the Marine Corps in 1974 and who serves as a faculty member. After taking a first bite, Bennett passed the cake to the youngest Marine present, Jack Haung, who left the Marine Corps in 2010, and who serves as a guard for Carlisle Barracks. The tradition symbolizes the passing of knowledge and experience from generation to generation.

The ceremony included a short motivational video and the republishing of Lejeune's original birthday message, known today as Article 38, United States Marine Corps Manual, Edition of 1921. It begins as follows:

“On November 10, 1775, a Corps of Marines was created by a resolution of the Continental Congress. Since that date many thousand men have borne the name Marine. In memory of them it is fitting that we who are Marines should commemorate the birthday of our Corps by calling to mind the glories of its long and illustrious history.”

The ceremony concluded with the playing of Anchors Away and the Marines' Hymn and traditional birthday cake in the atrium of Bliss Hall.



The oldest Marine at the Army War College, David Bennett, passes a piece

of birthday cake to the youngest
Marine, Jack Haung, during a Marine
Corps birthday ceremony in Bliss Hall,
Nov. 8, 2018.



*Marines of the Army War College class
of 2019 gather with their classmates in
Bliss Hall, Nov. 8, 2018, for a cake
cutting ceremony commemorating the
243rd birthday of the United States
Marine Corps.*

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