



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
3000 MARINE CORPS PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-3000

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
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CMC  
5 Jul 2016

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
To: Lieutenant General Jan Huly, USMC (retired)

Subj: PRECEPT CONVENING THE HULY BOARD TO REVIEW THE IDENTITY OF THE  
FIRST FLAG RAISERS ATOP MOUNT SURIBACHI, IWO JIMA

1. Members. The Huly Board is appointed, consisting of you as president and the following additional members, to review the identity of those involved in the first flag raising atop Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima:

Brigadier General Jason Bohm, USMC, Commanding General, Training Command  
Colonel Keil Gentry, USMC (retired)  
Colonel Mary Reinwald, USMC (retired)  
Sergeant Major Gary Smith, USMC, Sergeant Major, Marine Corps Systems Command  
Sergeant Major Dave Maddux, USMC, Sergeant Major, Marine Corps University  
Sergeant Major Rick Hawkins, USMC (retired)  
Dr. Randy Papadopoulos, Historian, Navy Secretariat  
Dr. Charles P. Neimeyer, Director, USMC HD/GRC

2. Recorder. Dr. Charles P. Neimeyer will also act as recorder. The recorder will make all reasonable efforts to keep a true record of the proceedings of the Board.

3. Administrative Support Personnel. Administrative support personnel will be provided by Education Command as required.

4. Date and Location. The Huly Board is ordered to convene at the Gray Research Center, Quantico, VA, on 5 July, 2016, or as soon thereafter as practicable.

5. Mission. In an extension of its analysis of the second flag raising, the Huly Board will review photographic evidence and claims related to the identity of participants in the first flag-raising on Iwo Jima. The board will also review eyewitness statements and other available evidence related to the flag-raising in order to accurately identify the flag raisers.

6. Guidance. The board will proceed in accordance with the following specific guidelines.

a. It is my intent that the deliberations and findings of the Board be conducted with integrity and be free from external influence, pressure, or prejudice to the process. Accordingly, the Board, and all those participating, will refrain from any disclosures outside of

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the Board until after I have reviewed and accepted its report. Any requests for disclosure outside of the Board prior to that point shall be referred to me. This does not supersede, conflict with, or otherwise alter the employee obligations, rights, or liabilities created by existing statute or Executive order relating to communications to Congress, an Inspector General, or any other whistleblower protection.

b. Further, the Board should keep the following in mind as they deliberate. All Marines and corpsmen on Iwo Jima served with dedication and valor and we as a Corps are proud of the legacy of "uncommon courage" that they established and embody. Those Marines atop Mount Suribachi were still embroiled in the heat of battle, at great personal risk, and accomplishing a mission to raise our national ensign to show resolve and to motivate others who might see it. The photographs were spontaneous and involved those in proximity. No one had a reasonable expectation of associated fame or immortality. With the fluidity and risk of battle, individuals moved in and out of the multiple flag-raisings, many "trying to help" and without clear memories of who was where and when. Despite the increased use and value of forensic photography, with the death of many Marines and corpsmen involved and the passage of seven decades, we may never know for sure who did what, from where and when.

c. The Board will provide opinions and recommendations to the Commandant of the Marine Corps in the form of a written report which can be made public as soon as possible.

d. The Board will be as objective as possible with available data when making identifications.

e. The Board must not presume identifications beyond what can be authenticated or corroborated.

f. Although the Board may find photographic evidence and individual statements in conflict, the board shall not impugn the reputation nor diminish the contributions of any individual, team, or unit.

g. The Director, the Marine Corps History Division shall furnish the Board with all available material for review.

h. Until the completion of proceedings, this board's location shall be the appointed place of duty for all active duty Marines assigned to the Board or in support thereof.

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Robert B. Neller