

The Radio Frequency Spectrum as a Finite Natural Resource

<https://mindmatters.ai/podcast/ep324>

Robert J. Marks:

Greetings and welcome to Mind Matters News. We are talking to Major General Bobby Hollingsworth, retired, of the United States Marines, about his life, his views, and some of the fascinating things which have happened in his life. You're a United States Marine. It's very common to say Semper Fi, "always faithful," but there's a deeper meaning to that, I assume. Right? What is the deeper meaning to "always faithful"? What does that mean when you say Semper Fi another Marine?

Bobby Hollingsworth:

Well, actually in reality, it means the same thing as that you're faithful to God, you're faithful to whatever occupation you have, no matter what you're doing. You're faithful to your wife, you're faithful to your kids. It's the same thing. It's just that Marines understand that we've got each other's back. As I told you in other discussions, our job, every Marine is a rifleman and every other Marine's focus is on protecting that rifleman, making his job easier, keeping him alive because he is the pointed end of the spear. He is the person that occupies a territory, that closes with the enemy and kills him.

Robert J. Marks:

Okay.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

And so if he knows that all this, we call it a tooth-to-tail ratio, all this tail portion of the other parts of the Marine Corps is aviation, artillery, medical engineering, all this stuff is to support that Marine. When he knows that, he has confidence that if he needs something that you're going to get it to him.

I was a commander of what we call used to call, they've changed the name of it now, but it used to be called the Force Service Support Group. And we have infantry, we have artillery, we have aviation, and we have the logistics. And the Force Service Support Group was all always the logistics portion of the Marine Corps that supplied everything. My challenge to all of my people in the 4th FSSG was to be so in tune with the war fight that what's going on up front lines, that when the commander turns around and says, "I need," he bumps into it regardless of whether it's ammo, food, water, whatever.

Robert J. Marks:

That sounds like the Boy Scout model, be prepared.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

Well, it's more than being prepared.

Robert J. Marks:

Okay.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

It's being prepared to support that Marine.

Robert J. Marks:

Gotcha.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

Because that's the most important part of the Marine Corps is that guy with the M1, actually M4 now, rifle. And there's some controversy about that, of course, in the Corps about killing power. And just a quick little review about that. I may have the numbers not exactly correct, but in World War II, when they had the M1, the kill to bullet ratio was about one to seven. You shot seven bullets and one enemy died. When it got to Korea, they went to about one to about, and don't hold me with these numbers, but 35 or 40.

Robert J. Marks:

Okay. Was that because the North Koreans were on dope or tied up or something?

Bobby Hollingsworth:

No, it has to do with the skills and capabilities of the weapons.

Robert J. Marks:

Oh, really? Okay. Oh, of the weapon.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

Yeah.

Robert J. Marks:

Okay.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

And the skill set. First of all, it has to do with a caliber of the weapon. When you shoot a guy with a 7.62, he's probably going to be out of the fight. When you shoot him with a 223, he may not be out of the fight.

Robert J. Marks:

I see.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

He's wounded

Robert J. Marks:

Not taken out.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

That's right. Wounded rather than killed.

Robert J. Marks:

Right.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

And in Vietnam, this is astounding, about one to 200,000. For every round that we shot, only about one person got killed on the bad guy's side.

Robert J. Marks:

Okay.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

And that's because you had weapons, one, that were not as powerful with enough kill power, and then you had automatic weapons. And boy does that increase your logistics requirements.

Robert J. Marks:

It really does, yeah.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

And it also has to do with discipline. You see in film clips sometimes a guy shooting over berms, holding the rifle up above their head without aiming. It's like the gangbangers that come up and they turn their firearm 90 degrees. Just stupid.

Robert J. Marks:

Yeah.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

That's all about discipline. And Marines, I've very rarely seen that happen with Marines because we don't teach our kids to do that.

Robert J. Marks:

Okay.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

We teach our kids that when you put a round down range, you better have somebody in your target that's going to die. That's the importance of all this stuff. That's what war's about. And that's one of the things that we need to refocus on is teaching American citizens what war is all about.

Robert J. Marks:

What war is about, yeah.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

It's about winning and winning decisively and protecting our troops as much as you can so that we don't lose many of our troops.

Robert J. Marks:

That's right. And one of the things that we do in order to make sure that we have enough war fighters is have the reserve. Now, after you retired from the Marines, you went to work at the Pentagon, I believe. Is that right?

Bobby Hollingsworth:

That's correct.

Robert J. Marks:

And you went to work at the Pentagon and you were the advocate for reservists. Tell us what you did there. I think this is fascinating.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

Yeah. They call it the employer support of the Guard and Reserve. That's a DoD function that falls under the manpower section of the Pentagon. That our job is twofold, actually. One, it's to enforce or inform and educate the Guard Reservist about the Uniform Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, commonly known as USERA. If you go into almost any business in the country, you go look on their bulletin board wall and there's going to be a copy of USERA on the wall because it's applicable to employers, because employers must treat those troops like they never left. They can't

Robert J. Marks:

So if I have a job and I'm called up for the Reserves, and if I'm an employer, it means I have to take that Reservist back when he's done. Is that right?

Bobby Hollingsworth:

And nobody can be promoted over him or anything. He has to come back at equal or better than.

Robert J. Marks:

And that's United States Law.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

Right. That's USERA.

Robert J. Marks:

USERA. Okay. What was the acronym for, USERA?

Bobby Hollingsworth:

Uniform Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

Robert J. Marks:

Okay. So I'm an employer. I'm thinking, "Oh my gosh, you're putting a bump in the road for my business. I'm really not going to do well. I really need this guy, but he's going into the Reserve to serve his country, but that doesn't help me at all." But the law says that you have to take him back. Right?

Bobby Hollingsworth:

That's correct.

Robert J. Marks:

I imagine there's a lot of headaches about this, but I think your job, your job was mitigating this. Right?

Bobby Hollingsworth:

To make it as least harmful to both sides as we possibly could. And so it was an educational process. First, we had to make sure that the employers knew about USERA. And then we had to convince employers how important it was for them to hire Guard Reservists because of what they brought to their skill sets.

Robert J. Marks:

Oh, okay.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

Military people bring discipline. They're on time when they come to work. They learn. They know how to improve themselves. They're motivated. That's what the military does for the mindset.

Robert J. Marks:

Yeah.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

And so we convince the employers just how important it is for them to have Guard Reservists on their staff because they're going to have a better product as an employee. So now vice versa. What also I had to deal with was, and we changed the concept of the Reservists over the last 20 years. Now we call it an Operational Reserve. Used to be the Reserve was just the people that would drill on a weekend a month, and then they'd go on two weeks training every year, and that was it. It was fairly cut and dry and it was predictable.

Suddenly, when we started using the Guard as an Operational Reserve, we did that because one, we had a better asset, because now in the Guard Reserve we were getting better equipment. The government was providing us with updated equipment. Now some of this equipment was more sophisticated, so we had to keep them on active duty a little bit more so that they could do that.

Then when we started using them in the wars, then there had to be more of a unit cohesion, not only with themselves, but they had to be able to integrate with other units to provide the total package of war fighting. So that took more training, and so we started having to spend more time on active duty, not just the two days a weekend and then a two week in the summer. Then we started deploying them all the time.

All right. Now what that did, a company like Boeing or any big company that may have hundreds of Reserves that work for them, if you take 30 of them out of the package, it's not a big deal. But when you got Joe's Garage down here, he's got three mechanics.

Robert J. Marks:

Exactly.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

You take one of them, that's a third of his thing].

Robert J. Marks:

Exactly.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

So now the way we were doing it when we first started, this whole concept of using the Reserves as an Operational Reserve. The guys had come to drill and then the next day they were told, "You're going to be called active duty and you're going to be gone until we tell you you're not."

Robert J. Marks:

Yeah.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

Okay. So that left the employer hanging. They couldn't plan their manpower requirements to do what they needed to do to keep their business going. So I had to do a lot of education and a lot of discussion and begging and pleading with the military part to say, "Don't do that to the employers. Use a little bit more planning so that they can plan." Because this is a one team, one fight operation. We got to be in this together because what they bring to the country is important to the country. What you allow them to do and to come back, it's important to them as individuals. So let's work together to make sure that we have as smooth a transition going and in coming so that you don't-

Robert J. Marks:

And that's what you did at the Pentagon?

Bobby Hollingsworth:

That's right. Our organization was all over the country. We had 50 organizational Guard Reserve units all over the country, and in the four trust territories, Guam, Samoa, Puerto Rico. And so my job was to make sure that all of our people knew what they were doing because part of that was we called them Ombudsman. We talked about before if there was an issue, we had people that were experts. We called them Ombudsman, and they would go and talk the legalese stuff to the people.

Now, in order to accommodate and make the employers understand how important it was to their organization to have a Guard Reservist in their organization, we would take these bosses out wherever these guys were on deployment and we'd let them see what they're bringing to the country, and also based on what they do, the dangerous situations that they're in, the thinking that they have to do, the planning that they have to do, it adds value to their organization when they get back into the organization.

Robert J. Marks:

Yeah. I want to follow up on that. One of the things that the military does, especially the Marines, is they take, I think it was in the movie Paper Chase, where the professor came in and says, "I'm going to take your skulls full of mush and I'm going to develop it into a legal eagle sort of thing." You take young men and you kind of get rid of the bad part and make them truly men. And this is one of the reasons that Reservists are such good employees is because they've gone through this process.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

That's correct.

Robert J. Marks:

But you also have a thought of applying this to maybe the youth of our country. Could you talk about that a little bit?

Bobby Hollingsworth:

Sure. Let's just go back for just a second about that whole concept of what we do in the military. It's not just the Marines. I think we in the Marines, we're noted for being a little bit more disciplinarian than the other services. We don't have as many amenities for our troops. The Air Force lives in real nice BOQs with golf courses. And I'm not degrading now. I'm just saying this is the way it is. This is a reality. The Marines were living in pup tents, and I'll give you an example.

When I was in Vietnam, I was living in a tent and we were eating C rations. And one of my friends that was a Thud driver, a 105 driver, he was an electrical engineer buddy of mine from LSU as a matter of fact. He was flying in the Air Force flying the F-105. And I went over to Koh Kret, Thailand to visit him one time when I was in Vietnam. And here guy was living in a house that was air-conditioned. He had individual rooms in each house with a common living area that had a kitchen and all this stuff, and they had maids and stuff that prepared all their food, cleaned all their stuff.

Robert J. Marks:

Must be nice, yeah.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

That's good on him. Okay? But I'm a Marine, I expect to live in the mud. I know it's a dollar thing. It's where you spend your dollars. But the real dramatic part of the thing was he was getting substandard housing pay and I wasn't getting anything except wet in a tent, and muddy.

Robert J. Marks:

And muddy.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

And muddy. But I'm not downplaying the roles of anybody else in their role. It is just we do different.

Robert J. Marks:

Everybody's different.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

We have different missions and we treat our people different. And we found that in the Marine Corps that it's very, very important that the first thing that happens when a guy or girl gets to boot camp is we take the "me" out of them.

Robert J. Marks:

Yes.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

We become a unit.

Robert J. Marks:

Yes. That's the reason you shave their heads and they all look the same.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

Exactly right.

Robert J. Marks:

One of the reasons.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

That's exactly right. And so we want people to leave "me" on the beach because everything else, the focus is on the mission, on taking care of your troops. Because of what we always like to say, and it's not necessarily true always, but we do forced entries into countries. That's what the Marines amphibious landings were all about. In a hostile environment, we hit the beach with a lot of high-speed metal flying around. Because of that, everybody's got to be doing their job. There's no room for slackers.

So when we teach someone to be a Marine, we make them forget about themselves. We make them understand that the Marine Corps and their mission in the Marine Corps is more important than anything else in the world. And as I've talked to you about before, one of the things that I think we don't do well as Christians.

Robert J. Marks:

Just for a background, both Bob and I are followers of Christ. And certainly we want to take some of these things that work well and maybe apply them to kind of a squishy church. Okay, go ahead.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

Yeah. And this is my thought process on this whole thing, is that the Marines are so successful in teaching an individual that it is not about himself, it's about country. It's about God and country. And when we as churches have convinced through biblical teachings that someone needs to be a follower of Christ, that me has to go away. And you look at all the tenets of Jesus's teaching, it's all about doing away with me.

Robert J. Marks:

Isn't that true? If you look at the 13th chapter of Corinthians where they talk about love. Love is not about me. It's not about my pleasure. It's not about what I want. It's not just about me. It's actually giving. It's kind of that Semper Fi, be faithful.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

Absolutely.

Robert J. Marks:

Love is being faithful, isn't it?

Bobby Hollingsworth:

Yes.

Robert J. Marks:

Okay.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

And focus on someone else other than yourself.

Robert J. Marks:

Yeah. So how can we help churches today impose that? Not impose, but teach?

Bobby Hollingsworth:

Well, I think we have to take a little bit more serious about what accepting Christ is all about, especially with young kids. And there's some statistic, I can't remember the exact number, but when kids go to college, there's something like 80 plus percent of the kids turn away from Christ.

Robert J. Marks:

Well, they quit going to church.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

Yes.

Robert J. Marks:

That's statistically true.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

Yeah. Now I got some friends of mine that are Muslims. My Muslim friends, when they were nine years old, they were memorizing the Quran and they were required to memorize it. And that used to be the Jewish people did the same thing. It was a Middle Eastern kind of trait. You brought your kids up to memorize scriptures. Now, when you de-emphasize the memorization of scriptures and not put an extremely important part on that, those kids don't get that importance anymore. You got to drive that home. That's something that's not an inherent thought process. You have to be taught how important it is. You have to memorize it, but also understand what it means.

Robert J. Marks:

That's right.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

And that's what churches are about. And that's why we have all these programs. We've got Sunday School. Somebody accepts Christ. We hope that they've learned why they accepted Christ in church. But in Sunday School or in what we used to call Training Union on Sunday night, which they don't do much anymore, but Awana's, any of the other youth programs that they have, are all about teaching these kids about Christ. Part of being a Christian is learning to be obedient, just like in the Marine Corps, any

military. Obedient to God. When you say, "I accept Jesus Christ as my savior," you have committed yourself. You have taken me out of your life and thrown it away and saying, "Jesus is my focus."

Robert J. Marks:

I never thought about that. That's just exactly what the Marine Corps does.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

Right.

Robert J. Marks:

Just what the military does in the boot camp.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

And it seems like such a simple concept that why we haven't as a church started to adopting those procedures so that these kids understand that it's not just a casual commitment to say, "Oh yeah, I believe in Jesus." There's more to it than that. There's a learning process. When you go in the Marine Corps, you're taught these things basically, but we never stop training. And it's expectations of what you need to do to maintain yourself as a Marine.

Now in the Marines, they always say, it's kind of the motto, "It's not given to be a Marine. It's earned." Christ is just the opposite. We don't earn anything. Christ has died for us.

Robert J. Marks:

And we don't deserve it either.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

Well, we don't deserve that, but we have an obligation to be obedient to God, to his commands and to show him that that means something to us. And I think that's a part of the educational process that we don't emphasize enough once someone accepts Christ as their Savior.

Robert J. Marks:

Yeah. Excellent. Excellent.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

I think we as a church need to be more focused on those things. Look at our programs and see we don't want to be imposing too much. We don't want to be pushy with the kids. It's time to be pushy. It's time to be disciplined. You've accepted Christ. Now you have to follow him. And there are certain things that are expected of you because he's given you eternal life. Think about that.

Robert J. Marks:

That's a beautiful parallel. So hopefully that's some of the way that the youth education can refocus, if you will, because I think many of them, and I'm not intimately involved, but the ones I'm familiar with, it's kind of like get together and have a good time.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

Sing some songs. Play some games.

Robert J. Marks:

Yeah, exactly. Exactly.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

It's way more serious than that. And that's what we have to do, is make people understand. And that's not just young kids, but other people that accept Christ at a later stage of their life.

Robert J. Marks:

Exactly.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

It's not a casual thing. It's not just going to church. That doesn't make you any better.

Robert J. Marks:

No.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

It perhaps will help you to be better, but we got to remember that the gospel is not something we go to church to learn. It's something that we go away from the church to teach. Okay?

Robert J. Marks:

Yep. That's wonderful. Well, I want to end up with a story that you related to me, which I think was really fascinating, and that was at the Pentagon, your battle with having, was it a Bible study? Tell us about that.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

Well, it was always, anytime I was in command of anything, I could set the rules. And I learned this from one of the good friends of mine who later became a commandant when I was under his command while he was out in the Pacific. His name was Chuck Krulane. And Chuck always made available an opportunity each morning to get together before working hours in a way that we could get together, study the Bible and pray. And I just thought that was a fantastic idea. So I put that in my little book of repertoire, that when I'm in command, that's what I'm going to do.

And so I did that. And while I was at the Pentagon, every morning before work, work started normally at 7:30, but 7:00 every morning before hours, no requirements, no invites, no insistence on anybody doing this stuff. This is of your own volition, you're welcome to come to Bible study. And the next thing I know, I'm getting hollered at saying, "You can't do that. This is government property and you're trying to intimidate other people." Au contraire, sir, we're not, all we're doing is providing an opportunity outside of working hours for people to express their love for Christ. And they shut me down.

Robert J. Marks:

They did.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

They did. And God bless him, one of the guys that wasn't even a member of our Bible study that came all the time, he happened to be a member of a Methodist church that was about two blocks from where our office was here. And as soon as he found out that we got shut down, he went to the church and talked to the pastor, and then we started having our Bible studies in the church just down the street.

Robert J. Marks:

And that was close to the Pentagon?

Bobby Hollingsworth:

Yes. Well, see the Pentagon, it's a five-sided building, but there are other buildings all around that house people, because the Pentagon's not big enough for all these entities. And so they got government buildings all over the city there. And I was in one of those buildings. It was a few blocks from the Pentagon. So anyway, long story short, what I did was I went back to my boss. Well, he called me in and told me I couldn't do it anymore. And I told him, "Respectfully, sir, that's not true." I went and got all the regulations and showed him that we were in compliance with all of the DoD regulations, but somebody had complained. And so somebody complained and said I was forcing, I was intimidating them because I was having this Bible study.

Robert J. Marks:

Oh, you hurt their feelings.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

I hurt their feeling because it wasn't an inclusive operation. It had nothing to do with what we were doing as a unit. And so after I broke out all the regulations and stuff and showed him that it wasn't true, that there was no regulation that prohibited that in that aspect. Then after taking it up the chain of command quite a ways, I had to go all the way to the Secretary of Defense.

Robert J. Marks:

Really? Secretary? Who was the Secretary of Defense then. Do you remember? Okay, I don't either. He's probably the same one that spoke on your C-SPAN video. Bob's on a C-SPAN video where he was talking about helping the reservists and they had a top guy there, and I can't remember his name either. So. Donald Rumsfeld.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

Donald Rumsfeld.

Robert J. Marks:

Donald Rumsfeld. That was the guy that spoke when you spoke about the reservists, that was on the C-SPAN video, right? Donald Rumsfeld. Okay. So finally it float.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

I worked with him fairly closely. He was pretty supportive of our organization,

Robert J. Marks:

And so Rumsfeld said it was okay for you to have a Bible study. Is that right?

Bobby Hollingsworth:

After we went through all the attorneys and attorneys gave him all the information. It wasn't illegal.

Robert J. Marks:

Good for Donald Rumsfeld. That's great, that's great.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

But a few weeks later, the next thing I know, I get Intel from the White House, that somebody had gone to Office of Personnel Management and tried to get rid of me.

Robert J. Marks:

Really? Because of your faith?

Bobby Hollingsworth:

Well, because of me doing, not being obedient.

Robert J. Marks:

Being obedient. Who was president at the time, if I could ask?

Bobby Hollingsworth:

President Bush. Bush 2.

Robert J. Marks:

That surprised me because he was a man of faith, I believe. So that was kind of interesting.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

And he's the one appointed me to the position. So I had top cover over at the White House.

Robert J. Marks:

What a joy. God bless you for doing that, man. It's a rough battle, but it's a battle worth fighting and it's something better than not doing anything at all, which would've been the easy thing to do, which is I think the trek that most people would take.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

But again, what I was so impressed with was people that weren't even attending of that had gone to bat and just made arrangements for us to continue to do it in a church just down the street, which I thought was great. That was great.

Robert J. Marks:

Well, thank you, Bob. This has been a wonderful set of three talks to you. We've been talking to Major General Bobby Hollingsworth, United States Marines, about his life, his work as a fighter pilot, his work in the Pentagon, and what a full life you've led, Bob.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

It's been a blessing, and I tell you what, I guess you should always, when you're saying I was major general, I should always say I'm retired because I don't represent the government or anything like that.

Robert J. Marks:

Oh, okay. I'm sorry. I did not say that, and I meant to say that.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

These are all my opinions.

Robert J. Marks:

Okay. These are all your opinions. By the way, we have a follow-up after the podcast, says the opinions are belonging to the person who expressed them. So certainly we have that covered. Okay, thank you, Bob.

Bobby Hollingsworth:

God bless you.

Robert J. Marks:

So until next time on Mind Matters News, be of good cheer.

Announcer:

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