

# PASS IN REVIEW

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JAN. FEB. MAR. 2013



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Front cover: "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band performs during the inaugural ceremony of Harry S. Truman, Jan. 20, 1949. Photo courtesy of U.S. Marine Band.

Back cover: Cpl. Patrick Gabriel, a fiscal clerk at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., is observed during Ceremonial Drill School, Mar. 8. Photo by Lance Cpl. Larry Babilya.

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Commanding Officer: Col. Christian G. Cabaniss  
Sergeant Major: Sgt. Maj. Eric J. Stockton  
Public Affairs Officer: Capt. John D. Norton  
Public Affairs Chief: Gunnery Sgt. Ryan S. Scranton  
Editor: Sgt. Dengrier M. Baez  
Staff Writers: Cpl. Mondo Lescaud  
Lance Cpl. Larry Babilya  
Lance Cpl. Dan Hosack

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## Our Sisters in the Corps

STORY BY SGT. DENGRIER BAEZ



In early March, a group of female Marines from the Barracks were invited to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., to help celebrate the accomplishments of women Marines throughout the Corps' history. The timing was fitting; this year will mark the 95th anniversary of the first enlisted female Marine, Opha May Johnson. She joined the Marine Corps reserve in 1918 blazing a path for more than 300 other women who would follow her lead the same year. Nearly a century ago, their mission was limited, but nonetheless very important. These women were called to perform clerical duties freeing up male Marines to serve on the front lines of World War I.

It would take 20 years and another world war before women Marines would reach their next historical milestone. Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941 compelled the Corps to establish the Marine Corps Women's Reserves in July 1942. This group again, was called upon primarily to provide women for duty in the U.S., releasing their male counterparts for combat duty. At the onset of the Second World War women in uniform were an anomaly, but by the time German and Japanese troops had surrendered in 1945, 85 percent of the enlisted personnel assigned to Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps were women. Their contributions

during this time had a tremendous impact on the Corps, but they still were not fully recognized as Marines. Five years later Congress passed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act in February 1948 making women a permanent fixture in the Marine Corps with hundreds of women Marines lining up to join the active ranks. Since then, women Marines have become an integral part of our Corps, serving in Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm and Desert Shield, and most recently in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Today, the thought of a women enlisting in the Corps, serving on a Marine Expeditionary Unit or even in a combat zone is common.

But recently, in an effort to eliminate any regulations that may restrict the service of its female members, the Department of Defense lifted the "direct combat, exclusion rule." Prior to that, women were serving in more than 90 percent of all occupational specialties and 62 percent of billets. That representation is impressive for a group that only constitutes roughly seven percent of the total end strength of the Corps.

Since the announcement, I've noticed this issue has caused a bit of consternation for some people. It seems that everyone I have talked to has had an opinion on the matter, but I've encountered very few informed opinions. With that in mind I sat down to look at the Corps' plan to tackle this issue and it seems to

make sense. Throughout 2012 the Marine Corps conducted research and reviewed its policies on the issue in order to report their recommendations to the Secretary of Defense. The recent policy change was a result of those recommendations. By May of this year, the Corps will submit to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel a plan to implement the recent policy change. To determine how to best carry out the policy, this summer, the Corps plans to begin validating performance standards for certain occupational specialties by putting approximately 800 male and female Marines through a series of physically demanding tasks and then analyzing the results. By December it will finalize a list of predictive physical tests for certain occupational specialties based on the research conducted.

What I found encouraging is that the Corps is taking a deliberate, measured and responsible approach to putting this change into effect and the commandant has made it clear that he is dedicated to safeguarding combat readiness with no interest in lowering our standards. But there is still a lot of work ahead for the Corps and what this all means in terms of how and where women Marines will serve in the future is still undetermined. But regardless of the outcome of this latest historical milestone it is clear that our sisters in the Corps will continue to honor our legacy in the future just as they have in the past.



ENTERTAINMENT

DINING

HISTORY



## Pentagon City Mall

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. DAN HOSACK

There is no shortage of shopping opportunities in the Washington, D.C. area, especially for Marines stationed at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C. In fact, there are so many stores in the area it overwhelms me at times. It may be nearly impossible to be familiar with every store in D.C., but there is a place that may satisfy most of your needs.

Just across the Potomac River in Arlington, Va., is a plethora of recreational and shopping venues. In the midst of it is the Pentagon City Mall, deriving its name from the five-sided building that is the headquarters of our military. With over 130 stores and restaurants, the mall focuses on fashion, home furnishings and specialty shops. Also, the bottom level contains a food court with just about every kind of food you can imagine.

You could start out looking for something nice to wear out on the town this weekend. There are a lot of nice stores for clothing, jewelry and shoes. Most of the large department stores and boutique shops were quite higher-end, but didn't meet my taste. However, it was not difficult to find a high-quality pair of dress shoes at a reasonable price. My purchase was made easy by the more than 40 mall stores that sell shoes.

Then I moved to the top floor to check out my favorite nutrition store to see if I was missing any new supplements. They seemed to be well stocked with everything from vitamins to protein powders and the employees were knowledgeable about all the products they sold.

I was feeling a little hungry near the end of my trip and decided to get something to eat at the mall's large food court. It featured foods from different cultures including Cajun, Asian, Mexican, and good ole' American. Some of the restaurants had vendors handing out free samples to people passing by. I stopped to try a piece of teriyaki chicken from a Japanese restaurant and decided to get a main course of it with a side of fried rice. It was amazing.

A bowl of ice cream for dessert complimented my meal nicely and left me very satisfied. The ice cream was a bit expensive, but was

worth every penny.

For the recreational smokers I recommend the mall's tobacco shop. This little nook filled with fine cigars emitting their heavenly smells can be easily found by looking for a wood Native-American statue standing watch at the door.

The only drawback to my experience was that I found most shops were geared toward contemporary urban style which leaves few options for guys like me seeking the rugged apparel I usually wear. Also, the crowds can become overwhelming, especially on the weekends.

On the upside, the mall does have four stories and a lot of stores, so everyone can find something that interest them and the mall is very well maintained which makes for a pleasant shopping experience.

In reality, the places to shop in D.C. are endless. Everything imaginable can be found somewhere around here. Fortunately, if the latest style is your goal, or you need a nice gift for someone special, you need to go no further than Pentagon City Mall.

The mall is open Mon. to Sat. from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. and Sun. from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and it's just a short metro ride away from the Barracks.



# *Our Legacy* **BARRACKS MARINES SUPPORT INAUGURATION**

STORY BY SGT. DENGRIER BAEZ



On one of the coldest days in January, nearly a million people from across the country and the globe gathered in Washington D.C., to witness the second inauguration of the U.S.'s first African-American President. While some just watched, a select group of Marines represented the Marine Corps on the front lines of the event.

More than 350 Marines from Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., supported the 57th inauguration of the nation's 44th president providing support to President Barrack Obama's swearing in ceremony and inaugural parade.

Much of the support came from Companies A and B, the Barracks' two ceremonial marching companies. Nearly 30 Marines from Company A supported the event and Company B provided more than 80 Marines during the inaugural celebration.

"I was able to participate in something that not every servicemember gets an opportunity to be in," said Lance Cpl. Tim Parrish Jr., a 21-year-old ceremonial marcher with Company A and a native of



Leesburg, Fla. “As an African-American Marine it was an honor to be part of such an event on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.”

Marching and musical elements of each branch of the armed forces as well as civilian components were featured during the parade, however musical support for the inauguration ceremony itself was provided by the “President’s Own” U.S. Marine Band. The “President’s Own” performed on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol playing Eugene Bagley’s “National Anthem”, “The Star Spangled Banner” and other traditional music both before and after the president’s swearing-in. The band was founded in 1798 and participated in its first inauguration in 1805 when a procession formed at the Washington Navy Yard made up of members of congress, and citizens which then escorted Thomas Jefferson from the Capitol to the White House after his second inauguration. The U.S. Marine Band accompanied the procession providing military music along the way. The band has been a part of every inauguration since.

Following the ceremony, Barracks Marines marched in the inaugural parade. The nearly 1.5 mile route started at Capitol Hill and proceeded down the long stretch of Pennsylvania Avenue passing the Headquarters of the FBI, the Justice Department, the National Archives and the National Gallery of Art before ending at the White House.

In total, the Marines joined 59 other groups comprised of marching bands, mounted units and other cultural organizations. The procession following both the president and vice president and their families after the swearing-in included nearly 9,000 people and more than 200 animals.

A select group of five Marine officers from the “Oldest

Post” were picked to comprise the Marine Corps staff helping form the official presidential escort. Representatives from all five of the U.S. military branches as well as several elected officials and local and national law enforcement organizations were also included. The selected Marine Corps Staff lead the Marine Corps component of the parade comprised of the U.S. Marine Band and Color Guard and an active and reserve company of Marines representing the entire Corps. Each of the groups were proudly on display as they passed the official reviewing stand in front of the White House.

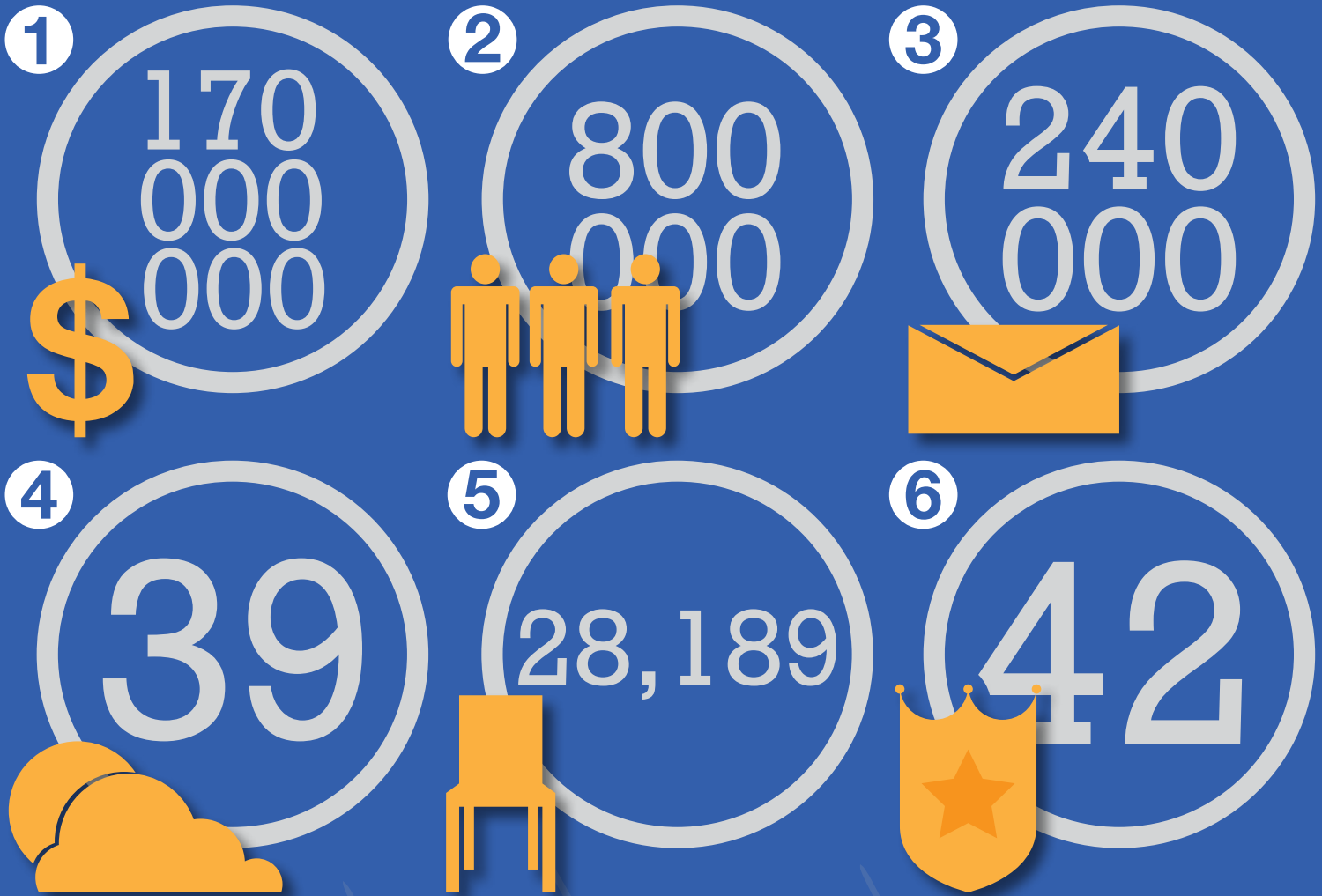
“There were a lot of different parts to the inauguration and I’m very glad to have been a part of the parade staff where we got to really show how much pride we have in our nation as service members and as a citizens,” said Capt. Edward Hubbard a Rye, N.Y. native and member of the Marine Corps Service Staff.

Other support duties were fulfilled by Barracks Marines such as the carrying of the official presidential colors, additionally, Marines from Headquarters & Service Company and Marine Corps Institute Company provided escorting and usher support for special guests.

To close the ceremonies an inaugural ball was held the same night of the event, a tradition that began after the inauguration of James Madison at the Capitol in Washington, D.C. in 1809. Barracks Marines were selected to attend the ball as well.

Armed Forces ceremonial support to the presidential inauguration dates back to April 1798 when members of the Continental Army escorted George Washington to the first presidential swearing-in ceremony at Federal Hall in New York City.

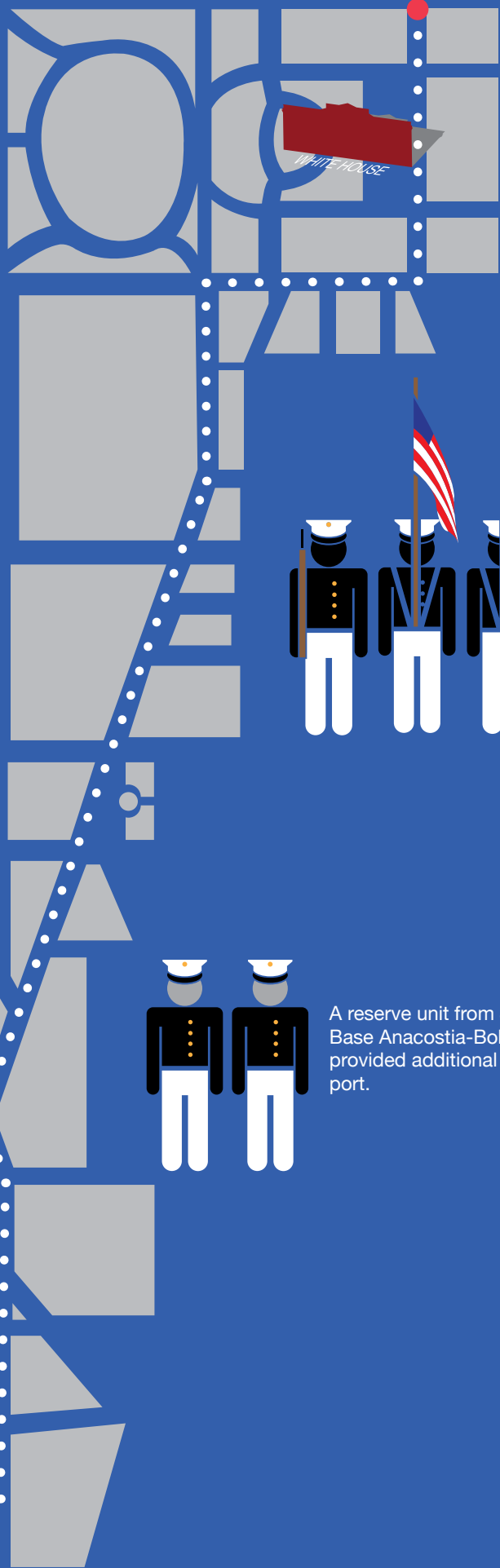
## THE INAUGURATION: FUN FACTS



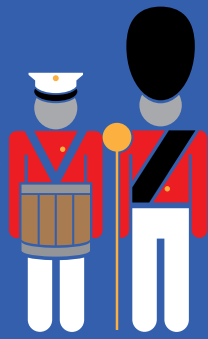
- 1 The inauguration cost an estimated \$170 million.
- 2 An estimated 800,000 people were in attendance.
- 3 240,000 inaugural tickets were handed out.
- 4 The temperature during the inauguration was 39 degrees.
- 5 There were 28,189 seats along the Inaugural parade route.
- 6 42 federal agencies worked together to provide security.



A marching parade staff consisting of Col. Christian G. Cabaniss, Maj. Brent Hampton, Capt. Ashley Moore, Capt. David Bouchard and Capt. Edward Hubbard led the Marines in the inaugural parade.



The U.S. Marine Band marched behind the parade staff, playing "Semper Parvum" and the Marines' Hymn.



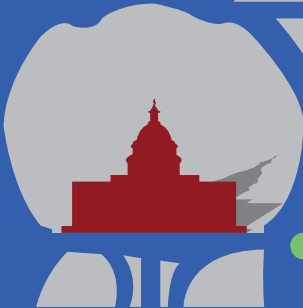
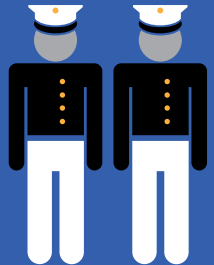
The Marine Corps Color Guard performed, bearing the national ensign and official battle color of the Marine Corps.



Approximately 100 Marines from Companies A and B supported the event.



A reserve unit from Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling provided additional support.



# VOICE CARRIES FATE FOR MILES

STORY AND PHOTO BY CPL. MONDO LESCAUD



**F**ateful, one of the many ways to describe Staff Sgt. Joshua Miles' adventurous journey through polar sides of the U.S. Marine Corps.

It started out normal, or just as normal as a young man's life could be while entering into the Marine Corps as an infantryman on Sept. 11, 2001.

When the young man with a humble upbringing in Colorado touched down at the airport near Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, he was informed of the terrorist attack. The news would serve as fuel for the next three months of training.

Miles was then selected to go to a Marine Corps Security Forces unit after completing training at the School of Infantry-West, and shortly thereafter, was sent to 7th Platoon, 2nd Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team Company where he eventually became a squad leader.

There, he trained and deployed, made and lost good friends and had his first of two children, a baby daughter he and his wife Cyndi named Brianna. This was Miles' life as a corporal, and in many respects, that hasn't changed much for Miles who is now the marketing and public relations chief of the U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps.

"When I was deployed to Haiti during Operation Secure Tomorrow, that was the first time I felt like I left my mark on the Corps," said Miles. "And that was my third of seven deployments."

Less than three months after the return from the deployment to Haiti with FAST Co. in 2004, Miles was sent to Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment. As an infantry squad leader with the "Dark Horse" battalion, Miles deployed to Iraq and would eventually end up helping clear the town of Fallujah from the grip of an insurgency during Operation Phantom Fury.

"Fallujah was definitely a defining moment of my career," said Miles. "A lot of Marines go through their whole career without being involved in such an epic, intense battle like that, and trust me, there's nothing quite like leading Marines through Fallujah."

After returning home from deployment, Miles went back to

where he learned his basic warrior skills, the School of Infantry-West, to be a combat instructor.

Miles continued to leave his mark on the Corps' rich history by teaching new Marines the in's and out's of modern warfare while blending the course curriculum and his own experiences.

After more than 80 waves of Marines came into the SOI as basically trained warriors and left as educated students of the war, thanks in part to Miles, he made his way to the final part of his journey as a combat instructor.

Tapping into skills honed while working in radio prior to the Corps, Miles began narrating ceremonies for the graduating infantrymen. As the school's leadership caught wind of Miles' boisterous voice he was offered to narrate other battalion and school-level events.

"We were at SOI, just about to perform a Battle Color Ceremony, when I first heard it," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Kevin D. Buckles, U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps drum major, referring to Miles' voice over the loudspeaker. "Right then and there, I said, 'Who is that? And where is he?'"

Buckles enthusiastically went on to explain how Miles' voice made such an impact on that fateful ceremony and the D&B staff, that he full-heartedly pushed for the salty announcer to become a permanent fixture in the D&B. Buckles said he couldn't even imagine anyone else narrating the unit's performances now.

Since then, approximately four years ago, Miles has planted his roots at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., and has made his mark on the present and future Battle Color Detachment ceremonies, as the detachment's leaders now consider him "an integral part of the performance".

However Miles brings more than just a voice to the table, he handles much of the unit's marketing and publicity matters, physically trains the unit's Marines for annual qualifications, and readily offers himself to any and all forms of mentorship.

Every morning, Marines who want to improve their physical fitness greet the slightly hunched and hardened Miles on the field. And every morning, a man with a heart filled with passion, deteriorated knees and an overly worked lower back leads the way setting the physical standard.

The heavy loads he's carried on his back and the heavy workload he now carries on his shoulders don't stop Miles from doing what he loves, intense Crossfit workouts, supporting his family, and more Crossfit.

"My journey through the Corps and ending up here has been extremely humbling," explained Miles. "No part of it was easy, but I wouldn't have it any other way."

The father of two, husband of one, and leader of many said he would love to stay in the unit as long as they are willing to keep him, which will surely be a long time.



Cpl. Joshua Miles, squad leader in 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, Company L, 3rd Platoon, and the rest of his platoon assaulted on the town of Fallujah, Iraq, during Operation Phantom Fury.



# FROM EAST TO WEST WITH THE BATTLE COLOR DETACHMENT



The Marine Corps Color Guard performs during a Battle Color Ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., March 7.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. DENGRIER BAEZ



Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., is known around the Marine Corps and the world as the hub of ceremonial excellence. Every year, the Barracks brings that excellence to spectators on the West Coast through a series of events.

The Battle Color Detachment, comprised of the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon and Marine Corps Color Guard, completed its tour of the West Coast, March 17.

The tour began in early February and consisted of approximately 15 Battle Color Ceremonies performed in front of more than 40,000 people throughout Arizona and California.

During the shows, the Marines debuted the routines for each unit within the BCD, which were thoroughly rehearsed at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., the previous month.

To achieve the highest level of showmanship, these Marines started practicing before the desert sunrise and finished after dusk.

“Of course it’s hard on you, but it pays off,” said Sgt. Jason Pena, D&B soprano bugler. “I think the training is



The Marine Corps Color Guard performs during a Battle Color Ceremony at MCAS Yuma March 2.



The U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps performs during a Battle Color Ceremony at Kofa High School in Yuma, Ariz., March 7.

# I'm honored to carry the traditions of the past and future.

Lance Cpl. Marco Briceno



Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon members warm up before the start of a Battle Color Ceremony at Arizona Western College in Yuma, Ariz., March 8.

vital to everyone especially the new guys. Overall, it's a great experience."

The BCD units kicked off the tour with a performance at Yuma Air Station followed by a late evening show at Kofa High School located just outside the base. The sizable crowd that developed for the air station performance earlier in the day was dwarfed by the audience at Kofa high school. With stands overflowing at the large high school stadium, it appeared that nearly everyone in the city had come to see the Marines perform.

"The show was just amazing in so many ways," said Sgt. Austin Williams, D&B percussionist. "The airshow in itself means so much to the community, and we just made it that much more important to the people. I can tell everyone appreciated our performance."

The following day, a final performance at the Yuma Airshow capped the BCD's training and exhibitions in Arizona. At the conclusion of their show, the Marines met and greeted the spectators, then packed their bags for California. In California, they spent two weeks visiting local high schools and Marine Corps installations.

Culminating the tour was a final stop at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, Calif., where Marines who live west of the Mississippi River are made. The D&B opened every ceremony with its 2013 Music in Motion routine, which combines musical and marching excellence. The performance features several popular works, such as "The Stars and Stripes Forever" and a "Motown Medley".

Gunnery Sgt. Keith Martinez, D&B assistant drum major, performs during a BCC at MCAS Yuma March 2.

It's been really exciting to wear our uniform and represent all the Marines all over the globe.

Sgt. Courtney Lawrence

The routine also includes “The Legend of Molly Pitcher”, an original composition created by Maj. Brian Dix, the unit’s director and commanding officer.

The crowd showed its appreciation for the elite musical unit at every show with thunderous applause both during and after the Marine’s performances.

“It’s a great feeling to serve your country and have people love you for it,” said Pena. “I especially love the crowds because you can feel their energy. It all makes the show that much better. It’s like permanent home-court advantage, even when we’re away.”

Following the D&B’s performance was the SDP’s. After recently executing Challenge Day, a head-to-head competition to determine which 24 Marines will perform as the Silent Drill Platoon, the Marines introduced their new routine. The drill show featured a dizzying array of maneuvers, rifle spins and tosses, keeping audiences continually gasping, and ending with a standing ovation.

“We practice really hard, pretty much all year-round,” said Cpl. Quinn Kelly, the

SDP drill master. “I really think it’s paying off because we’ve been looking really good on the tour.”

The Marine Corps Color Guard, carrying the national ensign and the official battle color of the Marine Corps, is a staple of the ceremony. The battle color features 54 streamers, representing all the Corps’ awards and campaigns. At the end of each ceremony, the color guard presented the colors from which the ceremony derives its name.

“It’s such an honor to be a part of the Marine Corps Color Guard,” said Lance Cpl. Clayton Caley, the color guard right rifleman. “I love how all the little kids run up to us after the performance and want to take pictures with us too. It shows the effect we have on people.”

Upon completion of its West Coast Tour, the BCD left in its wake thousands of spectators thrilled and filled with patriotic fervor. But the completion of the West Coast Tour is hardly the end for the BCD. The conclusion is merely a springboard for hundreds of more performances throughout the year in the National Capitol Region and beyond.



Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon



Spectators applaud



Drill Platoon members perform during a Battle Color Ceremony at Los Osos High School in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., March 10.



the SDP during a Battle Color Ceremony at Kofa High School March 7.



SDP members perform during a Battle Color Ceremony at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., March 12.

# The BARRACKS' ★★★★NEWEST RESIDENT



General John M. Paxton Jr. is Marine Barracks Washington, D.C.'s newest resident. He joined the Corps' other top generals along the distinguished Barracks Row lining 8th Street after receiving his fourth star and being appointed as the 33rd Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps in mid-December. Although his name graces the newest bronze house placard, the move marked Paxton and his wife's return to the Barracks after more than 30 years.

Paxton first served at the Barracks from 1978-1981. As a captain, the general served in both Companies A and B. During that time, he met and married a nurse who worked at the National Institute of Health. More than three decades later he still calls Debbie his wife. She has deep ties to the Corps, to the military, and currently works as a health advisor with the Wounded Warrior Regiment at Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA. The daughter of a Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, one of eight siblings, and the mother of three children, she's used to the military life and being around service members, said Paxton.

"If you are interacting with Debbie you're definitely getting the better half," said a smiling Paxton. "My wife and I were married while I was stationed here so she's quite familiar with the Barracks, and it holds a warm spot in her heart. She likes living and working here, and loves the Marines."

Having served here for three years, the general is no stranger to the Barracks' Friday night spotlight. During his previous tour he marched as a platoon commander with Company A, as the adjutant and the flank-officer for the parade staff, and as Company B's commander.

"I had great experiences here at the Barracks as a company grade officer more than 30 years ago," said Paxton. "I have a warm spot in my heart for the Barracks Marines, and to be able to live where Marines work and drill and do what Marines do, and to see Marines on a daily basis is a special experience."

Paxton looks back at his Barracks tour as a very special time where he formed bonds with Marines that have lasted a career and created memories that will last a lifetime. Reciting a list of Marines he per-



GEN & MRS.

J. M.

PAXTON





sonally served with at the Barracks is a veritable who's who of the Marine Corps: recently retired Gen. John R. Allen, formerly NATO's commander, International Security Assistance Force, Afghanistan; Lt. Gen. Richard F. Natonski, who retired after nearly 40 years of service; and Stephen Kappas, once the deputy director of the CIA, to name a few. Paxton attributes his long-standing relationship with all of them to the bonds formed here.

"I have fond memories of the Marines I served with; all of them," Paxton said.

He reflects warmly on the history he became a part of as a Barracks Marine, citing Pope John Paul II's trip to the White House, a first for any sitting Pope. Paxton witnessed the event first-hand as a Marine supporting the White House Social Aide Program. He remembers the Barrack's support of President Reagan's first inauguration, as well as a Friday Evening Parade in 1980 where the parade deck's stands overflowed with athletes from that year's U.S. Summer Olympic team who were President Carter's special guests invited to Washington following the Olympic boycott of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

"All of these things stick in your mind as you go along, but it's a snapshot," Paxton said.

Paxton's career extends well beyond his experiences in Southeast D.C. A career Marine infantryman, the general has commanded Marines at every level from the platoon to the Marine Expeditionary Force and has served and commanded in all three active Marine

divisions. His experiences training Marines, deploying with them and overseeing them during operations, has shaped him as a person, as a Marine and has given him a first-hand understanding of how the Corps serves the nation.

"You get a good sense of what our nation expects of her Marines and who we are," said Paxton about his long experience of working with Marines. "You expect a Marine to be always ready and always faithful. We're the nation's 9-1-1 force, ready when the nation is least ready."

He has seen these mottos in action. Since joining the Corps in 1974, there is little that the 61-year-old Paxton hasn't done. He's served in operations, plans and training within Fleet Marine Force units from the battalion to the MEF. He served on recruiting duty, once as a recruiting station commander in New York and again as the commanding general of Western Recruiting Region. Paxton also has six years of joint service, two years in Korea as a major, one year in Iraq with Multi-National Force Iraq in Baghdad, and nearly three years at the Pentagon as the Director, J-5 - Strategic Plans and Policy, and Director, J-3 - Operations.

But what position may prove to be most relevant as the ACMC assists the Commandant with taking on the Corps' most pressing issue, the fiscal austerity brought on by sequestration, is his time spent as the assistant deputy commandant for Programs and Resources. It was there Paxton spent much of his time in the Corps' financial trenches, cutting his fiscal teeth while formulating the Corps' budget-





ary policies and developing the systems and procedures to keep the Corps' financial matters in check.

"Sequestration is our biggest near-term challenge," said Paxton. "It will affect the dollars and cents we have to be ready. We're committed to tell Congress, the president and the American people, not what we can't do when the money dries up, but what we can do."

Instead of focusing on what can't be done, which has dominated the national dialogue about sequestration, Paxton has chosen to focus on articulating the Corps' capabilities going forward once the cuts are enacted. His most recent assignment as the commander of U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command, where much of his focus was on finding the right Marines, bringing them together and synchronizing their deployment to support combatant commanders, makes him well-suited to help make that assessment.

"Our challenge in sequestration is to continue to train as many Marines as we can, as best as we can, so that we have truth in advertising," Paxton said. "We want to make sure that whether we send a battalion and a squadron, or a division and a wing that they are fully trained and fully equipped. So when the balloon goes up, we can say, 'Here's what's on the bench. Here is what is ready to do what the nation needs to do'."

The budgetary challenges are not the only obstacles Paxton said he will help the Commandant and the Corps' other top generals negotiate in the coming year. Paxton describes his role as

the APMC as a coordinator of the Corps' other lieutenant generals (the deputy commandants, MEF commanders and Marine Forces commanders who form what he describes as a pseudo board of directors) teeing up issues for the Commandant to provide guidance on and solutions to the Corps' most pressing challenges. Among those challenges, and a top priority for Paxton, is winning the war in Afghanistan - a war Paxton has been a part of since its inception.

"I was in the building on September 11," Paxton said; his office door was approximately 100 yards from the impact of American Airlines Flight 77.

While Marines are in harm's way or staying ready to go into harm's way, Paxton will focus on improving training for all Marines with a continued focus on improving the education base of every Marine. His agenda also includes taking care of Marines and their families, with a focus on the wounded after more than a decade of combat. "All three of these shape the things I expect to do as assistant commandant," Paxton said.

No matter the challenge inherent in a time of declining budgets and resources, Paxton said his resolve is simple: He is committed to ensuring the Corps will always be a force in readiness and the force of choice when America responds to crisis.

"The Marine Corps was great when I came in, and the Marine Corps is great now," Paxton said. "I want to make sure it is even better when I leave."



Top: Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., Marines stand at attention before sitting down to start a dinner during a mess night ceremony at the Barracks Dec. 13. Bottom: Cpl. Jack Woodworth, Corporal's Course student, brings a jar of juice to the guests of the mess night ceremony at the Barracks Dec. 13.



Photo by Cpl. Mondo Lescaud

# FUTURE OF MARINES FORGED IN

STORY BY CPL. MONDO LESCAUD



The Marine Corps has held true to its standards and traditions for over 230 years, with eagle, globe and anchor-bearing Americans proudly comprising one of the most successful warfighting organizations the world has ever seen.

As with many successful organizations, the passing down of time-proven institutional techniques and knowledge is critical to safeguarding its future. The Corps recognizes this, and implements this passing-of-the-torch process in all of its leadership courses.

The Corporal's Leadership Course is no exception. Its goal of providing fledgling noncommissioned officers with the confidence, knowledge and skills necessary to become successful leaders has been fundamental to the Corps which fosters decision making at the lowest levels.

Recently, Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., held its own Corporal's Course in order to help the young leaders of the "Corps' Oldest Post" transition from subordinates to supervisors. The four-week course coupled vigorous physical training with classroom instruction and hands-on practical application in an effort to build their confidence and give them the tools to be successful small unit leaders.

Each day before sunrise, a select group of Barracks junior NCOs and senior lance corporals were taking on a new challenge with intricate trials and physical tribulations to test their leadership abilities and their basic skills as Marines.

"I usually had everybody on the field, ready to train at 5:30 a.m.," said Cpl. Norman Hill, who was nominated as class president by a students' majority vote. "I always had the Marines where they're supposed to be at least 30 minutes early. Promptness, that was my thing."

An hour of physical training often segued into

several hours of classroom instruction in what the course's students nicknamed the "knowledge box", a small classroom on the second floor of the Company B barracks where more than 50 Marines found themselves spending nearly 80 percent of their time. Much of the classroom instruction focused on mentoring, leadership, Marine Corps history, public speaking and proper uniform maintenance and wear.

"We spent a lot of time in the classroom," said Staff Sgt. Codie Williams, one of six senior NCOs and staff NCOs selected to instruct the annual course. "Effective leadership is rooted in knowledge. Developing that knowledge is, in large part, an academic process that requires a lot of study time and classroom instruction."

The classroom setting also provided opportunities for the students to exchange ideas and experiences. Many of the classes were formatted to encourage interaction and the cross-pollination of ideas. Marines from five of the eight compa-



Top: Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., Marines sit during their Corporal's Course graduation ceremony at the Barracks Dec. 14. Middle: Marines in Corporal's Course stand at attention by the front gate of the Barracks Dec. 4. Bottom: Sgt. Pablo Montoya, Corporal's Course instructor, checks a Marine's uniform during an inspection at the Barracks Dec. 4.

Photo by Cpl. Mondo Lescaud



Photo by Sgt. Dengrier Baez



Photo by Sgt. Dengrier Baez

# THE CORPS

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## CORPORAL'S COURSE

nies at the Barracks participated in the course, providing them with the opportunity to build camaraderie and work closely with Marines from other elements of the Barracks.

“Throughout the course, we held classes that got the students talking to each other, expressing their opinions and sharing their experiences,” said Sgt. Pablo Montoya, course instructor. “This helped the Marines learn about their peers and get fresh perspectives. I also think the exchange of information and ideas helped bring the Barracks’ NCO Corps closer together.”

However, not all of the instruction occurred inside the classroom. The Marines also conducted extensive training in and around the Barracks as well as at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. Close order drill, infantry tactics and weapons handling were also a focus of the course with specific attention being given to land navigation and the basic development of mission planning.

Instructors for the course were all internally

sourced from the Barracks. The local approach facilitated the passing of unit and institutional knowledge down from its current leaders to the Barracks’ future leaders.

“We were facilitators of knowledge and experience,” said Sgt. Dominick Valerio, course instructor. “It was great to be able to pass down things I’ve learned in the Corps and teach these Marines the right way to go about business.”

The extensive course curriculum challenged many of the students to push themselves toward self-improvement. Although the course was challenging, every Marine who attended the course graduated successfully.

“I feel like every single one of us took each challenge by the horns and stepped up to the plate,” said Cpl. Gaige Roberts, the course’s honor graduate. “If you asked me to point out a weak link in the program, I honestly couldn’t do it, and that’s out of more than 50 Marines making up the whole thing.”

Many of the students who participated said the course’s blend of academic testing and practical application helped them develop the skills they will need to live up to the responsibilities that came with their blood stripe.

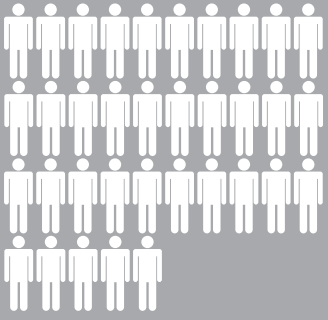
“I learned a lot,” said Roberts. “This course gave me a lot of tools that will help me become a better NCO and a better leader.”

The course was not the first of its kind. The Barracks has conducted several corporal’s courses since the first one in 2010. Additional courses are scheduled for the future to ensure the Barracks maintains its core of competent NCO leadership.

“You can’t underestimate the importance of having capable NCO’s, especially corporals, within the unit,” said Master Sgt. Brad Walker, operations chief for the Barracks. “NCO’s are the backbone of our Corps. Holding these corporal’s courses each year is imperative to ensuring these Marines are receiving the training they need to accomplish the mission here at the Barracks.”

# CORPORALS' COURSE

## MESS NIGHT



A mixture of about 35 Lance Corporals and Corporals attended Mess Night for Corporals Course in December. The Mess Night traditions come from the 4th Marine Regiment, then stationed in Shanghai, China. Marines of the regiment were invited to the mess of the 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards and were so impressed that, soon after, the Corps' first mess night was held in 1928.

The gavel, in possession of the president of the mess, is used to signal the members. Upon three resounding raps the members of the mess must give their attention to the President. Two raps cause the members to rise, standing in place, and one rap is the signal for the members to take their seats.



Port is served from decanters and is passed clockwise from the president and vice president. All toasts are with port except the traditional toast. When all glasses are charged, toasts can begin. After speechmaking, the President typically opens the floor for toasts from the mess.





There are two functional officers of the mess, the President and Vice President. Cpl. Norman Hill was the President and Cpl. Jack Woodworth was the Vice President for Mess Night. They are designated to oversee the planning and execution of the event.



The only significant mess nights during the 19th century, were at the Old Center House at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C. The Evening Star of Washington in February 1908, printed a photograph of the Old Center House captioned: "Tales are told of nights of revelry, when the wine flowed and souls of great men, freed from the cares of state, allowed their wit and spirit to soar unhampered while gracing the Officer's Mess beneath the beams of the old house."



When the President raps the gavel three times and announces the floor will be open for fines, members of the mess have the opportunity to levy charges on anyone in the Mess except for the members of the head table. If found guilty, the accused may be sentenced to drink from the grog, which can contain a daunting mixture of ingredients.





# LOCKED AND LOADED



STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. DAN HOSACK



Practice is a touchstone of what makes America's Marines the world's finest fighting force. Staying true to this philosophy, Guard Company Marines sharpen their skills utilizing ranges tailor-made for their distinct mission. Charged with protecting the Corps' oldest post and its top generals who live here the Company is laser-focused on living up to the task.

In late January, Guard Company conducted a training exercise at a live-fire range at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., to stay ready for their unique mission.

The Marines utilized standard weapons in their inventory, the M4 carbine, M9 pistol and M1014 shotgun, incorporating them into a five-phase course of fire that blended physical challenges, marksmanship fundamentals and their ability to communicate. The training also centered around engaging shorter-range targets, a nod to the reality of protecting a facility and personnel located in the heart of the nation's capital.

"We try to keep our training as real as possible and ensure that we are training for the environment in which we are most likely called to act," said Staff Sgt. Zachary E. Rubart, Guard Company platoon commander. "There is no stand-off distance between the Marine's posts and the city streets. That means that most likely our target engagement is going to be from shorter distances and most likely right here in the city. So every Marine standing post needs to be adept with their weapons, to be aware of their surroundings and to use good judgment."

The first three phases of the training tested the Marines concentration, communication and capacity to maneuver and overcome the often cumbersome mechanics of wearing full battle gear. Throughout the three phases the Marines were challenged to quickly move toward and engage multiple targets. The training also had the Marines engage them with multiple weapons transferring between their carbines and their pistols while simultaneously talking with one another during their movement and while reloading.

"The first three courses of fire really tested our ability to communicate and to have situational awareness," said Cpl. Allan Spencer, a Guard Co. noncommissioned officer. "We are all very familiar with the weapons systems and the fundamentals of marksmanship and how to move, but the first three phases tied everything together and also focused our efforts on working with each other."

The final two phases of the training incorporated all the components of the previous phases while also testing their ability to quickly identify threats and operate under physical duress.

"The Marines that stand post here at the Barracks need to be ready for any potential threat," Rubart said. "A shootout at the front gate, on 9th Street or any of the posts is a real and potential risk and although we hope that it never happens, we need to be ready for it if it does. This training is just another step toward ensuring that we are prepared."

Before even touching a weapon during the fourth phase, the Marines completed a battery of exercises including kettle bell swings, push-ups and burpees to elevate their heart rate and cause muscle fatigue. The Marines then had to quickly move toward their targets and engage them with multiple weapons. Finally, the fifth phase required the Marines to maneuver toward and shoot multiple targets with multiple weapons.

"The last two phases were challenging and forced me to try to slow my breathing and be very deliberate about everything I was doing," said Lance Cpl. Kevin Frazier, a Guard Co. Marine. "I felt like the two phases really helped simulate a real-life situation."

In addition to sharpening their skills, the day's training offered a much welcomed break to many of the Marines who frequently stand post for sometimes up to 12 hours. The escape to the open expanses of Quantico's wooded ranges and away from the cities crowded sights and sounds also provided a respite for many of the Marines.

"It was great to get out here and get away from the city to do this training," said Frazier. "It helped us improve our skills and at the same time gave us all a break from some of the monotony of standing post. We train a lot, but it's always refreshing to get out here. It helps us stay focused."





# Around the Barracks



# TACTICAL Practical

## TIME IS TICKING: GETTING THE RIGHT WATCH FOR YOU

STORY BY PFC. DAN HOSACK



A good watch is a critical piece of gear. The kind of watch you need will depend on the type of person you are.

To figure this out, you'll need to consider the places you expect to go, the things you expect to do and how deep you're willing to dig into your pocket when making your purchase. Your best choice will be the one that provides the best features at a price that won't break the bank.

Long gone are the days of the pocket watch. Wrist watches have been in fashion for some time now so fortunately there are a large number of watch manufacturers out there staying on the cutting edge of technology and fashion. Finding a watch today that is well-suited in any situation be it tactical or casual should not be a problem. Many of the more popular lines, which can be purchased in most large retail stores are out-of-the-box ready and come in a variety of makes, models, and colors providing nearly endless options to suit your lifestyle and preferred price point.

There is a huge market for inexpensive durable watches designed for training. A quick internet search for "training watch" will yield hundreds of suggestions for time-pieces designed for the most intense physical workout, the harshest environments and just relaxing too. Some even have the capability to monitor your heart rate or the pace of your run, all features you may find enticing if you're concerned with tracking your workouts. Most are relatively inexpensive and have an unassuming look making them perfect for wearing anywhere.

When purchasing a watch some factors to consider are durability, style and comfort. My current watch works for me in all three categories. It's produced by a well-known brand name watch manufacturer and only set me back \$40. My ticker has suffered scratches on the lens and bezel ring, and still functions like it's brand new. Also, during a training session, I popped a pin out that holds the watch to the wristband and got it fixed for a modest price.

If you're willing to spend a little extra, a good choice may be one of the numerous watches that now offer more advanced features. I found a number of watches that were both sleek and stylish that also offered an altimeter, barometer and even a dual time function. A little



more than a year ago, I purchased a high-end watch that had all the bells and whistles mentioned above, it's stylish and classy, but is rugged enough where I'm not afraid to get down and dirty when wearing it. I found this watch in black, which goes well with almost any type of apparel. The watch also comes with a user-changeable battery and it included a comfortable chest strap and monitor for its heart-rate monitoring feature.

The watch has been is great for its ruggedness, appearance and comfort, but I definitely paid for its features. I paid more than \$500 for the watch a year ago, but have found several comparable models recently for under \$300.

Too many Marines don't care about what they wear on their wrist even though their watch can say a lot about who they are as a person. As a result, many are not willing to open their pocket books and invest in the right watch. Among the huge selection of watches out there, there is one that matches you and your lifestyle, so why wait to buy one of the most critical accessories a Marine can have. Time is ticking.





PFC. CORTLANDT HARRIS, MARINE CORPS SILENT DRILL PLATOON MEMBER, STANDS AT THE POSITION OF CEREMONIAL AT-EASE DURING CHALLENGE DAY AT MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA, ARIZ., FEB. 21. THE SDP RECENTLY COMPLETED THE BATTLE COLOR DETACHMENT'S WEST COAST TOUR. DURING THE TOUR THE BCD PERFORMED AT EVERY MAJOR MARINE CORPS INSTALLATION ON THE WEST COAST

