PASS IN REVIEW

OV.DEC 2013

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A TIMELESS TRIBUTE



GEARING UP



THE DOVER TEAM



Front cover: During the month of December, Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., erected a holiday tree on Centerwalk. The tree was there throughout the winter holiday season.

Back cover:

Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, attaches a Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation streamer to Marine Barracks Washington, D.C. battle colors during a unit award presentation at the Barracks Nov. 22.

Pass in Review is published quarterly by the Public Affairs Office, Marine Barracks Washington, 8th and I Sts. S.E., Washington, D.C., 20390-5000. The Secretary of the Navy has determined that this publication is necessary in the transaction of business, required by law, of the Department of the Navy. Funds for printing this publication have been approved by the Navy Publications and Printing Policy Committee.

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Every November, the Barracks has the honor of celebrating the Corps' birthday and remembering those who paved the way for all Marines and all who will one day hold the title.



The Battle Color Detachment at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., is preparing for another year of showcasing music and marching excellence across the country.



Marines who've fallen in operations overseas are welcomed back by a select group from Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., known as the Dover Team.

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Getting Out? Read This.

STORY BY CPL. MONDO LESCAUD

The best and easiest way to **L** transition out of the Marine Corps is to have a plan for your future. The Transition Readiness Seminar, along with the new addition of the Capstone program, offers a variety of post-military transition options, including employment, career/technical, college/university education, and entrepreneurship workshops. The employment workshop is mandatory for any Marine who's separating, and the others are voluntary.

"We need to take advantage of the opportunities that are afforded to us," said Gunnery Sgt. Rachel Pereira, Marine Barracks Washington, D.C. career planner. "The idea [behind TRS] is to return to the civilian sector with an understanding of the benefits that you've earned while serving your country. And no one cares about your future more than you, right?" According to Victor Johnson, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall TRS program

specialist, the seminar has two major components: preseparation counseling and pathway workshops.

The pre-separation counseling portion usually lasts a few days, and includes information on all of the benefits service members are entitled to upon separation, such as Veterans Affairs benefits and retirement pensions.

"I separated from the Marine Corps myself, so I know exactly how important it is for your future to know what kind of benefits you're entitled to and how to use them," said Johnson. "The workshops are in place to ensure you're prepared for the specific road you are about to take once you're separated. You can't sell yourself short."

With the new Capstone program, Marines must complete a transition checklist. The program goes hand-in-hand with the TRS, as it helps focus on an individual Marine's future success upon leaving the Corps. It also requires

the commanding officer, or an appointed designee, to meet with their Marine and ensure their transitioning standards are up to par.

If you are thinking about leaving the Corps and pursuing a different road in life, or simply don't have enough information to make a clear decision, Pereira and Johnson highly recommend researching TRS and taking advantage of some of its opportunities.

I personally have had the conversation with my leaders, the career planner, and my family, and if there's nothing else you take away from this, it's to make informed decisions. The seminar is a good way to inform you and help you make more educated decisions.

If you have any questions or want to reserve a slot to attend the seminar, call the career planner's office at (202) 433-5404, or contact the Henderson Hall TRS program at (703) 614-6828.

TOURING DC



ENTERTAINMENT

DINING

Volunteering

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. LARRY BABILYA

T Jolunteer work is in constant demand in the **V** national capital region, so there are plenty of opportunities for anyone willing to give back to their community and help those in need.

One organization right in the backyard of Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., is So Others Might Eat.

Marines from the Barracks are known possible. The organization's website is www.some. to volunteer for SOME, and the organization is org, and can also be found on Twitter and Facebook. always looking for more who'd like to lend a hand. Give SOME a call at (202) 797-8806. Also, the Opportunities within SOME include Provide-A-Meal, Barracks chaplain, Lt. James Dewey, makes several after-school tutoring and homebound senior program trips with Marines to help SOME during the holidays. volunteers, among others. Most of the programs If you and your fellow Marines would like to team up require tasks like serving food, tutoring children, and volunteer together, contact the chaplain at (202) errand running and food delivery. Another event to 433-6201.





HISTORY



keep in mind if you're interested in volunteering is the Annual Thanksgiving Day Trot for Hunger. Material donations are also greatly

appreciated. Everything from canned goods, clothing and non-perishable items to televisions, furniture and household appliances are accepted.

SOME can be contacted just about every way



STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. DENGRIER BAEZ



Marines from Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., conducted a cake-cutting ceremony aboard the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, New York City, Nov. 19.



Marine Sarracks Washington, D.C., participated in nearly two dozen cake-cutting events in November in observance of the Marine Corps' 238th birthday.

Marines helped serve up hundreds of pounds of the celebratory confection to thousands of people in the national capital region and along the East Coast, including actor Harvey Keitel, members of Congress, the FBI and the CIA.

"I really enjoyed the experience of being part of this team, especially meeting all the important people, walking into places like the CIA building and being on the Intrepid ship," said Pfc. Elizabeth Delladonna, 19-year-old native of Cleveland, Ohio, Barracks administration clerk, and Barracks' youngest Marine.

Not every event the Barracks participated in was for government agencies, as the cake escort teams also served the dessert at balls for the commandant, the Boston Semper Fi Society and for a ceremony aboard the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum in New York, which was hosted by Keitel for Marine units near the Big Apple.

This year, the Barracks Marine officer team escorted a custom-made cake which weighed approximately 500 pounds for the commandant's Marine Corps ball. The cake, draped in scarlet and gold, was in the shape of Mount Suribachi and sported a depiction of the flag-raising on Iwo Jima. It was made by Barracks Marines from the Marine Aide Program.

The teams were selected by Gunnery Sgt. Anthony Davis, the Barracks drill master, through a tryout based on appearance and ceremonial drill abilities. Once selected, the Marines held regular practices to prepare.

"I took the wisdom and the knowledge that I learned from being part of the team last year and passed it on to the new members this year," said Cpl. Timothy T. Baldwin, 22-year old native of College Park, Md., Barracks network assistant administrator, and noncommissioned officer-in-charge of a cake cutting team. "My main focus was perfection. Every time we practiced, we practiced like it



Lance Cpl. Ade Roberts, member of the Barracks' cake cutting team, poses for a photograph with Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, after a cake-cutting ceremony aboard the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, New York City, Nov. 19.



Capt. Christopher Hall, member of the Barracks' cake cutting team, cuts a cake during the ceremony aboard the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum.

was the real event. Being at the Barracks for a long time, I understood the importance of perfection and what we needed to strive for in every ceremony."

For more than 90 years, the Corps has celebrated its birthday by reading a birthday message from Lt. Gen. John A. Lejeune, 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, followed by a cake-cutting ceremony.

The birthday cake is traditionally cut with the Mameluke sword, as a reminder that we are a band of warriors, committed to carrying the sword, so that our nation may live in peace. The sword gets its name from the cross hilt and ivory grip design, similar to swords used for centuries by Ottoman warriors, according to the Marine Corps cake cutting script.

Following cutting the cake, the oldest Marine present takes the first bite of cake and passes the slice to the youngest Marine present, representing the passing of tradition from one generation to the next.

"For me, it is important to be able to influence the Marines and pass on the tradition of being part of something greater," said Sgt. Judes Grandoit, 33-year-old native of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Barracks motor transport license examiner, and NCOIC of a cake cutting team. "It's a great accomplishment as a noncommissioned officer to see the Marines' hard work and dedication pay off. I tell the junior Marines to commit themselves to everything they do. At the end of the day you will truly succeed."

The Marine Corps' birthday cake-cutting ceremony is described as an annual renewal of each Marine's commitment to the Corps and the Corps' commitment to our nation's quest for peace and freedom worldwide.

"It was an honor to support all the Marine Corps balls and ceremonies," said Delladonna. "I will love to be part of the team in any capacity next year, not just only as the youngest Marine."

The Barracks supports these ceremonies each year throughout the month of November and sometimes into December for nearby requesting agencies and units.

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Marines from Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., conducted wreath-laying ceremonies at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va., and various gravesites of former commandants buried in the national capital region, to celebrate the Corps' 238th birthday, Nov. 9.

Photos by Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., Public Affairs Office.

Arine Barracks Washington, D.C. is no stranger to tradition and ceremony. They are actually quite synonymous. When November rolls around each year, the Barracks has the honor of celebrating the Corps' birthday and remembering those who paved the way for all Marines and all who will one day hold the title.

On Nov. 9, the day before the Corps' 238th birthday, the Barracks hosted a parade at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va., and conducted wreath-laying ceremonies at graves of former commandants buried in the national capital region.

Wreath-laying teams comprised of a major or lieutenant colonel, a bugler and a body bearer dispersed from the Barracks to several cemeteries. Once at their destinations, the teams located the headstones where they laid wreaths and paid respects.

"Before the ceremony, we went out to our sites and practiced every day for about a week, just to get everything down," said Lance Cpl. Sadiq Chaudhri, body bearer. "I took the same mindset I use when I'm performing at a funeral, and I put it into these practices and ceremonies. I know I'm representing the Corps, and I owe it to these Marines, even if it's just laying a wreath on their grave, to give it my best effort."

As the last few wreaths were placed, a parade similar to a Tuesday Sunset Parade began at the memorial. Just like the parades the Barracks hosts in the summer months, spectators and those simply passing by caught a glimpse of the pride and honor that the Corps takes in its traditions and history. As the parade concluded, Charles T. Hagel, Secretary of Defense; Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps; and Col. Christian G. Cabaniss, commanding officer of the Barracks, made their way to the base of the memorial where Hagel placed the final wreath.

"This was a special event for the Barracks and for me personally, and I'm happy that others enjoyed the ceremony as much as I did," said Chaudhri. "I feel like, as a unit, we really honored the Marine Corps in a very unique way. I just hope I'm selected again next year to do it."

NAKING a CAREER

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. DAN HOSACK

On the second floor of the main building at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., there is a small, unassuming office. The Marine behind the desk may appear intimidating at first glance for most junior enlisted Marines. However, all fears are dispelled as she addresses every Marine with a warm greeting.

Gunnery Sgt. Rachel S. Pereira grew up in Harrison, N.J., but said she always knew she wanted to leave and see the world.

Pereira started her career when she enlisted in the Marine Corps as a junior in high school in 1997.

"Honestly, I didn't want to go to school anymore. I was done with high school and I didn't want to go to college because I didn't know what I wanted to do," said Pereira.

After completing initial training, she went to Camp Lejeune, N.C., for five years. Those first few years in the Corps were not easy, she said.

"There were those Marines who believed that girls didn't belong in the Corps, and they tried to break me every chance they got," said Pereira. "I was literally throwing up while running because they were trying to break me."

Pereira didn't fold. In fact, those Marines strengthened her resolve.

"It's because of them that I have made it as far as I have," said Pereira. "It's a character builder. I'm not saying you should try to break people, but it really makes you look at yourself and see how strong you are as an individual."

From Lejeune, she went to Parris Island, S.C., and became the career planner for the Recruit Training Regiment and Headquarters and Service Battalion. Then she went to Okinawa, Japan. While in Okinawa, she extended her contract for a year so she could deploy to Iraq. She said she was selected for gunnery sergeant in the below zone, and that deployment was what she needed to attain her current rank. After deploying, she worked at the enlisted assignments branch at Manpower and Reserve Affairs in Quantico, Va. She worked closely with the retention department, especially with Marines who had been disabled and wanted to stay in the Corps.

Lite

"I really enjoyed that, just getting to talk to the Marines. You notice that, for a lot of the Marines, it's not about just four more years of service, it's so much more than that," said Pereira. "The double amputee is told that he can't be a Marine. Well, he has a different story for you, and he believes he can."

She left manpower and came to the



Barracks to be the career planner for "The Oldest Post of the Corps" in February 2013.

As a career planner, she helps Marines by working out a plan of where they want go and what they want to do next in the Corps, as well as assisting in putting together packages for lateral moves and special duty assignments. Pereira does it all with a genuine, humble smile.

Pereira said she enjoys her job, but must balance her career with her family.

"I'm a single mother of two little girls," said Pereira. "It's tough sometimes, but you make it happen."

From here, Pereira plans on transferring to the Navy to become an officer through the Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program, and become a nurse.

Pereira said she has been applying since 2011 and stays cautiously optimistic that she will be selected for the program.

GEARING UP FOR A NEW YEAR

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. MONDO LESCAUD

s 2014 rolls in, the Battle Color Detachment at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., is preparing for another year of showcasing music and marching excellence across the country.



Lance Cpl. Jacob Alefs, member of the U.S. Marine Corps color guard, prepares a flag by steaming it at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., Dec. 18.

The detachment is composed of the U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps, the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon, and the Marine Corps Color Guard. These Marines travel to various places around the U.S. and perform their routines, which embody the esprit de Corps values of the Corps.

All three elements go through changes this time of year. Whether it's new personnel, a new performance routine or equipment changes, the gears are turning in order to be ready for the new vear and the East and West Coast Tour in March.

The D&B welcomed 10 new musicians within the past few months. Along with training the new Marines, the company is writing, rehearsing and recording new music for the upcoming parade season and BCD travels.

Also, the D&B's leaders have to ensure everyone's drill and musical proficiency is up to the company's high standards.

"It's very easy to get a grasp of what we're doing right now and what's upcoming," said Lance Cpl. Tony Hofmeir, percussionist. "The leadership around here has been a big help for me. But at the same time, it's a bit of a challenge for me to be at the bottom of the totem pole and still get to the level of play that I know I need to be at."

Cpl. Michael Jensen, member of the U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps, practices a piece during a company rehearsal at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., Dec. 18.





Lance Cpl. Bruce Baskerville, member of the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon, teaches a Marine during a Silent Drill School session at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, D.C., Dec. 12.

During SDS, student Marines, assisted and taught by members of the SDP, practice a unique form of drill for hours on end, Monday though Friday.



Like the D&B, the SDP acquired some new Marines recently. They had to be trained up to the platoon's drill standards by attending Silent Drill School.

Every morning during the school, the platoon heads to Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling. The SDS students quickly unload the bus and get into formation inside of a warehouse where they spend the majority of the day perfecting SDP's unique form of drill.

"While it is more demanding on the Marines to be SDS Instructors during the weeks as well as remain ready to travel, most of the shows during this time of the year are fun, and the platoon genuinely loves to travel," said Capt. Matthew Smith, the SDP commander, when asked about how this season's operational tempo

a new color sergeant in January 2014. The rest affects his Marines. "So I think [the tempo] actually makes the platoon better because it does of the Marines in the Commandant's Four, the Marines who march in main events and parades, not allow the Marines to get out of drill shape during the off-season." are also being replaced before the start of the East Every year, after the summer parade and West Coast Tour.

season, the platoon also forms a new drill sequence to perform throughout the year, utilizing old and newly created movements. At the moment, the drill master is finishing up with the creation of the new sequence and will begin teaching it in January, just before the start of the tour.

Meanwhile, the color guard Marines, led by Sgt. Timothy Spreder, color sergeant of the Marine Corps, have to select new members for their teams.

Spreder is scheduled to be replaced by

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"We've been preparing the new personnel as much as possible for our upcoming events," said Spreder. "I'd say that everything is going smoothly, and I'm happy with where we're at and how we're training. My Marines always do a great job at preparing accordingly."

As each section continues to prepare, the BCD is closer to being ready for the 2014 season with each day passed and each training event completed. As the new year begins, the detachment will, as always, be ready to show the world what the Corps is about.

A Marine Corps dignified transfer team, composed of Marines from Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., transfers the remains of Sgt. Daniel M. Vasselian, of Abington, Mass., at Dover Air Force Base, Del., Dec. 25. Vasselian was assigned to 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C. (Official U.S. Air Force photo by Roland Balik/Released)

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and a stand

THE DOVER TEAM

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. MONDO LESCAUD

S ince the beginnings of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, 1,224 Marines have paid the ultimate sacrifice. These fallen Marines are welcomed back to U.S. soil by a select group of Marines from Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., known as the Dover Team.

There are six teams of seven Marines each that travel to Dover Air Force Base in Dover, Del., to perform dignified transfer ceremonies. During the ceremony, the Marines ceremoniously remove transfer cases from a plane, while the fallens' families watch.

"It does get emotional for me whenever I hear the Marine's family grieving when we're out there," said Cpl. Gaige Roberts, member of the Dover Team. "I've seen Marines actually break down and cry after the ceremony quite a few times."

Roberts recalls his first time on the tarmac, more than two years ago.

"I remember there were two carries that day. We got the first casket, marched back to the plane to get the second one, and when we picked up that lance corporal's casket, I remember hearing his wife screaming. As we secured the casket in the transfer vehicle, we about-faced and saluted. She grieved the whole time. We obviously only stood there for a few minutes, but it felt like half an hour. Afterwards, we went in the terminal, left the base, and headed back

Cpl. Michael Wiggleton, member of a dignified transfer team, practices carrying a transfer case at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., Nov. 21.



Oct.Nov.Dec 2013

Members of a dignified transfer team practice carrying a transfer case at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., Nov. 21

> home. Nobody said a single word until we got back and proud," said Cpl. Jackson Lindley, member of to D.C., over two hours later." the Dover Team. "I feel like, being at the Barracks, Being on the Dover Team is a voluntary, this is our special way of having more of a direct collateral duty for the Marines who serve at the helping hand in the overseas missions of the Marine Barracks. They carry out their daily responsibilities Corps."

but at any time, any day, can be called upon to practice or execute a dignified transfer ceremony.

To prepare, team members regularly get together in the Barracks' lower level parking garage to practice their ceremonial movements.

"I couldn't have asked for a better, more They treat practice as if it were the real deal. motivated and enthusiastic group of guys to be on The newer team members get their fair share of the team," said Sgt. Frantz Dorvilme, the Dover constructive criticism from the senior members, and Team's noncommissioned officer in charge. "They there's a lot of pulling experience and reminiscing strive for perfection on a daily basis, and that's all I about prior runs. can ask for. That's what's expected from the Marine "Every time I go out there, I feel honored Corps."

It's a solemn mission for the Marines on the Dover Team, to be the first ones to receive their fallen brethren on home soil, but they take great pride in their mission.

Religious Support

You can usually find them in the field, at a Friday Evening **I** Parade or talking to Marines at the Annex. They attend just about every function that Marine Barracks Washington, D.C. hosts. But what are they here for?

keeping morale high.

"I do whatever I can to accommodate Marines and sailors no matter what their religious faith is," said Dewey. "I try my best to make sure every Marine is afforded the opportunity to practice whatever faith they'd like."

is there as his enlisted counterpart.

"We mingle with all the companies to make sure our presence is known and felt. That way, if there are any important issues that come up, we are here to support them," said Rivassorto. "My primary duties include assisting Chaplain Dewey in any services or classes he might have, logistical and administrative tasks, and most of all, morale boosting."

As we head towards the holidays and the next parade season, both Dewey and Rivassorto offer some advice. They encourage Marines to take leave, call home and do what you can to unwind take your mind off the stress. Unwinding can include talking to Rivassorto or Dewey.

433-6201.

STORY AND PHOTO BY CPL. LARRY BABILYA

Navy Lt. James Dewey, Barracks chaplain, and Religious Programs Specialist 1st Class Sergio Rivassorto, make quite the dynamic duo spiritually supporting Marines and sailors alike and

When Dewey's hands are full or he's in the field, Rivassorto

"Marines can always come by," said Dewey. "You don't need an appointment to come see me. Call me 24/7. If my phone rings I'm going to answer. One-hundred percent confidentiality is something that I have. You can come here and have a safe place to talk without any judgment or repercussions."

If you'd like to contact Dewey or Rivassorto, they can be found on the first floor of the B Co. towers or contacted at (202)

TACTICAL Practical

COMBATING COLD WEATHER WITH THE RIGHT GEAR

STORY BY STAFF SGT. BRIAN BUCKWALTER

Marines have been authorized to wear approved civilian backpacks in the Marine Corps Combat Utility Uniform since late 2011, but that black Jansport like the one you carried around in high school isn't what's gaining popularity at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C. Many Marines are shouldering the supply-issued Assault Pack.

And why not? It's big, it's built to last, and you don't have to pay out of pocket any hard-earned cash to put it on your back.

The Assault Pack is one component of the USMC Pack fielded by Marine Corps Systems Command in Quantico, Va., said Maj. James C. Fuller, the USMC Pack's project officer.

The USMC Pack was developed to address body armor integration issues with the old Individual Load Bearing Equipment system. According to USMC Pack's information sheet provided by MARCORSYSCOM, the new pack's external frame bridges the ceramic armor plates worn with torso body armor, resolving the issue.

Many Marines may be familiar with the ILBE, which sported the Corps' woodland camouflage pattern. The assault pack that came with it had 1500 cubic inches of storage in a main compartment and secondary pocket. It also had a pouch attachment ladder system webbing on the exterior and space for a hydration system. The new coyote brown Assault Pack is similar but a bit roomier, boasting 1525 cubic inches in the main compartment and 300 cubic inches in the front pocket, said Fuller. Like the ILBE assault pack, the new pack's exterior has PALS webbing to mount modular pouches, and small items can be secured with interior mesh pockets. The shoulder straps and hip belt can be tucked inside the assault pack when not in use or when it's secured to the main pack. There's room for a hydration system and communication equipment. Other components of the USMC Pack that supply issues include the main bag with frame and shoulder harness assembly, an assault pouch, two sustainment pouches, and the hydration system.

Other components of the USMC Pack that supply issues include the main bag with frame and shoulder harness assembly, an assault pouch, two sustainment pouches, and the hydration system. If you don't have the Assault Pack, or it isn't your style, Marine Administrative Message 695/11 spells out other options. Most black, olive drab, brown, tan (and combinations of those colors) or Marine Pattern camouflage commercial or organizational backpacks are authorized. The MARADMIN states that the pack must be conservative in nature and any manufacturer logos and tags can't be larger than 5 inches long by 2 inches wide. The backpacks must be worn over both shoulders. Gym, duffel and computer bags still must be hand carried.

While there are several factors to consider when deciding on a backpack to use in uniform, it's hard to beat the issued Assault Pack. It's designed to withstand the rigors of combat, it holds a lot of stuff, and maybe most importantly, it costs the individual Marine nothing.



BODY BEARERS FROM MARINE BARRACKS WASHINGTON, D.C., PREPARE TO REMOVE A CASKET FROM A HORSE-DRAWN CAISSON DURING A FUNERAL AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, VA., OCT. 24.



















