

PASS IN REVIEW

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Jan.Feb.Mar 2012



Photo by Cpl. Dengrier Baez

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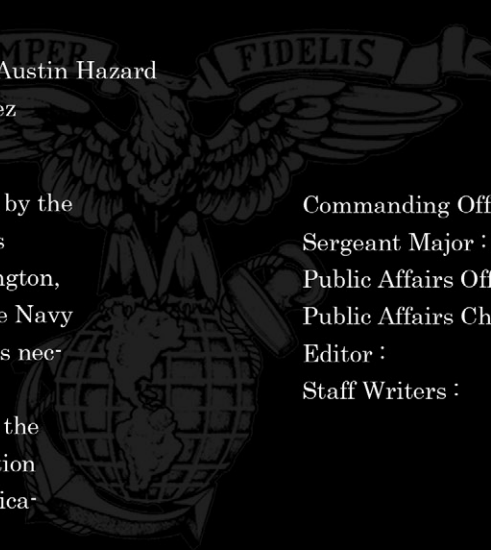
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Front cover photo illustration by Sgt. Austin Hazard
Back cover photo by Cpl. Dengrier Baez

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Semper Fidelis

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Links and kinks in the chain

STORY BY SGT. AUSTIN HAZARD

Respect and dissension have always been hot topic issues in the military. Good order and discipline often leave no room for question and no room for open criticism from subordinates. But somehow, not everyone understands that.

We're hammered with instant and willing obedience to orders from the get-go. It's what the Marine Corps is all about.

Isn't that what we are trained to understand? The Corps' mission is often dangerous work and requires leaders who can count on those they lead to respond quickly and affirmatively. Any disruption can jam up the mechanism and even cause death.

Even outside of combat, in support roles, disrupting a smooth process can cause complications, delays and sometimes mission failure. We're taught to check emotions and grievances at the door, as best as possible, and act and react appropriately. The only thing you are going to do by speaking out against leadership and acting with attitude is sour yourself more, distract or upset others, and potentially land yourself in hot water.

This all applies doubly to social media. Generally speaking, far

more people can see your thoughts and comments on Facebook or Twitter than you might realize, even with privacy settings adjusted. What if a friend reposts something you said? What if his account isn't so private?

Be smart with what you say and where you say it. You are always a Marine. On and off duty, your conduct and professionalism should be above reproach.

If it could get you fired in the civilian sector, it generally isn't safe to say in the military either.

However, there are means to voice concerns and legitimate problems with your superiors or command, such as requesting mast. I highly encourage Marines to use these official channels for honest issues and leave anything else by the wayside.

Judging by recent events, which you may have heard about in the media, some Marines don't understand the hard and fast rules about disrespect or disobedience, or what they actually are. Articles 89-92 of the UCMJ cover disrespect, assault and disobedience toward commissioned officers, being insubordinate toward a noncommissioned, petty or warrant officer, and failing to obey orders and regulations. Article 88 outlines contempt toward officials, referring to government officials, and is specifical-

ly directed at commissioned officers.

Now, does that mean that you, as an enlisted Marine or warrant officer, can criticize and chastise the secretary of defense or the president or your governor? No, not in the least.

Article 134 specifically regards "all disorders and neglects to the prejudice of good order and discipline in the armed forces," (meaning anything that may cause dissension among the ranks), and "all conduct of a nature to bring discredit upon the armed forces" (which bad mouthing your superiors or elected officials does) as offenses.

If you somehow haven't experienced it in your time in the Corps yet, it is clear that the Marine Corps considers contemptuous remarks and actions against seniors and officials above you unacceptable.

Of course, the majority of the Marines do not have these issues, but they do exist nonetheless, and it's for those few individuals that this is intended.

The idea is to not give the Marine Corps a black eye for your mistakes. Odds are you'll regret it. It's best to keep those kinds of thoughts and views where others won't see them. It's better for the Corps, and it's better for your future.

TOURING DC



ENTERTAINMENT

DINING

HISTORY

Around the world in 80 bites

Story and photos by Cpl. Jeremy Ware

Marine Barracks Washington is neatly tucked into the southeastern corner of Capitol Hill, a vibrant and growing community that boasts more than 250 restaurants. These eateries are as varied and unique as the customers they attract.

It's possible for a Marine stationed at the Corps' oldest post to travel around the world in 80 dishes and never leave Barracks Row, the stretch of 8th Street between I Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. Walk out of the front gate and right in front of your eyes is a three-block stretch of 29 restaurants itching to be explored.

You could spend an evening abroad, starting in Greece with an interesting but classic Greek appetizer, an octopus tentacle that has been marinated in Mediterranean spices and grilled to perfection. Moving to Belgium for your entree, a leg of rabbit washed down with a pint of Rodenbach beer would represent the country well. After you've finished your main course, head over to Italy for dessert, a light and chocolaty tiramisu paired with a small cup of Italian roast espresso, which should conclude your evening nicely. You just took a tour of Europe and never left Barracks Row.

I personally wanted to taste the good old U.S. of A. I started my journey with a typical American diner breakfast, complete with eggs, sausage and hash browns. What set this experience apart

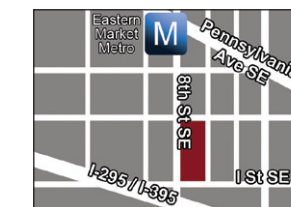
was their unique take on the toaster pastry. Yes, the same ones you can get at the store, except these are homemade fresh every day, and the flavors are not something you'll find in a grocery store. I decided to try the bacon and peanut butter version. The tasty treat blended the two foreign flavors perfectly. It was an awesome experience and started my adventure right.

Lunch took me back to the old ballpark with a couple of hot dogs. I had a Chicago style hot dog topped with tomatoes, peppers and a pickle spear, among other things. I left satisfied. I ended my journey with an interesting take on shrimp and grits. I wish there was more shrimp, but who doesn't want more shrimp? The seasoning made the dish different from what my mom would make when I was a child, but the textures took me home.

Those are six amazing meals from around the world without ever walking more than three blocks away from the front gate of the Barracks. How many Marines can say that about their duty station?

I haven't even mentioned the rest of the district yet. Many sources will tell you that Washington's Northwest district has the best restaurants, and I agree. No matter what you're craving, it can be found here.

I have been stationed at the Barracks for more than two years and I've explored everywhere I could. Every time I saw



something on TV or read about an interesting dish in a magazine, I would go out and try it.

I was guided by applications on my phone. The apps contain every eatery in the greater D.C. area, broken down by neighborhood or food type.

Recently, I was feeling adventurous and wanted to try something I've never. I checked my phone and set out for Dupont Circle. I had a magret de canard au poivre vert, which is a pan seared duck breast with a peppercorn sauce served with a vegetable flan on the side. The meal was amazing and everything I hoped it would be.

The bottom line is this: if you are willing to explore a little bit, the district can be your delicious oyster. Amazing food is waiting for you only a short walk or metro ride away from the Barracks. Even if you hate moving more than three blocks away from the front gate, here you can still travel around the world, one bite at a time.



Singing in the NEW YEAR



Left, Gunnery Sgt. Kevin Bennear, U.S. Marine Band baritone vocalist, sings "Bless this House" during the annual New Year's Day serenade at the Home of the Commandants Jan. 1. It was Benner's first opportunity to uphold the age-old tradition and serenade Amos and his lady, Bonnie, in front of their home. Last year, which was Amos' first as commandant, the ceremony was held in front of Crawford Hall here due to renovations to the Home of the Commandants.

Right, the band plays "The Stars and Stripes Forever" during the annual New Year's Day serenade. It was the band's first opportunity to uphold the age-old tradition and serenade Amos and his wife in front of their home.



STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. MONDO LESCAUD

The U.S. Marine Band serenaded Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, and his wife Bonnie, on the sun porch of their home at Marine Barracks Washington Jan. 1.

This was the first time the Amoses were entertained in the backyard of the longest continually occupied building in Washington, D.C., the Home of the Commandants.

The annual tradition of the band surprising the top commander with a musical serenade started in the early 1800s. Lt. Col Franklin Wharton, 3rd commandant of the Marine Corps, woke up Jan. 1 and actually didn't expect to see the band in his backyard.

Amos said he had been looking forward to the ceremony since last year.

January 1, 2011, Amos' first New Year's Day as commandant, the home was undergoing major renovations. A large tarp blanketed the structure, and the

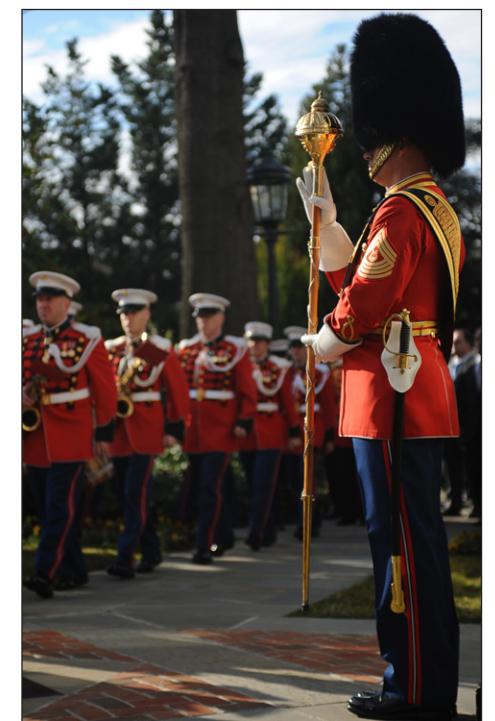
surprise ceremony was held here in front of Col. Truman W. Crawford Hall, the Marine Drum & Bugles Corps' band hall.

The band, directed by Col. Michael J. Colburn, band commanding officer, played "Marines' Hymn," "Stars and Stripes Forever," "Bless This House," and "Semper Fidelis."

After the musical ensemble, the band, as tradition has it, was invited into the home to have a warm brunch and hot spiced rum.

"It was a great honor to be a part of this rich tradition," said Staff Sgt. David Constantine, USMB percussionist. "It was a great way to bring in the new year and it was truly awesome to be invited into the commandant's home for brunch. I learned a lot about the history of the home because this was my first serenade and my first time being inside of there."

More than 20 VIP guests attended the serenade ceremony, including former sergeant major of the Marine Corps and good friend of the Amoses, Carlton W. Kent.



Master Gunnery Sgt. William L. Browne, USMB drum major, forms his platoon of musicians in front of the Home of the Commandants to prepare for the annual New Year's Day serenade.

The INSPECTION Team

STORY BY CPL. JEREMY WARE

The Silent Drill Platoon embodies the professionalism and dedication that are hallmarks of the Corps. Spinning rifles with fixed bayonets with unmatched precision has regularly wowed audiences throughout the years.

Among the platoon's "marching 24," the 24 Marines that perform during ceremonies, are three members of an inspection team who are inspected by a rifle inspector to conclude the show. There are two inspection teams that constantly rotate performances throughout the year. Each comprises a rifle inspector, a single, a throw-out and a double. Each Marine has a specific role to play during the show.

The single is the only member of the marching 24 that performs while every other Marine stands at the position of attention.

"There is a lot of pressure when the rifle inspector stops at you, and you're the first thing that happens with the inspection team," said Lance Cpl. Logan Heishman, team one single. "You're not doing anything with anyone else, so you know everyone is staring at you. Even the rifle inspector is just standing still."

The throw-out is the second baseman to the double's shortstop. The two practice together every chance they get. During the inspection the throw-out throws his rifle to the rifle inspector as he slowly marches down the inspection line in preparation for the mirrored inspection, when the rifle inspector and double perform the same inspection sequence in sync with each other.

"It's the inspection team, it's not just me. It's my brothers around me. You have to know everything about the rest of your team," said Lance Cpl. Tyler Dutton, team one throw-out. "If something is going on with your teammate, you have to sense it, because it could affect the show. We have to take care of each other. These guys were my friends before, but now it's on a whole different level."

The inspection teams are selected every winter following the conclusion of the parade season at Marine Barracks Washington. The platoon conducts a "challenge day" for the following year's inspection team. Every returning member of the platoon is encouraged to audition.

"I saw what the inspection team represented during my first year with the platoon, and I wanted to be a part of that" said Lance Cpl. Patrick Collman, ceremonial marcher with the SDP. "Unfortunately, I didn't make the cut. But the inspection team Marines represents the best this platoon has to offer. They work hard every day, leading Marines, learning not only the marching sequence but also their own inspection sequence. Those Marines work hard, and have earned the right to be on the SDP inspection team."

The Marines will spend countless hours learning the different parts of the inspection sequence before challenge day.

"Learning your spot on inspection team is not just about learning how to spin the rifle. You have to learn the strengths of the other members of your team so you can connect with them and spin proficiently with your team," said Lance Cpl. Andrew Wingate, team one double. "You can never get comfortable with your spot, because that's when mistakes happen. The 'marching 24' can perform flawlessly, but if we drop a rifle no one will remember the perfect show, just that dropped rifle."

After earning their spot on chal-

lenge day, the Marines spend the next several months perfecting their drill. Not only does the inspection team have to learn their part of the performance, they also have to learn the rest of the drill sequence and mentor junior Marines in the platoon.

"We have to be the best of the best," Wingate said. "We are the pinnacle of the entire show. The first year members look to us for the example of how to act and properly prepare for shows. Being a leader is the most important thing I do."

After months of practice, the platoon travels to Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., to prepare for the National Installations Tour, when the Battle Color Detachment travels to the Corps' American bases, performing with and displaying the official battle color of

the Marine Corps.

This tour is the first opportunity the new inspection team has to perform in front of large crowds.

"I was pretty nervous with our first inspection, especially knowing that none of us have ever been inspection team before. That usually doesn't happen," said Carlton Williams, team one rifle inspector. "While I'm confident in my team, nothing can prepare you for performing in front of a crowd."

These young Leathernecks fill the majority of leadership roles for the platoon, allowing them to shape and mold the future of the platoon.

"As a lance corporal in the Silent Drill Platoon, a lot of responsibility is put on our shoulders. We have a lot of stress and high

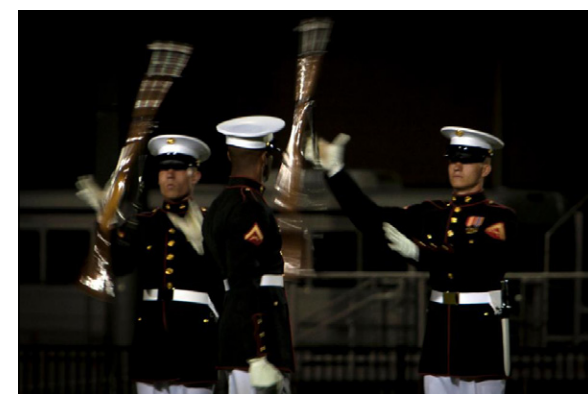
expectations put on us because we are in the spotlight, and we perform in front of a lot of high ranking people and the general public," Williams explained.

The platoon has been performing for spectators since their inception in 1948. During that time this unique platoon has come to symbolize the professionalism and military precision the American has grown to expect from United States Marines.

"The inspection team is very important," said Dutton. "I've put a lot of work into getting where I am right now. We are the finale of the show. Our seven minutes on the parade deck adds to 237 years of Marine Corps legacy. I'm extremely proud and fortunate to be a part of that legacy."



Photos by Cpl. Dengrier Baez
The Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon's first inspection team performs part of its inspection routine during practice at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., Feb. 27. The platoon's two inspection teams, with a total of eight positions, are coveted and make up the majority of the platoon's leadership.





LOS

STORY AND PHOTO BY
CPL. JEREMY WARE



Marine Barracks Washington Marines competed in the Urban Challenge, the third event in the Barracks' 2012 Commander's Cup, in Washington March 21.

Approximately 120 Marines participated in the race across the District, making stops at seven checkpoints along the way. These checkpoints were spread across D.C., from the Woodrow Wilson house to Nationals Stadium.

To determine the first obstacle, Marines had to decipher clues given to them.

Then they set out to find their locations by any means necessary.

As Marines arrived at the National Air and Space Museum, a red bag with several items awaited them. The contents of the bag would serve as a tie-breaker if one was necessary.

A quick dash across the National Mall led the Marines to another point, and another clue.

Several Marines elected to use a taxi to go from point to the next, others rented bicycles.

"The hardest part of the whole thing was the distance," said Lance Cpl. Alvaro Hernandez, Marine Corps Color Guard

supernumerary. "The city provided several challenges, like cars, but the trivia was a challenge. We were already tired and I rushed a couple of wrong answers, and I paid for it."

The event ended with the Marines racing to the historic Eastern Market in southeast D.C. The final results were a combination of finish times and the number of points the Marines went to.

Capt. Nicholas Schrock, a platoon commander from Company B, finished in first place overall for the event, earning the full 50 points for the event.

The prize for the overall male and female point leaders will be determined at the conclusion of the final event.

Only one Marine can win each event, but four can earn the event's full points value. Competitors over 33 years old fall in the "masters" category. Male and female victors from the masters category also earn the event's full points value.

Seven scheduled events remain in the 10-event Commander's Cup series, in which any Barracks Marine can participate. The events often challenge the Marines' military knowledge, marksmanship, competitiveness and physical and mental discipline.

The next event is the Civilian Military Combine, scheduled for April 21. For more information, visit www.marines.mil/unit/barracks/pages/commanderscup.

i n t h e c i t y

ifth Element

STORY BY CPL. JEREMY WARE

DURING THE FRIDAY EVENING PARADE, ONE MARINE WILL LURK IN THE SHADOWS BEHIND THE PARADE DECK WATCHING AND LEARNING.

He stays in the arcade, watching the evening's events unfold through a one-inch-wide slit in the black wooden panel used to conceal his position. From there, he has a perfect view of the Marine Corps Color Guard's "parade four." Two riflemen flank the color sergeant of the Marine Corps, who

carries the national ensign, and the organizational color bearer, who carries the official battle color of the Marine Corps.

Unknown to most, the parade four is actually composed of five Marines, and could not function without every member.

The unseen fifth man plays

a vital role for the ceremonial unit. He is, along with the left rifleman, responsible for pressing the battle color and ensuring it's up to parade standard.

The parade four turns over every year, with tryouts held in late January. The fifth man fills his billet for the year, and then has a new opportunity to earn a spot on the parade deck.

"The super is the jack of all trades when it comes to color guard," said Lance Cpl. Jacob C. Mouch, the parade four's 2011 supernumerary. "I never got to drag any of the parade four off the deck but I have had to be ready for that possibility every time they step out under the lights."

The color guard performs in approximately 80 ceremonies each year, with the parade four marching in the most prestigious events. For every performance, the fifth man is there in the shadows, waiting to spring into action.

"The super has to always



Photo by Cpl. Dengrier Baez

The official Marine Corps Color Guard's "parade four" practices as Lance Cpl. Alvaro Hernandez, the parade four's supernumerary, watches for mistakes at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., March 1. The parade four is the color guard team that includes the Marine Corps color sergeant and organizational color bearer.



Photo by Cpl. Dengrier Baez

The parade four maintains the official Marine Corps battle color and national ensign during practice at MCAS Yuma March 1.

be ready for any given situation," said Cpl. Bryan S. Stebbing, the parade four's 2010 supernumerary. "If someone goes down, he has to be able to fill in. If there's a uniform malfunction, the super has to have backup supplies."

The fifth man's greatest tool is his tackle box filled with all the accessories. The "super box" contains everything the parade four my need in case of an emer-

gency. Things like extra medals, a lint roller, white tape, waste tape, bleach pen, chalk, Tide to-go pen, various buttons and insignia, candy, and edge dressing.

"Carrying around the super box is an honor and a privilege due to the nature of the job," said Pfc. Alvaro J. Hernandez, the parade four's 2012 supernumerary. "But it's really heavy and it makes you want to be on the parade deck

instead."

Before every ceremony, the fifth man, along with the left rifleman, is responsible for ensuring the official Marine Corps battle color is steamed and ready for the performance.

While on the road, this process has the two Marines delicately maneuvering the large flag on an ironing board, ensuring the color never touches the ground.

ifth Element

While one holds the standard, the other feverishly irons and steams the cloth.

“Before every performance, I would have to iron out the battle color and make sure it was in pristine condition for the ceremony,” Mouch explained. “I knew that this job was an important and special one. I always remembered that I represented the ones who came before me and I would be the one to pass the tradition on to the next.”

Throughout the year the fifth man may get an opportunity to fill in during a performance as the left or right rifleman, but those opportunities are few and far between.

“When I was the super, I got to march in a couple of parades, and it made me want to get better,” said Stebbing. “Being the super gave me the drive to become the organizational bearer now. I wouldn’t be here today if I hadn’t carried that box and watched from the sidelines for a year.”

Except for those precious few moments under the bright lights, the fifth man stands with his tackle box in the arcade. His stare lingers on the parade four as they march. His focus never wavers as he prepares himself to emerge when he tries out again next year, and hopefully earns his spot in front of the crowd.



Photo by Cpl. Dengrier Baez

Hernandez carries the “super box” before a performance at MCAS Yuma March 1. The box contains spare uniform items the parade four may need at a moment’s notice.



Photo by Sgt. Austin Hazard

Hernandez practices alone, ensuring he is always ready to step in and march during a performance, near Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., March 12.



Photo by Sgt. Austin Hazard

The color guard presents the Corps’ battle color at the end of a Battle Color Ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., March 12.



The Fast to let you down

By Sgt. Austin Hazard

Photo by Sgt. Austin Hazard

Clopping footsteps echo over the heavy wooden creaking, followed faintly by the steps of countless others. The convoy stops and six powerful figures remove the wooden transport's precious cargo. Six more figures, bearing five-point stars, follow. Military uniforms abound, and the sight is steeped in martial tradition. A 600-pound, lac-

quered wooden casket is lowered onto its grave and the flag that had covered it is lifted by its six bearers. With a skill and dexterity that betrays their strength, the flag is folded into a blue, spangled triangle and presented to the general's oldest son. This was the final military ceremony for Gen. Samuel Jaskilka (1919-2012), 16th assistant commandant

of the Marine Corps. Marine Barracks Washington performs these honors for many fallen Marines throughout the Capitol area, including every Marine laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. In recent months, the Barracks had the solemn privilege of honoring the former assistant commandant and the founder of

the Barracks' Silent Drill Platoon, Brig. Gen. William Lanagan, as well as six other Marine Corps generals. Of these generals, two have close ties to the Barracks; Jaskilka, as the APMC, lived at the Barracks for several years and attended many parades here; as a junior officer, Lanagan created the most distinctive unit at the Barracks

and made them what they are today. The Marine Corps Body Bearers carry and lay down every one of those fallen brothers and sisters over the course of approximately 500 funerals a year. This section of Marines, which averages 18 strong, supports all 500 ceremonies, usually with six body bearers each.

But you won't ever see these behemoths of Marines tire or tremble under the hefty weight they carry. The Marines go through a rigorous training regimen that can last upwards of eight months just to earn the title body bearer. On average, body bearers train their bodies and hone their muscles for at least four hours a day, said Lance Cpl.



Photo by Sgt. Austin Hazard

Marine Corps Body Bearers from Marine Barracks Washington prepare to unload the casket of Gen. Samuel Jaskilka (1919-2012), the 16th assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., Jan. 26. Jaskilka joined the Marine Corps reserves as a second lieutenant in 1942 and served as the assistant commandant from 1975 until he retired in 1978. Jaskilka was also honored with a flyover of four MV-22 Ospreys during the ceremony. Jaskilka's awards include the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, two Silver Star Medals, a Legion of Merit, a Bronze Star Medal with a Combat V, a World War II Victory Medal, seven Vietnam Service Medals and a United Nations Korea Medal.

Gary Miller II, body bearer in training. A normal day starts with practicing funeral drill using a weighted, mock casket for a couple hours, followed by weight lifting for another two hours. This does not include any funerals the body bearers may have to support that day, which can be up to three or more.

Marines like Miller are selected in boot camp and evaluated with a strength test, in which the Marines are required to bench press 225 pounds, military press 135 pounds, curl 115 pounds and squat 315 pounds 10 times each.

"I read an article about these guys and saw what they did, and it seemed like something that would be a tremendous honor to be a part of," said Miller.

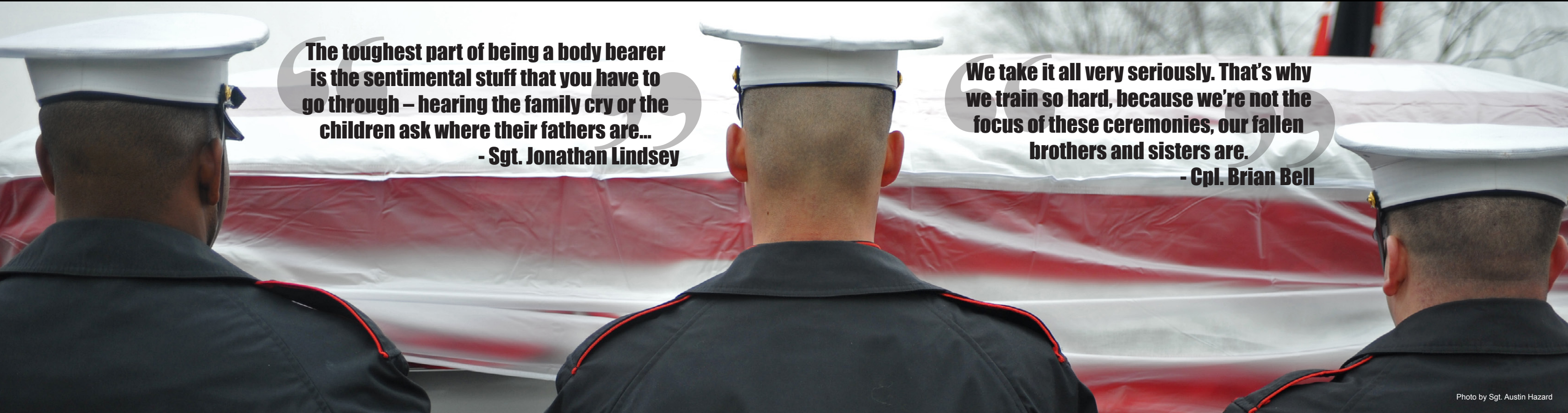
Miller recently began serving as a body bearer at funerals, though he does not yet claim the title of Marine Corps Body Bearer.

"It's like on-the-job training," said Miller, who guesses he is halfway through his training. "I've proven that I am committed and physically able to support these funerals, but I still have to perfect my performance during the ceremonies. The only way to do that is experience."



Photo by Sgt. Austin Hazard

More than 130 Marines from Marine Barracks Washington escort the casket of Gen. Samuel Jaskilka (1919-2012), 16th assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, to the grave site at Arlington National Cemetery Jan. 26. A platoon of musicians from the Marine Band, four platoons of ceremonial marchers, the Marine Corps Color Guard and six Marine Corps Body Bearers, as well as six generals serving as honorary body bearers, constituted Jaskilka's funeral procession.



The toughest part of being a body bearer is the sentimental stuff that you have to go through – hearing the family cry or the children ask where their fathers are...
- Sgt. Jonathan Lindsey

We take it all very seriously. That's why we train so hard, because we're not the focus of these ceremonies, our fallen brothers and sisters are.
- Cpl. Brian Bell

Photo by Sgt. Austin Hazard



Photo by Cpl. Jeremy Ware

Marine Corps Body Bearers from Marine Barracks Washington carry the caisson to the gravesite during the funeral service for Brig. Gen. William Lanagan (1923-2011) in Arlington National Cemetery Feb 3. As a first lieutenant, Lanagan founded and served as the first platoon commander of the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon in 1948. Lanagan served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam, where he earned the Legion of Merit Medal with a Combat V.

Miller has currently participated in 28 funerals, which started in December. He said the body bearers typically put two trainees on a funeral and try to put at least one on each. In this way, the body bearers can ensure their future replacements receive as much preparation and experience as quickly as possible.

While training with his mentors, Miller has learned how to transfer the casket from the Hurst to the caisson, how to secure and then remove the casket, and how to fold the American flag in unison with five other body bearers.

Despite practicing the sequence endlessly at the Barracks, the real thing is always harder, said Miller. The weight may be the same, but the pressure to be perfect is heavy.

“The toughest part of being a body bearer is the sentimental stuff that

you have to go through – hearing the family cry or the children ask where their fathers are...” said Sgt. Jonathan Lindsey, a senior body bearer. “Hearing all that is very discomfoting. You have to train yourself to bury it deep down. Each funeral is a great deal of emotional pressure.”

The body bearers’ last action before resting the casket over the gravesite is to curl it to eye level from a standstill, a feat no other honor guard performs.

“We do it as a final salute, a final display of respect to the fallen,” explained Cpl. Brian Bell, body bearer. “Everything we do out here is for them and their families. We take it all very seriously. That’s why we train so hard, because we’re not the focus of these ceremonies, our fallen brothers and sisters are. If we struggle with the casket, it

distracts from why everyone is there, it makes us stand out.”

This explains why the Corps’ body bearers are so much larger than the average Marine; they must be strong enough to deftly lift, carry, adjust and set down great amounts of weight without any difficulty, sometimes doing multiple funerals back to back.

It is said that it takes 10,000 hours of experience to become an expert on something. Since the body bearers spend four years at the Barracks and support approximately 500 funerals each during their tour here, they can each be considered experts of their craft once they move on to new duty stations or leave the Corps.

Similarly, this could be said of much of the Barracks. Both of the Barracks’ ceremonial marching companies,

Company A and Company B, provide one or more platoons of marchers, a seven-man firing team and the color guard for each full honors funeral. Full honors are given to active duty Marines killed in action, and E-9s and officers, retired and active duty alike. Depending on the type of full honors funeral, the Marine Band will either provide a detail of drummers or a full platoon of musicians.

Further still, Marines from the other units at the Barracks serve as road guards, who prevent pedestrians and drivers from interrupting the funeral procession on its way to the gravesite. Depending on the path through the cemetery, a funeral can require more than 15 road guards from the Barracks.

Over the course of a year, through the 500 funerals the Barracks

supports in that time, the Marines of the Barracks devote roughly 24,000 man hours to Marine funeral services, not including the body bearers’ daily training regimen. That’s more time than 12 full-time employees would log in the same year without vacations.

Funeral ceremonies represent a major part of what the Barracks is all about. To be more precise, funerals constitute roughly 60 percent of what the Barracks does.

“These funerals are the Barracks’ most important commitment,” said Gunnery Sgt. Charles Peoples, the Marine Corps funeral director. “It’s important we give back to these Marines and their families who’ve given the Corps everything.”



Photo by Cpl. Jeremy Ware

Lance Cpl. Norman Hill presents a folded flag to the commandant’s representative during the funeral service for Brig. Gen. William Lanagan (1923-2011) at Arlington National Cemetery Feb 3.

Honoring old connections



Gen. Samuel Jaskilka (1919-2012)

Mark Jaskilka and his two older siblings grieved for their father during his funeral in Arlington, Va., Jan. 26. Jaskilka started in the Marine Corps reserves as a second lieutenant in 1942 and served as the 16th assistant commandant of the Marine Corps from 1975 until he retired in 1978, during which time he resided at the Barracks. Jaskilka’s awards include the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, two Silver Star Medals, a Legion of Merit, a Bronze Star Medal with a Combat V, a World War II Victory Medal, seven Vietnam Service Medals and a United Nations Korea Medal.



Brig. Gen. William Lanagan (1923-2011)

Capt. Edward Hubbard, Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon commander, offered his condolences to Marny Conforti during the funeral service for her father in Arlington, Va., Feb. 3. Lanagan founded the platoon at the Barracks and served as its first platoon commander in 1948. He is reported to have taught the platoon its unique style of silent drill, for which it is named today. Lanagan also served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam, where he earned the Legion of Merit Medal with a Combat V.

The dream of a King



STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. MONDO LESCAUD

Twenty-three years ago, Duane King's mother came home with a trumpet, a random gift that would shape the rest of his life.

His mother and father were both musicians, but they never forced their passion onto their son. Young Duane showed an interest in music, but never really acted on it... until his first trumpet.

"I was no musical prodigy when I first got that trumpet, but that didn't stop me from practicing all the time," said King. "I stuck to it because I got enjoyment out of it. A lot of people don't get to share the things they find enjoyment in with the rest of the world. With music, I felt like I could do just that."

In sixth grade, after much frustration and persistence, and so many "shut the doors", King joined the school band. That simple decision would fuel his curiosity and ignite his musical passion, setting ablaze a fire that would never die out.

He kept at his nubile affection for music by staying active in school bands. In eighth grade, Duane took his understanding and works to a higher level, and was recognized for it with a selection to the Florida All-State Band. While playing with the FASB, Duane found out about the U.S. Marine Band.

"That's when I first knew I wanted to be a part of this organization," said King.

King knew from that point on, one of his ultimate goals in life would be to wear the prestigious and distinctive red coats with white braids.

Throughout the rest of his high school musical career, he earned another selection to the all-state band, three selections to the all-district



Gunnery Sgt. Duane King, U.S. Marine Band assistant drum major, leads the band at the start of a Friday Evening Parade here Aug. 5, 2011. King was selected to serve as the band's assistant drum major from the Corps' fleet bands.

band and the John Philip Sousa Band Award, an award thousands of high schools give to their most outstanding band student.

High school graduation came, and, 10 months later, Marine Corps recruit training graduation. King then reported to the Armed Forces School of Music in Virginia.

The Marine Forces Reserve Band in New Orleans, La., was his first duty station.

"I learned a lot at the MarForRes Band," said King. "As a new corporal, I was a trumpet instrumentalist and the trumpet section leader. I also unofficially learned how to be a drum major."

He later went to Marine Corps Base Twentynine Palms, Calif., where he pinned on the rank of sergeant.

After a short stint in school for drum major's course, he went back to where his career began, Parris Island. Following his stay on the island, he went back to the MarForRes Band and got his first drum major job as the assistant drum major.

In 2009, King's

dream, still burning as hot as it was 20 years ago, started coming to fruition. He was one of two Marines selected to come to Marine Barracks Washington to audition for the "The President's Own" assistant drum major position.

The Marines faced two judged performances, both on the hallowed grounds of the oldest post of the Corps. One of the two would go on to lead the longest-standing musical organization in American history.

King won, and the rest, as they say, is history.

"Gunny King truly is an outstanding, model Marine," said Master Sgt. Kevin Hunter, MarForRes bandmaster and King's friend. "He never had any outstanding flaws, but I've seen him improve a great deal throughout the years. He absolutely deserves to be in the position he's in."

Hunter has known King for 10 years, and said he has seen him grow in many areas. He said he always thought King's work ethic would take him places, and it did. Gunnery Sgt. King's dream has come

true, as he now sits as the fifth official assistant drum major in the Marine Band's rich history.

"I'm living out my dream," King said. "I've wanted this for about 20 years, and I feel like the luckiest man alive. There's not a lot of people who get to live their dream day in and day out like I do."

King still enjoys playing his trumpet on occasion. It anxiously sits by his desk at all times, eagerly waiting to be picked up and played.

After his stint as the prestigious band's assistant drum major, King aspires to move back to New Orleans with his wife and two children, once again making music with the MFR band. Ultimately, King wants to finish his career at the oldest post of the Corps as the band's drum major. The plan seems more than feasible, considering his career, work and skill, and the fact that it's been accomplished many times before. But until then, it's all hard work and dedication for the musical Marine.

Brandon Mitchell, Headquarters & Service Company quarterback and cornerback, throws a pass while scrambling out of the pocket during the second half of Marine Barracks Washington's intramural flag-football championship Dec. 21. Mitchell threw for more than 100 yards in the game. His overall performance was a major factor in Team H&S's 20-12 victory.



Photo by Sgt. Austin Hazard



Head & Shoulders above the REST

Story by
Cpl. Mondo Lescaud

Headquarters and Service Company's flag-football team defeated Marine Corps Institute Company's team in the Marine Barracks Washington's intramural championship this

winter.

The two teams played a hard-fought game in the rain, but Team H&S came away with the trophy this year, winning 20-12. This was the first time in more than five years H&S beat the other companies for the championship.

H&S kicked off the game to

Team MCI, whose first drive of the game would set the tone for the rest of the first half. Three straight incomplete passes led to the first of many punts for the team in red.

Team H&S also didn't put any points on the board when they got the ball, but they let Brandon Mitchell,



Photo by Cpl. Mondo Lescaud

David Wells, H&S wide receiver, goes up for a reception during the second half. Wells turned the 10-yard pass into a 40-yard scamper after he made the fingertips catch. The catch led to a short touchdown pass from Mitchell to Alvin Neveaux. This was their final drive of the championship game.



Photo by Sgt. Austin Hazard

Christopher Brown, Marine Corps Institute Company offensive lineman and linebacker, catches a pass and outruns two defenders for a 50-yard gain during the second half. After the 10-yard pass, Brown barreled down the sideline for an extra 40 yards and was downed at the opponent's 9 yard line. Despite this touchdown drive late in the second half, Team MCI still lost the game by eight points, 12-20.



Photo by Sgt. Austin Hazard

Loranji Goodrum, H&S lineman, batters down Alfredo Saenz's pass during MCI's final drive of the championship game.



Photo by Cpl. Mondo Lescaud

Mitchell, H&S Company quarterback and cornerback, grabs the jersey of Corey Quill, MCI wide receiver, during the first half. Mitchell committed no penalties throughout the game, and his lock-down defense helped seal the 20-12 win for Team H&S.

H&S quarterback and cornerback, loose. Three times during their drive, Mitchell was pressured by defensive linemen and linebackers, and three times he scrambled away and gained yards by rushing or passing downfield.

The next drive, Team MCI unleashed one of their own weapons. The red jerseys found themselves in the red-zone thanks to the Peyton Manning-like presence of Alfredo Saenz, MCI quarterback.

Saenz hit his receivers on the numbers almost every play during their drive, showing off his throwing abilities. He floated a couple toward the sideline and he zipped a couple between the hash-marks. But when the pressure was on and they could smell the end zone, he sailed a pass deep in the right corner, a mistake that proved costly.

A yellow number 32 jersey sprinted from the other pylon and leapt in front of the receiver to intercept the pass. Alvin Neveaux saved the would-be touchdown and kept the score even, 0-0.

The play was disappointing, but Saenz and his team didn't lose hope, there was a lot more time on the clock, and they proved it when they got the ball back.

"I was ready to get back out there and score," said Saenz. "I was ready to do whatever it took for the team to win."

This time, around the 30-yard line, Saenz took another shot towards the far right of the end zone, and yet again, a yellow jersey sprinted from across the field and got his hands on the ball while in mid-air. However, Mitchell's decision to go for the interception instead of batting it down would cost them the lead. The ball bounced off of his hands and landed softly in the welcoming arms of Sadiqq Abdullah, MCI receiver.

Team MCI's six point lead fueled Team H&S's motivational fire, forcing them to bring out the specialty plays on the next drive.

Four plays after the kick return, Thomas Shields, Team H&S



Photo by Sgt. Austin Hazard

Kemond Tatum, MCI running back, and Christopher Bustamante, MCI wide receiver, almost collide after missing an interception in H&S's end zone during the second half. Team MCI lost the championship game 12-20.

kicker and quarterback, beamed a pass to Mitchell in a designed wide receiver screen. Mitchell made the catch, juked past defenders, and sprinted 60 yards into the end zone.

Team MCI's first possession of the second half was surprising. One of the biggest Marines on the field, offensive lineman Christopher Brown, caught a botched pass and barreled 50 yards down the sideline.

"I was sprinting on full throttle out there," said Brown. "It was worth it though because it set up [Christopher] Adams' 9-yard touchdown catch."

With Team MCI up by six points, the yellow jerseys would call Mitchell's number once again and he wasn't about to let them down.

Mitchell took over at their 30-yard line with about four minutes left in the second half. A few short passes and scrambles later, Mitchell sailed a perfectly placed 15-yard pass over the middle of the field. David Wells caught it in stride and rushed 40 yards up the field and into the end zone. Mitchell completed the two-point conversion

pass to Christopher Madden, H&S wide receiver and safety.

Down by two points and time winding down, MCI couldn't come away with any points on the drive and turned the ball over on downs.

With Mitchell's arm already warmed up and his confidence soaring, it didn't look difficult for him to bomb another deep touchdown, this time to Neveaux, to seal H&S victory with

under a minute left in the game.

H&S can now claim themselves champions of the Barracks intramural flag-football league, something they couldn't do in previous years.

"It was a competitive game, both teams fought hard," said Edwards. "After all the hard work we put in that game and the season itself, it feels good to come away with the win and the championship."



Photo by Cpl. Mondo Lescaud

Team H&S stands victoriously at mid-field after the intramural flag-football championship. H&S faced off against MCI in a gritty, competitive game, but came out on top 20-12.



Around the Barracks



TACTICAL Practical

Need new boots? So does the Corps, but how will its new RAT boots compare?

STORY BY SGT. AUSTIN HAZARD

Not long ago, the commandant told the uniform board that he wanted RAT (rugged all-terrain) boots issued to recruits and required for fleet Marines. According to the board's boot department, these new boots could be handed to recruits at the depots as early as 2014, and Marines in general may have to acquire a pair themselves by 2015.

I got a pair to try out for myself a few weeks ago. Danner is the primary manufacturer, and who I went with, but right now the contract isn't awarded, so it's uncertain what brand the Corps will issue at boot camp. Regardless of whom you buy yours from in coming years, they can cost upwards of \$300 a pair.

RAT boots look much like the current standard, except for polyurethane-coated leather that covers the toe and heel of the boots. They also appear to be made of a smoother, soft leather instead of suede. And the eyelets are arranged a little differently, enough to change the way you blouse your trousers.

Despite the word "rugged" being in their title, I was surprised to find just how stiff they were. Though I know they need to be broken in, they were much more rigid than I remember my regular pair being new out of the box.

Furthermore, the boots are more snug than I'm used to. If you like a little room to wiggle your toes, you might want to order yours a fraction size bigger when the time comes.

The way they lace up makes it difficult to tighten them evenly since the tongue is extra wide and the eyelets at the ankle are spread further apart than the rest. But because most of the looseness is at the top of the boots, which won't tie tight enough for most people, any waterproof qualities of the

boots (specifically the temperate versions, which feature a Gore-Tex lining) is rendered worthless if you tread any deeper than your shins. This is a major design fault, as the Corps is historically (and returning to) an amphibious fighting force, though it may only exist with my choice of brand.

But I figured the number crunchers knew what they were doing when these were recommended up the chain, so I laced 'em up for a run to put them through their paces.

For a boots and utilities run, three miles was not that difficult in these. Stiff, yes, but they were strangely easy on my calves. The ruggedness of the boots did stress my Achilles tendons since there was no flex in the heel when I stepped, but I hope it was only because I've yet to break them in. Despite all that, their traction is awesome. Just walking around the Barracks I can feel the soles grip the cement beneath my feet.

I assume most of those negative issues will dissipate after I've worn the boots enough, but they are nonetheless thicker and heavier than the current boots. After weighing them, I found that a pair of RAT boots weighs a half pound more than my previous pair.

However, I believe that extra weight will serve as much needed protection from any number of small accidents, or even small explosives or shrapnel. We're often quick to judge boots and shoes solely on their merit for physical and combat fitness tests, but I think these will be very effective for combat environments, manual labor or working with heavy machinery.

I like the look, which is both stylish (as far as military boots go) and rugged. Though I wouldn't wear them for my CFT, I'd definitely prefer them for any deployments (or any other outdoors excursions, like hiking or mountain climbing).



Despite their initial impression, which made them seem unforgiving, I agree with this style of boots. They may add a few seconds to your CFT time, but they'll keep your feet safer whenever you deploy. I would, however, strongly urge whichever manufacturer the Corps chooses to alter how tight the boots can be tied. This alone is enough to make me prefer my old boots.

Whether you agree with the change or not, you should be sure to keep an ear to the ground and be ready to get your own pair in the near future.



CPL. JAY JAWOROWSKI, MARINE DRUM & BUGLE CORPS TENOR DRUMMER, PRACTICES WITH THE REST OF THE DRUMLINE PRIOR TO A BATTLE COLOR CEREMONY AT MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT PARRIS ISLAND, S.C., MARCH 12. THE CEREMONY WAS ONE OF THE BATTLE COLOR DETACHMENT'S LAST PERFORMANCES FOR THE 2012 NATIONAL INSTALLATIONS TOUR, IN WHICH THE BCD VISITED MOST OF THE CORPS' CONTINENTAL BASES.

PHOTO BY SGT. AUSTIN HAZARD

