

# PASS IN REVIEW

APR.MAY.JUN 2012



OLDEST POST  
CHANGES  
HANDS

1801

THE  
LEGACY  
MARCHES ON





# Pass in Review

Apr. May. Jun 2012



Photo by Cpl. Jeremy Ware

## Barracks welcomes new commander

Col. Christian G. Cabaniss takes the reins of the Barracks during a ceremony at the "Oldest Post of the Corps," June 21.

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## Combined Effort

Four Marines held together as they dashed, leapt and crawled through mud and harsh terrain to overcome a challenge as one.

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Front cover graphic by Cpl. Jeremy Ware

Back cover photo by Cpl. Jeremy Ware

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## Semper Fidelis

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Sgt. Austin Hazard  
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# Forum

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Life

## Education is key

STORY BY CPL. JEREMY WARE

I hear Marines say all the time that when they get out of the Corps it's back to school for them, but I wonder how many are truly prepared for that endeavor and why they are waiting to get out to start or continue school.

I didn't go back to college immediately. Upon arriving to the Corps' oldest post, I filled my free time with more important things, like catching Nationals games and joining a local kickball league.

But one phone call to the education center on Henderson Hall showed me that school would be a better way to spend my off time, and it really would not be that big of a burden.

While serving on active duty, every Marine is able to utilize the Tuition Assistance Program, which provides Marines money to attend school while on active duty. I've been stationed at Marine Barracks Washington since February 2010, and in August 2012 I will receive my bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland University College. Full disclosure: I enlisted in the Marine Corps with 90 credits from the University of Memphis. 120 credits are required to earn a degree.

Even though I had 90 credits, UMUC didn't accept them all when

I transferred. I did not realize until UMUC asked, but every Marine has something called a Sailor/Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcript (SMART), which chronicles your training in the Marine Corps. This transcript is used by colleges to provide Marines with credits towards a degree based on their training. My SMART included some of the Marine Corps Institute courses I completed for the rank of corporal, all of my Military Occupation Specialty classes and recruit training even counted as a college gym class.

At a required orientation brief, an education office representative told me about tuition assistance, which allows every Marine up to \$750 per course and up to \$4,500 per fiscal year.

This came as great news for me because that just so happens to be the price per class at UMUC. As with most things in life, there are strings attached. The tuition assistance and GI Bill policies state that I must maintain at least a 2.0 GPA overall, and I have to pass every class with at least a C.

Upon the completion of every class I had to either fax or e-mail the resulting grade to an office in Pensacola, Fla. If I failed, or failed to report my grade, I would have to pay the Corps back its money, so it's beneficial to take a manageable workload and pass every class.

That's how I will finish college, but some Marines hold jobs that are too time-consuming to pursue their education, or they just aren't interested right now. The Corps has a plan for them as well, and it's called the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

The bill allows Marines who get out of the Corps to attend a school in whichever state they choose. The bill pays up to \$17,500 per year for your education. The thing most Marines talk about is the housing allowance. If you take at least one class per semester in a college classroom then you rate E-5 pay with dependents for the area in which you live. If you are going to college completely online, then you rate 50 percent of that amount.

This is a good deal for those Marines planning to get out and go to college. But you need to start looking for colleges before you get out. Check out several school websites and find a school that is military friendly. Most importantly, choose a school that will fit your future educational needs, before you get out, and then call the education center at Henderson Hall; their number is (703) 614-9104, or your on-base education center. There are several more than capable people who work in that office that can set you up for success. I called about 18 months ago and now I almost have my college degree. What are you doing with your free time?

## TOURING DC



Photo illustration by Cpl. Jeremy Ware

VOLUNTEERING

DINING

HISTORY

## Volunteering in the District

Story by Sgt. Austin Hazard

Few would find it in them to call any Marine or service member who dedicates four or more years to their country selfish, but many troops take their devotion even further. The Corps itself provides opportunities for Marines to volunteer in the community, whether through Marine Corps Community Services, chaplains' offices or your chain of command.

However, work and scheduling can often conflict with these efforts and Marines looking to volunteer on their own time may need to look elsewhere for their volunteer opportunities. The Nation's capital can be difficult to navigate, but that shouldn't discourage you.

As I mentioned before, MCCS provides volunteer events on occasion, usually with Habitat for Humanity, and most months the chaplain takes groups to So Others Might Eat, a program to help provide food for the needy. While these do happen regularly, they may not be frequent enough or timed conveniently for some Marines.

If you're interested in helping out in the community, some good places to look are usually soup kitchens and animal shelters. Soup kitchens fall under the SOME program the chaplain participates in, so you can talk to him for anything you may want to do with SOME or other soup kitchens.

I personally prefer to stay out of the district and instead work in the sur-

rounding areas when volunteering. I've found working in Alexandria and Arlington simpler due to their less confusing road systems and the presence of regular parking. Some of the best experiences I've had volunteering in this area were at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, which is an animal shelter on Eisenhower Avenue. The shelter not only allows you to view their schedule online and schedule your time whenever there are openings, of which there are plenty, but it also educates its volunteers to better train and work with the animals. While you are restricted to what volunteer services you can provide based on which classes you've attended, it is still a good place to volunteer, especially if you enjoy working with animals.

But the simplest, most convenient way I've found to support this community is through the public libraries. Take Alexandria's Burke Branch Library – there, you can show up during any of their open hours, unscheduled, and volunteer. It requires practically no planning and they always have work to be done. You log in, and if requested, they can print off your hours for you.

If you look on the cities' volunteer sites (listed below) you can also find several student mentorship programs to participate in, as well as listings of public libraries and other opportunities. Mentoring students, of any age, can be more rewarding than anything else I've men-



tioned thus far. The Barracks has actually been holding its own mentorship program at Eastern Senior High School, where a group of Marines visit every Wednesday after school to help students during their study hour. If mentoring sounds like something you'd like to do, be prepared to invest a consistent amount of time to the program, as they usually require people to commit a certain number of hours a week to mentoring.

Regardless of how you wish to serve the community, there are a number of avenues to take and a variety of vehicles to get you there. Sometimes you just need to know where to begin. A good starting point can be to visit [www.alexandriava.gov/volunteer](http://www.alexandriava.gov/volunteer) or [www.serve.dc.gov](http://www.serve.dc.gov) for possible volunteer opportunities in Northern Virginia and D.C. Also be sure to ask about opportunities with the chaplain's office and MCCS.



Photo by Cpl. Mondo Lescaud



# Call to Duty



Sgt. Codie Williams, Marine Drum and Bugle Corps ceremonial bugler, observes the next candidate for the assistant ceremonial bugler position march during practice here April 12.



Cpl. Michael Johnston, a Marine Drum & Bugle Corps bugler and candidate for the assistant ceremonial bugler position, plays Taps on the ramparts during a tryout here April 12. Johnston was among a select group of D&B Marines that tried out for the coveted position.



Cpl. Christopher Walker, Marine Drum and Bugle Corps assistant ceremonial bugler, plays his bugle to tryout for his current position during the first elimination round here April 12.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. DENGRIER BAEZ

Ceremonial buglers at Marine Barracks Washington are part of a tradition that dates back to the first battles fought in the beginning of this great nation. Early in our history “field musics”, like buglers, served as the primary source for signaling troops. Now their melodies honor a deeper calling.

The calling is apparent at the Barracks parades when the ceremonial bugler plays Taps at the conclusion of each parade to honor those who paid the ultimate price defending freedom. Sgt. Codie Williams is the U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps primary ceremonial bugler. Her duties extend from playing at funerals and special events to outreach in the community, she visits the local schools educating the youth on what the Marine Corps does and the D&B’s mission.

However, a second and less known position is filled by another D&B member—the assistant ceremonial bugler. With so much talent in the D&B, tryouts are needed to pick the best candidate for the spot. The process is conducted in rounds where only the best performers progress. The initial cuts are based on the candidates’ showmanship and skill. The ceremonial bugler is

aided in the process by top leaders of the D&B as competitors are eliminated through successive rounds.

“When we’re evaluating their performance we look at everything, from their haircuts to uniforms to military bearing,” said Williams. “The marching and playing part is the less difficult aspect because the candidates do it often. It’s about having nerves of steel and their maturity.”

The Barracks commanding officer and sergeant major are invited to the last audition to help select the best performer. Recently Cpl. Christopher Walker, a soprano bugler, meritoriously earned the position beating out more than 15 other D&B members.

“I think the hardest part of everything we were getting evaluated on was the ceremonial aspect of the performance,” said Walker.

The 25-year-old said growing up he had a great interest in music and wanted to perform with the best. After attending Central Michigan University for almost two years he decided to follow up on his desire to perform with a military musical element. The Livonia, Mich. native has traveled and performed with the D&B across the nation and abroad and after watching the auditions last year he felt that it was the right time to step up to the challenge.

“This is something I wanted to do since I joined the unit and I’m glad I got it,” said Walker. “I plan to stay here for a while and this might be just the first step to other great things.”



Cpl. Christopher Walker, Marine Drum & Bugle Corps assistant ceremonial bugler, performs during a Friday Evening Parade June 8.





Photo by Cpl. Jeremy Ware



Photo by Cpl. Dengrier Baez

(top) Col. Christian G. Cabaniss, Marine Barracks Washington commanding officer, speaks to guests during a change of command ceremony here June 21. (left) Col. Christian G. Cabaniss prepares to take the command colors from Col. Paul D. Montanus, out-going commanding officer of Marine Barracks Washington, during a change of command ceremony.

## Barracks welcomes new Commander

STORY BY CPL. DENGRIER BAEZ

Col. Christian G. Cabaniss took the reins of the “Oldest Post of the Corps,” as the new commander of Marine Barracks Washington.

Cabaniss assumed command during a ceremony at the Barracks historic parade grounds on June 21. The two top senior leaders of the Corps, the Commandant Gen. James Amos and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Micheal Barrett, attended the event among other notable guests.

Cabaniss, a graduate of the

U.S. Naval Academy, served in multiple billets in Iraq and Afghanistan, and has earned numerous awards, to include a Bronze Star with “V” device and a Combat Action Ribbon.

Cabaniss brings Barracks experience with him to the post, having served as a Parade Commander and operations officer at the Barracks from June 2000 to June 2003.

He has also served as the Military Assistant to the Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy for Plans, Policy, Oversight and Integration.

Another notable highlight in Cabaniss’ career includes serving as the military aide to the President of the United States from June 2004 to August 2006.

He replaced Col. Paul D. Montanus, who had commanded the Barracks since July 2010. Upon relinquishing command of the post Amos awarded Montanus with the Legion of Merit.

Montanus’ new assignment will be at the U.S Naval Academy in Annapolis, where he will serve as the senior Marine and head the Humanities and Social Sciences Division there.





Photo by Cpl. Jeremy Ware

Col. Paul D. Montanus receives the Legion of Merit Award during a change of command ceremony from Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, for his achievements while serving as commanding officer of Marine Barracks Washington.



Photo by Cpl. Dengrier Baez

Sgt. Maj. Micheal P. Barrett, sergeant major of the Marine Corps, holds a Legion of Merit Award during a change of command ceremony to be awarded to Col. Paul D. Montanus.



Photo by Cpl. Jeremy Ware

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
CPL. MONDO LESCAUD



Most of the time, Sgt. Josiel Uc starts the day with a hot cup of coffee. He pulls out his pen as if it were a fork and digs into the meat and potatoes of the day's work, managing his part of the Barracks' military justice. Supporting the Barracks legal advisor in all paralegal services, including administrative separations, formal punishments, legal check-in briefs, background checks and legal assistance, makes up most of the daily workload for the busy Marine.

The work seems never-ending, as Uc's fingertips strike his keyboard over and over for the majority of the day. A full buffet accumulates on his desk by the end of working hours. Every now and again, his pen flies over a few horizontal black lines, leaving a machine-like imprint on the paper.

Uc is the only enlisted Marine in his team of two, handling most of the "dirty work." Maj. Russell R. Henry, legal advisor, is the officer in charge.

Henry recently earned the 2011 Outstanding Young Lawyer for the Marine Corps award. The purpose of the award is to recognize an excellent military attorney

under the age of 36 from each of the five uniformed branches. Representing the Corps, Henry was presented the award by Maj. Gen. Vaughn Ary, staff judge advocate to the commandant of the Marine Corps, Aug. 5, 2011, in Toronto, Canada.

Here at the Barracks, Henry doesn't do the same operational attorney work he did while with U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, his former command. He now serves as the principle attorney and counsel for the Barracks commanding officer and his staff.

"Sgt. Uc and I work hand in hand on the legal matters at the Barracks," said Henry. "The work ethic here is great and

Uc is a fantastic noncommissioned officer. As far as (legal services specialists) are concerned, he is the cream of the crop. We are fortunate to have him working here."

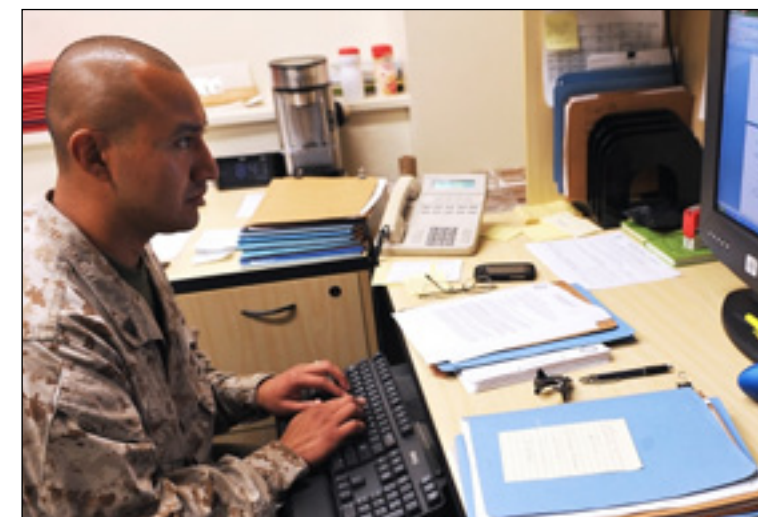
The caliber of work the Barracks legal team performs has bought in awards and ensured the keeping of the highest traditions of the Marine Corps. These Marines serve a critical purpose, "to serve all legal matters here at the Barracks," according to Henry.

"We do our best to provide outstanding legal service to all military members and civilians of the Barracks," Henry said. "That is our intent, and we will make sure it happens."



Photo by Cpl. Dengrier Baez

Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, delivers remarks during the Barracks change of command ceremony. The commandant individually selects the commanding officer of Marine Barracks Washington out of a group of qualified colonels.



Sgt. Josiel Uc, Marine Barracks Washington legal chief, prepares legal documents in the early morning as part of his daily routine.

Photo by Cpl. Mondo Lescaud





# AN MORN FOR

# FEET





Staff Sgt. Joshua Miles, Marine Drum & Bugle Corps marketing chief, crawls through mud and under wires during the Civilian Military Combine at Bryce Resort, Va., April 21. The Combine, a weight lifting competition followed by a mountainous 6-mile obstacle course, was the fourth event in the 2012 Commander's Cup series. Miles was one of four D&B Marines who competed as a team.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
SGT. AUSTIN HAZARD

At an offseason ski resort in eastern Virginia, hundreds of athletes



Sgt. Lauren Schoener, D&B mellophone section leader, jumps from a wall obstacle on the final stretch of the Civilian Military Combine.

dashed to and fro, leapt and climbed up and over, splashed, crawled and scrambled through mud and water. But a group of four held together from start to finish.

They are Marines, a small group from Marine Barracks Washington, representing "the Commandant's Own" Marine Drum & Bugle Corps. The four entered the Civilian Military Combine, which served as the Barracks' fourth 2012 Commander's Cup event, as a team, even though the cup did not require them to compete as one.

Thirteen Barracks Marines participated in the mountainous six-mile obstacle course race April 21, but only the D&B was represented by a team.

The idea to run the race came long before it was even chosen as a cup event. After the Barracks' participation in Tough Mudder, a separate mud run, last year, Staff Sgt. Joshua Miles, D&B marketing chief, and Sgt. Lauren Schoener, D&B mellophone

bugle section leader, decided to run the combine simply for the challenge.

"I would have never thought about doing a mud race outside of the Commander's Cup," said Miles, a veteran of last year's Tough Mudder. "It did exactly what it was designed to do – it got us out and trying something we wouldn't normally try."

Eventually, the two grew to four and the D&B Marines entered as a team.

The event started with a cordoned area referred to as "the pit," where competitors performed as many kettlebell lifts, box jumps, "burpees" and clean and jerks as they could in the alternating intervals allotted.

"Coming out of the pit, you're already tired and exhausted, then you start going the wrong way up a ski slope," said Schoener. "It had a lot more to do with endurance than I originally thought. But running with a team, Marines especially, really pushed me to try harder."

A general consensus was

formed among the team that the ski slope was the most trying obstacle of the course.

Interspersed throughout the race were many smaller obstacles, ranging from short walls to climb or leap over to long hurdles to crawl or roll under. These served to slow and tire the team, but proved unable to divide them.

"If we're going to be in pain, we should all suffer and get through it together," commented Schoener.

Some obstacles tried the team more than others, including a 100-yard mud pit lined with trip and barbed wire.

Yet even in this long and difficult crawl, the team moved as one.

"Crawling under the barbed wire in the mud was rough," said Staff Sgt. Oscar Olive IV, D&B audio/video technician. "The whole combine was a fun and challenging way to test my physical abilities. It was a good experience for my first cup event."

Despite their fatigue, pain and drying coats of mud, the Marines all ran through the finish line with smiles.

"Excited and relieved," said Schoener. "That's how I felt at the



Staff Sgt. Joshua Miles, D&B marketing chief, thrusts a weighted bar over his head during the first part of the Civilian Military Combine.

finish. At those last few obstacles, you could see the end, so you knew you had done it. It was really important to all of us to finish together, and we did."

The team finished seventh out of the 21 coed teams to compete in the mid-Atlantic run.

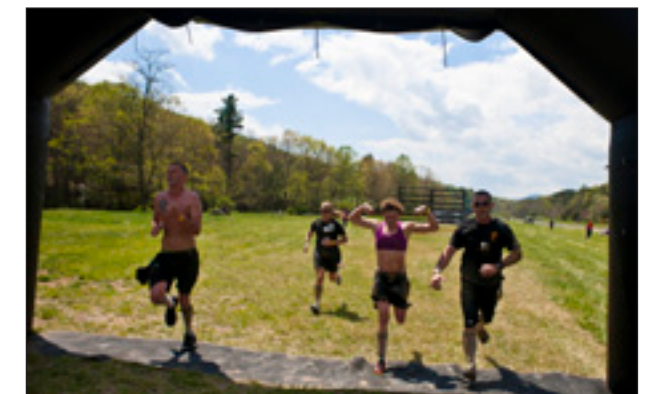
"For this being the first mud run for three-quarters of our team, I think we did really well," said Miles, a former Marine Corps combat instructor. "No one quit, fell out or skipped any obstacles."

While some teams ran at individual paces and averaged their times, these Barracks Marines held together for all six miles and through every obstacle. This didn't mean stopping to allow a slower member catch up, it meant pacing together and constantly motivating and encouraging each other throughout the run.

"Sticking together the whole way was important to us," Miles explained. "As a fire team, as Marines, you stay together. That was kind of our mentality."



Sgt. Courtney Lawrence, D&B marching instructor, clears an ankle-deep mud crawl obstacle during the Civilian Military Combine.



The D&B Marine team sprints together into the competitors tent after finishing the Civilian Military Combine.



# A Day of DISCOVERY



STORY AND PHOTO BY  
CPL. JEREMY WARE

The “Commandants Own” U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps and the Marine Corps Color Guard performed at the induction ceremony for the NASA space shuttle Discovery at the National Air and Space Museum’s Steven

F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Va. April 19.

The D&B began the festivities which included appearances by Discovery commanders and crew members; a nose-to-nose meeting of space shuttles Discovery and Enterprise; the national anthem, sung by mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves; and distinguished speakers, such as former senator and astronaut, and U.S. Marine,

John Glenn.

As the D&B marched onto the field in front of the Enterprise, the gathered crowd of more than 8,000 began to come alive. They played “The Stars and Stripes Forever” and “Semper Fidelis,” as Discovery slowly rolled into its place for the ceremony, facing the Enterprise.

The color guard then marched in front of the stage and presented the national

ensign for the ceremony. As the D&B played the national anthem, the crowd began singing along as a patriotic disposition swept over it.

“It was an honor to perform at the ceremony for the Discovery,” said Sgt. Nate Morris, D&B percussionist. “I could hear as the crowd sang along to the national anthem, and it made me really proud to be there.”

Discovery, which arrived at Dulles International Airport from Florida, April 17 after flying several laps over the nation’s capital, is taking the place of Enterprise at the Smithsonian museum near Dulles, as Enterprise begins its journey to New York City, where it will be displayed at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum.

Discovery flew its maiden flight Aug. 30, 1984, when it carried three com-

munications satellites for deployment. It has since completed a record-breaking 39 missions, spent 365 days in space and orbited Earth 5,830 times. Early notable missions include the deployment of the Hubble Space Telescope, the Ulysses spacecraft to explore the sun’s polar regions in 1990 and launching the Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite in 1991. Discovery’s last and final launch took place Feb. 24, 2011.



# Friday Evening Parade



STORY BY CPL. JEREMY WARE

Every Friday evening from May through August in our nation's capital, a unique and solemn parade is conducted by more than 300 Marines for a fortunate few.

For more than five decades the Marines have welcomed guests to Marine Barracks Washington providing a narrative of the Corps' discipline and professionalism and delivering an incantation of pride and patriotism. For some, the ceremonial tale is their first encounter with the spirit of the Corps. For old and new Marines it can be a healing event, rekindling the burning spirit in their bellies. For many it's simply awe-inspiring.

This story of the Friday Evening Parade is told through the words of the Marines who man the Corps' oldest post every Friday night.

CPL. BRANDON KEENE, 9TH STREET PARKER – "Parkers are the first Marines the guests encounter when they arrive to the Barracks. We direct them to their spot and greet them with a salute. I hold the honor of beginning the guest's experience that is the Friday Evening Parade; if I'm spot-on then they start the night off right."

CPL. MADDY AUGUSTINE, PARKER – "Ensuring the guests experience is beyond reproach is essential to my job. I have to monitor traffic during rush hour in D.C., it can get very hectic. I have to

remain calm for the guests, get them into a parking spot and start their journey towards the "Oldest Post of the Corps." I have an important piece of the guest's experience. I have to make sure they head towards the Barracks feeling good about their experience with parking."

CPL. ZACHARY ALSTON, SQUAD LEADER ADVISOR WITH GROUNDS PLATOON – "Grounds is essential to the parades. We ensure that the ground is clear of debris and foreign objects, the seats are perfectly aligned and we set up the chains, gate signs and water stations. We are like the backstage crew for the parade, without us there is no parade. We lurk in the shadows making sure everything runs smoothly for the Barracks guests. I like knowing that even though I'm anonymous, I have a hand in every single guest's experience."

CPL. PATRICK MCCREARY, SOPRANO BUGLER WITH THE DRUM & BUGLE CORPS – "When we start our slow march onto the parade deck there is initially some nerves and excitement, but that goes away when you start playing, then it's all focus on the performance, thinking one step ahead of what is currently happening. We are essential to the parade; we are the keepers of the tradition for the Marine Corps. We were originally formed for communication purposes on the battlefield, and now we provide an emotional connection for the crowd. The musical elements of Marine Barracks Washington are able to com-

municate a patriotic feeling in a way the marchers are not."

LANCE CPL. DANIEL CRUZ, CEREMONIAL MARCHER WITH BRAVO COMPANY, 1ST PLATOON – "Standing in the arcade right before marching out is pretty nerve-racking, you can hear the crowd and all the cameras going off, we can hear everything. Then we walk out of the arcade and the spotlight just hits you right in the face, between that and all the camera flashes I can't really see anything as we march out."

PFC. CLAYTON CALEY, ALPHA COMPANY GUIDON BEARER – "I have to stand in front of the company with the company commander, so every now and then I'll get butterflies in my stomach. I have to walk to centerwalk for "Officer's Center." That can be a little stressful because I have to count my steps while marching and not lose my bearing. When all the officers and two guidon bearers get to centerwalk, we present arms, and the only lights on at that time are pointed straight at us, so it can be a little unnerving."

LANCE CPL. ANDREW WINGATE, CEREMONIAL MARCHER WITH THE SILENT DRILL PLATOON – "When all the lights go off, except for the ones pointing at the inspection team, I just want to live up to expectations. This parade has a lot of history behind it and I'm a part of that now. It forces me to stop and think about how much of an







honor it is to march here. When everyone is just looking at me and the rifle inspector, I don't really think, muscle memory takes over and my body just moves."

TIMOTHY SPREDER, COLOR SERGEANT OF THE MARINE CORPS – "Right before we march out my adrenalin starts pumping, I get really excited and my breath quickens. The march to centerwalk allows me time to calm down, but every parade my heart races. Then I hold the national colors for the national anthem. I feel a lot of pride while that song plays, I mean, how many guys get to honor their country like I do?"

MAJ. JOHN BARCLAY, PARADE COMMANDER – "Right before marching out, I say a prayer and begin focusing on the little details for everything I need to remember. As a leader I need to ensure

that my parade staff can execute to the best of their abilities. But one of the most important things is being mentally tough.

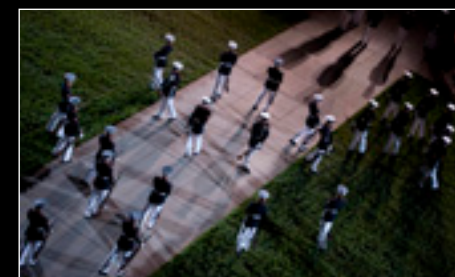
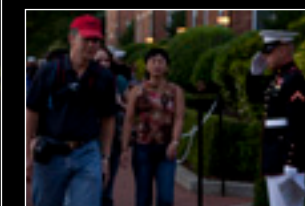
An Evening Parade at the Barracks is a physically demanding thing to execute. It might not sound like much, but standing still on the concrete for so long is about as physically demanding as anything you can do. Mentally you go through different phases, I'm settled in, my feet are starting to hurt a little bit, my hand has fallen asleep, and my knee is starting to hurt a little bit. It's truly a mental battle.

You can't over estimate the element of preparation, such as hydrate yourself well and begin the process several days before the parade, stay off your feet on parade day so you can make that long stand."

LANCE CPL. DANIEL CRUZ, CEREMONIAL MARCHER WITH BRAVO COMPANY, 1ST PLATOON – "Pass in review has to be my favorite part of

the parade. I spend most of my time away from the crowd in the background, blinded by the lights. It's nice to get to march right next to the crowd and have the camera flashes pop, it makes me feel like we did a good job."

GUNNERY SGT. ANTHONY DAVIS, MARINE BARRACKS WASHINGTON DRILL MASTER – "Our drill and parade sequence here simulates how the Marine Corps used to form up the troops for presentation to the commanding officer. It's important that we, as Marines, honor where we come from. As the drill master, I am entrusted with upholding the high standards in ceremonial excellence of the Marine Corps. Every Friday night during the summer when we invite guests into the Barracks we are all entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring that those in attendance experience our pride, traditions and Espirit de Corps."



Each week during the summer the Marines at Marine Barracks Washington host a Friday Evening Parade for thousands of spectators and distinguished guests from across the country and globe.





# Overseas with the BCD

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. DENGRIER BAEZ

*With their sweat barely dry from the Friday Evening Parade, a small detachment of Marines and sailors quickly lugged their bags and equipment onto a plane at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland May 25 and departed on a non-stop flight to Paris to be part of history.*







U.S. Marine and French soldiers placed miniature American and French flags at each of the 2,289 white stone crosses at Aisne-Marne American Memorial Cemetery.



A detail of U.S. Marines and French soldiers carry wreaths to be laid at the base of Aisne-Marne American Memorial Cemetery Chapel to pay tribute to the American and French lives lost during the Battle of Belleau Wood at Aisne-Marne American Memorial Cemetery, May 27.

The Battle Color Detachment, composed of the “The Commandant’s Own,” U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps, Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon, the official Marine Corps Color Guard and ceremonial firing party, traveled to the renowned city to support one of Europe’s biggest Memorial Day ceremonies.

They joined more than 4,000 other American and French service members, their families, tourists and locals to honor the sacrifices of each other’s countrymen on the 94th Anniversary of the Battle of Belleau Wood.

The Battle of Belleau Wood was fought in the summer of 1918. For the Corps, the battle was a departure from 143 years of traditional ship-born engagements. For the world, the battle meant the halt of Germany’s advance on Europe and

ultimately the end of World War I.

But the success of the Marines came at a heavy cost. On June 6th, 1918, the first day of the Battle of Belleau Wood, the Marines lost more men than in all previous combat engagements combined. After 26 days of intense fighting the Marines stood victorious. Today, 2,289 bright-white gravestones are spread across a 42.5-acre field of green flanking the memorial chapel at Aisne-Marne American Memorial Cemetery seated at the base of Belleau Wood.

“It’s an honor to be part of something this big,” said Pfc. Clayton Caley, a ceremonial guidon bearer with the BCD. “We’re rich in tradition at the Barracks, but being here, looking around, it gives you a different side of our history.”

During the ceremony French and American speeches were deliv-

ered by the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Joseph Dunford, and Commandant of the North French Defense Area Gen. Jean-Jacques Poch.

“Today Belleau Wood is a spiritual touchstone,” said Dunford during his remarks. “It has also come to symbolize the commitment of the American and French people to the shared ideals of liberty and justice.”

Additionally, wreaths were laid in front of the Aisne-Marne American Memorial Cemetery Chapel by the mayor of Belleau, Monique Benier, the U.S. Ambassador to France Charles H. Rivkin and the 15th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps John L. Estrada.

After the ceremony, the Marines made the short trek to the small village of Belleau. There they drank from the cascading waters of “Devil Dog Fountain”, so named for its bulldog-shape and the moniker “Teufel Hunden” or devil dog bestowed upon the Marines by their German enemy for their ferocious fighting spirit.

“It’s an honor to be here and take part in something like this,” said Lance Cpl. Heath Andrews, a



The Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon marches into position during a ceremony at the American Ambassador’s Residence in Paris. California Senator Barbara Boxer, the guest of honor, and the U.S. Ambassador to France and Monaco Charles H. Rivkin, the host of the ceremony, and guests of the U.S. embassy had a chance to talk to the Marines during a meet and greet after the performance.



The Marine Corps Color Guard marches on to the parade deck along with the rest of the BCD during the second half of the Memorial Day event at Aisne-Marne American Memorial Cemetery.



The SDP performs during a ceremony at the American Ambassador’s Residence in Paris May 29.



Marines, sailors, French service members and guests applaud at the conclusion of the BCD performance at Aisne-Marne American Memorial Cemetery. More than 4,000 spectators attended the Memorial Day event.





Capt. Christopher Hall, U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps assistant director, conducts the unit during a Battle Color Ceremony at the American Ambassador's Residence in Paris May 29. The D&B performed the unique song "God Bless America," where the entire unit sings a portion of the song a cappella.

Silent Drill Platoon member. "To me, stepping where many Marines had before me, it's an indescribable feeling. The presence of brotherhood and sacrifice is all around us today."

The following day the Marines delved deeper into their history by visiting the Belleau Wood battle site and exploring the craggy hills and various monuments and artifacts preserved and erected in honor of the men who fought and

died there.

"Walking the actual sites gave you a better perspective once you were standing there and seeing how little cover those Marines had and still they charged on," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Cameron Graham, a Barracks hospital corpsman.

Once the exploring was over the BCD got ready for their next performance at the residence of the U.S. Ambassador to France.

Only the two main elements of the unit, SDP and D&B, performed during the visit to the residence, however every Marine and sailor attended.

The Romanesque structure was the backdrop for flawless performances by both units. The D&B not only played their best and most popular pieces but performed "God Bless America" a cappella.

California Senator Barbara Boxer and Rivkin along with American Embassy employees, family, friends and local civilian and military guests applauded enthusiastically at the conclusion of the show.

The BCD's travels ended much like it began. At the conclusion of the performance the Marines quickly exited after some last minute farewells and photos and began their long journey back to the Barracks.



A Marine Barracks Washington ceremonial firing party, attached to the Battle Color Detachment, fires a three-round volley honoring the lives lost during the Battle of Belleau Wood at a Memorial Day event at Aisne-Marne American Cemetery May 27.



Capt. Christopher Hall, D&B assistant director, salutes during a Battle Color Ceremony at the American Ambassador's Residence in Paris May 29. U.S. Embassy employees, family, friends and guests attended the modified ceremony. The D&B performed some of their best-known songs to include, "A Grease Medley," "Cumbanchero y Cumana," "God Bless America," and to close the small performance John Phillip Sousa's famous composition "Stars and Stripes Forever." In attendance as the guest of honor was California Senator Barbara Boxer among other notable local and foreign dignitaries.



Lance Cpl. Carlton Williams, left, and Lance Cpl. Andrew Wingate, both with the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon, execute a rifle throw during a Memorial Day commemoration ceremony paying tribute to the American and French lives lost during the Battle of Belleau Wood at Aisne-Marne American Memorial Cemetery.

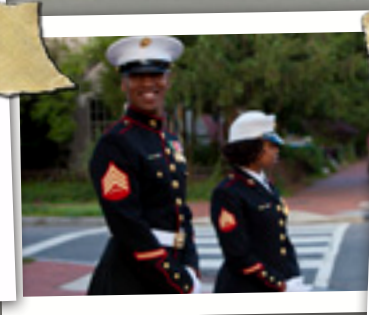


Lance Cpl. Tyler Dutton, Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon member, drinks from the famous Devil Dog Fountain during a reception after a Memorial Day commemoration ceremony to pay tribute to the American and French lives lost during the Battle of Belleau Wood at Aisne-Marne American Memorial Cemetery, May 27.





# Around & Barracks





# TACTICAL Practical

PHOTO BY CPL DENGRIER BAEZ

Looking for a handy knife? Whether outdoors or everyday use, one of these knives just might suit you.

STORY BY SGT. AUSTIN HAZARD

Of all the gadgets and equipment Marines carry, issued or not, one item is practically standard to leathernecks around the Corps. Whether it's a pocket knife, a multi-tool or a combat/hunting knife, you can expect to find most Marines with some type of knife wherever they go.

The problem is knowing what you need and what fits your needs best. All of the many styles have their uses and some are much more specific than others.

If you're not exactly a knife person but are simply looking for something all-purpose, multi-tools are for you. The names Leatherman and Gerber are often misused to refer to all such tools, but that may be an indication of their reliability and reputation. In my experience, both have been dependable and useful. They tend to have more instruments than I ever need, but I'd rather have something and not need it than the reverse. I've found that the blades in Gerber multi-tools are naturally sharper than most other multi-tools and pocket knives. I would recommend getting one with built in pliers, which I wind up using more than anything else except the knife. Other than sharpness, the major brands seem to be pretty evenly matched.

Multi-tools can be very handy, and I prefer to have one around. If I don't, I find myself using my pocket knife as a screwdriver, which dulls the edge and sometimes causes nicks in the blade.

While I do keep a multi-tool around, I also like to keep a regular pocket knife, which is more conve-

nient to carry around every day than a bulky multi-tool. Of the main varieties, I suggest using one that is serrated at the base of the blade. A serrated knife has teeth, which can be very effective for sawing through anything thicker than what you may use a straight edge for. Regardless of what type of pocket knife you choose, it's important to consider built in safeties. There are two common types of safeties on pocket knives, a push catch that prevents you from accidentally opening the blade and a latch that prevents you from accidentally closing it. The push catch is present in almost every pocket knife. However, the closing latch is much less prevalent, but still valuable. It can be irritating at first, but it helps ensure you don't mistakenly close the knife on your fingers.

I personally use and prefer CRKT (Columbia River Knife Trading) knives, which feel more natural and ergonomic to me, but most of the streamline names are just as effective. Whatever you may choose, be sure to check your installation's regulations on pocket knives. Many restrict blade lengths to 3 inches.

The last type is the combat knife (or hunting knife, depending on how you use it). Most Marines only think Ka-Bar when they think of combat knives, but there are many other reliable brands, such as CRKT and Gerber. They all tend to be pretty similar, except for color, size and feel/shape. Thus, I recommend you judge on those aspects. If you want a combat or hunting knife, you should look for one that comes with a sheath for safety and convenience. Most brands make these types of knives with tactical harnesses for the sheaths, which allow you to strap it to your leg if you wish.



After my searching, I ended with a partially serrated CRKT with a 5-inch, tan blade and a leg/belt sheath. I don't use it much outside of camping, which is unfortunate since it cost more than most pocket knives and multi-tools.

In the end, I'd recommend owning a plain pocket knife before worrying about anything else. I use mine almost daily for tasks such as cutting loose threads from my uniforms to cutting open packages.



STAFF SGT. PRINCE COVINGTON, A MARINE BARRACKS WASHINGTON PARADE STAFF MEMBER, MARCHES ON CENTER WALK DURING A FRIDAY EVENING PARADE HERE JUNE 22. THIS IS COVINGTON'S FIRST PARADE SEASON MARCHING WITH THE PARADE STAFF.



