

PASS IN REVIEW

SPRING 2011



Pass In Review

Spring 2011

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By Sgt. Bobby J. Yarbrough

The Legacy of the Marine NCO



Since the creation of the Marine Corps, noncommissioned officers have played an integral role in the Corps' success. They have been the Corps' 'backbone' and the role of the NCO continues to remain one of the most important leadership roles in mission accomplishment.

Although their responsibility has changed over time, Marine NCOs remain committed to the one principle that has forever been woven into the tapestry of the Corps: leading junior Marines.

The responsibility of an NCO, both in field and garrison environments, is to professionally and personally develop each Marine under his charge. They teach junior Marines how to be professionally proficient by providing them a working knowledge of general military subjects and how to make good moral and ethical decisions while both on and off duty.

Now, more than ever, the Corps remains unwavering in its reliance on the NCO. With the Marine Corps currently engaged in combat operations in Afghanistan, NCOs continue to demonstrate remarkable leadership proficiency on the battlefield.

Today, sergeants and corporals are leading foot patrols and convoys throughout the river valleys of Afghanistan. As leaders, the burden and responsibility of each decision, both good and bad, relies on them. Marines are, selfless, tough and persevering, demonstrated by the actions of Marines like Cpl. Jason Dunham and Sgt. Rafael Peralta. Dunham was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for throwing his body on a grenade to protect nearby Marines from the blast. Peralta was also posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for smothering a lethal grenade blast to save his fellow Marines.

NCOs have and will continue to be the driving force behind the legacy of the Corps. As we move into the future, the traditions of the Corps will be imbedded in the leadership and actions of each individual non-commissioned officer. It will be up to them to help shape the future of the Corps.



Touring DC: The National Zoo

By Cpl. Austin Hazard

Marine Barracks Washington rests within the nation's capitol, a site millions of tourists flock to from around the world annually. Marines here have the unique ability to reside so close to so many historic landmarks, monuments, museums and parks.

Unfortunately, all that glamour can be lost on those who so regularly see the Washington Monument or the Capitol in the distance and never think to experience it.

I recently took my wife and 2-year-old son to the National Zoo here in D.C., which I recommend every Marine visit at some point during their stay at the Barracks.

The 163-acre zoo turned out to be one of the largest I've seen, made better by the fact admission is free. However, like the rest of Washington, the parking was not. Parking was the park's first real inconvenience, being in short supply and costing \$15 for three hours and \$20 for any time longer than that. I had to drive through twice to

find a lot with open spaces on a Saturday. For those who prefer not to drive, the Woodley Park-Zoo Metro Station is located just a couple blocks away.

The zoo is big, bigger than many will want to traverse in a single visit. It took us two trips to see every exhibit. This isn't a bad thing, it just means you'll get your money's worth for that parking spot you just paid for. Because of its size, I'd recommend acquiring a map, though they cost \$2 at the information booths.

There were a plethora of animals to be seen, ranging from snakes and turtles to elephants and pandas. The National Zoo boasts 2,000 animals of nearly 400 species. Many of the larger attractions, like the tigers and orangutans, were unfortunately sleeping or hiding away during our first visit. This is one major variable when going to any zoo; if your timing is really bad, it's possible you could walk through while most of the animals are out of sight.

This zoo, however, had plenty of indoor exhibits, such as its Amazonia Habitat and Reptile Discovery Center, which will never disappoint. A single trip to the zoo solely for these indoor attractions would be worth it. Each has dozens, if not hundreds, of creatures to view and learn about, some small and others quite large. I highly encourage anyone walking through the park to not overlook these extensive indoor

collections.

Despite the initial let down from some of the missing larger animals, both trips were well worth the time and the fees. By the end of our second visit we had seen every part of the zoo, including the animals that weren't out the first time around.

But be prepared for an uphill walk if you go, as most of the park is set on a slant. The park also features little shade aside from its indoor areas, so visitors should be prepared for some time in the sun.

You should also bring your own food or prepare to spend a little extra on meals. We didn't eat at any of the establishments there, but I did notice that many of the treats on the side of the paths, such as ice cream and snow cones, ranged from \$5-\$6. But this is to be expected, as prices are always high at tourist attractions.

After both trips I had spent less than \$40, though each individual's expenses will vary depending on how you get there and what you buy once you're there.

Whether you prefer reptiles or exotic birds, lions or tigers, elephants or zebras, pandas or gorillas, the National Zoo will not disappoint.

For more information about the National Zoo, go to www.nationalzoo.si.edu.






CLICK CLICK BOOM

GROUND MARINES SHOOT UP SAW RANGE

PHOTOS AND STORY BY SGT. BOBBY J. YARBROUGH



Marines with grounds platoon at Marine Barracks Washington fired the M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW) on an unknown distance course at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., May 18.

The live-fire training allowed the unit to remain operationally ready by increasing each Marine's proficiency in infantry operations.

The practical application exercise was designed to refamiliarize the Marines with the individual weapon system, assess their ability to perform remedial action drills during live-fire scenarios, and test each Marine's accuracy as they fired from the standing and kneeling positions.

"As infantry Marines, it is important for

them to know, understand, and be comfortable with a variety of weapon systems," said Staff Sgt. William Hayes, the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of grounds. "This comfort level is important when Marines are forward deployed."

The Marines fired more than 6,000 rounds during the evolution as they shot through mock windows and around corners simulating a military operation in urban terrain. For Hayes, this is an important skill for each of his Marines to learn.

"Marines are currently engaged in urban terrain warfare in Afghanistan," said Hayes. "We have to train these Marines accordingly so they will be fully prepared for war when it's their turn to get to the fight."





WELCOME HOME

GEN. AMOS MOVES INTO HOME OF THE COMMANDANTS

STORY BY CPL. AUSTIN HAZARD, PHOTOS BY SGT. BOBBY J. YARBROUGH

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James Amos and his wife invited local residents to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony of the Home of the Commandants at Marine Barracks Washington May 20.

Amos and his wife, Bonnie, moved into the home for the first time shortly after the ceremony. With that, the building has housed every commandant since Lt. Col. Franklin Wharton, the third commandant of the Marine Corps.

The construction project began in November 2010 and ended in early May 2011. However, the effort started in 2008 when a formal evaluation of the house's foundation indicated a significant risk of collapse. Emergency supports were set up throughout the basement to secure the house until the change of command from Gen. James Conway to Amos took place in November. Once the Conways moved out of the house, more permanent repairs could be made.

Congress sanctioned the \$4.7 million budget to restore and improve the 15,000-square-foot national historic landmark.

Aside from restoring the deteriorating brick foundation and wooden support structure, the project also restored the building's stonework and interior. Furthermore, 37 layers of paint were removed from the outer walls and replaced with a permanent layer of white paint that is intended to better protect the building against the elements.

Approximately 500 people took part in the project on the construction teams, while another 150 worked on the developing and management teams.

After the ribbon cutting ceremony ended, the Amoses invited all in attendance to tour the renewed home.



Musical Enlightenment

Story by Pfc. Mondo Lescaud



Photo by Cpl. Austin Hazard

Approximately 20 band and music directors from the Northeastern United States toured Marine Barracks Washington May 5-8 to learn about the musical opportunities in the Marine Corps.

The three-day tour was designed to educate teachers on the Musicians Enlisted Options Program. The tour showcased the musical careers available to high school graduates and college students in the U.S. Marine Band and the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps.

During the tour, the teachers interacted with members of both musical units. They were treated to live performances, historical tours and multiple question and answer sessions. The tour gave the teachers a perspective of the daily life of a Marine Corps musician as well as the history of military music.

"This place is what student musicians, America's future military musicians, have to look forward to," said Ron Seechi, the band director for Brien McMahon High School in Norwalk, Conn. "I am astonished."

The highlight of the tour for Seechi was the practice sessions by each unit.

"This is the best musical ensemble I have ever seen," exclaimed Seechi. "The discipline alone blew me away. There is a certain order and structure to the music you can't help but have great respect for."

The program's goal was to encourage teachers to return to their respective schools and be able to educate their students about the opportunities available to musicians in the Marine Corps. For many of the teachers, the experience was eye opening.

"The [program] opened my eyes to the better techniques the Marine Corps incorporates and the quality of the instruments they use, which in my opinion, are second to none," said Bud McCormick, the band director for Jackson Memorial High School in Jackson, N.J.

The first hand experience made McCormick confident in promoting the Marine Corps music programs as an option to his students.

"It was great to actually come to the Barracks and see what the band and D&B have to offer to our future musicians," said McCormick. "I would be honored if one of my students decided to join the Marine Corps to play music."



SMP REVS UP MARINES

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PFC MONDO LESCAUD

“Start, your, engines!”

These words, along with the deafening rev of 43 high-performance racing engines, bring approximately 82,000 screaming NASCAR fans to their feet. The exceedingly boisterous cheering from a few excited, young Marines cannot be mistaken for the encouragements from your typical fans.

Fifteen Marines from Marine Barracks Washington went to Dover, Del., for the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race May 15. The trip was offered by the Barracks’ Single Marine Program.

“Our objective is to give Marines opportunities to get out of the Barracks and have some fun,” said Curtis Fye, Barracks SMP Coordinator. “However, we do have movie nights at the Barracks at least twice a month.”

The program relies on Marines participating in monthly gatherings. Any Marine, regardless of rank or marital status, is encouraged to attend and offer suggestions at these meetings.

“At least once every month, council representatives from each company at the Barracks converge and discuss problems and solutions of the Barracks,” said Fye. “We also talk about the quality of life itself at the Barracks and how it can be improved.”

Special events, like the NASCAR trip, are coordinated based on feedback from the meetings.

“This was my first time participating in an event that the Barracks put together,” said Lance Cpl. Steven Parker, a sentry from Guard

Company. “I honestly had a blast coming up here.”

Parker really enjoyed himself because he not only got to watch the race for free, but Mark Martin, his favorite driver, finished second.

Lance Cpl. Caleb Meyer, a sentry from Guard Company, didn’t sit down for the final 10 laps as Matt Kenseth held on to a one second lead. Meyer unleashed a howl every time the black car with the red number 17 roared past section 127.

Meyer got a free ticket to a D.C. United soccer game the night before the race from SMP. The program’s tickets to D.C. United and Washington Nationals games are also free to all Marines engaged in the program.

“More sporting events, a paintballing function, a visit to Kings Dominion amusement park and volunteer work are just some of the things we have planned for the near future,” added Fye.

Meyer said he looks forward to upcoming SMP events and plans to get involved in the program whenever he’s not working.

“As long as I’m not working, I’ll keep having fun and going out and doing whatever they’ve got planned,” said Meyer.

The D.C. United games keep Meyer active with the SMP, while free NASCAR tickets and promises of adventurous amusement parks and paintball excursions keep Parker entertained and connected. The SMP can’t make Marines have fun, but they are working to show them the way.



HONORING THE FALLEN

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. AUSTIN HAZARD

Unrestrained tears streaked Linda Townsend's face as she listened to three volleys of unified gunfire and accepted a folded flag, which symbolizes her husband's service to his country, during Cpl. Daniel Townsend's funeral at Arlington National Cemetery May 13.

The iconic flag, expertly folded by Marine Corps Body Bearers, was handled carefully and respectfully, and the shots discharged precisely by a Marine firing party, all part of the Corps' funeral honor guard.

Marine Barracks Washington carries the solemn task of supporting these funerary services for the national capitol region, many of which are held at Arlington National Cemetery.

The funerals encompass the majority of the Barracks' mission, despite its much more publicly known Evening and Sunset Parades, which span the summer months.

"Funerals are ongoing all year long," noted Master Sgt. William J. Dixon, the Marine Corps funeral director. "Funerals account for at least 60 percent of the Barracks' mission. The Barracks averages three funerals a day, 18 a week, 600 a year."

Depending on the type of service, the Barracks provides detachments of Marine marchers, a firing party of seven Marines, a ceremonial bugler from the Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, the official Marine

Corps Color Guard, the Marine Band and six body bearers, which all march in a procession following the horse-drawn caisson. These services, known as full honor funerals, are reserved for officers and Marine E-9s, as well as Marines killed in action.

Still, the Barracks' role in the families' lives does not end when the casket or urn is interred. The funeral director also provides grief counseling for every Marine family that lays a loved one to rest with help from the Barracks.

"Two months after the funeral, I'll contact the family and make sure the service was good, they got what they needed from the Corps and see if there's anything else we can help them with," explained Dixon.

However, the actual funeral and post-funeral services are only part of the mission. The Barracks also provides dignified transfer teams to pick up and transfer remains of Marines who die in combat and arrive at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Many of these transfers are preludes to funerals at Arlington.

"The mission of the Dover dignified transfer teams is to welcome our fallen Marines when they come back home for the first time," said Cpl. Rene Rodriguez, the senior transfer team member for Headquarters and Service Company. "I've done 26 transfers since I joined the team in October 2009. It's a different experience to care for your fellow

Marines.”

Dignified transfers differ from funerals in that they are held in the combat utility uniform, opposed to dress blue uniforms, since the deceased are transported from combat zones.

Though funerals can often occur long after the individual has passed on, dignified transfers arrive at Dover as their first stop from Afghanistan, Iraq or foreign hospitals. Emotions can run high during transfers, especially since families are usually present.

“I try to block everything out; sometimes you hear the family crying and you just have to keep your bearing,” said Rodriguez.

Rodriguez recalled a particularly emotional assignment in February 2010 when his team took part in a transfer of four Marines, while 40 distraught family members stood watching.

“While we were carrying the casket down the ramp of the C-17, I heard a little girl asking her

mother ‘why?’ I heard a father yell out ‘Michael, I love you’... That was a very hard day. When we march out with the caskets, we aren’t supposed to show any emotion, but that day we couldn’t help it. Afterward, everyone was quiet.”

When the plot is filled or the columbarium slot sealed, everything that proceeded those moments will remain with the families and friends forever. Barracks Marines are responsible for ensuring those memories are everything the families deserve. Such matters are not taken lightly and receive the utmost attention.

“When I’m down there in my ceremonial blue uniform, I must look the best, think the best and expect the best of myself and my Marines,” said Dixon. “These commitments can be emotional and trying, but we must respect our fallen brothers and sisters as they deserve. There is no greater privilege than to honor these Marines and to provide comfort to their families in their time of need.”



LEFT, SERGEANT YORK, A RIDERLESS CAPPARISON FOR GEN. BAIN MCCLINTOCK'S FUNERAL CEREMONY AT A CAPARISONED HORSE, WITH REVERSED RIDING BOARDS ON HIS TROOPS AS HE RIDES OFF FOR THE LAST TIME. ON THE RIGHT, LANCE CPL QUINN KELLY, A FUNERAL ROAD GUARDIAN



ABOVE, MARINE CORPS BODY BEARERS CARRY THE CASKET OF COL. BARRY ZORTHIAN, 1920-2010, TO THE GRAVE SITE AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY APRIL 13. BELOW, GUNNERY SGT. DUANE KING, U.S. MARINE BAND ASSISTANT DRUM MAJOR, AWAITS THE START OF A FUNERAL PROCESSION MAY 10. FUNERAL STAFF, SUCH AS KING, WEAR BLACK CLOTH ARM BANDS CALLED MOURNING BANDS DURING FUNERALS TO RESPECT THE FALLEN



SE, MOVES INTO POSITION FOR THE START OF BRIG. ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY MAY 18. THE RIDERLESS CAISSON SYMBOLIZES THE COMMANDER LOOKING BACK AT HIS PREDECESSORS, COLONELS AND GENERALS IN THE ARMY AND MARINE CORPS WHO THEY FORMERLY EMPLOYED CAVALRY UNITS. ABOVE, KING SALUTES AS THE FUNERAL PROCESSION MARCHES PAST.





From South America to the District

Story By Cpl. Jeremy Ware

After spending most of her morning at drill practice, Gunnery Sgt. Faith Osborne made her way up to the public affairs office for her interview.

Osborne has spent approximately one-third of her career dedicated to drill, from recruit training to the drill field and now the Marine Barracks Washington parade deck. She has always shared a love-hate relationship with drill. Currently, Osborne and drill are talking again and looking to take their relationship to the next level, as Osborne patiently awaits her turn to march in a Marine Barracks Washington Sunset or Friday Evening Parade.

Osborne walked through the door wearing a smile that has weathered the ups and downs of her 17-year Marine Corps career, but showed no signs of fading. She stands at 63 inches, which is a far cry from the desired 72-inch height standard at the Barracks. One thing to learn about Osborne, a gunnery sergeant who has held three first sergeant billets, is to never underestimate what she is capable of.

She was dressed in her service "C" uniform with her non-commissioned officer's sword attached loosely to her left hip. Her awards, proudly displayed, chronicled her years of decorated service. As Osborne began exchanging pleasantries, the faint remnants of her childhood upbringing in the small South American country of Guyana could still be heard in her voice.

After awkwardly situating her sword, she took her seat. Osborne settled in with her back strait, legs crossed and an ever-present smile as she began reminiscing about growing up in Georgetown, Guyana, and how she and her mother came to live in the U.S. in 1992.

Limited job and educational opportunities in

Guyana were the catalyst for Osborne moving to the United States. After taking advantage of the newfound opportunities in America, Osborne wanted to give back to her new country by joining the armed forces and eventually becoming a naturalized citizen.

A routine trip to the supermarket would offer her that opportunity. A chance meeting with a clean-cut Marine recruiter in his dress blue “D” uniform, would lead to Osborne heading off to recruit training in 1994.

It was at Parris Island, S.C., that drill and Osborne first crossed paths. She was a young recruit, bewildered by her new environment while drill was an established cornerstone of Marine Corps recruit training. She was attracted to drill’s order and structure, but struggled to master the movements which kept them from making a real connection.

“I remember being a recruit,” Osborne said, recalling her experiences at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island. “When the drill was taught to me, it was like a foreign language. I don’t know how I graduated, because I had no concept of drill.”

As she rose through the ranks, Osborne never returned any of drill’s calls until she was enrolled in sergeant’s course and later drill instructor school. Osborne eventually fell in love with drill when she donned her campaign cover as a drill instructor and began making Marines in December 2001. Her experiences on the drill field became the foundation for her enduring bond with drill. As a drill instructor, Osborne saw first-hand the tangible results drill afforded her in shaping and molding young recruits.

“When I taught the recruits, I got to see where they started from, and once they got the movement, I got to see them execute it with precision. It gives you chills,” said Osborne.

After her tour on Parris Island, Osborne eventually found herself at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, as the Airfield Operations Company first sergeant with Marine Corps Wing Support Squadron 171, and later the Motor Transport Company first sergeant. In Japan, Osborne grew apart from drill, but continued to impact Marines’ lives as a first sergeant. Like her days on the drill field, Osborne was intimately involved in her Marines personal and professional development.

“Being a drill instructor and a first sergeant are

the same thing,” said Osborne. “As a drill instructor, if you’re effective, when your recruits see you in the fleet they won’t run from you. They will be a little apprehensive to come and talk to you, but they will let you know the effect you had on them. As a first sergeant, it’s the same. When you leave a duty station, the Marines will see you or e-mail you and let you know the impact you had on them.”

After coming to the Barracks, Osborne assumed the role of Marine Corps Institute Company first sergeant, and auditioned for a spot on the parade staff in both Evening and Sunset Parades. Osborne was confident in her marching abilities, but was wary about getting her hopes up too high.

“I like marching; I’m at the Barracks and I always believe in doing different things,” said Osborne. “I honestly didn’t think I would make the cut because of my height. I was so surprised and happy when they chose me.”

“Gunnery sergeant Osborne brings a concern for the details that makes the overall movement successful,” said Maj. Scott Clippinger, a parade commander for the Evening Parades. “Her experience on the drill field does not allow her to settle. She looks at drill, and wants to make it better. She understands the mission of the Barracks. She understands what it takes to put together a successful marching staff, some of whom may or may not have marching experience before coming to Marine Barracks Washington.”

While making the transition from traditional Marine Corps drill, the style Osborne fell in love with and used her entire career, to the ceremonial drill of the Barracks, four hours of daily practice became normal.

Time management skills and an excellent company gunnery sergeant have allowed Osborne to balance both being an effective leader and ceremonial marcher.

“You have to prioritize, organize and make sure both jobs get done,” said Osborne. “I am still the first sergeant of MCI Company, so I make sure everything is taken care of, and then there is drill. It’s a lot of long hours.”

Osborne and drill continue to share a close relationship today as she prepares to showcase their marriage by stepping out under the bright lights and marching in her first Sunset or Friday Evening parade.



MASTER OF MARCH

STORY BY CPL. AUSTIN HAZARD

For most Marines, drill is a fleeting memory; for Marine Barracks Washington personnel, it's part of the daily routine; for Master Sgt. Christopher Walker, drill is life.

Despite his wealth of experience in the drill field, Walker, the Barracks drill master, actually began his seasoned marching career well before he even joined the Corps.

"Thirteen years of my life are associated with drill," remembered Walker, thinking all the way back to his teenage years in Goldsboro, N.C. "My first experience with drill was during my freshmen year of high school."

As the cadet commander of his Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps unit, Walker supervised and taught his fellow cadets how to march. Under his instruction, the unit went on to win the 1987 national drill championship in Orlando, Fla.

Walker enlisted in 1993 and carried his experience as a marching instructor to his first unit, Marine Attack Squadron 214 at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz.

"We initially met in Yuma, and he was a young lance corporal and I was his corporal," recalled Master Sgt. Allen Whiteside, Barracks logistics chief. "The way you see him now, the way he carries himself ... nothing has changed. That's what's so unique about him, that nothing has changed in all these years. He's just one of those Marines who looks for perfection in

everything he does."

Even as a young corporal, he was that Marine who everyone turned to for calling cadence for formations, forming Marines for morning exercises or just drilling Marines, remembered Whiteside.

But Walker was not satisfied to simply be known as the "squadron drill master." Walker marched onto the drill field at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and served as a drill instructor from 1997-2000.

"It was no surprise when he submitted his package for drill instructor that he was accepted and went on to be a drill master," Whiteside remarked.

Walker first commanded the drill of MCRD San Diego's 1st Battalion and was eventually selected as the drill master for the entire western recruiting region.

After more than six years of drill as both instructor and master, Walker departed the states for Okinawa, where he deployed to Afghanistan with 3rd Marine Division.

After returning from Afghanistan, Walker received orders to the Barracks, the ceremonial soul of the Marine Corps.

As the Barracks drill master, Walker is responsible for teaching the ceremonial marchers, Marine Corps Body Bearers, Marine Corps Color Guard, parade staff and other drill-related elements how to march per the Barracks' unique style, which is adjusted from the regular Corps standard.

“My role now is as more of a supervisor after drill is initially taught,” explained Walker, who arrived at the Barracks in December 2008. “Critiquing drill is about 40 percent of my day, teaching about 10 percent. The rest of that day is administrative processes and meeting with prominent staff and sister services about drill.”

Walker explained that, while he can change the drill style here as needed to best suit the situation, much of his job is as a keeper of the Barracks tradition of perfection, ensuring the high standards of the Barracks are upheld.

“My favorite part of this job is seeing the looks on Marines’ faces just before they step out into the spotlight,” said Walker. “They all look the same. No one wants to make a mistake and it’s my job to give them the confidence to know they will not make a mistake. We do that through perfect practice.”

The drill master also fills a related position at the Barracks as the assistant funeral director of the Marine Corps. As such, he attends and oversees many Marine funerals in the national capitol region, which includes Arlington National Cemetery, as well as filling in for, or otherwise assisting the funeral director, Master Sgt. William J. Dixon.

Despite Walker’s vast marching experience, he has an interesting opinion of the practice to which he has devoted so many years.

“Drill is supposed to be precise, but there’s nothing precise about it,” commented Walker, summing up his thoughts on drill. “Precision is a relative concept. What’s precise to one onlooker is not precise to another. Here more than any other place in the Marine Corps, the individual’s perception is reality.”

Walker went on to explain that he critiques and adjusts Marines based on this philosophy.

“I have to find the positions on the deck where perception is most critical,” continued Walker, noting the view from the hosting official and guest of honor’s seats. “Depending on your vantage point, a platoon may look perfectly aligned, but another person in a different spot may not think the same.”

The practiced drill master needs to understand the trade and own the experience, especially as it applies to the ceremonial heart of the Corps. As his old colleague can attest, the Barracks is where Walker belongs, teaching drill to hundreds of Marines and overseeing dozens of parades annually.

“The Marine Corps and the Barracks are very lucky to have him here,” said Whiteside. “I don’t know anyone who is as passionate about or knows drill as well as him.”





NEW ★ TOP ★ DOG

STORY COMPILED BY PASS IN REVIEW STAFF, PHOTOS BY CPL. AUSTIN HAZARD

Sgt. Maj. Carlton Kent relinquished his post as sergeant major of the Marine Corps to Sgt. Maj. Michael Barrett during a relief and appointment ceremony held at Marine Barracks Washington June 9.

Barrett replaced Kent, who has served as the sergeant major of the Marine Corps since April 25, 2007. The ceremony also marked Kent's retirement after 35 years of service in the Marine Corps.

Gen. James Amos, 35th commandant of the Marine Corps, awarded Kent with the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, the third most prestigious award a Marine can receive, for his outstanding service to the Corps.

"Sgt. Maj. Kent has just finished the finest career any Marine could have ever dreamed of," added Amos of Kent's retirement.

Kent's wife, Liz, was also presented with the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award for her contributions to the Corps throughout her husband's extensive career.

"I keep getting asked 'what is Sgt. Maj. Kent giving you?' What am I getting? I'm getting selfless, fearless men," said Barrett of Kent's leadership.

Barrett recalled the stories of two heroic Marines deployed to Afghanistan, one who died while attempting to save an Afghan national policeman, the other beat an insurgent to death with his own machinegun.

"Fearless Marines," he punctuated his final story. "That's what Sgt. Maj. Kent has given me."

For Barrett, Afghanistan isn't a far removed memory. Barrett recently returned from Afghanistan, where he served as the sergeant major of Regional Command

Southwest and I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward).

In addition to Afghanistan, his combat deployments also include serving in the Persian Gulf War as a sniper with 3rd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, and two tours in Iraq as battalion sergeant major of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment.

“I can tell you right now, Sgt. Maj. Barrett is going to do great things for the Corps,” said Kent to the crowd. “He’s a warfighter, he’s a leader. So, we’re looking forward to watching you from the other side because we know that great things are going to happen for the Marine Corps.”



ABOVE, SGT. MAJ. MICHAEL BARRETT, NEW SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE MARINE CORPS, HOLDS THE MICROPHONE OUT TO THE AUDIENCE AS HE ENCOURAGES THEM TO WISH LUCK TO A MARINE VETERAN WITH CANCER, CPL. SEAMUS GARRAHY, WHO WATCHED THE RELIEF AND APPOINTMENT CEREMONY VIA LIVE FEED JUNE 9. LEFT, SGT. MAJ. MICHAEL BARRETT, 17TH SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE MARINE CORPS, MINGLES WITH GUESTS AFTER HIS APPOINTMENT CEREMONY HERE.



LEFT, SGT. MAJ. CARLTON KENT, FORMER SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE MARINE CORPS, SPEAKS TO THE AUDIENCE ABOUT HIS REPLACEMENT, SGT. MAJ. MICHAEL BARRETT, AND THE FUTURE OF THE CORPS. ABOVE, SGT. MAJ. MICHAEL BARRETT, NEW SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE MARINE CORPS, APPLAUDS THE MARINE DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS AFTER A MUSICAL PERFORMANCE DURING THE 16TH AND 17TH SERGEANTS MAJOR OF THE MARINE CORPS RELIEF AND APPOINTMENT CEREMONY HERE.

Live Le France

Photo Essay By Cpl Jeremy Ware

To honor the 93rd anniversary of the Battle of Belleau Wood, approximately 125 members of the U.S. Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment participated in a ceremony remembering the sacrifices of French and American servicemembers during World War I.

The Battle of Belleau Wood was fought in June 1918 during the German offensive in World War I, near the Marne River in France. The battle was fought between 3rd Battalion, 5th and 6th Marine Regiments and an assortment of German forces. Representatives for 3/5 and 3/6 attended the ceremony to lay ceremonial wreaths at the Belleau Wood cemetery in honor of their fallen brethren from WWI.

The BCD performed for hundreds of spectators, who attended to pay their respects, spreading esprit de corps to everyone in attendance. "The detachment's involvement with Belleau Wood has given a larger and broader understanding of what the Marines did, not only within the Marine Corps but also within the French public," said Maj. Brian Dix, detachment commanding officer.

During their time in France, the detachment also performed for approximately 5,000 eager spectators, with ceremonies being held at the American Embassy in Paris and the Chateau de Vincennes, which was the home of several French kings.

"This was my third year going to France, and it was just as impactful and special as the first trip," said Lance Cpl. Joshua Paul, inspection team member for the Silent Drill Platoon. "There is so much history at Belleau Wood; it makes me proud to be a Marine."









Going for the Green

Story and Photos by Sgt. Bobby J. Yarbrough

Marines from Marine Barracks Washington hit the fairways and teed off in the 2011 Spring Golf tournament at The Courses at Andrews Air Force Base April 20.

Although the conditions were unfavorable with wind and overcast skies, the team consisting of Michael Saunders, Bryon Ferguson and Brain Bell carded a team score of 11-under-par to take first place in the yearly tournament, finishing a full five strokes better than any other team.

The winners led a field of 10 teams made up of more than 40 golfers who took part in the best ball scramble format tournament.

However, the golf tournament was not just a competition.

The Marine Corps Community Service sponsored the tournament to bring the Marines closer together and to raise money for future MCCS events, said Jamie Dalecki, the Semper Fit director for the Marine Barracks Washington MCCS.

“These type of events are what bring Marines closer,” said Luke Shearer. “Most of the time we get caught up in the hectic schedule of the barracks. This tournament simply allowed us to get together and play golf.”

The tournament featured prizes for individual golfers in the longest drive and closest to the pin challenges. Brian Keagy won both the longest drive contest and the closest to the pin challenge.

For the winners, each player received a gift certificate to a local golf shop.




Around the Barracks





Around the Barracks





THE SALUTING BATTERY FIRES CEREMONIAL CANNONS AS THE U.S. MARINE DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS PLAYS "ODE TO JOY" DURING THE FRIDAY EVENING PARADE MAY 20. THE FIRING BATTERY IS COMPRISED OF MARINE CORPS BODY BEARERS.



MAJ. BRIAN DIX, THE DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. MARINE DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS, CONDUCTS "ODE TO JOY" AS CAMERAS FLASH AND CEREMONIAL 40 MM CANNONS FIRE DURING THE SONG'S FINALE DURING A FRIDAY EVENING PARADE HERE MAY 20.

