



# *Pass In Review*

January/February 1990

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photo by Sgt. Robert C. Jenks



## On the cover

LCpls. Bill Orbin (L) and Freddie Smith during the attack on La Chorrera, Panama..

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photo by Sgt. Robert C. Jenks

## Taking down a prisoner

Two Marines take down a prisoner in a Panamanian street. Many Panamanian soldiers discarded their uniforms to avoid being caught by U.S. forces.



# Steno-reporters Needed

**HQMC, Washington, D.C.**--Fourteen stenotype reporter students are being sought for a two-year civilian school course. Classes will be held at the Reporting Academy of Virginia, Springfield, Va., beginning July 2, 1990. While attending the school full time, students will be attached to HQMC. After graduation, students will be assigned to major Fleet Marine Force commands.

Volunteers must have a minimum GT and CL of 120, be a corporal or sergeant at time of application, be a high school graduate and have served at least 36 months on con-

tinuous active duty. Applicants must have a minimum of one year on station, unless they are a first term Marine relisting within 90 days of EAS. Marines deployed will report to school after their normal rotation date. Applicants must be able to type 60 words per minute and be interviewed by a stenotype reporter, or if one is not available, a legal chief or legal admin officer.

Applicants must extend or reenlist to have a 6-year obligation before reporting for school. The 6-year obligation must be in their current MOS, and they must sign a statement acknowledging

they are not eligible for a bonus as a result of reenlisting or extending, and that they cannot apply for any Marine Corps program for 4 years after graduation from school that would be inconsistent with their duties as a stenotypist. Any current bonus being received will be

recouped by the Marine Corps for any unexpired service for which the bonus was paid.

This program is not applicable to the Marine Corps Reserve. ALMAR 245/89, MCBUL 1510 (222009Z Dec. 89) contains detailed information on the program.

## Job Fair For Veterans

There will be a job placement and counseling session for veterans Feb. 9 in HQMC Room 2201 from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Services offered will include job placement, employment counseling, testing and evaluation, employability training and apprenticeship training.

The session is co-sponsored by the Henderson Hall Family Service Center and the Virginia Employment Commission.

For registration or more information call 694-5064/5.

## Reduced Airline Fares

**MTMC, FALLS CHURCH, Va.**--The Military Traffic Management Command has released the names of several airlines that offer up to a 50 percent fare discount to military passengers. All U.S. active-duty personnel on leave, or within seven days of discharge are eligible for the discount. The discounts also apply to dependents of servicemembers. Dependents can travel alone and still receive the discount. Proper identification is required for purchasing tickets and at check-in.

The airlines are Continental, Eastern, Delta, Pan American, Northwest, TWA, United and USAir. In addition, the Trump Shuttle offers reduced military fares on shuttle flights between Washington, D.C. and New York City and between New York City and Boston.

Travelers should check other discount fares and compare prices and restrictions with the military discount fare. For more information contact individual airline ticket counters.



# Military Men and Women are Team Players

With recent media attention focusing on the role women have played in Panama, my family and civilian friends have again hit me with the age old question of whether or not I feel discriminated against in the Marine Corps. My answer of "no" usually brings accusations that I have been brainwashed by my military training.

I am not saying that sexual discrimination does not exist at all in the military. But too often those who debate the issue of sexual discrimination seem to perceive men and women to be in a constant struggle against each other in the workplace, with men judging women solely on their sex. What I have found is that women in the military are more often judged on their proficiency in their jobs and on their willingness to work as a team member rather than on their sex.

The success of a military unit is based not only on the individual proficiency of its members, male and female, but also on how well they work together to achieve a common goal. In the bigger picture, our



goal in the Marine Corps is to maintain our ability to act as an expeditionary force in readiness. The ability of both men and women in the Marine Corps to do their jobs well, directly combat-related or not, and to cooperate with each other to make their units the best they can be helps us to attain this goal.

In combat, a male who could not drive a truck well in a combat service support unit would be as much a hinderance to mission accomplishment as a woman who could not carry a pack as far as she needed to in an infantry unit. And units whose men and women did not work together defeat an enemy wouyld surely perish. The male/female military police unit in Panama probably could not have accomplished their

mission if the men and women in the unit were not good at their jobs or willing to cooperate with each other.

Because of combat exclusion laws, there are obviously occupational specialties that women cannot enter. But what many of those who accuse me of being brainwashed don't understand is that I have not been excluded from being part of the Marine Corps. And I have not been excluded from being able to do the best job I possibly can in my specialty and being able to act as a team member in one of the most formidable military forces on Earth.

**by 1stLt. C. Engels**  
**Public Affairs Officer**

# The Real Thing

"In one hour, gentleman, we will participate in the overthrow of dictator Manuel Noriega's government."

Capt. Gerald Gaskins probably never expected to make such a statement, but by 1 a.m. Dec. 20, 1989 it was an obvious truth.

Beneath the green cast of a 150-watt street lamp, he gathered his men, most between 18 and 22 years old, and told them -- commander to Marine, man to man -- they were headed into combat against the Panamanian Defense Forces (PDF). His men watched and listened, hanging on every word as he spoke. Each Marine experienced that unique mix of fear and exhilaration that comes with the knowledge that combat is imminent. Operation Just Cause was approved by President George Bush and U.S. forces would attack.

The 80 Marines of Delta Co., 2nd Light Armored Infantry Bn., were ready.

Poised ironically beside the Rodman Naval Station Day Care and Nursery Center,



**Lcpls. Bill Orbin (L) and Freddie Smith during the attack on La Chorrera.**

the crews of 13 of the 17-ton light armored vehicles (LAV) of the company waited for H-Hour -- 1 a.m. Waiting with them were 17 Fleet Anti-terrorist Security Team (FAST) Co. Marines, specialists in urban warfare.

Splitting the cloak of post-midnight darkness, thousands of tracers announced the reality of war. Flashes of bombardment from behind the hills masking Panama City from the Naval Station lit the sky in a martial light display. The crump and cough of mortars were clear to straining ears. This was no



**LAVs prepare to move out after the attack on La Chorrera.**

drill. The sights and sounds of war left no doubt.

In the next 19 hours, 100 Marines from Camp Lejeune would bring the Corps' firepower, discipline and determination to more than 400 square kilometers of western Panama. In those 19 hours, the Delta Marines lost a brother-in-arms, Cpl. Garreth Isaak, a scout, and sent two others, wounded in action, to state-side hospitals.

The operation began when 3rd Platoon struck DNTT Station #2, four kilometers west of the Naval Station, while 1st Platoon leap-frogged toward the town of Arraijan, eight kilometers farther.

In the blur of night, SSgt. Sam French, atop "Highway," crashed through the barbed wire gate at the station. Quickly followed by Sgt. Robert Williams, vehicle commander on "Warrior" and MSgt. Billy Harrison on "Croaker," the three LAVs opened up with M-60 machine guns to cover the assault of the scouts who were already out of the back hatches attacking the building.

Automatic fire from AK-47 Rus-

sian assault rifles burst from within and a vicious firefight erupted between the Marines and the enemy. For 10 minutes, the tracers split the darkness as the scouts, led by Sgt. Tom Bernius, gained ground and eventually broke through, killing one PDF soldier and capturing three others. It was here Isaak fell, mortally wounded. PFC Aaron Jenkins, another scout, had his kneecap shattered and took shrapnel in his arm.

Once the firing ceased, GySgt. John Davis and Sgt. Mark Robinson came in from behind aboard the logistics vehicle "Blackjack," secured the station and provided field ambulance service while Warrior, Highway and Croaker charged down the Pan American Highway to join the rest of the company near Arraijan.

Meanwhile, on the east side of the Panama Canal, 1stLt. Brian Colebaugh was leading four LAVs to assist Army units in assaulting the Commandancia, the headquarters of the PDF. Colebaugh's platoon would later provide security at the American



ambassador's residence and reinforce the cordon around the Vatican Embassy after Noriega fled there.

Back on the outskirts of Arraijan, the powerfull LAV column came to a halt. A fuel tanker was blocking the main intersection of the town. Gaskins ordered his physcological warfare team to make an announcement over the loudspeaker.

"Attention! Attention! You have five minutes to move the blockade or we will open fire!"

The waiting made the Marines think about Isaak, said 1stLt. Dan Chanay. Sweat dripped from the Marines' faces, soaking the collars of cammie blouse and flak jacket. Eyelids blinked with unnatural frequency. Hands groped in the dark to find something to wipe the sweat on and something reassuringly solid to grip.

Time ran out for the blockade.

Up front aboard "Predator," Sgt. Jim McCray was given the order to unleash a three-round burst of high-explosive (HE) 25mm fire. Like the lethal Bushmaster the gun gets its name from, the explosions from the gun, never heard before in combat, split the night with terrifying cracks and laser-like darts of red and yellow flame.

## ***A sniper-wary Marine exits a house in Arraijan.***

Reports of fleeing PDF soldiers were relayed immediately from one assaulting Marine to the other. Quickly crossing a depression on the highway, the 1st Platoon crested the hill, where Arraijan sits, and rushed the PDF station on the intersection of Main St. and Gen. Torreijos Blvd.

The 15 scouts dismounted and attacked the two-floor headquarters. Once again the night erupted with a light show of demonic fury.

The building, built like a fortress with iron bars shielding windows and doors, was impenetrable to small arms fire. The Bushmaster went into action, blasting gaping holes in the structure. Scouts darted into the dangerous darkness. The muffled thud of fragmentation grenades added a new sound to the night. Just as the building was secured, fire began to race through the structure.

At the same time, the close quarter battle team from FAST took out a nearby building, the regional headquarters of Noriega's political apparatus.

By 4:30 a.m., the Marines had neutralized three major targets and controlled the main highway connecting North and South



***A logistics train heads toward Neuvo  
Emperador to resupply units there.***

America. They also had a secure perimeter and a few hours of relative calm.

When the sun lit the debris-cluttered, deserted streets, the FAST/LAI team combed the town, raiding the homes of Noriega loyalists and searching for arms caches.

By 1 p.m., LAI received its next mission -- take down the 10th Military Zone Headquarters in La Chorrera, 25 kilometers west of Panama City.

The Marines were told they were going in outnumbered and outgunned; again waiting to become the worst part of the operation.

The rip of Zeus 20mm guns from two Air Force A-7 attack jets was a comforting sound. "Air support," said Sgt. Chuck Neal, commanding the "Ultimate Warrior." "Now we're in business."

Bursting through the iron gate at a large barracks complex less than a minute later, the Marines attacked. Led by Highway, Warrior, Croaker and joined by Sgt. Tom Cairns' "Rabbitfoot," the LAVs opened up

Some 100 rounds of 25mm HE ripped

through the six-inch concrete buildings while FAST and the scouts went to work clearing rooms. Inside the confined roar of grenades and sharp, shattering crash of glass were deafening. Each team cleared room-by-room like cogs in a well-oiled machine. In minutes, their job was done.

A cheering crowd had gathered across the four-lane Main St. Shouting "El Grand Liberador" (the Great Liberator), the Panamanian people witnessed the rebirth of their nation.

In the days ahead, this liberation would come to a dozen other towns. During each operation, the gift of hope and freedom was delivered by 100 tired, hot, grimy, cammie-clad messengers -- the Marines of Delta Co. and 1st FAST Platoon.

***story by  
Sgt. Robert C. Jenks***

# I pledge allegiance, to the flag, of the United States of America...

*The Pledge of Allegiance* often conjures up images of a classroom of young children facing the flag each with one hand over his heart following the lead of their teacher as they recite the familiar phrases.

But on January 9 the image was very different as almost 50 individuals, mostly adults, from 35 countries gathered in a Washington, D.C. courtroom to pledge their allegiance to and become new citizens of the United States of America.

Among them was SSgt. Rogelio V. Dick, a former citizen of Panama and currently a soprano bugle player in the Commandant's Own Drum and Bugle Corps.

Dick first visited the United States for a month in 1969 to tour with a church gospel group from his hometown of Colon, the second largest city in Panama. He returned with the group every year until 1975.

"In 1975 I decided after the group's tour ended I was going to stay in the United States instead of going back to



Panama," said Dick. He was 19 years-old at the time and had to quit school to do it.

"I had it all planned out before I came," he said. "My in-laws-to-be lived in Brooklyn, N.Y., so I had a place to stay. My high school was the best in Panama so I knew I had a good enough education to take the test for a high school equivalency diploma in the United States, and I had decided well ahead of time that I wanted to join the U.S. Marine Corps," --which he did in August, 1975, six months after arriving.

"At the time, there was a glim chance of future in Panama," Dick said. "The

Americans were reducing military forces in Panama and that meant fewer jobs for civilians on and around American bases. And the jobs you could get didn't pay enough to support a family."

While the lifestyles in Panama -- the workforce, the nightlife and the like -- were similar to those in the United States, the opportunities in the civilian and military sectors were vastly different, according to Dick.

"When I looked at the United States, I saw a lot of people trying to make fast cash, and that seemed to leave jobs open for those willing to work hard to get what they want," said Dick, who worked in a factory until his enlistment in Queens, N.Y. "Looking at the Marine Corps, I saw an organization that doesn't discriminate; doesn't play games. It gives you the potential to work hard, to grow and to plan for tomorrow."

Social problems in Panama also had a bearing on Dick's decision to come to the United States. "Panama had the same problems as the United States, like drugs and crime. But in Panama, there were a lot of innocent people suffering the consequences of those who were breaking the law," said the musician.

While growing up, Dick got his musical knowledge and experience from playing in the local town government Municipal Band.

"They didn't play as much as other competing bands, but they had a lot of

honest, experienced guys who taught me and brought me up from nothing," he said.

Auditioning for the music field during bootcamp, Dick was selected to go to school for drum and bugle corps'.

"I originally wanted the band side of the house, but at the time, the Parris Island Band was touring so the school for drum and bugle corps' was trying to gobble up as many musicians as they could before the band could get back and take them all. Since I came in

open contract, I took whatever they gave me," said Dick.

After six years with the Drum and Bugle Corps at Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany, Ga., Dick attended the School of Music at the Naval Amphibious Base, in Norfolk, Va. He then came to the Commandant's Own here where he has been ever since.

Despite 15 years of lost paperwork and red tape, Dick never lost sight of his goal to become an American

citizen.

"I've always just kept looking forward," said Dick, who still has family in Panama. "I've seen so many people who don't realize how good they have it, and they lose everything by not taking advantage of what they can. I saw I had the opportunity to come here and make something of myself and prove I could accomplish what I set out to do."

**story and photo by  
1stLt. C.M. Engels**



***"I've seen so many people who don't realize how good they have it, and they lose everything by not taking advantage of what they can."***

# Barracks Marines Deploy for "Alpine Warrior"

**B** Co., reinforced by a platoon from H&S Co., departed Feb. 10 for a 10 day deployment to Fort McCoy, Wis. to participate in "Alpine Warrior '90".

"We're going through a 10-day package," said Capt. David Close, Commanding Officer of the company. "The first four days will be spent in a Arctic Individual Skill Course by Special Operations Training Group instructors. Our Marines will get a refresher on the arctic skills we worked on here, and some of the ones we couldn't work on like skiing and snowshoeing."

Following the classes, the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, in reality responsible for NATO's northern flank, will be aggressed by the Barracks Marines fighting as "Soviet infantry."

The operation is designed to prepare the 4th MEB for larger cold weather operations that will take place in Norway in 1991. The exercise will also provide some of 8th & I's Marines an opportunity to join Fleet Marine Force units in an actual operation.

To prepare for Alpine Warrior the company had several obstacles to overcome; ceremonial commitments,

work section commitments and Mother Nature.

"Because of our high tempo of operations, we broke the training up into phases," said Close. "Five Marines from each platoon attended the Arctic Leaders Skills Course at Camp Lejeune, N.C. Those Marines then returned and passed their knowledge on in classes for the company."

Despite the unseasonably warm weather, which cancelled a week-long trip to Camp Dawson, West Va. to learn to ski and snowshoe, the company's Marines have still been able to train for colder climates. Using a lot of imagination, they practiced their bivouac routine at MCCDC Quantico, Va. Jan. 24-25, and have made several battalion and company hikes with their cold weather packs.

For H&S Co. Marines, conflicts between training and work sometimes posed a problem, but according to SSgt. Randy Mayer, H&S platoon sergeant, "Most [sections] are



cooperative, and support the fact that their Marines are getting some good training in infantry and cold weather tactics."

Although how well their training pays off remains to be seen, Close is confident of his company's ability to perform well during the exercise. "I don't see any problems with our company," he said. "We've got good Marines here. H&S's Marines proved themselves at the Fort A.P. Hill exercise and [executive officer] Capt. Sudreth and SSgt. Mayer and I have worked together before. I think we'll do very well."

**story by**  
**Cpl. J.D. Moore**

# FREE PARTY!

( N e e d I s a y m o r e ? )

**If** a list were compiled of Marines' 10 favorite things in life somewhere near the top you probably would find "parties" and "anything free".

By incorporating both of these elements, the Morale Administration and Support Division (MASD) has created free (That's right, free!) blockbuster parties in the Barracks' Enlisted Lounge.

"The parties are a way for the Commanding Officer to show his appreciation for everything the enlisted Marines do for the Barracks," explained Capt. Frank McNeil, MASD Officer.

Featuring free hot and cold buffets with roast beef and shrimp cocktails, beer and soft drinks, and a professional disc jockey the parties have become a big hit with the younger enlisted Marines. "It's good for morale to get all of our Marines together," said LCpl. Daniel P. Lettner, S-1. "It loosens everybody up." "The parties give everybody a chance to mix with the Marines in other work sections that they don't usually associate with," added LCpl. Raymond D. Fogle, H&S Company Office.

Currently, MASD is planning to hold one enlisted party every other month, depending on training and ceremonial commitments, said McNeil. Because the funding for the parties comes from a special recreation fund directed by the commanding officer, looming

defense budget cuts probably won't affect the functions, he added.

According to McNeil, in addition to boosting morale in the Barracks, the parties are also intended to attract more business to the "E-Club". "We want to generate more interest in the club," he said. "The

club is there for the Marines to use; for theme parties, wetdowns or even wedding receptions."

McNeil also added that, the Marines who visit the club need to take better care of it. Money used to repair equipment or furniture pulls away from funds that could be used for future parties.

**story and photo by  
Cpl. J.D. Moore**





# keeping the skyways safe



MOCAS EL TORO, Calif. -- A jam-packed freeway system is a familiar sight for Marines in California, especially being stationed in an area where there are three Marine Corps bases in close proximity. Keeping this in mind, imagine what it would be like if there were a freeway in the sky.



No, this is not science fiction, it's what the airways are like to an air traffic controller.

Unlike recruit training where a person earns the title "Marine" upon graduation, completion of the air traffic controller school at Naval Air Station, Memphis, Tenn., is just the beginning of the two-year trek it takes to become an air traffic controller.

Following the 16-week course, the Federal Aviation Administration issues a "per-

mit" that can be likened to a driver's permit. This allows the Marine to begin the four phases of on-the-job training it takes to ultimately become an air traffic controller.

The first stage of training here is in ground control. In this billet a Marine is responsible for all of the planes taxiing to and from the four aprons, the fuel pits and hangars.



"This is the first phase of training because it is the easiest and least dangerous of all of the positions," said MSgt. Henry Morris, control tower NCOIC.

The next assignment is in flight data and clearance delivery. The flight data person receives all of the coordinates from Orange County and El Toro towers, talks to the Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRACON) on



the coast and receive passes on flight plans and clearances. A person who works in clearances. A person who works in clearance delivery receives the flight plans and then reads them to the pilots.

"Passing on flight plans is just like telling someone to get on the San Diego Freeway to the 405 and getting off at Culver. All of the airways have names like Victor-23 which is the main airway in this area," Morris said.

The next rung in the ladder is local control. This person oversees the runway, all of the test spots and any planes that are airborne. After a Marine is qualified in those three areas and he has gained ample experience, he becomes a watch supervisor.

"The senior controllers determine when a Marine has enough experience to become a controller by observation and a little bit of gut instinct," said GySgt. Don Hendrickson, control tower chief.



At the completion of training the Marine can claim the title "air traffic controller."

What makes the control tower here unique is that it is located in a tri-airport area.

"Normally we would have airspace measuring a five-mile radius horizontally and 3,000 feet up," said Morris. "That's not possible here because Tustin is sandwiched between Orange County Airport and MCAS El Toro." In addition to the restricted airspace, controlling for helicopters is very different than trafficking for fixed-wing aircraft, according to Morris.

A fixed-wing aircraft is constantly propelled forward unlike a helicopter that can stop in midair and take off and land vertically.



**Left to right, Bob Warner, Cpl. David Bonn and LCpl. Elizabeth Mattison control the skies over El Toro.**

"Making the transition from fixed-wing to helicopters is a little rough, a person has to think differently because of the difficult nature of the two aircraft," said Morris.



"The air traffic control field is vital to the Marine Corps' mission because there are lives at stake, not to mention multi-million dollar aircraft," Morris said. "This job could be nerve racking and turns some people's hair gray," chuckled Morris as he touched the top of his head.

However, sitting in traffic on Interstate Five can give a person grey hair. At least traffic moves faster in the sky.

→ story and photos by sgt. denise j. roca



# "Triple Nickels" --

## *Pioneer black paratroopers*

When the Army was forming its elite 82nd Airborne Div. during World War II, the rule was "whites only." Blacks allegedly "couldn't handle" the tough training and didn't have enough "guts" to jump out of airplanes.

Blacks were supposed to guard the all-white paratrooper school and packing shed and patrol the area as they watched the white soldiers train.

But there was one man who knew that black soldiers could do just as well as whites and decided to prove it. The year was 1944.

"Since we were in the vicinity, I decided we would emulate the white paratroopers," said Walter Morris, who was first sergeant of the black service company. "We observed them when they did their calisthenics and double-timed everywhere they went. So we copied some of the things they were doing. But we didn't have any paratrooper boots."

"We caught the attention of the general (Lt.Gen. Ridgely Gaither, who commanded the parachute school) when he was making an in-

spection," said Morris, who is retired from the construction business in New York and now lives with his wife in Palm Coast, Fla. "He was impressed when he saw us doing our calisthenics. We were showing off to him that we could do as well as the white paratroopers."

Morris and his soldiers got a lot of prideful satisfaction out of proving blacks could endure the same training as whites. But little did they know that by emulating the white paratroopers they would become a part of airborne history.

Not long after the calisthenics demonstration, Gen. Gaither summoned Morris to his office. "He let me know that President (Franklin Delano) Roosevelt had ordered Gen. George C. Marshall to form an all-black paratrooper unit. The decision was made in response to complaints by A. Philip Randolph, organizer of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and president of the National Negro Congress, and the black press," said Morris. "Blacks were asking, 'Why can't we have black paratroopers, too?'"

***During WWII the Army thought blacks didn't have the "guts" to be paratroopers.***

***In 1944, Walter Morris and the men of the 555th Parachute Infantry Bn. proved they did.***

Morris' efforts toward black soldiers improving their mettle paid off. "Gen. Gaither selected me as the first sergeant and the first black paratrooper in the first all-black paratrooper company in American history," said Morris. That was the 555th Parachute Infantry Co.

"I then waited until a cadre was brought in from the 92nd Infantry Div. at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.," said Morris. "There were originally 20 of us, but only 16 graduated from the jump training; two didn't make it for medical reasons, one had a death in the family, and the fourth just couldn't jump. Since we needed cooks and he was one, we decided to let him stay. But he wasn't on jump status."

"Of course, all of the instructors were white," said Morris. Being a paratrooper was a big thing at that time, and there weren't a heck of a lot of whites jumping out of airplanes. We got along pretty well with the white troopers. The only problem we had was that the entire post at Fort Benning, Ga., both officers and enlisted, were making bets that we wouldn't jump -- we'd be too afraid. The thing that inspired us was that this was the only black combat outfit then, and it was an opportunity for black troops to enter something they could be proud of."

The black paratrooper students were segregated from the whites, both on and off post. But that didn't deter them. "It was not a big thing to us, because we had been conditioned," said Morris. "It was something we had learned to live with and accepted."

It was a grueling, exhausting four weeks of training for the black paratrooper pioneers -- push-ups, sit-ups, running, push-ups, sit-ups, running -- from morning 'til night the first week. The second week had more calisthenics and an introduction to the 35-foot jump tower. The third week had the 250-foot tower. The fourth week was packing and repacking parachutes and jumping everyday, ending with

a night jump on Friday. Saturday was graduation day when they received their silver airborne wings.

After the first class graduated, the white cadre troopers returned to Fort Huachuca, and the graduating class became the cadre. "When we graduated, the word went out that the Army was accepting volunteers for an all-black parachute battalion, and we got applications from everywhere -- overseas and all over the states," said Morris. Eventually more soldiers were trained to fill the ranks of the 555th Parachute Infantry Bn.

"Once we graduated, we started combat training preparing troops to go overseas," said Morris. But the black paratroopers never set sail for the war in Europe. Instead, they were sent to fight forest fires started by Japanese incendiary balloons on the West Coast -- from California to Arizona.



***The "Smoke Jumpers" of the 555th fought 36 forest fires.***

The Triple Nickels earned a new nickname, "Smoke Jumpers," for their ability to leap into smoke-filled clearings. They racked up 36 fire-fighting missions, making more than 1,000 individual jumps into burning forests. For this they earned another nickname, "Black Panthers."

The 555th Parachute Bn. was redesignated the 3rd Bn., 505th Airborne Infantry Regt., and became a part of the 82nd Airborne Div. Former members of the first black paratroopers joined the all-black 2nd Airborne Ranger Co. at Fort Bragg and saw action in Korea with the 7th Infantry Div. That company was later attached to the 187th Regimental Combat Team and made two jumps in Korea. The unit received a bronze arrowhead for its parachute assault at Munsan-ni and several other awards.

***story by Sgt. Maj. Rudi Williams, USA  
American Forces Information Service***

## Your Mirror Knows

Honesty is the best policy...honesty is priceless...honesty paves the way for clean successful living...honesty is a virtue -- all very true...but just what IS honesty and how does it operate?

Look well into your mirror for the real answer to honesty. If you can look at the guy you shave, or the gal whose nose you powder, and without mental reservations or equivocation, answer the following questions in the affirmative...then, you are an honest person.

Ask yourself: "Have I been truthful in all things today...given the best that is in me to my job...to my relationship with others...to myself? Have I been just and fair in all transactions today...no matter who seemed to be right? Have I been straight-forward, trustworthy, and upright with others...and with myself? Did I strive to earn the respect, confidence and good will of others...strive to build up the lives of those around me...to be considerate and understanding in all things...promptly to admit when I was wrong? Have I practiced the Golden Rule...or merely admired it.

Surface honesty does not get us by when we look at that reflection in the mirror, for there is one person we cannot fool.

One man says, "No matter what it may be, anything dishonestly acquired is never worth the cost -- while a clear

conscience never costs what it is worth." How very true!

If we want people to trust us...depend on us...give us a boost...help us on our way to the top...we must be honest with them. But -- before we can possibly be honest with anyone else, we must first be honest with that person in the mirror.

Honesty, to be genuine, must have its roots in our soul. Unless it is buried that deep, we do not possess it, and we cannot manifest anything we do not actually have. If we are to give honest performance, we must first have it.

If we feel that we do not now possess complete honesty, we can acquire it! We can become honest individuals by daily applications of the principles embodied in those questions we asked our mirror.

Honesty takes plenty of courage...but the rewards are

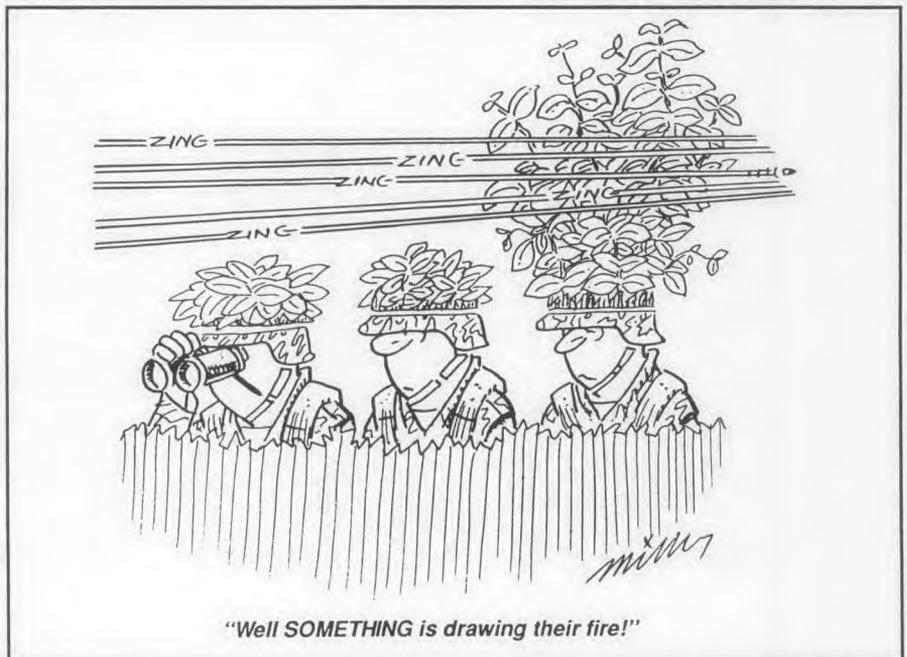
*"In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you."*

*--Matthew 7:12*

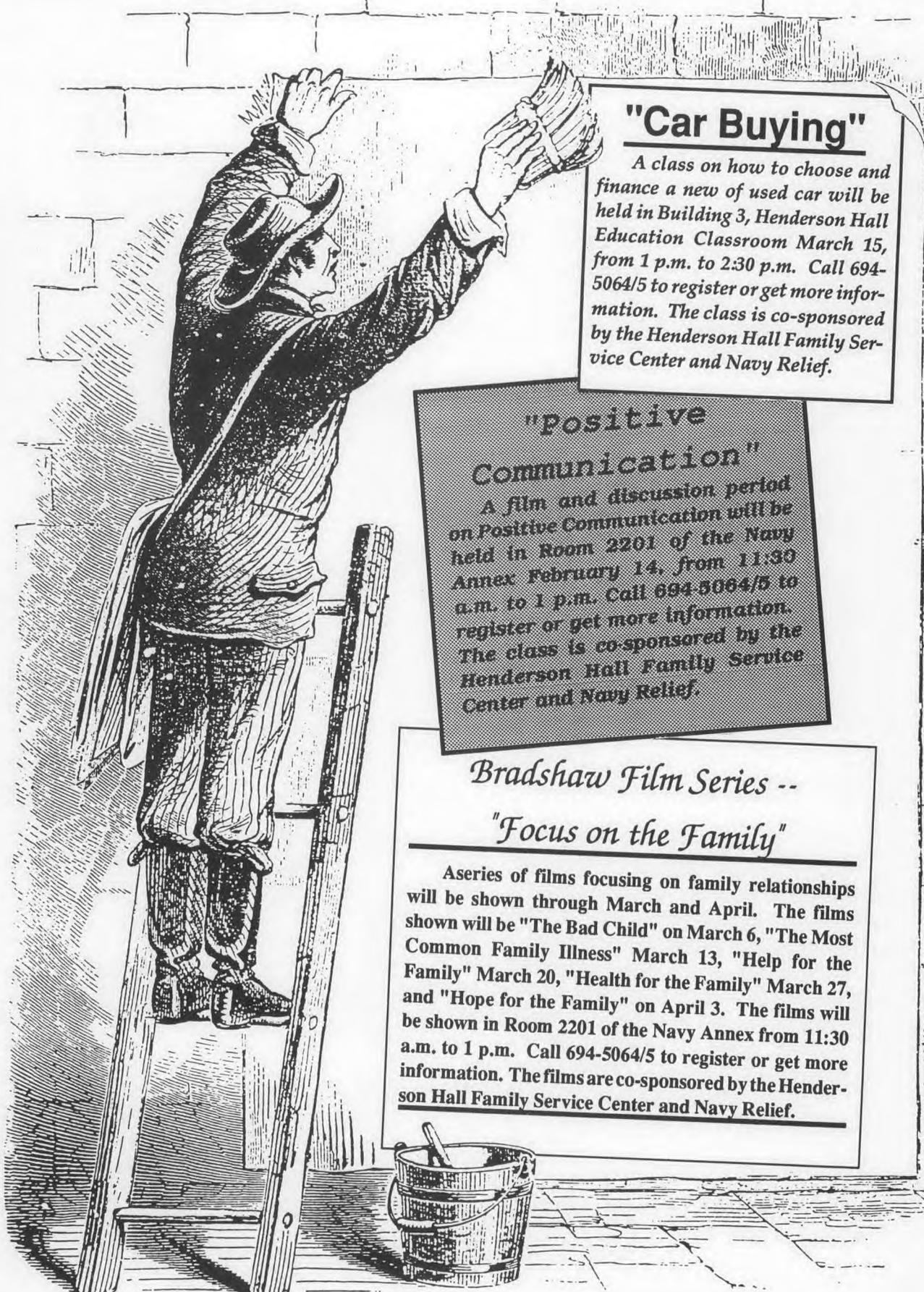
tremendous. Folks will say of you...there is a person we can trust...on whom we can depend to act fairly -- justly -- considerately. This individual is worthy of promotion...recognition...success.

Your mirror will reflect the quality of your honesty...for above all...your mirror knows.

*-- "Mental Attitude Series"*



# Upcoming Events



## "Car Buying"

A class on how to choose and finance a new or used car will be held in Building 3, Henderson Hall Education Classroom March 15, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Call 694-5064/5 to register or get more information. The class is co-sponsored by the Henderson Hall Family Service Center and Navy Relief.

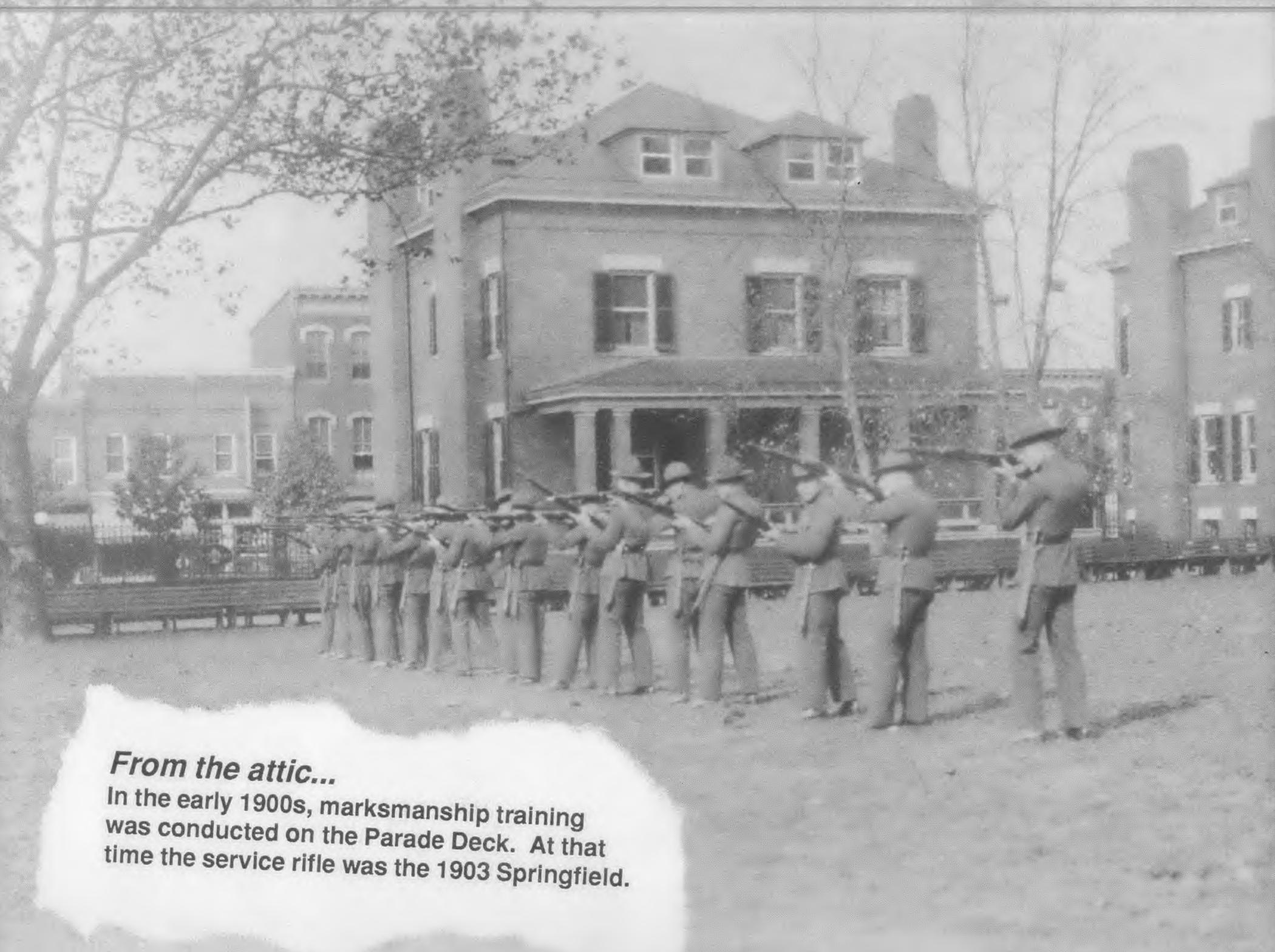
## "Positive Communication"

A film and discussion period on Positive Communication will be held in Room 2201 of the Navy Annex February 14, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 694-5064/5 to register or get more information. The class is co-sponsored by the Henderson Hall Family Service Center and Navy Relief.

## Bradshaw Film Series --

### "Focus on the Family"

A series of films focusing on family relationships will be shown through March and April. The films shown will be "The Bad Child" on March 6, "The Most Common Family Illness" March 13, "Help for the Family" March 20, "Health for the Family" March 27, and "Hope for the Family" on April 3. The films will be shown in Room 2201 of the Navy Annex from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 694-5064/5 to register or get more information. The films are co-sponsored by the Henderson Hall Family Service Center and Navy Relief.



***From the attic...***

**In the early 1900s, marksmanship training was conducted on the Parade Deck. At that time the service rifle was the 1903 Springfield.**