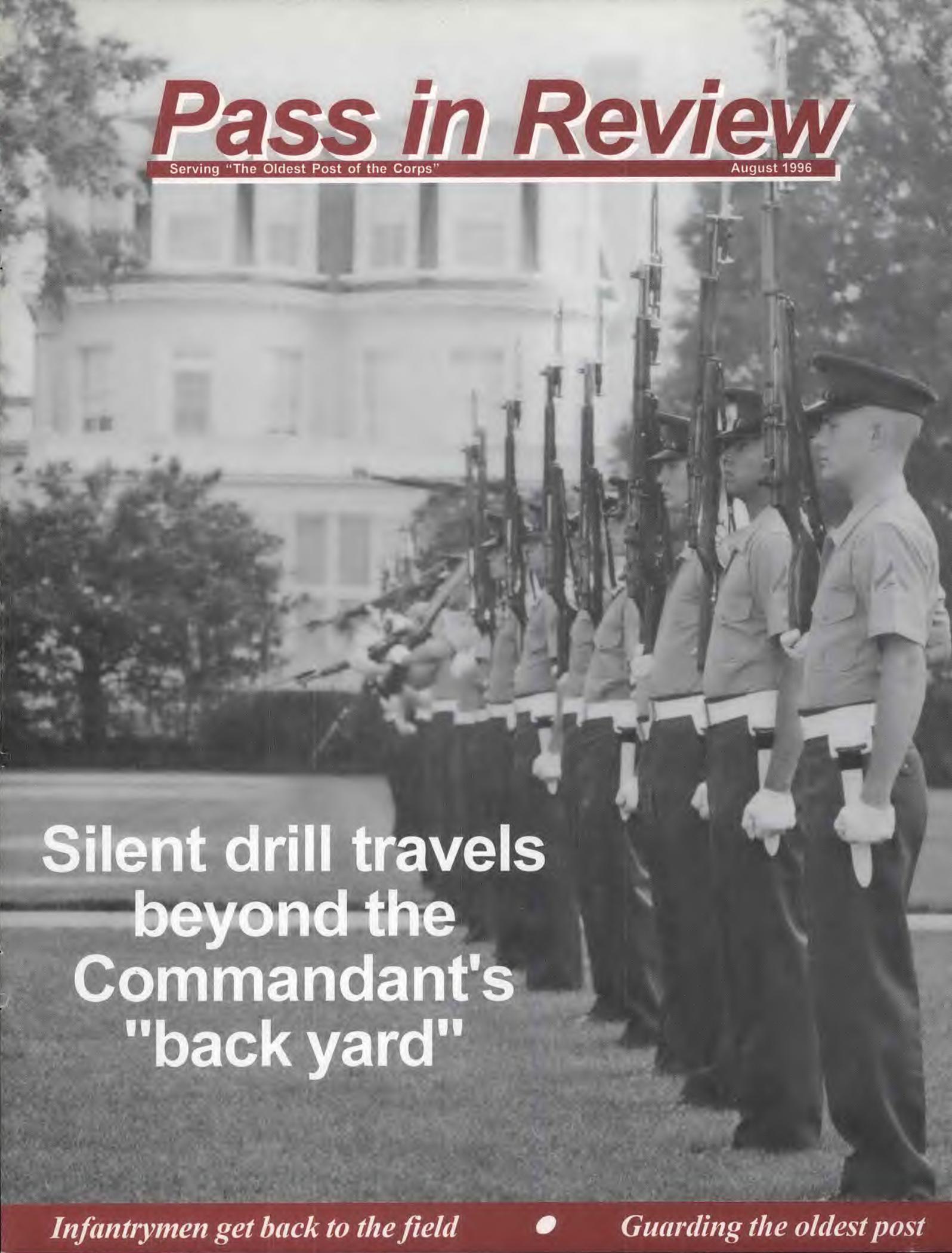


# Pass in Review

Serving "The Oldest Post of the Corps"

August 1996



Silent drill travels  
beyond the  
Commandant's  
"back yard"

*Infantrymen get back to the field*



*Guarding the oldest post*

# Building character

## *Marines display moral value with actions, not uniforms*

By Col. David G. Dotterrer

Over the past few months I have written about the meaning and importance of character. Last month I discussed how the actions of a few who lacked one of the important traits that make up character, integrity, can bring discredit upon our Corps. This month, I would like to talk about the actions of a few barracks Marines who make the world a little better because they possess the fundamental traits of character. In doing so they are a credit to the barracks, the Marine Corps, and, most importantly, themselves.

I receive dozens of letters each month from both dignitaries and citizens telling me how much they appreciated the parade they attended, the funeral of a loved one, the Battle Color Detachment performance in their community, or what a fine job you did in supporting their command activities. There is no doubt that every Marine here shows a tremendous amount of character in the way you perform your ceremonial duties. The Marines who march, those who host and those who support in a hundred different ways show a moral strength most civilians can only envy.

While I'm gratified by letters praising our ceremonial excellence, I'm even more pleased to hear from private citizens who write to express their thanks for the many wonderful things 8th & I

Marines do in our neighborhoods on their own time. I believe the most important expression of this thing we call character is not how well we do our job, but what impact we have on the lives of those around us.

Marines like Cpl. Casey Bivens of H&S Company make just such an impact. Cpl. Bivens is a volunteer coach for a boy's 9-10 year-old baseball team in Alexandria. There isn't much news value in a Marine coaching a bunch of kids, unless you happen to be one of the kids or their parents. Cpl. Bivens may have only intended to coach some kids because he likes kids and baseball, but he did much more. He made a difference in their lives.

Staff Sergeant Terrence Bailey and a number of Marines have touched hundreds of young lives by devoting their liberty time to the barracks Young Marines program. Young Marines benefits children from economically challenged neighborhoods in the area. Children learn the Marine traits of discipline, honor, and hard work. The community is enriched by these young citizens.

All across the Washington area, 8th & I Marines are out there making a

difference in their communities. They volunteer to coach kid's athletics or perform church work. They serve as leaders in Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts. They work hard at putting something back into the community. They make a difference in people's lives. Sometimes their efforts bring recognition; most often they don't. These Marines and their families aren't interested in recognition. They're interested in improving

the quality of life in their neighborhoods. They find that by doing something to help others, they help enrich their own lives. That's what character does for all of us.

Volunteering most of your free time is admirable, but there are many character-building activities which take only a few hours. Marine Barracks, Wash-

ington, D.C. has a couple of adopted schools. Many of the children there could use a hand with school activities from someone they can look up to. Washington is full of charitable organizations that could use a helping hand whenever you have the time. The PAO has a long list of these worthwhile organizations.

Better yet, take a moment to look around your own neighborhood. I'll bet you can come up with a dozen ways to improve someone else's life. In the process you will discover that you have become a better person and a better Marine.



Col. David G. Dotterrer

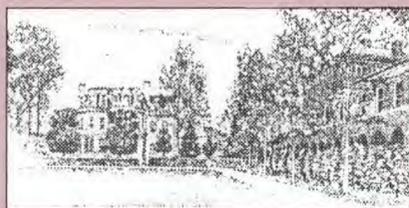
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### **On the Cover**

***The United States Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon performs a series of rifle spins in a "long-line" formation against the backdrop of the "Historic Home of the Commandants." (Photo by Cpl. Patrick E. Franklin)***

# **Pass in Review**

Volume 15

August 1996

Number 8

## **In the news...**



### **Maintaining the mission**

Maj. Timothy W. Foley accepts leadership of the Marine Band and the unique mission of providing music for the President.

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### **Revised guides**

The Marine Corps Institute announces the release of the newly revised Battle Drill Guides.

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### **Guarding the oldest post**

The Guard Section selects and trains its Marines through a special program to ensure the safety and security of the Corps' oldest post.

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### **Actions speak louder ...**

The Silent Drill Platoon trains, travels and performs under the spotlight.

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# 0311 : focus on the field

## Barracks infantry trains for the FMF

By LCpl. Jerry D. Pierce

Amidst the hectic schedule of parade season the Marines of Company A, Company B and Guard all made their way to the training fields of MCB, Quantico, Va. several times throughout the month of July. The exercises were all separate, but had the same goal in mind; equipping Marines with the basic tools of the "03" trade.

"We have a lot of Marines getting ready to rotate out to the fleet, and it's our job to make sure they're prepared to take leadership positions when they reach their units," said Capt. Mark N. Hosmer, Executive Officer of Company A.

During their training, Company A referred to the guidelines set by the Small Unit Leader Course, a training format that covers basic infantry skills needed by Marines preparing to transfer to the fleet. "The course was designed in 1990 by the commanding officer of Company A. It was brought about to give Marines the tools they need to take leadership roles within their new unit. Since its introduction to Company A's training schedule, the course has been used in some form by each infantry unit at 8th and I."

Some of the topics covered by the course are classroom and practical application of the five-paragraph order, call for fire, patrolling, first aid, helo operations and other fundamental infantry skills.

Itinerary for the units conducting



*LCpl. Robert R. Price, Silent Drill Platoon, steadies his compass and shoots an azimuth during land navigation training.*

field training varied by the demands of ceremonial commitments and other time constraints. Guard was able to take three separate trips to Quantico, each trip including 30 Marines. Each group of Marines were taught techniques on

how to set up perimeters, conducting day and night patrols, cover and concealment, and fields of fire.

"Everything went as smoothly as expected. We know that our younger Marines are bound to make mistakes.

*The President's Own***Foley accepts  
Band's legacy**

By SSgt. Christine A. Kohn

On July 11 Maj. Timothy W. Foley accepted the John Philip Sousa Baton and the leadership of the Marine Band from Col. John R. Bourgeois, Director for the past 17 years. With the baton, Bourgeois also passed a legacy spanning nearly 200 years.

Reflecting on the leadership transition, Foley said he considers himself to be part of a continuum — one of a long line of Directors who brought the Marine Band to unprecedented levels of excellence and maintained the band's unique mission: to provide music for the President of the United States and Commandant of the Marine Corps.

"In carrying out that mission, the person at the helm of the band has two vitally important musical responsibilities," Foley said. "One is to be what I call the 'keeper of the flame.' It is to recognize and continue our very special musical traditions, going all the way back to 1798. The other responsibility is to direct the band, musically speaking, toward the 21st century. By this I mean that we, as a musical organization, always set the example — by performing and supporting the highest standards in band music."

As Director, Foley will continue a distinguished career that stretches nearly 30 years with "The President's Own."

Foley joined the Marine Band in 1968 as a clarinetist. During his early years with the band, he was a featured soloist and served as conductor and clarinetist in numerous Marine Band chamber music concerts. He was active in developing and coordinating the Marine Band's "Music in the Schools" program—now an annual event—which introduces local elementary school students to musical instruments and repertoire.

In 1979, Foley was appointed Assistant Director, and in 1986, he was promoted to his present rank. Since then, he has modernized the Marine Band's audition system, making it much like those of major symphony orchestras, and has supervised the band's Chamber Music Series. He was special liaison for the U.S.-U.S.S.R. Armed Forces Band Exchange in 1990, coordinating, advising, and escorting the Soviet Ministry of Defense Band on its tour of the United States. In 1992, he led "The President's Own" on a concert tour of the upper Midwest.

Foley has conducted the band and orchestra for international dignitaries and leaders, including the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzak Rabin, Jordan's King Hussein, Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin and South African President Nelson Mandela.

We've all got to start somewhere, and this month they started by getting a better grasp on their infantry basics," said SSgt. William H. Chambliss, Assistant Guard Chief.

Company B had the same idea in mind when they took to the field. With a comprehensive package on daylight patrolling, the Company B Marines were reacquainted with the importance of light and noise discipline. "Our Marines were able to go to the field five separate times this month," said Cpl. Stephen D. Smith, Company B Training NCO. "Company B conducted training with new infantry officers from the Infantry Officer's Course at Quantico. The Marines were able to teach the officers some of what they knew," said Smith. "The greatest thing about showing someone else how to do something is that you tend to learn something new yourself."

"Our Marines are looking forward to Fort A.P. Hill in October. They like to go to the field for these one or two day excursions, but they like to test their skills during the week long evolution," said Hosmer.

"Each of our Marines is looking forward to the field exercise in October. It is really the only chance we get to compete with the performance of the other companies and show them what Company B is all about," said Smith.

Once again, the Marines of 8th and I have tested their strength not only as a ceremonial battalion, but as an infantry unit. Look for the month of October to bring some fierce competition among the various companies of 8th and I.

# Marines carry Olympic flame

## *Local leathernecks from past, present play a role in games*

The Marines did their part in ensuring the Olympic Flame reached the games in Atlanta by using three different modes of transportation during four segments of the official Olympic Torch Relay last month in the Washington, D.C. area.

The first of the four leatherneck torch bearers was a former Marine and coach of the All-Marine wrestling team Dan Mello. Mello was himself a former Olympian and is now a coach for the U.S. Olympic Wrestling Team. Mello ran his leg of the relay in Dale City, Va.

Capt. Ron Conardy was the next Marine to carry the flame. He also ran his portion through the streets of Dale

City. Conardy is a Dale City resident who works for the assistant deputy undersecretary of defense for transportation policy.

Major James Buckley of The Basic School, Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Va. added wheels to his trip with the flame. As throngs of onlookers crowded the Route 1 corridor outside the main gate of Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Buckley rode his bicycle into the intersection of Routes 1 and 619. Buckley, a licensed racer with the U.S. Cycling Federation, stopped and saluted base commander BGen. E.C. Kelley Jr. standing among the onlookers.

The relay was temporarily halted when the crowd spilled into the street to take photos and touch the torch. After the brief stop Buckley was on his way and completed his 35-kilometer ride to Fredericksburg.



**All-Marine wrestling coach Dan Mello carries the torch in Dale City. Coach Mello was also selected as a coach for the U.S. Olympic Wrestling Team. (Photo by Cpl. Gregory S. Gilliam)**

The last Marine to carry the torch was Terry Labar of Fredericksburg, Va. Labar carried the torch in his specially-designed racing wheelchair, which has carried him across the finish line of the Marine Corps Marathon three times. The former Marine was serving as the executive officer for 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines in 1984 when he was struck by a vehicle in Hafia, Israel. The incident left him paralyzed and forced him out of the Marine Corps after 16 years of service. Labar is now a security officer for the Critical Incident Response Group with the FBI.

All four men joined a total of 10,000 citizens nationwide who were chosen to carry the flame on its journey to Atlanta.

**Maj. James Buckley, of The Basic School, holds the Olympic Torch aloft as cheering citizens rush in to touch it. (Photo by J. Scott Olmsted)**



# MCI updates aging Battle Drill Guide

*Revised handbooks cover changing weapons, tactics*

By LCpl. Jerry D. Pierce

The Marine Corps Institute has announced the revision of the Marine Corps Battle Drill Guide. The pocket sized infantry training handbooks will come in a two-book set.

Book 1, Basic Infantry Training, and Book 2, Infantry Specific Training, are expected to be available this fall.

In 1986 the BDG found its way into the cargo pockets of infantry unit leaders throughout the Marine Corps. Its purpose was to provide infantry leaders with a practical tool for developing individual and unit proficiency in their field.

The importance of the guide prompted officials to update aging information on weapons and tactics. "Providing a tool that will be useful to infantry leaders was the main reason for the revision," said Terry M. Franus, Chief of Education and Operations, Marine Corps Institute.

The water-resistant and tear-proof guide is a portable reference library

for leaders to develop and execute a unit training program. Complete with drills, cross references, and training requirements, the guide will provide the necessary information to assist



Cpl. Adolfo Macias, MCI Co., reads through the recent changes to the Battle Drill Guide.

units for evaluation under the Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation System (MCCRES).

The BDG is based on a building block process emphasizing development of individual skills as initial training, followed by situational and

field exercises that provide opportunities to practice those skills as part of a team. The BDG is organized into three parts:

Part I — Fundamentals of Battle Drill Training provides information on how to design and evaluate individual and unit training programs.

Part II — A list of battle drills that combine individual and leader skills into coordinated unit actions. The drills allow leaders to execute realistic training programs that build and support operational missions.

Part III — Job Aids provides the conditions, standards, and performance steps for executing and evaluating an operational mission. Each job aid includes a cross reference which links each task with related battle drills.

"The revisions to the BDG give infantry leaders the correct information to help focus their training programs either on areas in which they need training or in areas they will be involved in during upcoming operations," said Maj. A. J. Copp, Chief of the Occupational Specialty Department at the Marine Corps Institute. "MCI's goal is to provide up-to-date training information to Marines corpswide."

"Since the development of the BDG, Marines are able to be trained to meet the same performance standards as other Marines of the same rank and MOS," Copp added. "In a combat situation, infantry unit compatibility is the key to keeping our Marines alive and successful."

# New vaccine to keep Marines on their feet

Twentynine Palms, Calif. — Marine Expeditionary Forces and Navy Construction Battalions at Twentynine Palms will be among the first units to benefit from a new vaccine that will do away with the painful posterior shots

that have become a dreaded pre-deployment ritual. According to an administrative message from the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in Washington, D.C., the new Havrix vaccine will provide lifetime protection against Hepatitis A and will replace the unpopular immunoglobulin (IG) shots which often left large lumps under the skin after the injection. Use of the vaccine will begin this month within the 7th Marine Regiment.

According to Cmdr. Marshall A. Salkin, the 7th Marine Regimental Surgeon, the Hepatitis A virus is mainly transmitted through contaminated food and water in underdeveloped countries. The

virus may remain dormant in the human digestive system for up to 50 days, during which time, the carrier may unknowingly be spreading the virus to others. Symptoms caused by the virus include jaundice, nausea, vomiting and other systemic ailments.

"This is an all-win situation," said the 25-year veteran Salkin. "With the vaccine and the six month booster, you will be immune to Hepatitis A for life."

The vaccine is packaged and stored in pre-filled syringes that can be quickly used and disposed of. From a unit commander's standpoint, the new vaccine will save time and headaches during preparations for deployment, according to Chief Petty Officer Randy D. Miller, a preventive medicine technician assigned to the 7th Marines Regimental Aid Station.

"When the balloon goes up, time becomes a factor," said Miller, who points out that long lines for pre-deployment vaccination lead to cranky Marines. "People want to spend time with and say good-bye to their families, not get shots."



HM3 Kenneth D. Howard gives Cpl. Christopher D. Cronin, Silent Drill Platoon, a vaccination at the Branch Medical Clinic. The new Havrix vaccine will reduce the shots Marines receive prior to deployment.

## Gen. Krulak gives guidance on character

Marines are men and women of character, widely recognized for their moral excellence, selfless courage, committed principles, and sound judgment. Character can be described as a "moral compass" within one's self, that helps us make right decisions even in the midst of the shifting winds of adversity. Unwavering character encourages us to pursue honorable ideals. A wise person once declared, "Ideals are like stars — we may never reach them but we chart our course by them."

Character is developed every day in garrison, on deployment, aboard

ship, on duty or on liberty. Wherever we are around the world. We are not born with character. It is developed by the experiences and decisions that guide our lives. Neither can we borrow the character or reputation of another. Each individual creates, develops and nurtures their own. That is why each of us must learn to make good moral decisions in our lives. When the right course of action is unclear, only the habit of doing the right thing, as practiced everyday in all areas of our lives, can be counted upon. Well-developed character is our shield against fear and despair. That's why Napoleon said that in war, the importance of the

moral, relative to the physical, is three to one.

Character is readiness. The Corps is a ready force, not a force that when called must struggle to get ready. Our challenge is to be a corps of men and women who represent the highest of moral character in and out of uniform. Character creates a foundation on which successful military units are built. From this foundation, honor, courage, and commitment will always be evident, providing the perfect description of a United States Marine.

Semper Fidelis,  
C.C. Krulak

# TRICARE: Family Member Dental Plan changes name, not services

**Washington, D.C.** — The name changed, but DoD's Family Member Dental Plan still provides low-cost access to a broad network of civilian dentists.

Initially called the Dependent Dental Plan, Delta Dental administered the program. United Concordia Companies, Inc. won the contract last year and began administering the plan under its new name Feb. 1.

Beneficiaries should not have noticed any change, according to Diana Tabler, deputy assistant secretary of defense for health services financing. Those already enrolled with Delta were automatically transferred to United Concordia, and payroll deductions continued automatically.

If anything, existing participants should have noticed the reduced premiums produced by market competition, Tabler said. Instead, they tended to perceive shortcomings, she said. For example whereas Delta Dental offered a network of more than 100,000 dentists, United Concordia offers fewer than half that many.



*Under the new dental plan, children of enrolled service members may receive free preventive exams. (Photo by LCpl. Jerry D. Pierce)*

“That’s because Delta included a large commercial network in big urban areas where not a lot of military family members reside,” Tabler explained. “[United Concordia], on the other hand, has worked hard to establish providers around places where our families actually live.”

The name TRICARE confused people, too — retirees, for example, officials said. While they are eligible for medical care under DoD’s managed health care plan, military retirees don’t qualify for dental care. Active duty service members receive their dental care at military treatment facilities.

“We added the TRICARE label because [it] is a comprehensive health benefit,” Tabler said. “It’s not unusual for an organization to offer different benefits to various segments of its population. TRICARE incorporates everything DoD is doing in the health care arena and represents our comprehensive care and concern for all beneficiaries.”

Tabler said recently announced premium increases were programmed. On Aug. 1, single premiums rose from \$6.77 per month to \$7.19 and family premiums from 16.92 to 17.97. Leave and earnings statements will reflect the increases. The monthly premium deducted from active duty members’ pay represents 40 percent of the total premium cost for the plan. The government picks up the other 60 percent.

Even with the increases, Tabler said, the premiums are lower than under the previous contract. United Concordia’s bid was \$112 million less than Delta Dental’s, she said.

While Tabler favorably rates United Concordia, she said people shouldn’t hesitate to voice problems they encounter. She urged people to use the contractor’s toll-free number, (800) 866-8499, or write to:

United Concordia Companies, Inc.  
Customer Service, P.O. Box 898218  
Camp Hill, PA 17089-8218

They also can contact local health benefits advisers at military medical facilities for information and assistance.

More than 80 percent of eligible families are enrolled in the dental plan, Tabler said, but far fewer use the benefit fully. “For example, the plan provides free preventive exams for children,” she said. “Unfortunately, not a lot of enrollees use this service.

“Dental health is an important part of a person’s overall health and well-being,” she continued. “I strongly encourage eligible adults and children to fully participate in this program.”

# Marines, dependents get voter assistance

Story by CWO2 Michael Ladd

The week of August 25 through 31, 1996 is designated as "Armed Forces Voter's Week." Marines and eligible dependents are authorized to vote via absentee ballot while they are stationed away from their legal voting residence.

For Marines and their dependents, legal voting residence is defined as, "where they have, or have had, physical presence at the location and simultaneously the intent to remain or return." For many service members, this is the state in which you last resided prior to entering the military. Marines and their dependents may each have different legal voting residences.

To register and vote absentee, an eligible person must complete a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). Once

the FPCA has been completed and sent to the legal voting residence, an absentee ballot will be sent to the voter.

Generally, FPCAs requesting only a ballot should be received by ballot officials 45 days prior to election day to allow ample time to process the request and mail the ballot. Most states begin mailing ballots to voters 30 - 45 days before an election.

## Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C. voting assistance representatives

Voting Assistance Officer.....	CWO2 M.A. Ladd
H & S Company.....	Cpl. B.G. Grote
Co. A.....	Capt. M. N. Hosmer
Co. B.....	Cpl. S. D. Smith
Security Co.....	Sgt. L. Barber
U.S. Naval Academy Co.....	1stLt. J. W. Peaco
U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps.....	MSgt. J. A. Moore
U.S. Marine Band.....	SSgt. G. Aragon
Marine Corps Institute.....	Sgt. J. A. Coxen/Cpl. A. Macias

# Marines needed for annual Mountain Bike Championship

WASHINGTON — Military mountain cyclists will compete at the third annual National Military Mountain Bike Championships Oct. 12-13 at Snow Summit, near Big Bear Lake, Calif.

The competition will feature two events, held on separate days. The first event is a mountain downhill race. On the second day, cyclists take on an 18-

mile cross country course.

Entrants may compete in either or both events. Unlike traditional cycling events that combine scores from each event for an overall winner, each event at Snow Summit is a separate competition with winners in each category. Cyclists will compete in age and gender categories with gold, silver and

bronze medals going to the top finishers in each division.

Athletes must also hold a National Off-Road Bicycle Association license. Those not holding a license may purchase a one-day license at each race.

Unit commanders may authorize racers to compete while on permissive temporary duty. All travel, lodging and dining expenses are the athlete's responsibility.

For more information about the competition, entry requirements and fees, contact race officials at Peterson Air Force Base at (719) 554-5486.

## Guidance on recreational safety

Off-duty accidents can play havoc with mission effectiveness. In an attempt to minimize this impact, Marine Corps Order 5100.30 was drafted to cover off-duty and recreational safety. The order establishes guidelines for various safety programs to prevent future mishaps and reduce the loss of personnel.

The MCO directs commanders to establish and maintain aggressive safety programs. The programs will cover all off-duty activities on or off base.

The order emphasizes the knowledge of recreational safety and the use of safety equipment for activities like bicycling, skating, water craft and off-road vehicles. Although, policy regarding the participation in such activities is outlined in the order, each command will develop their own off-duty and recreational safety programs in cooperation with MWR.

The safety principles used in the order are industry standards for that particular sport or activity. So, experienced participants and newcomers alike will benefit from the establishment the protective guidelines.

**W**hen you see these Marines, congratulate them on their new ranks. Recent promotions for August include:

**Co. A**

- Cpl. A.D. Boone
- Cpl. T.L. Stevens
- Cpl. A.W. Breen
- Cpl. F.S. Monroe
- Cpl. E.D. Wright III
- Cpl. A.D. Boone
- Cpl. D.R. Wiggins
- LCpl. W.T. Evans
- LCpl. C.A. Butler
- LCpl. N.E. Sabin
- LCpl. R.G. Dodds
- LCpl. J.W. Konrady
- LCpl. R. Contreras
- LCpl. A.P. Jaime

**Co. B**

- LCpl. B.S. Ellis
- LCpl. J.C. Eskew III
- LCpl. D.R. Spencer
- LCpl. T.L. Stevens
- LCpl. C.L. Peil
- LCpl. R.A. Taylor
- LCpl. D.E. Petty
- LCpl. W.L. Smith
- LCpl. S.E. Mazanec

**H&S Co.**

- Sgt. T.G. Hartley
- Cpl. D.W. Reed
- Cpl. R.E. Davis
- Cpl. C.A. Minges

- Cpl. P.E. Kerber
- Cpl. C.B. Blake
- Cpl. D.R. Morris
- LCpl. T.M. Craig
- LCpl. C.M. Sandlin
- LCpl. C.J. Redding
- LCpl. S.L. Dennis II
- LCpl. J.W. Crouser
- LCpl. P.C. Hilton
- LCpl. N.A. Root
- LCpl. B.D. Crowl



**MCI Co.**

- Cpl. E.D. Arnone
- LCpl. G. Laserna
- LCpl. R.D. Ward
- LCpl. C.L. Wright
- LCpl. I.M. Odett
- LCpl. E. Colonbencosme

**U.S. Marine Band**

- Cpl. D.M. Joiner

**W**e usually have several new faces at 8th & I. Make a point of greeting these new barracks members.

**H&S Co.**

- 1stLt. E.M. Martin
- SSgt. D.R. Lucas
- SSgt. M.R. Flecher
- Sgt. M.W. Raffenbeul
- Cpl. R.L. Carter
- Cpl. T.L. Woodard
- LCpl. Z.D. Lamm
- PFC. P.C. Hilton
- PFC. C.J. Markey
- PFC. J.E. Castro
- PFC. S.A. Reed
- PFC. K.B. Grant
- PFC. P.F. Thomas
- PFC. A.E. Starr
- PFC. W.E. Phillips
- PFC. W.B. Piner

**MCI Co.**

- Capt. M.M. Hartmann
- 1stSgt. A. Saunders Jr.
- GySgt. H.T. Lathe
- PFC. R.D. Ward
- PFC. G. Laserna
- PFC. C.R. Chang
- PFC. T.D. Walker

**USNA Co.**

- Capt. B.G. Gregory Jr.
- Capt. T.E. Hammer
- Capt. D.G. Schnorenberg
- 1stLt. M.V. Samarov

Story and photos  
by LCpl. Jerry D.  
Pierce

**A**t first glance they appear to be a normal part of the ceremonial atmosphere of 8th and I. They are the first Marines most people see on their way through the historic iron gates. These Marines are the protectors of "the Oldest Post of the Corps," a responsibility that every member of the Guard Detachment at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C. takes very seriously.

Guard is made up of 125 enlisted Marines and one officer. These Marines have been through a rigorous screening evaluation. Once they've been screened, they're selected for the "Yankee White Program," a program that places Marines in security roles in support of the President of the United States.

"The guard's mission and responsibility at 8th and I encompass much more than a normal guard section," said Capt. Russell E. Wrede, Guard Officer for 8th and I. "In other guard detachments the Marines are mostly protecting government property, but our Marines are guarding the 'top brass' of the Marine Corps and the Navy."

"Our Marines are responsible for



LCpl. Larry A. Villareal Jr., Guard Detachment, stands watch at the main gate of Marine Barracks 8th & I, literally "the Oldest Post of the Corps."

Guarding the oldest post with

**YANKEE  
WHITE**

the security of the homes of the Commandant, Assistant Commandant, and other top ranking Marine Corps officers. We also guard the access gate to home of the Chief of Naval operations and five other top Navy admirals at the Washington Navy Yard," said GySgt. John J. McGovern, Guard Chief for the detachment.

Guard Marines' duties are intense.

They must be exceptionally sharp, both mentally and physically. "Not only do they have to know their job to a tee, but they also have to project an image of confidence and courtesy and be ceremonially attuned as well," added McGovern.

During Parade Season the task of overall security becomes even more of a challenge as they also take responsibility for the security of the parade and its spectators.

"Our Marines are some of the finest," said Wrede. "They continue to meet the rigid standards the job entails and they do it well."

To keep the Marines in "top notch" shape, a rigorous weekly training routine is implemented into the schedule. Guard Marines train extensively in such areas as physical security, handling of bomb threats, counter intelligence and protective operations.

Guard Marines are proficient with the Mossberg 590 shotgun, the M9 Beretta 9mm pistol, and the PR-24 police baton. According to McGovern, the Marines continue to receive monthly infantry field training and weekly training classes on the various MOS related subjects.

"Common sense and responsibility are the key issues for a guard Marine at



**SSgt. Jack E. Thomas, 2nd Section Leader, delivers a strike to Cpl. Dustin R. Morris, Corporal of the Guard, in a demonstration of PR-24 baton techniques for junior Guard Marines.**

8th and I,” said Wrede. “They make everyday decisions that in most other places would be handled by someone with more rank and responsibility.”

“Within all of the training that we do we strive to teach the importance of common sense. The Marine Guard has to be able to think. Not everything that goes on here is covered by

written order or regulation and ninety percent of the time a Marine will have to use his own judgment,” said McGovern.

Other than the tough schedule, probably one of the more difficult tasks the average guardsman faces is enforcing regulations. “It takes a special type of Marine to enforce regulations on his peers, subordinates and superiors,” said Wrede. “That’s why it is extremely important that the Marines know how to

be tactful but assertive at the same time. But, it is also important for everyone at 8th and I to understand that they have a job to do.”

At the center of all the screening boards, training and post standing emerges a guard Marine clad in a “blue-delta” uniform.

“The individual Marine is what makes everything happen,” said McGovern. “They are the key to a successful and smooth running operation. Security is a feeling that everyone likes, but almost everyone takes for granted. The Marines of 8th and I should be thankful for the dedication of these ‘individual’ Marines preserving the order and protecting the property of Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C.”

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***Security is a feeling that everyone likes, but almost everyone takes for granted.***

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*--GySgt. John J. McGovern, Guard Chief*

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**LCpl. Robert E. North, Corporal of the Guard, 1st Section, and his squad prepare to depart on a daytime-patrol exercise.**

*Their endless cycle of training, travel and drill leads them through performance around the globe. Their performances, a brief showcasing of Marine discipline, lead the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon through countless hours ...*

# On the road, in the spot



performances across the  
the United States

# Spotlight

Story and Photos by  
Cpl. Patrick E. Franklin

The platoon moves silently across the closely-cropped grass and comes on line, greeted by a low, rumbling thunder and flashes of lightning. The thunder is the roar of the crowd, and the lightning is the endless flashes of cameras. The other sounds of an early summer evening are suddenly overruled.

It's time for the United States Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon to perform, an annual ritual that never ceases to enthrall Washingtonians and tens of thousands of other spectators around the country who can only marvel at the precision and discipline they see in motion.

Many spectators may assume these young Marines enjoy a life of good times and liberty.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Seven shows in seven days is not an unusual week for these young Marines during the height of parade season, and a behind-the-scenes look reveals a hectic but organized schedule that often consumes most hours in a day.

Tuesday, June 25: The platoon musters at 5:45 a.m. on the quarter-deck and begins preparation for the morning rehearsals at the Marine Corps War Memorial. Phases I and II are the "dress rehearsals" for the Sunset Parade. Get dressed, draw weapons, eat chow, take care of any last-minute business, and catch the bus to the "Two."

For the next two hours, it's standing and spinning and more standing under the watchful eyes of a dozen staff NCOs, NCOs, and the platoon rifle inspectors.

The rifle inspectors, Cpls. Steven W. Synder, of Live Oak, Calif., and Douglas L. White, of Graham, Texas, are third-year members of the platoon. They make sure the drill stays "tight" all season long.

"If Cpl. Synder or I see a weakness during practice or at a Phase I or II, we ... find time in the schedule to work out the problem. If it's an individual who is having trouble, we'll pull them aside and work with them until the problem is solved," White stated.

After Phases I and II are complete, the platoon returns to the bar-



Hours of rehearsal are rewarded as applause breaks the silence during a June performance in New England.

Members of the Silent Drill Platoon and the Marine Corps Color Guard embark on one of many bus rides in a tight schedule of ceremonial commitments.

racks and goes into lunch and preparation time, meticulously detailing their uniforms, covers, and shoes for the Tuesday Evening Sunset Parade.

At 5:45 p.m., they board a bus for the 15-minute ride to the Marine Corps

hour and includes other ceremonial units from the barracks. By the time the show is complete and the unit gets back from dinner, it's about 9:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 27: Today is a travel day and the platoon gets back to the barracks at about 3 p.m. and begins preparing for the next day.

The process of caring for uniforms is never ending. Each Marine has at least three dress blue

wind, so at 4:30 p.m., the platoon is granted liberty.

Friday June 28: Today it's another Phase I and II for the Evening Parade at the barracks — an endless repetition as the battalion is put through its paces in a dress rehearsal for the evening's performance.

Despite the seemingly endless hours of practice and rehearsals, most members will tell you they're still nervous about the Friday Evening Parade. This is where they are the closest to the audience, and this is the show where it all began for the platoon.

But, all of the work is well worth it according to Sgt. Sylvester R. Mora, the platoon guide.

"Coming here from the fleet is like dream. The caliber of the Marines in this unit is unbelievable. All of these Marines are hand picked and they want to be here. They are the epitome of the Marine Corps," he said.

During the last week of June, the Silent Drill Platoon had five performances before more than 15,000 spectators. They got on and off 17 buses, five planes, and logged over 1,700 miles of travel. By the end of their season in November, the unit will have completed more than 400 performances before hundreds of thousands of spectators, and will have traveled more than 50,000 miles.

The outcome of their performances are well worth the effort, according to Mora.

"Seeing how Marines from other commands and the civilians who see us respond to the show, and knowing that I have been able to be a part of that, is something I will always be proud of," Mora said. "All of the work that goes into getting the platoon to a show is worth it."

***By the end of their season in November, the Silent Drill Platoon will have completed more than 400 performances before hundreds of thousands of spectators, and will have traveled more than 50,000 miles.***

War Memorial. The bus is full, but the seats remain empty because the Marines refuse to sit down. If they did, they would break the creases of their trousers. When they arrive at the parade site, it's time for a final round of practice.

It's 9:15 p.m. by the time they re-board the bus. Back at the barracks, they return their weapons to the armory and get a final brief on what to expect tomorrow morning.

Wednesday, June 26: The day begins again before the sun is up. At the first formation, fireteam and squad leaders check to be sure the Marines have everything they'll need for their two-day trip to Orleans, Mass. There are weapons to draw, crates to pack, and trucks to be loaded with gear to take to the airport.

Arriving at the show site, they discover, as expected, that there are logistical obstacles to overcome. Because of its size, the unit is staying at two separate hotels and coordinating the bus and times for departure to the show site takes more time than usual.

Today's show is a Battle Color Detachment with a street parade to the show site. The show lasts about an

hour and includes other ceremonial units from the barracks. By the time the show is complete and the unit gets back from dinner, it's about 9:30 p.m.



**Cpl. Steven W. Snyder, Silent Drill Platoon Rifle Inspector, mirrors another Marine's drill movements during rifle-manual practice.**

general maintenance that goes along with being ready for the next day. But all Marines need a little time to un-

# Problems are positive

By Lt. Kenneth D. Counts

"Problems are always positive." Words spoken years ago by a man I admired. Words which abide in my memory because they strengthen me when I feel challenged. Words which I now repeat in discussions with Marines who come seeking counsel from me, their chaplain. Words that I hope will encourage others when they too feel discouraged by circumstances.

We normally regard problems as negative. We can explode in anger or frustration as our problems unfold. A dead battery unexpectedly threatens to make us late for work, so we hit the panic button. Your young child is sick through the night and you rise exhausted after a sleepless night, wondering where to find the strength for the day ahead. Your pay never goes far enough but when you read, "No Pay Due" you go high and to the right. On the job, the demand for zero defects hangs like a hammer over our heads in our military assignments. We fear to err. We fear the consequences a mistake might cost us professionally. We calculate the risks of failure and we seek to avoid all danger to ourselves. Those who suffer non-judicial punishment will tell you in brokenness that their careers are ended, or that their future is bleak or dim. None of us wants problems. We want problem-free living.

But I say problems, even failures, are positive. Let me tell you about my friend Jim, who first spoke those good words to me years ago. His life proves that all is not lost when we are not perfect and things are going wrong.

Convicted on repeated felony

charges, at age 18, a judge gave Jim a choice, "You can go to prison, or you can leave the state of Kentucky." Would you feel you had ruined your life, if faced with a choice like that? I would.

Confined in his jail cell, Jim realized that he had ruined his reputation and destroyed his hopes and expectations. But instead of giving up he came to the conviction that he was to blame for his own troubles and that no one else would make his life worthwhile until he changed himself.

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***"Problems are positive because God works to redeem, to recover, to rescue what we ruin and wreck."***

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Jim moved to Louisiana and found work digging ditches for a small oil dealership. He had sunk to the bottom. But he was working hard and doing good for the first time ever. The owner of that company recognized potential in Jim. A chain of events enabled Jim to demonstrate trustworthiness and the boss promoted him into a management role. Today, Jim owns that company with holdings and assets worth millions.

Jim's experience illustrates something basic from the Word of God. Problems are positive because God works to redeem, to recover, to rescue what we ruin and wreck. One of the New Testament writers said, "Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter all sorts of problems,

for this tests your faith and produces endurance." (James 1:3)

Perhaps those words surprise you? To treat our problems as causes for joy and rejoicing requires faith in God. By contrast, if you think random chance, or impersonal forces, determine your life, then you probably have nothing higher to blame or to hope for, than some sort of figment called "luck." But those who discover that they have a heavenly Father, discover His loving hand, personally involved in directing and affecting all their circumstances, whether positive or negative.

Jim found joy and success, but he first had to reach a painful conclusion. He had to admit that he was to blame for the his own troubles. Jim had to blame himself and nobody else. But after that admission he refused to call his life worthless. He found a new beginning. He found a new motivation to do his best.

In composing this article, I realized again, that the longer I live, the more I feel my faults. Frequently, I repeat to myself, "**problems are positive.**" I'm finding the power of God redeeming what seemed ruined, or rescuing what I feared was trashed. I tell you, on the basis of God's Word, there is an empty grave which can daily remind you, that nothing is too big for the power of God to handle. Having solved death, the most destructive of our problems, what other problem, or failure, can the Lord not resolve in my life or in yours?

**Chaplain's Office: (202) 433-6201 or 433-2521**

Dear Col. Dotterer,

May 21, 1996

Three of your courteous and helpful Marines came to our rescue Saturday afternoon on the ramp from I-495 to the George Washington Parkway, where we had been in our stalled car without help for some time in the 90-degree heat. Not only did they try to jump-start our engine, but drove me to a phone to call help and then to my house in Bethesda.

They would accept no remuneration and suggested they take water back to my husband who was waiting with the car.

We congratulate you and the Marine Corps for having such exemplary young men in the Corps as Christopher Sarrica, Matthew Shaffer and Terry Fullerton. We are very much impressed ... and grateful.

Sincerely,  
Alma K. Rhodes

June 5, 1996

Dear Col. Dotterer,

On behalf of the Bryan, Texas 125th Military Awareness Committee I wish to extend our heartiest appreciation for the outstanding demonstration provided by the Silent Drill Platoon. A copy of the Bryan paper for Sunday, June 1, 1996 is provided for your information.

Personally, I want to say how much I enjoyed visiting with the team and how honored we were to again have them stay on our campus. Please convey our best to Capt. Griffin and relate how much everyone was impressed with the professionalism exhibited not only in the performance, but also in the planning and coordination for the visit.

Thank you for allowing the platoon to come and please let me know if I may ever be of assistance.

Sincerely,  
Donald R. Henderson  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.)  
Chief of Special Activities  
and Corps Center Operations

June 6, 1996

Dear Dave,

Many thanks for all your work to make Scouting on the Mall 1996 a big success! We saw nothing but smiles on the faces of Cubs, Boy Scouts and Explorers who demonstrated their skills and participated in the many activities. Thousands of youth and their adult leaders displayed Scouting at its best on the Washington Monument grounds. Thousands more family, friends and visitors saw Building Character in action.

This show was possible only because of dedicated volunteers like you. Your efforts are truly appreciated. Please pass on to your people how much I personally appreciated their help and assistance.

Sincerely,  
Paul S. Semko  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy

June 11, 1996

Dear Col. Dotterrer,

Many thanks for your kind invitation to attend your Evening Parade last Friday night. The performance was absolutely outstanding. The pride, precision and discipline of your great Marines was inspirational. Julie and I not only enjoyed the superb maneuvers of the Marines in formation but the Band and Drum and Bugle Corps were most impressive. It was a positive, upbeat professional performance and a great tribute to the U.S. Marine Corps.

My highest compliments to your Marines and thank you again for inviting us.

Sincerely,  
Robert F. Foley  
Major General, U.S. Army  
Commanding Officer

Col. Dotterrer,

July 1, 1996

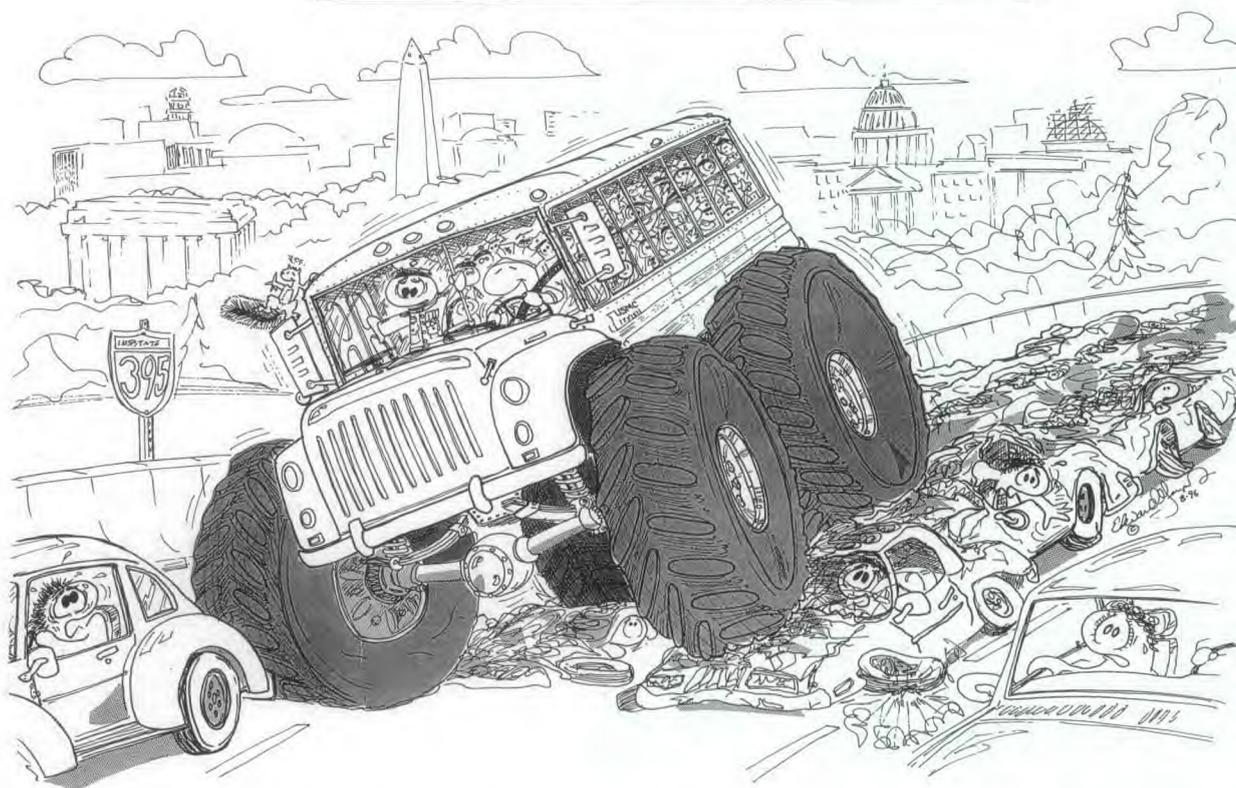
On behalf of the National Security Agency, we wish to thank you for the performance of the Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment at our annual salute to the Armed Forces during Armed Forces Week, 13 - 17 May 1996. The highlight of this celebration was the Wednesday afternoon performance of the Battle Color Detachment. We received numerous laudatory comments from Agency employees and military assignees concerning this performance.

Without the support of the many surrounding military installations, our event could not be successful. With the involvement of military marching bands, Color Guard detachments, and other military performing units, this year's Armed Forces Week celebration was a major success.

We wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the participation of the members of the Battle Color Detachment, the Drum and Bugle Corps, led by MGySgt. M. H. Gardner; the Color Guard, led by Sgt. T. W. Rollinson; the Silent Drill Platoon, led by SSgt. V. King; and the narrator, Cpl. P. E. Franklin. These men and those under their guidance reflected the pride and professionalism that was evident to all watching. Please extend our thanks to all those who took part in this wonderful performance. They were superb!

Sincerely,  
Winsor Whiton  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy  
Deputy Director  
for Plans, Policy and Programs

# HARRY WHO by GySgt. E.A. Temple Jr.



"Motor Transport -- when it has to get there on time!"

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