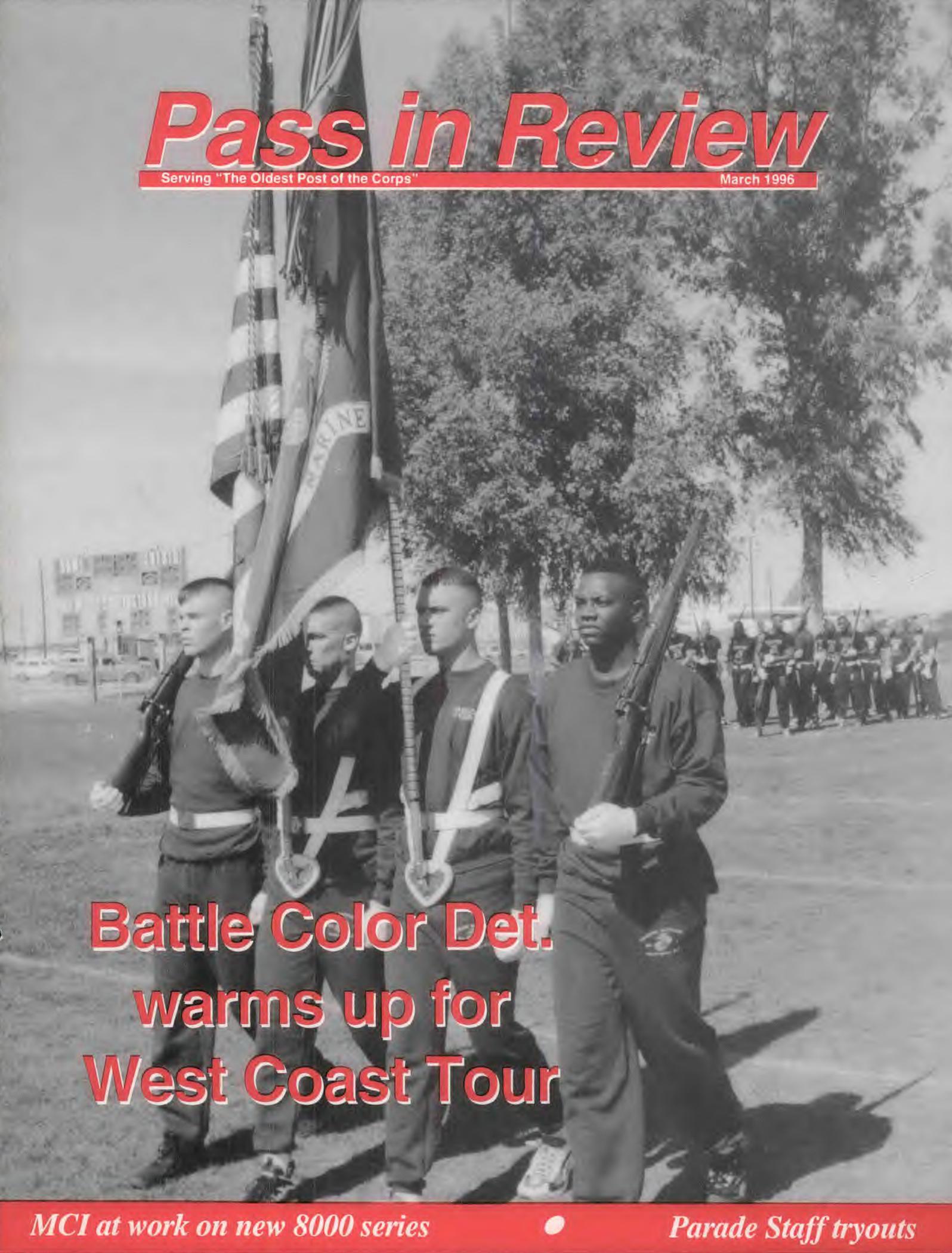


Pass in Review

Serving "The Oldest Post of the Corps"

March 1996



Battle Color Det.
warms up for
West Coast Tour

Our vision for Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C.

by Col. David G. Dotterer

As I stated in my January article, I intend to address the mission, vision, and goals of the Barracks as prepared by the Barracks leadership a year ago. In that article I discussed our mission. After a slight departure last month, when I had to unfortunately restate the obvious-the rules apply to all of us, it is time to return to these themes.

The concept of vision for leaders and organizations is currently one of those buzzwords you will hear thrown around a lot. While it has almost become a cliché and is often misused, it is, nonetheless, a concept which every leader should embrace. In a nutshell-what do we want the Barracks to be like in the future? What standard of excellence are we striving toward? Consider this description of "The Oldest Post of the Corps":

"The very mention of our name evokes an image of picture-perfect Marines performing at their best. 8th and I Marines are symbols of the time-honored traditions of our Corps. Marines exist to fight our country's battles, not merely pass in review. We understand that. But as few Americans will ever admire their Marines in action against our nation's foes, 8th and I Marines-wherever they serve-are the Corps' best advertisement this side of Mount Surabachi-its most visible example of pride, professionalism, esprit de corps and selfless commitment that have animated Marines and distinguished our Corps since 1775.

"But there is a great deal more to 8th and I than ever meets the public eye. We are a multifaceted organization comprised of Marines, Sailors, and Civilians entrusted with enormous responsibilities. Of those to whom much respect and admiration are given, much is expected.

"8TH AND I-MANY PROUD TRADITIONS, ONE PROUD FAMILY"

This is a great description and one which should be reviewed occasionally to remind ourselves what we are all about. Now let's look at our vision for the future:

"We are "The Oldest Post of the Corps," the guardians of Marine Corps traditions, the living, tangible example of the pride, esprit and history that have distinguished the Corps since 1775. We are a model working and living environment, a community that fosters in our professional and personal lives the values of selfless commitment, teamwork, pride, honor and a sense of well-being and belonging.

We are the Marine Corps Institute. We promote the vitality and success of our Corps by enriching the professional development of Marines worldwide through nonresident training and education.

We are the Corps' master craftsmen in the realm of musical performance and in the execution of drill and ceremonies. We are the standard of ceremonial and musical excellence against which all other military organizations are measured.

While we are the guardians of the Marine Corps' history and traditions, we actively pursue and incorporate new technology to improve the way we accomplish our mission and achieve our objectives."

I suggest you read this vision a second time. I believe the leadership which put these thoughts together (before I got here so I certainly claim no credit) did an incredible job of stating precisely what we should be striving for. Then take it on board because it should guide everything you do as we move into the future.

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On the Cover

The "Parade Four" put the finishing touches on their illustrious march with the Battle Color and the National Color in their ranks. These Marines joined with the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and the Silent Drill Platoon in a month of training in preparation for the West Coast Tour and the 1996 Parade Season.

Pass in Review

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March 1996

Number 2

Features...



Battle Color Detachment returns to the field of dreams

The Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment prepares for the 1996 season with the same intensity as a major league ball club.

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MCI honor Graduate of the Year

Camp Pendleton Marine honored for commitment to education and self improvement.

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In the news...

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Leaves as senior active duty military woman in DoD.

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**WOMEN'S
History
MONTH**



SgtMaj. Walters retires after 30 years

Leaves as senior enlisted active duty military woman in DoD

MCAS El Toro, Calif. — The senior enlisted active duty military woman in the Department of Defense retired here recently after 30 years of honorable service.

Since May 1992, SgtMaj. Sylvia D. Walters has served as the Sergeant Major, Marine Corps Air Station El Toro and Marine Corps Air Bases, Western Area.

"It doesn't seem like its been 30 years. I've met so many nice people and done so many nice things that its been great for me," Walters said.

A year after graduating from Straughn High School in Andalusia, Ala., in 1965, Walters joined the Marine Corps when she was only 19 years old.

"I didn't have any other military family members, so, I joined the Corps out of a sense of patriotism and wanting to serve my country.

"I survived boot camp and asked myself, 'what in the world am I doing?' My feelings have always been that once you've completed recruit training and moved from recruit to Marine, there's absolutely nothing you can't do if you put your mind to it."

After graduating from recruit training at MCRD, Parris Island, S.C., Walters was sent to an 11-month course at the Communications and Electronics Battalion, San Diego, where she trained as a ground radio repairman.

Her service took her to tours of duty at Quantico, Va., and MCLB Albany, Ga., before her first assignment as a drill instructor.

From April 1971 to October 1973, Walters served as a drill instructor and senior drill instructor at the Woman Recruit Training Command, Parris Island, S.C.

"Back then, training was a lot different and smaller," Walters recalled. "There were no formal schools. After 12 weeks of on-the-job training, we were determined to be drill instructors based upon our skills."

As a senior drill instructor, Walters said women drill instructors were normally in charge of a platoon of 55 to 60 women. Her first tour on the drill field was two and a half years. She went back to the drill field two years later, in February 1976, for a second tour, when she served as a chief drill instructor.

WIMSA — The Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation, Inc. (WIMSA) and the U.S. Mint have signed an unprecedented sales agreement, transferring all minted but unsold Women In Military Service Memorial commemorative silver dollars to the Memorial Foundation. WIMSA is now offering the remaining 38,000 coins for sale.

WIMSA will sell the coins through June 30, 1996, for the same price offered previously. After that date, WIMSA may exercise its option of increasing the selling price.

The silver dollar is the only legal tender coin ever issued by the United States

U.S. Mint transfers silver coins to WIMSA

to honor military women. The coin's face includes the profiles of five servicewomen — representing each of the five armed services. The reverse includes a depiction of the Women In Military Service Memorial, scheduled for completion in late 1997.

The coins are packaged in plastic capsules and gift boxes. WIMSA also sells sterling silver rope chains and bezels for women wanting to wear the coins as jewelry.

A limited number of three-coin sets (includes the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the American Ex-Prisoners of War coins) are also available.

Coins can be purchased by credit card by calling WIMSA at (800) 222-2294, or by mail addressed to WIMSA, Dept. 560, Washington, D.C. 20042-0560. There is an additional shipping and handling charge added to each order.

"I loved the drill field," Walters said. "That was something I wanted to do since I came into the Corps. It was a good opportunity to learn about other people and myself."

In March 1978, Walters reported to Quantico, Va. She was assigned to duty as a platoon sergeant at the Officer Candidate School where she remained until her selection to the rank of first sergeant.

Walters' assignments included H&S Co., Security Bn., Quantico, Va., Co. B., H&S Bn., MCB, Camp



SgtMaj. Walters was guest of honor at the Evening Parade on August 18, 1995. She is shown here accepting a gift from Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps SgtMaj. Lewis G. Lee before the ceremony.

Foster, Okinawa, Japan and Engineer Maintenance Co., 1st Mtc. Bn., 1st FSSG, MCB Camp Pendleton.

"I loved being a first sergeant," Walters said. "There

isn't anything better you can do anywhere than train Marines."

In July 1984 she was promoted to the rank of sergeant major. She served with 1st Supply Bn., 1st FSSG, MCB Camp Pendleton and 3d Mtc. Bn., 3d FSSG, Okinawa.

"I had a lot of fun at the two FSSGs. Being a support unit, whenever other units needed to go somewhere, FSSG Marines were always there to do whatever they needed to do to get the job done," Walters pointed out.

In August 1989 she assumed duties as Sergeant Major, MCAS Yuma, Ariz.

"That was quite a different experience for me," Walters explained. "At other commands throughout my career, I had worked with some aviation Marines before who had a different mission. Yuma was my first tour with the aviation side of the Corps."

SgtMaj. Walters said every Marine should strive to serve at various duty stations to gain different levels of knowledge and experience.

When asked how she feels about being a senior enlisted advisor, Walters observed, "You're looked at as sort of an encyclopedia. Marines automatically assume that with your years and experience, you ... know all the answers. You must be willing to do a lot of research and make the necessary telephone calls to satisfy their needs.

"By serving in this capacity and in different types of units, you have to learn and do whatever it takes to become more valuable to your Marines - juniors and seniors alike."

by
GySgt. Gloria Nacoste

DACOWITS selects 1996 executive committee members

Washington, D.C. - The incoming chair of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services announced selections to the 1996 DACOWITS executive committee. They assumed their duties Jan. 1.

Holly Hemphill selected Carolyn Ellis Staton of Oxford, Miss., as

DACOWITS vice chair. Connie Best of Charleston, S.C. becomes installation visits director.

Sally Appel of Lake Geneva, Wis., (chair) and Leona Ford of Ruston, La., (vice chair) will serve on the quality management subcommittee. Jackie Young of Kailua, Hawaii, will chair

the quality of life subcommittee, while Carol Maicki of Black Hawk, S.D., will serve as vice chair.

Sharon Anderson of Seward, Alaska, chairs the forces development and utilization subcommittee. Her vice chairwoman is the Rev. Patricia Hanen of Tiffin, Ohio.

DACOWITS membership includes prominent civilian women and men representing academia, industry, public service and other professions. The defense secretary appoints members to three-year terms, and all serve the committee without compensation.

New Assault Vest System gives better protection, versatility

MCB, QUANTICO, Va. — The Marine Corps Systems Command is looking at the new Assault Vest System for use throughout the Marine Corps.

The system is comprised of a special protective body armor doubling as a load-bearing vest.

“The Assault Vest System is probably the most important project that I’ve completed since I’ve been at Quantico,” said Capt. Tom Little, Close Quarter Battle Equipment Project Officer for Amphibious Raids and Ground Reconnaissance Systems, Marine Corps Systems Command.

“It has a two-fold primary mission in supporting the close quarter battle efforts of Marines,” according to Little, who has been developing and fielding projects like this for three years.

The first mission of the vest is to provide a bullet-resistant body armor system that provides protection for the front, back, sides, over the shoulder and groin area of the user from most small arms fire up to and including submachine gun fire. This also includes protection from select steel-jacketed 9mm ammunition impacting at muzzle velocity, the maximum speed a bullet travels after leaving the weapons barrel.

Front and rear pouches are located on the Assault Body Armor to

allow for the ballistic inserts which provide even more protection.

“The ballistic inserts are designed to be bullet resistant from high-velocity rifle fire, up to and including multiple impacts from select 30-caliber armor-piercing rounds,” said Little.

The ballistic inserts, which are

and internal organs. The Assault Vest System is specially designed to absorb the impact and reduce the trauma.

“The second mission is to provide a load bearing system, putting all of the ammunition, accessory equipment and distraction devices at the hands of the Marines,” said Little.

The front of the system’s load-bearing vest exterior is covered with Velcro and snaps to attach a variety of pouches for ammunition and other items. This allows the user to tailor the attachments to the vest for each specific operation. The back of the load bearing vest has permanent pouches for a gas mask and a hand-held radio.

According to Little, this Close Quarter Battle Equipment will be the first that has been formally fielded and distributed throughout the Marine Corps and will bring uniformity to units that have previously purchased these items for their Marines from a variety of commercial sources.

With the versatility and protection the Assault Vest System offers, Marines are able to increase their lethality and enhance their survivability.



Quantico Marines field test the Assault Vest System. The vests were specially designed to resist high velocity rifle fire and reduce trauma from an impacting round.

made of small ceramic tiles glued together in a checkerboard pattern to isolate damage produced by a round’s impact, are made to disfigure or misdirect the round.

Even though a bullet can be stopped by body armor, trauma can still occur to the victim’s skin, bones

*Story and photos by
Cpl. Thomas Arntz*

1995 recruiting efforts produce quality force

WASHINGTON, D.C. — DoD's chief of force management policy said the armed services met the fiscal 1995 recruiting goals while recruiting the quality people necessary to maintain a strong and ready force.

In announcing these results, Frederick Pang praised the services and their recruiters for enlisting over 175,000 people. Pang said the services achieved the difficult tasks of shrinking their total size and still recruiting quality young men and women.

Department-wide, 96 percent of

fiscal 1995 recruits without prior military service were high school diploma graduates. Of those, 71 percent scored above average on the Armed Forces Qualification Test. Those scoring the lowest acceptable category comprised less than 1 percent.

"Our high school graduates remained at last year's level," said Pang. "There were small decreases in the enlistees scoring in Categories I-III A for the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, while those scoring above average increased for the Air Force." Pang said DoD

watches all such changes.

DoD quality benchmarks require 90 percent of its recruits hold high school diplomas and 60 percent have above average scores on the qualification test. In fiscal 1995, Pang said, recruits exceeded both marks.

New recruit demographics did not vary from fiscal 1994 statistics. Black recruits increased from 18 percent to 19 percent, while Hispanic recruits rose from 7 to 9 percent. Women recruits rose one percentage point, from 17 to 18 percent.

Clinton nominates Air Force's Ralston for Vice Chairman

Washington, D.C. - President Clinton has nominated Air Force Gen. Joseph W. Ralston to become vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He will succeed ADM William A. Owens, who announced his retirement last year.

Upon Senate confirmation, Ralston will leave his role as commander of the Air Combat Command at Langley Air Force Base, Va., a position he has held since June.

Before his Langley



assignment, Ralston served as the Air Force deputy chief of staff for plans and operations. From 1992 to 1994, he commanded the Alaskan Command and the Alaskan North American Aerospace Defense Command Region, both at Elmendorf Air Force Base.

Ralston earned his commission through Air Force

ROTC at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He holds a master's degree in personnel management from Central Michigan University. He's a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College, the National War College and John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Ralston has over 2,500 flying hours, including 147 combat missions over Laos and Vietnam. His awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He also holds the Meritorious Service Medal, 20 awards of the Air Medal and five Air Force Commendation Medals.

EIC offers tax break for selected filers

The earned income credit is now available to military members overseas who qualify and individuals without children who meet certain requirements said IRS officials.

Tax officials explained the credit is to help lower-income workers. It can be worth up to \$2,094 if you have one child or \$3,110 for two or more, or \$314 if you have no children. To file for the earned income credit, you must use either Form 1040A or Form 1040, U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, and, stressed IRS officials, you must meet every requirement. Even if you aren't required to file a federal tax form, you must file to claim this credit.

Be sure to attach schedule EIC to the federal tax forms as part of the tax package you file.

Prerequisites if you have children are:

- File a joint return if married;
- Have one or more qualifying children, based on age, residency and relationship;
- Earned income and adjusted gross income of less than \$24,396 if you have one qualifying child or less than \$26,673 if you have two or more;
- File the return for the 12-month period; and
- Live in the United States, except for military members stationed overseas.

According to IRS, a qualifying child includes son, daughter, adopted child, foster, grandchild and stepchild under 19-years-old at the end of 1995 or under 24 and full-time student. However, the age does not matter if the child is totally and permanently disabled.

In addition, the child must have lived with you for more than six months or if a foster child, for the entire year, IRS officials added.

To claim the EIC if you have no children, you must:

- File a joint return if married;
- Have earned income and adjusted gross income not exceeding \$9,230;
- Not be claimed as a dependent by any other taxpayer;
- Have lived in the United States for at least six months; and
- Be at least 25 years old but under 65 at the end of 1995.

Be sure to check the credit phase-out rules that pertain to the EIC earned income credit and are available in the IRS tables, said IRS officials. The amounts begin phasing out at \$11,300 if you have children and \$5,150 with no children.

Military members who consider claiming the credit must be sure to add all nontaxable income to their income, said IRS officials. This includes combat pay, quarters allowance and basic subsistence allowance. These are all considered income when filing for the earning income credit.



Specific information on the earned income credit program can be found in the free IRS Publication 596, Earned Income Credit. Other IRS booklets that may help include IRS Publication 501, Exemptions Standard Deduction and Filing Information, and Publication 503, Child and Depen-

dent Care Expenses.

If you think you may qualify for the credit, be sure to fill out the worksheet. You may be surprised that you do qualify; many people fail to take advantage of this credit, IRS officials said.

For assistance with the earned income credit, check with the installation tax assistance office, local IRS office or call toll-free (800)829-1040.

For copies of free tax forms and publications, call toll-free (800)829-3676 or write to:

Internal Revenue Service
Forms Distribution Center
P.O. Box 85627
Richmond, VA 23285-5627.



Blue Angels 1996 tour

Naval aviators schedule shows at Annapolis and Norfolk

The Navy Blue Angels aerial demonstration team begins its 1996 performance schedule recently at El Centro Naval Air Facility in California.

Local appearances include shows at Norfolk Naval Air Station, Va. Apr. 20-21, the DOD Open House at Andrews Air Force Base,



Md. May 18-19 and the Commissioning Week Air Show at the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. May 22.

The Blue Angels have 71 performances scheduled in 21 states with their final performance set for Nov. 8-9 at Pensacola Naval Air Station, Fla.

Newsnotes...

Winter is slowly becoming spring and parade season is just around the corner. As the pace of operations at the Barracks picks up, here are a few tidbits of information we don't want to slip through the cracks.

The **Marine New Parent Support Group** offers a variety of classes and groups to educate and support parents. Topics include discipline, growth and development, communication and stress management.

For more information about the MNPSP, call Maria Dolan-Janoschka at (703) 614-7208.

Marine Corps Order 5000.12D, published in Oct. 1995 outlines the rules for pregnancy and parenthood for Marines. The order has a number of revisions, the most important of which are changes allowing married male Marines whose spouse has given birth and Marines adopting a child to request 30 days permissive TAD from their commands. Check out the MCO for more details.

I Marine Expeditionary Force received the **Joint Meritorious Unit Award** from the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Central Command, Gen. J.H. Binford Peay III, for its participation in the withdrawal of United Nations forces from Somalia.

Officials urge filers to double-check forms before mailing

The federal tax return forms are finished and all you want to do is mail them to the Internal Revenue Service.

Tax officials recommend you take a few extra minutes to check for any errors you may have made. The chances are pretty good then the tax return will be error-free, said IRS officials.

Keep these things in mind when filling out the forms and when the tax package is ready for mailing:

- Follow the instructions in the tax package you use.
- Make sure you have all financial and tax related information you need to complete the forms, including interest statements and wage earning statements.
- Ensure you have all the tax forms, schedules and publications you need.
- Check and recheck that all required information, such as names and Social Security numbers, is listed on each page;
- Proof your math and check that you have put the decimal points and numbers in the right places.
- Make sure you put the right numbers on the right lines and marked each box correctly.
- Take all deductions you are entitled to.
- Make sure you have filled out and attached all the forms for any credits you are claiming,

along with any required schedules.

-Sign and date the form; if you are filing a joint return, make sure your spouse has also signed and dated it.

Before you mail the return to IRS, make a complete copy of the package for your records, said IRS officials.

If you have to write a check for taxes owed, several steps will ensure the amount is properly credited to your account. These include spelling out Internal Revenue Service, putting the tax year the payment is for on the check, along with your name, Social Security number, daytime phone number and address. Then, attach the check to the form where it says to, said IRS officials.

One common mistake many taxpayers make, IRS officials said, is they forget additional forms and schedules may require additional postage. You can play it safe by taking the tax return to the post office and weighing it on their ma-

chine or having a clerk weigh it, said IRS officials. IRS does not accept postage-due returns.

Copies of free federal tax forms and publications that may simplify your tax filing are available through IRS. Call toll-free (800) 829-3676. Or write to:

Internal Revenue Service
Forms Distribution Center
P.O. Box 85627

Richmond, VA 23285-5627.

Check with these company tax representatives if you have questions:

Co. A (202) 433-2654

Sgt s.
Clint
Carmichael
and Edward
A. Hodge

Co. B.
(202) 433-
2113

Cpl.
Douglas G.
Hunt and
LCpl. Tho-
mas T. Ma-
son

H & S
Co. (202)
433-4377

GySgt.

Michael T. Peterson, SSgt. Darryl
A. Self and Cpl. Cindiemarie Smith
MCI Co. (202) 433-2368

GySgt. Jerald R. Taylor and
SSgt. Robert L. Bridgman
USNA (401) 393-2786
MSgt. Jeffery K. Smith

Tax Filing Reminders

-  Write your correct social security number clearly on your tax return to avoid delay of your refund check.
-  Be sure your completed tax form has enough postage.
-  Double-check your math before mailing your return.
-  Use the proper tax table for your income and filing status.
-  Use both the peel-off label and envelope (if provided) from your tax package. Make needed address changes on the label.
-  Sign and date your tax return (if filing jointly, your spouse also signs).

**SEND FOR YOUR
ABSENTEE BALLOT
AND...**



WASHINGTON, D.C. — The electronic age will help some military voters receive their absentee ballots for the 1996 federal election.

By using a fax machine and Federal Post Card Application (Standard Form 76), service members can register to vote, apply for absentee ballots and receive blank absentee ballots.

According to the Voting Assistance Guide 1996-97, a total of 36 states, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands permit service members to fax

absentee ballot requests. Most of those states also allow voter registration by fax.

For more information about voting via fax, contact Cpl. Grote, the Barracks voting assistance representative, at 433-3793 or call the voter assistance hotline at (800) 438-8683.

Marine Band merges styles for Spring Concert Series

"The President's Own" U. S. Marine Band's Spring Concert Series continues on Sundays at the Center for the Arts at George Mason University, Fairfax, Va. Performances begin at 2 p.m.

The concerts present a blend of patriotic, traditional and contemporary selections featuring instrumental soloists and the Band's baritone vocalist, Michael Ryan.

The U. S. Marine Chamber Orchestra will perform March 31 at 2 p.m. at the National Academy of Sciences auditorium, located at 2101 Constitution Ave., NW.

The Chamber Orchestra is the ensemble which performs most often for White House state functions.

A special performance of the Band is scheduled for Wednesday, Apr. 17 in Baltimore at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, beginning at 8 p.m.

U. S. Marine Band performances are free but tickets are required. For information or to obtain tickets, contact the

Band at 433-4011. For tickets for the Baltimore performance call (800) 442-1198.



Newsnotes...

Living in the D.C. area can get confusing at times so, to help answer any questions you may have check out "The Local Laws: A Guide for Military Personnel Residing in the Greater Washington, D.C. Area." It's available at the Henderson Hall Family Service Center (703) 614-7200 and the Legal Assistance Officer (703) 614-1266. The pamphlet answers questions concerning vehicle registration, family law and a variety of other topics.

The Marine Corps Mustang Association's annual reunion, known as the "Mustang Muster" is set for Aug. 7-10 in Albuquerque, N.M. For membership information and application forms, call Bob Richter at (800) 321-USMC.

The Traffic Management Office at Camp Pendleton received the Vice President's "Hammer Award" from the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Charles Krulak, during a ceremony Jan. 25. Pendleton's TMO cut the processing time for personal property damage claims from four months to approximately 12 days.

Officers' Parade Staff Tryouts



Top: Maj. Christopher L. O'Connor, Operations and Training Officer, H&S Co., evaluates CWO2 Michael A. Ladd, Barracks Personnel Officer, performing the parade commander's drill movements. Above: Col. David G. Dotterrer, Barracks Commanding Officer, congratulates CWO2 Ladd after his completion of tryouts. Center: Capt. James F. Glynn, MCI Co., executes "eyes right" during the "Pass in Review" portion of tryouts. Right: Capt. Wayne R. Hunte, Registrar Officer, MCI Co., performs sword manual as Maj. O'Connor evaluates. Far Right: Capt. Caroline J. Leonard, Assistant Logistics Officer, H&S Co., prepares for her tryout.



Parade Staff tryouts for the 1996 Parade Season were held recently at Anacostia Naval Station. Col. David G. Dotterrer, Barracks Commanding Officer, and LtCol. Michael B. Kessler, Barracks Executive Officer, were there with the 1995 Parade Season Staff Commanders to evaluate potential staff officers' drill performances. The 1996 Parade Commanders are Maj. Christopher L. O'Connor and Robert L. Sartor. The Adjutants are Capts. James F. Glynn and Wayne R. Hunte. The Flanking Officers are Capts. William C. Rosser and Nancy E. Hurless, 1stLt. Omar D. Land and CWO2 Michael A. Ladd.



*Photos by
Cpl. Timothy C. Hodge*

NCOs throughout the Corps have a new tool to propel them into staff NCO ranks. The Marine Corps Institute will soon unveil it as the...

8000 Series: Sergeants Nonresident Program

A group of Noncommissioned Officers from Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C. has completed the first phase of the new Sergeants Nonresident Program or 8000 Series. They have been working with the Professional Military Education Department of the Marine Corps Institute to validate the new program.

"I can't say enough about the NCOs that participated in the validation process. They were extremely knowledgeable and demonstrated meticulous attention to detail. So far, they have scored extremely well in all phases of the process. Since they are corporals and sergeants, they ensure that the information that

we are presenting is understandable to their pay-grade." said GySgt. F.E. Williams, Enlisted Division Leader, Professional Military Education Department, Marine Corps Institute.

Validation by the NCOs is the very simple but powerful process of testing instructional materials before they are put in use by the fleet. It works well because real students tend to find problems that the instructors, editors or education specialist may overlook.

According to Williams, the group's usefulness to the Course Developer is immeasurable. All of their recommendations, suggestions, and ideas are reviewed and incorporated into the courses to ensure that the MCI is as accurate and up-to-date as possible. But most importantly,



Mr. Howard Hamer, an Education Specialist for the PME Department at MCI, goes over new course material for the Sgts. Nonresident Program.

it's the last chance to correct any mistakes in the material before it goes to print.

The Marines chosen to participate in the validation process were willing to give a lot of extra time, effort and work. Although the Marines were partici-

"This program is intended to be a 'stepping stone' or 'building block' for a sergeant's instruction."

--GySgt. F.E. Williams

pating in the validation process, they still had jobs and commitments they were responsible for.

The new Sergeants Nonresident Program is a series of MCI courses geared specifically toward providing career-level PME for Marine sergeants. Corporals and sergeants can enroll in the new course. LCpls. and below are not authorized to enroll.

MCI works hand-in-hand with the Staff NCO Academy at Quantico to develop the curriculum for enlisted PME programs. The resident schools have gone from NCO schools to the Sergeants Course. A nonresident program is now being developed to keep pace with the curriculum at the Sergeants Course. Once in the MCI system, the course will be a prerequisite for all Marines attending the Sergeants Course.

"This program is intended to be a "stepping stone" or "build-

ing block" for a sergeant's instruction. This means that once a sergeant reports to the resident school the knowledge would not be foreign to him or her," said Williams.

Often, Marines aren't exposed to these subjects prior to their arrival at the Sergeants Course. The nonresident program will give them the materials needed to prepare themselves for the resident course.

"I think it's great that Marines from any MOS will now have the chance to learn the basic skills needed to carry them through the Sergeants Course before they attend it," said Sgt. Kevin R. Mock of the Maintenance Section, H&S Co., at the Barracks.

"The new 8000 Series is directed towards the Marine sergeant, therefore much of the curriculum has changed from the 7000 Series. For example, there is no squad drill. Sgts. should already be proficient in squad drill, so we went right into platoon drill. Also, the material is updated to current standards and initiatives. Marine Corps Warfighting philosophy is introduced to the student. Written Communications

Skills and Unit Training Management (UTM) courses are introduced for the first time. Of course, the basics are still there; uniform regs, inspections, Marine Corps history, customs and courtesy, etc.," said SSgt. Ronald Chacon, Course Developer, Professional Military Education Dept., MCI.

The program will be made up of several courses like the 7000 Series, but the format will be a bit different. These courses were developed using a format technique called information mapping. This is a shorthand way of presenting information that will make the course easier to read and understand. It will enable the average Marine to learn faster and retain more of the information.

One major difference from the



Sgts. Roosevelt D. Roberts and Kevin R. Mock of the Barracks Maintenance Section take the 8000 series course as part of MCI's validation process.



Cpl. Cindiemarie Smith, Barracks Provost Marshall's Office, H&S Co., checks a review exercise on her course. Smith was one of several Marines chosen to validate the course for MCI.

7000 series that NCOs will notice is the addition of the Written Communication Skills course. This will help the sergeants meet the written requirements of the resident school.

"Ideally, we would like to see all Marines gain the ability to express themselves orally as well as in writing. However, we real-

"Initially, this program prepares the Marine for the Sergeants Course. But once it's combined with the resident school, it prepares the sergeant [for] the SNCO ranks,"

--GySgt. F.E. Williams

ize that it has been a while since some of our Marines have been exposed to grammar and punctuation. So we have incorporated a self-paced course that allows a sergeant to work on trouble areas while refreshing the skills he or she may already have," said Williams.

The program was developed in August 1992 after the directors of the SNCO academies, Marine Corps University and MCI met and discussed the pertinent knowledge that sergeants are required to

know. MCU and MCI then separated the tasks that could only be

supported by the resident schools from those that could be taught through courses and development began in 1993.

The program then had to undergo various changes, a budget crisis and a host of other commitments. However, the final phase of the validation is almost complete and the program will be available to the fleet very soon. The target date for release Corps wide is July 1, 1996.

"Initially, this program prepares the Marine for the Sergeants Course. But once it's combined with the resident school, it prepares the sergeant to take his or her rightful place among the SNCO ranks," said Williams.

***Story and Photos by
Timothy C. Hodge***



SSgt. Ronald Chacon, Course Developer for the PME Dept. at MCI, reviews each comment made by the validation group.

NEWSMAKERS

Congratulations to **GySgt. John J. McGovern**, Guard Chief, H&S Co. for his recent distinction as the Honor Graduate of the Advanced Course Class 2-96, SNCO Academy, Quantico, Va.



Congratulations are also in order for one of the Barracks' newest marchers. **LCpl. Nicholas S. Trejo**, Co. A, was designated the Honor Graduate of First Sergeant's Orientation Class 1-96. His instructor was honored as well. **Cpl. Jeffrey S. Hill** was awarded the Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal for superior performance as the Primary Instructor for FSO from Oct. 10 to Dec. 12, 1995.

1stSgt. David C. Phillips (far left) is congratulated by **CWO Michael Ladd** following Phillips' posting as the new 1stSgt. of Co. A. He replaces **1stSgt. Michael O. White** (second from left) who leaves the Barracks after serving with H&S Co. and Co. A. White will report for duty with V 3/2, Camp Lejeune, N.C.



Congratulate these Marines on their new rank when you see them.

USMB

SSgt. Guillermo Aragon
Sgt. David L. McBride Jr.
Cpl. Eddie S. Goodlow

D&B Co.

SSgt. James P. Drass
SSgt. Daniel J. Haslam
Cpl. Eric J. Loadwick

Co. A

Sgt. Ryan K. Dabney
Sgt. Brian T. Fields
Cpl. Elmer G. Ruley
Cpl. Kevin S. Wright
LCpl. Jason W. Abernathy
LCpl. Brian M. Berblinger
LCpl. Michael L. Delozier
LCpl. Alfonso J. Ficarella
LCpl. Leonel Floresmartinez
LCpl. Curtis E. Greenman
LCpl. Guy E. Knowles
LCpl. Brian D. Melcher
LCpl. Mark P. Najera
LCpl. Lance D. Rearick
LCpl. Chad A. Sharp

Co. B

Sgt. Edivaldo N. Anjos Jr.
Cpl. Douglas G. Hunt
Cpl. Greg S. Vanderheiden
Cpl. Daniel R. White

H&S Co.

Sgt. Paul B. Felix
Cpl. William R. Alberts
Cpl. Charles W. Morales
LCpl. Aaron D. Atteberry
LCpl. Matthew P. Dellart
LCpl. Scott M. Dougherty
LCpl. Niles P. Draper
LCpl. Alex K. Goode
LCpl. Jeremy W. Jones
LCpl. Joshua M. Kleinpeter
LCpl. Terry L. Mason
LCpl. Walter L. Moore Jr.
LCpl. Andrew M. Smith
LCpl. Eric Z. Toto
LCpl. George A. Wehby II

MCI Co.

Cpl. Spender D. Riach
 Cpl. Tyson N. Taber
 LCpl. Jorge A. Alfarovargas
 LCpl. Brent L. Howard
 LCpl. Clifford R. Lail

Security Co.

Cpl. Sean P. Gibbons
 Cpl. Jalon B. Harris

A new member of the U.S. Marine Band is aboard. **Dominick Scott Agazzi** arrived Jan. 15 at Malcolm Grow Hospital, Andrews AFB, weighing seven lbs., eight oz. at 20 1/2 inches long. He is the son of **SSgt. Jon and Susan Agazzi**.

When you see these other new faces, welcome them aboard.

New to **Co. A** are:

Cpl. Bryan C. Duprey
 Cpl. Gabriel Q. Ford
 Cpl. Marty W. Hurd
 PFC Dean Miyazono

Joining **Co. B** are:

1stLt. Sean D. Berg
 1stLt. Matthew G. Broniec
 1stLt. Michael C. Cochran
 1stLt. Scott A. Taylor
 SSgt. Jesus E. Alvarado
 PFC Joe A. Almendarez Jr.
 PFC Eugene C. Watts Jr.

LCpl. Roger C. Walker recently joined the **UNSA Co.** and Capt. Sunil B. Desai is new to **MCI Co.**

New members to welcome aboard for **H&S Co.** are:

1stLt. James W. Peaco III
 GySgt. King E. Thomas
 SSgt. Willard F. Ivins
 SSgt. Joyce M. Newberry
 Sgt. Ciro J. Manella
 Cpl. William R. Alberts
 LCpl. Walter L. Moore Jr.
 LCpl. John C. Meyers
 PFC Brian D. Crowl
 PFC Johnnie W. Crouser
 PFC Joshua D. Lyons
 PFC Joel D. Meredith
 PFC Ian M. Odett
 PFC Andrew M. Parke
 PFC Marke E. Potter
 PFC Christopher J. Redding
 PFC Christopher M. Sandlin
 PFC Shawn P. Tupper
 PFC Weylon R. Wallace



Don't forget to set clocks and watches forward one hour for daylight-saving time, beginning April 7th at 2 a.m.

Battle Color Detachment returns to the field of dreams

Baseball fields all over Florida and Arizona are filled with the sights and sounds of spring training. The field at MCAS Yuma is also home to spring training, but of a different kind.

Instead of the crack of the bat, the drums and bugles of "The Commandant's Own," The U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps fill the air.

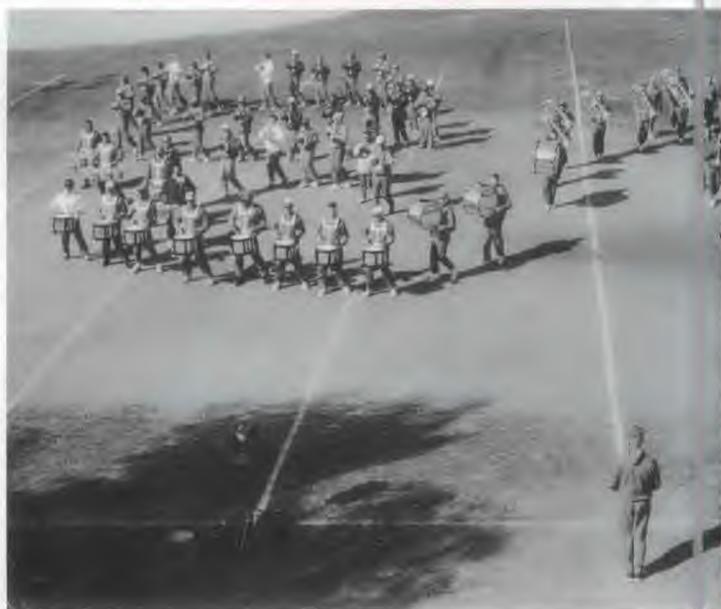
Rather than see a grand slam homerun, you'll see the United States Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon practicing the "meat grinder" again and again.

The Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment is preparing for the 1996 season with the same intensity as any major league ball club.

The detachment, com-



Above: LCpl. Christopher P. Cronin, a member of the Silent Drill Platoon's inspection team, concentrates in solo practice. Bottom: Ready... Set... Go! The U.S. Drum and Bugle Corps is seen here in three stages of its "Music in Motion" Right: The Color Guard continues to march in its characteristically tight form of close order drill.



prised of D&B Co., the Silent Drill Platoon and the Marine Corps Color Guard, has spent the better part of each February since 1974 at MCAS Yuma going through its final preparation for the West Coast Tour. Only twice in that time have the gone anywhere

A lot of Marines never get stationed in the D.C. area and this is our chance to inspire those who may never see a Friday Night Parade.

-- Capt. Michael C. Griffin, Silent Drill Platoon Commander

else for spring training. Those two years were spent at Corpus Christi, Texas, because of renovation projects at MCAS Yuma.

Col. Truman W. Crawford, director of "The





Commandant's Own," compares the training and the West Coast Tour to preparing a show to make a run on Broadway.

"Every show you see on Broadway spends some time on tour before they make their Broadway debut. That allows them to see how the audience reacts and to make changes to the show if need be. The West

I also hope [the Battle Color Ceremony] serves as an inspiration to our youngsters who are striving to achieve their goals and who want to become part of something bigger than themselves.

*--Col. Truman W. Crawford,
director of "The Commandant's
Own"*



Coast Tour is our chance to do the same thing. It gives us the chance to see how everything works and to make any modifications needed before we start our 'Broadway run', which, in our case, is the parade season at the Barracks," Crawford said.

According to Silent Drill Platoon Commander Capt. Michael C. Griffin of Beltsville, Md., the West Coast tour serves another purpose as well.

"It allows Marines stationed on the west coast the



chance to see what we do at the Barracks. A lot of Marines never get stationed in the D.C. area and this is our chance to inspire those who may never see a Friday Night Parade,” Griffin said.

Crawford feels that the time at Yuma brings the separate units closer and it gives them a chance to bond.

“Things at the Barracks have changed a lot through the years. Now, many of the Marines live in town rather than at the Barracks and many

Upper Left: The Silent Drill Platoon works on its trademark “effortless tosses and spins.” Bottom Left: The Silent Drill Platoon inspection teams maintain their readiness for precision drill. Above: “The Commandant’s Own” practices without the trademark red and white dress uniforms.

of the Marines don’t get the chance to get to know one another. Spring training gives them that chance. It gives them a chance to get to know each other and gain a better understanding of each others’ mission,” Crawford said.

Inspiring Marines and helping to create a common bond is what the Battle Color Ceremony is all about. Even though the Color Guard is the smallest part of the detachment, it carries the physical symbol of the Marine Corps, the Marine Battle Color. Its 49 streamers and silver bands represent the sacrifices of all Marines. LCpl. Pedro A. Santos, Marine Corps Color Guard, carries the battle color during the ceremony and says it is an honor beyond belief.

“I carry the tradition,

history and spirit of the Corps in my hands. It represents a standard set by Marines who have preceeded us and that we have to live up to,” said Santos

Carrying that spirit to the rest of the Marine Corps is what the Battle Color Ceremony is all about according to Crawford.

“My hope is that Marines are a little prouder of who they are,” Crawford said. “I also hope it serves as an inspiration to our youngsters who are striving to achieve their goals and who want to become part of something bigger than themselves

*Story and photos by
Cpl. Patrick E.
Franklin*

MCI honors Graduate of the Year

Camp Pendleton Marine recognized for commitment to education and self-improvement

The Marine Corps Institute has selected Cpl. Lawrence D. Solimini of Camp Pendleton, Calif., as their 1995 MCI Graduate of the Year. Cpl. Solimini earned this distinction by completing 18 Marine Corps Institute correspondence courses (MCIs) during the past year.

Cpl. Solimini flew to Washington, D.C. on Feb. 25, where he was honored in a ceremony by the Marine Corps Institute. Solimini was also recognized and commended by the Distance Education and Training Council during a congressional reception on Capitol Hill.

Cpl. Solimini strives to fill his role as a leader by setting the example and assisting his unit in any way possible. He said the MCIs have aided him in accomplishing this goal. Not only have they made him a more proficient Marine, but the MCIs have helped him to become a better aviation systems technician. Cpl. Solimini is a member of Avionics Division, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 39, Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

A 1990 graduate of Strath Haven High School in Wallingford, Pa., Cpl. Solimini began the year working on the courses to better equip himself as a Marine and an NCO, but admits "the award was a motivating factor."

"These courses made me more knowledgeable, not only as a Marine, but as a person, too. I'm a more well-rounded Marine since I've completed the MCIs," Solimini said.

Solimini confessed that before he enlisted in the Marine Corps he was not a good student and that the MCIs helped "jump-start" his thirst for knowledge.

"I didn't have this desire to learn until I completed my first MCI. I realized that knowledge was one of the most important and valuable things you can obtain. These courses have made me

better and given me a much stronger desire to progress," he said.

Cpl. Solimini has been able to devote a great deal of his personal time to education since his Military Occupational Specialty keeps him in a non-deployable status. Solimini consistently spends an average of 10 hours per week at night and on weekends working on the correspondence courses. Solimini has completed 31 MCIs, including the 18 courses from this past year, in his four-year career in the Marine Corps.

In addition to his enrollment in the MCIs, Cpl. Solimini is taking classes at Mira Costa College in Oceanside, Calif., and has completed some Naval Electricity and Electronic Series module courses as well. These modules, like MCIs, are self-study nonresident training courses. Solimini plans to continue bettering himself through the correspondence courses but hopes that his pursuit for education will end in a college degree in Computer Information Systems.

Cpl. Solimini felt the NCO Basic Nonresident Program was the

most important course he's taken this year, but he liked the Intelligence Brief-Southwest Asia best. The thing that Solimini likes most about MCIs is the freedom to work at his own pace.

"You don't have to keep up with or slow down for the class or adhere to a schedule of when and where you can learn," he said.

Leading by example is the hallmark of Cpl. Solimini's education in the Marine Corps. He has labored throughout his career to keep up with the growing demands of Marine leadership. Solimini has shown those under him more ways to contribute to their unit and the Marine Corps by increasing his own skills through education.

"In my unit, there are 46 Marines who are subordinate to me. My involvement in educa-

tion has influenced them significantly. It has made them more aware of the MCI programs and the benefits that they provide. They now realize that MCIs are an important part of the continuing learning process in the Marine Corps," according to 1995's top MCI graduate. "It has also had them look up to me more as a leader and an NCO. Most importantly, though, I think that it has made them want to excel and better themselves as Marines."



Col. David G. Dotterer, Barracks Commanding Officer, presents Cpl. Solimini with an "MCI Graduate of the Year" certificate at a congressional reception on Capitol Hill.

No Warning Labels

I noticed an interesting sign in a public restroom. It was a sticker, placed by the manufacturer, on a coin operated condom dispenser. The sign said, "NOT SOLD FOR PREVENTION OF PREGNANCY OR DISEASE." Now wait a minute. They must be kidding. Condoms. *Not* sold for prevention of pregnancy? *Not* sold for prevention of disease? Then what, I wondered, *are* they selling them for?

I understand why the sticker was on that dispenser. No company wants a law suit for making false claims about its product. By now, hopefully, we adults know that condoms are not foolproof. People using this protection do still get pregnant. People still get diseases — some of which are permanent and deadly — even with condoms. It is a risk, taken every time two partners have sex. The only *sure* way to avoid worry is to be involved with *only one* partner: your wife or your husband. Then if pregnancy occurs, there is a permanent and stable relationship to handle it and the possibilities of getting a sexually transmitted disease (STD) are virtually 0%.

Still, a sign like the one on that condom dispenser seems really weird. If you offer something for one specific purpose and then warn people that it might not accomplish that purpose, aren't you contradicting yourself? Wouldn't it be nice to get stuff that delivers *exactly* as promised?

There aren't many guarantees in life. The man who said, "The only sure things in life are death and taxes," was pretty close. He left out one thing: God's love.

I do not know everything about God. Far from it. But I do know that God loves us at a level

There aren't many guarantees in life. The man who said, "The only sure things in life are death and taxes," was pretty close. He left out one thing . . .

deeper than we can imagine. His love is absolutely dependable. There are no warning labels cautioning us that, "God loves you, but He might change his mind."

Here are two things I can tell you about how much he cares. First, you have never done anything so wonderful that God *owes* you his love. You don't earn it like a Good Conduct Medal. Second, you have never done

anything so terrible that God *won't* love you. He can forgive any of us for the worst possible things. That's a lot more than we would dare ask from people.

Christian scripture offers a promise of God's love that reads, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? . . . No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor

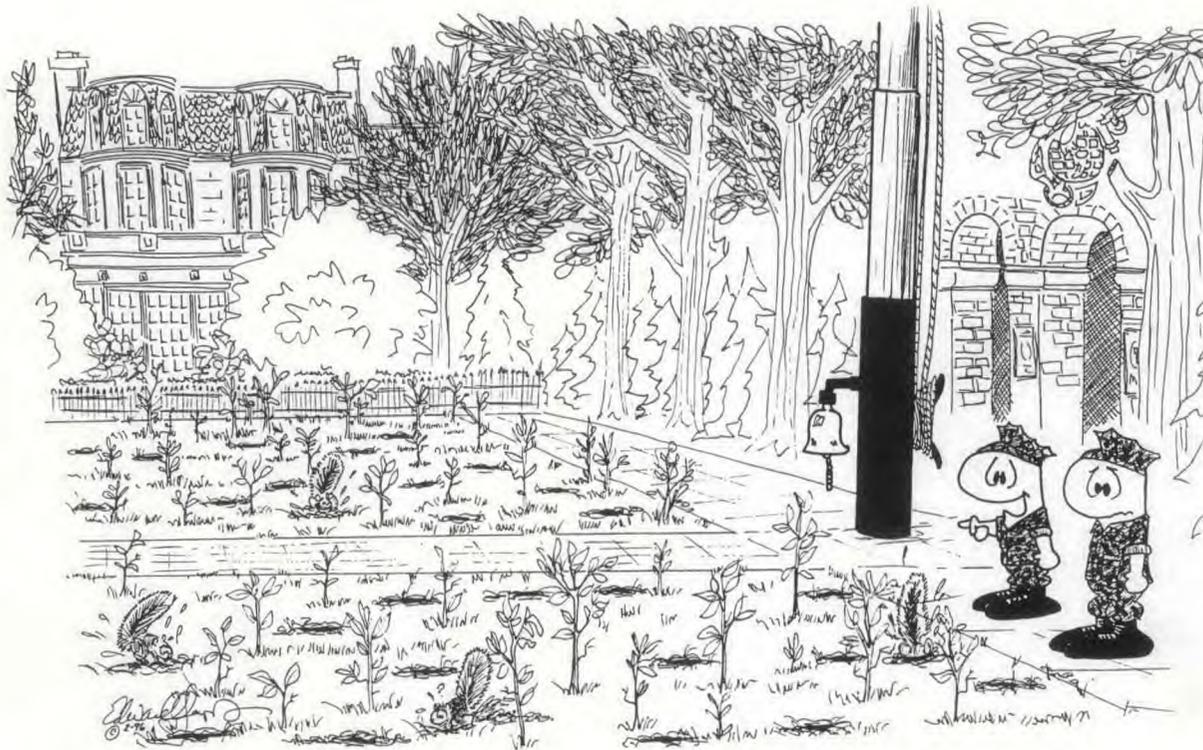
depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our

Lord."

That is love. Real love. It doesn't fail. It comes with no self-protecting warning labels. You can depend on it.

by
LCDR Doyle W. Dunn,
USN

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



"Let'em dig, I moved all their acorns last Fall."

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