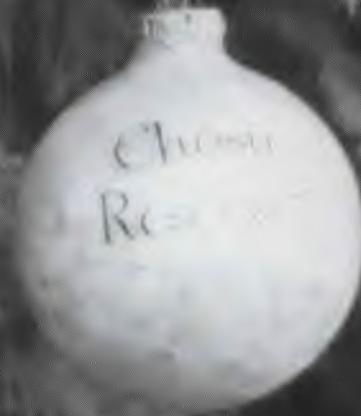




# PASS IN REVIEW

Serving "The Oldest Post of the Corps"

November/December 1997



**Happy Birthday  
and  
Happy Holidays**

Battalion takes to the field - Union Jack flies over post

# Warning order for a safe holiday season

by Col. Dennis J. Hejlik,  
Commanding Officer

I would like to take a moment to thank all of you for the superb effort you put forth during the Marine Corps Birthday celebrations held in the greater Washington area. Your efforts made each of those celebrations unique and unforgettable for those attending.

As we approach the Christmas and New Years holiday season, I would like to take a moment to remind you all to be safe.

## Enjoy the season

All too often, Marines let their guard down during the holidays, the



**Col. Hejlik addresses the battalion on the importance of the Corps' 222 years of pride and tradition. (photo by Cpl. Jerry D Pierce)**



**Col. Dennis J. Hejlik renders a salute for morning colors while the United States Marine Band plays the National Anthem during the battalion formation Nov. 10. (photo by Cpl. Jerry D Pierce)**

end result is a less than joyful season for their loved ones.

As you travel to be with your loved ones or just to enjoy a well-earned vacation, please remember to be safe.

## Inspect your vehicle

Inspect your car out thoroughly before you start a long trip. Ensure your tires are in good condition, including your spare! Lights, emergency flashers, windshield wipers and turn signals should all be checked; any burned out bulbs and worn parts should be replaced. You should have an emergency kit in your car, including a first-aid kit, blankets, tool kit and a small amount of food and water. And don't forget to check your battery cables and ensure your jack operates properly.

## Travel safe and smart

If you are traveling a long distance, make sure you are well rested before you start. It does no good to start a trip in the middle of the night, only to be involved in an accident

because you fell asleep.

## Be prepared

Check the weather report and be aware of the road conditions in the direction you are heading.

Finally, be aware of the drivers around you and always drive defensively.

For those of you who will be staying in the area, please be safe as well. The majority of accidents occur within 20 miles of home, so never let your guard down.

## Holiday wishes

Lastly, Sandy and I wish you and yours the best in the coming year.

Happy Holidays, Marines!

*D. J. Hejlik*

Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps

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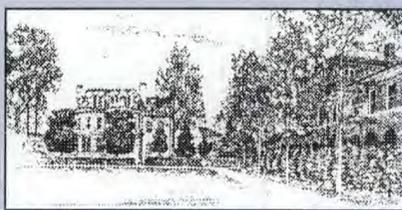
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**On the Cover**

*A tribute to holidays past in which Marines have served and died far from home. The Public Affairs staff wish everyone here a safe and happy holiday season. (photo by Cpl. Jerry D Pierce)*

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## In the news...



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## The Unbreakable Code

During WWII Navajo Indians supplied the corps with one of its most valuable weapons. Native American Heritage month honors the contributions and sacrifices of North America's first citizens.

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## Features...



### On rappel

During Battalion FEX '97 Marines reacquainted themselves with the fastest way down a mountain ... short of freefall.

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## Training for war

Marines from "A" Co. trade their ceremonial gear for their warfighting equipment and get back to basics.

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# Barracks celebrates 222nd birthday

by Cpl. Nelson O. Akeredolu  
Staff Writer

The Marine Corps birthday, traditionally a long day for Marines at 8th & I, began earlier than normal this year.

Col. Dennis J. Hejlik, commanding officer, Marine Barracks, Washington, D. C., held a morning formation Nov. 10 to wish the Marines "happy birthday" and to recognize the efforts of four outstanding Marines.

Master Sgt. Alfred Hickmott, former S-4 chief here, received the Meritorious Service Medal for his years of outstanding service at "the oldest post of the Corps."

According to the citation, Hickmott was a key player in the 5-year-plan to restore the barracks to "like new" condition. He became a walking source of information on the history and layout of the barracks and was the key liaison between the barracks and the National Register of Historic Places.

Sergeant Tommy J. Jimmerson, Headquarters and Service Co., mess hall, Lance Cpl. Salvador Santoyo, 2nd Plt., Co. "A," and Lance Cpl. Michael T. Weddel, 2nd Plt., Co. "A" received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for their outstanding performances during the battalion field exercise held in October.

After the formation the Marines spread "to the winds" to meet various ceremonial commitments. A majority of the unit performed at the Marine Corps War Memorial Ceremony, honoring those Marines who have given their lives for the nation. Still others placed wreaths at the graves of former commandants, and some marched in a funeral at Arlington National Cemetery. Most of the Marines would not

see each other again until the Marine Corps Ball later that night.

The barracks celebrated the Marine Corps' 222nd birthday at the Washington Renaissance Hotel in downtown Washington D. C. Nov. 10.

The ball highlighted the traditional cake cutting ceremony and lasted late into the night. The guests were also treated to a performance by the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, and a speech by the guest of honor — the honorable Senator John H. Glenn, (D - Ohio).

Some Marines say they believe it is an obligation to attend the annual event.

"We are definitely a unique armed service," said Cpl. Antonio A. Perez, a musician with D&B Company. "The way we cling to history and heritage is one of the things that sets us apart. It's only fitting that we celebrate this way."

"We are broken down into different units — H&S Co., "B" Co., "A" Co., and so on. But this is a time to come together as Marines, join hands and fellowship together. That's the way it should be on a daily basis," added Sgt. Dawn M. Coates, a cook with H&S Co.

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation Office, with help from other sections such as Operations and Training, spent nine months preparing for the ball according to Capt. Karl C. Rohr,



Senator John H. Glenn and Col. Dennis J. Hejlik cut the cake at the barracks' Marine Corps Birthday Ball Nov. 10. (photo by Cpl. Jerry D. Pierce)

MWR officer here.

"Everybody had a little bit to do with it," said Rohr. "The [operations section] ran the ceremony, Company "A" provided all the flags ... and the color guard. It took a lot of coordination to bring it all together."

Many people who attended the event expressed their delight at the occasion.

"The ball was a great experience," said Lance Cpl. David D. Fuller, a guard with H&S Co. "It was my first ball. I had a chance to really get to know people. It was a great time."



*Members of "The Commandant's Own," United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps play during a cake-cutting ceremony at the National War College. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Render)*



*Company "A" passes in review during ceremonies held at the Marine Corps War Memorial Nov. 10. (photo by Cpl. Nelson O. Akeredolu)*



*Cpl. Terrence L. Woodard, H&S Co., cleans the sword at the National War College ceremony. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Render)*



*Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Charles C. Krulak and Cpl. Heath D. McCrindle, Co. "A", Silent Drill Platoon Rifle Inspector, prepare to place a wreath at the grave of former Commandant Lt. Gen. John A. Lejeune. Each year wreaths are placed at the graves of all former commandants on Nov. 10 as part of Marine Corps Birthday observances. (photo by Cpl. Jerry D Pierce)*



*The "Parade Four," Co. "A," Color Guard Section, counter-marches during a cake-cutting ceremony at the National War College. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Render)*

## Celebrating our heritage...



*Members of the "cake team" march in during festivities at the National War College Nov. 4. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Render)*

# ... and honoring those who served



*Col. Dennis J. Hejlik, commanding officer, Marine Barracks, Washington, D. C., presents the Meritorious Service Medal to retired Master Sgt. Alfred Hickmott during the barracks formation on Nov. 10. Hickmott received the award for his exceptional service as the S-4 chief here. He retired recently bringing his 37-year career to a close. (photo by Cpl. Jerry D Pierce)*



*Sgt. Bret A. Lansdell, D&B Co., plays taps during wreath laying ceremonies for the former commandants. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Render)*



*Congressman Paul McHale, (D-Penn.) addresses guests and visitors at the wreath laying ceremony at the Marine Corps War Memorial. The ceremony honored all Marines who served our nation and paid the ultimate price for freedom. McHale is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve. (photo by Cpl. Nelson O. Akerodolu)*

# Barracks shifts gears, heads for field

by Cpl. Pauline L. Render  
Editor

Field Exercise '97 recently allowed 8th & I Marines to get back to basics with field training at Ft. A.P. Hill, Va.

The two, one-week evolutions afforded Marines here the chance to practice their basic infantry skills, which they do not always have time to do because of ceremonial commitments, according to Staff Sgt. Jerry R. Hanson, barracks training chief. In addition to the training, however, support sections worked to provide the "beans, bullets and Band-Aids" necessary for the operations.

"Last year's FEX was more of a 'round robin' training evolution," said Hanson.

"Marines stayed in the barracks [at the fort] the first couple of nights and had a lot of classes, and training progressed from there.

"This year more emphasis was placed on getting everyone out in the field," continued Hanson. "[The companies] tried to create more of a field environment from the beginning."

While most Marines here were refreshing their field skills; Marines in motor transport, operations, supply and the mess hall kept things going by providing the logistical support the companies needed. Barracks corpsmen, as well as corpsmen from other units, were also on hand to provide medical support.

The operations section

coordinated training sites and support for each of the units, while Marines in supply kept the units outfitted and stocked with "Meals, Ready to Eat." At the same time, Marines at the mess hall worked many hours ensuring Marines got fed hot meals twice each day.

"To get the meals prepared on time and get them delivered to the units required the cooks to be in the galley by 4 a.m. each day," said Mess Hall Manager Sgt.

Tommy J. Jimmerson. "I met with representatives of the companies each evening to get grid coordinates for the chow points for the next day and to check numbers of meals to make sure we were meeting their needs."

Marines at motor-T were also working many hours to support the evolution. The section got help from the Virginia National Guard at Fort Belvoir and the Army National Guard at Anacostia. These units provided the barracks with five-ton and small commercial trucks, High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles ("humvees"), and an ambulance.

Assigning two vehicles to each unit and maintaining a few in reserve for the command element gave Marines in motor-T some good training with tactical vehicles they do not often get a chance to drive here, according to Sgt. Bernard Smith, motor-T dispatcher.

"This is good training and preparation for [our Marines]," said Smith. "A lot of people think they just jump on and go, but the drivers are concerned with



**Lance Cpl. Antoinette L. Smith, MCI Co., listens to classes prior to entering the gas chamber. Classes such as this played an important part in the battalion FEX. They gave Marines a chance to refresh combat skills and allowed some to gain more experience as instructors. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Render)**

safety and the lives of the Marines in the back. They have a lot of responsibilities.”

Sailors at the Basic Aid Station were also concerned with safety during training. Barracks corpsmen manned the small medical facility with one doctor to take care of severe problems and minor surgery, while corpsmen pulled from units as far away as Philadelphia provided support for each unit for the duration of the evolution. The Sailors worked to keep Marines healthy and ensure they were fit for the rigors of training.

“Our primary job is taking care of the ABCs (airway, breathing and circulation),” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Christopher F. Needham, barracks senior medical department representative. “It’s very important to have us here. There has to be someone here who recognizes problems and can take care of them. Without [the corpsmen], the Marines wouldn’t be able to accomplish their mission.”

From preparing meals to patching wounds, working together allowed Marines and Sailors to refresh their field skills and experience the teamwork involved in a large-scale evolution, according to Chief Warrant Officer-3 Felix M. Arnold, FEX camp commandant.

“It has gone real well,” said Arnold. “Everybody has stayed on track with their training schedules, and the word I’ve gotten from the Marines is they’ve learned a lot.”



**From right to left, Cpl. Lee B. Clements and then Lance Cpl. David A. Butler serve breakfast during the second week of FEX '97. (photo by Sgt. Patrick E. Franklin)**

## Barracks holiday party set for Dec. 6

Barracks volunteers and the Morale, Welfare and Recreation office are sponsoring a Marine Barracks Holiday Party Dec. 6 at 1 p.m. in the John Philip Sousa Band Hall.

The party is open to all Marines, Sailors and civilians at the barracks, as well as their families, however; the intended focus of this celebration will be the children.

“The celebration is a wonderful opportunity for all the people here who work so hard together to share the joy of their families and the coming holiday season together,” said Sandy Hejlik, holiday party volunteer.

Those interested in attending should submit their names and the number of children in their party to their respective company offices as soon as possible. The companies will also need to know the sex and age of each child to help Santa’s elves determine the best gifts to send to the party.

Reservations are required for the party, however, those who do not have their names in yet can still get one. Last minute reservations can be made through Dec. 5 by calling the Adjutant’s Office at 433-4073.

Those interested in volunteering to bake goodies or help with the party can contact the Chaplain’s Office at 433-6201.

## Volunteers needed

The barracks needs a few volunteers to provide some holiday cheer for Marines staying in the Bachelor Enlisted Quarters Dec. 24-25.

Santa’s elves are looking for service and family members who live outside the barracks to donate an hour or two out of their busy schedules this month.

“Volunteering for projects like this is important, especially through the holidays,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Enrique Diaz, chaplain’s assistant. “It also reinforces that we are all members of the Navy/Marine Corps family and we take care of our own.”

Those interested in volunteering should contact Cpl. Pauline L. Render at 433-6680 or the Adjutant’s Office at 433-4073.

## Union Jack flies over Marine Barracks, Washington

by Sgt. Patrick E. Franklin  
Press Chief

**Marine Barracks, Washington** — The British Union Jack flag flew over the parade deck here for the second time in two years Oct. 15.

Members of Her Majesty's Royal Navy and the Royal Marines came aboard to hold their annual Trafalgar Night Dinner, honoring their victory over the French and Spanish at the Battle of Trafalgar on Oct. 21, 1805. Under the Command of Vice-Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson, a fleet of 27 British ships defeated 33 of Napoleon's finest ships. The battle firmly established Britain's naval supremacy and influence in world affairs.

Trafalgar Night is the one evening a year when the Royal Navy gathers to celebrate the accomplishments of the British military throughout its nation's history.

"This is the Royal Navy and Royal Marines' chance to get together and remember our history and those who have preceded us," said Capt. David Wilson, staff officer, British Royal Marines, British Embassy to the United States. "Since we couldn't have the dinner at the embassy again this year, it is natural that we should choose this location, given our long history of good relations with the United States Marines. The history of the barracks matches the occasion wonderfully and the Marines always treat us very well when we are here."

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***"May the great God, whom I  
worship, grant to my country, and  
for the benefit of Europe in general,  
a great and glorious victory."  
Vice-Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson***

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Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., "the Oldest Post of the Corps" has provided a location for the event the past two years due to the close relationship the Marines and Sailors of both nations share. The British Embassy, where Trafalgar Night is traditionally held, was changing occupants last year and this year is undergoing some repairs.

Over one hundred members of Her Majesty's Navy and Royal Marines assigned to the area converged on the John Philip Sousa Band Hall for the evening. Most are assigned to the area, either as military attaches or as



***Petty Officer Caterer Jon Boreham, Her Majesty's Royal Navy, attaches sails to one of the chocolate ships to be placed on each of the tables for the Trafalgar Night Dinner. (photo by Sgt. Patrick E. Franklin)***

students from military schools, but some were flown in from England to ensure the proper atmosphere for the event.

Petty Officer Caterer Jon Boreham, Royal Navy, along with a number of others, arrived here almost a week prior to the event to begin preparations for the dinner. One of the more painstaking missions he had to accomplish was the creation of a fleet of chocolate ships, which are a traditional part of the festivities.



**The British Royal Marine Band performs the "Beat Retreat" ceremony prior to the beginning of the Trafalgar Night Dinner. (photos by Sgt. Patrick E. Franklin)**

"We got here last Friday and worked through the weekend getting ready for this evening. The ships' hulls are made of chocolate and the masts are a salted dough. They represent the ships which fought at the Battle of Trafalgar," said Boreham.

According to Lt. Col. Michael B. Kessler, barracks executive officer, the ships also help guests find their seats, as the seating chart is based on the ships' names.

"At the Marine Corps Birthday Ball a Marine looks at the seating chart, and finds out at which table he or she is seated. For Trafalgar Night, instead of numbers, the tables are named after the ships in Lord Nelson's fleet," he said. "For example, tonight I might be seated at H.M.S. Victory."

The Victory served as Nelson's flagship at Trafalgar, which proved to be his last command.

Just prior to the battle, as the two fleets slowly closed with one another, Nelson penned a prayer which proved to be somewhat prophetic.

"May the great God, whom I worship, grant to my country, and for the benefit of Europe in general, a great

and glorious victory; and may no misconduct, in anyone, tarnish it; and may humanity after victory be the predominant feature in the British Fleet.

"For myself individually, I commit my life to Him who made me, and may His blessing light upon my endeavors for serving my country faithfully.

"To Him I resign myself and the just cause which is entrusted to me to defend.

"Amen, Amen, Amen," wrote Nelson.

Near the end of the battle, Nelson was shot through the shoulder and the round broke his back, but he lived long enough after being wounded to know his fleet had won the decisive battle.

Although the evening is a time for fellowship and camaraderie, Admiral Jay L. Johnson, Chief of Naval Operations and the evening's guest of honor, closed out his remarks with the traditional toast, reminding all those present that although victory was won, it came at a great cost.

"To the immortal memory of Admiral Lord Nelson."

# Texas tradition continues



**Master Sgt. James P. O'Keefe Jr., Drum Major of "The Commandant's Own," United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, leads the unit through downtown Dallas in a parade celebrating the opening of the Texas State Fair. (photo by Cpl. Chance D. Puma)**

by **Cpl. Chance D. Puma**  
*Community Relations NCO*

The first time 8th and I's Battle Color Detachment went down to the Texas State Fair was in 1961. There were rides, balloons and corndogs for the kids. There were games and music to raise funds for state scholarships. There were also strong patriotic overtones.

It was the Vietnam era and the Marines in dress blues were joined in the huge crowds by ceremonial units from all the military branches. In an era when manpower was low and recruitment was essential, all the services were vying for the chance to display their best side at one of the country's largest fairs.

In many ways the Texas State

Fair has not changed much since then, but these days the Marines do not need to compete for a place to perform.

Since 1961 the Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., Battle Color Detachment has progressively become an integral part of the Texas State Fair.

Drawing large crowds to the festivities, the Marines have fostered a special relationship with fair organizers and many of the visitors to the month-long gala in Dallas.

"At the height of the Vietnam war, recruiting was a high priority for all branches. There were literally recruiters all over the fairgrounds in those days — Air Force, Navy and Army," said Col. Truman W. Crawford, commanding officer of the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps.

"We've come a long way from that era to what we have today."

"In the 1970s they created "Marine Corps Square," which gave us, for the first time, a designated area at the fairgrounds for a modified Battle Color Ceremony with the Color Guard and Silent Drill Platoon, which worked out real well," said Crawford.

As the years passed, state fair organizers looked less at inviting other branches to perform and put more emphasis in hosting the Battle Color Detachment — a significant decision because the state fair funds the travel, meals and lodgings of ceremonial units performing at the fair. According to Crawford, "The fair became more interested in what we could do and decided to delegate their resources to the Marine Corps." And with good

reason, he said, because Marines “are the best there is at what we do.”

“I’ve been there 31 times,” said Crawford, “and they love Marines down there. It’s heart-rending to be so well received.”

Of course, the function of 8th and I Marines making the annual trip is to gain Marine Corps exposure and help recruitment, which it does, according to Crawford.

“The people there are very patriotic, and the recruiters always say our presence has a positive impact on recruiting,” he said.

But the Texas State Fair has become a special commitment to many of the Marines who return annually, they said, and is more than “just another show.”

In his own first trip to Texas with the Battle Color Detachment in 1983,

Staff Sgt. Omer A. Duff, D&B Co., helped start a tradition of playing a small concert each year at a Dallas school for disabled children.

“We always end with the Marine Corps Hymn, and afterwards the kids come up and blow on the horns and bang on the drums, and we spend time with them,” said Duff.

The visit is a simple thing the school’s teachers said the children talk about practically all year after the visit, according to Duff.

“What kept me doing it was that first year. There was a girl who was blind and deaf, and the show just thrilled her. She could pick up the heavy vibrations from the music. It was just a lasting memory,” he said.

There are many things over the years that have made the Texas State Fair show stand out amongst the rest

of the ceremonial units’ annual commitments, recalls Crawford. Presidents Ford and Bush attended opening ceremonies there. Country music artist Lee Greenwood sat in on a Drum and Bugle Corps concert and eventually sang for the Marines as they played “God Bless the USA,” — the song he popularized.

“We did the last Cowboy’s game played at the Cottonbowl,” said Crawford.

But the great thing about the fair all the Marines appreciate the most, according to Crawford, is the special regard the people at the fair hold for them year after year.

“People will come up to us and say ‘I’ve been watching you all perform for years,’” he said, and “the Marines are the only reason we come to the fair.”



*The United States Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon marches past during the opening day of the street parade at the Texas State Fair. (photo by Cpl. Chance D. Puma)*

## Tun Tavern II: FBI and USMC honor long-standing relationship

by Cpl. Jerry D. Pierce  
Staff Writer

Former Marines who are now serving with the FBI gathered here Nov. 3 with the officers of Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., to celebrate the Corps' 222nd birthday and its long-standing relationship with the FBI.

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Charles C. Krulak and Barracks Commanding Officer Col. Dennis J. Hejlik hosted a United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps concert on Centerwalk and a cake-cutting ceremony in Center House.

"It is an honor to be here to celebrate the Corps' 222nd birthday with our fellow former Marine brothers who are now serving the FBI," said Gen. Krulak during the cake-cutting ceremony. "Your dedication to the values and esprit de corps that the Marine Corps gave you so many years ago is evidenced by your attendance here tonight."

More than 75 FBI agents and Marines attended the ceremony honoring active duty and former Marines alike.

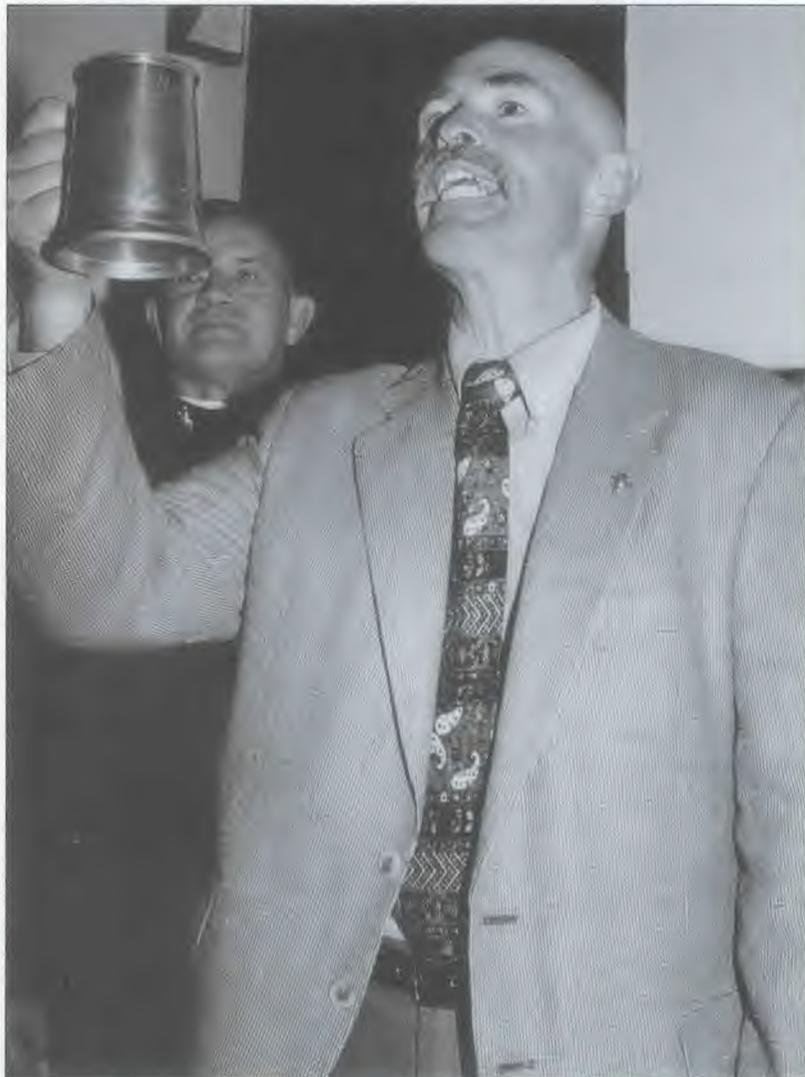
"In honor of all Marines who have come before and the traditions they have brought, a piece of cake is cut for the oldest Marine present, retired Col. Walter Walsh," said Capt. Russell E. Wrede, the master of ceremonies. "The next piece of cake is cut to honor the future of the Marine Corps and the Marines who are to come and is given to the youngest Marine present, reserve Lance Cpl. Matthew Droujinski."

The symbolism of the cake-cutting ceremony set the scene for an equally strong sense of brotherhood throughout the evening, according to agent Rich Boteler.

"I think the ceremony was a great chance for Marines and former Marines to honor the ties that have made the FBI and Marine Corps team so great," said Boteler. "It is great to see people remembering a part of their lives that will never leave them — not now or ever."

The FBI/Marine Corps birthday celebration has been going on for more than 10 years, according to Boteler.

"We continue the tradition of the birthday celebration to strengthen ties within the FBI community as well as within the active duty force of Marines," said Boteler. "I



**Agent Rich Boteler makes a toast to the FBI at the FBI/USMC Birthday Celebration at Center House Nov. 3. (photo by Cpl. Jerry D. Pierce)**

think it is important to remember your roots, and this is the perfect way for we former Marines to stay in touch with a little bit of our history."

Tradition was the benchmark of Gen. Krulak's birthday message to the Marine Corps, but he also had another message to convey to his Marines.

"We need to remember the private first class and the lance corporal out there protecting our freedom," said Gen. Krulak. "With this celebration and all of the other celebrations around the Marine Corps during this time of year, we need to take a minute to honor those Marines who are our future and make sure they are getting everything they need to make them confident and professional leaders in the future."



*Cpl. Jerry L. Buhaj learns how to use the YP-692's compass during the U. S. Naval Academy Company's training day in the Chesapeake Bay. (photo by Cpl. Jerry D. Pierce)*

## Naval Academy Marines set out to sea

by *Cpl. Jerry D. Pierce*  
Staff Writer

A small detachment of Marines from the U.S. Naval Academy Company embarked on what, for most of them, was their first experience with sea life Oct. 27.

Thirty Marines boarded a 108-foot, Navy training boat for a three-hour cruise around the Chesapeake Bay near Annapolis, Md.

The training was designed to give the Marines an idea of what the naval personnel at Naval Station Annapolis do on a daily basis and to give them an interactive tour of a small naval ves-

sel, according to Sgt. Greg A. Simas, a section leader for the guard detachment.

"I think the Marines learned two important lessons today," said Simas. "They learned what the Navy does here and they got a taste of what it means to be on a ship."

The Marines got the chance to take the helm, control the boat's speed and learn about basic navigation of this and other boats.

"I liked actually being in control of the boat's course and learning the various commands that Sailors use when they are at sea," said Lance Cpl. Jeremiah V. Ross, a guard Marine

from 2nd section. "The best part of the whole day was seeing how other people reacted to the steering of the ship."

According to Petty Officer 1st Class Steven M. Walsingham, the boat's quartermaster, the object of the day was to give the Marines a chance to see what goes into running a ship.

"A ship is a very complex piece of machinery, but when you work as a team with the proper voice commands and have everyone on the same sheet of music, it is very simple," said Walsingham.

All four members of Walsingham's

*continued on pg. 17*

# Opportunities to give and receive during holidays

by *Cpl. Matt S. Schafer*  
Staff Writer

There are always a few Marines at 8th & I who spend the holiday season in the Washington area without a way to pass the time. Fortunately, there are a variety of options available this year to help everybody enjoy the holidays.

According to Petty Officer 2nd Class Enrique Diaz, chaplain's assistant, the chaplain's office has accumulated a list of opportunities to help Marines having money problems and those who may be stuck in the area.

Marines unable to go home may be interested in spending the holidays with a family in the local community.

"The 'Adopt a Marine' program is a program where families are volunteering their homes and meals to service members who are staying [here] for the holidays," Diaz said.

According to Diaz, many military and civilian families adopted Marines during the 1996 holiday season.

"We have one lady who has been taking in Marines for the last few years," Diaz said. "Some of the Marines have gotten to be good friends with her. They've left the Marine Corps and they stay in touch with her."

Pamela S. Manus, an "Adopt a Marine" participant, said taking in Marines allows her a chance to meet new people and help them enjoy the holidays.

"This is something our family loves to do every [year] and I'm going to keep on doing it until I can't anymore," Manus said. "Every year, I invite six strangers into the house, and when they leave I have six more sons and daughters."

Marines who want to participate in the "Adopt a Marine" program have a simple registration process, according to Diaz, to get in the system.

"If a Marine is interested in this program, all they have to do is tell their company gunny, and I hook it up," Diaz asserted.

While "Adopt a Marine" primarily caters to the needs of single Marines, Lt. Kenneth D. Counts, barracks chaplain, said associations like the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society can help single and married Marines who may have financial problems during the holidays.

"Navy relief is the best place to go for financial problems because your situation is confidential and they have the resources to help," Counts explained.

According to Patricia A. McCormack, a budget coun-

selor at the Washington Navy Yard branch of the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society, the society helps Marines on a case-by-case basis with financial assistance in times of emergency, such as a death in the client's immediate family.

Those interested in applying for a loan should contact NMCRS for an appointment at (202) 433-3364.

In addition, Staff Sgt. Zalary L. Alston, Toys For Tots coordinator for the Washington military community, said Toys For Tots offers a helping hand to Marines who need it every year.

Toys For Tots accepts donations throughout the year, and provides new toys for families who may be in a financial bind during the holidays. Marines interested in registering for Toys For Tots can contact Alston at (202) 433-3612 for more information.

While the Marine Corps offers an arsenal of options to help Marines receive joy during the holidays, there are also many opportunities to give, according to Counts.

"I think Christmas is a great time to give instead of receive," Counts explained. "If, by chance, you're stuck here, that's a good opportunity to be a giver, and there are a multitude of social service ministries in the local community who would gladly put you to work."

According to Lynn H. Kneedler, executive director of Capitol Hill Group Ministry, the ministry is sponsoring many Christmas projects, including a soup kitchen in Southeast Washington.

"The soup kitchen has volunteers who prepare and serve food, and they could always use some help if anybody from the barracks wanted to come over and serve," Kneedler said.

Marines who want to volunteer for any programs sponsored by the ministry can contact Kneedler at (202) 547-5924.

There are also many programs designed to help children ranging from the Big Brother Foundation to the Young Marines program, Counts explained.

Not everyone may be able to make it home for the holidays this year, but the Sailors from the chaplain's office are making sure Marines at 8th & I still have a few options to avoid spending Christmas or New Years alone.

Contact the Public Affairs Office at (202) 433-4173 for more information about any of these or other programs offered during the holidays.

## USNA continued

crew conducted small group sessions of training on the different working parts of the ship.

According to Petty Officer 2nd Class Tad B. Kingsbury, ship engineman, the most important issue to cover for any ship is fire safety and prevention.

"The reason we give classes on fire safety is because fire is the largest threat to a ship at sea," said

Kingsbury. "Just like the Marines are considered riflemen first, Sailors are considered firemen first."

This class was the most valuable lesson of the day, according to Lance Cpl. Chris J. Matthews, 2nd section guard.

"I never realized that a ship had such enclosed spaces with so many fire hazards," said Matthews. "I could never imagine having to put on a

fireman's suit and going to fight a fire on a ship at sea. I would be scared to death."

After Kingsbury's fire safety class, however, the Marines learned they have the ability to overcome their fears of enclosed spaces and fire, and save a ship from destruction while at sea.

"I liked putting the firefighting gear on and trying to breath through the oxygen tank," said Matthews. "If I ever had to go fight a fire I would still be scared, but at least I know the basics of how to protect myself and the people around me."

According to Walsingham, having the Marines on the ship gave him a renewed respect for the jobs they have to do at the U.S. Naval Academy and around the world.

"I had a chance to talk to a lot of the Marines today, and, in the same way they wouldn't like to do my job, I would hate to do theirs," said Walsingham. "Standing guard duty is not something I like to do at all, and some of these guys are doing it eight and 16 hours a day. No way would I do that."

According to Simas, guard duty is the primary mission of the Marines at the Naval Academy Company, but hands-on training sessions are equally important to the mission and morale of the Marines.

"The Marines learned a lot about the safety precautions and general operations that are needed to run the boat, but the most important thing they leave with here today is a greater appreciation for their fellow sea service," said Simas.

*(left) Lance Cpl. Shane B. Cotrone finds his way out of the ship's welldeck where the ship's anchor lines are stored. (photo by Cpl. Jerry D Pierce)*



# 40 Young Marines graduate boot camp

by Cpl. Jerry D. Pierce  
Staff Writer

Forty boys and girls from Marine Barracks, Washington, D. C. and Fort George G. Meade "Young Marines" programs earned the title Young Marines after their "boot camp" graduation ceremony at American Legion Post 60 in Laurel, Md., Oct. 7.

The graduation ceremony was the last phase of the recruit training cycle and marked the first time they were called Young Marines.

"You have taken a responsibility upon yourselves that will be with you all your lives," said Chris Oster, a WifeLine volunteer at the Washington Navy Yard who often works with Young Marines. "You are carrying on traditions of the Young Marines and the United States Marine Corps."

According to Joseph E. Bles, Young Marines inspector general, the graduation was designed to give the kids a chance to show their parents and instructors what they learned.

"I am very impressed by the intensity and dedication of these 40 new Young Marines," said Bles. "Their enthusiastic attitudes have been the biggest contributor to the success of the new training sequence and the mixing of two different Young Marines units."

Marine Corps history, marching precision, teamwork and leadership skills were the main teaching points stressed in the four, eight-hour, Saturday training sessions.

The recruits were instructed by three active-duty Marine sergeants attached to Headquarters Company, Fort Meade.

According to Sgt. Elaine M. Bergman, the executive officer of the



**Former Staff Sgt. Terrance A. Bailey, commanding officer, 8th and I Young Marines, speaks during graduation ceremonies. (photo by Cpl. Jerry D Pierce)**

Fort Meade Young Marines, it is a rewarding feeling for the instructors, as well as the new Young Marines, to see recruits finish boot camp and move to the next level.

"I remember seeing the scared looks on the recruits' faces when we first introduced ourselves to them," said Bergman. "But when I look at them now I see a group of 40 Young Marines that know the importance of leadership, teamwork and self-confidence. It is something that will carry them for the rest of their lives."

According to former Marine Staff Sgt. Terrance A. Bailey, commanding officer of the 8th and I Young Marines, his Young Marines can look forward to getting new uniforms and concentrating on the fundamentals they have learned over the past four weeks.

"As Young Marines you form a triangle," said Bailey, as he addressed family members at the ceremony. "The triangle is made up of the in-

structors, the families and the Young Marines. If we all give 100 percent, we can be successful at almost anything."

According to Fort Meade Young Marine Lance Cpl. Jackie A. Baker, the triangle of the family, Young Marines and instructors works.

"The Young Marines program has helped me control my behavior and follow instructions better at school and home," said 12-year-old Baker. "I think these new Young Marines will leave here tonight with a better idea of what those things mean."

Bailey closed the ceremony with a final test of the Young Marines' ability to carry on the traditions of the Corps.

With a final "OORAAHHHH" from the Young Marines and their families, the graduation ceremony came to a close and a new generation of Young Marines hit the deck running.

## Band participates in WIMSA dedication

by Staff Sgt. Christine A. Kohn  
Marine Band Public Affairs

"The President's Own" United States Marine Band helped dedicate the first U.S. memorial honoring women in the military. Called the Women in Military Service for America Memorial, the monument pays tribute to the nation's 1.8 million military women who have served from the revolution through the present.

"For centuries, military service women have given selflessly to their country," said Marine Band Assistant Director Dennis R. Burian who conducted the band's performance at the dedication. "It was an honor for 'The President's Own' to help honor their service and sacrifice to the nation."

The band performed a prelude concert and accompanied artists Kenny Rogers and Patti Austin with the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Glee Club in a special tribute song called "I will Always Remember You."

The band also accompanied Chief Master Sergeant

Daisy Jackson of the United States Air Force Band in "The National Anthem" and Sergeant First Class Delores King Williams of the U.S. Army Band in "God Bless America."

Dignitaries at the event included the Vice President and Mrs. Gore; Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor; Secretary of Defense William Cohen; Secretary of the Army Togo G. West; and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Henry H. Shelton, USA.

"This memorial has been forged by the countless acts of bravery and sacrifice of generations of American's service women," Vice President Gore told the cheering crowd, "by their centuries of patriotism and patience, their blood and valor, their pain and perseverance."

An estimated 30,000 people, including women who served during World War II, The Korean War, the Vietnam War and Operation Desert Storm, came from across the nation to witness the dedication of the memorial which is located at the entrance to the Arlington National Cemetery.

Today, women make up 11 percent of armed services and serve in almost all capacities in the military. In the Marine Corps, 768 women account for 4.3 percent of all women Marine officers, and 8,051 women make up 5.1 percent of the active duty enlisted force in the Marine Corps.

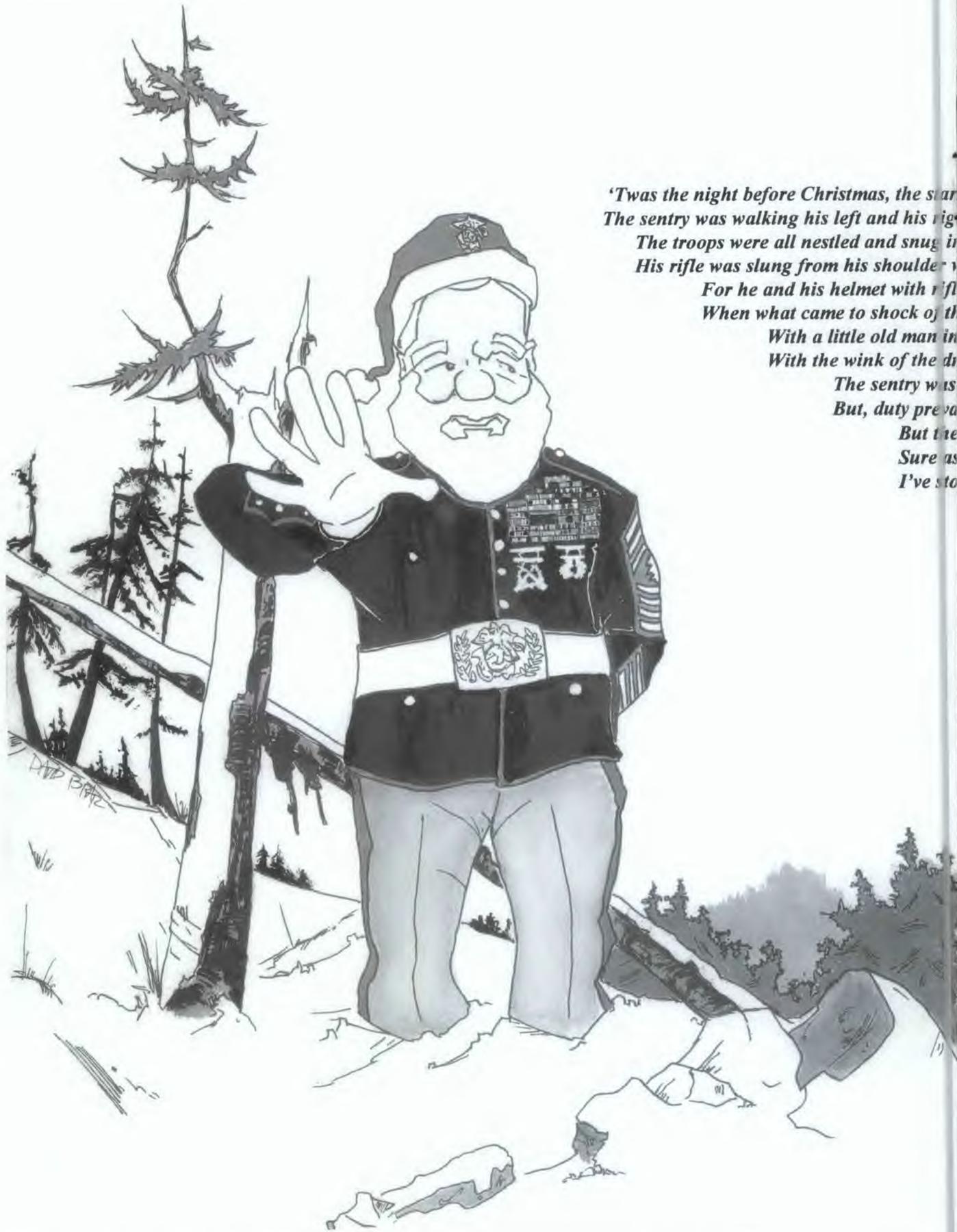
The Marine Band's performance for the dedication caps off a long history of participation in groundbreaking, cornerstone layings, and dedications of the Washington areas most significant monuments.

### Women veteran's registry

Active duty service women, veterans, or their sponsors can contribute \$25 to be listed in the memorial's computerized registry. Visitors can tap into this registry to call up photographs and personal stories explaining the role women have played in the armed services. Thus far, about 125,000 women have been registered. Interested applicants can contact the memorial foundation at (703) 533-1155 for registration.



(Left) Marine Band Assistant Director Dennis R. Burian, conducts "The President's Own" during the Women in Military Service for America Memorial dedication. (Official USMC photo)



*'Twas the night before Christmas, the star  
The sentry was walking his left and his right  
The troops were all nestled and snug in  
His rifle was slung from his shoulder  
For he and his helmet with rifle  
When what came to shock of the  
With a little old man in  
With the wink of the devil  
The sentry was  
But, duty prevailed  
But the  
Sure as  
I've sto*

## Happy Holidays, Marines

by PIR staff

*s shining bright,  
 nt.  
 a their racks, while he stood his duty his feet making tracks.  
 with ease, his head kept alert from the chill in the breeze.  
 e aside, had just settled down in that 12 to 4 stride.  
 e sentry appeared? But a little green sleigh pulled by a camouflage deer.  
 dress blues and sword the sentry just stood there not saying a word.  
 iver and a tip of the cover, the sleigh, like a huey, just pulled up and hovered.  
 startled, bewildered and in doubt.  
 iled and these words rang out, "Now wait just a minute, Halt, who's there?"  
 little man smiled and said, "You've nothing to fear.  
 it's Christmas and sure as you're here,  
 pped on my route just to bring you good cheer."  
 "Now, attention to orders," he said with a flair  
 as he read from a page that he held in the air.*

*"For standing your duty and walking your post  
 on this day of the year that we all cherish most."*

*"Here in this place, on this solemn occasion,  
 I thank you Marine on behalf of the nation."*

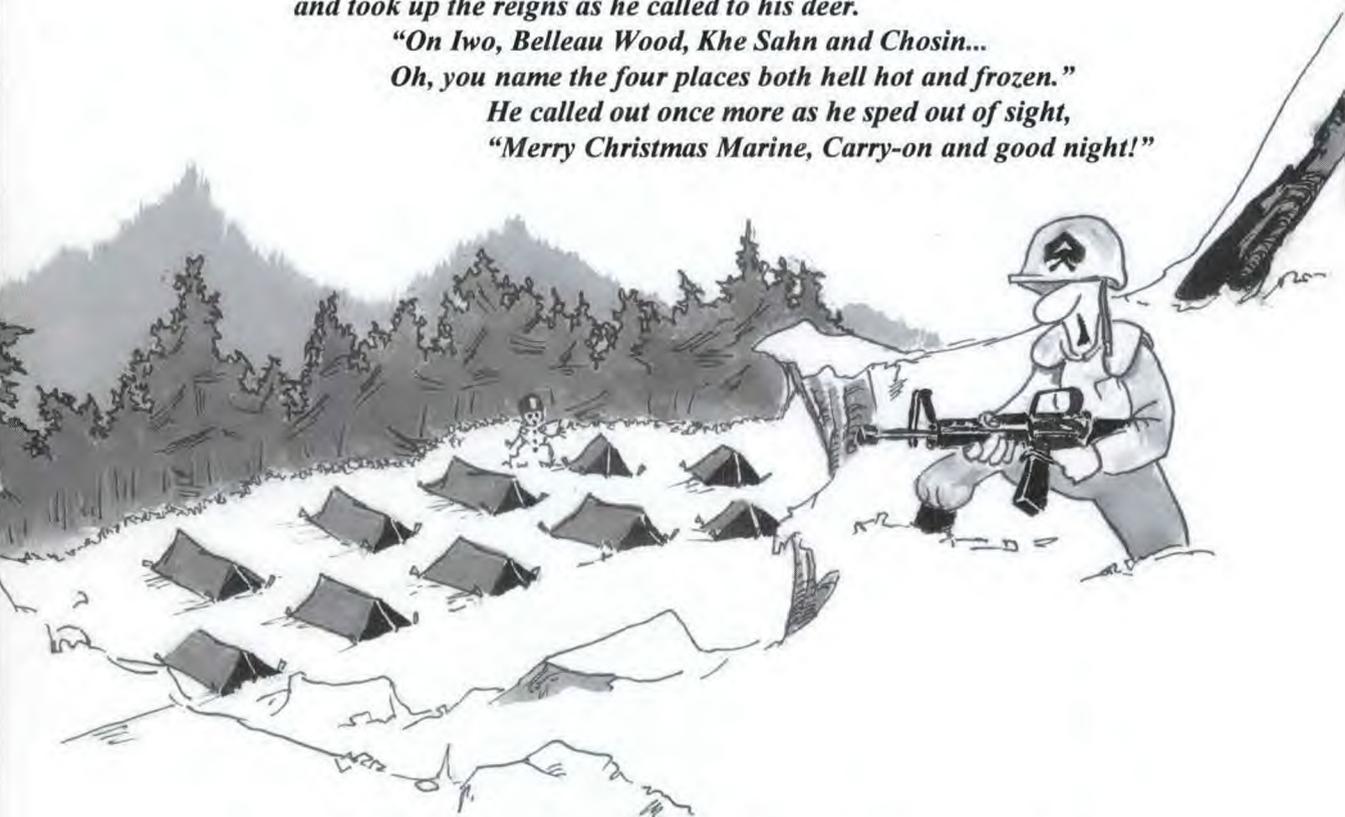
*He saluted then cut sharp and clear,  
 and took up the reigns as he called to his deer.*

*"On Iwo, Belleau Wood, Khe Sahn and Chosin..."*

*Oh, you name the four places both hell hot and frozen."*

*He called out once more as he sped out of sight,*

*"Merry Christmas Marine, Carry-on and good night!"*



During the early years of World War II, North America's first citizens gave the United States one of the war's greatest weapons ...

## The unbreakable code

by Isabel Simmons

The tribal museum at Window Rock, Arizona, was recently the scene of a reunion of a group of World War II veterans who have been, more or less, unknown all these years — the Navajo Indian Code Talkers.

A code that no enemy can decipher has always been an impossible dream during mankind's bloody attempts to exterminate his fellow man. Any code, whether a simple jumble of the alphabet or the present day elaborate electronic scramble devices, have one fault — given enough time, someone could decode it.

The United States Marine Corps came up with a unique solution during World War II by training a group of Navajo Indians as code talkers.

Years later, the Navajo language is still known mostly to Navajos and a few white traders. It is a difficult language to learn, as its grammatical structure bears no relation to English or any European language, and has a number of strange sounds which are difficult to imitate. In 1942, it is doubtful if anyone in Japan had even heard of the Navajo Indians.

A brief attempt to use Indians as code talkers was made in World War I with limited success, partly because the Indians had no words in their language for military terms such as tanks, cannons, and mortars.

The Navajo Code Talkers was the "brain child" of Phillip Johnston, a white man with an unusual background. Mr. Johnston had lived on the Navajo Reservation from the time he was 4 years old until he left to attend college in Los Angeles. He spoke Navajo fluently and was familiar with their customs, having worked at various trading posts on the reservation, often acting as an interpreter. He had served with the Marine Corps in World War I but found "retreads" were not too welcome in World War II. Chancing across an article about an armored division in Louisiana using some Indians for communications, the idea for the Navajo Code Talkers was born.

Johnston took his idea to Lt. Col. James E. Jones,

area signal officer at Camp Elliott near San Diego, meeting with a lukewarm reception at first.

A few sentences of Navajo spoken by Johnston aroused the officer's curiosity, but he had one valid objection — the Indians had no words for military terms. Johnston explained that he did not intend to use translations, but to build up a code of Indian words. For instance "fast shooter" could designate a machine gun and barrage would be "iron rain."

Jones agreed to give the idea a trial, and two weeks later Johnston, accompanied by some Navajos, returned to Camp Elliott.

The small group was taken to the headquarters of Maj. Gen. Clayton B. Vogel, where two of the Navajos adjourned to another room and the test started. After 15 minutes the general checked the translations and was impressed enough with the results to request 200 recruits immediately.

Bureaucrats, being the same yesterday, today and forever, greeted the unusual proposal with official skepticism, but approval finally came through for a "pilot project" of 30 men. Unusual names like Begay, Tsosie, Chee, Nez, Littletalker, Slowtalker, Benallie, Yazzie, Manuelito and Hoskie began to appear on Marine pay records.

The Indians arriving from boot camp faced eight weeks of intensive training and memorizing. A military code of the 413 words most frequently used was built up, supplemented with an alphabet to spell out names.

Chicken hawk, humming bird, and iron fish meant dive bomber, fighter plane and submarine. Instead of the usual Able, Baker, Charlie, the alphabet was ant, bear, cat. Alaska was Beh-Hga, meaning with-winter. America was Ne-he-mah, our mother. Ammunition was Beh-elidoh-be-cal-ali-tas-an. Regular English pronunciation will give the reader no idea how these words sound when pronounced in the guttural Navajo fashion from somewhere in the region of the tonsils.

All during the training, messages in Navajo came

over the air from planes, tanks and half tracks, completely baffling to anyone but a Navajo Indian. Day after day, slender brown fingers rapidly printed legible messages under simulated battle conditions, consistently error free. It was a military miracle — an unbreakable code.

The amazing success of the pilot project resulted in quick approval for an additional 200 recruits. When Johnston heard about the success of the program, he asked Jones if he could enlist in the Marine Corps. The startled reply was "I never dreamed you'd want to come into the service, but I'm sure we could get the necessary waivers for your age. And we'd be most happy to put you in charge of the training program."

So after the usual time-consuming red tape, the Marine Corps had a very happy retreat for a staff sergeant in full charge of his own brain child — the Code Talkers training program.

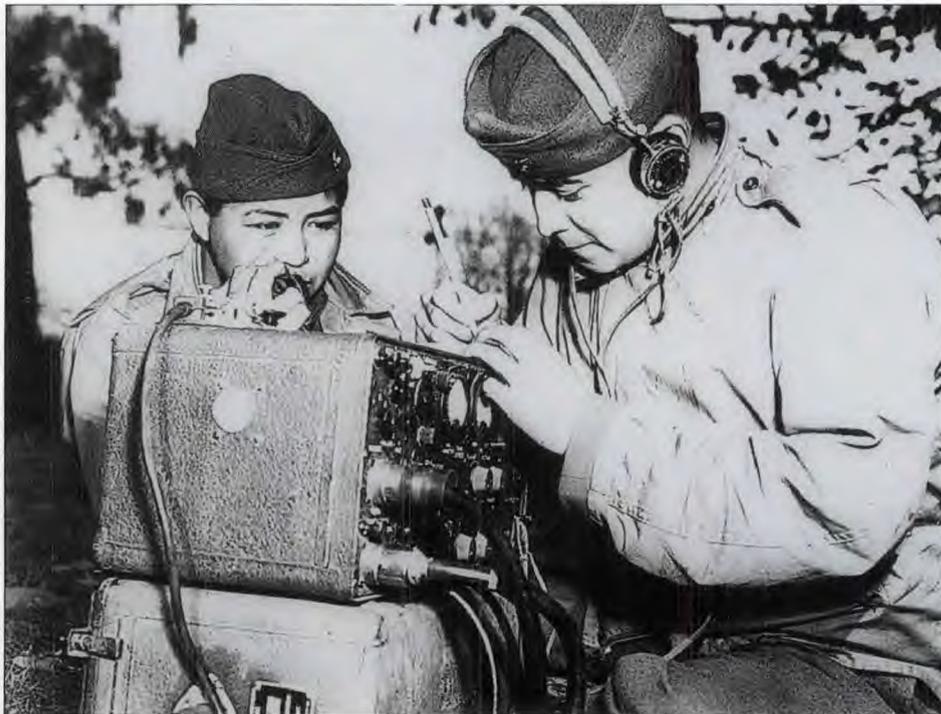
Within two years over 300 Navajos had taken the communicators course. The failure rate of only five out of each 100, and only one AWOL for the entire group was another outstanding achievement. As training was completed, each Marine Corps division received a compliment of code talkers. Men raised in hogans on the isolated Navajo reservation followed the Stars and Stripes all over the world. A great nation had not treated its brown-skinned children too kindly but it was still Ne-he-mah, our mother, to them and commanded their services, their devotion and sometimes their lives.

Navajo code talkers first announced the raising of the flag on Mt. Surabachi at Iwo Jima. Incidentally, another Arizona Indian, Ira Hayes, a Pima, was one of the men performing this heroic feat. Where are these men today? Slowly coming out of the obscurity that had hid them for the past 25 years, the Navajo code talkers are now proudly telling of their part in World War II. In 1969 the 4th Marine Division reunion in Chicago honored 21 Navajo Marine veterans for their service, presenting them with the American Indian Marine Award.

Window Rock, the capitol of Navajo country was the scene of the latest reunion in July, 1971. Sixty ex-code talkers gathered to renew old acquaintances and to renew their stories on tape for future historians. Just to show they hadn't forgotten old skills, the men went into the nearby hills to demonstrate code talking, using several battery-operated radios provided by the Marine Corps for the occasion.

The most famous code talker undoubtedly is Peter McDonald, recently elected chairman of the Navajo Tribal Council, a position equal to governor of a state. Capt. Edmund Henry Sr., is the new commanding officer of the Tuba City Police District, a precinct governing several hundred lonely miles. George Kirk, a close friend of Phillip Johnston, has worked at Navajo Army Depot in Flagstaff since being discharged from the Marines. Mr. Johnston is retired and living in Southern California.

*(Reprinted from the Marine Corps Gazette, Nov. 1971)*



***Pfc. Preston Toledo and Pfc. Frank Toledo, cousins and full-blooded Navajo Indians attached to a Marine Artillery Regiment in the South Pacific relay orders over a field radio in their native tongue. (USMC photo)***

# Marines prepare for shipboard operations



**A CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit lifts off the flightdeck during Deck Landing Qualification training. (Photo by Pfc. Justin T. Watkins)**

by Cpl. Jon Wilke  
26th MEU

## ABOARD USS WASP (LHD-1)

— Aviation combat element Marines from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit recently experienced the demanding rigors that come from working aboard the USS Wasp during pre-deployment training with the Navy.

One training evolution which helped prepare the pilots of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 264 (Reinforced) was deck landing qualifications training. Both rotary-wing and AV-8B Harrier II Plus pilots are required annually to complete a series of take-offs and landings from the flightdeck.

One CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter pilot undergoing requalification recalled the first time he landed on a flightdeck.

"It was like any other first. I was anxious and kind of nervous," said Capt. Carl Wingo. "The deck didn't look like the runway I'm used to seeing at New River. It was much smaller and a lot busier."

After he flew in close to the left side of the deck, he gently maneuvered the aircraft until he was above his designated landing spot. He recalled that a lot was going on at that moment.

"I was thinking about nice, slow, controlled aircraft movements while listening to altitude and air speed calls," Wingo continued. "Once I was over the deck, I looked for other aircraft and people while listening to the crew chief (who looks out the window and helps the pilot fine tune his landing). Then it was a controlled vertical landing from there."

"Even if the ship is rolling pretty good, you just look at the deck and try to go straight down and have a nice level landing."

"The biggest difference between landing on the ship and on a normal flightline is the heightened awareness you have to maintain around the ship," Wingo explained. "You usually don't have Harriers and other helicopters parked 10 feet away, so you just put it where you want it."

Wingo said the training boosted

his confidence level. "Anytime you come out here and land, you get more confident. With increased exposure comes increased proficiency."

The Marines below the flightdeck were also affected by their new shipboard environment.

For Sgt. Michael Pruden, assigned to Aviation Life Support Systems, being aboard ship for the first time was an educational experience.

"I've learned a lot about rules, procedures, and flight quarters since I've been on the ship," said Pruden. "I've learned that you have to have a high volume of supplies here and also the parts which will be needed and demanded."

An aircraft can be down for maintenance for a significantly longer period of time because it takes so long to get re-supplied, he explained.

Gunnery Sgt. Robert Wright, Flightline Division chief, agreed with Pruden, saying, "I'm glad we've had this opportunity to integrate with the Navy. This training made us well prepared for future shipboard operations."

# *Parris Island Marine receives Navy and Marine Corps Medal for lifesaving attempt*

*by Lance Cpl. Amos Kelso,  
MCRD Parris Island*

MCRD PARRIS ISLAND, S.C. — A Marine from Parris Island's Weapons and Field Training Battalion was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal Sept. 17 for attempting to save neighbors from a tragic house fire.

Cpl. Chester G. Turner, a range coach on Starlite Range, received the medal for his attempted rescue of a mother and her two children when their mobile home caught fire in the early morning hours of Feb. 27.

Turner awoke at about 2 a.m. to shouts outside his home in the Bent Pine Mobile Home Court. He exited his home to find smoke pouring out of a mobile home two doors away. Immediately, Turner ran to the park manager's office, alerted the manager of the fire, and asked him to notify the fire department. He then rushed to the trailer where a passing taxi cab driver who had noticed the blaze was already trying to enter the trailer.

The two men managed to tear open the trailer's locked rear door, but heard no sounds from inside. They could see nothing through the thick, black smoke pouring from the structure.

"We didn't know for sure that anyone was in there," said Turner, a native of Inverness, Fla. "I did know that a mother and her two children lived there."

Turner crawled into the mobile home, but was shortly forced back outside by the smoke and fumes, and the intense heat of the fire. The taxi driver then attempted to enter the home, but was also forced to return outside. Turner tried to ventilate the trailer by breaking a window, but it was still impossible to breathe inside. Despite this fact, both men continued to try to go inside.

Turner made two more trips into the home before firefighters arrived and prevented them from entering



**Corporal Chester G. Turner, a range coach on Weapons and Field Training Battalion's Starlite Range, receives the Navy and Marine Corps Medal Sept. 17 for the attempted rescue of neighbors trapped in a house fire. (Photo by Lance Cpl. Amos Kelso)**

again. Equipped with an oxygen mask, a firefighter entered the trailer, where he discovered the bodies of 33-year-old Trudy Lee and her children: Danielle Renee, 5, and Treva Lee, 6 months.

"The hardest thing was the morning after," Turner said. "The fire was completely out and everyone was gone, but the trailer was still in place."

Turner explained that, during the fire, he had actually reached the bedroom in which Lee and her youngest child were found. But, he was too overcome by smoke inhalation to make it into the room.

"If I'd made it another 12 inches, I would have bumped my head into the baby's crib," he said. "I think that was the hardest thing about it."

Turner suffered second and third degree burns on his hands from prying on the hot aluminum door of the trailer and cuts on his back, neck, and shoulders when the glass in the window he forced open shattered.

"I didn't even think about myself at the time," Turner explained. "I just saw that there was somebody that was in need of help and I did what I had to do."

As a family man with a wife and son himself, he feels that risking his life was the only right thing to do.

"I think to myself, if that would ever happen to my house and I weren't there, I'd want somebody to be able to return the favor and do the same thing for me."

## *AAAV Hydrodynamic test rig put through final paces*

by Sgt. Kurt Sutton  
HQMC

**PATUXENT RIVER, Md.** — Tests here came to a close Nov. 1 on the water-borne test version of the Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicle, the Marine Corps' replacement for its nearly 30-year-old AAV7A1 technology.

The AAV's hydrodynamic test rig has undergone testing since July. During the evaluation, the rig reached water speeds in excess of 29 knots on the Patuxent River.

The mock-up, which is four-fifths the size of the actual AAV, was most recently tested for transom-angle configurations. The transom flap is located in the back of the vehicle and is being adjusted to allow the HTR to hit top water speeds. This was the flap's fourth version tested.

"The attitude of the vehicle (in the water) is directly tied to the flap," said Philip J. Deegan, General Dynamics Test Director. The angle of the transom flap determines the speed of the vehicle, he said.

Several lessons were learned during the AAV's HTR testing. "Longer is better. Wider is unstable. More power is best," Deegan stated. The power for the HTR is currently supplied by a standard engine; the actual power plant that the AAV will use for its water propulsion

system has not yet been determined.

In addition to the transom flap tests, all other testable systems have been evaluated.

Some of those tests included:

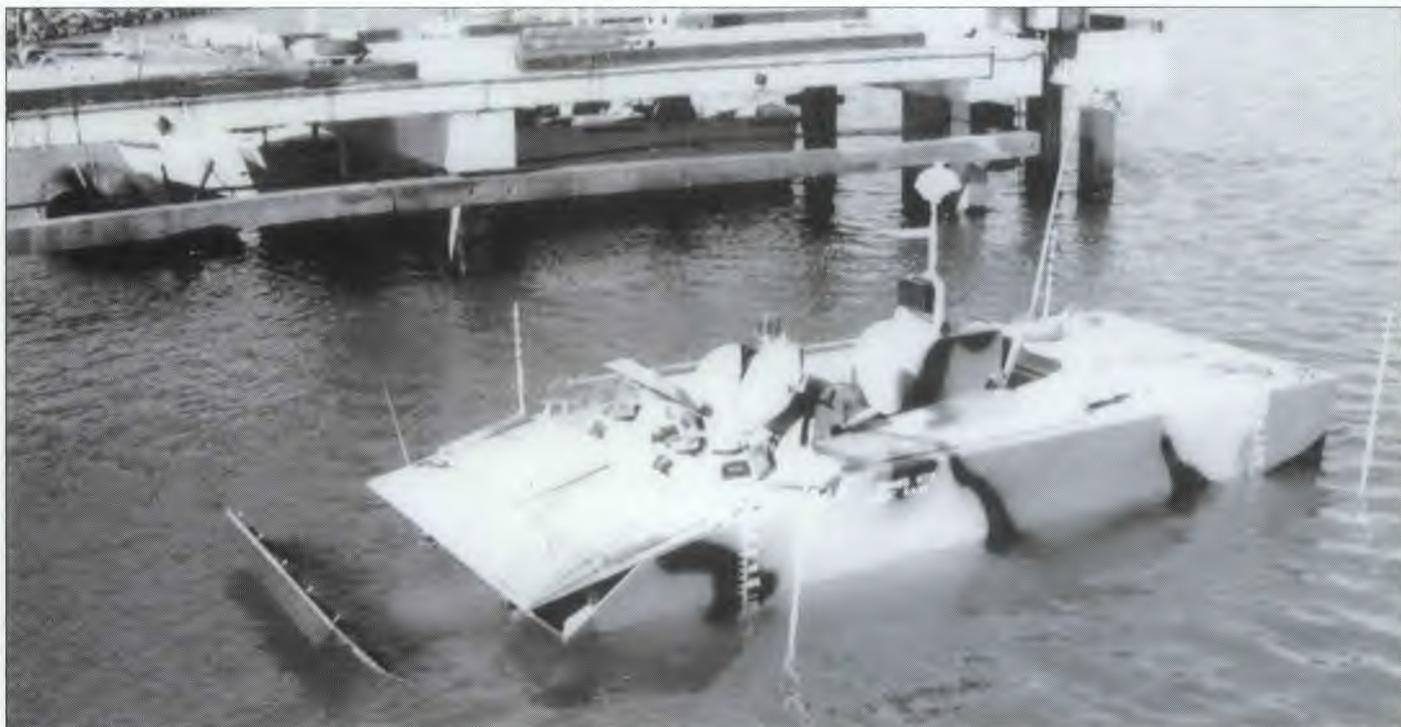
— **Weight distribution tests:** Weights are moved around inside the vehicle to examine how the vehicle responds.

— **Bow plane tests:** Deployed hydraulically on the front of the vehicle in its water mode, the bow plane allows the HTR to rise above the water while moving to achieve greater speeds.

These tests told engineers how much additional surface should be used on the bow plane and the precise angle necessary to achieve those high speeds.

— **Chine flap tests:** These are deployable flaps that cover the tracks of the AAV in the water-borne mode. Extensive studies were conducted to ensure these flaps can endure the pounding water and function properly by covering the tracks and increasing the bottom plane surface.

Data from these kinds of tests are collected and evaluated for optimal performance configurations, said Deegan. This ensures that the AAV will meet or exceed any future requirements the Marine Corps may have.



**The Marine Corps' Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicle Hydrodynamic Test Rig is lowered by hydraulics into the water at Naval Test Facility, Patuxent River, Md. (photo by Sgt. Kurt Sutton)**

Field training is not all about taking a mountain or dropping out of a helicopter, sometimes it is just ...

## Dealing with the day-to-day grind

by *Cpl. Nelson O. Akeredolu*  
Staff Writer

Marines training for combat must prepare not only for enemy forces, but also the forces of nature and build their mental endurance for life in the field.

Recently barracks Marines training in Field Exercise '97 learned to cope with all the rigors of field life.

"Everybody has a preconceived notion of what [the field is] like from movies and war stories you hear from war veterans or family members. When you actually get out there, you find out it's harder than you expected," said Gunnery Sgt. David R. Dunfee, an infantry course writer and experienced platoon sergeant with the Marine Corps Institute.

One of the first things a Marine notices about the



**Lance Cpl. James S. Dunlap, grounds/maintenance, issues a patrol order for his squad during field training recently at Ft. A.P. Hill in Virginia. (photo by Sgt. Patrick E. Franklin)**

field is the non-stop tempo of the training, according to Staff Sgt. Antonio W. Ulmer, an infantry course writer for MCI Company with over 10 years of infantry experience.

"If you're a civilian and you go camping or fishing and it starts pouring down rain, you can jump back in your car or tent," said Ulmer. "If you are on a field range and you're shooting, you just have to throw on what rain gear you have and keep on shooting. Training doesn't stop for the weather."

"A lot of [Marines], the first couple of times they go to the field, are totally miserable," added Staff Sgt. John A. Stafford, another infantry course writer at MCI with years of fleet experience.

"They go out there with a negative mentality thinking, 'We could be doing something else in garrison' or 'I could be out partying.'"

Stafford says he also believes many inexperienced Marines often prepare improperly for the field and expect too high a comfort level. Gear preparation is essential for overcoming the elements, according to Stafford.

"It all depends on what gear you bring with you. If you bring the gear you get issued, you can be comfortable. That doesn't necessarily mean you will be comfortable the whole time," said Stafford.

Marines should ensure the gear they pack will cover all their needs from hygiene to injuries. They can learn different methods for packing their gear and take personal items to make the physical aspects of the field more bearable.

"One of the first things you learn really quick is to bring your own roll of toilet paper. You bring it and put it in a ziplock bag," said Ulmer. Anything you want to keep dry in the field you put in a ziplock bag. If you go out to the field for a while you also put a garbage bag in your pack to keep [your larger items dry]."

The course writers said clothing items like Gore-Tex and polypropylene can help keep Marines warm and dry. Insect repellent and sun block are also considered "essential items," and bringing food items such as pre-packaged noodles provide a break from daily "Meals-Ready to Eat."

*continued on pg. 35*

# LRC challenges MCI Marines during field training

by *Cpl. Pauline L. Render*  
*Editor*

Scaling mountains and crossing rivers was just the beginning for the Marine Corps Institute when it faced a "mini crucible" recently during a training exercise at Ft. A.P. Hill.

Two days of patrols, maneuvers and live-fire exercises, and two nights of little sleep in a combat training scenario ended when MCI Company assaulted a series of obstacles known as the Leader's Reaction Course.

"The course tests the leadership abilities of Marines," said Gunnery Sgt. Pamela J. Smith, a distance train-

ing instructor at MCI. "[The staff noncommissioned officers] are the course evaluators — we tell them where their strengths and weaknesses are."

The Marines were broken down into five- and six-man teams to tackle each of the 17 obstacles, given a maximum of 12 minutes per station. Each set of two teams was then paired with a staff NCO, who read the scenario descriptions for the teams and rated their performances.

The obstacles were primarily a combination of "mountains" (walls), and "blown bridges" or "rivers" (areas of shallow water). In each case,

the rules of engagement called for the Marines to get an important item, such as a box of "medical supplies" or "ammo," across the obstacle to aid or re-supply another Marine unit.

While this may sound like an upscale version of a confidence course, the LRC took more than individual strength and determination. The course required Marines to evaluate situations and overcome the obstacles through teamwork. The scene descriptions marked certain places "out of bounds" and often listed conditions or guidelines for the groups to contend with while trying to accomplish their missions. Tools such as ropes and "tree limbs" (planks) were provided in most cases, but they usually had some flaw, such as a plank too short to reach the other side of a river.

Teams were also penalized 10 seconds for each member of their group who fell in the water or off an obstacle, and Marines who made it across an obstacle couldn't go back to help the others if the team needed it.

Gunnery Sgt. Connie M. King, also a distance training instructor at MCI, said in addition to leadership and teamwork abilities, the course really tested the Marines' problem solving and decision making skills. She explained some Marines had trouble agreeing on a plan of attack, while others took too long to find a good solution and had difficulty executing their plans in the time allotted.

Overcoming some of these obstacles, however, did a lot to build self esteem in the Marines, according to Smith. She said the course "built character" and gave the Marines the feeling they could accomplish anything, regardless of their rank.

"A lot of times, lance corporals



*Lance Cpl. John J. Davis (pushing the wagon) and Cpl. Matthew D. Burningham, stationed at MCI, work to get a wagon across a "river" at the Leader's Reaction Course during a field exercise. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Render)*



**An MCI Marine attempts to cross a "river" in an obstacle at the Leader's Reaction Course during a field exercise at Ft. A.P. Hill. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Render)**

don't get the chance to lead," said Smith, "but here, everyone sees they really can lead and accomplish the mission."

By the end of the course, many of the Marines were wet or bruised, but the smiles on their faces were a clear sign of the success of this evolution, not only for the Marines, but for the mission of the Marine Corps as well.

"It was really challenging," said Lance Cpl. Duc T. Nguyen, Student Services Division clerk. "It motivated us because we accomplished [some of] the challenges. [The course is also] good practice for when you're in combat because you don't know what you're going to face."

## Marines take on Army qualification shooting range

by Cpl. Pauline L. Render  
Editor

The Marine Corps Institute assaulted an Army qualification shooting range with timed "pop-up" targets recently during live-fire exercises at Ft. A.P. Hill in Virginia.

The range consists of a series of targets that come up at varying intervals and distances from the shooter, who fires from a standing position in a foxhole. The unit took advantage of the range during FEX '97 to simulate a live, enemy attack, according to Gunnery Sgt. John C. Alexander, MCI's company gunny.

"[The range] simulates that the enemy at 300 meters will be difficult to see and that they will move forward," said Alexander. "It shows you that the enemy will be on top of you before you know it and you could be the one who gets shot."

Marines in the company assaulted the course in five- and six-man relays, as groups of two to three dark-colored targets appeared at a

time in each Marines' field of fire. The targets appeared randomly from 50 to 300 yards away and from left to right. Each went down automatically when shot, however, those not hit went down after about 8 to 10 seconds, according to Alexander.

"You couldn't see the targets at the back very well," said MCI property clerk Lance Cpl. Antoinette L. Smith. "Timing was [also] difficult. It made me realize that in combat, you would have to be quick to change magazines and spot the targets."

Marines in the unit agreed the course was difficult because they were not accustomed to it, but that it was a good experience. This type of training was especially valuable to MCI because most people there are administration clerks, according to Alexander.

"These Marines don't get out [to the field] as much as those in other units," said Alexander. "This refreshes them on what the field is like and what firing is like."



**Corporal Vinh H. Nguyen, MCI Student Services Division, passes out ammunition for a live-fire exercise on an Army qualification range during a recent field exercise. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Render)**

A natural high:

## Dangling on a rope 40 feet up ... safely



**Capt. Russell E. Wrede, barracks guard officer, rappels from a 40-foot tower during field training at Ft. A.P. Hill in Virginia. (photo by Sgt. Patrick E. Franklin)**

by Cpl. Nelson O. Akeredolu  
Staff Writer

Some Marines believe basic infantry skills don't involve much more than shooting a rifle and humping a pack. But dangling from a platform 40 feet above ground, suspended in the air by little more than a thin nylon rope, quickly changes their minds.

Barracks Marines refreashed their skills in the basics of rope rappelling recently during a field exercise at Fort A.P. Hill, Va.

Rappelling involves descending a vertical surface, such as a cliff face or building, using a rope.

It is a skill Marines can use to descend almost any surface.

Rappelling has been a unique part of warfare since Hannibal's march across the Swiss Alps in 217 B.C. to attack Roman positions in Italy.

Today in the Marine Corps, rappelling, although still taught as an essential part of mountain warfare training, has also been adapted for helicopter and urban assault operations, according to Capt. Scott A. Burk, assistant operations and training officer here.

"For the missions we conduct nowadays in the Marine Corps, things like rappelling are taught as part of Helicopter Rope Suspension Training," said Burk.

Like all combat skills, Marines practice rappelling to become proficient in it. Therefore, classes on rappelling are part of the barracks' annual field training schedule.

Many Marines said they were excited about the training, however, some said they were afraid of the event.

"Initially I was fearful, not only because I had never done it before, but because I was also afraid of heights," said Gunnery Sgt. Connie M. King, a distance training instructor at the Marine Corps Institute. "It took me about 35 minutes to come down, but I did it."

Roughly 10 percent of Ma-

rines who rappel are either nervous or terrified of the training, according to Staff Sgt. Gregory F. Mulholland, rappel master and platoon sergeant in Company "B". However, with constant reassurance, they eventually descend the tower and generally like the experience, he explained.

"Surprisingly, when I came down, it was not as bad as I thought it was going to be," said King. "I wanted to do it again. It was a good experience — it took away all my fears."

Despite some Marines' fear, rappel training, when conducted prop-

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**Lance Cpl. Christina L. Wright, H&S administration clerk, secures the rope on "belly" for a Marine rappelling during field training. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Render)**

# Marines get chance to share knowledge in field

by *Cpl. Matt S. Schafer*  
Staff Writer

Marines in Headquarters & Service Company here dedicate a significant amount of time supporting Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., leaving little time to give a Period of Military Instruction on equipment like the M240G medium machine gun.

At Fort A.P. Hill, Va., however, some Marines in H&S Company found themselves giving classes to their squads on such topics as Night Vision Goggles and field gear maintenance. In some cases, the Marines gave classes without a chance to prepare a lesson by improvising and using weapons and gear as visual aids.

Cpl. Timothy B. Maduzia, H&S training noncommissioned officer, said he felt giving a PMI was primarily a review of what he learned from his own personal experiences.

"I taught one class about packing gear by using examples from the experiences I had going to the field," Maduzia said. "At the School of Infantry, you're packing gear to go to the field every week, and every day you're always re-packing while in the field."

Maduzia stressed points such as keeping field accessories rolled up tight and secure in their proper places.

"Your gear is much easier to handle if it's packed properly," Maduzia emphasized to a group of weary Marines. "It's much easier to manage a nice tight pack than it is to fight with one that is in shambles."

Maduzia also showed his Marines various methods of tucking in loose straps and the placement of items on their web belts.

"[The Marines] seemed very interested and they kept asking questions, and that made giving the class easier for me," Maduzia said.

When Maduzia was not in the spotlight giving classes, Marines like Lance Cpl. Ryan L. Marshall, a machine gunner working in the press shop, were also sharing knowledge gained from previous experiences. Marshall intro-



**Master Sgt. Ricky A. Parker, acting first sergeant at MCI, gives a Period of Military Instruction to Marines from H&S and MCI during a recent field exercise at Ft. A.P. Hill in Virginia. (photo by Sgt. Patrick E. Franklin)**

duced his fellow Marines to two types of Night Vision Goggles, as well as a review of the fundamentals of the M240G medium machine gun.

"I spent about three months training at Camp David, and we were constantly using NVGs," Marshall said. "[I also gave a class on] the M240G, the prescribed weapon for my Military Occupational Specialty. I wanted to cover immediate action and how to disassemble the weapon for expedient cleaning."

Giving the PMI allowed him to share information with his fellow Marines which they may have forgotten since basic training and SOI, Marshall explained.

"I like to tell others what I know to give them a better understanding of how something works," Marshall explained. "I felt like everyone pretty much knew what I was talking about, and some of the participants had the chance to disassemble the weapon."

Maduzia explained giving classes also reminded him of things he had forgotten since SOI.

"It's been a while since I was in the field, so when I was giving the class, there were some things that would come back to me while I was helping the other Marines," Maduzia recalled. "You can learn a lot from teaching."

# Co. "A" expells hostile invaders, heads home

by *Cpl. Pauline L. Render*  
*Editor*

Company "A" detached from United Nations forces in October and boarded helicopters to come home after expelling Centralian forces from the United States-friendly nation of Margarita.

Ridding "Margarita" of invaders was just part of Co. "A's" recent training exercise at Ft. A.P. Hill. Months of instruction and smaller training exercises came together for the company during a week-long scenario designed to make training for the infantry unit as realistic as possible.

"We've been training all year to teach the Marines basic skills and leadership," said Capt. George S. Benson, Co. "A's" former 1st Platoon commander. "This whole week was one exercise — a five-day war — with individual, defensive, offensive, squad and fire team exercises built into it."

Throughout the year, the company used instruction, short scenarios, practical application and Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Training equipment to go over the technical and tactical aspects of being an infantry Marine, according to Benson. A.P. Hill allowed the Marines to combine all this information for use in a tactical setting.

As with any real mission, "A" Co. set into a defensive position as soon as they got to their location at the fort. They scouted the area, searched for the enemy and began patrols. The Marines spent the remainder of the week ambushing, flushing out and engaging the enemy, and humping to different locations, as they would during a real combat situation. The company's command did its best throughout the week to maintain a true-to-life scenario by cutting out as much administrative



*Co. "A" Marines board a CH-46E Sea Knight from Marine Helicopter Squadron-1 from Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., to return to the barracks. The flight ended the company's week-long training scenario at Ft. A.P. Hill in Virginia. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Render)*

time (anything that took them out of the scenario) as possible without sacrificing safety, according to Benson.

"When you only have five days to train," explained Benson, "you use every minute ... you maximize tactical time ... you teach them the mental toughness to stick it out when things get rough. The realism [of the scenario] puts [the training] in the minds of the Marines and gets rid of boredom because the situation is always there."

A week of humping miles, training long hours, and dealing with the cold put them to the test as the scenario played out, but Marines in "A" Co. agreed the realistic nature of the training made for a good evolution.

"[The training] was successful," said Sgt. Daniel E. Paige, 1st Platoon's



*Lance Cpl. Heath A. McMillin, 1st Platoon, Co. "A", directs one of his Marines to close in on the enemy during squad and fire team maneuvers at Ft. A.P. Hill. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Render)*

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In real battlefield situations combat engineers may not always be available to clear obstacles. Marines can still accomplish their mission, however, when ...

## Specialized infantrymen take charge

by *Sgt. Patrick E. Franklin*  
*Press Chief*

The Marine raises his head quickly to get one more look at where he is going next, a crater just in front of the wire obstacle blocking his company's advance.

He is almost there — this last rush will get him to the position where the rest of the sections of the bangalore torpedo have already been assembled and positioned by the others in his team.

With a silent prayer he is up and rushing across the open ground with the last part of the explosive torpedo. Once he reaches the sections already assembled, he connects his piece and pulls the igniters attached to the fuze and runs for a covered position. Three minutes later the charge goes off, clearing the obstacle and allowing the company to continue its mission.

The Marines making up the bangalore torpedo team are not combat engineers, but in this scenario they were 0351s — Infantry Assaultmen. These Marines receive limited demolition training at the School of Infantry.

"The secondary mission of 0351s is counter-mobility.



**Lance Cpl. Brandon H. Turner (left) and Lance Cpl. Leonard D. Zook secure the fuze to the end of a Bangalore Torpedo during a field exercise recently. (photo by Sgt. Patrick E. Franklin)**

They are trained to perform basic combat engineer missions in the event a combat engineer unit is not available," said Capt. Brian M. Howlett, 2nd platoon commander, "B" Co. "Anytime we have a chance to get to the field and conduct demolition training helps broaden their base of knowledge. It helps prepare them for their return to the fleet."

The 0351s assigned to "B" Co. got a chance to broaden their knowledge of demolition training during the recent field exercises at Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Va., and Ft. A.P. Hill. According to Lance Cpl. Leonard D. Zook, 2nd Plt., "B" Co., the training has given him a good base to start with.

"The first time we did demo training was in July at Quantico. Most of that training was very regimented and "by the numbers." The instructors showed us how to prep the demolition, but they did most of the handling of the ordnance," Zook said. "[At Ft. A.P. Hill] we got to handle the explosives, and the training was much more interesting. Getting hands-on training like this really helps us prepare for what we really do in the fleet."

The most recent training allowed the Marines to work with bangalore torpedoes, TNT and claymore mines. Howlett, who served as the primary instructor, said most of his training with these types of ordnance came from a variety of sources.

"I've had basic demolition training at the Infantry Officers Basic Course, but most of my knowledge came during my time in the fleet," he said. "I had a platoon sergeant and section leader in the fleet who had extensive knowledge in demolition, and I learned a lot from them. I'm trying to continue sharing that knowledge and pass on what I've learned."

"Captain Howlett did a good job," said Zook. "He made the training interesting, safe and fun. Training like this helps remind us about the Corps' real mission ... winning wars."

# USNA Co.: From ceremonial duties to standing post, Marines in this small company do it all

by *Cpl. Jerry D Pierce*  
Staff Writer

On the water's edge across the Severn River from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., is a small cemetery speckled with hundreds of tombstones of academy alumni and various dedicated naval leaders.

A balmy breeze gently strips the heat from the mid-morning sun as the seven-Marine firing party takes its place on the side of the grassy hill. The minister speaks in a low voice to the grieving family. Gentle sobs come from the crowd as a Marine kneels in front of the widow to hand her a neatly folded United States flag.

"On behalf of the naval service and the president of the United States, please take this flag in honor of your husband's dedicated and faithful service to his country" are the only words of comfort Sgt. Trent A. Lebo, the U.S. Naval Academy company's operations and training supervisor, can give.

As Lebo steps away, the firing party begins to sound its final tribute to a dedicated service member.

The U.S. Naval Academy Company is a detachment of Marines whose main mission is to support the U.S. Naval Academy with security, color details, funeral escorts, parades and ceremonies.

According to 1st Sgt. J.W. Sutton, company first sergeant, the Marine guard detachment has been standing watch over the academy since Aug. 31, 1865, but today the commitments and responsibilities are greater.

According to Lebo, the unit, comprised of 35 guard Marines and 15 support Marines, is tasked with an

unusually high amount of guard and ceremonial responsibilities.

"When I first got here I thought the command was crazy," said Cpl. George A. Wehby, a sergeant of the guard for the detachment. "I wondered how they expected so few people to tackle so many different responsibilities, but the Marines here do really well."

According to Sutton, the Marines in his company are hand selected for this rigorous duty when they are in their early stages of training in the Marine Corps.

"While I was in boot camp I was asked by my drill instructor if I wanted to [perform] guard duty at the Naval Academy," said Lance Cpl. Troy A. Scogland, a guard Marine from Bettendorf, Iowa. "I thought it sounded kind of neat so I gave it a try."

After the Marines are selected for duty at the academy they are sent to Marine Corps Security Forces School in Chesapeake, Va., according to Sutton.

"At Security Forces School the Marines are given intensive training in anti-terrorism, weapons handling and an overview of what being a guard Marine is all about," said Sutton.

However, the training does not stop after the Marines complete their initial schooling.

The company headquarters, located across the Severn River from the academy, is the hub for all of the company's training, ceremonial and guard commitments.

"When I first got to the company I was told that I would have to go through another guard school that would prepare me for what to expect on post and in our ceremonial du-

ties," said Scogland. "The guard training was sort of a repeat of what we already knew, but the ceremonial training was a big surprise."

According to Lebo, the Marines participate in more than 30 ceremonial commitments per month and spend a lot of time training for them.

"These Marines are jacks-of-all-trades," said Lebo. "They aren't just specialized in guard duty or firing parties or color details; each Marine is trained in all areas of the company's ceremonial and guard responsibilities."

According to Lebo, the Marines are divided into sections which rotate between ceremonial and guard commitments.

"We feel the diversity of our duties here keeps the Marines on their toes," said Sutton. "By switching from a ceremonial job to guard duty, we don't have the problems with morale and monotony that a lot of other commands might have."

In addition to their responsibilities of guarding the three main vehicle entrance gates to the academy, the Marines are also responsible for fulfilling a mix of guard and ceremonial duties at the tomb of Capt. John Paul Jones, located in the basement of the academy's chapel building.

"John Paul Jones was the first great leader in the history of the United States Navy," said Pfc. Tony O. Robbins, one of three Marines assigned to guard the tomb. "The Marines working here learn about the history of Captain Jones' life and his naval triumphs. We do this to be able to give information to visitors and it makes our job kind of fun."

According to Sutton, guard duty is not designed to be fun, but the acad-

emy puts a different light on how different people and places can make a Marine's job easier.

"I like my duty here," said Lance Cpl. Shane B. Cotrone, who has been standing post here since November 1995. "Sure the hours are long and the training is tough, but those things can only make you a better person and a better Marine down the road."

According to Lebo, training is the biggest part of every Marine's experience at the academy.

"Whether the Marines are train-

ing for a funeral detail or firing the 9mm pistol, they are preparing themselves for anything that could come their way," said Lebo. "I think almost every Marine here gives 100 percent to their jobs and their training, and those are the hardest parts of their work as Marines here."

According to Sutton, the students' and visitors' families have come to expect seeing Marines on post.

"At least 10 times a day, I hear from people how much they appreciate me standing post here, and it

makes me feel good to know that people care about what Marines do here," said Lance Cpl. Robert D. Best, a corporal of the guard.

According to Sutton, Marines on post at the academy offer more than just security for the residents and visitors.

"The Marines here make people feel proud of this place," said Sutton. "It's almost like they feel that if it is important enough for the Marines to guard, it must be a special place."

## Field life continued

In addition to the things Marines can bring to the field for comfort, the gear they are issued has also been improved over time to make the Marine's stay in the field more tolerable



**Company "B" Marines ate two hot meals per day during field training at FEX '97. Hot chow can be something Marines look forward to when they are refreshing their field skills. (photo by Sgt. Patrick E. Franklin)**

"Gear has changed. It changes as technology changes," said Capt. Sunil B. Desai, executive officer for Headquarters and Service Company. "Recently we had Load Bearing Vests replace 'H-harnesses.'"

Desai also explained items such as new shelter halves, boots and sleeping bags made with Gore-Tex, and many other items with minor modifications have been introduced to the Marine Corps supply system.

In addition, good leadership is equally as important as good gear to a Marine in the field, according to the course writers. How well a leader performs has a definite impact on how their troops view the field.

"If you have poor leadership in the field, the training is going to seem worthless," said Dunfee.

Despite the lifestyle change, some Marines said they like the field because it offers them a chance to show their abilities, judgment and initiative.

"Leadership out in the field is not really concentrated on one man like it can be in garrison," said Pfc. Erik S. Berrie, a grounds/maintenance Marine. "Out in the bush, there are a lot of different things that can happen and you have a lot of different sets of eyes. So anybody, through time and experience, can make calls ... everyone can have good insight."

Although many forms of gear and leadership styles have been developed to help Marines conquer nature and demotivation in the field, the most important thing to a Marine during field life remains his fellow Marines, according to Dunfee. Marines must be able to believe in and rely on their platoon members in everything they do.

"It's just you and the guys out there," added Berrie. "You become dependent on each other to make it through the day — make it through the training."

## Rappelling continued

erly, is one of the safest activities a Marine will experience in the Marine Corps, according to Mulholland.

"Safety is paramount. I always take into account the safety of the Marines. I ensure they understand how the basics of rappelling work, so they know the proper methods to use when they are tied off," said Mulholland. "I also make sure they understand the problems that could occur if they don't listen to a rappel master ... [and] the easiest way to do a self rescue, regardless of what situation they may get themselves into."

Mulholland advises Marines to relax and enjoy the experience, and not be intimidated by the height of the rappel tower.

"The tower is the safest place to start," said Mulholland. "It teaches the Marines confidence in themselves and their gear."

The rappel master said he believes Marines can also gain satisfaction from rappelling.

"There is nothing more fun than going down a cliff face or going across a ravine on something you've tied and getting on the other side safely. It's a [natural] high."



**Staff Sgt. Gregory F. Mulholland, rappel master, secures a Marine at the top of a rappel tower during field training at Ft. A.P. Hill. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Render)**

## Co. "A" continued

former guide. "Getting in the 'defense,' patrolling, running communication wire, setting in fighting holes, getting the patrol order — [the Marines] came out here and applied their knowledge very well."

In addition to refreshing their ba-



**Captain Mark N. Hosmer, Co. "A's" former commanding officer, offers guidance to his Marines during a live-fire exercise at FEX '97. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Render)**

sic infantry skills, the training also seemed to teach the Marines a little about themselves. Getting to the field for a week helped them grow as a unit and allowed some to take charge for the first time, according to Marines in the company.

"The Marines learned how to put differences aside and put the mission first. It was great — the way we worked together," said Lance Cpl. Sal Santoyo, 2nd Platoon, who spent time as a squad leader and team leader. "[I learned] it's easier to be a rifleman, but the best job is being a squad leader. It's rewarding — you see your work come alive, and you feel a sense of

accomplishment when your Marines get through things."

Whether they are learning more about themselves or the jobs they do, field training is important for all Marines. Infantry skills are perishable, according to Benson, but training keeps them fresh in Marines' minds.

The training is particularly valuable for infantrymen here because ceremonial commitments limit their training time. Benson said the unit does as much field training as possible to prepare its Marines for the Fleet Marine Force.

"You want to do as much as you can without getting negative returns, because you want to set [the Marines] up for success," said Benson. "I'm real pleased with the approach we've used. We don't have a lot of infantry support here, but we can create a positive training environment. Where there's a will, there's a way."

## Marine Mail: Putting more emphasis on education

The following Marine Mail was submitted by Cpl. Christopher P. Cronin, formerly assigned as a squad leader with the Pentagon Tours Program, currently serving as the Headquarters and Service Company police sergeant here.

I am writing in regard to the Marine Corps cutting score. I feel one of the greatest changes made since my enlistment is going from the "kip" to the "dead-hang" pull-up. This has not only made Marines stronger, but has also forced us to spend more time on physical training.

In my opinion, I feel that we should also focus on the Marines' minds and put more of an emphasis on education.

One thing I remember hearing since my days at Parris Island is "don't bring up a problem without suggesting a solution." My solution is to increase the maximum allowance of education points from 75 to 100.

Most Marines do their five MCIs and that is the only self improvement they seek. In the interest of all Marines, I have taken the average cutting score (1699.9) for every open MOS during this quarter and found that education is presently 4.4 percent of the score. With the increase, it would be 5.8 percent.

Although requiring additional education points is a small step in increasing the education of Marines, I feel that it is a step in the right direction. I also realize that with changes come lots of questions. For example, if the maximum allowable education points go up, won't the cutting score go up? If it doesn't, then Marines will get more education to get promoted. If the cutting scores do go up with the increase, the Marines will still get more education. That is why I feel it is a win-win situation.

At the same time, I realize that MCIs are worth 15 points each, which does not factor evenly into 100. That would give the Marine six MCIs for a total of 90 education points. The 10-point difference will force the Marines to find other ways to educate themselves, i.e., col-

lege courses, CLEP, and/or DANTES tests. All of these are currently worth 10 points.

I am a firm believer in the phrase "Knowledge is power." Thank you for your time. /s/ Cpl. Christopher P. Cronin

Colonel R. A. Hobbs Jr., Manpower Plans and Policy, HQMC, provided the following response:

As you noted in your letter, the Marine Corps is constantly in the process of making changes to improve so we can retain our warfighting edge and remain as our nation's force in readiness. Both physical and mental skills are key ingredients in our ability to remain effective, but we must also maintain balance in everything we do. Your specific suggestions regarding the composite score process, i.e., (1) increasing the maximum allowable education points from 75 to 100, and (2) increasing the points for college courses from 10 points to 15 points were specifically considered last year as part of a total composite score review. One of the conclusions of this review was our current policy on education points was sound and should not be changed. We do encourage and desire our Marines to further their education, but we want education outcomes to remain in balance with other composite score criteria, such as rifle range scores, PFT, proficiency and conduct marks, etc. Also, the composite score review board concluded that more education points should be awarded for MCIs than for the completion of college courses. As warfighters, we believe our Marines should first expand their military knowledge through the completion of MCIs. Once our Marines become proficient in this knowledge, completion of college courses can become an integral part of a Marine's development and future potential.

Keep taking care of your fellow Marines. I hope this letter has given you a greater understanding of our promotion process. /s/ Col. R.A. Hobbs, Jr.



**W**hen you see these Marines, congratulate them on their recent promotions.

### H&S Company

Sgt. B.A. Dickson  
 Cpl. R.D. Anderson  
 Cpl. J.D. Barto IV  
 Cpl. D.A. Butler  
 Cpl. E.J. Dangler  
 Cpl. S.M. Keller  
 Cpl. I. Rodriquez III  
 Cpl. K.J. Southard  
 Lance Cpl. S.C. Perkins  
 Lance Cpl. J.H. St. Charles  
 Lance Cpl. C.T. White

### Security Company

Cpl. S.M. Dougherty

### MCI Company

Cpl. R.A. Taylor  
 Lance Cpl. M.D. Dilger  
 Lance Cpl. R. Jules  
 Lance Cpl. W.E. Velez

### USNA Company

Cpl. R.D. Best

### Band Company

Cpl. C.R. Zovinka

### Drum & Bugle Company

Sgt. R.V. Espino  
 Sgt. C.G. Morris  
 Sgt. K.A. Reed III  
 Sgt. D.E. Warner  
 Cpl. M.D. Coleman  
 Cpl. C.M. Dinan  
 Cpl. C.S. Hayakawa  
 Cpl. B.K. Wilkinson

### Company "A"

Pfc. S.D. Kolego  
 Sgt. D.E. Paige  
 Sgt. K.D. Morris  
 Pfc. L.J. Des Forges  
 Pfc. B.R. Jimenez  
 Lance Cpl. R.J. Davis

### Company "B"

Sgt. B.J. Smith  
 Cpl. D.S. Heyes  
 Cpl. E.A. Jackson  
 Cpl. J.C. Jones  
 Cpl. D.A. Parker  
 Cpl. J.T. Reynolds  
 Cpl. N.R. Wingert

**C**ongratulations to the following Marines for the awards they recently received.

### Joint Service

#### Commendation Medal

Cpl. C.P. Cronin

### Navy and Marine Corps

#### Commendation Medal

Gunnery Sgt. F.E. Williams

### Navy and Marine Corps

#### Achievement Medal

Lance Cpl. S. Santoyo  
 Lance Cpl. M.T. Weddel

### Good Conduct Medal

Gunnery Sgt. E.A. Temple, 5th award  
 Staff Sgt. J.P. Drass, 4th award  
 Sgt. G.P. Williamson, 2nd award  
 Sgt. R. Wright Jr., 2nd award  
 Cpl. T.E. Dailey, 1st award  
 Cpl. S.M. Dowling, 1st award  
 Lance Cpl. W.J. Freaney, 1st award  
 Lance Cpl. P.P. Long, 1st award

**T**he following career Marines re-enlisted in October

Gunnery Sgt. C.F. Best  
 Gunnery Sgt. H.L. Chenault  
 Gunnery Sgt. D.R. Lucas  
 Gunnery Sgt. Walschmidt  
 Staff Sgt. C.I. Baker  
 Staff Sgt. Chacon  
 Staff Sgt. W.S. McCoy

Staff Sgt. T.W. Rollison  
 Sgt. J.A. Rangel

**T**he following first term Marines re-enlisted in October

Sgt. J.G. Brown  
 Cpl. K.B. Callahan  
 Cpl. M.E. Keegan

**B**est wishes to civilian plumber Don Hubert and his wife Doreen, who had a 7-pound baby boy, Travis Edwin, October 17.



### **OUTSTANDING!!!**

*Cpl. Chesty XI, Marine Corps mascot, shows off her new chevrons following her promotion ceremony held Oct. 27 on Center Walk. (photo by Cpl. Jerry D. Pierce)*

# Christmas: Glory for the deserving

by Lt. Kenneth D. Counts  
Barracks Chaplain

An officer asked me recently to speak to his Marines about awards and job performance deserving of recognition and reward. My mind went back to the first Christmas.

Joseph, a descendant of David's royal family, was so poor he could not make a living in the hometown of his forefathers. So he had transferred to Nazareth where the work was. But his nation, humiliated by occupation under a foreign army and oppressed by a tyrannical Roman Emperor, suffered the inconvenience of a national census. For this major inconvenience, he must return to Bethlehem with his extremely pregnant wife.

Mary deserved an exemption from this journey. Our Christmas cards always depict Mary riding a donkey with Joseph walking beside her. But real facts in the Gospels give no mention of a donkey. If Mary had to walk to Bethlehem, it would equate to a force march of almost eighty miles. Eighty miles for a pregnant woman who deserved an excused absence, carrying her own weight, without grumbling.

Walking perhaps for three days to Bethlehem, I imagine Joseph thinking, "When we get to Bethlehem, we'll be among friends and family and all will be provided." Wrong! Bad enough that a young bride, married less than a year could not have her baby in her own house. Heavy with the baby, she is unwelcome. People gaff her off. "Can't you understand, there is nowhere we can house you!" No one seems to care. It's not their problem. She had to go to a cow stall to bring forth the Maker of all creatures, because no one would share or give up their room.

"And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger."

Surely Joseph did his best. He must have asked the employees at the inn for water and assistance. But we never read that anyone came to help. Shame on you Bethlehem. No matter if a poor beggar, or even an unwed maiden asks for help, everyone ought to have been willing to help. Even today, we can be so smug when we are warm inside. We fortify ourselves with the belief that those outside must deserve their poverty and sufferings as we turn our backs in indifference.

The birth was still more pitiful. A little girl, maybe fifteen years old, in her first childbirth can feel so insecure and worried. This Mary has not the least thing necessary for the labor and delivery. Do they even have light? If the contractions came in the dead of night, would the barn be cold and dark? Darker than your nights in a fighting hole under light discipline.

Once born, what could they use for clothes? Please recognize their poverty and plight in that Mary and Joseph had to improvise by tearing their own clothes into strips to wrap up their baby to try to keep him warm.

And then she laid Him in a manger. No sterile conditions are available. This is filthy. The Lord of Glory who deserved golden thrones and Full Honors Arrival Ceremonies by His Marines, has no crib, no nursery, no place to call His own. The Owner of all had nothing. I stand amazed that this baby did not freeze. All this mean mistreatment must have gone straight to Mary's heart. She must have felt so alone. Poor Joseph must have felt just as bad being unable to provide better for his bride.

Mary and Joseph, although poor financially, did have riches others lacked. They knew Who had come to lie in their arms. They knew that what people do not see, God does.

I really think, the higher God favors a person, the harder He often makes life for them. God Himself chose the hardest pathway through this life. No one can ever say God doesn't understand what we have to endure. He does because He went through the most extreme hardships. Marines who cannot go home on Christmas Day, Marines who sling chilli-mac, or scrub pots under clouds of steam, Marines who stand alone at Post 6, Marines who answer telephones all day long to handle correspondence curriculum needs, Marines who wish for an "atta-boy," ... you might not think you receive adequate recognition. But think how much recognition was missing on that first Christmas morning.

What you do to be *Semper Fidelis* is most worthy of praise when you do it sincerely without the accolades and certificates and must grow out of consistent performance of duty. Done for the good of those you serve, not for your own profit. That's the example God set. If it is good enough for the Master. It can be good enough for you.

God Bless you Marine. We see you. And we appreciate and feel proud of what you do for us here.

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



On Osprey, on Hornet, on Harrier and Bronco! On Stallion...

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