



PASS IN REVIEW

Serving "The Oldest Post of the Corps"

MAY 1998



Gifts at the Wall

Barracks performs well for IG - Celebrating family with parade

Corpsman offers hot tips on heat prevention

by Petty Officer 2nd Class (FMF)
Christopher F. Needham
Barracks Senior Medical Representative

We at Marine Barracks are subjected to a unique situation every day. Whether it is training in field evolutions, physical training, drilling on the parade deck, Phase I&II, and Sunset or Evening Parades, we are exposed to the elements for about 65 percent of our workday.

Being dehydrated, however, compromises fitness and performance. Being able to recognize the signs and symptoms of heat injuries can help prevent them.

Numerous studies have shown dehydration decreases muscle strength and awareness. This results in decreased performance and increased injury rates. Dehydrated muscles do not function well and do not protect the body, limbs and joints from injury as well as hydrated ones.

Signs and symptoms of heat injuries to watch for:

(1) Heat Emergencies

Heat emergencies are classified into three distinct categories: heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. Each develops from the inability to respond adequately to environmental conditions, inadequate correction of fluid and electrolyte deficiencies, and cerebral vascular accidents.

Individuals exercising or working in a hot, humid environment are at risk. This is especially true if they have not taken adequate fluids/electrolyte solutions, or have consumed moderate to large amounts of alcohol the night before.

(2) Heat Injuries

Many of the environments our Marines and Sailors work in on a routine basis are areas of high heat or humidity. Heat injuries are potential "mission stoppers," but are almost completely preventable with a few basic precautions.

- Individuals with heat exposure can require from 5-13 quarts of water per day depending on the type of work they do. Drinking enough water to maintain hydration is one of the most important measures necessary to prevent a heat injury. Since thirst is not a good indicator of hydration status (when you become thirsty you are already too dehydrated), enforced drinking schedules may be necessary.

- Salt consumption should be slightly increased to

compensate for fluid losses due to sweating. This can be easily accomplished by over salting food or eating all the rations in a Meals Ready to Eat.

Salt tablets, however, are rarely prescribed on a routine basis.

- Heat exposure conditions may require work and training schedule adjustments.

The Wet Bulb Globe Thermometer determines the environmental heat conditions. When the WBGT index is plotted on the Physiological Heat Exposure Limits curves, the appropriate work/rest times can be determined for particular types of work.

(3) Heat Cramps

Heat cramps are characterized by painful spasms of skeletal muscles, including the muscles of the extremities and abdomen. Clinically, a heat cramp victim's body temperature is normal and there is rarely evidence of dehydration. This condition is benign and is easily treated with rest and fluid replacement.

(4) Heat Exhaustion

Heat exhaustion is characterized by fluid depletion. Fluid and electrolyte losses due to sweating coupled with inadequate replacement result in hypovolemia and tissue shock.

Symptoms include fatigue, vertigo, headache, nausea, vomiting, and finally impaired judgment, hyperventilation, tachycardia, and hypotension. Left untreated heat exhaustion will lead to heat stroke.

(5) Heat Stroke

Heat Stroke is defined as an excessively high fever. It represents a failure of the body's thermoregulatory mechanisms. Lack of sweating is often present, however, patients with early heat stroke will typically demonstrate marked sweating.

Heat stroke is a true medical emergency which may result in multiple system tissue damage and organ dysfunction with a potentially high mortality rate.

In addition to recognizing the different types of heat injuries, it is important for people to know how to remedy the problem when it happens.

First, you cannot make up the deficit by drinking liquids in under one hour. The key is to stay ahead of the game by maintaining fluid intake before, during and after an evolution. You should drink extra water and consume

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On the Cover

A collection of gifts preserves and documents an ongoing struggle -- healing the nation as it grows. See story on page 20. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Franklin)

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Each Friday barracks Marines re-enact the story of the Marine Corps, one element at a time.



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Barracks rated mission capable in IG



Marines from Marine Corps Institute Company begin the running segment of their Physical Fitness Test during the recent Inspector General's inspection. (photo by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick)

by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer
Staff Writer

The Inspector General's team from Headquarters Marine Corps visited the "Oldest Post of the Corps" March 16 through March 20 to test the barracks' operational readiness.

In total, the IGMCI inspected numerous functional areas and assigned echelons "mission capable" ratings.

According to Maj. Robert L. Sartor, operations officer, IG teams visit Marine detachments throughout the Corps roughly every two years to determine how the units measure up against the rest of the Marine Corps.

"The purpose [of an IG inspection] is to give the unit commander an understanding of how his unit stacks up against other units, but specifically with Marine Corps orders," Sartor said. "[It is also] an educational tool to the command on command initiatives, Marine Corps orders and significant changes that have occurred."

For Marines like Lance Cpl. James A. Binkley, Company "A," the

inspection provided him some tools to enhance his performance in the company office.

"The lieutenant colonel came in and asked how we did something, and we would show him," Binkley said. "Then he would say, 'Do you think it would be easier for you to do this?' He'd give us examples and we'd feed off the information."

While Marines in the line companies learned efficiency in the office, leathernecks in Marine Corps Institute Company demonstrated their fitness levels in a Physical Fitness Test.

"During the debrief, [Lt. Col. Glen White, MCI Company commanding officer] said we did better than most units as a whole," Cpl. Nicholas R. Wingart, training non-commissioned officer at MCI Company, explained. "We had a pretty high average in pull-ups."

Meanwhile, the Marines in Headquarters and Service Company stood personnel and wall locker inspections.

"[H&S Company had company-wide] uniform and wall locker inspections where we informed our Marines about what we were looking for" to

prepare for the IG inspection, said Gunnery Sgt. Clyde M. Rebeiro, barracks legal chief.

Throughout the first three months of 1998, barracks Marines spent time making sure every meticulous detail of their work and personal areas was covered.

"[Cpl. Joseph P. Maggerine III, training NCO for "A" Co.] and myself spent [many] hours getting ready for the inspection," Binkley said, "but it was worth it in the end. We got our office the way we wanted it — we got everything straightened out."

According to Sartor, the Marines' efforts left the IG staff with a positive impression of the "Oldest Post of the Corps."

"If you had to equate it to a grade, we did very well," Sartor explained. "While they were inspecting us, they were also educating us. If you could call anything a pleasing inspection, this was a pleasing inspection."



First Sgt. Darryl J. Toomer, MCI Company first sergeant, weighs in Lance Cpl. Jorbin Charles Jr. before a Physical Fitness Test given by the inspector general. (photo by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick)

MWR:

Offering Marines support, entertainment

by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick
Staff Writer

Morale, Welfare & Recreation does more than just issue gear and sell discount tickets. They can also assist Marines in planning trips and support unit functions.

While MWR cannot fill everyone's needs, it can act like a compass, directing Marines to the right path.

The MWR manual states roughly that its purpose is to provide active duty military personnel and other authorized patrons with well rounded, wholesome, athletic, recreation and leisure activities as well as dining, beverage and entertainment services.

Master Sgt. Sheryl A. Hodges, MWR staff noncommissioned officer in charge, said MWR here offers a variety of recreational activities.

They have mountain bikes and bicycle repair kits. They also have gear for boxing, tennis, and everything from stoves to fishing tackle for camping trips. They even have a full stock of hockey equipment.

Hodges added MWR issues all equipment for 24 hours, but special circumstances, such as long trips, are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Equipment related to summer activities will be in high demand soon, and she encouraged everyone to call in advance.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation's services do not stop there though. Hodges said if they do not have the equipment or a type of entertainment, they know how to locate it.

"If anyone hears about something they like out in town and we don't have it, we can coordinate with the business or base who does," said Hodges. "We work quite a bit with Henderson Hall's Information, Tickets and Tours office because they have a larger selection of organized trips and tours than we do.

"Our office offers rebates on tickets purchased through select ticket vendors on everything we do not provide a service for in the metro area (Virginia, Maryland and the district)," she added. "That could be anything from classical concerts to basketball games. However, we always have tickets for King's Dominion, Bush Gardens, Adventure World, and Orioles and Redskins games."

Authorized personnel receive discounts by purchasing a voucher or ticket from MWR, or by paying the full price for tickets from the vendor and presenting the re-

ceipt to MWR for a partial rebate.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation can also help people plan a trip with just a little personal information.

They have maps of the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, and the Metro bus schedule. They can also help with the smaller details by locating accommodations, dining facilities and locations of special interest through the brochures and pamphlets outside the MWR office, according to Hodges.

"Say, for example, a Marine wants to find a venue with blues music," said Hodges. "While we do not have the specific information, we have a local travel guide, a Richmond Events Guide and guides to dining facilities in the District of Columbia area. If the information is not in these books, we can recommend others."

Hodges also said the MWR office highly values recreational recommendations as well. The MWR office reviews ideas people bring in and checks its budget to determine if they can afford to sponsor the activity.

"If anyone has an idea, come in and tell us about it," said Hodges. "That was how we got the bowling and hockey teams started here."

The MWR office here can also help personnel locate apartments and coordinate celebrations, wedding receptions, unit and personal functions.

"People tell us what they want and we set up a contract between them and the facility here," said Hodges. "If one of the units wants to do something special, all it has to do is let us know and we can reserve its respective club for a night. If the unit tells us what kind of food and beverages it wants, we can also set up a party contract."

Unfortunately, said Hodges, many people do not know what MWR can do for them, and therefore they are not taking advantage of it.

"Things have improved," said Hodges, "but we are not being utilized to our potential. Personnel need to use us more — if they do, people will not leave empty handed. This is why MWR is such a great place to start."

For more information contact an MWR barracks representative at 433-2353 or 433-2112.

Oldest post approaches 200 years of service, support



Colonel Dennis J. Hejlik, barracks commanding officer, cuts a piece of cake with an officer's sword during a ceremony on the parade deck commemorating the barracks' 197th birthday as Cpl. Steven L. Isaak (shown here as a lance corporal), operations clerk, stands by with a handful of plates. (photo by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer)

*by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick
Staff Writer*

The barracks celebrated its 197th birthday with a cake-cutting ceremony on the parade deck March 31.

The United States Marine Band played "Happy Birthday" as Master Gunnery Sgt. Charles V. Corrado, stationed here since 1962, and Pfc. Michael P. Smith, who checked aboard in March, accepted the traditional first pieces of cake for having the longest and shortest tenures at the barracks respectively.

According to Col. Dennis J. Hejlik, barracks commanding officer, the barracks' birthday is a time to recognize the achievements of former barracks Marines and those stationed here now.

"The barracks plays an unusual role in the Corps," Col. Hejlik said in a birthday speech. "We are part museum because of the barracks' history. We are part celebration because we celebrate the ethos of the Corps every parade night, but we are all dedication. It is the Marines here who represent Marines throughout the globe. It is the privilege of Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., to serve as the 'Oldest Post of the Corps.' Happy birthday."

The current prestige and honor the barracks has is due largely to the great men and women who served here before, according to Col. Hejlik.

The barracks is on the original location that then President Thomas Jefferson and Lt. Col. Commandant William Ward Burrows selected March 31, 1801. It has also been the home of every commandant of the Marine Corps since Commandant Franklin Wharton, third commandant of the Marine Corps, settled here in 1806.

Marines from Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., have participated in every major campaign from the Battle of 1812 through the Gulf War Crisis.

Barracks Marines fought a delaying action against the British in the 1814 Battle of Bladensburg, participated in the Indian Wars in 1836, and stormed into the halls of Montezuma during the Mexican War in 1846, according to barracks historical files.

Marines from the barracks also quelled election riots in 1857 and captured insurrectionist John Brown and his supporters at Harper's Ferry in 1859.

The courageous actions of Marines stationed at the barracks throughout history set the standards for Marines rotating in now, according to Col. Hejlik.

New rebate program returns more money

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation department here initiated a new Ticket Rebate Program enabling Marines to save more money than before when buying tickets to local events.

According to David M. Wallace, accounting technician at MWR, Marines can save money on tickets

for concerts, movies or other events by bringing the ticket stub and/or receipt to MWR.

The rules for the new Ticket Rebate Program are as follows:

- No rebate for tickets under \$10.
- If the ticket is between \$10 to \$20, Marines can receive a \$5 rebate.
- If the ticket is between \$21 and

\$30, Marines can receive 30 percent of the ticket price.

Any ticket costing over \$30 entitles Marines to a 50 percent rebate.

The rebate is based strictly on the face value of the ticket. Tickets purchased at other MWR offices are not eligible for this program.



Captain Jon S. Hetland, deputy director of the Distance Learning and Technology Department at the Marine Corps Institute, helps 7-year-old Ariel, a student at Franconia Elementary School in Franconia, Va., read through a storybook. (photo by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer)

Barracks volunteers visit, help children

by **Cpl. Matt S. Schafer**
Staff Writer

The Marines at 8th & I have a history of representing the Corps in parades and ceremonies throughout Washington, D.C.; however, a few Marines are taking that duty one step further.

Capt. Jon S. Hetland, deputy director of the Distance Learning and Technology department at the Marine Corps Institute, brings a small group of barracks Marines and civilians to Franconia Elementary School in Franconia, Va., each week to work with children ages 6-10.

Hetland said he became involved with the school through an old friend of his, Joan Lee.

"I knew one of the teachers up there and she said she wanted some help from me at the school," Hetland explained. "I said I could volunteer an hour or so on some days. I asked a

few others if they wanted to go, and I got a huge response."

Hetland now coordinates visits to Franconia Elementary School about once a week to help children with their schoolwork.

"We tutor them on whatever it is they are working on," Sheila Lawson, technical publishing editor at Marine Corps Institute and recent volunteer, explained. "If they are not working on anything, we talk to them and give them positive feedback on what they would like to do in life."

Some days, Hetland said they play games with the classes.

"One time, [Gunnery Sgt. Ricky G. Licardo, course writer at MCI] came down and he had them playing the 'military game,'" Hetland explained. "He had them standing at attention and marching around. They loved it."

Hetland said he started working with the students February 13 and has

since made some new friends. In addition, Hetland said Marines' presence alone leaves quite an impression on some of the students.

"One time a couple Marines came in, and one of the classes didn't have a Marine visit their room," Lee said. "Later the kids came up to me and said, 'You didn't give us one!' I think they are really excited to see [Marines] come in, especially when they are in uniform."

A variety of the students enjoy having Marines from the barracks over, but Hetland said they are not the only ones who benefit from the experience.

"We have a great time there, and the [children] are a lot of fun," Hetland explained. "The greatest feeling is when they understand something they didn't understand before, and it was you who helped them understand it. It is the biggest 'high' you can get."

Tryouts secure parade positions

Marines throughout the battalion had the chance to demonstrate their ceremonial proficiency recently for the 1998 enlisted parade tryouts.

In addition to the NCO parade billets outlined in the March issue of *Pass in Review*, the remaining 1998 enlisted billets are as follows:

Mascot Handler:

Lance Cpl. Sean P. Bulmann

Alternate: Cpl. Keith A. Burns

Time Orderly:

Cpl. Keith A. Burns

Alternate: Cpl. John D. Barto IV

Personal Flag Breaker:

Lance Cpl. Corey S. Taylor

Alternate: Cpl. John D. Barto

MCI Flag Lowering Detail:

Sgt. Christopher M. Grandy

Cpl. Conrad R. Chang

Lance Cpl. Chandler J. Ruehrwein

Pfc. Michael Moncayo



Corporal John D. Barto IV, motor transport driver, walks Chesty XI across Centerwalk during the enlisted tryouts recently. The tryouts completed this year's parade season enlisted billets. (photo by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer)

Marines share secrets with JROTC

by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer
Staff Writer

Two former Silent Drill Platoon Marines passed on some secrets about drill to a group of Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps students from Oklahoma City March 20.

According to retired Master Sgt. Mark S. Colvin, Marine Junior ROTC instructor, the students were visiting Washington, and the instructors wanted to afford their precision rifle squad the opportunity to meet a few Marines of the Silent Drill Platoon and perhaps receive a lesson in drill.

Following a tour of Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., the students

spent about 45 minutes learning a few sequences from former SDP Marines Sgt. Christopher P. Cronin, Headquarters and Service Company's police sergeant, and Cpl. James H. Jamieson, H&S Company assistant police sergeant.

"We showed [the students] some phasing drills and different ways you can work on phasing, [such as] looking at each other when you do things and realizing when you're ahead or behind," Cronin said.

According to Cronin, phasing happens when a group of people move simultaneously, therefore acting as one unit. To achieve this Cronin said

Voting News

Primary elections for federal and state officials are upcoming, and registration deadlines are approaching.

Marines interested in registering to vote can acquire Federal Post Card Applications from their company executive officer, or from Chief Warrant Officer-2 Roger D. Stringfellow, barracks personnel officer.

Marines must submit applications 30 to 45 days before the election to ensure receipt of an absentee ballot.

The following are the remaining primary elections scheduled in 1998:

May 5 - Indiana, North Carolina, Ohio

May 12 - Nebraska, West Virginia

May 19 - Arkansas, Oregon, Pennsylvania

May 26 - Idaho, Kentucky

June 2 - Alabama, California, Iowa, Mississippi, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, South Dakota

June 9 - Maine, North Dakota, South Carolina, Virginia

June 23 - Utah

July 21 - Georgia

August 4 - Kansas, Michigan, Missouri,

August 6 - Tennessee

August 11 - Colorado

August 18 - Wyoming

August 25 - Alaska, Oklahoma

September 1 - Florida, Nevada

September 5 - Guam

September 8 - Arizona, New Hampshire, Vermont, Virgin Islands, Wisconsin

September 12 - Delaware

September 15 - Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Rhode Island, Washington

September 19 - Hawaii

October 3 - Louisiana

November 3 - General Election

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Sergeant Natee Kietchai, barracks accounting analyst, escorts a family member to her seat for the 1998 Family, Friends, and Neighbors' Parade. Spouses and children were the barracks' special guests for Spouse Appreciation Day, spending the afternoon learning about the barracks. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Franklin)

**by Cpl. Pauline L. Franklin
Editor**

The barracks welcomed family members April 17 during Spouse Appreciation Day to spend the afternoon here and learn more about what units stationed here do.

Colonel Dennis J. Hejlik, barracks' commanding officer, welcomed spouses and children in the John Philip Sousa Band Hall before they began their tour.

Representatives from Headquarters and Service Company, the Marine Corps Institute, Company "A," Company "B," the United States Marine Band, and the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps explained their respective companies' missions.

Family members visit barracks for Spouse Appreciation Day

Body Bearers from "B" Company and members of the Silent Drill Platoon, "A" Company, also demonstrated their abilities for the group.

After visiting Center House and learning more about the barracks' history and mission, spouses and children ate dinner with their Marines in the chow hall.

Early that evening a representative from the Managed Care Division of the Dewitt Health Department explained TRICARE to family members during a brief in the Recreation Center.

The barracks' command thanked family members that evening by treating them as special guests with a pre-parade reception in the band hall and escorting each group to VIP seating for the parade.

It was then time for spouses and their children to enjoy the first Friday "Evening Parade" of the season, dedicated to barracks family members and neighbors.

While barracks' neighbors and family members were the guests of honor, the "oldest post" paid a special tribute to its Key Volunteer Network, recognizing each volunteer member: Sandy Hejlik, Gwen Counts, Kim Kessler, Sue Connors, Maria Alvarado, Betty Jo Bowers, Nicole Geisenhoff,

Cindy Hamashin, Theresa Harrison, Sandy Rose, Karen Waldschmidt, Rita Caviness, Ameena Kelly, Angela Ledford, Nancy Walker, Terry Morris, Dawn Ellison, Cheryl Hewitt, Jessica Drake, Shawn Sutton, and Cindy Martin.



Family members, such as 14-year-old Derrick R. Spottswood, took the chance to handle the Silent Drill Platoon's weapons after a demonstration. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Franklin)



Marines in the Body Bearer Platoon, Company "B," demonstrate their abilities for family members on the parade deck recently. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Franklin)

Push! Marines test strength, skill, endurance in barracks weightlifting competition

by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick
Staff Writer

More than 20 Marines turned out for the barracks' triple elimination, Marine Bench Press Competition March 20 in the gym.

Corporal Dwayne K. Lockett, security company guard here, lifted 285 pounds to take the 250-pound weight class. Gunnery Sgt. Loree Coulter, Marine Band administration chief, lifted 340 pounds to win the 300 class. Sergeant Michael L. Ashley, a supply clerk in Quantico, Va., took the 350-pound weight class when he benched 385 pounds, and won the liftoff with ease when he pushed 400 pounds off his chest, more weight than any other competitor.

"It was a good competition," said Ashley. "I think the best part was the camaraderie. We were all competing, and it was like we were 'one' because there was no negativity, which is very unusual. I've been to several civilian weightlifting competitions and there was none of this brotherhood. I think it was because we were all Marines."

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation-sponsored competition was split into three categories: 250, 300 and 350-pound weight classes. All participants who lifted the minimum weight in their class received a Bench Press

Competition T-shirt. First-place lifters received trophies, and Ashley received an additional trophy for lifting the most weight overall.

Competitors had to make "clean lifts," meaning the barbell had to make contact with their chest before pushing up the weight, using only the upper body, until the elbows locked.

Competitors could lift as many times as they wanted to add weight and better their standings until they failed three times. If a competitor felt he or she might do better in one of the other weight classes, the Marine could switch up or down a weight class.

Regardless of the weight class or category, the Marines said they enjoyed themselves and were happy to compete.



(left to right) Gunnery Sgt. Loree Coulter, Cpl. Dwayne K. Lockett, and Sgt. Michael L. Ashley pause for a photo after winning their respective categories in the MWR-sponsored bench press competition recently. (photo by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick)



Anthony M. Senecal, weightlifting competitor, strains under his third and final lift in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation-sponsored weightlifting competition March 20 in the barracks weight room. (photo by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick)

"People were asking, 'Why don't we have [weightlifting] contests?'" said Sgt. Enrique Velez, MWR gym non-commissioned officer in charge. "This was the first one we ever held here. Next time we will make sure more people get the word and understand it is not just for 'muscle heads.' It is for everyone."

"The Bench Press Competition will probably become an annual event," said Jessica A. Helfer, former MWR recreation director here. "The next [weightlifting] competition is scheduled to be squats, and we are also starting a Bench Press Club."

For more information about the next competition or the Bench Press Club, contact Sgt. Velez at 433-4295.

H&S sneaks past MCI in champs, remains undefeated

by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick
Staff Writer

Headquarters and Service Company edged out the Marine Corps Institute, 52-44, in the single-elimination, round robin basketball tournament's championship game in the gym here April 8.

The H&S team entered the championship game undefeated, but MCI came into the bout hot for revenge against the only team to beat them in the regular season — twice. The fans packed the stands for this "three-peat" of the season's best games.

The game picked up with a relentless pace, and the end of the first quarter found MCI ahead by one point with seconds left on the clock. Brendon D. Whitfield, H&S player, drove under the basket, turned in mid air and shot a one-handed, reverse jump shot, setting the style and tempo for the rest of the game.

Both teams made playing well look easy with behind the back passes and fading jumpers.

"We had great chemistry and a lot of teamwork," said Deshannon T. Cotton, H&S player. "Everyone had his talents. Some people came to

'school' [other players], some people came to rebound, and when it all came together like it did, it couldn't be stopped."

Despite the obvious talent players on each side showed, the championship game was not a talent contest. Instead, it was a game of plunder and H&S was the first to suffer because, while they were golden on the board, they were going into the red with fouls.

Headquarters' fouls reached an early limit and MCI went to the free-throw line for almost anything questionable. It looked as though H&S was in trouble. Unfortunately for MCI, its players only made 25 percent of their free-throws.

It was easy to get lost in the excitement of the game, with both teams giving everything they had. It was impossible to tell which team was winning from the sidelines without looking at the scoreboard.

Both teams fought for control throughout the game and there were few turnovers, but MCI was not sinking the shots it needed and time was running out.

One minute loomed over the court, frozen on the clock while players cleared half the court for MCI to take two more shots at the free-throw line. It brought only two points, but MCI learned a lesson from it. The team drove straight to the hole for the foul, and maybe a three-point opportunity, the next chance it had.

The 'idea worked but H&S had the ball, a comfortable lead, and there were only 40 seconds left in the game.



Headquarters and Service Company's "tall man," Nicholas M. Zegarra, overcomes two MCI guards with a two-point shot to take his team into the lead during the first quarter of the final game. (photo by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick)

One MCI player started shouting, "Foul them. Foul them and we can get the ball back."

It was a desperate move, and about the only one left if MCI was going to take the lead again.

Christopher M. Grandy, MCI player, came up with a three-point shot, taking the deficit to four points, but the game still came down to the free-throw line.

The H&S team only made about 50 percent of its free throws, but it was enough to bump the score just out of MCI's reach and keep H&S undefeated.

"The best part of the season was playing MCI," said Cotton. "They were the best team out there, and to beat them three consecutive times and take the championship was unbelievable."



The H&S team pauses for a photo after winning the basketball championships against the Marine Corps Institute here recently, finishing the season undefeated. (photo by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick)

Easter Bunny visits barracks, celebrates with children

by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick
Staff Writer

Moral, Welfare and Recreation had a special guest bounce by its Easter Egg Hunt April 11.

It seems the Easter Bunny, with supernatural power, bunny-hopped over Center House and, with blinding speed, placed 450 colored, plastic eggs filled with prize vouchers and jelly

beans all over the parade deck.

More than 75 children witnessed the bunny's mysterious deeds and happily hunted the eggs throughout the morning to put the deck back in order.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation opened the hunt to children 12 years old and younger. Forty lucky children cracked open their plastic eggs and found vouchers for prizes rang-

ing from chocolate bunnies to Adventure World tickets.

After the hunt, children and their parents continued the festivities in the John Philip Sousa Band Hall with games and refreshments.

According to Master Sgt. Sheryl A. Hodges, staff noncommissioned officer in charge MWR, the festivities get better every year.

"We planned the event two months in advance and scheduled it as close to Easter as possible," said Hodges. "We counted on the parents to let us know how many [children] were coming and this year we had to double the number of eggs and prizes. I think it was a great success."

Erika K. Hubert, three years old, expressed her happiness at the end of the hunt by shaking two bright yellow, plastic eggs filled with jelly beans.

"I liked the Easter Bunny and the eggs — the yellow ones. I was running after [the eggs]," Hubert said as she held up two eggs and rattled them. "Can I get the Easter Bunny back? I want to give him one of these," she said holding up one jelly bean, but his Hopping Highness was already bouncing his way home.



The Easter Bunny stayed after the barracks' annual Easter Egg Hunt recently to talk with his fans on the parade deck. (photo by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick)

Setting the example, teaching children on tour

by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick
Staff Writer

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN, Pa. — In a relatively unknown town in the Northeastern United States, parents, teachers and students waited for The United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps to perform in the Sound Spectacular Youth Showcase in the Blue Mountain High School auditorium.

The D&B was there to perform like they always do, but they were also doing something more important, something more poignant and emotional than playing music,

according to Staff Sgt. Bret A. Lansdell, D&B's administration chief — they were teaching children.

Young Marines of the Coal Cracker Young Marine Detachment in Schuylkill Haven, Pa., gathered around Lansdell and Sgt. Thomas J. Lyle, noncommissioned officer in charge of recruiting for the D&B, outside the gym where the unit was warming up.

One very youthful Young Marine looked up at Lyle and asked what rank he was.

"I am a sergeant," he said, and the little girl's face went blank with awe.

This was something very special for a Young Marine

who never met an active duty Marine before, according to Michael H. Amos, Coal Cracker Young Marine Detachment commanding officer.

The two Marines handed out stickers to the children, who clutched them closely.

"Who here is going to be a Marine," Lansdell asked, and all the hands went up.

"Okay, who here is going to college?"

Few hands went up.

Lansdell raised his eyebrows and repeated more forcefully, "Who here is going to college?"

More hands went up.

"Go to college," he said. "Get an education. It's good stuff. Everyone should go to college."

The Young Marines looked confused. Perhaps they expected war stories from Gunnery Sgt. Highway in "Heartbreak Ridge." They did not get it. What they got from these Marines was the truth.

"Don't do drugs," Lansdell said. "The Marine Corps doesn't want drug users. Pay attention in class and listen to your parents."

A very simple message, and it was probably rhetoric they had heard hundreds of times before, but they were listening very closely.

There was something else at work there, too. The D&B represented an option the Young Marines did not know existed two weeks before, according to Amos. Any one of them could potentially be a musician and a full-fledged Marine.

"We work closely with the recruiters wherever we go because they don't usually know anything about us," said

Lansdell. "So there are thousands of poolees with no idea we even exist. If we can tap into that, then we get more musicians."

Amos said he never heard of the D&B two weeks before their arrival.

"I didn't know a thing about the Marine Drum and Bugle Corps," said Amos. "I didn't know the Marines even had a drum and bugle corps. Now that I do, I intend to have a full, platoon-sized band with a drill team to perform in the Armed Forces Day Parade in Reading, Pa.

"I want good public relations between the general public and the Young Marine Program so they understand our purpose, and the band could help," he added.

If the Young Marines liked the idea of a band or drum and bugle corps within the platoon before, they were adamant about it after the D&B's performance.

"I asked the platoon if anyone wanted to form a band and about 16 or 17 kids raised their hands," said Amos. "I asked them again after the performance and they all said, 'Yeah.'"

"The Stars and Stripes Forever" brought people to their feet during the D&B's performance, but no group stood up faster than the Young Marines for the "Marine's Hymn," the D&B's closing performance.

Small bodies were "locked and cocked." Faces were dead-pan and looking proud.

The youngest Young Marine spoke softly during the "Marine's Hymn" so no one but those next to him might hear.

"This is great," he whispered. "This is great."

B-day surprise on deck

Lance Cpl. Justin P. Byma (right), soprano bugler in "The Commandant's Own" United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, hands Col. Truman W. Crawford, director of the D&B, a piece of cake during a birthday celebration here recently.

Crawford celebrated his 64th birthday April 1 at a surprise party on the parade grounds.

Marines around the battalion helped set the scene for a "playoff," a routine ceremony to honor Marines leaving the barracks for a new duty station. After luring Crawford onto the parade deck to conduct the D&B, Marines wheeled out a birthday cake in a surprise event recognizing the oldest active-duty Marine in the Corps, according to records held at Headquarters Marine Corps, Arlington, Va.

Crawford, an Endicott, N.Y., native, has spent more than 40 years of his life in the military, and he has been the director of "The Commandant's Own" since 1973. (photo by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick)



And the winner is ...

Fund drive ends at barracks with raffle



Corporal Daniel S. Heyes (right), Headquarters and Service Company's company office, holds an ammo box filled with tickets as Col. Dennis J. Hejlik, barracks commanding officer, checks the name on a ticket he drew for one of the 10 prizes awarded during a raffle here recently. (photo by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick)

Marines here worked the entire month of March to collect as much money as possible for the 1998 Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Fund Drive to help their fellow Marines and Sailors in times of need.

In addition to direct cash and allotment donations, barracks Marines pitched in to offer prizes for a barracks-wide raffle.

Coordinators offered prizes ranging from a sword board to lunch with the Washington Redskins cheerleaders to encourage people to dig deep into their pockets.

With a little hard work and people's generosity, the barracks managed to raise \$26,393 in this year's fund drive.

Three units join to graduate newest Young Marines



*by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick
Staff Writer*

Three Young Marine units from the District of Columbia metro area, including the barracks' unit, graduated April 4 during a Young Marine Boot Camp graduation ceremony in the John Philip Sousa Band Hall here.

This was also only the second time in Young Marine history in which three units pooled their resources together in one platoon, according to Joe Bless, national

(left) Sandy J. Hejlik, Young Marine basic training graduation guest speaker, offers her congratulations to four squad leaders after their meritorious promotions to privates first class during a graduation ceremony in the John Philip Sousa Band Hall recently. (photo by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick)

inspecting general for the Young Marine program.

Guest speaker and Executive Officer of the On Site Inspection Agency Young Marine Unit Col.

Marsha Lee Culver welcomed the new graduates into the program.

"You are becoming Young Marines," said Culver. "You are deciding to become all the things a

Young Marine should be. I applaud you for your decision.

"I welcome you with courage, with pride and a lot of love to the Young Marine Program," she added.

Argentinean CMC visits barracks, receives award



Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Charles C. Krulak presents the Legion of Merit award to Rear Adm. Jose Maria Maurizio, commandant of the Argentinean Marine Corps during a ceremony here recently. (photo by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick)

*by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick
Staff Writer*

The commandant of the Argentinean Marine Corps received the Legion of Merit (Degree of Com-

mander) in a ceremony at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., March 24.

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Charles C. Krulak recognized Rear Adm. Jose Maria Maurizio during a Full Honors Arrival ceremony

in the John Philip Sousa Band Hall.

The general presented the award for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service" as the commandant of the Argentinean Marine Corps. The citation also praised Maurizio for his leadership and his efforts to strengthen the relationships between the Navy and Marine Corps of both the United States and Argentina.

"Through a regular exchange of professional visits with the leadership, [Maurizio] has greatly expanded and enhanced the role of the Argentinean Marine Corps in combined exercises such as Fluvial-1 and Praying Mantis 97," demonstrating a continued commitment to strengthening relations between the United States and Argentina, according to the citation.

Argentina's small Marine Corps like United States

*by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick
Staff Writer*

The commandant of the Argentinean Marine Corps received the Legion of Merit in a ceremony here March 24, symbolizing Argentina's positive relationship with the U.S. Marine Corps and bringing to bear the importance of inter-corps relations.

While not mimicking it, Argentina's corps is similar to the United States Marine Corps.

The Argentinean Marine Corps is small, numbering less than 4,000. It is also considered among the country's most well-prepared troops, like its U.S. counterpart.

The organization's major strengths include good training, officer and noncommissioned officer professionalism, and excellent esprit de corps.

Even its mission is comparable to today's Corps.

Argentina's Marine Corps conducts amphibious operations, provides security to naval establishments, and controls the country's river systems and inter-ocean passes.

Argentina's Marine Corps motto is also similar to the United States', "Patriae Semper Vigiles," or "Always Vigilant for the Fatherland," and its birthday, minus 104 years, is only nine days later than the Marine Corps' — Nov. 19, 1879.

Savings bonds campaign encourages saving

The Marine Corps is conducting its 1998 U.S. Savings Bonds Campaign from May 1 to June 30, providing information and encouraging Marines to consider making an investment in their future.

"Invest today, enjoy tomorrow!" is the slogan for this year's campaign.

The purchase of savings bonds is one of those fortunate opportunities in which both buyer and seller profit, according to All Marine Message 147/198, which encourages Marines, Sail-

ors and Marine Corps civilian employees to take advantage of the program.

"Many financial advisors recommend automatic savings plans which offer affordable allotments, the convenience of payroll savings and the long-term advantages of systematic savings," according to the ALMAR.

U.S. Savings Bonds also offer competitive interest rates, returns and tax benefits which help Marines "Invest today, enjoy tomorrow."

Marines here can contact Chief Warrant Officer-2 Roger D. Stringfellow, barracks savings bonds investment representative, in the administration section for more information. Service members looking for more information on savings bonds can also refer to the internet. The savings bonds homepage on the World Wide Web is located at: [HTTP://WWW.PUBLICDEBT.TREAS.GOV](http://WWW.PUBLICDEBT.TREAS.GOV).

Secrets continued

the Silent Drill Platoon uses a "counter" to keep in step during practice.

"All through Silent Drill School, we had a counter to count out loud while everybody counts in their heads," Cronin said. "When it comes time to perform nobody needs to count because it's like second nature."

The Marines guided the students through simple drills, such as clapping their hands, in order to give the students a better idea of phasing. Cronin said the hands-on training was more effective for the students than a standard lecture.

According to Larry W. Wiley, a JROTC student, Cronin and Jamieson demonstrated and taught the students fundamentals of drill which would give them an edge on the average high school student.

"It was really cool how they did everything at the same time, and they knew it good enough to show everybody how to do it," Wiley said.

As for the instructors, Cronin said the class gave them a chance to pick up the rifles again and pass on some lessons to a group of people who are only beginning to study drill.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

A Marine was found guilty of Article 86, Absent Without Leave (AWOL). He received a forfeiture of \$237 for one month and 14 days restriction and extra police duty (EPD).

A Marine was found guilty of Article 86, AWOL. He received a forfeiture of \$237 for one month and 14 days restriction and EPD.

A Marine was found guilty of Article 92, Underage Drinking, and Article 108, Altered Identification Card. He received a forfeiture of \$259 for one month and 14 days restriction and EPD.

A Marine was found guilty of Ar-

ticle 112a for drug use. He received a reduction to private first class, a forfeiture of \$463 for two months and 60 days restriction.

A Marine was found guilty of Article 92, Dereliction of Duty. He received a forfeiture of \$536 for one month; 30 days restriction; 15 days of restriction, suspended for six months; and an additional suspended forfeiture of \$536.

A Marine was found guilty of Article 132 for Basic Allowance for Quarters (BAQ) fraud. He received a forfeiture of \$519 for one month, 14 days restriction and EPD, and an ad-



ditional suspended forfeiture of \$519 for one month.

A Marine was found guilty of Article 121, Larceny. He received a reduction to lance corporal suspended for six months.

A Marine was found guilty of Article 112a for drug use. He received a reduction to lance corporal.

A Marine was found guilty of Article 112a for drug use. He received a reduction to private first class and 45 days restriction.

A Marine was found guilty of five counts of Article 86, AWOL. He re-

ceived a forfeiture of \$568 for two months; 60 days restriction and EPD; and an additional suspended forfeiture of \$568 for two months.

A Marine was found guilty of two counts of Article 92, Disobeying an Order, and Article 134, Issuing a False

Statement. He received a forfeiture of \$228 for one month, 14 days of restriction and EPD, and an additional suspended forfeiture of \$228 for two months.

A Marine was found guilty of Article 92 for underage drinking, Ar-

ticle 108 for altered identification, and Article 123, Forgery. He received a forfeiture of \$539 for two months, 60 days restriction and EPD, and an additional suspended forfeiture of \$539 for one month.

LETTERS

Sir,

I wanted to send an E-mail thanking the folks at [the Marine Corps Institute] for their outstanding help and support.

I had the 7400 series MCI for a long time and kept putting it off. In the last year, I have been TAD for at least eight months. When I found out I was in the zone for master sergeant, I quickly started on the course between deployments.

I mailed the course priority mail on 12 Jan. 1998 (along with a letter begging for help) and it was entered Jan. 15, 1998. As you are aware, I would not have been

selected for master sergeant without that course. It took me six years to get into the promotion zone and that one item could have sacked me.

As a result of the timely actions at MCI, I was selected and promoted yesterday, April 1, to master sergeant. Please pass on to Marines there my thanks as well as my apologies for putting them in that "jump through the hoop" situation in the first place.

Very Respectfully,
Master Sgt. Schiro
MWCS-28 Cherry Point, NC

OPINION/EDITORIAL

Heat casualties continued

water-containing foods (fruits and juices) the day before an event. Doctors recommend drinking 20 ounces of fluid 1-2 hours before an evolution, 15 ounces 15 minutes right before, and 3-6 ounces every 20 minutes during.

Maintaining adequate hydration is made even more difficult if you have a few beers the night before. Alcohol is a diuretic and causes, as we all know, frequent urination, therefore dehydrating the body. If any drinking was done the night before, individuals should begin drinking fluids as soon as they wake up.

For activities less than 90 minutes long, it probably does not matter whether a player drinks water or sports drinks to replace the lost fluids. The advantage of a sports drink lies in its

taste which will facilitate the player drinking fluids.

For events longer than 90 minutes, there is a small benefit from drinking liquids containing carbohydrates such as sports drinks. If you have normal kidneys and eat anything close to a normal diet, the electrolytes in the fluids are of no value. In addition salt tablets can actually increase fluid loss and dehydration. Beware of caffeine containing beverages, as they are potent diuretics and cause more fluid loss through increased urine output.

The potential for significant dehydration and heat injury becomes an issue when the temperature approaches 70 degrees. Mild heat injury is characterized by dehydration cramps, while moderate heat injury is

associated with syncope (fainting). Immediate treatment consists of rehydration and lying down with feet elevated.

Heat exhaustion is associated with throbbing in the temples, coldness over the chest, weakness, disorientation, loss of balance, loss of consciousness and possible death. This is a true medical emergency requiring expedient transfer to a hospital.

When a heat injury is recognized, depending on the severity, get that person out of direct sunlight, remove any excess clothing, wet and fan the body and elevate the legs and buttocks.

Remember, prevention of heat injuries is a COMMAND responsibility.

May: Asian-Pacific-American Heritage Month

by HQMC Public Affairs

May is Asian-Pacific-American Heritage Month and this year's theme is, "Pursuing Progress: One Vision, One Mission, One Voice."

This is a time to recognize the successes and contributions made by this diverse and growing American community.

Because so many Asian-Pacific-Americans are new to the United States, 70 percent of the population is either a first or second generation immigrant, and its historical contributions are often over-looked.

Asian-Pacific-Americans have a distinguished reputation in the United States Armed Forces because of units such as the famed Japanese-American

can 100th Infantry Battalion, the Korean augmentation to the U.S. Army (KATUSA), and numerous acts of selfless bravery.

The diversity and cohesion of the Asian-Pacific-American community serves as a model for the entire population. This month is an ideal occasion to honor all Asian-Pacific-Americans.

Order sets time limits to complete PME requirements

by Cpl. Eric McLeroy
MCB Camp Pendleton

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (Mar 19) — Time restraints will be placed on noncommissioned officers to complete distant and resident education programs under a new Marine Corps Order, P1553.4A. The order will also affect staff NCOs and warrant officers, according to Terry Franus, Marine Corps Institute executive director.

"The order will be signed off on April 1, 1998," Franus said. "It is a Marine Corps University effort to establish a building block or link between non-resident and resident Professional Military Education."

Sergeants will be required to complete the 8,000 series MCI and attend the Sergeant's Course within 24 months of promotion. Then they will be required to enroll

in the Staff NCO Career MCI, 7,100 series, within six months of completing the Sergeant's Course, he said.

Corporals will be required to enroll in the sergeants program, 8,000 series, within six months of promotion, Franus said, as examples of the new policy.

Also, warrant officers will take Warfighting Skills, a course previously required of lieutenants.

Other changes include the elimination of time limits to complete courses and MCIs on CD-ROM. Now, Marines will have five years to complete PME courses and two years to complete Military Occupational Specialty courses, according to Cpl. Brent Howard.

Currently, Terrorism Awareness is the only course offered on CD-ROM.

"We hope to completely eliminate taking the tests on paper," Franus said.

Marine Corps offers money for suggestions

by Lance Cpl. Abigail B. LaBin
CPAO Camp Butler

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP S.D. BUTLER, Okinawa, Japan (April 10) — The Beneficial Suggestion Program is an incentive program for all Marines to find ways to improve efficiency, economy and productivity.

"The Beneficial Suggestion Program has been around for quite a few years, but it's been a little dormant," said Brig. Gen. Jerry D. Humble, com-

manding general, 3rd Marine Division. In a recent ceremony he awarded three Marines for their suggestion.

Staff Sgt. Michael S. Linden, Sgt. Jason L. Kruzel and Cpl. Terence P. Doddy, from Maintenance Platoon, Communications Co., Headquarters Battalion, 3rd MarDiv., each received a \$500 check for developing a way to use alternating current to power Very High Frequency radios.

The program was started in 1986 to offer an incentive for all Marines to pass their suggestions up their

chains of command. Marines should work out their suggestion, break it down into a step-by-step proposal, and submit it.

If the suggestion is implemented and judged to be "outside of job responsibilities or sufficiently beyond job responsibilities," it may be eligible for a cash award under the BSP. A suggestion does not need to be applicable to every unit in the Marine Corps. An idea which will only help one unit is still eligible, though the award will be smaller.

Marine pilot saves lives in Nicaraguan jungles



Lieutenant Christian F. Schilt poses for a photo in 1928 before a mission to drop a \$10,000 pay roll for inaccessible Marines in Nicaragua. Schilt also saved several lives and delivered supplies to Marines surrounded by Sandinista bandits during his tour there. (USMC photo)

by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick
Staff Writer

Since the inception of Marine Corps aviation in May 1912, Marine pilots have continued to excel. The Corps pays tribute to these Marines this month for their selfless devotion and sacrifice, celebrating the birth of Marine aviation.

One heroic pilot is Marine Gen. Christian F. Schilt, who successfully made the first airlift, rescued three injured Marines, and helped hundreds more escape from the thick Nicaraguan jungles in 1927.

Two columns of Marines and Nicaraguan National Guardsmen were marching to San Albino when they were surrounded by an overwhelming number of well-armed Sandinista bandits.

Constant ambushes forced the remaining troops to seek cover in Quilali, a remote mountain village in Nuevo Segovia province, but without proper medical attention the wounded would die.

To complicate matters further, the commanding officers of each column were among the dead or wounded, and the units did not have enough provisions for a prolonged conflict.

"Our men had suffered losses of seven killed and twenty-eight wounded," said Ross E. Rowell, Headquarters Company commanding officer, Observation Squad-

ron Seven-M, Managua, Nicaragua, in his recommendation for the Distinguished Flying Cross for then First Lt. Schilt. "It was of vital importance to evacuate the [severely] wounded, who could not be carried over the difficult mountain trails without the gravest results, and to send an experienced officer to Quilali to lead the columns out."

Schilt volunteered to fly supplies and personnel in and bring the wounded out in his O2U Corsair biplane, though Quilali did not have an airstrip.

The troops hastily burned and leveled buildings on both sides of Quilali's tiny main street and fashioned a makeshift runway, according to Lt. O'Mara in an *Aviation Magazine* article published Oct. 23, 1942.

The landing strip was only 250 yards long and 10 yards wide. Dense woods and debris jutted in on both sides of the runway where it ended abruptly with a 100-foot precipice.

Schilt took off and landed 10 times in the rolling streets of Quilali in three days. He evacuated 18 wounded, three of whom would have died according to the medical officer's report. He also brought in 1,400 pounds of desperately needed provisions, and he did it without brakes.

The Corsair model Schilt flew was not designed with breaks. It was designed to roll to a halt. So he stalled the plane 10 feet above the rolling runway and bounced it to a landing where several Marines would grab the wings and drag behind it. They used their bodies like anchors so the plane would not drop off the edge.

The extremely difficult landing conditions eventually took their toll on the aircraft. The tail-skid assembly was wrecked on the eighth landing and on the ninth, the center section struts bent under the strain.

He still managed to evacuate two wounded every trip, despite mechanical defects, constant enemy fire, low hanging clouds, tricky air currents and hazards on the runway.

"The conditions were so difficult that the slightest error in judgment or lack of skill would have resulted in a serious crash and defeated his mission," said Rowell.

The commander of the Special Combat Expedition at Quilali, Nicaragua, Capt. Roger W. Peard, described Schilt's performance as a "remarkable exhibition of nerve and flying skill, calling for dangerous chances beyond the ordinary call of duty."

On April 9, 1928, then President Calvin Coolidge presented Schilt with the Medal of Honor in a White House ceremony for his personal courage.

War: Collection celebrates life, helps nation in struggle to resolve ongoing conflict

by Cpl. Pauline L. Franklin
Editor

Stepping through the doorway, visitors enter a vast warehouse filled with memories and experiences. The air is slightly clammy and the smell of "oldness" is everywhere, as it is in an attic or basement.

There is an early-morning quietness, even in the late afternoon, that urges outsiders to speak in low voices to avoid breaking the reverential stillness.

Cabinets, boxes and shelves are filled with items, each of which seems to tell a tale with worn edges or visitors' interpretations.

Nearly 60,000 gifts currently compose the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Collection, housed in a Glen Dale, Md., warehouse.

While "the Wall" was intended to be a non-political tribute to service members who died in the Vietnam War or as a result of wounds sustained there, gifts in the collection are the tangible evidence of the war's lasting effect on society, according to Pamela B. West, director of the Museum Resource Center.

"War changes everyone," said Duery C. Felton Jr., curator of the collection and Army veteran of the war. "Something [about the Vietnam War] deeply traumatized the American public. The memorial was meant as a tool for national healing, a catharsis. The collection is a celebration of life. It is a living memorial."



(above) A custom-built Harley-Davidson motorcycle a group of Wisconsin citizens and veterans left at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Memorial Day 1995 is one of the most popular items in the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Collection. The "bike" is adorned with a leather seat, leather accents, and a string of identification tags for each Wisconsin service member still missing. Other accents include hand-painted art and a "Hero" license plate, which the governor of Wisconsin retired. (left) A close-up of the artwork on the bike's gas tank. (photos by Cpl. Pauline L. Franklin)

Even before the Wall was completed, it began healing some of the hurt and mixed emotions Felton said surrounded the war.

According to Felton, a Navy veteran left the first gift at the Wall during its construction in 1982. There were two Navy pilot brothers in the war — one was killed and one was injured, he explained. The surviving brother visited the site and left his Purple Heart in the wet cement of the foundation.

"By the time the memorial was turned over to the National Park Service on November 11, 1984, leaving

objects at the memorial had gained momentum," said West in an overview of the collection.

The National Park Service quickly began developing the gifts collected over the previous two years as a museum collection to share with the world. The collection has grown with each gift since then, except living plant material and unaltered flags, and continues to grow each year. Although some people have tried to send gifts directly to its curators, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Collection

continued on pg. 24

Maintenance preps post for parade season

by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer
Staff Writer

The 1998 parade season has begun, and Marines here no longer have to ponder about how they will be spending Friday evenings. While some Marines may have recently dusted off their dress uniforms in preparation for the season, the maintenance section here started preparing last year.

According to Staff Sgt. Joseph E. O'Bannon, maintenance electrician, the maintenance section has dedicated the past nine months of its schedule to setting the stage for the 1998 parade season.

"We [recognize] the problems we had the previous year, and we fix them," O'Bannon said. "Plus, we [make plans for] the lighting crew, the ramparts, and just about everything that encompasses the complete layout."

Throughout the winter, O'Bannon said the maintenance section repairs and replaces everything from the metal detectors to the bleachers in preparation for the following season. In fact, this year's spectators can look forward to seeing the parade through a set of spotlights which underwent intense renovations in the off-season.

"This year I sent the lights to the manufacturer and they fixed everything that was wrong with them," O'Bannon said. "[The manufacturer] did a complete re-

structuring of the wiring in the lights. We've had this equipment for nearly 10 years, and the manufacturer said he uses us as an example to new customers [for] making our equipment last, and that's pretty good."

Once the lights were repaired, the maintenance Marines had a new obstacle to overcome — teaching the new leathernecks the lighting sequence for the Evening Parade, which O'Bannon said is a show of its own.

Aside from their electronic duties, the maintenance Marines can be seen all over the barracks painting the quarters and retouching signs. In addition, the maintenance section initiated a two-week operation they refer to as "bleacher week."

"Bleacher week is basically when we transport the bleachers from their winter storage at [Naval Air Station Anacostia], and we set it up the way it should be for the Friday Evening Parade," Staff Sgt. Charlemagne I. Caasi, parade director, explained.

In order to set up the bleachers this year, Marines from "A," "B," and Marine Corps Institute Companies provided leathernecks to lend a hand.

"We knew we were short-handed so we asked [the command] for some help and they provided us with whatever they could," Caasi explained.

Caasi said the battalion supplied maintenance with a working party each day to assist in moving the bleachers out to the parade grounds.

"We had a good working party this year," O'Bannon explained. "Everybody came together and supported maintenance as far as putting up the bleachers, and it's been a really smooth operation."

Not only did the working party give maintenance the needed manpower, but Marines like Lance Cpl. Edwin R. Colon, logistics clerk at MCI, said he found a new appreciation for the parade.

"It makes me feel good to know I was part of setting up the parade deck, and I wouldn't mind doing it every year," Colon explained.

Once the Marines were finished, the barracks' appearance presaged another parade season, which Staff Sgt. Christopher I. Baker from maintenance said is a reward in its own.

"You see the day-to-day progress of the bleachers going up, and you see the final project," Baker said. "Once everybody else sees that, they know parade season is here."



(left to right) Staff Sgt. Charlemagne I. Caasi, parade director, Lance Cpls. Edwin R. Colon-Bencosme and Marcin Kapka, Marine Corps Institute Company, and several other Marines slide a set of bleachers into place during Maintenance section's "bleacher week" recently. (photo by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer)

For more than 200 years, the Corps has built a reputation of excellence. Marines at the "Oldest Post" uphold past traditions while demonstrating this excellence for thousands of Americans in the ...

Barracks Friday

by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer
Staff Writer

Since July 5, 1957, the Friday "Evening Parade" has entertained audiences from around the world with its martial music and razor-sharp precision drill. The ceremony



Sergeant Maj. Dennis S. Frye, barracks sergeant major, orders the company first sergeants and drum majors to report the status of their enlisted Marines as they would in a standard formation. The sergeant major also dismisses the enlisted Marines at the end of each ceremony. (photo by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer)

perpetuates the unrivaled traditions and discipline the Marine Corps has exhibited since its inception in 1775.

From beginning to end, each segment of the parade reflects a facet of military culture and history, both past and present.

Each parade begins with a concert by America's oldest musical organization: the "President's Own" United States Marine Band.

In the 18th century musicians in the Marine Corps played specific melodies to relay command messages in combat environments because vocal commands are ordinarily inaudible on the battlefield.

Following the Marine Band's performance, the spotlights move to the center of the "stage." At precisely 9 p.m., the time orderly marches into the center of the guests' at-

tention and rings "the bell," maintaining the heritage of the Naval tradition of telling time.

"The idea is you have a 24-hour clock, and there would be a four-hour watch aboard ship," Maj. Robert L. Sartor, operations officer, explained. "Every half hour the time orderly would ring the bell and by the fourth hour, there would be eight bells. That represented the end of a watch and there would be a change in the guard."

Immediately after the bell, a lone bugler marches to the center of attention and sounds "Assembly," signaling the entrance of "The Commandant's Own," the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps.

The Drum and Bugle Corps assumes control of the



The "Evening Parade," the "President's Own," has left the battlefield to the President since John Adams.



(left to right) Gunnery Sgt. John D. Marino, Capt. Eric H. Traupe, Maj. Keith E. Mayo, Capt. Scott A. Burk, and Staff Sgt. Tommy J. Jimmerson compose one of this year's parade staffs, which is the command element of the "Evening Parade." Marines from the staff form the parade and direct the sequences. The staff also leads the battalion in the "Pass in Review." (photo by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer)

Evening Parade



begins with a concert by America's oldest marching band, United States Marine Band. Since its birth in 1798, the band support presidential functions, performing for every presi- (USMC photo)

deck with rhythmic drummers and buglers, playing "Song of the Marines."

Once the Drum and Bugle Corps completes its selection and has halted, the sergeant major commands, "Report!"

The drum majors and first sergeants report the status of their companies, as they would in a traditional Marine Corps formation, and the sergeant major directs his attention to the bugler, who summons the next element of the parade sequence with "Officer's Call."

Upon hearing the bugle command, the company and platoon commanding officers march down the middle of the parade deck (Centerwalk) to join their respective companies in the arcade and out of spectators' view.

As the officers exit, the barracks mascot, currently Chesty XI, and her handler march into the spotlight for the audience to see.

"The tradition of having a mascot is not as new as one would think," Sartor explained. "A lot of the time there would be animals on the battlefields [with which] soldiers would feel a certain type of kinship. A mascot could represent a totally innocent being that is not caught up in the war, [and] if the whole unit embraces the sym-



Corporal Keith A. Burns, time orderly, halts in front of the flagpole to ring the bell. The ringing of the bell recognizes the Naval tradition of telling time aboard ship. (photo by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer)

bolism, you get the concept of a mascot."

Once the barracks mascot exits the scene, the spotlight directs the crowd's attention to eight buglers on the ramparts of the barracks. The buglers play "Royal Flourish" during the Rampart Fanfare sequence, and the Drum and Bugle Corps responds by playing "Blackjack" and marching to the north end of the parade deck, halting behind the "President's Own."

The adjutant then forms the parade battalion with the commands "Sound Attention" and "Sound Adjutant's Call." The "Commandant's Own" replies by playing "Colonel Bogey" as the two marching companies emerge from the shadows of the arcade.

Once the Marines march to their appointed places

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Collection continued

comprises only those gifts actually left at the monument.

Like ancient pottery or precious metals, each item in the collection is handled with the utmost of care. Museum technicians use white gloves to handle items whenever practical and issue each artifact, no matter how small, an identification number before placing it in a box or plastic bag.

From grenade pins to a customized Harley-Davidson motorcycle, each gift is special.

"Each item has a story," said Felton. "One hundred Purple Hearts have 100 different stories."

Some gifts are spontaneous, given by people visiting the memorial who are suddenly moved to leave something, explained Felton. Others, however, are votive offerings, gifts left to fulfill a pledge or promise left undone. A votive gift might be some-

thing as simple as a candy bar a service member promised a friend in passing before he or she died on a mission.

In some instances, gifts people leave are part of a great healing process, such as the following excerpt from a letter left at the Wall in the early 1980s.

"To all of you here from Echo Company, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1968-1970. ... Sixteen years have passed, but it seems the war was just yesterday. We'll never forget or lose faith with you, my friends, but in order for me and others to go forward with our lives, we must finally declare peace — peace with you, our country and ourselves."

Another veteran left a picture from the wallet of a Viet Cong soldier he killed, according to Felton, in an attempt to bring closure to events that happened more than 20 years ago.

The collection is not limited to items from service members who served in Vietnam, however.

Some gifts people leave are related to other wars, Felton explained, and there is now another generation interacting with the memorial. Surviving children and grandchildren are now visiting the Wall. The collection includes many boxes of stuffed animals, notes to say good-bye and notes thanking the men and women for sacrificing their lives for their country, according to Felton.



Nick A. Swords, a Streator, Ill., Social Studies teacher, and one of his students, 13-year-old Dana B. Matsko, take rubbings of family members' names from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Arlington. Hundreds of thousands of people visit the memorial each year, some leaving gifts. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Franklin)



This Warner Brothers "Taz" was left at the Wall with the 5.56 mm bandolier and a Vietnam veterans patch sewn on his chest. Like many gifts in the collection, museum technicians are not sure of the meaning behind this gift, but it is clearly heartfelt. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Franklin)

"It's important for students to see what [these service members] gave up for us to live in a place with democracy," said 27-year-old Social Studies teacher Nick A. Swords, who recently brought his Streator, Ill., class to visit the Wall.

During their visit, Swords and a student took rubbings of the names of family members who died in Vietnam.

In addition, not all the gifts in the collection are thankful praises. Some items are left at the wall in protest of the government or its policies.

A large abstract sculpture called "After the Holocaust" was left during the memorial's early years by a group protesting the government's atomic energy policies, according to museum

technician Tony D. Porco. A poster of a nude woman from a service member's footlocker also surprised some visitors at the Wall, according to Felton.

Without a doubt, however, Felton said the most controversial item in the collection is a triangular plaque dedicated to the memory of gay soldiers.

"The National Park Service is the steward of the collection, but the public decides what is included by what people choose to leave at the Wall," said Felton. "We don't censor the collection. Some items are very controversial, but if you tried to censor the collection you would devalue it and do a disservice to the Vietnam era."

The collection grows larger each day as visitors leave mementos at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. However, museum technicians and park rangers are

inundated with gifts each Memorial Day (the last Monday in May), one of the two busiest days of the year for people leaving gifts at the Wall, according to Porco. As always, the National Park Service will collect each ribbon, grenade pin and any other bit of visitors' lives they wish to give, preserving a social history which began many years ago.

"Many people bring items to the

memorial and find themselves unable to leave them," said Felton, "while others bring nothing and then are moved to make a spontaneous tribute. This tribute, though it may be as basic as a message written on a Popsicle stick, exemplifies the objective of this collection, which is to reflect the interaction between those memorialized on the Wall and those who come to visit it."



These sculptures are some of the gifts which have been left at the wall and are awaiting catalog number assignments. Museum technicians keep track of items in the collection by assigning each one a number, no matter how small the gift. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Franklin)

Although the entire Vietnam Veterans Memorial Collection is not open to the public, a portion of it is on permanent display at the Smithsonian's Museum of American History in Washington, titled "Personal Legacy: The Healing of a Nation." The Newseum in Arlington, Va., is also displaying a portion of the collection April 29 - Sept. 13 as part of a display titled "A Year in the World: 1968, the Magnum Photographs."

Parade continued



Marines from Company "A" execute the drill movement "Fix Bayonets." Historically, this procedure was used when Marines ran out of ammunition so they could continue to fight with bayonets. (photo by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer)

along "Troopwalk," the adjutant orders them to "Fix Bayonets." Accompanied with the musical command from the Drum and Bugle Corps, the Marines simultaneously attach the bayonets to their weapons, replicating a procedure Master Sgt. Michael T. Peterson, barracks administration chief and parade staff veteran, said Marines often had to execute in the past when ammunition ran out.

Following "Fix Bayonets," the United States Marine Corps Color Guard marches to its position to present the national flag and the official Battle Colors of the United States Marine Corps to the musical arrangements "Fanfare" and "Grand Old Flag."

The color guard posts with the trio to the "National Emblem March" and the parade formation is complete.

The adjutant then orders, "Sound Off," and the "President's Own" plays the "Marine Corps Institute

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Parade continued

March" by Taylor Branson, the 20th director of "The President's Own," as it marches to the south end of the parade deck. The "Commandant's Own" responds to its counterpart by performing "Scotland the Brave," as they "slow-march" across the parade deck.

The two musical units then march down the parade deck together to the tunes of "York'scher," by Ludwig Van Beethoven. This concludes "Sound Off."

A color lowering detail then retires the colors during "Evening Colors." Peterson said this portion of the parade is symbolic for him.

"My favorite part of the parade is the lowering of the colors," Peterson said. "It brings sort of an understanding of what [Marines] do and what [Marines are] here for. It's understanding those things you say in recruit training — God, Corps and country really mean God, Corps and Country. You can see it in the civilians as they look up at the flag. You see it as they sing the 'National Anthem;' you see it in their eyes — even the kids. It really changes how you feel towards what you do."

Once the flag lowering team removes the flag, the marching companies dem-



(left to right) Lance Cpl. Adam L. Dowell, Color Sergeant of the Marine Corps Sgt. Heath F. Kuhlmann, Cpl. Ron R. Rawls and Lance Cpl. James W. Anderson compose the United States Marine Corps Color Guard. The group, called the "Parade Four," carries the national ensign and the official battle colors of the Marine Corps, which displays streamers representing every battle the Corps has participated in since its inception in 1775. (photo by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer)



Marines Manual companion unit. (ph

onstrate their proficiency in the Manual of Arms.

The adjutant then marches to the center and announces the commander's orders, identifying the officer of the day and his or her relief, according to Sartor.

Additionally, the adjutant summons the company officers to the center of the parade deck with the command, "Officers Center." Historically, "Officer's Center" is typically the last time the commander may inspect the officers and offer final guidance prior to commencing the battle.

The United States Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon then dazzles the audience while showing yet another example of proficiency in drill.

"The Silent Drill Platoon shows the world that [Marines] know how to march and we can do it correctly," Peterson said. "It shows the discipline and a solid strength in our Corps."

The Drum and Bugle Corps relieves the Silent Drill Platoon of its duties in

(left) Lance Cpl. Sean P. Bulmann, mascot handler, marches the mascot of the Marine Corps, Chesty XI, across Centerwalk. The Marine Corps adopted the English bulldog breed as a mascot after earning the title "Devil Dog" in the Battle of Belleau Wood. (photo by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer)



from Company "A" execute "Present Arms" during the of Arms. This segment of the parade gives the marching es a chance to demonstrate their proficiency in drill as a to by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer)

the spotlight to give the audience a brief, three-song concert.

As the Drum and Bugle Corps departs, the narrator recognizes the reviewing official, who is usually a dignitary or well-known personality. In fact, guests such as President William J. Clinton, Bob Hope and Walter Cronkite have served as reviewing officials in recent years.

The commanding officer and the reviewing official(s) step forward for the "Pass In Review."

"[In the past,] the commanding officer [had] his troops march past him so he could see they could, in fact, march,"

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The color lowering detail lowers the national flag during the "Evening Colors" portion of the parade. Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., is the only Marine installation allowed to fly its flag during such hours so it can execute "Evening Colors" during the parade. (photo by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer)

Parade continued



Sergeant Scott M. Hebert, 2nd Platoon, Company "B," leads his Marines down the parade deck for a "Pass in Review" during a deck rehearsal. In the 18th century, "Pass in Reviews" allowed commanders the opportunity to determine if their units were physically ready for battle and able to follow orders. (photo by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer)

Sartor said. "Sometimes [the military] was the only way [people] could get a job and make money. A lot of the time if [a man] had a broken leg in combat, he would try to hide it so he could stay in as long as he could."

After the "Pass in Review," the parade commander orders the retirement of the colors followed by the dismissal of the officers. The sergeant major then returns to dismiss the marching companies.

The companies disappear into darkness as the deck lights are extinguished and a spotlight shines upon a lone bugler on the ramparts who renders a memorial tribute to the "Marines of yester-year," according to the book "A History of the Marine Corps' Most Famous Ceremony" by Maj. Gen. John H. Admire.



Capt. Scott A. Burk is a parade adjutant for the 1998 parade season. During the "Evening Parade" the adjutant forms the battalion and passes the parade commander's orders, among other details. (photo by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer)



(above) Marines from the Silent Drill Platoon perform feats like this the intense precision and discipline the Marine Corps is known for

The "Evening Parade" displays the proficiency of the musical and marching units at 8th & I while re-telling the history of the Marine Corps.

According to Lt. Col. Michael B. Kessler, barracks executive officer, the parade instills each member of the audience with a sense of patriotism.

"I think in a nutshell, the 'Evening Parade' is a patriotic event that brings together all walks of life, [despite] age, wealth, religion, military background, race, creed or color," Kessler said. "I see that every evening after a parade when people leave and they are in awe of what they have just seen."



(left front to rear) Captain George S. Benson, 1st Lt. Ward A. Jones, 1st Lt. Jason W. Walker, (right front to rear) 1st Lt. Jon M. Lauder, 1st Lt. Jason C. Drake, and Staff Sgt. George L. Earst (standing in for 1st Lt. Christian M. Rankin) march toward the parade staff for officers' dismissal. (photo by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer)



during the "Evening Parade," displaying (USMC photo)



Gunnery Sgt. Carl P. Vermilyea Jr. (right) plays the marimba while Gunnery Sgt. Brian R. Guilmette, soprano bugler, and the rest of the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps perform during a Friday "Evening Parade." (USMC photo)

NEWSMAKERS

When you see these Marines, congratulate them on their recent promotions.

H&S Co.

Sgt. L.B. Clements
Sgt. C.D. Puma
Cpl. R. Cardona
Cpl. J.L. Ganaden
Cpl. K.T. Gibson
Cpl. S.L. Issak
Cpl. E.K. Pittmon
Cpl. H. Salmeronperez
Cpl. N.M. Zegarra
Lance Cpl. W.E. Campbell
Lance Cpl. S.P. Fish
Lance Cpl. R.E. Harvell
Lance Cpl. M.W. Linn
Lance Cpl. E.D. Soule

USNA Co.

Cpl. A.R. Aquino
Lance Cpl. G.G. Everett

WHCA

Cpl. A.M. Parke

MCI Co.

Cpl. J.G. Boardman
Cpl. J.J. Davis
Cpl. S.L. Rozick

Co. "A"

Cpl. J.M. Hutton
Cpl. M.A. Johnson
Lance Cpl. T.D. Anderson
Lance Cpl. C.W. Chenoweth
Lance Cpl. B.K. Cooper
Lance Cpl. S.A. Craig
Lance Cpl. R. K. Dalton
Lance Cpl. S.S. Eckert
Lance Cpl. C.S. Haumann
Lance Cpl. R.N. Pimentel
Lance Cpl. R.M. Roberts
Lance Cpl. D.A. Schay
Lance Cpl. M.D. Slate
Lance Cpl. R.G. Stalvey

Co. "B"

Cpl. J.L. Sanchez
Lance Cpl. J.E. Arredondo
Lance Cpl. B.A. Baxter Jr.
Lance Cpl. G.J. Bolden
Lance Cpl. D.J. Buckles
Lance Cpl. F.A. Charmoli
Lance Cpl. B.E. Collins
Lance Cpl. J.S. Hopson
Lance Cpl. R.L. Larson
Lance Cpl. C.B. McGinty
Lance Cpl. G.L. Nuckols
Lance Cpl. D.D. Onezine
Lance Cpl. R.L. Peterson



Lance Cpl. A.N. Remocaldo
Lance Cpl. N. Sandoval
Lance Cpl. J.R. Sawyer
Lance Cpl. S.M. Yonts

Security Co.

Cpl. T.J. Busch
Cpl. R.L. Detloff
Drum and Bugle Corps Co.
Staff Sgt. G.S. Holder
Staff Sgt. B.A. Lansdell
Staff Sgt. J.A. Rangel
Staff Sgt. T.E. Wheeler
Sgt. S.M. Dowling
Sgt. D.D. LeBlanc

Sgt. W.R. Rulapaugh
Sgt. A.J. Rodonis
Cpl. B.A. Seals
Cpl. J.A. Thomas Jr.
Cpl. M.E. Wood

Congratulations to the following Marines on the awards they received.

Good Conduct Medal

Staff Sgt. J.A. Edmunson — fifth award

Staff Sgt. B.A. Lansdell — second award

Cpl. D.T. Drake — first award

Cpl. M.J. Shaw — first award

Congratulations to the following first term Marines who re-enlisted recently.

Sgt. F.D. Acree, duty station incentive.

Sgt. S.A. Leslie, retention with "The Commandant's Own."

Sgt. J. Torres, assignment to the Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training Program.

Congratulations to the following career Marines who re-enlisted recently.

Staff Sgt. G.P. Yoder

Staff Sgt. W.H. Chambliss

Best wishes to the following Marines and their spouses on the recent additions.

Sgt. and Mrs. David D. Cringan Jr. had a 9-pound, 5-ounce baby girl, Madison Paige Cringan, April 1.

Cpl. and Mrs. Marlon F. Moran had a 8-pound, 1-ounce baby boy, Michael Enrique Moran, March 25.

Cpl. Tashawna M. Craig had a 7-pound baby boy March 24.

Character: Earning respect with actions, not image

by Lt. Kenneth D. Counts
Barracks Chaplain

You know the kind of wimp Tim was. He was thin and weak, with a high pitched voice. He walked his tiny, toy poodle until a man's rottweiler ate his dog.

So Tim got another dog. It was an ugly, stubby-legged, yellow dog, so short that its belly dragged on the sidewalk.

When he again met the rottweiler, Tim whined a warning. The rottweiler was three times larger than the little yellow dog. The owner laughed at Tim and unleashed his dog to attack, but the little yellow dog swallowed the attacker in three bites.

"Hey mister, what kind of dog is that?"

"Well, before I cut off his tail and painted him yellow he was an alligator."

Character determines what you are and what you can do. Character strengthens, or undermines. Character composes the fabric and framework of your life, but character gets all too little attention from you, Marine.

In our times, external things are emphasized, such as the way you look, the clothes you wear, the make and color of your vehicle.

We treat such cosmetic trivialities as though they define our success and happiness in life. External things merely sit on the skin of your life. They have nothing to do with what kind of person you are. They have no connection, and certainly no power, to make you happy. But we are so shallow in our modern thinking that we exhaust and bankrupt ourselves chasing things we think will make us respected in the eyes of others.

When these things fail to deliver the status and feeling of being a "big dog" you grow puzzled and disappointed.

Character can resolve this confusion. Character is the development of your internal strengths. You do not need to be big on the outside to be truly great. You do not need clothes or cars if you have inner integrity and pride. But

you will need to learn how to improve and refine your internal character qualities.

Clothes and cars fade and break down. But character endures and increases in worth.

Character makes you noble and admirable. No external thing you wear or polish can do that. Respect recognizes what comes out of you, not what covers you like a mask or a costume. Marines see through masks.

In spite of your possessions, your character will shine through. You cannot cover and conceal character. If you are of good character, your virtues will make others appreciate you.

If you are rude and crude, others will disrespect you. It will be entirely your own fault if you cannot make others approve, or appreciate, or reward you. Do not feel puzzled. But consider instead what is inside you, oozing to the surface.

Every time you fill your car's gas tank, ponder character. Oil comes from inside the earth as "crude." It is shipped to a "refinery" where it must be "processed." When it is "refined" it is classed as "product"

(productive). That same development needs to recur in you and me.

Fine persons, like oil and gas products, are merely "refined crude." We are all crude. But we can each be refined if we just stop being content with our crudity.

I found it interesting to learn that the Corps will soon install a new fitness reporting system which will include a section on character. Most Americans do not even give a care about character. Much less do people have a single serious idea about what character is.

Looking at the external masks your gaze from the internal. But what you find inside constitutes the real root of all problems and offers promise for real solutions. Marines who can refine their internal flaws can achieve the highest and best. Marines who ignore their inner flaws fall into foolish traps.

You think about that.

You do not need clothes or cars if you have inner integrity and pride. But you will need to learn how to improve and refine your internal character qualities.

“Sunset Parade”

July 3, 1953



Before the barracks acquired the bleachers guests now sit in, chairs for the honored guests were assembled Friday afternoons. (USMC photo)

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
MARINE BARRACKS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20390-5000