



PASS IN REVIEW

Serving "The Oldest Post of the Corps"

November/December 1998



**"Commandant's Own"
director retires after
41 years of service**

Barracks packs up for FEX '98 - Corps celebrates 223rd birthday

Holidays ahead

Season brings changes, rest, caution

by Col. Dennis J. Hejlik
Barracks Commanding Officer

As we prepare for a well-deserved holiday leave period, let me personally thank all of you for what you have done for your barracks, your Corps, and your country.

I could not be more proud of every Marine, Sailor, civilian Marine, and family member of "the oldest post" for the exceptional effort displayed during the entire year.

The level of professionalism that was exhibited from the first parade in April '98 through the barracks' numerous Marine birthday ceremonial commitments was astounding — your commitment to perfection enabled thousands of active, former and future Marines and civilians to understand and celebrate the 223 years of our Corps' excellence.

Although you may notice that the battalion's training and events calendar is not as "full" as the previous months, a considerable amount of activity is occurring around the post.

Our enlisted Marines and Sailors, having been outfitted with the Corps' latest infantry boots, are breaking in their footwear by relocating their living and working areas.

The barracks has initiated an approximated two-year project to renovate the Bachelor Enlisted Quarters. This undertaking will require the concerted effort and patience of all. Contractors will be on site installing windows which actually open and a new heating a cooling system, providing new furniture, and restoring the underground parking areas.

It is important to remember that

these present inconveniences will directly benefit the Marines and Sailors stationed here in the future. Just as any Marine would prepare his or her residence or office for his or her replacement, we desire to improve "the oldest post" for those Marines who shall serve here for the next 200 years.

It is abundantly obvious that parking is a prominent portion of this disruption and continues to pose a challenge for every person stationed here.

I would caution everyone in the command against leaving their vehicles parked haphazardly on the surrounding southeast streets. Parking tickets quickly become a financial burden and District of Columbia officials will not hesitate to "boot" your vehicle for unpaid penalties.

Further, these violations infringe upon our civilian neighbors' parking areas when we park in areas designated for residents only.

To confront this inconvenience, parking is available both at the historic Washington Navy Yard and the Southeast Federal Center; and a shuttle service has been established to transport Marines between the post and the federal center.

Lastly, the barracks, in conjunction with Headquarters Marine Corps, is reviewing the feasibility of acquiring nearly 14 acres of property south of the barracks and the freeway with the intent to create a new 300-Marine BEQ. This action, if endorsed at HQMC, would significantly increase billeting here and relieve the burden of high-cost living on our junior Marines.

With all this activity at the barracks, Marines should not neglect the forthcoming holiday season.

Unfortunately, Marines often lower their guard during the holidays, resulting in a less-than-joyful season for their friends and family. As you travel throughout the country in the next month, remember the following advice:

-) Inspect your P.O.V.(s) thoroughly prior to departing for a lengthy trip.

-) Have emergency first aid kits (e.g. blankets, water, etc.).

-) Ensure your NCO(s), SNCO(s) and officers know your whereabouts (always maintain your leave papers and have a recall roster).

-) If you are traveling a considerable distance, ensure you are well-rested.

-) Consult your local weather report prior to departing.

And, finally, be aware of the "other driver" — drive defensively.

Safety is important to those not leaving the local area as well — the majority of motor vehicle accidents occur within 20 miles of your home.

The most important advice to heed during the season is to ensure that you dedicate time to your friends and family throughout the holiday season — they deserve your support ... just as they support us each and every day we wear the uniform of a Marine.

Sandy and I wish you and yours the best for the holidays and in the coming year.

Happy holidays, Marines!

D.J. Hejlik
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps

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On the Cover

Colonel Truman W. Crawford, director of "The Commandant's Own," United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, retires after 41 years of active duty. See story page 24. (photo by Lance Cpl. Justin C. Bakewell)

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New Tuition Assistance

Changes cap college classes

by *Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick*
Staff Writer

A recent change in tuition assistance for active duty service members enrolling in college courses after Oct. 1 standardizes the monetary support given to each branch of the armed service. The changes will not effect students who applied this year before Oct. 1.

The new tuition assistance program now pays 75 percent of each service member's tuition expenses for approved graduate and undergraduate programs up to \$187.50 per semester hour, limited to \$3,500 per fiscal year, according to All Marine Message 162/98.

Staff Sgt. Jerry R. Hanson, barracks enlisted education service representative, said the government installed the spending cap to create a reliable cash foundation impervious to surges in tuition assistance. The change will allow those students attending less expensive institutions the opportunity to take more courses and allow more service members the opportunity to attain degrees.

"The only way [the government] can validate the use of these funds is by military members finishing classes and producing grades," Hanson said, "but people were taking fewer, more expensive courses. It showed a small return on [the government's] investment. The government wanted to spread the money over a larger market group, [and give] more funds to more people."

The new system allows more money for undergraduate students, like Cpl. Robert L. Numerick, barracks

Operations & Training clerk, who was enthusiastic about the change.

"I've taken courses for 1.5 years for my Informations Systems Management bachelors degree using tuition assistance," said Numerick. "This is a change for the better. You get \$1,000 more dollars per year."

The change could bring more undergraduates under the government's financial umbrella, but it could also pose a new financial challenge for graduate students.

Graduate courses at colleges and universities in the District of Columbia Metro area cost considerably more than undergraduate studies, according to Warrant Officer Brian J. Dix, United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps music director/executive officer, who showed concern about the change in assistance and what it could mean to the quality of education available.

"The moneys that are given do not meet the financial expectations in a graduate curriculum," said Dix. "Graduate students [here] are vulnerable to the location. In the [Washington] area it is not unusual for a three-credit-hour [graduate] class to cost \$1,200. [The new tuition assistance] will not cover even half the cost, where in previous years 75 percent of the cost was covered."

The financial changes in tuition assistance may require Marines like Staff Sgt. Bret A. Lansdell, D&B, who depend on the tuition assistance to continue their education, to pursue other financial resources, such as the G.I. Bill, scholarships and loans.

The change will undoubtedly affect each Marine differently, but Lance Cpl. Elias Velasco, barracks unit diary

chief, still thanks the government for its support.

"Regardless of whether the change is good or bad for me financially, the government is still partially paying for me to go to college, and I think that is great," said Velasco.

Those active duty service members interested in applying for tuition assistance need to contact their company office and pick up an application form from their education NCO.

The acceptance process takes approximately two to three days, but applicants should know what courses they will take and where, according to Sgt. Jeffrey S. Decker, Operations and Training assistant education NCO.

"Go to the campus education office or library [where you want to attend] and see the class roster. Find out what you want to take before you see us," said Decker. "Pick something that works for your schedule. Whether it is a one-hour course three times a week or a five-hour class on Saturdays, it is important to remember to stick with it because you are financially responsible no matter what happens."

According to Decker, students must maintain a "C" average and keep their education NCO informed of any dropped or changed classes, or they must reimburse the government for the full amount of tuition assistance.

For more information about tuition assistance or education opportunities, contact Staff Sgt. Hanson or Sgt. Decker at 433-6363.

Toys for Tots

The holiday season is full of hope and joy for most of us, but not for all. Can you imagine how difficult it must be for some parents who cannot afford a present for their children? The Marine Corps Reserve is asking for your help in bringing Christmas to these children by dropping off a new unwrapped toy at your nearest public drop off location ... just look for the Toys for Tots poster in the window of a business near you, or call (202) 433-T4TS (8487) for more information.



After all, "Every child deserves a little Christmas."

Barracks improves troop welfare with new boot issue

by Sgt. Michael J. Bess
Staff Writer

Barracks Marines and Sailors are now conducting their daily business around the "oldest post" wearing a new uniform item: the new infantry combat boot.

The Marine Corps Systems Command at Quantico, Va., developed the boots in "a continuing effort to modernize individual clothing and combat equipment," according to All Marine Message 344/97 dated Oct. 14.

Already available for purchase at the Henderson Hall uniform shop, the new boots were distributed to barracks Marines in November through the Supply Section.

However, not all Marines and Sailors throughout the world will receive the new boots. According to ALMAR 235/98, the new gear is being issued only to Marines with a minimum of six months remaining on active duty without receiving a boot issue, or a minimum of six months remaining on active reserve or extended active duty. Only Sailors with a minimum of six months remaining on station serving as enlisted Naval personnel assigned to Marine Corps operational units are also receiving the new boots.

Marines and Sailors who received the new issue before July 1 are not eligible. All officers are also ineligible.

The boots are now part of the seabag issue at both recruit depots. Recruits are also issued a set of hot-weather boots.

To prepare for the new issue, Marines' Clothing Replacement Allowance, the amount of money Marines and Sailors receive each year on the anniversary they came into the service, was adjusted this year to show the amount needed to obtain a pair of the boots. The cost was determined by which CRA each of them received.

"Marines and Sailors receiving the standard CRA paid \$13.33, while Marines receiving basic CRA paid \$9.33," said Gunnery Sgt. Melinda L. Duke, barracks supply chief, who added that the payments were deducted from Marines' paychecks once they received their issue.

Instructions for proper boot maintenance in terms of boot polishing and care are located in ALMAR 344/97. Regular boot polishing, which consists of one or two coats of polish, and buffing is authorized. Putting a more detailed shine on the boot is highly discouraged because of the threat of blocking the natural pores and cutting off the air flow within the boot.

With new boots on hand, Marines and Sailors may be wondering what to do about those old boots sitting in their wall-lockers — keep them!

When fiscal year 2000 comes around, those old boots will no longer meet minimum requirements, but both the regular all-leather boots and the green or black hot-weather boots are still authorized for wear as long as they are serviceable.

What if the boots a Marine or Sailor was issued do not fit?

"The first choice is to find somebody around [the barracks] who has the right size," said Sgt. Betty J. Napier, barracks supply clerk. "If a Marine cannot find a pair of boots that way, then he or she can bring them back to the Supply Section and we will check for the right size."

For one Marine at the barracks, having new boots means being able to do field training a lot smarter.

"The new boots are a lot more comfortable," said LCpl. Corey S. Haumann, "A" Company. "The fact that they are waterproof also makes them great for the field."

Maintenance makes over Quarters 4

by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick
Staff Writer

Serving at Marine Barracks, Washington, offers the maintenance personnel here the unique opportunity to restore and preserve the General Officers Quarters of "the oldest post of the Corps."

The entire barracks, including General Officer Quarters 1 through 6, is a

historic site listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and it is the Facilities/Maintenance Section's responsibility to keep these legendary, 90-year-old, brick buildings in working order.

This is an unusually difficult task, according to Maj. Francis R. Quigley, barracks Logistics Section officer-in-charge, because of the short time the Facilities/Maintenance Section has to

work inside the homes.

Quigley said an occupant of the General Officer Quarters vacates the residence approximately every two years, leaving the home empty for three weeks — the only opportunity Facilities has to perform major internal repairs and prepare the home for the next resident.

When Gen. Terrence R. Dake, the new assistant commandant of the

Marine Corps, moved from Quarters 4 to Quarters 1, adjacent to the commandant's home, the maintenance section put down its schedule books, picked up paint cans and began the complicated task of repairing and preparing Quarters 4 for Lt. Gen. Michael J. Williams, deputy chief of staff for Programs and Resources, Headquarters Marine Corps.

"[Preparing the General Officers Quarters] is a process that requires intense planning because of the uniqueness of these quarters," said Quigley. "[Repair work] is dusty and dirty, so, obviously, they do not want this work done during occupancy. This [21-day] window is our only opportunity to do the bulk of the required maintenance."

Quigley said the short period of accessibility demands that preparations and projections for maintenance start years in advance. The Marines and

civilians in the section prepare by identifying maintenance trends in the building's maintenance records and reviewing the life expectancy of each fixture, appliance and item provided for in the home. The information they gather allows them to predetermine the majority of the maintenance before anyone goes into the home.

The air conditioning, for example, may need new filters in the fan coil units, and the home will need painting. These things are part of the basic care of the house, but nothing is a certainty, according to Pfc. Brady L. Kirk, Facilities/Maintenance carpenter.

"We were originally just painting the upstairs, but we ended up painting the entire house because the old paint was bubbling up," said Kirk. "Because of the pre-inspection, we learned that a lot of windows needed to be caulked, the walls and ceilings had to be scraped

and spackled, and we had to replace dry wall."

To guard themselves against the unexpected, Facilities/Maintenance personnel inspect the quarters 30 days before the new occupant arrives as a final precaution for last-minute repairs, replacements and renovations.

"You always have an 'unforeseen,'" said Richard A. Ocheltree, Facilities/Maintenance planner/estimator. "On closer inspection after the [home] is vacated, we may notice [something like] the shower stall needs to be replaced because the old one has deteriorated."

The historic aspect of each building at the barracks lends another weighty consideration to renovations. The barracks is only obligated to comply with military building codes, how-

continued on pg. 20

Barracks welcomes new lieutenant general resident

*by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick
Staff Writer*

The barracks has the honor of housing several general officers, including the commandant and the new assistant commandant of the Marine Corps.

On Oct. 16, the barracks welcomed its newest general officer to "the oldest post of the Corps" when Lieutenant Gen. Michael J. Williams, deputy chief of staff for Programs and Resources, Headquarters Marine Corps, moved into General Officers Quarters 4 with his spouse.

General Williams was born July 12, 1943, in Baltimore, Md., and enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1960. He received his commission as a second lieutenant upon graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy in June 1967, and was designated a naval aviator upon completion of Naval Flight Training at Pensacola, Fla., in February 1969.

His billets have included: commanding officer for Marine Air Group-26 during Operations Desert Shield and Desert

Storm; vice director, Operational Plans and Interoperability, J-7; vice director, Joint Staff for Military Education; commanding officer, 2nd Force Service Support Group; commanding general, Joint Task Force 160, a humanitarian relief effort for Haitian and Cuban migrants at Guantanamo Naval Base, Cuba; director, Marine Corps Staff, Washington; and, until recently, the commander of Marine Corps Systems Command, Quantico, Va.



Lt. Gen. Michael J. Williams

The general also served operational tours in the Republic of Vietnam and was a presidential helicopter pilot while serving in various positions with Marine Helicopter Squadron One at Quantico in 1975.

Lieutenant Gen. Williams' personal decorations include: the Defense Superior Service Medal with gold star, Legion of Merit with gold star, Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V", the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with Strike Flight Numerals "25" and bronze star, and Navy Commendation Medal with gold star and Combat "V".

Celebrating Corps' birthday around Wa



(left to right) Lance Cpl. Adam L. Dowell, Color Sergeant of the Marine Corps Sgt. Heath F. Kuhlmann, Sgt. Timothy K. Engelhardt, and Lance Cpl. James W. Anderson provide a color guard for the Marine Corps birthday celebration Nov. 3 at the National War College, Fort McNair. The barracks provided ceremonial details for cake cutting ceremonies through the Washington area. (photo by Sgt. Patrick E. Franklin)



Colonel Dennis J. Hefflin places a wreath at Fort Lejeune's grave Nov. 10. The barracks sent out various Marine Corps' former commanders. (photo by Sgt. Michael J. Bess)



The United States Marine Corps provided buglers to play 'The Marines' at former commandant's graves. (photo by Sgt. Michael J. Bess)

Washington



barracks commanding officer, **er Commandant Gen. John A.** **at Arlington National Cemetery.** **wreathlaying details to honor the** **ants on its 223rd birthday. (photo**



(left to right) **Cpl. Derrick L. White, Pfc. Jay C. Warren, Lance Cpl. Michael Moncayo, and Lance Cpl. Kimberly G. Kueny** transport the birthday cake for the birthday celebration at the National War College recently. The team presented the cake at each of the ceremonies the barracks supported. (photo by Sgt. Patrick E. Franklin)



Drum and Bugle Corps provided music for **brations and birthday balls in the area. It** **lay "Taps" for the wreathlaying ceremonies** **graves. (photo by Sgt. Pauline L. Franklin)**



Corporal Derrick L. White, barracks cake team, stands **by as Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Charles** **C. Krulak cuts the cake at the U.S. House of Represent-** **atives' Marine Corps birthday celebration. Although** **the first pieces of cake are traditionally given to the** **oldest and youngest Marines present, the comman-** **dant gave the first two pieces to the oldest and young-** **est members of the House during this celebration.** **(photo by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick)**



(left to right) Barracks Executive Officer Lt. Col. Samuel E. Ferguson, Maj. Ronald B. Piner, and Capt. Justin G. Butters post as part of the detail of officers and staff noncommissioned officers serving as escorts during the ceremonial portion of the barracks birthday celebration. (photo by Sgt. Pauline L. Franklin)

Barracks cel



Colonel Dennis J. Hejlik (second from right) presents the second piece of birthday cake to 1st Lt. Gonzalezramos, the youngest Marine present at the birthday ceremony. The barracks also honored 1st Lt. V. Corrado (second from left) as its oldest Marine. The ceremony also honors Assistant Commandant Gen. Richard I. Nease as the honored guest of the ceremony. The ceremony honors the oldest Marine as a tradition, while it honors the youngest Marine as well. (photo by Sgt. Pauline L. Franklin)



Chief Warrant Officer-3 Michael A. Ladd, marching the adjutant's position, reads Gen. John A. Lejeune's birthday message during the barracks ball. The reading of this message is an essential element of a Marine Corps birthday celebration. (photo by Sgt. Pauline L. Franklin)



Marines here took time to honor the Corps' history and their friends during this year's barracks ball at a local hotel. The event followed by a catered meal and dancing. (photo by Sgt. Pauline L. Franklin)

celebrates Marine Corps birthday in style



*...), barracks commander, hands
...-year-old Private Ricardo J.
...ent, during the barracks birth-
... Master Gunnery Sgt. Charles
...est Marine present. Former
...al (right) spoke to Marines and
...event. The cake-cutting cer-
...art of the Corps' history and
...arine as a part of its future.*



*...ditions with loved ones and
...cently. The ceremony was
...ine L. Franklin)*



Corporal Robert Drumski, U.S. Naval Academy Company, and his date, Kelly Willoughby, "cut loose" with fellow Marines and guests on the dance floor at the barracks ball Nov. 11. The Morale, Welfare and Recreation Offices here coordinated the event, providing a live disk jockey, and worked to make this year's ball a night to remember. (photo by Sgt. Pauline L. Franklin)

“President’s Own” storms America during tour

by Staff Sgt. Bonnie Eiche
Marine Band Public Affairs Office

From Cheyenne, Wyo., to McKeesport, Pa., “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band has made its way through the north central United States, presenting 44 concerts in 51 days for its 1998 concert tour.

The tour, which began Oct. 4 and continued through Nov. 22, covered 14 states: Wyoming, Nebraska, South Dakota, Montana, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, northern Illinois, northern Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, northern West Virginia, and southwestern Pennsylvania.

“Audience response has been extremely positive,” said Tour Director Randy Blocker. “In our first 18 performances, we had a 97.1 percent attendance rate with eight full houses and three standing-room only events.”

By the end of the tour the band had reached about 90,000 patrons, according to Blocker, and one radio station broadcast the performance live in Cleveland.

When special guests and friends of the Marine Corps are in attendance, concerts are even more memorable for

both “The President’s Own” and its audiences.

For example, barracks Commanding Officer Col. Dennis J. Hejlik and Sgt. Maj. Dennis S. Frye, barracks sergeant major, attended concerts in Billings, Mont.; Mason City, Iowa; and Cleveland.

Another honored guest in Billings was Charles W. Lindberg, a survivor of the fight for the island of Iwo Jima in February 1945. At the band’s Bloomington, Minn., performance Oct. 21, Lindberg received a standing ovation from the packed house and accepted an inscribed Marine Band photograph from Director Lt. Col. Timothy W. Foley.

“The President’s Own” has been touring the United States since 1891, when its 17th director, John Philip Sousa, organized the first national tour. The Marine Band only tours in the fall and rarely leaves the Washington area at other times due to a heavy schedule at White House events, ceremonial commitments, and public performances.

Next year’s Marine Band tour will cover a transcontinental route to include the West Coast region.

Director’s new programs lead Marines to better fitness

by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick
Staff Writer

Marines here can improve their physical fitness with the aide of programs developed by the recreation director at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Offices here.

Jamie L. Morris, MWR recreation director, is changing physical fitness by raising Marines’ educational awareness here. She said she is currently developing lectures and workout programs contoured to individuals’ personal and athletic goals.

“The MWR [staff] is bringing me up to speed in stages before I take on other responsibilities, but [right now] there is a real need for fitness education at [the barracks] — it is a diamond in the rough,” said Morris. “Marines are the ultimate weapon, and if we can teach [them] how to be healthy

through nutrition and exercise, they will lead long and healthy lives.”

The new programs include MICRO Fit, abdominal sessions, Semper Fit 2000, workout programs designed specifically for individuals, aerobics classes, personal trainer workshops, and fitness and nutrition lectures.

Marines using MICRO Fit can assess their body fat, muscular endurance, upper body strength, flexibility and measure their heart rate in about 30 minutes. A computer analyzes the data and creates a file for each participant, allowing individuals the opportunity to monitor their progress indefinitely.

Morris said this program could revolutionize how the Marine Corps monitors the physical readiness of its Marines.

“The Marine Corps can compare the information from base to base and

see who is making progress and why,” said Morris. “[MICRO Fit] is going to be utilized as a tool to evaluate Semper Fit [now that it] is up and running.”

Morris is also planning several lectures about dietary supplements on the battalion’s training schedule. She said she is adamant about Marines having the information they need to make their workouts as safe and productive as possible.

“There is a lot of misinformation about legal supplements,” Morris said. “I want to [explain] the pros and cons so [Marines] can make educated choices [knowing] everything these [supplements] can do to the body.”

“People lifting heavily sometimes take high levels of protein. That puts a [considerable] amount of stress on the kidneys, and they do not know

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Barracks stands tough through football season

Barracks running back Lance Cpl. Tyrone M. Nunnally tries to slip away with the ball as Lance Cpl. James A. Joseph (crouching behind Nunnally) lunges to block the opponent during a season football game against the 704th Bull Dogs recently.

The barracks team finished its season Nov. 21, after two months of competition.

Members of the team overcame a tough practice schedule during parade season and conflicting work schedules to give it their best, according to Gunnery Sgt. Uhry T. Thomas Jr., a team coordinator.

(photo by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick)

Sergeant major visits barracks, discusses future of MC

*by Lance Cpl. Justin C. Bakewell
Staff Writer*

Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Lewis G. Lee visited the barracks recently to meet with members of the command and inform them of the commandant's message on the current state of the Marine Corps and his focus for the future.

He gave a period of Professional Military Education to lance corporals and below and to noncommissioned officers and staff NCOs during his stop.

"You are great Marines, you are at a great organization, and you are great at what you do," said Lee.

Lee's primary focus for both PMEs was getting back to basics. He asked the Marines to take a look at themselves and make sure they are doing

what needs to be done, whether that means being good followers or good leaders.

"All Marines, especially career Marines, must be able to do what the commandant needs to be done, when it needs to be done," stressed Lee. "Those who cannot are a liability."

The sergeant major went on to say Marines need to make sure they are being the best Marines they can be. He brought up the fact the Marine Corps is becoming much more competitive; and for Marines who want to re-enlist, it is no longer automatic. The sergeant major said of the 8,000 Marines who will ask to re-enlist this year, only 5,400 will be able to.

Lee also made it very clear Marines do not have to be perfect. The Marine Corps understands mistakes and is willing to give Marines a second

chance. That does not mean Marines will not be held accountable for their actions, it simply means they will be given the chance to redeem themselves for foolish behavior or mistakes.

The sergeant major went on to cover many different topics briefly, ranging from the new Physical Fitness Test to suicide, but the point he continually made was that every Marine is special and has an important job that needs to be completed.

"If you ever feel like you are not special, you could not be farther from the truth. Everyone in the Marine Corps has a mission that needs to be completed and everyone is important," said the sergeant major.

Lee's tenure as sergeant major will be over in the spring. He said his goal is to leave his successor with the same quality of Marines he was given.

Esprit de Corps shines through in 23rd MC Marathon

Marine barracks personnel were in top form recently when they turned out in force for the 23rd Annual Marine Corps Marathon in Washington.

More than 16,000 runners turned out for the nation's fourth largest marathon, nicknamed the "People's Marathon." More than 40 of those runners were from the barracks.

Congratulations to all the runners who represented the barracks.

The top five finishers were:

- Lt. Cmdr. A.M. Davidson/3:01:00
- Capt. K.B. Ellison/3:17:23
- Capt. J.M. Lauder/3:17:50
- First Sgt. J.W. Sutton/3:32:19
- Capt. J.S. Hetland/3:40:05

Other barracks participants are as follows:

- Staff Sgt. A.T. Anderson
- Cpl. J.W. Andrea

- Lance Cpl. J. Arrendondo
- Lance Cpl. J.S. Baker
- Sgt. N.A. Bennett
- Capt. M.G. Broniec
- Lance Cpl. A.B. Calvello
- Gunnery Sgt. R.W. Coker
- Sgt. M.A. Collado
- Lance Cpl. N.C. Erdahl
- Lance Cpl. J.A. Glover
- Sgt. C.E. Hall
- Maj. L.J. Hamashin Jr.
- Master Sgt. B.A. Haney
- R.M. Hanson
- Staff Sgt. D.J. Haslam
- Cpl. C.J. Hewett
- Cpl. C.R. Hillard
- Lance Cpl. J.B. Hickernell
- Gunnery Sgt. T.L. Hoffman
- Chief Warrant Officer-3 J.M. Hurley
- Sgt. N.N. Kietchai

- Staff Sgt. B.A. Lansdell
- Gunnery Sgt. N.E. Lopata
- Lance. Cpl. T.A. Matthews
- Lance Cpl. T.M. McCormick
- Capt. K.M. McDonald
- Sgt. C.G. Morris
- Sgt. V.H. Nguyen
- Lance Cpl. J.R. Norton
- Capt. J.A. Ogilvie
- Master Sgt M.T. Peterson
- Capt. T.E. Prentice
- Capt. K.C. Rohr
- Lance Cpl. A.G. Seals
- Lance Cpl. C.F. Taylor
- Cpl. J.A. Thomas Jr.
- Cpl. B.H. Turner
- Lance Cpl. S.M. Williams
- Sgt. R.H. Wright Jr.

Congratulations also to all barracks representatives who may not be listed.

Barracks hosts yearly bench press competition

*by Sgt. Michael J. Bess
Staff Writer*

Marine Barracks, Washington, hosted its 2nd Annual Bench Press Competition recently in the barracks gymnasium.

Weightlifters from the barracks and Quantico participated in the event; which the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Special Services Office here sponsored. Each of the division winners in the male and female categories was awarded a plaque and a competition T-shirt, while the competitor lifting the most weight also received a special plaque.

The female division title went to Quantico's Staff Sgt. Laura Y. Sanders, supply chief, Marine Corps University, who won it with a 155-pound lift.

The barracks pulled even in the men's lightweight division with Pfc. Jay C. Warren, barracks administration awards chief, putting on an exhibition by benchpressing 250, 275 and 300 pounds to win his division. Quantico followed suit with Sgt. Robert A. Johnson, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Budgets Branch, who captured the middleweight title with a 350-pound press.

The heavyweight division was next with 1st Lt. Linwood J. Bridgeforth, Quantico's Command Substance Abuse Control Center officer-in-charge, turning in a lift of 430 pounds, the heaviest lift of the day. This lift not only won him the division, but also the overall best lifter award.

The barracks replied with Capt. Christian M. Rankin, 3rd Platoon commander, "B" Company, who captured the super-heavyweight title with a 400-pound lift.

"The whole event was a success," said Sgt. Enrique Velez, co-coordinator of the competition. "We had the sponsors passing out their products, and Jamie Morris (recreation director, MWR) did an excellent job with coordinating it. People are still talking about it."

For first-time competitors like Lance Cpl. Dixie E. Joseph, barracks administration orders clerk, the competition taught her some valuable lessons.

"I entered the contest because I felt I had as much equal opportunity as anyone else and was physically and mentally prepared to some extent," she said. "This was my first competition and I wanted to feel the rush of competing."

Taste buds left tingling in MCI chili cook-off

Crock pots bubbled, juices simmered, and spices filled the air in the barracks Recreation Center Nov. 6 during the Marine Corps Institute's Annual Chili Cook-off.

Institute personnel teamed up to enter 24 pots of chili this year to compete for a coveted 72-hour pass. The winning section's name and team captain were also added to the unit's Annual Chili Cook-off plaque to be displayed with the winning recipe.

The competition began in 1995 to "enhance the unity, esprit de corps, and camaraderie amongst MCI personnel," according to Capt. Douglas V. Kuhn, MCI executive officer.

Although a panel of judges taste-tested each chili entry, it was Ann Busby's team from DLTD (Distance Learning/ Training Division) that won first place.

The winning recipe is as follows:

- 1 can chili style chunky tomatoes
- 1 can Cajun recipe stewed tomatoes
- 2 cans chili hot beans
- 2 lbs. hamburger
- 1 pkg. heathen chili blend
- 1 pkg. chili hot seasoning
- Red pepper, salt and black pepper, and Season All
- Mrs. Dash extra spicy
- Cajun seasoning, Tabasco sauce, and onions



Lieutenant Col. Glen White, deputy director, Marine Corps Institute, painstakingly tasted every pot of chili during MCI's chili cook-off in November. (photo by Sgt. Pauline L. Franklin)



Barracks Commander Col. Dennis J. Hejlik, contest judge, quickly reaches for a cup of water after undoubtedly finding the hottest entry in the chili cook-off. (photo by Sgt. Pauline L. Franklin)



After the judging, MCI Marines and civilians alike attacked the sea of chili for a closer inspection and detailed taste tests in the Recreation Center. (photo by Sgt. Pauline L. Franklin)

Barracks supports annual Marine military exposition

by *Sgt. Michael J. Bess*
Staff Writer

Instead of marching from behind the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va., the Battle Color Detachment recently marched out to the beat of the bass drum from behind ... an airplane hanger.

The Battle Color Detachment traveled to Marine Corps Air Facility, Quantico, Va., to perform at the Annual Enlisted Awards Program, a part of the 18th Annual Modern Day Marine Military Exposition.

The program featured an award presentation by General Charles C. Krulak, commandant of the Marine Corps; Sgt. Maj. Lewis G. Lee, sergeant major of the Marine Corps; and Robert E. Becker Jr., national commandant of the Marine Corps League.

The commandant awarded nine Marines and Sailors for their contributions to their respective organizations.

Following the parade, Marines from the barracks participating in the event took in the sights of the exposition, sponsored by the Marine Corps League and hosted by one of its chapters, the Capital Marines Detachment.

More than 160 defense contractors from around the nation displayed a wide variety of weapons, combat gear, vehicles, training equipment and technology Marines may be using in the future.

One such item, the new infantry combat boot already being distributed to Marine Corps organizations around the world, was in prominent display at the event.

General Krulak, in a message concerning the



Lance Cpls. Michael Moncayo (shown here as a private first class) and Michael J. Saiz (left), both with Marine Corps Institute Company, inspect one of the many weapons on display at the Modern Day Marine Military Exposition in Quantico, Va., recently. (photo by Sgt. Michael J. Bess)



Gunnery Sgt. Julien C. Duncan, MCI Company, speaks with a representative at this year's military expo recently. (photo by Sgt. Michael J. Bess)

exposition, said the focus is on giving future Marines the necessary tools needed to handle different conflicts in different types of situations.

“The Marine of tomorrow may be providing humanitarian assistance at one moment, conducting peacekeeping operations at another, and engaging in a mid-intensity conflict at still another — all within three city blocks, all within 24 hours,” the commandant said. “We call this the three-block war. We are developing leaner and more agile systems of command and control. Backing it all up is an investment in experimentation and technology — an investment in innovation.”

New gym at MCI

MWR renovates facility with equipment

by Lance Cpl. Justin C. Bakewell
Staff Writer

The Marine Corps Institute Company was able to enjoy its renovated fitness center when Col. Dennis J. Hejlik, Marine Barracks commanding officer, sliced the ribbon to acknowledge the center's grand opening Sept. 28.

The Marines said they appreciated the long-awaited grand opening celebration of their revamped fitness center, having gone two months without one.

The old weight room was in very bad need of refurbishing, according to Gunnery Sgt. John A. Stafford, company gunnery sergeant at MCI.

"The old equipment was outdated — it went back to 1979 and did not

always function the way it was designed," Stafford said as he pointed to the old equipment.

The process to create a new weight room began in April when Catherine L. Ficadenti, the director of the Fitness and Wellness branch at Marine Corps Base, Quantico in Virginia, came by and looked at the weight room. She said she decided right away that new equipment was a necessity. Both Ficadenti and the company gunnery sergeant agreed the facility required upgrading.

Financing was the first obstacle to conquer on the way to a new fitness center. Stafford said he planned to close in the ceiling, put in a new floor, and replace all of the old equipment. These things did not come cheap, but it was made possible with

the help of Ficadenti. The next time she came back she had \$15,000 dollars from the Fitness and Wellness branch and a floor plan for the new weight room according to Stafford.

Fifteen thousand dollars, however, was only half the amount needed to complete the renovation.

Once Stafford received this first half of the funds, he appealed to Lt. Col. Glen White, deputy director, MCI, for the second half. White, in turn, asked Col. Hejlik, who granted the request.

"The fact that the weight room is over here at MCI makes it much more convenient for the Marines," stated Cpl. Nicholas R. Wingert, MCI company. "A lot more Marines use it now that it has been fixed up."



D&B performs for Texas fans

Warrant Officer Brian J. Dix, director, conducts "The Commandant's Own," United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps during a special performance at an area designated "Marine Corps Square," an area at the Texas State Fair designated for the Marine Corps.

For nearly three weeks, the unit entertained visitors from all over the state at daily performances at the Hall of States and during the Parade of Lights.

(photo provided by the Drum and Bugle Corps)

SNCOs, officers hit deck for Ceremonial Drill School



Captain Jennifer A. Ogilvie, Headquarters and Service Company, practices sword manual with her fellow officers during Ceremonial Drill School recently. (photo by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick)



Staff Sgt. Tommy J. Jimmerson, mess hall, adjusts Staff Sgt. Jefferson J. Boyd's, barracks administration, grasp during sword manual practice in CDS. (photo by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick)



Captain Steven R. Bowers (right), MCI Company, demonstrates the proper arm swing for Capts. Marc D. Freese (center), Guard Section, and Brandon A. Davis, Motor Transport Section. (photo by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick)



(shown left) Colonel Dennis J. Hejlik (right), barracks commander, and Sgt. Maj. Dennis S. Frye (left), barracks sergeant major, congratulate Staff Sgt. Derrick F. Ledford, barracks career planner, for a job "well done" after Ledford completed the sequence for the adjutant's position during CDS. (photo by Sgt. Michael J. Bess)



FBI surrounds barracks for annual celebration

First Lt. Brian T. Fulks, Marine Corps Institute Company, receives a piece of cake from Special Agent Rich Boteler, FBI, as the youngest Marine present at Tun Tavern II. The annual event is a joint celebration between the FBI and the United States Marine Corps honoring active duty and former Marines alike. The event dates back more than 10 years.

"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 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."

(photo by Sgt. Michael J. Bess)

British, barracks Marines share history in celebration



The Honorable John H. Dalton (left), secretary of the U.S. Navy; 1st Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Michael Boyce (top left), and Mess President Commodore Anthony (center) stand in review of the British Royal Marine Band recently during Trafalgar Night. (photo by Lance Cpl. Justin C. Bakewell)



The British Royal Marine Band performs the "Beat Retreat" ceremony prior to the beginning of the Trafalgar Night Dinner. (photo by Lance Cpl. Justin C. Bakewell)

Members of Her Majesty's British Royal Navy and the Royal Marines recently came aboard to hold their annual Trafalgar Night Dinner, honoring their victory over the French and Spanish at the Battle of Trafalgar Oct. 21, 1805.

Trafalgar night is the one evening each year the Royal Navy gathers to celebrate the accomplishments of the

British military throughout its nation's history. The barracks has provided a location for the event the past three years because of the close relationship the Marines and Sailors of both nations share.

Under the Command of Vice-Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson, a fleet of 27 British ships defeated 33 of Napoleon's finest ships in the Battle

of Trafalgar. The battle firmly established Britain's naval supremacy and influence in world affairs.

Although Nelson was shot through the shoulder near the end of the battle, he lived long enough after being wounded to know his fleet had won the decisive battle.

Maintenance continued

ever, alterations to the barracks' exterior could jeopardize its status on the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, to maintain historical integrity, major repairs are planned in accordance with federal regulations and the District of Columbia's Historic Housing Preservation Office's restoration recommendations, according to Gunner Sgt. Leroy Brunson, barracks Logistics Section chief and historical custodian for the barracks.

"If the Maintenance section needs to make a major repair [in the quarters], like replacing the gutters, they contact the [preservation office] through me," said Brunson. "I tell them what our plans are and they send a representative to inspect the home [and make suggestions]."

Brunson added he could not recall a time when the preservation office's recommendations conflicted with the barracks' mission, which Quigley said is to keep the General Officers Quarters as original as possible.

"Our goal is to make the [general officers' houses] look like they did when they were new. The hardest part is correcting deviations from the original [structure] when the preservation of [barracks] history was not as important," said Quigley. "We make sure [the homes] are staying historically correct, but the restoration [aspect] deals mainly with the exterior.

"We can also seek input, [or preferences], from the resident," Quigley added, "but usually personal preference is not considered in larger projects. We have to think of the long-term maintenance and ensure the changes are good for this resident and the one coming after."

Quigley said another planning consideration is their

spending cap. Congress limits maintenance and renovation costs for a general officer's home to \$25,000 annually. Each of the quarters here shares the annual spending cap with new general officer housing, even though the housing here is significantly larger.

"When the Marine Corps builds new general officer housing, the measurements are three times smaller than Quarters 4, which is 6,100 square feet," said Quigley. "Based on that, you have to get the most for your money."

The Facilities/Maintenance Section's civilians and Marines share the burden of labor equally, according to Ray W. Patterson, Facilities/Maintenance Section foreman. He said while the barracks has several specialized employees such as locksmiths, gardeners, carpenters and mechanics, it is not practical to maintain personnel in every trade.

Also, by splitting the estimated 700 to 800 man hours of maintenance and renovations for Quarters 4 between Marines, civilians and contractors, the work becomes more cost- and time- effective.

Despite the look of fatigue Lance Cpl. Shawn D. Kolego, Maintenance Section, showed when he spoke of painting the quarters, the tenor in his voice picked up as he mentioned working with the other Marines and civilians.

"You learn patience and teamwork," said Kolego. "Everyone painted [because] it was the largest part of the preparation. If an electrician came through and inspected every outlet [in the house], he came right back with a paint brush in his hand. If it were not for the teamwork, we would never finish."

Fitness continued

what the long term effects can be," continued Morris.

She said she has the resources and information to benefit Marines operating at every level, even those with unusual athletic interests.

"I do not want Marines to feel they cannot find an answer for fitness or nutrition," said Morris. "Say a Marine comes to me with a very sports-specific goal. I can do the research and create a program that will train in those areas."

Morris said she also has an intense interest in physical training at

the unit level and would like to see more units participate.

She begins each unit Physical Training session with warm-ups and stretches and moves quickly to high-intensity aerobics, after which Marines rotate through two- to three-minute stations that focus on muscles or cardiovascular development.

Morris said she can assess an entire platoon, as well as create and monitor programs to improve the platoon's performance level. One of the by-products of this close observation is the ability to recognize trends in

exercise and training-related injuries. Morris said tracking trends and injuries enables her to recommend corrective physical training schedules.

"The only thing limiting a workout program is the level of creativity," said Morris.

For more information contact Jamie L. Morris, MWR recreation director, at 433-4295 from 6:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sustaining the transformation

by Staff Sgt. R. Gauthier
HQMC, Public Affairs

Make no mistake about it, recruit training has never been more challenging, or recruits better trained. Just ask the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.

Sergeant Major Lewis G. Lee would be very happy to produce statistics to prove today's recruits do more physical training, drilling, and field marching. In addition, they endure an extra 54 hours of mental and physical challenges imposed by the Crucible.

"I went through boot camp in '68, and it wasn't as hard mentally or physically as today," Lee said. "From 1971-1975, I was a drill instructor and, from 1985-1988, a battalion and regimental sergeant major supervising recruit training. It wasn't any tougher at either time than it is today."

But Lee is convinced that it isn't enough to transform recruits into a cohesive warfighting team with basic core values. The blade must be continually sharpened.

"It's up to noncommissioned officers, staff NCOs, and our company grade officers to continue the challenge and sustain these newly transformed Marines," Lee said. "It's up to all leaders, but in reality, our senior enlisted and officer leadership is too far removed from the younger enlisted Marine to have that constant personal contact and oversight."

Understanding and supporting the transformation process is vital to sustainment, Lee said. Transformation is a four-step process that starts during the recruiting phase and continues throughout a Marine's career.

The recruiter starts the transformation process and becomes the poolee's first mentor. The recruiter teaches history and traditions, introduces core values, and ensures the recruit is physically conditioned to undertake the rigors of boot camp.

There may be a perception that "Generation X'ers," are less qualified, but Lee says that's not so. Ninety-seven percent of Marine recruits are high school graduates, and the days are gone when those with criminal backgrounds enlisted in the Corps. The recruiters are taking a hard look at each potential recruit's character during the screening process.

"We are bringing in the best; there is nothing better out there!" Lee said. "We are discharging "poolees" who don't meet or maintain our standards.



Sgt. Maj. Lewis G. Lee

While the Crucible has received a lot of ink as a tool for developing cohesiveness, teamwork, and selflessness during boot camp, the backbone of the transformation is still the drill instructor, who serves as leader, mentor, and role model. Realizing this, 100 hours have been returned to the DIs to use as they see fit.

During boot camp, the emphasis on developing character, which started during the recruiting phase, is driven home with more than 33 hours of core values instruction. Some leaders think these are "touchy/feely" occurrences between DIs and recruits. Nothing could be further from the truth. Classes on core values have the same level of intensity that our close combat courses have.

Freshly imbued with the spirit of teamwork that allowed them to conquer the Crucible, the Marines enter the third phase of the transformation process — cohesion.

They arrive together at Marine Combat Training and the School of the Infantry where they are formed into teams to reinforce trust and subordination of self. These teams report to their first unit or school together where, as much as possible, they'll live, train, deploy, and fight as members of the same team during their first enlistment.

If recruiters are putting the best on the "yellow footprints," and drill instructors are forging young men and women into hardened cohesive teams, why are one-third of the new Marines not finishing their initial contract?

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Sustain continued

Lee said the answer lies in sustainment. "We can't train them to any tougher standards. But if they are neglected or unchallenged when they hit the fleet, some will give it up. They'll be the ones to drink too much, attempt suicide, go UA, or simply give up in disillusionment."

Leaders must accept the challenge of mentoring these Marines in warfighting skills, responsible conduct and, perhaps most importantly, continue in developing those character traits that espouse our core values. They must be challenged and then held accountable for their actions, Lee said. "Provided this, they will respond. Units that provide this will have good order and discipline, which must be the number one priority. That ensures mission accomplishment and a good quality of life for the Marines and families of these units."

With most of the 110,000 first-termers living in the barracks, Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Charles C. Krulak addressed the importance of NCOs, staff NCOs, and company grade officers engaging their Marines during off-duty hours in ALMAR 106/98. He called for commanders, when possible, to maintain unit integrity when assigning rooms to promote cohesion and establish standards for room decor, cleanliness, alcohol consumption, and visitations.

"Cohesion in BEQs is more important than just filling spaces with faces," Lee said.

More importantly, the commandant charged leaders with mentoring their Marines in responsible conduct and holding them to standards.

"It's critical to the sustainment process, and those leaders are responsible for their Marines 24 hours a day, 7 days a week," Lee said. "Sustaining the transformation goes above and beyond our day-to-day routines. All Marines need some level of attention paid to them. New Marines need it continuously."

The sustainment phase is so important that 155 sergeants major and master gunnery sergeants focused on it as their theme during the Russell Leadership Conference in April. To impress upon NCOs, staff NCOs, and company officers that they are the key mentors, trainers, and leaders in the sustainment process, the conference members recommended indoctrination through education and training, promoting leadership at all levels through continuous counseling, and empowering Marines with more responsibility and meaningful duties. (For an in-depth look at their recommendations, see ALMAR 203/98.)

Empowerment is vital to the sustainment process. Corporals and sergeants have been, and will be, combat

decision-makers in the commandant's vision of future warfare — "3-block war." Marines may conduct humanitarian operations in the morning, keep warring factions from fighting each other at noon and, by nightfall, be involved in a high technology firefight — all within the space of three city blocks.

"How any Marine will react is a crapshoot until you're actually in combat, but with today's Marines, I'm confident we'll be successful in any situation," Lee said. "Hell, we were successful in Vietnam, and that war was, to a great extent, a company, platoon, and squad-level war. Many had to learn warfighting on the job, but they did it, and those who survived became the leaders. In our training process today, I believe we're well ahead of where we were when I went to war."

Although Marine small unit leaders have always risen to the occasion and taken care of their Marines during war, Lee said the lack of a major all-encompassing war has spoiled some leaders. Some leaders aren't held as accountable as they should be for training and mentoring Marines in their care, and those Marines give up.

"We've provided such great quality for so long that some have lost the ability to train anyone who doesn't want to be trained or lead anyone who doesn't want to be led. There's a belief that if I get rid of a Marine, I'll get a better one in return," Lee said. "This is a terrible belief and contributes to our high attrition among first termers."

But the intent of sustainment is clear. The commandant and the sergeant major have given the direction and general guidance on transformation and, more specifically, sustainment. All leaders must understand and support it, Lee said. "These aren't options. We expect the leadership to support what is occurring and stay engaged."

The sustainment process and the quality of leaders that emerge from it will become self-perpetuating, according to Lee. After MCT or SOI, the recruit is mentored and held to tough personal and professional standards by the leadership. Because of the spartan, difficult life of a Marine, only a fifth of them will reenlist.

Many will say "no" to rough field conditions, long deployments, and living in the barracks. But those who want to continue to be Marines will stay, and the best of those will become tomorrow's leaders. They, in return, will require the same standards of performance and commitment from their Marines, and that is good for country and Corps.

Messhall meets mission, raises morale

by *Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick*
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE, QUANTICO, Va. — Marine Barracks, Washington's, Field Exercise '98 was considerably different than prior exercises, but one thing remained the same: Marines from the barracks and Quantico's dining facilities were there to provide hot meals.

Marines from the barracks, in cooperation with the O'Bannon and the Maxim mess halls here, supplied more than 2,100 meals in the first 16 days of the four-week evolution.

Coordinators attempted to make every facet of FEX '98 as true to the field environment as possible, including deploying meals tactically in the field.

"Hot chow is a morale builder,"

said Sgt. Andrew A. Atkinson, barracks mess hall galley captain. "After eating Meals, Ready to Eat for days, hot chow makes a [person] think someone cares." Atkinson and Sgt. Lee B. Clements, barracks mess hall chief cook, went out of their way to prove them right.

Each day Marines helped unload the vats of evening chow or "hot wets" such as chicken broth, but when they inserted the ladles the second night they pulled up robust beef and noodle soup. Atkinson looked around at the questioning glances, shrugged his shoulders, and smiled.

"You cannot have beef soup without the beef," Atkinson said. "The people at the mess hall threw in the noodles."

The scene around the hot wets instantly changed. Lines started form-

ing behind the hot soup and the Marines began swapping jokes and retelling the events of their day. What started as a meal ended as something like a sunset debrief where the mistakes of the day came to light with good humor and good company.

The Marines literally began feeling better, according to Staff Sgt. Stephen McElvin, barracks Maintenance Section electrician, who said the soup kept him from getting sick.

"[That night] my throat was sore, swollen and hurting," said McElvin. "Back home, mom makes chicken soup [when I do not feel well], but I drank the hot chicken broth [here] and I was 'good-to-go' the next morning."

The success of the hot meals was a joint effort between the barracks Marines and the civilian personnel at the O'Bannon and Maxim mess halls, who were, according to Clements, wonderful to work with.

"Things were totally different this year," said Clements. "Last year we had a field mess and we were responsible for feeding all of those Marines three meals per day. This year we did not have the equipment; and the civilians, who were nice enough to make the Marines [extra] sandwiches and [punch], made our job of [getting the food] to the Marines easy."

"When we needed anything, [the personnel at the mess halls] made sure we got it," added Atkinson. "The Marines told me they appreciated [the extra food], and I know I sure did."



At the end of a long day of field training, even the rain was not enough to keep these Marines from their plates of "hot chow" during FEX '98. (photo by Sgt. Michael J. Bess)

"To everything there is a season, and a purpose under heaven." (Ecclesiastes)
Marine on active duty, the time has

*by Sgt. Patrick E. Franklin
Media Chief*

Commanding Officer/Director of "The Commandant's Own," United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps Col. Truman W. Crawford retired from active duty Sept. 16 after serving more than 41 years on active duty. Crawford spent the final 25 years of his military career leading the D&B.

His career began in 1953 with the United States Air Force Drum and Bugle Corps. Crawford credits one man, Master Sgt. Bobby Felder, with giving him the chance to show what he was capable of achieving.

"[Master Sgt. Felder is] the young man who auditioned me some 46 years ago ... and took a chance on that tall, skinny drink of water," said

... a time to every
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Farewell

Crawford. "More significantly, when Master Sgt. Felder completed his Air Force tour as musical director of the unit, he took another, bigger chance and named Airmen First Class Crawford to replace him as musical director. Whatever possessed him to choose [me] to assume such awesome responsibilities, I'll never know, but I've thanked the Lord time and again that he did."

By 1957, Crawford had risen to the rank of master sergeant and was the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the entire unit. The unit was disbanded, however, in 1963 due to cutbacks in the Air Force.

While his career in the Air Force lasted only 10 years, he took advantage of that time by studying with noted arrangers and conductors to enhance his musical abilities.

Between 1963 and 1967, Crawford ran a music store serving the needs of marching bands and civilian drum corps. During this time he had many distinguished accomplishments, but in 1967 he left the civilian sector to return to the military. This time he joined the United States Marine Corps for service with "The Commandant's Own."

That decision began a Marine Corps career spanning more than 31 years and led Crawford to meet a variety of people from all walks of life. When asked to name some of his most memorable experiences he explains that there are just too many to count.

"I could spend [so much time] telling you where this colonel has been, who he has met, where he has performed, the highs and the lows, the biggest and smallest, the best and worst, the most memorable ... and the most forgettable," said Crawford. "To attempt to name them all would prove futile in such a short amount of space.

"While [my wife and I] have few material things and little accumulated wealth to show for our 44 years of married life, we have been truly blessed to have had an endless number of friends; people from all walks of life, the rich and poor, the influential and ordinary," he added.

Just as many people have touched his life. To try and count the number of people who Crawford's achievements have affected is also impossible, but he has a right to be proud of his accomplishments. He has left a musical legacy not only to the Marine Corps, but to the entire drum and bugle corps family.

If every man truly has a purpose in this world, Crawford most certainly found his in music.

"Wherefore I perceive that there is nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; for that is his portion."
(Ecclesiastes 3:22)

President's Own shares time, talent with students

by Staff Sgt. Bonnie L. Eiche
Marine Band Public Affairs Office

If asked to describe their most memorable moment in "The President's Own," U.S. Marine Band members might recount the time they performed for a foreign dignitary, shook hands with the president, or soloed before a packed house on a hometown tour stop. For musicians involved in this year's "Music in the Schools" (MITS) program, memories are being made with slightly younger VIPs — elementary school students in the first through eighth grades.

Marine Band brass, string and woodwind players recently treated some 3,300 students in 18 local schools to MITS performances in one month. In an era when arts and music budgets are often stretched, MITS affords young listeners in the Washington area musical experiences they might not have otherwise. Now in its 20th year, the program gives students the opportunity to hear live music, learn how various instruments work, and interact with professional musicians who are also dedicated Marines.

"Music enriches in so many ways, whether you're playing or listening," said Gunnery Sgt. John L. Abbracciamento. "We try to show the students that music is a great lifelong activity, alone or in groups."

In each 45-minute presentation, music comes to life through carefully chosen program themes, lively narration, and eager student participation. At one recent performance for 150 fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-graders, the Marine Band Brass Quintet transformed an assembly hall into a White House state dinner, leading its listeners from the arrival of the first guests to the after-dinner dancing.

This year's string program, "Where in the World is the Marine Band String Quartet?" challenges students to guess the geographical origin of each selection based on musical and visual clues. The woodwind quintet chose to feature the Marine Band's bicentennial, highlighting the rich musical heritage of "The President's Own" and the group's ties to some of the nation's key moments in history.

"Creativity is really important," said Abbracciamento.

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Motor-T Driving force behind Field Exercise '98 provides essential transportation

by Lance Cpl. Justin C. Bakewell
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE, QUANTICO, Va. -- Patrolling through the jungle a Marine and his squad come across a river. If the Marine Barracks, Washington's, Motor Transport Section was there, it could help the unit conquer the watery obstacle with one of its 900 series "five tons" — that is if Motor-T was there, but it was not. Instead, the section was busy supporting the battalion during Field Exercise '98 in Quantico, Va.

Marines in Motor-T provided tactical transportation and delivered needed supplies, such as food and water, for the month-long evolution recently.

Some Marines may think Motor-T is a one-dimensional job, picking Marines up and dropping them off. This could not be further from the truth. The Marines in Motor-T work diligently to ensure safe and timely transportation for Marines and supplies.

"Most of the time Motor-T does not get the recognition it deserves," said Lance Cpl. Robert C. Piotrowski, Motor-T driver. "We work a lot harder and do a lot more than [most Marines] recognize."

Before Motor-T could begin its mission at FEX, Marines in the section had to set up a tactical motor pool, which is where the center of opera-



A HMMWV sits at the tactical motor pool, which Motor Transport established outside of Camp Upshur at Quantico, Va. (photo by Lance Cpl. Justin C. Bakewell)

tions for Motor Transport is located. Setting up a tactical motor pool involves a lot more than just finding a place to park five tons and High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles [HMMWVs].

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Garnervania, Africa, no safari for Co. "A" FEX

by Lance Cpl. Justin C. Bakewell
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE, QUANTICO, Va. — Company "A", stationed at Marine Barracks, Washington, recently returned from a deployment to Garnervania, Africa, after spending a week familiarizing themselves with the terrain in case of future conflict with the infamous El Cid and his band of terrorists, the Forty-Niners. Marines from Company "A" were attached to a special Marine Air Ground Task Force deployed to seize control of various mining areas that have been under attack by El Cid in the past few weeks.

This was the scenario Marines from Company "A" were given for their annual field exercise here in October.

The Marines began their week-long excursion with the Obstacle Course and Endurance Course.

"The O-course was really motivating. After you went through all the obstacles you still had to climb the rope and

sound off when you reached the top," said Lance Cpl. Anthony Laudicina, 2nd Squad, 1st Platoon.

After the O-course the Marines challenged themselves and their determination with the Endurance Course



Lance Cpl. Anthony Laudicina, 2nd Squad, 1st Platoon, "A" Company, scans the forest for enemy movement. (photo by Lance Cpl. Justin C. Bakewell)

— a six mile run in utility trousers and boots and gear. The Marines said they found the course very challenging.

After the Marines ran both courses they took part in day and night land navigation exercises looking for El Cid and his gang.

Instructors gave the Marines coordinates, and the Marines, in turn, determined their own azimuths and found various objectives that were hidden within the dense

woodlands of Quantico. The Marines did not have much trouble finding these points in the daytime, but when the sun fell and left them in the darkness they said it was not quite as easy as they thought it would be.

"Land navigation during the day was easy, even though we did it ourselves; but once it got dark it got a lot harder, even with a teammate," said Laudicina.

After the Marines completed the land navigation courses they turned in for the first night. They needed their rest, for the next day they would be firing live ammunition, hoping El Cid would show his face.

A live-fire Battle Course, consumed Day Two. The squads were broken down into fire teams in order to navigate the course, and they carried M249 Squad Automatic Weapons.

The next phase of the Marines' training was to establish a defense. They boarded helos and inserted into the forest, where individual squads patrolled and set up defensive positions.

"A" Company spent the majority of the next two days fortifying their positions and running security patrols to intercept El Cid if he dare attack.

"If the enemy was out there, then we would have made contact with them and determined their position," said Lance Cpl. Ryan G. Stalvey, 2nd Squad, 1st Platoon.

On Day Five the FEX moved into phase four: offensive attacks. The squads began patrols looking for en-



Marines send rounds "down range" as part of their training during FEX '98. (photo by Lance Cpl. Justin C. Bakewell)

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Silent Drill Platoon in Quantico

Legendary ceremonial drill platoon cammies up, ships out, digs in for annual Co. "A" Field Exercise/Super Squad Competition

by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE, QUANTICO, Va. — The United States Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon; the unique, 24-man, precision drill platoon stationed at Marine Barracks, Washington; set aside its ceremonial equipment and donned 782 gear for Field Exercise '98 in October.

The six-day FEX was designed to test the Marines' infantry skills and afforded them an unusually long field training opportunity.

The SDP and the other five infantry platoons assigned to the barracks are tasked to support ceremonial activities in the Washington area year-round while simultaneously maintaining proficiency in their Military Occupational Specialties.

This multi-tasking becomes especially difficult for the SDP, because when it is not performing on the barracks parade deck, it is on the road touring and performing across the nation.

"These warriors will go on to serve in the [Fleet Marine Force] in their infantry capacity once they are in a division," said Capt. George S. Benson, platoon commander, Silent Drill Platoon. "[Therefore], they [must] be proficient in their Military Occupational Specialties. Unfortunately, field training opportunities are somewhat limited for the SDP because of the significant number of ceremonial commitments."

It is a juggling act, but one which the SDP attacks with the same brute

force as it does its world-renown drill manual, according to Cpl. Roupen Bastajian, Silent Drill Platoon's first squad leader.

Although these Marines might have difficulty scheduling time outside their ceremonial commitments, they spend countless hours in the classroom studying infantry tactics and other Marine Corps knowledge, according to Staff Sgt. Jesus E. Alvarado, platoon sergeant, Silent Drill Platoon.

"We try to teach them the basic knowledge for proficiency with weapons, patrolling, giving and receiving orders," said Alvarado. "If we do not have a lot of practical applications, we do have a lot of classroom education. We are always looking for opportunities to bring the Marines to the field, even if it is just for a day or even half a day."

A major component of the FEX was the barracks' annual Super Squad Competition. Two squads represented each platoon and accumulated points



Cpl. Roupen Bastajian, 1st Squad leader, Silent Drill Platoon, communicates with the Command Operations Center. (photo by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick.)

by competing in infantry events throughout the year. The majority of the Super Squad competitors began training several months in advance of the FEX. The Silent Drill Platoon, however, was unable to perform all the practical applications.

"The other platoons had seven months [of practical application experience] to prepare for the Super Squad Competition, and we only had a week,"

said Bastajian. "They might ask, 'Why come out here at all?' We came out here to prove we can do anything because we are disciplined — we are Marines. You tell us what you want done and we adapt and overcome. [This] is about mission accomplishment."

To the pride of the platoon, the SDP swept the Endurance Course Competition. The Marines ran three miles wearing Load-Bearing Vests and carrying weapons, overcame the obstacle course, performed live-fire squad rushes and land navigation, and donned their packs to "hump" four miles before engaging the powerfully-built Marines from the Body Bearers section with pugil sticks. Before they could catch their breath, though, they had to correctly answer two tactical, decision-making questions.

One major reason FEX exists is to foster esprit de corps at the small unit level, according to SMARTPAK Squad Competition Manual '98. The SDP made a smooth transition into the field environment, because their regular

training schedule already forged the platoon into an extremely cohesive unit.

"I do not miss the field [when I am at the barracks] because we are such a close unit," said Bastajian. "We spend more time together than most families. Why would I want to be anywhere else?"

This was the first field experience for many Marines in the SDP outside

"This morning I led a fire team yelling 'Rush,' attacking the hill with such violence and fire, getting to the top completely exhausted. There is nothing like it."

-- Cpl. Graig O. Moore

of boot camp or the School of Infantry, and it was a learning process for them; but for others it was a candid reminder of the reasons they joined the Corps.

"Oh, I most definitely miss field training," said Cpl. Graig O. Moore, 2nd Squad. "This morning I led a fire team yelling 'Rush,' attacking the hill with such violence and fire, getting to the top completely exhausted. Ahhh ... there is nothing like it."

There is probably nothing quite like the Silent Drill Platoon's schedule either and it did not go away during the six days of combat training. But regardless of the schedule or the likes and dislikes of each Marine, the end result was better than expected, according to Benson.

"They disproved the reputation many have undeservedly cast upon this platoon," said Benson. "Whenever you enter the field there are certain intangible obstacles. [We had to] transition barracks discipline to field discipline and we have done that very well. They are overcoming the fear of the unknown about what Marines do in the fleet ... because they have shown they can do it [well]."

H&S Co. Marines get trigger time training at FEX

by Lance Cpl. Justin C. Bakewell
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE, QUANTICO, Va. — Marine Barracks, Washington's, Headquarters and Service Company and Marine Corps Institute Company attacked Quantico for their annual field exercise in September.

The two companies divided the hands-on weapons training into two, one-week evolutions to allow their Marines solid training while continuing their missions in the rear.

"The intent of this year's combined H&S/MCI Company FEX was to refamiliarize Marines with their warfighting skills as well

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H&S and MCI Marines receive training with the AT-4 anti-armor rocket launcher during this year's combined FEX. (photo by Lance Cpl. Justin C. Bakewell)

Company "B" Marines charge into c



Lance Cpl. Alan T. Newman, 1st Squad, 1st Platoon, "B" Company, demonstrates proper urban patrolling techniques for Marines during FEX '98. (photo by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick)

by Sgt. Michael J. Bess
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE, QUANTICO, Va. — Marines from "B" Company, stationed at Marine Barracks, Washington, recently traded in their ceremonial

uniforms and rifles, and warm, sunny weather for camouflage utilities, M16A2 service rifles and a 24-hour-long downpour when they arrived here for their annual field training exercise.

The company used the FEX as part of its training and evaluation for the battalion Super Squad competition against "A" Company, which competed for the first time, according to Capt. Kyle B. Ellison, "B" Company commander.

"The main goal is to get the second-year marchers who are getting



This Marine takes his position in a defense where Marines are debarking a helicopter

ready to transfer into the Fleet Marine Force prepared to be squad leaders," said Ellison. "They do not really understand right now that those who come from the fleet will know that senior lance corporals and corporals are fighting the battles out there."

And that is what happened in the training areas here as the corporals and lance corporals, evaluated by sergeants, staff noncommissioned and commissioned officers from various barracks companies, coordinated the field evolution from the start with helicopter insertions, proceeding through numerous day and night patrols, and finishing with a hike back to the company command post four days later.

From one squad observer's point of view, the Marines in key leadership positions held up under extreme pressure.

"The squad leader and his younger Marines accomplished a job with nine Marines that is usually done with 12 or 13 Marines," said Sgt. Bryan C. Duprey, one of the squad evaluators. "Nothing had to be told to him. He told me what he was going to do, so I got to sit back and actually evaluate their continuing actions in the defense."

The competition started long before Company "B" went to the field, however, in Washington. In the weeks before the Marines arrived here, they participated in Ser-

Challenging field training at FEX '98

vice "A" uniform inspections, a Physical Readiness Test (PRT), weapons assembly/disassembly, platoon drill evaluations, a three-mile run with gear, a rope climb with gear, and push-ups and sit-ups within a certain time limit.

In the field, the company was bro-



Defensive formation around the landing zone (photo by Lance Cpl. Justin C. Bakewell)



A squad of "B" Company Marines rushes to board the helicopter taking them to an unspecified landing zone where they will spend the next three nights and four days patrolling, setting up ambushes and establishing defensive positions against other squads. (photo by Sgt. Michael J. Bess)

ken down into six squads, two from each platoon. These squads competed against each other, pushing their endurance levels to the limit to accomplish such tasks as the Obstacle Course, a six-mile Endurance Course, fire-team attacks, day and night land navigation, helicopter insertions, defensive and offensive attacks, patrolling, and Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) training.

The Marines also took on members of the Body Bearers platoon and "A" Company's Color Guard section in a battle course simulating infantry and close-combat tactics.

"If the Marines did not have the desire to learn, this would be a worthless evolution," said Ellison. "And from the privates first class all the way up to the squad leader, every Marine performed and



Sergeant Scott M. Hebert (second from left), 2nd Platoon guide, "B" Company, listens attentively to his fellow Marines as they go over their roles in the upcoming live-fire exercise. (photo by Sgt. Michael J. Bess)

gave a hundred percent. They made this evolution a success."

AAAAAATACK!

Marines engage in hand-to-hand combat at FEX



The muscled Marines from the Body Bearer and the Color Guard Sections presented one of the first obstacles Marines from "B" Company encountered during FEX '98. (photo by Michael J. Bess)

by Sgt. Michael J. Bess
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE, QUANTICO, Va. —

The first thing the Company "B" squads heard was the soundtrack from "Mortal Kombat" blasting from Body Bearer Sgt. Edward D. Parsons' truck as they made their way to Landing Zone Canary here.

The six squads from Marine Barracks, Washington, broken down into 12 four-man teams and armed with simulated "rifles," scouted the area in search of their "enemy," a four-man team armed and ready for a fight.

The first team had almost reached the top when Lance Cpl. Reginald Daniels, Body Bearer Section, "B" Company, charged them with a motivating roar, followed by three other Marines. For the next 10 seconds mayhem broke loose on that small hilltop.

When Parsons blew the whistle to stop the bout, Marines from both sides slowly picked themselves up from the ground, and the Marine left standing claimed victory for his team.

"Leatherneck Square," the holy ground of close-combat instruction at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C., was briefly transferred here, as Marines refreshed their hand-to-hand training in the battle course.

Close-combat training of this sort is vital to Marines because it provides a way "to harness the aggressive fighting spirit of our Marines," said First Lt. Jason C. Drake, 2nd Platoon commander, "B" Company. "They must never lose sight of the reality that there is an enemy who will try to instill fear in our hearts. We as Marines must harness that fear of contact and put it to our advantage."

Although the Marines attacked their objective with intensity and appeared to have fun getting back to Marine Corps basics, the event was also a test of strategy.

The squads, having just completed a live-fire exercise, strapped on all the gear they brought to the field and commenced a four-mile hike to "Leatherneck Square." Once there, a close-combat instructor from The Basic School gave them a brief before breaking them down into their four-man teams and starting them up the hill.

Each team of Marines employed infantry tactics to approach the objective carefully, using different methods to provide protection for its members and search for the enemy. The groups attacked the hill in patrol formations (wedges or columns). Instead of taking the path clearly marked, they sometimes traveled through bushes.

Some teams' methods proved successful in their attacks against the aggressors. One Marine found out the hard way from several of his fellow combatants it was time for the aggressors to rethink their strategy.

"I would stand out there, and before I could move, three [of the Marines] would attack me at once," said 19-year-old Pfc. Tollie O. Grier, body bearer, "B" Company.

The aggressors set up a different strategy with each unsuccessful attack, but they favored one method above all others, according to the color sergeant of the Marine Corps, and it was named after a famous Civil War battle: the Gettysburg.

“The ‘Gettysburg’ is it,” said Sgt. Heath F. Kuhlmann after he and his aggressor squad, made up of Grier and fellow Color Guard members Sgts. Ronald R. Rawls and Timothy K. Engelhardt, successfully turned back an attack while losing only two members of his team.

Instead of the aggressors hiding in different parts of the woods running alongside the hilltop, as they had been doing throughout the day, the “Gettysburg” placed them on top of the hills, awaiting the charge of the squad teams at the bottom of the hill.

After each squad squared off with the aggressors, the Marines answered two Marine Basic Skills questions before saddling up with their gear and hiking the four miles back to the starting point to continue on with their training. The music stopped, and for a few minutes peace reigned supreme on top of the hill.



Marines fought to be the last one standing during a pugil stick battle at FEX '98. (photo by Sgt. Michael J. Bess)

Course tests stamina, builds unit cohesion



A squad of Company “B” Marines picks up the pace on the endurance course. (photo by Sgt. Michael J. Bess)

*by Sgt. Michael J. Bess
Staff Writer*

MARINE CORPS BASE, QUANTICO, Va. — Marines from Marine Barracks, Washington, “B” Company had just completed the first stage in the field evaluation of the battalion Super Squad Competition.

The squad members gathered for a brief from their squad leader, and 10 minutes later the entire squad disappeared into the woods on the second

stage of the competition: the Endurance Course.

Company “B” attacked the course here recently during its annual Field Exercise '98.

Stretched out over six miles around the training areas of The Basic School, the course rotated between graveled

roads and rough, hillside paths through the woods. The Marines running it carried their canteens and squad weapons with them throughout the entire course.

There were several noticeable spots throughout the course that gave the Marines problems, but none more noticeable than “The Yellow Brick Road,” a brick-layered path a mile away from the finish line.

The road, named after the famous path in “The Wizard of Oz,” was

where most of the obstacles in the course were located, according to Capt. Christian N. Rankin, 3rd Platoon commander.

“The endurance course was probably the hardest thing because you just get done with the Obstacle Course, and you have 10 minutes once everyone gets through to get your gear on and start the Endurance Course,” said Lance Cpl. Jason B. Hickernell, 1st Squad, 1st Platoon. “The Obstacle Course broke your body down, and the run tore you up. It wears a person down so fast.”

The course run was not about each Marine’s individual effort, but what the squad as a whole could accomplish, as it only received a favorable evaluation if each squad member completed the run.

Throughout the run, there were Marines carrying other Marines’ rifles or gear, doing whatever it took to get them across the finish line.

“There is a lot of teamwork involved,” said Hickernell. “It is a lot easier to get across the finish line with one person than it is with 12.”

NBC closes out annual FEX training

by Sgt. Michael J. Bess
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE, QUANTICO, Va. — After five days of intense training and evaluation, Company “B” concluded its annual field training with a distance march back to the company command post.

Twenty-four hours of constant rain drenched the Marines the night before and they were now preparing themselves for the 35-mile bus trip back to Washington for a shower, “chow” and relaxation over the upcoming Columbus Day weekend. However, one more evaluation awaited them.

Wearing Nuclear, Biological and Chemical gear, complete with field protective (gas) masks, protective suit and gloves, the Marines marched out of the woods in squads and headed for the insertion area they left three days before for the final stage of the FEX: the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical evaluation.

The purpose of such an important exercise was to “simulate an NBC attack and gauge the Marines’ response to it,” said Capt. Kyle B. Ellison,



These two “B” Company Marines inspect each other’s gas masks to ensure they are airtight. (photo by Sgt. Michael J. Bess)

company commander, “B” Company.

During the hike, evaluators instigated the “attacks” on the Marines with training NBC grenades. The Marines then had a certain amount of time to put their gas masks on and ensure they were in proper working order before the attack overcame them.

The Marines survived the attack,

but now their gear was contaminated. It would have to be removed very carefully so as not to harm the wearers or the Marines helping them.

The Marines stood in front of each other as one removed the other’s gear. Each article, from the gloves to the outfit to the hood, was carefully removed and placed to the side so as not to spread contamination. Marines had to wipe some parts of the gear with NBC decontamination gear before being touched, preventing any chemical agent from taking effect on both the wearer and assistant.

From the march to the decontamination stage, some Marines in “B” Company described the entire NBC evaluation as an eye-opener.

“I was walking along through some tall grass, and all of a sudden I heard this ‘pop,’” said Lance Cpl. David L. Clay, 2nd Squad, 1st Platoon. “I stopped everything and got my mask on.”



These Marines assist each other in removing contaminated gear after being attacked. (photo by Sgt. Michael J. Bess)

Music continued

"The kids pick up on that, and they can tell when we're having fun. It's our way of giving something back."

The fun really begins with the audience participation. Gunnery Sgt. Charles A. Casey, trombone, imitates a speeding car with his slide, and hands shoot up with guesses. Gunnery Sgt. Kurt A. Dupuis, trumpet, is asked over and over to repeat his "horse whinny." Two lucky audience members stand in for the first couple while the woodwind quintet honors the "president" with "Hail to the Chief." Gunnery Sgt. Peter J. Wilson, violin, guides a young volunteer in "Fantasia on One Note," accompanied by Marine Band strings.

"We try to build in a lot of student participation," said Wilson, "because nothing reaches them more than see-

ing one of their peers take part."

MITS schools are booked through Headquarters Public Affairs, Marine Band Branch, on a first-come, first-served basis and must be within a 15-mile radius of the barracks. Performance requests come throughout the year — many are for repeat appearances.

"Response has been tremendous from all levels," said Vadya Dillon, MITS program manager. "School administrators and teachers have always applauded our efforts and often remark how appreciative they are of our interest in supporting music education."

Time and time again, students have shown their appreciation through rapt attention, prolonged applause, eager questions ... even handwritten letters.

"You realize you've truly made an impact when you receive thank-you notes from an entire class," said Wilson, who has been involved with MITS since joining the band in 1991.

According to new MITS member Master Sgt. James T. Dickey, III, oboe, the most attentive children in the audience are often band students, but non-music students benefit as well.

"Our performances are a way for them to link music with the history that they're learning in school. The Marine Band has been part of so many important events in our nation's history," he said. "It also lets them see how practice and discipline pays off, whether you choose music or any other endeavor."

Motor-T continued



With the help of Marines from Motor Transport, squads from Company "B" were continuously resupplied with ammunition, food, water and first aid equipment. (photo by Sgt. Michael J. Bess)

According to Piotrowski, the Marines first need to stage their vehicles in an easily accessible area and camouflage them. The Marines used cammy netting and natural concealment, such as leaves and trees, to accomplish this mission. Piotrowski said they also set up shelter for the Motor-T Marines and provided security for their equipment.

Once the motor pool was complete, the Marines focused solely on the other half of their mission: supporting the companies in the field.

The drivers must also police their own gear. Gunnery Sgt. Anthony Maddix, Motor-T operations chief, said they thoroughly inspect their vehicles before and after each trip, looking for anything that could cause a problem while they are on the road.

"Every Marine maintains his (or her) own vehicle," said Maddix. "They will do everything from cleaning them to fueling them."

"I enjoyed driving the troops were they needed to go and supporting them with whatever they needed," said Lance Cpl. Donado L. Peoples, Motor-T driver, about his participation in the FEX.

The Motor-T Marines said they enjoyed the field experience and are looking forward to supporting the FEX again next year.

Company "A" FEX continued

On Day Five the FEX moved into phase four: offensive attacks.

The squads began patrols looking for enemy units that may have been trying to regain control of the mining areas and attacked or defended themselves accordingly.

"We were given coordinates of where the enemy might have been. It was then up to the squad leaders to organize their squads and get the mission accomplished," said Cpl. Miles A. Johnson, Silent Drill Platoon.

"It gave us the opportunity to try and accomplish things ourselves, and later review the positive points of the mission, as well as the things we had to work on," he added.

After an entire day of offensive attacks the Marines went on to their last phase of the FEX: Nuclear, Biological and Chemical warfare training.

The Marines proceeded on a forced march with all of their Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) gear on, and were gassed along the way.

According to Johnson, the NBC training is very impor-



Part of the Super Squad Competition included evaluations of squad movements, as demonstrated by the Marines from "A" Company. Evaluators often removed the squad leaders to determine how well the other Marines could lead. (photo by Lance Cpl. Justin C. Bakewell)

tant for the Marines because in a real situation they need to be accustomed to the physical discomfort of the gear.

"Humping in a gas mask was something I had never experienced before," said Johnson. "It was a lot easier to breathe than I thought it was going to be. It was motivating."

On Oct. 16 Company "A" returned from a successful deployment.

El Cid and the Forty-Niners were subdued for the time, but it is reassuring to know that if this band of terrorists is foolish enough to rise up against the United States, Company "A" will be ready for them.

Weapons training continued

as instill a tactical mindset into every Marine," stated Maj. Robert F. Killackey, H&S Company commanding officer.

The Marines took in-depth classes to refresh themselves on weapons such as M-67 grenades, M16A2 service rifles, M240G machine guns, M249 Squad Automatic Weapons, and the AT-4 anti-armor weapons before they attacked the ranges with live ammunition.

The Marines began the first day by throwing hand grenades. They each threw three practice grenades that simply popped and released blue smoke. Once the Marines finished with their practice throws, it was time for the real thing. The Marines went to the live grenade range and received one grenade — even some corpsmen got in on the action.

"It was my first time throwing (a grenade)," said Seaman William K. Enfinger, a corpsman from Bethesda who was assigned to the barracks to augment its corps-



Marines send rounds down range with their M240G as part of their weapons training during FEX '98. (photo by Lance Cpl. Justin C. Bakewell)

men during FEX '98. "The explosion was a lot louder than I expected."

The grenade range was a great way to get geared up for weapons training, but the Marines said they were ready for more action.

On the third day of the evolution the Marines, armed with their M16A2 service rifles, attacked the "Iron Man," which is an unknown distance range with moving, pop-up targets.

Gunnery Sgt. Pamela J. Smith, formerly with MCI Company and small arms instructor, helped operate the course.

According to Smith the Iron Man range is a very good simulation of a combat area and teaches Marines how to effectively engage targets in a high-pressure situation.

Smith tried to simulate a high pressure situation by yelling orders and instructions at the Marines. She said the yelling combined with the moving targets produced a higher heart rate and a highly stressful environment for the Marines.

"We are teaching these Marines to be able to engage moving targets in a high-stress situation," said Smith. "The Marines do not have time to think, they can only react."

The Marines who fired on the range said it was realistic and they enjoyed the training.

After the grenades and service rifles, the Marines took on a little more firepower.

On the fourth and fifth days of the FEX, the Marines received important hands-on training with some very high powered weapons, such as the M240G, M249 SAW, and AT-4, according to Cpl. S.A. Reed, mess hall cook.

"This training is essential for these younger Marines," said Reed. "They do not realize how important it is."

At the range the Marines each received 50 rounds to fire the SAW. The Marines then separated into teams of two and began aiming in and firing at unserviceable tanks, which were being used as targets.

After refreshing their skills on the SAW, the Marines each received 100 rounds for the M240G. The Marines, once again, paired themselves off and sent rounds screaming down range at their tank targets.

Finally some of the Marines fired with the deadly AT-4. The high cost of the weapon, however, prevented all the Marines from firing live rockets.

Gunnery Sgt. Julien C. Duncan, MCI course writer and small arms instructor, was the staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the machine gun range. Duncan said he believes this training is great and allows the Marines at the barracks the opportunity to refresh their skills with various weapons.

The Marines said they also enjoyed the ranges. After months of ceremonial commitments and paperwork every day, this was a motivating change of pace for many of them.

"It is the best thing I've done since I have been in the Marine Corps," said Cpl. Kevin Grant, mess hall cook. "I'm at a loss for words."



Sergeant Bernard Smith looks on as one of his Marines fires at the "Iron Man" range during this year's annual FEX. (photo by Lance Cpl. Justin C. Bakewell)

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

H&S Company

Master Sgt. J.L. Oliver
 Staff Sgt. E.W. Young
 Cpl. J.H. Hennings III
 Cpl. J.D. Mayfield
 Cpl. L.B. Mckinley
 Cpl. D.L. Peoples
 Cpl. B.E. Thomas Jr.
 LCpl. M.K. Akhtar
 LCpl. M. Baich
 LCpl. J.R. Beaucham III
 LCpl. R.E. Brown
 LCpl. J. Careaga
 LCpl. L.C. Jaime
 LCpl. S.T. Long
 LCpl. E.L. Miller
 LCpl. M.P. Smith
 LCpl. J.L. Wegner
 LCpl. J.E. Whitney

Security Company

First Sgt. J.T. Dumas
 Sgt. K.B. Callahan
 Cpl. J.R. Bell
 Cpl. J.A. Dunham
 Cpl. D.P. Espinosa
 Cpl. R.M. Etzler
 Cpl. D.D. Fuller
 Cpl. M.T. Logsdon

WHCA Company

Sgt. T.C. Lane
 Cpl. A.J. Burk
 Cpl. J.J. Burton
 Cpl. J.E. Castro
 Cpl. J.M. Deforest

MCI Company

Gunnery Sgt. S.K. Wetzel
 Cpl. E.L. Lopez
 LCpl. L.A. Gonzalez II
 LCpl. F.L. Grant
 LCpl. T.C. Hannibal
 LCpl. M.P. Jackson
 LCpl. M. Rodriguezsanchez
 LCpl. C.V. Russo
 LCpl. P.W. Turner

USNA Company

Sgt. C.S. Davis
 Cpl. R. Drumski
 Cpl. G.S. Lucero
 LCpl. M.S. Deleary Jr.
 LCpl. J.B. Hall
 LCpl. T.D. Myrick
 LCpl. M.D. Nutting

D&B Company

Cpl. J.P. Byma
 Cpl. S.A. Mills
 Cpl. T.L. Ryan

Company "A"

Sgt. M.L. Delozier
 Sgt. R.G. Dodds
 Sgt. T.K. Engelhardt
 Sgt. R.R. Rawls
 Sgt. S.B. Sullivan
 Cpl. A.L. Dowell
 Cpl. J.J. Phillips
 Cpl. M.R. Redding
 Cpl. M.T. Weddel

Company "B"

Sgt. W.M. Baker II
 Sgt. A.M. Senecal
 Sgt. W.C. Steding
 Sgt. E.E. Wilson
 Cpl. J.W. Andrea
 Cpl. R.J. Harmon Jr.
 Cpl. C.S. Kinley
 Cpl. K.S. Moul
 Cpl. C.M. Myer
 Cpl. B.D. Reeve
 Cpl. M.R. Smith
 LCpl. J.D. Ayers
 LCpl. J.S. Baker
 LCpl. J.Y. Booker
 LCpl. A.T. Geist
 LCpl. J.C. Higgins
 LCpl. J.A. Thomas

Congratulations to the following Marines and Sailors for the awards they recently received.

Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal

Lt. Cmdr. A.M. Davidson
 Master Sgt. E.J. Luke

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals

Staff Sgt. A.W. Ulmer
 Cpl. C.A. Butler
 Cpl. M.L. Delozier

Good Conduct Medal

Gunnery Sgt. S.L. Samuels
 Staff Sgt. J.A. Rangel
 Sgt. M.A. Collado
 Sgt. R.J. Scott Jr.

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

Sgt. P.E. Franklin for a bonus and duty station preference.

Sgt. P.L. Franklin for a bonus and duty station preference.

Cpl. R.A. Neighbors for duty station preference.

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

First Sgt. D.J. Toomer
 Gunnery Sgt. O.A. Duff

Congratulations to the following Marines on the recent additions to their families.

Sergeant and Mrs. Philip T. Samuels on the birth of their 8-pound, 10.5 oz. baby boy Sept. 18.

Corporal and Mrs. Derrick L. White on the birth of their 7.5-pound, baby boy Sept. 25.

Lance Cpl. and Cpl. Jason D. Morris on the birth of their 8-pound, 8.5 oz. baby boy Oct. 15.

Major and Mrs. Scott A. Burk on the birth of their 9-pound, 12 oz. baby boy Oct. 28.

Mean green Santa machine

by Lt. Kenneth D. Counts
Barracks Chaplain

Nothing feels so lonely as a Christmas on deployment.

If you have been overseas or embarked aboard ship on a holiday, you know how depressed you can feel to be stuck there, separated from your family and home. Christmas in Okinawa is as lonely as it gets.

So it was motivating to watch Capt. Barry MacAndrew, a battalion operations and training officer there, play Santa each Christmas.

MacAndrew was rough as a cob. He rasped every word through a gravel-throated husky voice. His teeth were crooked. He almost never smiled. He was loud. He was critical. He demanded everything be done by the books. He must have worked at least a hundred hours every day. He knew how to do everything ... and how you should do it, too. He was thin and so sun-dried that his hide had long ago turned to leather. A mustang promoted from gunnery sergeant, MacAndrew was your typical Marine officer.

Every Christmas, MacAndrew would suit up as Santa. He had his own costume, which he carefully preserved and protected from one holiday season to the next. He felt so pleased with himself. He would tell me about this project for weeks. He really looked forward to it.

On Christmas Eve, around midnight or whenever he could nestle his own five children in their beds, he would drive to our battalion's barracks. Parking his sleigh out of

sight, he would enter the main hatch and approach the duty shouting, "Merry Christmas Marine!" in that distinctive voice of his. He would pull a small candy cane from his sack and, holding a Hershey's kiss in his open palm, would ask, "How about a kiss from Santa, Marine?"

Passing down the passageways from one deck to the next, MacAndrew would bang on every hatch and wake or flush out each Marine to repeat that same drill he ran with the Marine on duty.

No ticket to Adventure World can produce the kind of thrill you get to see the look in the eyes of a private first class or a lance corporal as he, or she, forgets the Okinawa blues for an instant and laughs at this most unexpected visitor. Some would delay him to snap a quick photo.

Before MacAndrew would turn to leave, he would tell the Marine something from the bottom of his old Marine Corps heart. MacAndrew would express his and Mrs. Clause's gratefulness for the many things that Devil-dog was doing for us all by being on station so far from home that night, and every other night.

We feel the same about you who serve at "the oldest post." Merry Christmas to you, Marines. Thank you for being here, and thank you for all you do for us.

The duty logged an entry something to the effect of, "Santa entered the building at 0015," but I wonder what the battalion executive officer thought when the officer of the day reported?

God Bless you.

Opportunities to give to others, share good fortune

Now in the midst of the holiday season, both single and married Marines will find holiday activities to keep them busy with a little initiative.

The barracks annual Holiday Party is just around the corner, and volunteer groups all over the area are looking for helpers to spread some cheer.

The Marine Barracks Holiday Party is scheduled Saturday, Dec.

12 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the John Philip Sousa Band Hall.

Guests will enjoy punch and cookie refreshments, and there will be games for the children. Santa will also make a special appearance with a bag full of toys for those children on his list.

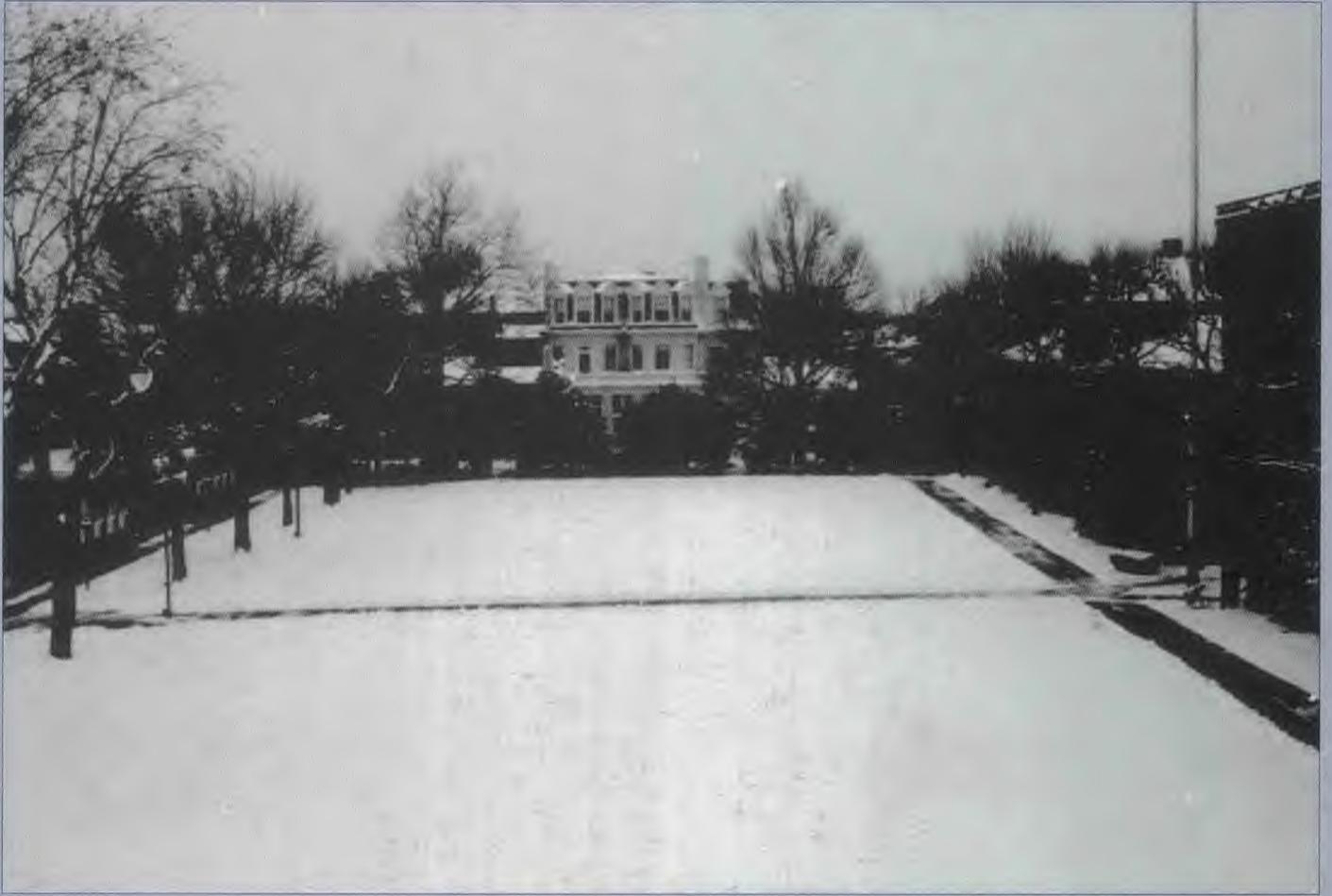
All barracks personnel and their families are encouraged to join in on the festivities.

There are also numerous other volunteer opportunities in December.

Coordinators are looking for people to help with a holiday project called "Ho, Ho, Ho" Dec. 12, the Renaissance Pediatric Unit Dec. 15, and the First Night Alexandria New Year's Eve Celebration Dec. 31.

For more information on volunteer opportunities contact Carol La Voy, Henderson Hall's Family Service Center volunteer coordinator, at (703) 693-4840.

Happy Holidays!



(photo by Sgt. Patrick E. Franklin)

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