



# PASS IN REVIEW

Serving "The Oldest Post of the Corps"

November/December 1999



## Marines say so long to ceremonies for 20th Century's final FEX

Corps' Birthday - Marine Band Post/Relief - Mount. Training

# Leadership positions available

## Qualified NCOs wanted for full-time job opportunities

by *Cpl. Justin C. Bakewell*  
*Media Chief*

As the barracks enters the New Year, it is a perfect time for the NCOs to take a look at themselves and determine whether or not they need to take corrective actions for the year 2000.

Every NCO has their own leadership style however, the foundation of being a NCO remains the same, defined within "The NCO Creed." As a New Years resolution the NCOs of the barracks may want to read over the creed and reaffirm their oath and what it means to them and the Corps.

Being a NCO in the Marine Corps means much more than simply having authority and the power to tell others what to do. The ability to lead and mold Marines begins in the hands of the corporals and sergeants. This is a responsibility that some NCOs chose to ignore. Lance corporals and below look at their first line of leadership for guidance. They are still learning what it means to be a Marine. Their NCOs have the power to set the example and put their Marines on the right path.

Since I have been at the barracks, I have witnessed two types of NCOs. There are many great NCOs at the barracks. Unfortunately, I have also witnessed very poor NCO leadership and examples.

Whether you are out in town, in the brown baggers area, or in your place of work, the attitude and bearing of a NCO should never change. Once you become a corporal you are a NCO 24/7. The misconception that it is acceptable to be a role model and leader when you are at work, and then turn it off when secured, is completely unprofessional. That sets a poor example to the junior Marines who look to their NCOs to set a positive example at all times.

How can Marines respectfully follow orders, willingly and without grudges when they are held to different standards in and out of uniform? The natural human response is to be bitter or jealous. Desertion within a unit is counter productive to mission accomplishment. This is the reason why the Marine Corps enacted the order on fraternization.

Befriending ones subordinates is not acceptable in the Marine Corps. Once NCOs befriends their subordinates it compromises their authority. Noncommissioned officers

need to be approachable, however, the lines of respect should never be crossed – non-NCOs need to remember who they are talking to and vice versa. Sometimes Marines have to make hard decisions, especially when they are promoted to corporal. They have to decide if they want to have friends, or if they want to be in charge of Marines who respect them. Noncommissioned officers need to realize that leadership and mission accomplishment comes before friendship.

What does being a Marine mean to you? Did you join the Corps to make friends and be lighthearted or because you wanted to be a part of the most disciplined organization in the world? Discipline is not turned on and off. You either have it or you do not.

NCOs at the barracks need to begin policing their own. Every time a NCO sets a poor example to a junior Marine he lets down all of his peers. If you are a corporal then you represent me and every other corporal in the Corps. Every NCO needs to read and understand "The NCO Creed" and what it means to the Corps. Are you living up to the standards set forth by our predecessors?

### The NCO Creed

"I'm an NCO dedicated to training new Marines and influencing the old. I am forever conscious of each Marine under my charge, and by example will inspire them to the highest standard possible.  
 I will strive to be patient, understanding, just, and firm.  
 I will commend the deserving and encourage the wayward.  
 I will never forget that I am responsible to my commanding officer for the morale, discipline, and efficiency of my Marines and their performance will reflect an image of me."

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**On the Cover**

Sergeant Keith A. Burns, Marine Corps Community Services, leads his squad up a flight of stairs in one of "Combat Town's" buildings in Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., during the barrack's annual field exercise. (photo by Cpl. Matthew E. Habib)

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*The picture of*

# CEREMONIAL

*by Cpl. Justin C. Bakewell  
Media Chief*

Thirteen officers and 28 staff NCOs recently graduated from Ceremonial Drill School at the barracks Oct. 29 and Nov. 1.

Ceremonial Drill School is a mandatory two-week course for all officers and staff NCOs assigned to the barracks, where they learn the finer points of the barracks ceremonial drill for positions on the two parade staffs.



## of perfection DRILL SCHOOL

“Ceremonial Drill School has been structured to standardize the barracks’ drill,” said Capt. Daniel W. Geisenhof, Headquarters and Service Company, CDS instructor. “Marines go through the school to work on the specific ceremonial drill that is unique to the barracks, rather than the standard ‘fleet’ way of drill.”

Ceremonial drill differs from fleet drill in many aspects, including facing movements and sword manual. Because of the significant amount of drill

foundation that is poured into the officers and staff NCOs, barracks ceremonial drill is much harder to learn, according to Sgt. Maj. D. Scott Frye, battalion sergeant major.

Ceremonial Drill School stresses every aspect of ceremonial composure. The instructors examine every little detail, including facial expressions and excessive movement, according to Geisenhof.

“When the Marines complete CDS, they leave with a sense of accomplishment,” said Geisenhof. “They begin the course stomping around the parade deck with little knowledge of what they are doing, and go on to march in parades as staff members.”

One of the reasons Ceremonial Drill School has had so much success, is the amount of peer pressure during performances, according to Geisenhof.

“The Marines may joke with one another about their performances, however, no one wants to go onto the parade deck without knowing what to do,” said Geisenhof.

“As a staff sergeant select, I had more to prove than the others who were going through the class,” said newly promoted Staff Sgt. Glenn L. Burton Jr., H&S company, procurement section, purchasing agent/contracting specialist. “I not only had to prove I knew the drill, I also had to prove I was ready, willing and able to become a member of the staff NCO ranks.”

Ceremonial Drill School concludes with every Marine performing either the “Parade Commander,” or the “Adjutant’s Sequence” before their peers, instructors and the commanding officer. It can be a fairly nerve-racking experience, according to Burton.

“I was pretty shaky before the first command of the sequence was given,” said Burton. “After that, ev-

erything snapped in and all I worried about was making sure I did not rush through anything.”

Marines receive their diplomas from the commanding officer immediately after performing the various sequences, and become official graduates of CDS.

In February, all recent and former graduates of CDS will edge dress their shoes, and don swords and uniforms in a competition for a position on one of the two parade staffs.



# Barracks renovations improve safety and morale

by Cpl. Sara Storey  
Staff Writer

The renovations that began in late 1998 are finally complete in towers one and two, with towers three and four scheduled for completion in October 2000.

The renovations, totaling \$8.3 million, include new heating and air conditioning units, a fire sprinkler system, new furniture, new carpeting and fresh coats of paint for more than 150 rooms.

The Marines stationed here found themselves being shuffled between temporary quarters at the United States Naval Station in Anacostia and Henderson Hall in Arlington, Va., when the renovations began. The completed renovations will not effect these Marines, but will be used to house new Marines, according to Capt. John F. Goodman, Headquarters and Service company, S-4, director of bach-

elor housing.

The barracks targeted renovations that would increase safety, and raise troop morale with improved living conditions, according to Staff Sgt. Vincent T. Lucky, H&S company, S-4, Bachelor Enlisted Quarters manager.

"We had to place three or four Marines in one room [because of the limited space before renovations]," said Lucky. "To improve morale, we put only two people per room [after renovations]."

The spacious rooms are further improved by new furniture, which takes up less space than the old. The beds also have extra drawers, offering the Marines more room for personal belongings.

"When I first walked in, it looked like a hotel room," said Cpl. Jack G. Henson Jr., United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps company, baritone bugler. "The new furniture opened up so much free space, the room feels more like home."

While the new furniture and fresh paint make the barracks more comfortable, renovations like the fire sprinkler system improve safety.

"This is the Marine's home and we want them to be as safe as possible," said Lucky. "Marines work hard by putting in long hours, so it would be nice for them to go someplace that actually feels like home."



Clockwise, the renovated rooms have higher quality furniture including desks, night stands and two sets of dresser drawers. The new beds have four drawers and gives the room a feeling of home compared to the old rooms, according to Staff Sgt. Vincent T. Lucky, H&S company, S-4, Bachelor Enlisted Quarters manager. (photos by Cpl. Sara Storey)

## ATM installed in tower two is welcomed addition



Years of effort pay off with new ATM, making withdrawing money safer and more convenient

by *Cpl. Matthew E. Habib*  
Staff Writer

Representative Marines from different sections cut the ribbon on Dec. 20, 1999, for the official unveiling of the long awaited Automated Teller Machine, located across from the chow hall.

The barracks had been trying to procure an ATM machine for two years, but was delayed due to multiple bids from different banks and preparations.

Originally, the Single Marines Program attempted to acquire an ATM from Navy Federal Credit Union. However, due to what was believed too small of a population at the barracks to support the machine, Navy Federal declined, according to Capt. Myle Hammond, Marine Corps Community Services director.

The Armed Forces Credit Union stepped in and offered to produce a free machine.

Upon hearing of the Armed Forces Credit Union's bid, Navy Federal made a bid of it's own.

In the end, Navy Federal won the bid, and after some technical support from the barracks, the Marines received its ATM machine.

## The "King" visits barracks for Halloween

by *Cpl. Sara Storey*  
Staff Writer

Marines and family members from the barracks gathered on the parade deck parking lot on a brisk afternoon to celebrate Halloween, Oct. 30.

Tiny Darth Mauls and Obi Wan Kenobis put aside differences and worked

Colonel G. Kevin Brickhouse, barracks commanding officer, laced his blue sued shoes for the barracks' Halloween regalia on the parade deck, and spoke with his with a young gypsy fan before he left the building. (photo by Cpl. Sara Storey)

side-by-side to decorate trick-or-treat bags, paint ghoulish pumpkins, and have their faces painted by barracks Marines. Parents also had the opportunity to join the festivities with their children on one of the hay rides around the parade deck.

With the full moon on the rise, ghosts and goblins gathered in fiendish ranks, parading their garb during the costume contest, and everyone was a winner.

The little dervishes slung their bags of goodies as the festivities ended and flew through the gate with hopes of easing the neighbors' candy load and filling their bellies.



# Happy Birthday Marines!



# The "President's Own" selects one of its own

by *United States Marine Band Public Affairs*

WASHINGTON (Dec. 3) — "The President's Own" United States Marine Band observed one of its most historic traditions Nov. 30, as the drum major's mace passed from Drum Major Master Gunnery Sgt. Dennis R. Wolfe to Master Sgt. John R. Barclay.

With the passing of the mace, Marine Band director Col. Timothy W. Foley transferred the band's ceremonial responsibilities and senior enlisted leadership duties from Wolfe, who is retiring, to Barclay who has served as the assistant drum major since 1996.

During the ceremony, Wolfe was presented with the Meritorious Service Medal, Gold Star, following a 23-year Marine Corps career, more than five of which were with the Marine Band.

During his tenure, Wolfe led the Marine Band in more than 1,000 ceremonies at the White House, Arlington National Cemetery, Marine Barracks, and throughout the nation.

The event marked the 32nd post and relief of the drum major in the Marine Band's 201-year history. Only 30 men have served in the position since William Fare's appointment as the first drum major in 1799. Three



(from left to right) The United States Marine Band Director Col. Timothy W. Foley transfers the band's ceremonial responsibilities and senior enlisted leadership duties from retiring Drum Major Master Gunnery Sgt. Dennis R. Wolfe to Master Sgt. John R. Barclay by passing the mace. (photo by Gunnery Sgt. Christine Kohn)

men have held the title twice. During the Marine Band's first 63 years, the drum major also served as the band's leader.

Barclay received his first musical instruction at age eight from his father, Robert, who was a Marine Band clarinetist from 1950-57.

The Las Vegas native joined "The President's Own" as a clarinetist in

January 1988. Two years later, he was appointed to the position of E-flat clarinetist.

In January 1996, he was named operations assistant and assistant drum major. Three years later, while retaining his assistant drum major duties, he also became the administrative assistant to the director.

## Corps to phase out brown undershirts May 1, 2000

*Marine Administrative Message number: 521/99*

The Marine Corps uniform board, by the commandant's guidance, recently provided information regarding the deletion of the brown undershirt from the minimum requirement list.

Effective immediately, the Marine Corps, including the Marine Corps reserve, will commence phasing out the brown undershirt. On May 1, 2000, green will be the only

color undershirt authorized for wear with all styles and colors of the utility uniforms. The brown undershirts will be replaced with green undershirts when the current supply is depleted, and will not be reordered for any purpose.

The point of contact for uniform policy issues is Capt. Dwyer at DSN 224-2086/2641.

The point of contact concerning supply policy issues is Karla Griffe at DSN 225-8946.



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# MUD, M & RAIN

*Story by Cpl. Matthew E. Habib*

*Staff Writer*

*photos by Sgts. Michael J. Bess, Sean Fitzpatrick  
& Cpl. Matthew E. Habib*

Barracks Marines left behind ringing phones and ceremonial uniforms to participate in this year's Field Exercise Event in Quantico, Va., from Sept. 25 to Oct. 7.

The Marines split into their respective companies and headed for the field. While all the Marines received similar training, the different companies specifically focused on particular types of training. For instance, while "A" and "B" companies, both infantry units, focused on advanced types of infantry training, Headquarters and Services company teamed up with the Marine Corps Institute company to focus mainly on mobilization. The United States Naval Academy company also participated in the FEX, though due to time restraints spent two days less in the field,

requiring them to work twice as hard in order to perform as much as the other companies.

All the Marines, now donning muddy cammies and assault rifles, took part in numerous live-fire exercises, land navigation and patrolling classes, and established and maintained defensive parameters with fields of fire covering every avenue.

All this training is knowledge every good Marine should know, according to Gunnery Sgt. Angelo Goodwyn, Headquarters and Service company, company gunnery sergeant.

"The FEX gives all the Marines at the barracks a chance to apply military occupational specialty skills in a field environment," said Goodwyn. "This goes in conjunction with the mission of the barracks, as well as giving the Marines an opportunity to catch up on quarterly, semianual, and annual training."

*continued on pg. 12*

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## FEX continued

As soon as the Marines stepped off the busses, they proceeded to the nearby tree lines for classes on Marine Corps basics. These classes included utilizing cammie paint in order to obtain the best concealment in the dense forest, along with constructing different styles of fighting holes and placing them in position for maximum effectiveness.

The Marines grabbed their entrenchment tools, and without further delay, began digging into the twilight hours to establish an effective defensive position.

The Marines set out into the forest the next morning, before the sun had completely risen, to participate in day and night land navigation training. By repeating courses in land navigation, Marines are able to make better decisions when their survival is on the line, according to Goodwyn.

That night however, the cool and crisp weather turned into light drizzle, but within hours it became a storm lasting six days and canceling several evolutions.

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“... many Marines realized in ‘Combat Town,’ how important it is to think straight and stay focused ... otherwise it might cost somebody their life ...”

Lance Corporal Venus Ungaro, H&S company, fiscal section, budget technician.

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“During the first block of the evolution, the weather really hampered training and the Marines,” said Goodwyn. “The first block of the FEX was ac-



tually cut short because the rain posed serious safety and health risks.”

The muddy and soaking wet Marines pulled themselves from their flooded fighting holes the next morning and made their way to the “Iron Man” course just as the first rays of sun appeared. This course provided the Marines with an opportunity to fire at moving, pop-up targets, at unknown distances.

The Marines strained to see targets through the thick rain at the next course, the grenade range, which provided the Marines with a chance to practice different throwing techniques and safety precautions, and then throw a series of live grenades. The grenade course helps Marines build confidence in explosives handling and helps them appreciate the destructive power of a fragmentation grenade, according to Goodwyn.

With the rain still beating down in the days to come, the Marines raced down one of the hardest, fast-paced courses known as the “rush course.” This course, which is three hundred yards long, exposed the Marines to more pop-up targets as each individual fire team rushed toward the destination line by using fire and maneuver. Concertina wire, ditches, boulders, small hills, and trenches all acted as concealment as well as obstacles in the excruciating exercise.

The wet surroundings and rain made the course even more treacherous as the Marines charged the lines and slammed into the ground seeking cover.

Some Marines never quite knew where they were going to end up whenever they dove for cover, according to Lance Cpl. Mike D. Nutting, United States Naval Academy company, Guard Section, corporal of the guard and FEX saw gunner.

“I think that my group of Marines did an outstanding job as a fire team. After a quick practice run, we pushed as hard as we could toward the end of the course,” said Nutting. “The course was even harder for the Marines due to the mud and water. A Marine would dive down and try to take aim at a target, but before he knew it, he would be slipping and sliding five feet from where he wanted to be [positioned]. We had Marines slamming into obstacles or sliding out into the open, but that just made it all the more challenging and fun.”

During the final phase of the evolution, the Marines participated in a raid on Quantico’s “Combat Town.” As squads broke off from one another and, with the guidance of an instructor, the Marines entered and cleared individual buildings. Some of the Marines said they learned some of

the most important lessons that pertain to them and the mission at the barracks during this training block.

“Urban combat missions are the kind of situations Marines are facing more and more these days, and I think that many of the Marines realized in “Combat Town,” how important it is to think straight and stay focused on the mission,” said Lance Cpl. Venus Ungaro, H&S company, fiscal section, budget technician. “The world may be falling apart around us, but Marines have to keep their attention on each other and the objective, otherwise it might cost somebody their life and perhaps the success of the mission.”

**W**hile the majority of barracks Marines took part in field training, some sections took on a different type of training that related to their particular MOS in a field environment.

The chow hall, Information Systems Management Office, motor transport, and S-3 operations/training sections all worked in an almost “behind the scenes” effort to ensure the FEX was successful.

Weeks before the FEX began, Marines from S-3 made arrangements with Quantico officials and ensured the training schedule and all preparations were in order. It is a job that is easier said than done according to Gunnery Sgt. Allen C. Benjamin, S-3 section, battalion training chief.

“The S-3 shop’s main goal was to conduct training and provide support to all field units by making sure all ranges and training areas were ready to go prior to the start of the FEX,” said Benjamin. “In order to achieve this however, we had to work with other elements such as the Basic School’s Artillery Demonstration Unit and Motor-T, along with other Quantico elements such as range control and Infantry Officers Course. Sometimes things could get hectic.”

The Motor-T and ISMO sections also accomplished part of their missions prior to the FEX by bringing supplies and setting up communications early, according to Sgt. Richard A. Neighbors, Motor-T section, maintenance chief.

“Motor transport was in charge of making sure all the water bulls made it down to Quantico so the Marines would have water to drink,” said Neighbors. “My section was also responsible for the transportation of personnel and gear to and from each location.”

“The ISMO also went to Quantico ahead of time to set up communication lines between the different sections,”



While the Marines were in Quantico, they participated in training operations within “Combat Town,” in which they entered and secured individual buildings from “hostiles.”

said Cpl. Duane D. Klatt, MCI company, ISMO clerk. “All of the lines ran to S-3’s base of operations, making it easier to direct the traffic, maintain accountability of the Marines — overall improving communications everyone.”

Looking back on the exercise when the Marines returned home, those in charge have some ideas of how to make next year’s FEX better. But one thing remains constant – the pride of each section’s accomplishments.

“I am extremely proud of our Marines and everything they do,” said Goodwyn. “The motivation was high in Quantico and Marines performed exactly the way I knew they would. Even when things slowed down, they looked for something constructive to learn and received the importance of every lesson.”

# Camp Dawson, Mount

An adrenaline pumping, skin tearing, muscles tight as a drum, h



Lance Corporal Joseph A. Kelley, H&S company, Guard Detachment, is on his way to the top of "Sunset Wall." The rappel rope was too tight, and actually pulled Kelley away from the cliff, costing him the climb. Kelly finished the climb the next day and was one of two Marines to make it to the top. (photo by Sgt. Sean Fitzpatrick)

by Sgt. Sean Fitzpatrick  
Editor

Just one day after the barracks celebrated the Corps' birthday, more than 75 Marines shouldered their packs for seven days of Mountain Warfare Training at the United States Army's Camp Dawson in West Virginia.

The tires had gripped the black asphalt for hours, humming under the bus, lulling everyone to sleep. The Appalachian Mountains changed the tires' tune in the final hour and those who put aside books and card games stared mutely out the window as the lush hills of West Virginia rolled into the horizon, looking like another planet after the city affairs of Washington, D.C.

The Marines debarked the buses at Camp Dawson, and before the dust settled, Marines filled the eight squad bays, stowed gear, and quickly assembled for the first class of Mountain Warfare Training: safety and tying a rappel harness.

Throughout the next six days, the instructors taught the Marines several techniques for rappelling, belaying, building and navigating rope bridges, tying-off and going vertical on rappel, scaling cliffs that would make Spider Man think twice, but most of all how to be safe, gain confidence and have fun.

"People are likely to get hurt the first time [they climb or rappel], because they know nothing, as well as the last time, because they think they know everything and get careless," said Staff Sgt. John W. Hess II, Mountain/Arctic instructor, Special Operations Training Group with III MEF, Marine Corps Base Lejeune, N.C.

The first few Marines over the side of the rappel tower instantly knew what Hess was talking about.

The instructors yell commands from the tower because the wind is fairly strong and it takes the Marine's attention from the 40-foot drop. So when the Marine crosses the tower's roof, he is commanded to place one hand on the instructor's shoulder and pull the rope behind him with his right hand, or break hand. Then the instructor winds the rope

# Mountain Warfare Training

hanging from your fingertips 40-feet off the ground good time

through the carabineer (a quarter inch link of metal clipped around the front of a rappel seat), which jostles the Marine enough to make him nervous.

Finally, the Marine announces his name on rappel and waits for the Marine at the base of the tower to repeat his name on belay. He inches his heels over the lip of the wall, and by releasing his natural death-grip on the rope, he leans back until his body is shaped like an "L." This position is extremely awkward and difficult to achieve, because the finger-thick, black static ropes have a slick nylon sheath, which is helpful on a fast rappel, but it does not make edging off a cliff easy or comfortable.

A healthy mind appears to be conditioned against performing death-defying acts in general, so about the same time the Marine is leaning back, his adrenaline added mind is screaming not to let go and instincts are begging to have both feet on the ground. This is where disci-

pline and an acute awareness of safety and procedure become paramount. He loosens the fingers, steadies wobbly knees, but most of all it makes the second step bearable. Gravity takes care of the rest.

"The first step off a cliff always feels uncomfortable – it is always the same. If it stops being uncomfortable then it is time to find another profession, because you are going to hurt yourself or someone else, or get yourself killed," said Hess.

The sheer terror and thrill of defying gravity on a tower had Marines smiling, but it was nothing compared to the heights and perils of scaling and rappelling down bone-numbingly-cold cliffs.

Marines further learned to traverse, or move from side-to-side,

on a jagged, handhold rich cliff, build and reclaim rope bridges, rappel and tie off on rappel, and most challenging of all: scale cliffs of every degree of difficulty.

One cliff drew the most attention. "Sunset Wall" was a slick monster with two overhangs, a starting handhold that was nine feet up and as deep and smooth as a Kevlar helmet. This was known as the "bucket." The final six feet of the cliff offered the climber nothing but narrow cracks, tiny bumps and the false promise of footholds.

By the end of the day, it knew every Marine's name, some became more familiar than others, and its rock face seemed to mock their efforts. Finally, on the sixth day, Lance Cpls. Joseph A. Kelley, Headquarters and Service company, Guard Detachment, and Juan E. Arredondo, "B" company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, laughed back.

"The climb and the trouble

*continued on pg. 16*



The Marines cycled through the different training stations for instructions and practical application of rappelling (shown left), building/crossing and reclaiming rope bridges (shown above by Staff Sgt. Hess), building a rope harness, coiling rope (shown right by Lance Cpl. Louse G. Quetell, Marine Corps institute company, Student Services section), tying off on rappel and going verticle, as well as learning the rudiments of free climbing, or climbing with out rope. (photographs by Sgt. Sean Fitzpatrick)



## Dawson continued

really started in the bucket," said Kelley. "I rested for a long time in it, because there was nothing after it except finger-jams (crossing fingers to add width and leverage inside a crack or crevice) and friction-grips (pushing with palms down on an incline). I knew if I was going to finish the climb, I needed enough strength for a one-arm pull-up, and so that is what I did."

The elusive and unforgiving climb demanded deft hands, but defying gravity is a knack Kelley said he learned while working with his father.

"I helped my father trim trees since I was five-years-old, and I like to do it," said Kelley. "[Climbing Sunset Wall] was not as frightening as hanging in a tree from one hand and cutting limbs with a chainsaw in the other. So I cannot say it was the hardest climb I ever made, but it was



definitely up there."

They had slain Goliath, and with enough time to spare for a competition of climbing skills between the platoons. Twenty-one Marines from six companies formed three squads to see which could cross a 100-foot rope bridge and rappel down the other side the fastest.

It was close, but Marines from H&S company edged in front of "A" company with a successful score of 00:03:40:25.

It was dark and cold when the Marines departed Dawson. Their blood and sweat tattooed the cliffs, but they came away with the confidence to defy gravity.

"If the Marines could take one thing with them, I want it to be confidence," said Hess. "Nothing motivates me more than hearing these Marines hoot and holler when they reach the top. I hope they leave here with the confidence to overcome any obstacle with the same motivation."

## OUTSTANDING!

Marine Barracks graduated 25 corporals and senior lance corporals from the Corporals Course 1-00 Dec. 17 in the Marine Corps Institute's auditorium.

The course is part of the barracks' annual training plan. It addresses all of the basic areas a new noncommissioned officer needs to be a sound leader and accomplish the mission. Instructors teach the students everything from organizing and leading physical training sessions, to reading a Leave and Earnings Statement.

The main objective of the course is to instill confidence in the Marines and send them back to their units more capable of leading Marines.

The course graduates awarded Cpl. Justin C. Bakewell, Headquarters and Service Company, Public Affairs, media chief, with the "Gung Ho Award," for his outstanding performance and for exemplifying the standards of a Marine noncommissioned officer. (photo by Cpl. Matthew E. Habib)



# The Silent Drill Platoon



For most Marines who become members of the Silent Drill Platoon, it is the pinnacle of a career. Below, Sgt. Joe A. Almendarez, "A" company, SDP, rifle inspector, inspects another member of the Silent Drill Platoon, Cpl. Jacob A. Hill, before "Challenge Day." Left, a Marine applies a balm to his gloves to help him grip the rifle.

## Joining the "Marching 24"

*photos and story by Cpl. Justin  
C. Bakewell  
Media Chief*

The United States Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon is comprised of highly disciplined Marines who are screened and brought to the barracks specifically to become the most visible representation of the Corps.

However, becoming a member of the Silent Drill Platoon is not all excitement and intrigue.

Before any Marine can become a member of the SDP, he must undergo a battery of screening tests and personal evaluations before arriving at the barracks and again upon arrival, and while the examinations help determine who is best qualified, it only places the Marine's foot on the road to the SDP. He must still graduate from the grueling Silent Drill School.

Every year, the first sergeants from "A" and "B" Companies begin their recruiting missions at Camp Pendleton, Calif.; Camp Lejuene, N.C.; and both Marine Corps recruit depots; searching and screening for entry-level, infantry Marines who are at least 70-inches tall and possesses qualities such as drive, initiative and the desire to become a member of the SDP.

The screening process ensures the Marines who will perform at various ceremonies for the president of the United States, foreign dignitaries and



*continued on pg. 18*



Sergeant Mark R. Redding, "A" company, SDP, marcher, is evaluated by Sgt. Roupen Bastajian, former "A" company, SDP, drill master, during "Challenge Day." Redding was later selected as one of the two rifle inspectors for the 2000 parade season.

## SDP continued

heads of state, have the highest discipline, moral and ethical standards possible, according to 1st Sgt. Mitchell C. Cole, "A" company, first sergeant.

"It is very important that we have Marines of a high caliber stationed here," said Cole. "The Marines at the barracks are ambassadors for the Corps, and we need to make sure we have the right Marines to accomplish that mission."

Being selected as an SDP candidate and passing the screening process in order to come to one of the line companies is almost easy compared to the four months of Silent Drill School, beginning immediately upon arrival.

"The Silent Drill School consists of 12 to 14-hour-days and covers a broad spectrum of topics including drill, uniforms, weapons training with the M-1 Garand, and PT," said Cpl. Alexander Ferguson, "A" company, Silent Drill Platoon, guide.

The SDS training is rigorous and repetitive in order to make the platoon the most precise unit in the Marine

Corps, and operate without verbal commands. This responsibility falls to the returning Marines and ultimately to the platoon's drill master.

"During SDS we face a lot of obstacles, but the biggest one is pushing the Marines to achieve their full potential. Sometimes when they think they have nothing left, they still have something more to give," said Sgt. Ryan L. Blaine, "A" company, Silent Drill Platoon, drill master.

While the school obviously focuses on drill, it equally stresses the responsibilities that come with being in the spotlight, according to Ferguson.

"The Marines in the SDP are a direct representation of the Marine Corps, and we teach them how to portray the best image to the public and other Marines," said Ferguson.

Although the SDS demands every ounce of energy from its Marines, the goal of becoming a member of the one of most revered units in the armed forces is enough motivation for Pfc. Tyrone C. Cole, "A" company, Si-

lent Drill School candidate, recruited out of MCRD Parris Island, S.C.

"If I graduate from Silent Drill School and become a member of the Silent Drill Platoon it will be the biggest accomplishment of my life," said Cole. "I cannot picture myself doing anything else at the barracks except being a member of the SDP."

Silent Drill School concludes in February when the Silent Drill Platoon joins the United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps, and Color Guard for "Battle Color Detachments" during the "West Coast Tour." This tour includes ceremonies at every major Marine Corps installation from Arizona to California, and ends with the beginning of the parade season here.

"I think about the future [performances], and that keeps me motivated," said Cole. "When the instructors come back from the ceremonies and tell us about the crowds and the rush they get from performing, it makes everything we are going through now seem worthwhile."

# Test your barracks' Knowledge

Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., is unique in the Marine Corps. Rich in both ceremonies and traditions, the barracks's history holds a wealth of information for those looking into the history of the capital and the Marine Corps.

Test your knowledge of "The Oldest Post of the Corps" by answering the following questions and see if you are a barracks expert.

- 1) When was the site for Marine Barracks selected?
  - a. 1806
  - b. 1804
  - c. 1801
- 2) Which United States President rode on horseback with Lieutenant Col. Commandant William Ward Burrows, the 2<sup>nd</sup> commandant, to select the site for Marine Barracks?
  - a. George Washington
  - b. Quincy Adams
  - c. Thomas Jefferson
- 3) Marine Barracks was purchased at a cost of four cents per foot. What was the total cost?
  - a. \$1,273.05
  - b. \$6,247.18
  - c. \$8,193.22
- 4) What building in the District of Columbia is the longest continuously occupied public building?
  - a. The White House
  - b. The Home of the Commandants
  - c. The United States Capitol building
- 5) When was Marine Barracks designated a National Historic Landmark?
  - a. 1974
  - b. 1987
  - c. 1976
- 6) General John A. Lejeune, the 13<sup>th</sup> commandant, established the Marine Corps Institute in what year?
  - a. 1920
  - b. 1899
  - c. 1910
- 7) Which is the oldest musical organization in America?
  - a. The United States Marine Band
  - b. The Boston Symphony Orchestra

- 8) What are the sashes called that are worn by the drum majors of the United States Marine Band and the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps?
  - a. Piping
  - b. Banners of Hype
  - c. Baldrics
- 9) The staffs carried by the drum major of the United States Marine Band and United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps are referred to as what?
  - a. Sticks
  - b. Maces
  - c. Pikes
- 10) When was the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps formed?
  - a. 1934
  - b. 1966
  - c. 1801
- 11) Marine Barracks holds the Battle Color of the Marine Corps. What is the total number of awards, campaigns, expeditionary and service streamers on this Color.
  - a. 55
  - b. 49
  - c. 32
- 12) Originally called "Sunset Parades," in what year was the "Evening Parade" at Marine Barracks first conducted?
  - a. July 5, 1957
  - b. February 23, 1945
  - c. July 4, 1776
- 13) When were "Sunset Parades" first conducted at the base of the United States Marine Corps War Memorial?
  - a. September 1956
  - b. July 1957
- 14) The United States Marine Corps War Memorial depicts the raising of the

American flag where?

- a. Okinawa
- b. Guadalcanal
- c. Mount Suribachi

15) When did Marines raise the flag during the World War II battle for Iwo Jima?

- a. Feb. 23, 1954
- b. Feb. 23, 1945
- c. March 18, 1939

16) The statue is the largest bronze statue in the world, and stands 78-feet-tall and weighing 100 tons?

- a. True
- b. False

17) When was the memorial dedicated to the 179<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Corps?

- a. Nov. 10, 1954, the 179<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Corps
- b. July 4, 1954
- c. Nov. 10, 1952, the 177<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Corps

18) After the flag raising photo on Iwo Jima was taken, how long did it take sculptor Felix de Weldon to complete the monument?

- a. 9 years
- b. 3 years
- c. 6 months

19) The United States Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon first performed in what year?

- a. 1946
- b. 1948
- c. 1981

## ANSWERS:

1.C; 2.C; 3.B; 4.B; 5.C; 6.A; 7.A; 8.C; 9.B; 10.A; 11.B; 12.A; 13.B; 14.C; 15.B; 16.A; 17.A; 18.A; 19.C; 20.B

## RESULTS:

18-19 correct = Docent  
 15-17 correct = Docent Prospect  
 13-16 correct = "The Gunny!"  
 10-12 correct = Officer Candidate  
 7-9 correct = Maggie's Drawers  
 5-8 correct = Remove Pin First  
 0-4 correct = See SACO



# Bring on the competition

## Barracks' athletes, adventurers, amateurs put talent to the test

*by Cpl. Matthew E. Habib  
Staff Writer*

Marines from different sections participated in the barracks' first wrestling tournament in the gym here Dec. 9, 1999.

There was a strong showing from each company, but in the end, "B" company walked away with the first place trophy, Headquarters and Service company in second place, and "A" company trailing in third.

Despite emphasis on teams and inter-company competition, several wrestlers said the deciding factor is the individual wrestler.

"When two wrestlers are on the mats, the only thing that matters in their world at that moment is beating the other opponent," said Lance Cpl. Daniel L. Steakin, H&S company, company office clerk and 210-lbs. wrestler. "There is no way for the team to help the wrestler then. The only thing he can rely on to achieve victory is himself, and win or lose he has nobody else to blame."

The fiercely independent aspect of wrestling offers each competitor a completely personal experience during each match. Whether it ended with a trophy or a handshake, several Marines said it was worth the pain



Lance Cpl. Nicholas V. Gonzalez takes down one of his opponents. (photo by Cpl. Matthew E. Habib)

and effort if they take something useful from the experience.

“Wrestling is one of the most intense sports, because it requires heart, discipline, and endurance to be successful,” said Lance Cpl. Daniel Carson, “B” company, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon, marcher and 190 lbs. wrestler. “This sport not only makes a person strong physically, it also helped bring the different platoons together – it broke down barriers between us.”

The next wrestling tournament is scheduled for Feb. 25, in the gym here.

For more information, contact Sgt. Robert Allen by phone at 433-4493.

The officers of the barracks also made sports news by gathering at the Naval Air Station Anacostia on Nov. 22, 1999, to participate in this year’s annual flag-football event known as the Oyster Bowl.

The Marine Corps Institute, United States Naval Academy, and “B” company, teamed up and gathered on the football field against H&S company,

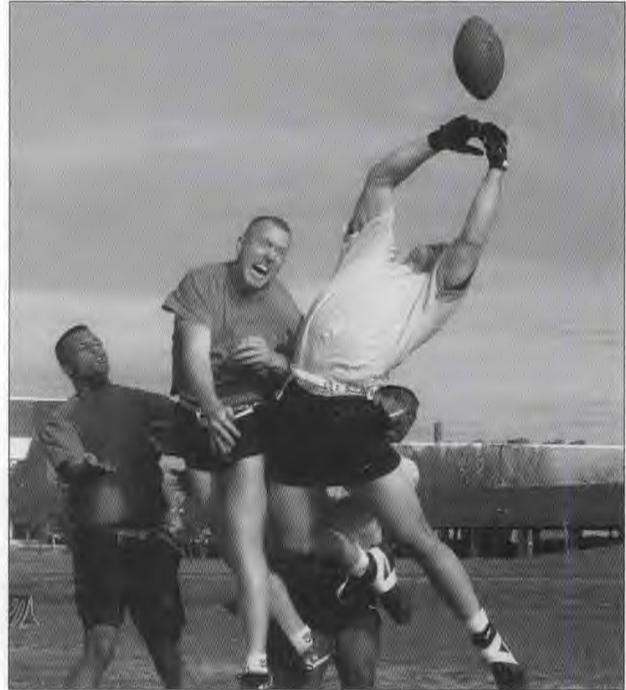
the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, and “A” company.

“It was the perfect day for a game of football,” said Captain Myle Hammond, Marine Corps Community Services, director. “All of the officers went out there and had a great, competitive game.”

In the first half of the game, MCI and company made the first touchdown, but were unable to make the one-point conversion. The H&S team retaliated by scoring a touchdown of their own, and made the two-point conversion.

However, the H&S team were unable to score again, and by the end of the game, MCI and company scored another touchdown

and walked away with a winning score of 12 to 8, and the Oyster Bowl championship crown.



Captain Jon M. Lauder, “A” company team member, attempts to deny the completion of the opponent’s pass. In the end, MCI and Company would walk away winners. (photo by Cpl Matthew E. Habib)

## Spotlight

**Name:** Cpl. Douglas M. Hanna

**Unit:** Headquarters & Service Company, Guard Detachment

**Job:** First section leader

**Joined Marine Corps:** April 28, 1998

**Hometown:** Tampa, Fla.



Spotlight Marines are personally selected by the battalion sergeant major for their consistent and noteworthy performance, conduct, and professionalism.

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

### **H&S Company**

Sgt. M.S. Fitzpatrick  
 Cpl. J.B. Argueatahildalgo  
 Cpl. L.J. Deforges  
 Cpl. A.M. Dwyer  
 Cpl. B.L. Smith  
 Cpl. C.W. Thompson  
 Lance Cpl. D.N. Burton  
 Lance Cpl. N.J. Cowden  
 Lance Cpl. P.Q. Gary Jr.  
 Lance Cpl. M.W. Gindt  
 Lance Cpl. C.M. Infante  
 Lance Cpl. B.R. Sprague  
 Lance Cpl. C.D. Ticknor

### **NCO of the Quarter**

Cpl. D.M. Hanna

### **Marine of the Month**

Lance Cpl. J.D. Sutfin

### **MCI Company**

Cpl. W.E. Velez  
 Lance Cpl. D.G. Rodriguezpadilla  
 Lance Cpl. R.A. Rodriguez

### **NCO of the Quarter**

Cpl. K.G. Kueny

### **Marine of the Month**

Lance Cpl. B.A. Gerding

### **"A" Company**

Sgt. M.R. Redding  
 Sgt. D.B. Smith  
 Cpl. Cpl. J.C. Comerford  
 Cpl. B.E. Jones  
 Cpl. M.O. Wilkis  
 Lance Cpl. B.A. Halouska  
 Pfc. J.D. Cannon III  
 Pfc. J.W. Clabaugh  
 Pfc. M.W. Cole  
 Pfc. J.S. Dontje  
 Pfc. S.J. Harris  
 Pfc. M.P. Hodshire  
 Pfc. T.M. Holland  
 Pfc. D.R. Hu Jr.  
 Pfc. D.J. Johnson

Pfc. M.J. Klinger  
 Pfc. M.S. Knuth  
 Pfc. S.J. Loose  
 Pfc. N.D. Martocci  
 Pfc. T.W. Mckeel  
 Pfc. A.M. Mullen  
 Pfc. J.T. Pigan  
 Pfc. C.J. Robertson  
 Pfc. C.L. Romero  
 Pfc. J.D. Samples  
 Pfc. W.E. Sullivan  
 Pfc. J.M. Vaughn  
 Pfc. P.G. Weaver  
 Pfc. J.A. White

### **NCO of the Quarter**

Cpl. J.C. Comberford

### **Marine of the Month**

Lance Cpl. J.D. Edwards

### **"B" Company**

Cpl. D.J. Buckles  
 Cpl. R. Daniels  
 Cpl. J.R. Gonzalez  
 Lance Cpl. R.P. Wetherbee Jr.  
 Pfc. J.G. Amstutz  
 Pfc. N.D. Andrews  
 Pfc. M.W. Chapman  
 Pfc. G.S. Demott  
 Pfc. A. Dika  
 Pfc. F.K. Garman  
 Pfc. L.A. Gray  
 Pfc. A.L. Ingram  
 Pfc. J.R. Magee  
 Pfc. J.M. Mahaffey  
 Pfc. B.D. Moog Jr.  
 Pfc. M.J. Pergram  
 Pfc. G.J. Peters Jr.  
 Pfc. F.R. Ramos  
 Pfc. F.T. Raines  
 Pfc. G.A. Serho  
 Pfc. S.L. Steif  
 Pfc. R.J. Swett  
 Pfc. R.D. Watkins  
 Pfc. B.J. Weigert  
 Pfc. C.D. Young  
**NCO of the Quarter**  
 Cpl. J.R. McNeil  
**Marine of the Month**  
 Lance Cpl. R.J. Hoffrichter

### **D&B Company**

Master Sgt. T.E. Merklinger

### **Security Company**

Sgt. J.A. Flanary  
 Sgt. D.D. Fuller  
 Cpl. B.L. Black  
 Cpl. A.V. Brown  
 Cpl. D.L. Bearden  
 Cpl. W.E. Campbell III  
 Cpl. A.L. Ellison  
 Cpl. T.H. Herzog II  
 Cpl. S.E. Padgett

### **NCO of the Quarter**

Cpl. M.S. Beames

### **Marine of the Month**

Lance Cpl. J.M. Beck

### **USNA Company**

Cpl. O.R. Clay  
 Cpl. H.M. Debus  
 Cpl. M.D. Nutting  
 Cpl. J.L. Jonhson

### **NCO of the Quarter**

Cpl. J.W. Burtis Jr.

### **Marine of the Month**

Lance Cpl. K.A. Young

### **United States Marine Band**

Cpl. J.C. Warren

Congratulate the following Marines for the awards they recently received.

### **Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals**

Capt. G.S. Benson  
 Sgt. S.G. Buchanan III  
 Sgt. E.D. Parsons

### **Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals**

Gunnery Sgt. J.A. Stafford  
 Cpl. J.D. Ayers  
 Cpl. B.T. Helbert  
 Cpl. M.C. Ifill  
 Cpl. P.J. Pedleton  
 Lance Cpl. J. Careaga

# INTEGRITY: The Corps' hardships forge a Marine's mettle, hammering out warriors of incalculable worth



“... the total warrior is not just physical, but a three-dimensional triangle: the mind, body and spirit, which incorporates the professional, personal and spiritual dimensions of life. ...”

Lt. Gregory C. Cathcart

*by Lt. Gregory C. Cathcart  
Barracks Chaplain*

As I travel this great country of ours, I am amazed at the decline in personal integrity and the ability to do what is right.

I do not mean to try and say what is right. Innumerable teachers, philosophers and prophets have taught and instructed various viewpoints of morality, and consequently Mankind's moral and eternal salvation. But if you ask one hundred philosophers a question, you will probably get one hundred different answers.

I do not presume to know why things in our culture are the way they are -- it is too complex. However, I do wish to offer an observation and possible solution.

Over the last several years, I have seen the integrity of individual Marines. It is my opinion that the Marine Corps is the greatest finishing school in the entire world.

Marines, regardless of their rank or position, operate with honor, courage, and commitment 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week. They personify everything that is

right and good about America.

Perhaps these commodities are rare today, because society tends to take the path of least resistance, with the least cost in terms of personal comfort or investment.

Improvement is a struggle, however, and the struggle toward the perfection of the mind, body and spirit requires integrity. It is a goal demonstrated best by those who come closest to it — MARINES.

The Marines I know are modeling what integrity is all about. Maybe Marines can do this because they are familiar with what is “hard and difficult” – things most simply chose not to do because it will cost them, and because it takes effort.

It can be a hard life, because it goes against the popular opinion of the day. Especially in the me-first, immediate gratification, self-absorbed, victimized, take no responsibility society we live in.

It takes personal courage to do, and stand for what is right. Men such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Caesar Chavez and Bishop Romero stood for personal integrity no matter what the personal cost.

Marines continue to remind society that perfection, although it may not be fully attainable, is worth striving for on a daily basis.

I would like to encourage every Marine, sailor and civilian, regardless of your faith, to examine your beliefs and know why you believe what you believe.

Moreover, I wish to challenge you to develop a deeper relationship with God regardless of the form you choose to express it. Whether you read Scripture, the Koran, the Torah, or perhaps just take time for quiet reflection, I can promise you that whatever method you choose to incorporate into a daily routine will be time well spent.

Again, remember the total warrior is not just physical, but a three-dimensional triangle: the mind, body and spirit, which incorporates the professional, personal and spiritual dimensions of life. When these three are not in balance, we are less than our best.

Semper Fi,  
Chaplain G. C. Cathcart

# Constructing General Officer Quarters 1908



(Official USMC Photo)

**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
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