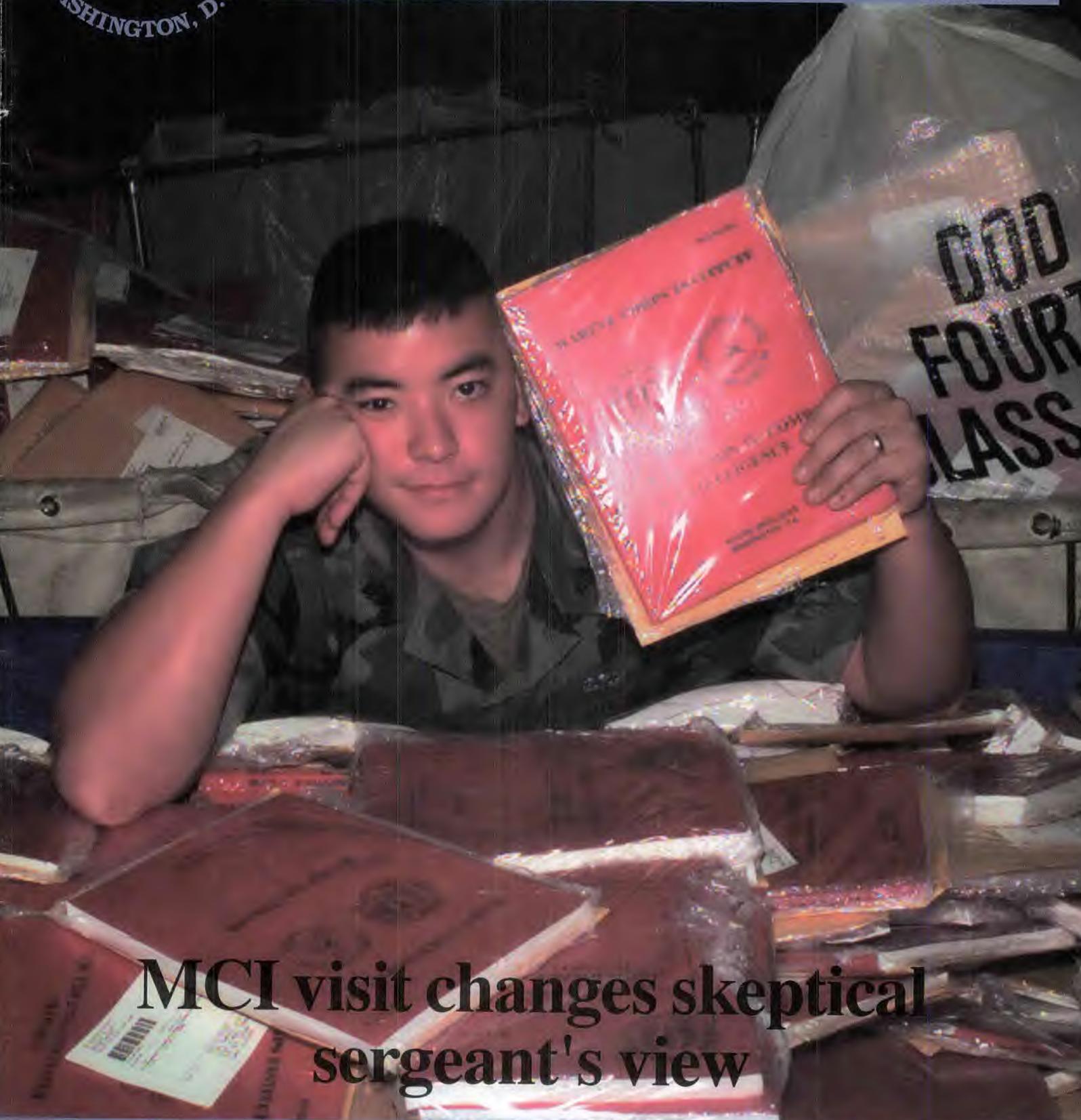


PASS IN REVIEW

Serving "The Oldest Post of the Corps"

October 1999



MCI visit changes skeptical sergeant's view

Corps tests boots - Enlisted Aides - Corps gives free college credits

Press bias: Marine Corps unjustly targeted by media despite high standards

Mark Shields, Oct. 19, 1999
"Daily Herald" Staff Writer

Press bias is an ugly thing. It really makes no difference if that bias is unintentional or even unconscious.

Take the bias of the American elite - academic, financial and social - against the American military. Nowhere is that bias more obvious than the establishment press' choosing to identify criminals or antisocial misfits by their former association with the United States Marine Corps, as in "ex-Marine terrorizes shopping center."

Have you ever seen a story that began "ex-draft-dodger convicted of bilking widows and orphans out of their life savings?"

This summer, when a 32-year-old drifter "with a history of mental problems" used a church candlestick to murder a Catholic priest in Bristol, Conn., who had told him he could not sleep in the church, how did the New York Times describe him? That's right: "a former Marine."

And, when Lee Williams, a 23-year-old student at Wayne State University in Michigan, sued a tattoo parlor for embarrassment and the cost of plastic surgery needed to cover up "villian," instead of "villain" on his arm, what did the Associated Press tell us about Williams who had consented to the misspelling? Of course: He was a "former Marine."

Now that the University of Texas has reopened its 307-foot-high clock tower, which was closed in 1975 after a series of suicides, we are reminded that Charles Whitman, the psychopath who shot 14 people dead and left 31 wounded in 1966, was a "former Marine."

Bias is not simply ugly, it is stupid too.

Elitists never notice that the United States military imposes profoundly higher standards of conduct upon its service members than either civilian life, or the vaunted private sector. Lying, adultery or sexual harassment can instantaneously end a military career. The same cannot be said for a CEO, or for the highest civilian federal official.

These are not easy times for military recruiters. Even with \$6000 signing bonuses and generous college tuition benefits to offer, the Army, the Air Force and the Navy have not been able to meet their enlistment quotas. This

country's long economic boom and the lowest unemployment rate in history have made the military recruiter's task a tough one.

Yet for 51 consecutive months, the Marine Corps, alone of the services, has met and surpassed its recruitment quota. And to meet that quota, the Marines have not — as other branches have done — lowered their academic or intelligence standards. They have actually raised them higher than the Pentagon requirements.

Unlike their sister services, which woo recruits with tangible promises of travel, compensation, tuition and retirement packages, the Marines offer intangibles: the opportunity to belong to something bigger than the individual; a grueling challenge; the test of being held to a higher standard; sacrifice and self-reliance.

Captain Jeff Sammons, a 20-year

Marine and former enlisted man explains, "We want you to join the Marine Corps for one reason and for only one reason — because you want to be a Marine."

What Marine service does for those fortunate enough to experience it, is important. From the first day of boot camp, a Marine recruit learns that Marines never leave their dead or wounded — their own — behind.

Liberals, especially, ought to stand in grateful awe of this Marine Corps ethic, which contradicts the unbridled individualism that elevates personal well-being, comfort and profit above any obligation one might owe to his community or to his country.

American liberals may have led the good fight for civil rights, but the greatest civil-rights victories have been won by the American military, including the Marines.

Why is the American military the most integrated sector of American life today?

Charles Moskos, the wonderful military scholar from Northwestern University offers two reasons: no racial discrimination and no racial preference.

Up to now, the 2000 campaign has been conspicuously silent and sterile on the subject of what we Americans do owe to each other and to America.

What are our duties as Americans that our would-be leaders ask of us? What sacrifices are we as Americans willing to make? I don't know. But the Marines know.

"What sacrifices are we as Americans willing to make ... the Marines know."

Mark Shields

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On the Cover

Sergeant Andrew M. Nakashima's, Company "K", Signals Intelligence School instructor, Pensacola, Fla., views of MCI Company changed after his visit. (photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew E. Habib)

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Sergeant has second thoughts about MCI

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Company "B" helps clean up

Marines from Company "B" join with members from the other services and civilians in order to clean up Anacostia Park.

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MCI: Dissatisfied sergeant's letter prompts barracks visit and change of heart

by Cpl. Sara Storey
Staff Writer

"Marine Corps Institute runs like a business – a bad one."

This headline ran in the October 11th edition of the *Marine Corps Times*, *Opinion Back Talk* section. In the letter, Sgt. Andrew M. Nakashima, Company "K", Signals Intelligence School instructor, Pensacola, Fla., wrote about his dealings with MCI and his unhappiness with the outcome.

Nakashima's problem with MCI started in December 1997 when he sent in five MCI courses. In June 1998 he discovered he had zero education points credited to him. He resubmitted his package, but still did not receive credit.

"I called MCI and tried to get credit for the courses I did, but it seemed to be taking longer than necessary," said Nakashima. "I was really frustrated. I did not feel I was making any progress talking to people on the phone, so I decided to air my views by writing a letter to the *Marine Corps Times*."

Nakashima wrote in the letter, "we are told to do MCI's for education, but for all the hassles, why should we even bother? What can MCI's teach that on-the-job training can't? It is much more efficient just to go to someone you work with and ask them for help."

After reading Nakashima's letter, Col. G. Kevin Brickhouse, barracks commanding officer, invited him to tour MCI Company, meet the Marines working there, and resolve his problems regarding MCIs.

"I was not sure what to expect when I found out [Nakashima] was coming here," said Cpl. Jason D. Morris, MCI Student Services Department, assistant NCOIC. "I can understand his point of view to a certain degree, but he wrote the letter without knowing how hard the Marines here work. I want him to leave with a different impression."

Nakashima's impression was altered from the start.

"I thought it would be a huge warehouse, or a five story building with 20-25 people assigned to each task: one group to open mail, one group to read e-mail ... things like that," said Nakashima.

A group of 20-25 Marines process an average of 30,000 requests a month. That average has been on the



During his stay at the barracks, Sgt. Andrew M. Nakashima, Company "K", Signals Intelligence School instructor, actually took part in the daily tasks of Marine Corps Institute Marines. (photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew E. Habib)

rise since MCI began offering Internet services. In September, MCI Company processed more than 65,000 requests.

"I had no idea that was their workload," said Nakashima. "When I pictured MCI Company, I [thought of] a nice marble-floored building with white walls and big leather chairs, but that is not the case. However, I do not think anything in my letter was off-base. I wrote about my personal experience and I did not exaggerate or lie about anything."

"Everyone is entitled to their opinion," said Sgt. Juan D. Rivera, MCI warehouse chief. "I understand [Nakashima's] frustration because I was in the [Fleet Marine Force] and had to wait for MCIs myself. But, I want him to see we are doing all we can. The system is not perfect, but the Marines here do their best."

Nakashima is quick to point out his problem stemmed

from the system, not the Marines at MCI.

"I never had the impression the people at MCI were sick, lame or lazy," said Nakashima. "Until I visited, I had no idea the amount of work that goes into processing one MCI. I thought it was a smooth, computerized system, but there is much more to it."

Nakashima gained an appreciation for the little things, such as filling in all the blocks. Marines at MCI Company deal with thousands of answer sheets a day and they tend to find the same little mistakes, which increases the workload and slows them down, according to Nakashima.

Marines at MCI Company stress the importance of filling out paperwork by the book.

"We need more than just a Marine's name," said Morris. "Take a little extra time to make sure enrollment

requests and exam sheets have the member's and training NCO's social security numbers and a correct phone number.

Marines from MCI admit his paperwork was improperly processed and work daily to prevent these isolated incidents from happening again.

"I probably will not write another letter to the *Marine Corps Times*," said Nakashima. "In fact, knowing what I do now, I would not have written the letter in the first place, because almost any problem can be handled through the chain of command."

Nakashima's perspective about MCI Company changed after spending several days with the Marines there.

"I have a much greater appreciation for them," said Nakashima. "MCI Marines are doing the best they can."

Barracks pitches in for Anacostia Park cleanup

by Cpl. Sara Storey
Staff Writer

On Oct. 23, 26 Marines from Company "B" joined forces with other military organizations and civilians from the local area in an effort to clean up Anacostia Park and build community relations.

Marines use the area for training and recreation, according to Janet Braxton, Capital Parks East Public Information officer, and their presence is one of the reasons the park still exists.

"They are pulling garbage out of the shoreline, and picking up trash along the road," said Braxton. "That is what we really need. The National Park Service staff just cannot do it all."

Marines from Company "B" volunteered for the cleanup as a sign of thanks to the park service for allowing them to use the area, and give something back to the community.

"Marine Barracks is part of South East D.C., and we cannot expect the rest of the community to take care of the area if we do not help," said Sgt. James D. Reed, Company "B", Body Bearers Section, platoon sergeant. "I think it is important to make this area beautiful and safe for the families who come here."

Marines made a big impact cleaning a small part of the nation's capital, and found time to get to know their Army, Navy and Air Force counterparts.



Sergeant James D. Reed, Company "B", Body Bearers Section, platoon sergeant, tosses his eighth full bag of trash in a pile collected from the shoreline in Anacostia Park. (photo by Cpl. Sara Storey)

"It is very relaxed," said Capt. Justin S. Dunne, Company "B", executive officer. "Everyone is out here getting muddy and dirty, but at the same time it is a fun event."

Marine Corps is first service to zap Y2K bugs

by Division of Public Affairs
HQMC

The Marine Corps quietly became the first military service to verify that 100 percent of its mission critical and mission support systems are Y2K compliant Sept. 29, meaning that they will operate properly on and after Jan. 1, 2000.

The last mission critical system to be declared Y2K ready was the Digital Terrain Analysis Mapping System. Although the technical problems with the system were corrected several months ago, final certification could not be made until new laptop computers were fielded to support the system. The last of the computers to be delivered were to units at Camp Lejeune Sept. 24. Unfortunately, this was delayed several weeks due to Hurricane Floyd.

Although proud of their efforts,

Marine officials are downplaying the fact they are the first to reach 100 percent.

"The effort ... has really been a cooperative one," said Col. Kevin McHale, director of the Headquarters Marine Corps Y2K Office. "Completion was not a competition, but rather a collaborative effort. More than half of the warfighting systems used by the Marine Corps are under the sponsorship of another service. We have worked very close with them to ensure that everything we use is ready for Y2K. The Marine Corps has fewer installations, and fewer, less complex systems than any of the other services so you would expect us to finish earlier. The good news is that we are ready and we completed on schedule."

Marine officials have undertaken an extensive effort to evaluate and test the Corps' mission critical, mis-

sion support, and installation support systems. Based on successful results of these tests, officials are confident they are ready to accomplish their worldwide missions on Jan. 1, 2000.

To be considered ready, each compliant system and base had to be assessed, corrections made to software and hardware, tested and fielded. People also needed training with the new software and operating procedures required of the new systems.

Officials are now focusing their efforts on "transition period" operations and contingency planning. During the transition period, from Dec. 30 through Jan. 4, Marine commands will standby to work through any glitches.

Marine Corps bases and stations are also developing plans to assist neighboring communities in the event they experience system failures.

Corps tests boots for jungle & desert warfare



(from left to right) These boots by Corcoran, Belleville, Bates and Wellco are finding their way to the streets of the Combat Center. Marines from "A" company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, are testing the durability and effectiveness of the boots during desert and jungle training.

by Sgt. Soukhi N. Burris

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER Twentynine Palms, Calif. (Oct. 8) — In an attempt to incorporate the distinguished designs of the desert and jungle boots to make one "super boot," the Marine Corps began testing new brown boots, Sept. 28.

The new boots are in the field user evaluation process at four different companies throughout the Marine Corps, because of their involvement in desert and jungle exercises in the next nine months. The testing effort is made possible through the Marine Corps Enhancement Program funded by Research and Development.

The four manufacturers, Cove Shoes, Bates, Wellco, and Belleville, were challenged to produce a set of boots that would be durable, sufficient, and effective in the desert and jungle environment with standard specifications. To best match the environmental surroundings of the desert and jungle, the boots would be brown. The material lining would be Gortex and leather for durability in wet weather, but the quality of comfort was left to the expertise of the company.

The testing will continue for the next 18 months when the Marine Corps will gather the results and combine the best qualities of each boot.

Information Systems Management Office



SERIOUSLY

WIRED

NEW

TECHNOLOGY

KEEPING MBW

OUT OF THE DARK

Information Systems Management Office Marines must adapt to the ever changing world of technology in order to support the barracks. (photo altered by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick)

by **Lance Cpl. Matthew E. Habib**
Staff Writer

It can be hard to keep up with all the advancements in the ever-changing world of technology. This is especially true with the Information Systems Management Office, where five Marines maintain machinery and technology that impacts the entire Marine

Corps and the mission capability of "The Oldest Post of the Corps."

The ISMO has consistently and silently fought this battle through hard work and countless man-hours.

The Marines that make up the ISMO shop are working harder than ever in an ongoing effort to convert the barracks' original BANYAN operating system to Windows' New

Technology. This operation has consumed the majority of ISMO's time for the past year, because it requires such painstakingly accurate work, according to the ISMO Marines.

"We have been setting up the 12 servers since [last] November, and while Marine Corps Institute's systems have already been changed over, we are just

continued on pg. 8

ISMO continued

getting to the barracks' systems now," said Sgt. Susan G. Morris, MCI Company, ISMO clerk. "In order to set up a server, [the main computer responsible for directing all computer traffic], we need to load in every Marine's personal data. With the different sections so spread out, however, it has been almost impossible to finish the constantly changing accounts."

This hard work along with new hardware and hardware modifications like the barracks' new phone system and new computer configurations has the barracks making bold technological advances.

One of the benefits of being online with the rest

of the Marine Corps, they can now find almost any Marine around the world by simply typing a name in the new "Outlook" e-mail program. Benefits such as the Internet and completing MCI's online are also available, according to Morris.

"The entire Marine Corps chose to use Windows NT [as its operating system]," said Morris. "Basically, that means the barracks, and Marines around the world, are all plugged into the same place. This makes it that much easier for us to communicate with each other."

These improvements have worked so well that last month alone, online MCI's jumped from a monthly 22,000 to 66,000, a jump that put one ISMO Marine in an exceptional situation.

Corporal Duane D. Klatt, MCI company, ISMO clerk, said he first experienced how the changes to the

systems changed his job when he found himself on the barracks' roof.

"I actually had to re-align the satellite dishes on top of the roofs at the barracks and the Marine Corps Institute for the first time ever," said Klatt. "These dishes are necessary for the sections to communicate. I climbed up there and recalibrated their positioning so the signal could be sent and received."

"Usual" is not a term that really applies to ISMO. Its mission includes: working on individual computers so they recognize the network; spending

"Basically ... the barracks, and Marines around the world, are plugged into the same place. This makes it that much easier for us to communicate with each other."

Sergeant Susan G. Morris, MCI Company, ISMO clerk.

time on each account; building servers; attending to corrections; adding network lines for new computers; and answering long lists of trouble calls; requires the five Marines to work during personal time and through weekends.

The ISMO Marines add these extra duties to an already long list of commitments, doing whatever it takes to accomplish the mission, according to Klatt.

The Information System Management Office

also caters to the military's needs by receiving, grading, and recording more than 422,000 MCIs from service members around the world, according to Sgt. Morris.

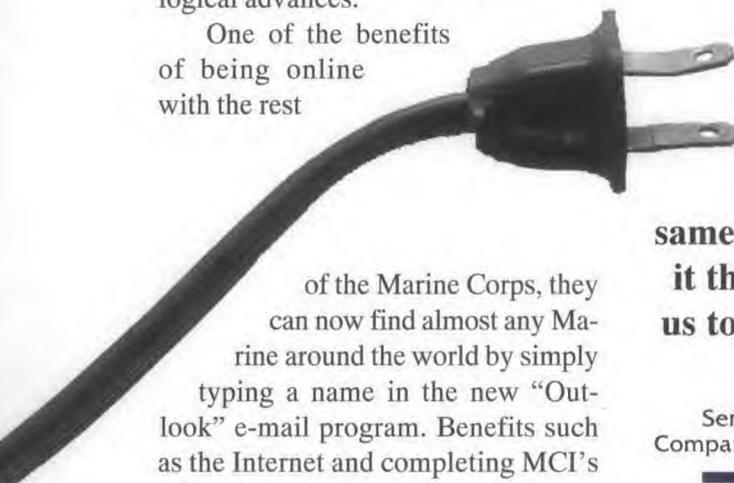
"This not only benefits the Marine in his military career, as far as promotion points are concerned, but years from now, a former Marine could call up and ask for tests scores for a job resume or college credits and we could give these to him," said Morris.

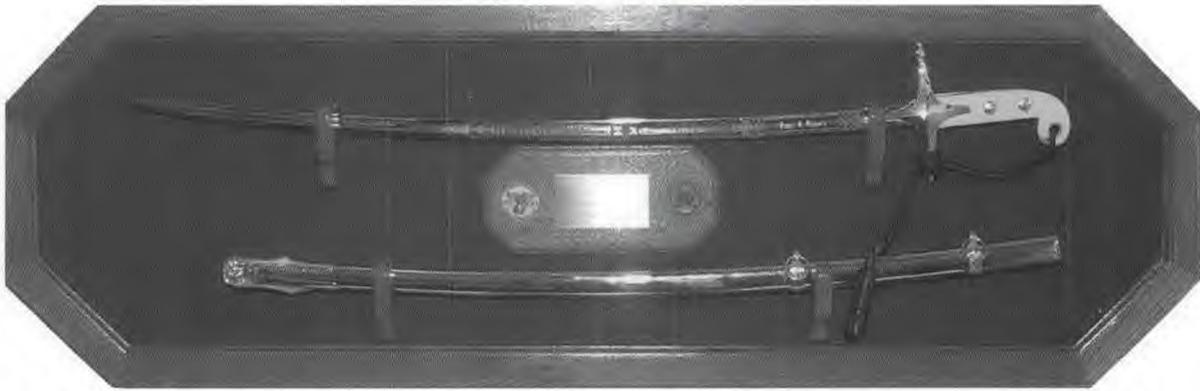
Some Marines working at ISMO are also responsible for communications equipment for the barracks, such as radio communications during parade season. They just recently completed a large mission that consisted of establishing radio communications for barracks Marines partaking in the FEX at Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Va., according to Cpl. Brian T. Helbert, ISMO communication operator.

The ISMO Marines also said that no matter what has to be done to do the job, no matter how many sacrifices it takes, the result is worth it.

"Work can definitely get stressful around here, especially when I have worked for eight hours straight and look around just to find a whole other

line of computers waiting to be fixed, or a giant list of unanswered trouble calls," said Morris. "But in the end, it makes every minute of work we put into the shop worth it, just knowing the Marines will benefit from what we offer the barracks."





Marines from Facilities/Maintenance can make almost anything to display prized possessions, but they specialize in sword and mug boards, plaques and shadow boxes. (photos altered by Cpls. Sean Fitzpatrick and Sara Storey)

Barracks Marines get on board with tradition

by Sgt. Michael J. Bess & Cpl. Sara Storey
Media Chief, Staff Writer

Many people save mementos from significant events in their lives, whether it is a ticket stub from a movie, a baby's lock of hair, or something from their military career like a noncommissioned officer's sword.

Gunnery Sergeant Fred O'Neal, Facilities/Maintenance chief, and Staff Sgt. Christopher I. Baker, Public Works Center liaison, combine their creative wood-working talents to help Marines get their military memorabilia out of the attic and on display.

"I used to put my sword in the corner, but that doesn't really give it the dignity it deserves. Having a sword board made by Marines I work with and respect increases its personal value," said Capt. Jennifer A. Ogilvie, Assistant Logistics officer.

O'Neal and Baker produce a variety of items: sword boards; plaques; mug boards; desk plates; and even shadow boxes for Marines in search of a better way to display their memorabilia.

O'Neal and Baker decided to make sword boards using their carpenter skills and spare time after receiving many requests.

"We made sword plaques for the barracks' former commanding officer, the company first sergeants, and a number of other Marines at the barracks who requested them," said Baker.

The process is a long one, according to Baker.

"The customer picks the wood first, and then we cut it to the correct size before sanding it down," said Baker. "The pieces are glued together and the stain and polyurethane are added for the finish. Laying the hardware and velvet is the last step."



The board holds the sword and scabbard separately and displays the barracks' coin and a small plaque with the Marine's name and billet.

Making one sword board takes about a week and the items are a hot commodity for Marines at the barracks, according to Baker.

While Baker concentrates most of his effort into sword boards, O'Neal took over the process of making plaques for departing Staff NCOs. They come complete with a popular etching of the barracks and the commandant's house in the background.

The two Marines also create decorative plaques and mug boards. O'Neal and Baker can adapt the plaque to suit the needs of the Marine, displaying everything from knives, coins, or a personal souvenir. The mug boards are primarily used at the Staff NCO Club and Center House where there's a tradition of handing down mugs from the departing to the arriving Staff NCO or officer. However, O'Neal and Baker can also make personal mug boards.

As the resident carpentry experts, O'Neal and Baker said they are glad to support the barracks.

"Everything we make is done at our homes on our own time," said O'Neal. "We each have a shop in our garage at home where we can make these items. We can make almost anything people want."

Knowledge and experience gained in the Corps can equal free college credits and help Marines ...

Broaden their horizons

by Lance Cpl. Matthew E. Habib
Staff Writer

If knowledge is power then, naturally, the greater a person pursues an education, the more power he will wield in life. However, if a Marine is considering attending educational studies, he might be unsure which direction to choose.

A world of educational opportunities is waiting to be discovered by those willing to search, but Marines just starting their educational journey must first know where and how to begin reaping the rewards of advance education.

Chances are high that a Marine already has college credit hours waiting to be certified and does not even know it. Other Marines, who have already been to college or taken college courses, might also be wondering where they can resume their studies.

Student questions pertaining to educational benefits can be answered either at the Henderson Hall education officer's office, (301) 614-9104, or the Marine Corps Institute operation training office, (202) 685-7489. Even if a Marine is not sure what studies to pursue, education officers like Rita M. Treadwell at Henderson Hall can still help.

"It is fine if the Marine does not know exactly what particular studies he wants to choose, be-

cause there are certain basic requirements that everyone has to meet before progressing into more specific areas," said Treadwell. "[Basic classes] are usually where we start [first year students], and that gives them time to get back in the 'school mode' and redevelop good study habits. This time also allows them an opportunity to look around to see what direction they would like to follow."

After selecting a career path, school counselors can list the curriculum needed to graduate with a degree in a particular career field.

Curriculum differs from school to school, but there are standards they all agree on such as basic prerequisites for transfer students. If a student transfers between schools, there is a good chance most of the entry-level college credits will be accepted. However, any school reserves the right to refuse a student's previous credits.

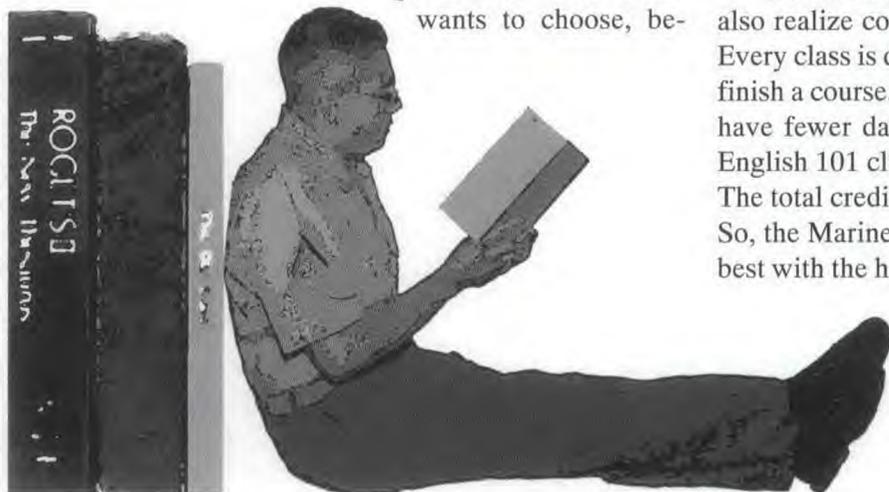
This can pose a problem for servicemembers who are transferring to new duty stations before graduation. In these circumstances the SOCMAR Program can be a powerful tool.

The SOCMAR program provides a contract between the school and the student. The contract allows students to graduate from the initial school while attending another if the education meets the initial school's standards. This reduces the potential for loss of credits and it also helps students graduate from their original school.

New students attending college for the first time must also realize college classes are divided into credit hours. Every class is different depending on the hours required to finish a course. For example, one English 101 class might have fewer days with longer class hours, while another English 101 class has more days with shorter class hours. The total credit hours produced by both classes are equal. So, the Marine can simply pick which schedule suits him best with the help of education counselors, who are available at each institute to provide scheduling assistance.

Treadwell also advises Marines not to overlook the credit hours gained through the military.

"When a Marine walks through our



door he already has college credit," said Treadwell. "From basic training alone the Marine has already earned credit hours in physical education, marksmanship, and outdoors training. Given that, and any credits received from a [primary military occupational specialty school], a Marine could have many credit hours just waiting to be certified."

Marines can also receive college credits for completing College Level Examination Program tests. These tests are developed by the College Board and administered by educational offices at selected sites. The CLEP is an efficient way to receive credits in subjects Marines may already know. Even if the subject is unfamiliar, Marines can review CLEP study guides for individual CLEP tests and learn on their own, according to Lance Cpl. Wilson E. Velez, MCI Company, assistant human resources representative.

"This is basically a test that awards the Marine the same amount of credits as if they actually attended the entire class and passed," said Velez. "[The CLEP test] is a great opportunity for 'on-the-go' Marines who do not have the time for college courses they are already familiar

with. Besides, it is absolutely free."

The Defense Activity for Nontraditional Education Support is another test similar to the CLEP, and offers another opportunity for Marines to earn free college credits, according to Velez.

Marine Corps MCI and Professional Military Education courses can also be worth college credits if the student's school accepts them. For example, the "English for Marines" MCI could fulfill an English requirement, cutting out a required class.

Correspondence courses also help Marines who are short on time earn credit hours. These are courses designed by the schools to help teach students outside of school, by either videotapes or classes, live or recorded, that are posted on the Internet. The Marine then takes a final exam under the supervision of a designated tester for the final class grade.

"Each Marine's goal is different as they follow their own path," said Velez. "But the one thing holds true for everyone, the knowledge learned in school will help in every aspect of military and civilian life."

Local colleges and universities in the D.C./Metro area

District of Columbia

American University – (202) 885-1000
 Catholic University of America – (202) 319-5000
 George Washington University – (202) 994-1000
 University of Maryland – (202) 687-0100

Anne Arundel, MD.

Anne Arundel Community College – (410) 647-7100
 St. John's College – (410) 263-2371

Charles, MD.

Charles Community College – (301) 934-2251

Montgomery, MD.

Montgomery College – (301) 279-5046
 University of Maryland, Rockville – (301) 738-6000
 Johns Hopkins University, School of Continuing Studies, Rockville – (301) 294-7040

Prince George's, MD.

Bowie State College – (301) 464-3000
 University of Maryland at College Park – (301) 405-1000
 Prince George's Community College – (301) 336-6000

Alexandria, VA.

The Alexandria Campus of the Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) – (703) 323-3000
 Strayer College – (703) 329-9100

Arlington, VA.

George Mason University – (703) 993-8000
 George Washington University – (703) 299-0097
 Marymount University – (703) 284-1500
 Strayer College – (703) 329-9100

Loudoun, VA.

The George Washington University, Ashburn – (703) 729-8200
 Marymount University, Sterling – (703) 430-7118
 Shenandoah University, Leesburg – (703) 777-7414
 Strayer College, Ashburn – (703) 729-8800

Prince William, VA.

George Mason University, Prince William Institute – (703) 330-3967
 Strayer College, Potomac Mills Campus – (703) 878-2800
 Strayer College, Manassas Campus – (703) 330-8400

by Sgt. Michael J. Bess
Media Chief

They were called stewards in the early days of the Marine Corps, a common title held by more than 200 Marines. By the time the title of cook specialist was bestowed upon them during the World War II era, the numbers had decreased. The current title enlisted aide was given to a few dozen Marines in the 1970s, after the end of the Vietnam War.

By possessing the 3372 Military Occupational Specialty, an enlisted aide holds one of the most unique jobs in the Marine Corps. Many Marines at "The Oldest Post of the Corps," and Marine Corps wide, however, are not familiar with what enlisted do for Corps and country.

According to Department of Defense directives, many general officers, from newly promoted brigadier generals to four-star generals in all five branches of the armed forces, may have an enlisted aide assigned to his or her staff. It is the enlisted aide's duty to relieve general officers of minor tasks and details which, if performed by the officer, would be at the expense of the officer's primary military and official duties, according to the "*Handbook for Enlisted Aides*."

Aides may be tasked at times with providing security and administrative assistance within the general officer's quarters and maintain its interior for guests. They also prepare uniforms for wear or travel, inspect for rips and stains, and examine ribbons and medals for frays or scratches.

It may seem to some that enlisted aides are simply butlers from what they do inside general officers' quarters, but according to Master Sgt. Andrew P. Schneider, commandant's senior enlisted aide, this is not the case.

"We may be called butlers because we are charged with cleaning the entire house," said Schneider. "However, most enlisted aides assigned to general officers are limited to cleaning the first floor, according to DoD regulations. If anything else were done to the house, it would be considered personal servitude. Because the home of the commandants is a historic landmark, we are responsible for maintaining the entire house from the basement to the third floor."

Exceptions to the number of enlisted aides are allowed because of certain general officers' duties and requirements, according to DoD regulations. The general officers filling command billets such as the commanding generals of the Marine Corps' recruit training depots, or the assistant commandant of the Marine Corps are exempt from



Master Sergeant Andrew P. Schneider and Cpl. James Ki... a parade reception. (photo by Sgt. Michael J. Bess)

Enlisted Aides

this regulation because of the enormity of their missions and responsibilities.

The commandant of the Marine Corps is a prime example of this exception. Because he hosts thousands of guests of high political and military caliber every year, he is expected to entertain these guests in a fashion commensurate with his position, so he is assigned four aides, the most allowed by DoD regulations.

The enlisted aides currently assigned to the general officer quarters at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., are especially busy during the parade season. The pre-parade receptions held either in the John Philip Sousa Band Hall, or in the commandant's garden, are only one of the many functions the enlisted aides are called upon to host and organize.

Many Marines return from the Fleet Marine Force to serve as enlisted aides. Schneider has served under four commandants in his 18 years in the Marine Corps, and has been assigned to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, and Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C. He has served many influential people during his time on the



ing, commandant's enlisted aides, prepare the menu for

Helping general officers keep the Corps on track

commandant's staff, and in July he received orders to the commandant's house for a fifth tour, this time under the 32nd commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James L. Jones.

Schneider first served as an aide on his first tour aboard the airplane of the 26th commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Louis H. Wilson. As a member of the crew he flew all over the world, but he recalled a time when he was requested to lend a hand at the commandant's house.

"I was told I was going to help prepare food in the commandant's house for the 'Evening Parade,'" said Schneider with a laugh. "I remember I was so excited. I went out and bought a new white shirt and came over to the house. The aides working there took me down to the basement and showed me how to wash the dishes!"

Sergeant Marion W. Marlow, former enlisted aide here at the assistant commandant's quarters, was a mess hall cook at Weapons Training Battalion, Parris Island before coming to the barracks. She said she knows from experience that there is a huge difference between being an aide and preparing food for a battalion of hungry re-

cruits.

"Being an enlisted aide, especially at the barracks, is different from the mess hall," said Marlow, now assigned to the Marine Corps Air Facility mess hall at Quantico, Va.. "We can be called upon to serve a group of high-ranking officials at any given time, so a Marine's cooking skills need to exceed the set standards for a mess hall, because the events and activities [here] are on a higher level."

It takes an especially qualified Marine to meet the requirements demanded of an enlisted aide. Before an application is even considered, Marines must demonstrate good leadership skills and superior qualities in the MOS. DoD regulations further intensify the competition by allowing only a small number of Marines to serve as enlisted aides.

This is only the beginning.

Qualified Marines serve in the general officer's mess in the commandant's dining room at Headquarters Marine Corps, and wait for selection, according to Marlow.

"The process begins when a Marine is recommended to become an enlisted aide," said Marlow. "Recommendations come from Marine Corps mess halls, and if a position becomes available in a general officer's quarters, the Marines go through an interview with the MOS monitor. [Until a position opens up], they wait until a general officer comes and selects from the mess."

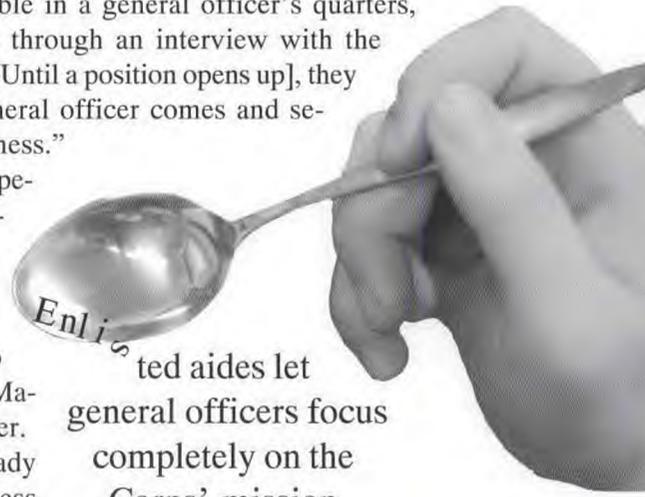
From her experience as an enlisted aide, Marlow said it is something she would like to do again in her Marine Corps career.

"I have already seen how a mess hall is run, [and] I

have had the opportunity to have hands-on and learn from [experienced] enlisted aides," said Marlow. "One day I hope to operate my own general officer quarters."

Schneider's dream of working at the commandant's house has become a reality five times -- an opportunity he said is grateful for.

"I am very fortunate to have worked for people like [Gens. Wilson, Kelly, Gray, and Mundy]," said Schneider. "I am honored to be selected to come back here and work for General and Mrs. Jones."



Enlisted aides let
general officers focus
completely on the
Corps' mission

Young Marine Program uses Corps Values to help children

*Story and photo by Cpl. Justin C. Bakewell
Staff Writer*

Young men and women have the unusual opportunity to experience the Marine Corps' discipline, leadership, and esprit de corps in the Young Marine Program at the barracks.

The Young Marine Program, the official drug reduction program of the Marine Corps, offers its members the chance to develop themselves as young leaders in their community.

"The D.C. area has its bad parts," said Kelvin D. Paulk, Marine Barracks Young Marines, commanding officer. "If we can pull the kids out of that, then we can show them the positive. If we can reach these kids, if we can hold them to the Marine Corps' standards, then they will become the leaders in their neighborhood."

The purpose of the Young Marine Program is to reveal each members' potential and mold them into promising, confident young citizens.

"It is important to remember, discipline starts at home," said Rhonda L. Prather, Marine Barracks Young Marines, executive officer. "The program can build on the foundation, but it does not create it."

The program accepts members from every social and economic background, and despite the military overtones, the majority of children who enter the program are not from military families.

"The majority of children who enter the program have absolutely no military background," said Joseph E. Bles, Young Marines, inspecting general. "The Marine Corps has a great image in society and that attracts the children to the program."

"The program is for America's kids," said Bles. "All children are welcome and encouraged to join."

Although everyone is accepted to the program, not everyone is allowed to stay. The Young Marines maintain good grades and actively participate in school. Applicants with poor grades will have to show an improvement in effort towards school activities and academics. If improvement is not seen, the Young Marine will be removed from the program, and although this may seem harsh, one of the values of the Young Marine Program is self-discipline.

The Young Marines also put a great emphasis on self-confidence. Members attend a miniature boot camp consisting of 28 hours of training from Marine volunteers,



Lance Cpl. Nicholas V. Gonzalez, Headquarters and Service Company, chow hall, talks with a Young Marine recruit.

where Young Marines learn Marine Corps customs, courtesies and especially teamwork. Upon completion of mini boot camp the Young Marines leave with a great feeling of accomplishment and the newly titled Young Marines are prepared to begin the fun part of the program, according to Bles.

Along with basic knowledge taught weekly, they organize numerous trips around the United States. The Young Marines are also eligible for various schools such as Mountain Survival School, NCO Leadership School, and Scuba Schools. Because the Young Marines Program is an anti-drug program, a Federal grant allows the Young Marines to partake in these activities at little, or no cost to its members.

"If we give them the discipline now, it will follow them around forever," said Prather. "Then when they have problems in college, marriage or life in general, they will not just quit."

The Young Marine Program is an excellent opportunity for children to gain responsibility and maturity and have fun doing it. The Young Marine's headquarters is in Washington, D.C., at extension, (202) 889-8745.

Marines



“Old Salts” confide about courage, character, substance and what success means to them

by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick
Editor

History, esprit de corps, tradition; these are pieces of a legacy every Marine has a right to inherit. It is a heritage handed down from generation to generation, like father to child.

Because of this, Marines are like interchangeable warriors, chameleons capable of the impossible.

Never the less, it can be difficult to reconcile boot camp experiences and expectations of the Marine Corps when the barracks is a Marine's first duty station. While the mission here is unique, the basic steps for success are the same.

Many people view promotions as success, but Sgt. Maj. D. Scott Frye, barracks sergeant major, does not define success in terms of rank. Though he said there is nothing wrong with Marines wanting to achieve rank, he identifies success by the amount of respect a Marine has, and how the Marine is received and responded to by others.

In essence, success has more to do with quality and character than rank, according to Frye.

“Rank is something people recognize, but depth of character, commitment, integrity and setting the example are what people expect,” said Frye. “That is what determines success as a leader. Rank will get two steps from a subordinate, but without substance they will stop [following].”

A Marine's traits like a sense of humor, kindness, aggressiveness and tenacity, equal substance when they are added together. How each weighs on the scale of Good and Evil determines the nature and depth of the Marine's substance. The irony of the word “hard” works well with this example, because the good thing, the right thing is usually the hardest thing – tipping the scale in Good's favor. And

because an individual act does not define character, Marines must continue doing the right things, according to Col. G. Kevin Brickhouse, barracks commanding officer.

“One kindness does not make a kind person,” said Brickhouse. “Just as one learned fact does not make an intellectual, nor does one race make a runner – it is the sum of the parts that defines character.

“See, anyone can do the easy thing,” said Brickhouse. “Anyone can do the convenient thing like follow the path of least resistance.

It is the men and women of character who do the hard things: taking risks, making sacrifices, continuing past exhaustion, bucking the odds, facing scorn, going on when there is no apparent reason to keep trying. To me, these people represent success.”

As different as these two views may seem, the colonel and the sergeant major have not really drifted apart on their views of success. It becomes apparent on closer inspection that there cannot be one without the other. If a Marine confronts a problem, he must have character and substance to understand it, and also the courage and fortitude to act on it.

This struggle to understand and to do the right and honorable thing defines success as a Marine for Master Gunnery Sgt. James P. O'Keefe Jr., Drum and Bugle Corps Company, drum major.

“Marines tend to judge success in end-value goals,” said O'Keefe. “They set goals and achieve them. The down side to this [view] is the Marines never experience success. [To feel success] I say you have to go to a bigger picture: what is good and honorable about being a Marine?”

“There is honor in the profession of arms,” said O'Keefe. “And because it is honorable, even if I am

CHARACTER

SUBSTANCE

COURAGE

continued on pg. 16



“Success for me is growing each day, learning new things, and somehow making a contribution to something bigger than myself. How much you give of yourself defines who you are.”

Col. G. Kevin Brickhouse,
barracks commanding officer



“We exist because the United States people want us. They want us because [the Marine Corps is successful], we cannot let the American people down. What we do matters everyday.”

Master Gunnery Sgt. James P. O'Keefe Jr.,
Drum and Bugle Corps Company, drum major

Success continued

striving and not attaining goals, I am successful. This constant state of striving is success, because we are aspiring to something better – we are setting the example for others. What we do brings about success not only for ourselves, our families, our units, but also to our nation.”

These three Marines dissect success from different angles, but each view ends with the same result: integrity.

Webster defines integrity as being undivided, or every part working for the same, focused result -- this is success.

This easily translates to the efforts of Marines during the ceremonies, parades, firing parties, battle color detachment, musical performances, and funerals. Undivided attention, and maximum effort is essential for the preservation of the Corps' seamless, professional reputation -- this success means survival.



“[Rank does not equal success]. Rank is something people recognize, but depth of character, commitment, integrity ... are what people expect.

“That is what determines success as a leader.”

Sergeant Major D. Scott Frye,
barracks sergeant major

LEADERSHIP

INTEGRITY

SUCCESS

Collecting America

Childhood hobby takes on an adult edge

SERGEANT ERIK D. BONSTROM

2ND Section Leader, GUARD DETACHMENT



Sergeant Erik Bonstrom, Guard Detachment, 2nd Section leader, adds one more sports card to his collection of more than 25,000. (photo created by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick)

by **Sgt. Michael J. Bess**

Media Chief

Many people remember the “Star Wars” trilogy, three famous movies about a young man challenged with a destiny to save the galaxy and bring his father, the most evil being known to man, back to a world of good he left long ago. The movie created millions of fans and launched a collection of toys and memorabilia many people hold dear to this day.

More than 23 years later, with the emergence of “Star Wars, Episode I: The Phantom Menace,” the Mark McGwire-Sammy Sosa home run race, and numerous

auctions at flea markets and on the Internet, memorabilia collecting is much more than a simple trip to the local comic book store.

One Marine assigned to “The Oldest Post of the Corps” takes his passion for collecting to new heights by buying regular sports items and turning them into prized pieces with a simple signature.

“When I was little, I used to collect sports cards, and I am still a big sports fan, but I grew more into the memorabilia side of collecting as I got older,” said Sgt. Erik Bonstrom, Guard Detachment, 2nd Section leader.

“I grew up in Minnesota, and I would go up to the Metropolitan Sports Center where the North Stars (now the defending National Hockey League champion Dallas Stars) used to play,” said Sgt. Erik Bonstrom. “I started out getting a hockey puck or a picture signed, and it progressed from there.”

What it became is a collection Bonstrom held from his youth, adding to it mostly by attending various sporting events.

He said he takes a backpack to the events, loaded with different items for athletes to sign. Bonstrom takes a cooler with water and sandwiches to all-day events like golf classics.

Bonstrom’s collection includes an impressive display of Minnesota North Star memorabilia such as pennants, pictures of their old stadium, and pucks signed by former players, but there are two items in his collection he cherishes above all.

“I am most proud of my Mario Lemieux autographed jersey I have framed, and a 1992-93 Minnesota North Star goalie stick signed by the team from the last year they were in Minnesota,” said Bonstrom.

“I went up to a golf classic in Pittsburgh, Pa., hosted by Lemieux and got him to sign the jersey there,” said Bonstrom. “It’s worth between \$500 and \$600, and the team-signed stick is worth \$250 - \$300.”

There are many ways to obtain hard-to-get items, but only one way to ensure its authenticity, according to Bonstrom.

“There are different publications and sites on the

continued on pg. 18



Public workers used all means necessary to take apart the aged roof. (photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew E. Habib)

Keeping the rain out

by Lance Cpl. Matthew E. Habib
Staff Writer

The barracks recently received a new roof over the Headquarters and Service Company offices Oct. 1, 1999.

The aged roof needed more than \$26,000 of repairs, especially after being damaged by the heavy rains the surrounding area experienced at the beginning of September, according to Staff Sgt. Christopher I. Baker, Headquarters and Service company, Maintenance/Facilities Platoon public works liaison.

It took workers two weeks to completely rip apart the old roof and then restone, recover, and retar it.

Collecting continued

Internet that give a ball-park figure for a certain item's worth, depending on the shape it is in. However, 90 percent of the items I have, I got in person," said Bonstrom. "I find out who is going to be [at an event] a month in advance, and I order the items I want signed.

With his collection proudly displayed throughout his home in Silver Spring, Md., Bonstrom is pleased with his success, but his collection is incomplete without an authenticated Upper Deck jersey autographed by Michael Jordan worth more than \$3,500.

The simplicity of collecting memorabilia attracts thou-

sands of people, but Bonstrom warns newcomers to err on the side of caution.

"Because there are many forgeries being sold," said Bonstrom, "the best way [to collect] is to do the legwork and get whatever item you want in person. That way there is no question about its authenticity."

"It is not expensive to get into the sports area of collecting," said Bonstrom. "Buy a \$4 puck, a \$3 autograph pen, and off you go to get a hockey player to sign it. It all depends on what you want to do."

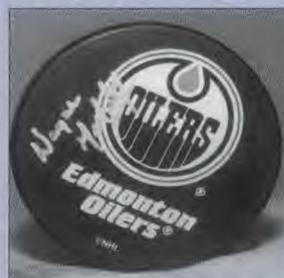
Simple souvenirs can equal prized possessions



Minnesota Twins, Kirby Puckett autographed baseball worth \$60.



Mario Lemieux autographed jersey, worth between \$500 and \$600.



Edmonton Oilers, Wayne Gretzky autographed hockey puck valued at \$125.



Washington Redskins, Champ Bailey autographed helmet worth \$75.

Bonstrom said he values the items in his collection for their sentimental value, although some have considerable monetary value like the items shown above. (photos by Cpl. Sara Storey)

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

H&S Company

Capt. J.W. Stoutenbrough
Staff Sgt. F.W. Hoch
Sgt. J.T. Allen Jr.
Cpl. T.M. Keough
Cpl. A. Paganiserrano
Cpl. C.A. Plum
Lance Cpl. F.A. Echavarria
Lance Cpl. D. Hadlich
Lance Cpl. J.E. Jones
Lance Cpl. W.J. Mosser IV
Lance Cpl. M.M. Shofe

MCI Company

Cpl. D.D. Klatt
Cpl. L.T. Murray
Lance Cpl. L.G. Quetell
Lance Cpl. D.D. Walker

"A" Company

Cpl. S.A. Sherwood
Cpl. M.D. Slate

"B" Company

Sgt. B.D. Reeve
Sgt. M.R. Smith
Cpl. B.T. Helbert
Cpl. J.S. Volgren
Lance Cpl. T.D. Hairston
Lance Cpl. W.P. Philips
Lance Cpl. D.A. Wing

D&B Company

Sgt. S.M. Altland
Sgt. S.A. Mills
Sgt. S.C. Preston
Sgt. T.L. Ryan
Cpl. R.S. Colling
Cpl. H.A. Garcia
Cpl. M.V. Lynch

Security Company

Sgt. J.R. Bell
Sgt. A.J. Burk

Sgt. J.J. Burton
Sgt. M.T. Logsdon
Cpl. S.C. Miguez
Cpl. E.A. Miner
Cpl. D.J. Jehn

USNA Company

Cpl. S.P. Fineran
Cpl. C.R. Pernick

Congratulate the following Marines for the awards they recently received.

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals

Sgt. R.L. Blaine
Cpl. J.C. Bakewell
Cpl. M.S. Fitzpatrick
Cpl. M. Kapka

Certificate of Commendation

Sgt. G.L. Burton

Sgt. N. Kietchai
Sgt. L.R. Young
Cpl. D.D. Jennings
Cpl. K.R. Jolly Jr.
Lance Cpl. B.G. Eller
Lance Cpl. M.E. Habib
Lance Cpl. D.L. Joseph
Lance Cpl. G. C. Lessing
Lance Cpl. R.D. Monteleone
Pfc. R.P. Munday

Congratulate the Following Marine on being the NCO or Marine of the quarter for the month of October.

H&S Company

Cpl. M.T. Castellanos
Lance Cpl. J.C. Sutfin

USNA Company

Cpl. K.A. Young
Lance Cpl. J.W. Burtis



OUTSTANDING!

Captain George S. Benson, Company "A", former commanding officer, hands over the company guidon to oncoming commanding officer, Capt. Curtis A. Mason, Security Company, former executive officer. Upon Capt. Benson's relief of command he reported to Advanced Armorers School at Fort Knox, Ky. (photo by Cpl. Justin C. Bakewell)

