

MARINE BARRACKS  
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WASHINGTON, D.C.



# PASS IN REVIEW

Serving "The Oldest Post of the Corps"

August/September 2000

## BCD marches on Fort Henry

"NCO Parade" - SNCO "Evening Parade" - Color Guard



6 September 2000

Dear Sam,

As this year's parade season comes to a close, Diane and I want to thank you and your Marines for the great support the Marine Barracks has provided. Over the past few months, several visitors to the Barracks have written to share with me the impact the "8<sup>th</sup> and I" Marines have had on them. The personal touches added to the parades and receptions—tailored to the background and preferences of our guests of honor—made special evenings even more memorable. I also applaud the changes you have made to some of the ceremonial drill movements; the changes are subtle, yet effective, and they further enhance the atmosphere of pageantry and professionalism for which the Barracks is so well known.

For our visitors and honored guests, the evening parade is a magical, often once-in-a-lifetime event. And it is for them, year after year, that the Marines at 8<sup>th</sup> and I perform each parade and ceremony with unparalleled professionalism and enthusiasm. As you know so well, your Marines do not have an easy task. A great deal of skill and countless hours of practice are required to perfect even the most routine ceremonial move, resulting in a performance that appears effortless.

While the parade participants have the most visible role, they are but a part of a vast network of Marines whose "behind-the-scenes" work and daily sacrifices make these ceremonies possible. I am grateful for their dedication, and I look forward to another splendid parade season next year.

I salute each of your Marines for a job superbly done.

Semper Fidelis.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Jones".

JAMES L. JONES  
General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commandant of the Marine Corps

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**On the Cover**

**The Silent Drill Platoon marches on the historic grounds of Fort Henry, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. For details, see the story on page 10. (photo by 1st Sgt. Randy W. Matthews)**

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Cenon Nevall is in awe of the barracks, and has attended every "Evening" and "Sunset Parade" for 15 years.

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# Ceremonial uniforms cleaned free

by Sgt. Sara Storey  
Editor

Enlisted Marines arriving at the barracks are authorized to receive a "large blue" supplemental uniform allowance, and Marine officers are entitled to a one-time dress blue issue. Until recently, Marines paid out of their own pocket to have these uniform items cleaned.

It costs nearly \$7 to clean a set of dress blues, and \$9 to have a blue all-weather coat cleaned.

On May 19, Supply Procedural Notice #2-00 was published, letting Marines know, step-by-step, how to get their dress blue uniform items dry-cleaned free.

The items authorized to be dry-cleaned free are: blue blouse, blue trousers, blue skirt, white skirt, and blue all-weather coat.

The notice states that a company or section representative will view the Marine's uniform items, ensuring that the gear is marked and annotating the quantities to be charged on the dry-cleaning chit. Unmarked items will not be accepted.

## Authorized items

Blue blouse  
Blue trousers  
Blue skirt  
White skirt  
Blue all-weather coat

After completing this, the Marine responsible for the uniforms will proceed to Wall Street Cleaners to drop off the items on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Wall Street Cleaners personnel and the Marine dropping off the uniforms will again check the uniforms to verify quantities and itemize the totals on the dry cleaning chits.

Dry-cleaned uniforms will be picked up by a company representative on Wednesdays or Fridays after 2 p.m., and individual Marines will be notified of their pick-up time.

The new policy is a good one, according to Cpl. Michael P. Higgins, Headquarters and Service Company, company office.

"It saves the Marine's time and, more importantly, money," said Higgins. "Whether you're hosting or marching, it's hot in blues and they need cleaned quite often. A lot of Marines were spending \$15 a week getting uniforms dry-cleaned after every parade. But, this new policy changes that."

For further information, contact the Post Supply Office at (202) 433-2400.

## Marine Barracks mascot promoted

Chesty XI, an English bulldog and the official mascot of Marine Barracks, was meritoriously promoted to the rank of corporal during a ceremony August 18.

The mascot, affectionately known as "Molly," had a sub-standard 1999 parade season and was subsequently demoted to the rank of lance corporal. Rather than becoming demotivated, she worked hand-in-paw with her handler, Cpl. Jessica M. Vazquez, during the off season, to perfect her technique.

Molly's part in this year's parade season was nearly flawless. Her perseverance and dedication to duty did not go unnoticed by Lt. Col. Samuel E. Ferguson, barracks commanding officer, who made the decision to meritoriously promote the mascot. (photo by Sgt. Sara Storey)



# New Barracks CO assumes his duties

## Official biography

*edited for space by Public Affairs Office*

Colonel Richard T. Tryon enlisted in the Navy in 1970, and was subsequently commissioned a second lieutenant in June 1975, upon graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy.

After completing The Basic School in April 1976, he held a variety of company grade assignments in 3d Battalion, 5th Marines, served as Aide de Camp to the commanding general I MAF/1st Marine Division, and completed a tour as company commander, Headquarters Company, 4th Marines in Okinawa. Upon returning to the United States, he served as operations officer, executive officer, and commanding officer of Recruiting Station New York City until attending Amphibious Warfare School in 1983. Following completion of AWS, he joined 2d Battalion, 5th Marines where he served as company commander and battalion operations officer. He subsequently attended the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, Kan., in 1987, where he concurrently earned a masters degree in management.

During June 1988, he transferred to the Special Operations Command,

Europe in Stuttgart, Germany, where he was assigned to the J-3 as a contingency operations officer. He deployed in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and served as assistant operations officer, Joint Special Operations Task Force, JTF Proven Force. Following Operation Desert Storm, he deployed as a member of Joint Special Operations Task Force Provide Comfort operating in Northern Iraq and Southern Turkey.

In July 1991, he was assigned to the Special Operations Training Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force for duty as the director of the Special Missions Branch. Reassigned during March 1993, he served as commanding officer of 2d Battalion, 8th Marines until February 1995. Following his tour with the 2d Marine Division, he was assigned to the Joint Staff as Deputy Executive Assistant to the Vice Chairman until August 1997. From September 1997, to April 1998, he attended The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies and subsequently completed the requirements for a master of arts degree in international public policy. Colonel Tryon assumed command of the 24th MEU May 1, 1998.

Colonel Tryon's personal decora-



**Colonel Richard T. Tryon, former CO of the 24th MEU, assumed command of the Barracks September 18. (official Marine Corps photo)**

tions include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with gold star in lieu of second award, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

Colonel Tryon assumed command of Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., during a ceremony on the parade deck, September 18.

## Commandant addresses Marines at "Oldest Post"

General James L. Jones, 32nd Commandant of the Marine Corps, stepped onto Center Walk September 8, to address barracks Marines.

The general, joined by the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, spoke on a variety of issues, including recruiting and retention.

However, the focus of his speech was thanking the Marines at the barracks for a wonderful parade season.

"I want to thank you for doing wonderful things for our Corps," said Gen. Jones. "I'm your number one fan, and I'm proud to be here this morning."

The commandant went on to say that Marine Barracks is special -- not different, but special.

General Jones said he's looking forward to next year's parade season.



# USNA and "B" Companies change hands

by Sgt. Sean Fitzpatrick  
Staff Writer

The barracks witnessed several change-of-command ceremonies recently, when Capt. Jarrod W. Stoutenborough received command of the United States Naval Academy company on July 28, from Capt. Chad R. Vanderslice. Vanderslice then took command of "B" company July 31, from Captain Howard F. Hall, who is now attending the Command and Control School at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

The new commanding officer of USNA company, Stoutenborough, said he is very excited and proud to be working with such a unique company within the barracks.

The company's former commanding officer, Vanderslice, commented on the superior performance of the Marines at USNA Company.

"I am humbled to have served with such a great group of Marines, and I

respect them for all that they do in their ceremonial, security and military occupational specialty proficiency missions for the Annapolis area," said Vanderslice. "Most of these missions are done in the shadows of this battalion and go unnoticed, and I want to thank them publicly for all that they do for this battalion. I will truly miss their esprit de corps, camaraderie and true professional friendship. I wish the best of luck to Capt. Stoutenborough, his wife Cindy, and family as he assumes command of a great organization. I am honored to have an opportunity to serve with the Marines of 'Bravo' Company and look forward to



**Captain Chad R. Vanderslice, "B" Company commander, receives the "B" Company guidon from Capt. Howard F. Hall, former "B" Company commander, symbolizing the change of command. (photo by Sgt. Sean Fitzpatrick)**



**Captain Jarrod W. Stoutenborough received command of the United States Naval Academy Company on July 28. (photo by Sgt. Sean Fitzpatrick)**

working with and for them on the parade decks of the National Capital Region and, more importantly, in the field."

Captain Vanderslice admits that he'll miss the Marines at the academy, but he is turning over command to a very capable Marine – Capt. Stoutenborough.

Captain Stoutenborough is looking forward to taking over command of his first company, after spending a year as a platoon commander in "A" Company.

"Being in command of Marines is a privilege, whether it is a company or platoon," said Stoutenborough. "I am looking forward to applying everything I learned from the Marines in my former platoon to the Marines in USNA Company."

# Using mass transit puts money in your pocket

by *Public Affairs Office*  
Executive Order 13150

“Federal Workforce Transportation” in the National Capital Region will allow qualified DoD employees to participate in a transportation fringe benefit program starting October 1.

Under this program, participating Marines and DoD civilians will receive, in addition to their current compensation, “transit passes” in amounts equal to personal commuting costs, not to exceed \$65/month. This will rise to \$100/month in 2002.

This benefit applies to both mass transit and qualified vanpool participants. Employees who receive transit passes may not be counted as part of a DoD carpool for purposes of qualifying for a parking pass. Personnel must relinquish their parking permits to receive the transit pass benefit.

The program is designed to improve air quality, reduce traffic congestion and conserve energy by encouraging em-

ployees to commute by means other than single occupancy motor vehicles.

Transit benefits are distributed in the form of “MetroChek” vouchers. These vouchers can be used on the MetroRail system or can be used as a cash equivalent to purchase other fare media, such as bus or train tickets. They can also be used to reimburse the driver of a qualified vanpool. More than 100 area bus, rail and vanpool commuter services accept MetroCheks.

The transit benefit is not taxable and does not have to be recorded on your tax returns.

To receive transit benefits, complete the “U.S. Department of Defense (National Capital Region) Public Transportation Benefit Program Application” and fax it to the number on the top of the application.

Distribution dates and times for MetroCheks are being established. Distribution will be on a quarterly basis. Personnel will be notified of dates and locations for distribution.

## Transit benefit websites:

**Program information:** [www.dtic.mil/ref/html/NCRTansitpass.html](http://www.dtic.mil/ref/html/NCRTansitpass.html)

**Enrollment application:** [www.dtic.mil/ref/html/Application\\_1.html](http://www.dtic.mil/ref/html/Application_1.html)

**Times and locations for distribution:** [www.dtic.mil/ref/html/Disbursement\\_1.html](http://www.dtic.mil/ref/html/Disbursement_1.html)

## Marines give the gift of life

by *Sgt. Sara Storey*  
Editor

Nearly 150 Marines and sailors at the “Oldest Post” donated blood July 27, totalling almost 19 gallons of blood.

Barracks corpsmen worked hand-in-hand with sailors from Bethesda Naval Hospital to make this quarterly blood drive successful.

“We want to thank everyone for coming and giving blood,” said Petty Officer 3rd class Teresa M. Shine, barracks corpsman. “It’s so important for people to understand that by giving just ten minutes of their time and donating a pint of blood, they truly are giving the gift of life to someone.”



A tear in your eye ...  
A tug at your heartstrings ...

# Color Guard brings memories and pride

by Cpl. Chad C. Adams  
Staff Writer

Amidst the parade and pageantry, a quivering hand cuts the air with a salute.

It's a solitary moment, one overshadowed sometimes by the pop of a rifle or beat of a drum. But to its owner, who may have stormed the beaches of Okinawa, filled the frozen ranks at Chosin Reservoir, or fought through the jungles of Vietnam, he stands a little bit straighter. It's this moment that gives the veteran tear-stained cheeks.

It's the sight of the Marine Corps Color Guard.

The color guard is led by the Color Sergeant of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Blake L. Richardson. Richardson carries the national ensign during ceremonies at the barracks and across the nation, and the presidential colors for all White House State functions. He is flanked by two riflemen and the Marine Corps colors.

This team, called "Parade Four," along with the color guard's remaining two teams, participates in more than 1,000 ceremonies a year.

In order to fulfill the numerous

commitments, which can take place after working hours or on weekends, members of the color guard must give countless hours of their personal time to meet mission accomplishment.

Teams complete five-to-10 commitments per day, while individual Marines perform seven-to-10 times a week.

Richardson and the other members of the "Parade Four" participate in some of the bigger events and receive many accolades; however, Richardson is quick to point out that the other Marines participate in the majority of the other commitments and deserve a lot of credit.

"The rest of the Marines deserve more credit than I do," Richardson said. "It's a thankless job for them. It's a wonder they stay as motivated as they do."

For many, this motivation lies beneath an overwhelming sense of pride in what they do.

"Not many Marines can say they've carried the colors of the Marine Corps," said Lance Cpl. Michael S. Knuth, "A" company, rifleman. "That makes me proud. I feel really honored."

From the grass of the White House lawn to the gridiron of the Super Bowl, the color guard represents honor, courage and commitment in every clime and place.

With extensive travel and countless commitments, Color Guard Marines may have a special duty; however, their primary responsibility is the same as every other devil dog in the Corps – being a Marine.

"Probably more than any other section, you're self-reliant," said Cpl. James C. Comerford, "A" company, Marine Corps colors bearer. "It has its ups and downs."

It's up to the individual Marine to find time to go up and down on a pull-up bar or hit the road to pound the pavement, but when show time comes around, it all becomes worthwhile.

After many shows, veterans approach the Color Guard Marines to thank them, expressing their appreciation for the sacrifices the Marines make, the same ones these veterans made so many years ago, according to Comerford.

"It's such a big deal for these guys," Comerford said. "It's a humbling experience for me. These are the guys who fought our wars."

The old man cuts his salute and wipes the tear from his face. He whispers to no one, "Ooh Rah."



# Silver Brass = “The Total Package”

by *Sgt. Justin C. Bakewell*  
Public Affairs Chief

The Silent Drill Platoon has a rich history dating back to 1948, when they first performed during a “Sunset Parade.”

Marines in the drill platoon have ranged from war veterans to devil dogs straight out of the School of Infantry. Regardless of the origin of the Marines in the platoon, one thing has remained a constant – the discipline and determination needed to strive for perfection.

Every year since 1979, there has been a Marine in the platoon that has displayed the qualities necessary to don the “silver brass.”

The silver brass is a set of regular brass buttons for a dress blue uniform passed from rifle inspector to rifle inspector. Through the years and constant polishing, the brass has worn

down to the point of appearing silver.

In the past, the silver brass was given to the number one rifle inspector. This was the Marine who received the best critiques on their specific inspection sequence.

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*“I don’t carry myself any differently [when I wear the silver brass], I conduct myself like any other sergeant of Marines should.”*

---

Sgt. Ryan L. Blaine

That changed in 1998, when Staff Sgt. Thomas M. Herman became the platoon sergeant for the Silent Drill Platoon.

“In the past the silver brass was given to the number one rifle inspector

without any other consideration,” said Herman. “We changed that. Now it is given to the best all around rifle inspector: the Marine who sets the example in every way, in the field, on the parade deck, and on liberty. He has to have the total package.”

The Marine carrying on the tradition this year is Sgt. Ryan L. Blaine, “A” company, Silent Drill Platoon, rifle inspector. He’s been wearing the silver brass since February, when it was presented to him during a banquet in Yuma, Ariz.

According to members of the drill platoon, the silver brass is worn by a Marine that can be looked up to; someone who can be relied on to set the example.

“I have always tried to hold myself to the standards set forth by the previous Marines who wore the silver brass, just in case I ever received the chance to wear it,” said Blaine.

To the Marines in the drill platoon, the silver brass is more than some silver buttons that have been passed down from Marine to Marine. The buttons symbolizes something much deeper. They not only represent the qualities of the Silent Drill Platoon, but the way every Marine should strive to be.

Sgt. Blaine puts it best – when asked if living up to the tradition of wearing the silver brass makes him act differently, he simply replied:

“I don’t carry myself any differently [when I wear the silver brass], I conduct myself like any other sergeant of Marines should.”



**The Silent Drill Platoon rifle inspector is the only Marine authorized to wear silver brass on his dress blue uniform. (photo by Sgt. Daniel E. Paige)**

(right) The Drum and Bugle Corps steps off, with Staff Sgt. Mark S. Miller leading them. (below) The reviewing official, Lt. Col. Samuel E. Ferguson, and the sergeant major of the Fort Henry Guard salute the national ensign during the review of troops.



Sergeant Major Ronnie L. Edwards receives the keys to Fort Henry from Fort Henry Guard's sergeant major. Marines from the Battle Color Detachment will defend the fort for the next 24 hours. The keys are returned to the FHG the following evening.



# BCD defend

story and photos by Sgt. Sara Storey  
Editor

“Two by day, two by night.”

This command echoed off the walls of Fort Henry in Kingston, Ontario, Canada when the Marine Corps Battle Color detachment joined the Fort Henry Guard for the 46th Annual Joint “Evening Tattoo” and “Changing of the Guard Ceremony.”

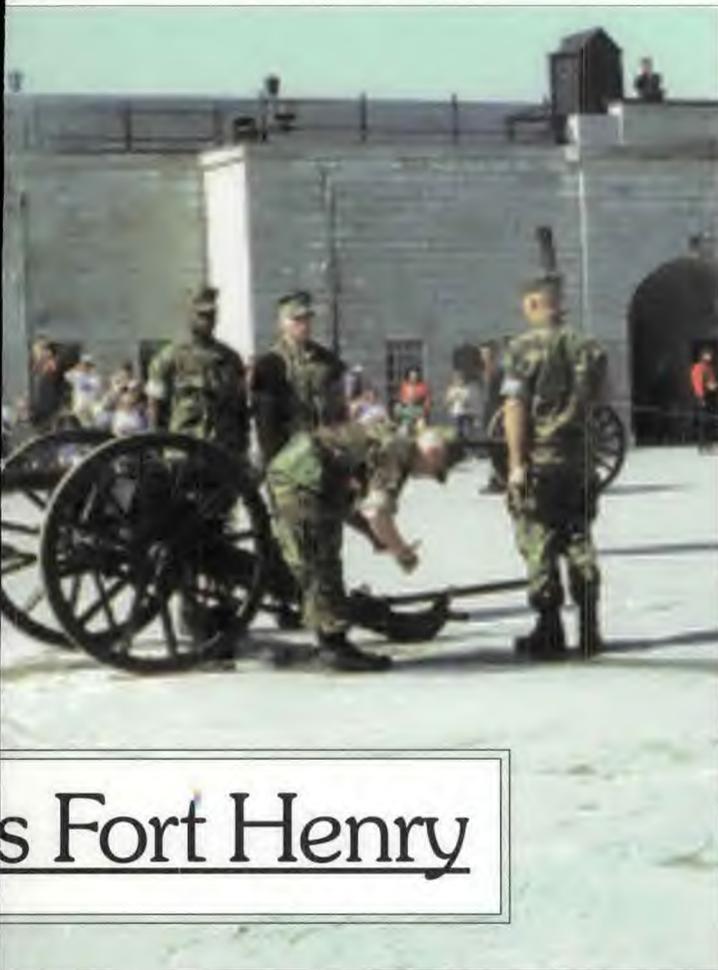
During the “Changing of the Guard Ceremony,” the FHG handed over the keys of the fort, and the Marines diligently protected the fort for the next 24 hours, as a sign of the trusting relationship that’s been developing between the two since 1954. The two units first performed together during celebrations marking the 10th anniversary of the Ogdensburg Treaty, an agreement of cooperation and trade between the United States and Canada.

The evening’s ceremony also featured each units’ specific drill, including FHG’s bayonet movements, the “Line of Battle Performance,” and “Final Fire” from the parade deck with six-and 12-pound cannons.

An identical ceremony was held the next evening, as the BCD returned the keys and the responsibility of guarding the post to FHG’s sergeant major.

The relaxed atmosphere and the friendships that have

*It’s the h  
of our  
Sgt. Betsy*



# s Fort Henry

developed with the Canadians throughout the years, make this trip one of the most anticipated of the season, according to Sgt. Betsy Wilkinson, D&B Company, bugler.

“It’s the highlight of our year,” said Wilkinson. “Doing ceremony after ceremony gets monotonous, but the trip to Fort Henry isn’t like that at all.”

Marines look forward to the friendly rivalries that have become tradition after more than 40 years of visits. Each year, the Canadians challenge the Marines to a soccer game, a softball game, and a competition unique to Fort Henry – the “Gunner’s Gun.”

**Highlight  
year ...**

Wilkinson

During the “Gunner’s Gun,” the Marines are pitted against the guard, racing to fire a mid-1800s breach-loading Anderson Cannon.

The Marines spend one morning practicing and perfecting the drill movements and techniques of the 1800s. Both teams are timed and critiqued on proper drill sequence.

The FHG clinched the “Gunner’s Gun” and soccer tournament victories, as well as ending the Marine’s five-year winning streak in softball.

“This trip builds camaraderie with the Canadians, and within our unit,” said Wilkinson. “The games are all in good fun, and no matter who wins we come together that evening to perform a unique and interesting ceremony.”



(left) The Silent Drill Platoon marches through the gates of Fort Henry. Marines from the Battle Color Detachment have been marching through this gate since 1954. (below) The Fort Henry Guard Drum and Fife Corps perform before thousands.



The reviewing official, Lt. Col. Samuel E. Ferguson, greets members of the Fort Henry Guard, and their mascot.



(above) Staff NCOs perform all marching positions, including positions usually marched by officers. (right) The United States Marine Band marches across the parade deck, led by Gunnery Sgt. Thomas D. Kohl. (photos by Sgt. Justin C. Bakewell)



## Staff NCO "Evening Parade"

by Sgt. Sara Storey  
Editor



The Silent Drill Platoon performs their rifle inspection sequence for thousands of spectators. (photo by Sgt. Justin C. Bakewell)

**B**arracks officers handed over the reins to the Staff NCOs for the annual Staff NCO "Evening Parade," August 11.

According to Gunnery Sgt. Julien C. Duncan, Marine Corps Institute Company, operations chief, the Staff NCO "Evening Parade" allows the Staff NCOs to showcase their talents in key billets.

"I wanted to be part of the tradition and legacy of Marine Barracks as a Staff NCO," said Duncan. "The long hours and hard work pay off when we march in front of all those spectators, with goose bumps, chills, and butterflies in our stomachs. The pride you feel is immeasurable."

The Staff NCOs practiced for countless hours before their moment in the spotlight. Staff Sergeant Kevin Buckles, Drum and Bugle Corps, acting drum major for the Staff NCO parade, had been waiting for this moment since middle school.

"I've been performing as a drum major since 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and performing as the drum major for the D&B is one of the goals I've set for myself in the Marine Corps," said Buckles. "Performing at the Staff NCO parade is a special honor because I'm representing my peers."



# Evening Parade”

**Parade Staff:**

Parade Commander: Master Sgt. H. Odrick  
 Parade Adjutant: Gunnery Sgt. J.C. Duncan  
 Staff: Gunnery Sgt. T.L. Hoffman  
 Staff Sgt. D.F. Ledford  
 Staff Sgt. M.J. Gonzales

**“A” Company:**

Company Commander: 1st Sgt. W.A. Winters  
 Platoon Commanders: Staff Sgt. J.E. Sackett  
 Staff Sgt. R.M. Nash  
 Silent Drill Platoon: Staff Sgt. T.M. Herman  
 First Sergeant: Gunnery Sgt. K.T. Craig

**“B” Company:**

Company Commander: 1st Sgt. R.J. Daniel  
 Platoon Commanders: Staff Sgt. J.J. Molvak  
 Sgt. C.A. Hauck  
 Staff Sgt. N.E. Hill

First Sergeant: Sgt. A.N. Remocaldo

**Sergeant Major:** Master Sgt. H.L. Bellous Jr.

**Conductor, U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps:**

Staff Sgt. R.L. Bedard

**Drum Major, U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps:**

Staff Sgt. K.D. Buckles

**Drum Major, U.S. Marine Band:**

Gunnery Sgt. T.D. Kohl

**Silent Drill Platoon Inspector:** Sgt. R.L. Blaine



(above) The Marine Corps Color Guard lowers the organizational colors for the playing of the national anthem. (below) The parade staff warms up before the performance. (photos by Sgt. Justin C. Bakewell)



The Drum and Bugle Corps performs a concert directed by Staff Sgt. R.L. Bedard. (photo by Sgt. Justin C. Bakewell)



The Marine Corps Color Guard stands before the official firing party and the bugler during the "NCO Parade."



(above) The marching companies, led by NCOs, march out from behind the Marine Corps War Memorial. (right) Marines pass the reviewing stand during the "pass in review."

# NCOs step to the front and deliver a flawless performance

by Public Affairs Office

photos by Sgt. Sean Fitzpatrick

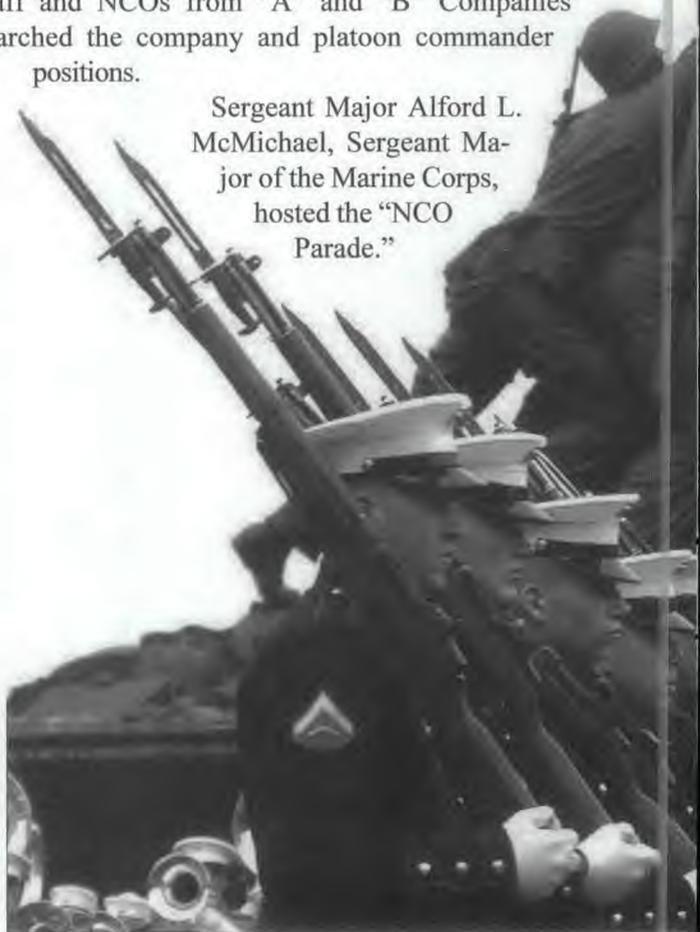
**B**arracks NCOs stepped to the front and took over all marching positions for the annual "NCO Parade" at the Marine Corps War Memorial, July 11.

This parade highlighted NCOs in appreciation for their professionalism and dedication to ceremonial excellence by letting them step away from their normal parade positions and into the spotlight.

The Marines were selected based on their performance during tryouts several months ago. NCOs marched all positions during the "Sunset Parade" – positions usually held by Staff NCOs and officers.

Marines from different companies and military occupational specialties were chosen to march on the parade staff and NCOs from "A" and "B" Companies marched the company and platoon commander positions.

Sergeant Major Alford L. McMichael, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, hosted the "NCO Parade."



# front, take charge, styleless performance

## "NCO Parade" staff

Platoon Commander – Sgt. D.M. Hanna  
 Adjutant – Cpl. R.M. Roberts  
 Staff – Sgt. A.N. Remocaldo  
 Cpl. S.A. Sherwood  
 Cpl. D.J. Buckles  
 Drum Major – Sgt. J.M. Bennett



(above) Marines step to their positions from behind the memorial. (left) NCOs marched all positions on the parade staff, normally held by Staff NCOs and officers. (below) The Drum and Bugle Corps performs before thousands of spectators at the annual "NCO Parade."



## Cenon Nevall: *The barracks' most loyal fan*

by Cpl. Chad C. Adams  
Staff Writer

It's Friday, and the monotonous 45-minute rumble of the red line metro fades behind an imaginary scene in his mind, speeding the thump of his heart a bit faster. Another thump blends into a bass drum as he walks up 8th Street, his pace quickening, his stride lengthened by excitement.

He passes the commandant's house, turns through the gate and makes his way to his seat — yes, his seat.

From there, he can see everything — the pre-parade “thumbs-up,” in which he unofficially participates, and his personal highlight — officers' call and the presentation of the colors. He can see it unfold in his mind, long before any heel strikes the parade deck.

And, after 15 straight years of perfect attendance, Cenon Nevall's love affair with the barracks continues. In fact, he's hoping for at least another 15 years without a miss.

“I just hope I can keep attending,” Nevall said. “I hope to as long as I live. The parade ties you to the barracks and it's something you always want to see.”

Nevall has always had an affinity for the Marine Corps. Although his father and two uncles were in the Army, when someone once asked a young Nevall what service he preferred, his answer was the Marines.

That was at the age of seven. But it wasn't until many years later that a 33-year-old Nevall happened upon a newspaper advertisement for the parade. He came to the barracks that night, mainly because he had nothing better to do. But something happened, and he hasn't missed a Tuesday or Friday night parade since.

“I said, ‘My gosh, I think I want to see this every Friday for the rest of my life,’” Nevall said to himself that first evening.

So far, he hasn't missed a parade, and over the years, many Marines have noticed. Now, this civilian, has become a recognizable staple to parade evenings at the barracks.

In fact, in 1993, Col. John B. Sollis, then commanding officer of Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., dedicated a seat and presented it to Nevall, an act that left its mark on this friend to the Corps.

“It was a surprise,” Nevall said. “I was really

honored. It really touched me that they thought of me like that.”

Nevall remains possibly the biggest supporter of the Marines at the barracks. However, this flow of support flows both ways.

After graduating from the University of Maryland, Nevall moved to New York City, where he lived for ten years. That's when he received his own call to duty. Nevall returned to Bethesda to care for his Philippine-born mother and father.

When Nevall's father passed away several years ago, the Marines rallied with support, sending flowers and letters of condolences, which solidified an already burning passion for the Corps.

“I have kept all of the condolence letters,” Nevall said. “That is something I'm very touched by.”

Today, Nevall faces a test of faith and courage each and every day as he cares for his mother who is seriously ill.

“It gets frustrating sometimes,” Nevall said.

But on these hallowed Marine grounds, and beneath the blue-whites he loves so much, Nevall finds the strength to carry on, imagining how a Marine would do it.

“I find a lot of inspiration here that helps me in my life,” Nevall said. “I don't think you can get any better of a leader by example than learning from Marines.”

No matter what personal tragedies or struggles that life bring to Nevall, one thing remains a constant, driving force: “I'm still in awe of the barracks.”

But, with such a strong commitment to Corps, it might just be the Marines who are in awe of him.



**Sergeant Rasheem M. Brown escorts Cenon Nevall, the barracks' biggest supporter and most loyal spectator, to the seat that's been his for hundreds of parades. (photo by Sgt. Justin C. Bakewell)**

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

**H&S Company**

*August*

- Capt. P. Tabash
- Sgt. R.M. Butler
- Sgt. J.L. Clay
- Sgt. K.R. Jolly Jr.
- Cpl. E.D. Dacosta
- Cpl. B.K. Dawson
- Cpl. S.Z. Greene
- Cpl. M.P. Higgins
- Cpl. E.B. Macasarte
- Cpl. H.C. Rodriguez
- Cpl. A.J. Roth
- Lance Cpl. J.R. Baker
- Lance Cpl. K.H. Fogleman
- Lance Cpl. B.M. Horrell
- Lance Cpl. J.S. Mayhue
- Lance Cpl. L.T. Rawlins
- Lance Cpl. T.M. Zielinski

*September*

- Gunnery Sgt. J.J. Boyd
- Sgt. J.B. Buchanan III
- Sgt. C.T. Conklin
- Sgt. J.H. Hennings III
- Cpl. J.T. Davis
- Cpl. C.W. Gaines
- Cpl. M.T. Gray
- Cpl. B.B. Lafossemarin
- Cpl. T.R. Mitchmore
- Cpl. R.D. Monteleone
- Cpl. R.P. Nouwens
- Cpl. R.L. Piercy
- Cpl. B.D. Quach
- Cpl. A.D. Reeves
- Cpl. S.M. Roberts
- Cpl. D.K. Soule
- Cpl. K.A. Sullivan
- Cpl. E.L. Teague Jr.
- Lance Cpl. C.R. Borgerding
- Lance Cpl. N.A. Calhoun
- Lance Cpl. D.A. Coates
- Lance Cpl. K.D. McGee

**MCI Company**

*August*

- Gunnery Sgt. C. Mason
- Lance Cpl. R. Cruces
- Lance Cpl. A.M. Drewniak

*September*

- Master Sgt. J.H. Kithcart
- Lance Cpl. P. Karmakar

**“A” Company**

*August*

- Capt. M.J. Maracle Jr.
- Sgt. C.M. Crane
- Sgt. J. Frye
- Cpl. S.B. Bondurant
- Cpl. R.B. Mahoney
- Cpl. C.J. Scott
- Lance Cpl. J.D. Cannon III
- Lance Cpl. J.W. Clabaugh
- Lance Cpl. M.W. Cole
- Lance Cpl. J.S. Dontje
- Lance Cpl. S.J. Harris
- Lance Cpl. M.J. Klinger
- Lance Cpl. M.S. Knuth
- Lance Cpl. S.J. Loose
- Lance Cpl. T.W. McKeel
- Lance Cpl. A.M. Mullen
- Lance Cpl. C.J. Robertson
- Lance Cpl. C.L. Romero
- Lance Cpl. W.E. Sullivan
- Lance Cpl. P.G. Weaver Jr.
- Lance Cpl. J.A. White

*September*

- Cpl. H.E. Becerra
- Cpl. J.J. High
- Lance Cpl. J.R. Hogan

**“B” Company**

*August*

- Sgt. A.N. Remocaldo
- Cpl. R.S. Esquibel
- Cpl. V. Gonzalez Jr.
- Cpl. T.O. Grier
- Cpl. T.W. Mack
- Cpl. E.M. Malchak
- Cpl. F.L. Retzlaff
- Lance Cpl. J.G. Amstutz
- Lance Cpl. R.J. Capello

- Lance Cpl. F.K. Garman
- Lance Cpl. L.A. Gray
- Lance Cpl. F.T. Raines
- Lance Cpl. T.J. Schulze
- Lance Cpl. R.D. Watkins
- Lance Cpl. C.D. Young

*September*

- Cpl. A. Aranda
- Cpl. J.Y. Booker
- Cpl. M.D. Morgan
- Cpl. J.M. Souza
- Lance Cpl. B.D. Moog Jr.

**Security Company**

*August*

- Sgt. R.L. Knoll
- Cpl. J.O. Bomba
- Cpl. I. Gonzalez Jr.
- Cpl. M.G. Green
- Cpl. R.W. Hunnicutt Jr.
- Cpl. K.J. Moore
- Cpl. J.M. Norris
- Cpl. V.W. Sprunger
- Cpl. J.N. Tretter

*September*

- Cpl. W.M. Green
- Cpl. C.A. Ross
- Cpl. D.M. Sullivan
- Lance Cpl. L.A. Alvarez III
- Lance Cpl. J.M. Snyder

**USNA Company**

*August*

- Cpl. A.S. Murray
- Cpl. M.P. Naughton
- Lance Cpl. B.R. Endicott

*September*

- Cpl. J.W. Burtis Jr.
- Cpl. S. Disney
- Cpl. D.D. Onezine
- Cpl. T.G. Trimm
- Lance Cpl. R.J. Frank

**D&B Company**

*August*

- Lance Cpl. T.D. Judy

## Band Company

September

Lance Cpl. K.M. Barker

**C**ongratulate the following Marines on the awards they recently received.

## Navy Commendation Medal

MGySgt. T.R. Lyckberg  
Gunnery Sgt. S. Arledge  
Sgt. R. Dennis

## Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

MGySgt. T.D. Wilson III  
Sgt. C.S. Hayakawa  
Sgt. E.D. Parsons  
Lance Cpl. J.R. Morales

## Air Force Achievement Medal

Sgt. S.J. Storey

## Certificate of Commendation

Cpl. R.L. Knoll  
Cpl. T.R. Mitchmore  
Lance Cpl. J.W. Merriman

**C**ongratulate the following Marines on the recent additions to their families.

Cpl. Gabori Partee, Marine cadre, and his wife Cynthia, gave birth to an 8-pound baby boy, Gabori Jr., August 8.

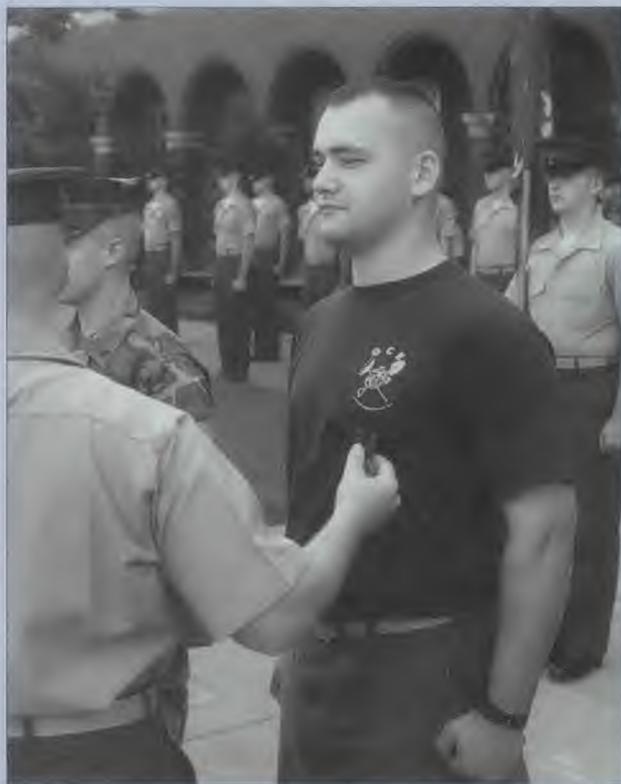
Sgt. Cyrus Patterman, MCI Company, Graphics section, and his wife Jennifer, gave birth to a 7-pound, 14-ounce baby boy, Andrew Cyrus, August 11.

Capt. Chad Vanderslice, "B" Company, company commander, and his wife Nicole, gave birth to an 8-pound, 2-ounce baby boy, Alexander James, August 29.

To put your families' new addition in the *Pass In Review*, e-mail your rank, first name, middle initial and last name to [storeysj@mbw.usmc.mil](mailto:storeysj@mbw.usmc.mil). Please include your spouse's first name and middle initial; and the baby's weight, full name, and date of birth.

## OUTSTANDING!

Lance Corporal James R. Sawyer, Headquarters and Service company, Grounds Combat Element, receives his Good Conduct Medal during an awards ceremony at the barracks August 15. (photo by Sgt. Justin C. Bakewell)



# Parade gives hope and strength to young boy

*Lt. Gregory C. Cathcart  
Barracks Chaplain*

During the parade season it is easy to lose perspective on exactly how much the barracks and its Marines impact those who encounter the "Evening Parade" and the power the parade can have.

The following is a true story that I have shared with many of the Marines, and now that we have successfully completed another parade season, I feel compelled to share the story with all the Marines.

There are probably many stories which are similar to this account, and possibly many more we will never know about. But this one I know firsthand.

It was a Friday evening, and the Marines were preparing for another parade. I had received a phone call from a father who was bringing his entire family from the Midwest to New York, in order to take his son to a hospital specializing in cancer treatment.

It seems his thirteen-year-old son had been diagnosed with a brain tumor four years earlier. The son had endured treatments, surgery, chemotherapy and radiation; and after several years passed, doctors thought the boy had fully recovered. As he went in for his final evaluation, it was discovered that the tumor had returned, however, this time more aggressively. Tragedy had struck this boy and his family twice within several years.

They were a very close family and the boy's parents and older sisters were devastated. The father, being a physician, immersed himself in study of this particular form of cancer, only to realize that the odds were against his son. The process for curing the cancer was a long one, and the very process that could save him, could kill him.

The boy had already been through a four-year battle and just when he thought it was over, he had to face another one – this time more severe and aggressive, with the outcome even more uncertain.

It was decided that the entire family would travel to New York to be with the son during treatment. However, it was under one condition – that the boy be able to see the Marines of the barracks perform the "Evening Parade."

The boy had always looked up to the Marines and he

wanted to see them in person one time before facing his next battle.

He thought that seeing them would give him the strength he needed to get through the torture he was about to face.

The parade atmosphere had been set and the boy and his family approached the gates of the barracks, where I greeted them and took them to Center House. I explained a little about the history of our Corps and the barracks.

Finally, the parade began. The boy sat motionless through the entire parade, studying every detail of the marching formations and the Marines performing.

Afterward, he and his family returned to Center House. The boy was awestruck, not only by the parade with its marching and music, but also because he had talked to the Marines themselves. All of them went out of their way to answer any questions he had and explain things they have probably explained a thousand times, but the Marines made

him feel that he was very important.

While in Center House, I introduced this young boy to Colonel Brickhouse, and explained briefly to the colonel what the boy had already been through and what he was now facing.

The colonel spoke to the boy and told him that, from his own experiences, he understood what it was like to go through this. He told the boy that the Marines would pray for him and if he got scared the colonel would have Marines stand guard over him – but he was going to make it.

It was those kind words, and the kindness and professionalism the Marines showed that night – not knowing what this boy was facing – which gave that same boy the courage to fight brain cancer.

The doctors gave him a 1 in 10 chance of surviving those next couple of weeks. However, I am happy to report that, three months later, the boy is still alive and is beating cancer from the strength he drew from a group of Marines on a Friday evening.

This story is especially close to me for that boy's father is my brother, and that boy is my nephew, John Cathcart.

So, Marines, next time you feel what we do gets routine, and you get tired and feel you can't do another parade, remember that you are making all the difference in the world and reaching people that others cannot.

Just thought you should know.

---

***"... next time you feel  
what we do gets  
routine ... remember  
that you are making  
all the difference in  
the world and  
reaching people that  
others cannot."***

---

Lt. Gregory C. Cathcart

# "Evening Parade," 1971



Barracks Marines perform a "pass in review" at an "Evening Parade," August 18, 1971.

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