

MARINE BARRACKS
1801
WASHINGTON, D.C.

PASS IN REVIEW

Serving "The Oldest Post of the Corps"

January 2000

Nor'easter blankets barracks

Corps Loses Legend - Free Tax Filing - BCD's "West Coast Tour"

The beginning of a new campaign at the barracks

by *1st Sgt. Randy W. Matthews*
Headquarters & Service company, first sergeant

Each year at this time as I look out on the snow covered parade deck I am reminded of the day I reported to the Marine Barracks Washington, D.C.

As a gunnery sergeant with more than 15 years of experience in billets as diverse as drill instructor duty, duty at the Officers Candidates School, and also in deployments to all the corners of the world, I remember vividly the anxiety I felt that first day here. The anxiety I felt was not because of being assigned to a duty I found unappealing. On the contrary, the anxiety I felt was from my fear of failing to live up to the exacting standards we strive to uphold.

My first recollection of Marine Barracks Washington, D.C. was in 1984 as a squad leader in third battalion, sixth Marines. The Marine Corps used to conduct a rifle squad competition at the Marine Base in Quantico, VA. Each of the nine Marine regiments sent a squad to this competition, and after a week of evaluation in a variety of infantry skills a squad was selected as the most proficient infantry squad in the Marine Corps. The weeklong evolution culminated with an "Evening Parade" hosted by the commandant, in honor of the rifle squad competitors, and also to present awards the top rifle squad.

As I sat with my squad and watched what was fundamentally the same parade we execute today, I knew I was seeing something special. I hoped that one day I would become part of the pride and professionalism I observed that night.

It took 13 years for the Marine Corps to give me that opportunity, and to complicate matters even more I soon found out that the drill we execute, and the manner of issuing commands are unique in the Marine Corps. So even coming here with all those years of experience I still felt anxiety.

Fortunately when I arrived, one of my peers grabbed me by the stacking swivels and showed me all the things I needed to know to be successful here. He did not brutalize me or terrorize me. Instead, he patiently taught me everything from how to build a barracks cover, to marching in the unique way that Marines march at the barracks. I will never forget what he did for me, and to this day I consider him one of the best friends and one of the most professional Marines with whom I have ever associated.

Each year, I am reminded of how we are always

improving our proficiency to execute the unique mission that we are tasked with at the barracks. The deep-freeze of winter signals the beginning of a new campaign, and soon we will select parade staffs, color lowering details, mascot handlers, and flag poppers.

The Silent Drill Platoon is mastering a new sequence, and the marching companies are perfecting its precision drill. Hosters are working to astound visitors with their knowledge of the history of this "The Oldest Post of the Corps" and with their impeccable courtesy. Everyone has a mission and each mission is important in its own way.

As I begin my fourth and most likely my final campaign here at Marine Barracks, Washington D.C., I cannot help but to think back to all those Marines who went out of their way to teach me what I needed to know.

We must remember that our unique mission here does not depend on those of us with the experience to pass on that knowledge. What we do here is more important than any of us fully realize. Our mission is as critical to the survival of the Marine Corps as the units we have deployed worldwide.

A few years ago the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Sara Lister, called us fanatics. She was wrong in her assumption that we had lost touch with society, but we are fanatics. We are fanatically patriotic and take extreme measures to demonstrate our military proficiency. Even at a ceremonial post such as Marine Barracks, we strive to enhance the love our country has for her Corps of Marines.

When I have the opportunity to point out the differences between our service and the other branches of the service, the correlation I make is this: all services do a fantastic job of representing the country here in our nation's capital. But if you look at the other services, you will most likely see that they count on the members of their service with a great amount of experience to perform.

Every year we take 18, 19, and 20-year-old men and women, fresh out of high school, and immediately put them on display. The majority of the Marines at the barracks we entrust to maintain our shining reputation have less than two years in the Marine Corps. No other branch of service is able to do that, because no other branch of service prepares men and women as we do.

Take pride in that fact Marines, and remotivate yourselves and those around you for yet another campaign here at "The Oldest Post of the Corps."

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Pass in Review is an authorized publication for members of the Armed Forces. It is published monthly 11 times a year by the Marine Barracks Public Affairs Office, Washington, D.C. 20390, and contains information released by Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Armed Forces Information Service, Navy News Service and public affairs offices around the Marine Corps. Contents are not the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Navy, or the United States Marine Corps. All photos are official U.S. Marine Corps photos unless otherwise stated.

On the Cover

One of the two cannons on center walk bear mute witness to the weather that brought activities in the nation's capital to a standstill. However, Marines from the barracks overcame Mother Nature's whims to accomplish the Marine Corps' mission. (photo by Sgt. Sean Fitzpatrick)

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CORPS PAYS FINAL RESPECTS TO

General Leonard F. Chapman Jr., Nov. 3, 1913 - Jan. 6, 2000, interred in Arlington National Cemetery
January 14



by Gen. James L. Jones
Commandant of the Marine Corps



The Chaplain of the Marine Corps, Capt. Joseph R. Lamonde, leads Leonard F. Chapman Jr.'s grave site. (photo by Cpl. Jennifer L. ...)

The Marine Corps laid to rest at Arlington one of its finest commandants, Gen. Leonard F. Chapman Jr., Jan. 14. We who wear the Marine uniform owe a lasting debt to him for his leadership during one of the most difficult periods of the modern era.

General Chapman became commandant on Jan. 1, 1968, a time when our country was heavily involved in an unpopular war in Vietnam and was grappling with a host of problems that deeply affected society. Drug abuse, racial tensions and a large conscripted force challenged the fabric of both our civilian and military societies.

To confront these challenges, Chapman balanced the traditional military needs for discipline and obedience to orders against the realities of a changing society and its effect on military culture. He held the line on Marine Corps standards while extending the boundaries of freedom of expression within our ranks.

In so doing, he led our Corps from the abyss of Vietnam toward the all-volunteer force, and his dignified leadership inspired many, like myself, who made up the young officer corps in the '70s, to follow his lead and remain on active duty.

The decisions he made were not easy and were frequently at odds with prevailing social trends, but Marines knew them to be essential to the preservation of our Corps. His policies with regard to race relations and drug use are good examples of his vision.

Chapman reinforced the long-standing policy that dis-

crimination would not be tolerated; he did so by issuing a clear message of intent to all Marines. Pointing out the link between equal opportunity and combat effectiveness, he instructed leaders to eradicate every trace of discrimination, intentional or otherwise.

In 1969 he created the Equal Opportunity Branch at Headquarters Marine Corps, which established the basic framework on which the Corps built race relations programs in the '70s. That branch continues to address these issues today.

As for drug use, while many thought Marine leaders should look the other way, Chapman responded with a policy of zero tolerance.

"The Marine Corps cannot tolerate drug use within its ranks," he wrote. "Those who experiment with drugs will be punished. Those who are addicted will be separated. ... Both types of users introduce unnecessary operational risk, as well as an unwholesome environment."

Junior leaders saw and respected the general's adherence to standards in a sea of change. They admired the

UNCOMPROMISING COMMANDANT



General James L. Jones, commandant of the Marine Corps, presents the folded American flag to Chapman's granddaughter Danielle. (photo by Cpl. Jennifer L. Kenefick)

ds the barracks' Body Bearers and the funeral procession to Gen. Kenefick)

fact that he stood tall on principle when it would have been more expedient to cave in to popular opinion. His "We don't promise you a rose garden" recruiting theme rang true to Marines who valued service above self.

We also saw in this man a living example of the character and attributes that reflect what Americans think and feel about the word "Marine." Soft-spoken but by no means gentle, Chapman let his actions do his talking. He proved his physical courage time and again on the many battlefields on which he served; he also consistently demonstrated moral courage in the decisions he made as commandant.

Chapman loved being a Marine, and he loved those who served under him. His sense of duty was so strong that he would never allow his personal feelings to interfere with what was important or necessary for his country and the Marine Corps. He was a patriot and a leader at a time when such values were not fully understood or appreciated by many segments of our society.

The primary reason the Marine Corps flourishes today



Lance Corporal Chad J. Davis, "A" company, Color Guard, holds the CMC's flag. (photo by Cpl. Jennifer L. Kenefick)

can be traced to the standards passed on to my generation of Marines. He consistently did the right thing.

Today, our Corps' success in meeting its recruiting goals is evidence that young Americans remain drawn to those ideals. We see, time and again, that those standards are necessary, and that they continue to define us.

BCD: The Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment prepares for annual 2000 West Coast Tour

by Cpl. Justin C. Bakewell
Media Chief

The Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment is once again preparing for the annual "West Coast Installation Tour" which begins Feb. 29 at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz.

The BCD will complete the final phase of training during a month-long deployment to Yuma before the tour begins.

The BCD performs for the public in Arizona, Texas, and for nearly every Marine Corps installation in California, in early March, displaying the precision, discipline and esprit de corps of Marines to everyone in attendance.

"Going to Yuma is an extremely important part of training for the BCD," said Sgt. William R. Rulapaugh, Drum and Bugle Corps company, snare drummer. "Yuma gives us a chance to come together as an entire detachment without any distractions, and finalize the product."

The members of the D&B learn new music and choreograph a drill sequence at the beginning of every parade season while in Yuma. According to Rulapaugh, the wealth of leadership and experience in the company makes the training process extremely effective.

While the majority of the Drum and Bugle Corps' members are returning from last year, the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon must prepare 17 new Marines — more than half of the platoon. The new Marines do not officially become members of the platoon until they complete "Challenge Day," which is roughly a week before the first performance. Until that time, they are continually improv-



The United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps prepares for the upcoming "West Coast Installation Tour" last year. This year the tour begins Feb. 29, at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz. (USMC photo)

ing their skills during the final phases of the Silent Drill School.

"The Marines have to prove they can perform under pressure with complete confidence in themselves and the Marines surrounding them," said Sgt. Ryan L. Blaine, "A" company, Silent Drill Platoon, drill master/rifle inspector. "They must also maintain the strict precision we have required since the first day of Silent Drill School."

The BCD comes together as a whole to practice the ceremony during the final week before the tour begins once the individual units are prepared.

The tour also offers the members of the audience the opportunity to talk with the members of the BCD about its mission, and the rare qualities that come with being a Marine. Because of this, it has become one of the most effective recruiting tools in the Corp, according to Sgt. Steven D. William, Marine Corps Recruiting Station San Diego, Calif., Marketing and Public Affairs representative.

Everyone in the BCD will be ready to kick off the next "West Coast Installation Tour" Feb. 29 and perform with the intensity and dedication that makes these performances such a success.

BCD Tour dates/times

February 29:

3:00 p.m. Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz.

7:30 p.m. KOFA High School, Yuma, Ariz.

March 1:

7:00 p.m. Marine Corps Military Academy Harlingen, TX.

March 3:

10:30 a.m. Main side, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

3:00 p.m. School of Infantry, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

March 4:

1:00 p.m. Murietta High School, San Diego, Calif.

March 5:

2:00 p.m. Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif.

March 6:

3:00 p.m. Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, San Diego, Calif.

March 8:

12:00 p.m. 29 Palms, Calif.

March 9:

12:00 p.m. Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow, Calif.

March 11:

11:00 a.m. San Francisco, Calif.

March 11:

6:30 p.m. Rialto, Calif.

VITA reps help make filing taxes EZ

by *Gunnery Sgt. Shannon Arledge*
Public Affairs Chief

Finding time to file an income tax return can sometimes be enough to make college calculus look appealing.

To make things less of a hassle, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program is back this year.

Volunteer representatives, who are certified in income tax preparation, are standing by for Marine Barracks Marines and sailors who want to take advantage of this cost free service.

"No one pays a dime," said Cpl. Joseph B. Buchanan III, NCOIC and tax preparer, Marine Barracks Tax Center. "The Marine Corps offers us this opportunity to help out fellow Marines and Sailors. We save, on average, a filing fee of \$70 or more."

Tax season typically runs from January 15th to April 15th. A request for an extension must be submitted to file taxes at a later date, otherwise the Internal Revenue Service will penalize those who do not file by the April deadline.

Buchanan said the tax center is using the computer program called Tax Wise to assist in filing taxes again. This program is designed especially for military personnel and is extremely user friendly for tax preparers; enabling them to complete the returns accurately and quickly by identifying problem areas.

According to Buchanan, who is certified through H&R Block, VITA representatives can complete simple to the more difficult tax returns.

"If we have any problems with a tax return, I am able

to contact a manager from H&R Block to assist us," said Buchanan. "One way or another, we will find the answer."

This year the tax center is able to file both federal and state returns. By electronic filing tax returns, a refund may be deposited in a person's bank account in three to seven days after processing without a service charge.

"I found the VITA representatives were extremely knowledgeable last year," said Gunnery Sgt. Scott A. Maile, Marine Corps Institute company, distance training instructor. "They provided a great service to the Marines [and sailors]. Not only did they save us money, the returns were accurate and on time."

"Commercial tax preparers make a certain percentage on the amount of the tax return," said Buchanan. "The VITA service is free, and I get satisfaction in knowing I am helping out a fellow Marine or Sailor put money back in their pockets."

Taxpayers can find the tax center located on the first floor of the Marine Corps Institute building from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. They do accept walk-ins and in some cases offer a drop-off service.

The tax center personnel recommends that each person collect all relevant information, i.e. W-2s, investments, homeowner and daycare deductions, bank account statements, children's social security numbers, etc., before going to the tax center.

Those who feel they have more complicated filing requirements can make an appointment at the tax center by calling 685-7501 or 685-7616.

Spotlight

Name: Lance Cpl. Nicholas V. Gonzalez
Unit: Headquarters & Service company, S-4, Chow Hall
Job: Subsistence Supply Clerk NCOIC
Enlisted: July 19, 1998
Hometown: Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Favorite Part of the Job: Responsibility. My section allows me to use my own initiative to correct things, so that I can handle problems at my own level rather than going to a NCO.



Marines help others adapt and overcome



*by Cpl. Justin Bakewell & Cpl. Matthew E. Habib
Media Chief & Staff Writer*

Marines from different sections throughout the barracks supported various volunteer causes from Dec. 1, 1999 to Jan. 17, 2000.

The Marines rebuilt homes for neighbors with disabilities, shared presents with those less fortunate during the holiday season, and most recently, repaired the Lincoln Therapeutic Before and After Center.

The D.C. Department of Parks and Recreations began funding local projects, and the Marines jumped at the new opportunity to volunteer.

"The Naval District of Washington contacted the barracks to see if we could support [repairs to] the local Day Care Center, and without delay, "A" company and Headquarters and Service company had volunteers eager and willing to go," said Capt. Kenneth E. Lucas, H&S, public affairs officer. "We consider ourselves part of the community, and by helping the community and the younger generations we are investing in our own future."

According to Vendra B. Hayes, D.C. Department of Parks and Recreations, volunteer coordinator, the help



Marines volunteered their time by helping the less fortunate repair homes and renovate community facilities. (photos by Cpls. Justin C. Bakewell and Matthew E. Habib)

was greatly appreciated.

"Without the help of the Marines, none of this would have been possible," said Hayes. "The Marines also contributed an extremely positive attitude. All we had to do was tell them what we wanted done and they did it."

More Marines led by Gunnery Sgt. Marino, Marine Corps Institute company, distance learning instructor, made repairs to homes operated by the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation of Southern Maryland that are occupied by the mentally and physically disabled.

The UCP program is a volunteer organization and relies on the good nature of others to survive, but unfortunately it cannot always find volunteers, according to Morino.

"Hiring carpenters and buying supplies can be expensive, but the Marines' help cut down costs and time delays," said Marino. "The foundation said the Marines did a 'superb job,' and hopefully they can look forward to more volunteers from the barracks."

Marines from "A" company's Silent Drill Platoon also donated toys and helped throughout the Ferrington United Methodist Church's Annual Christmas Dinner.

According to Cpl. Alexander R. Ferguson, "A" company, SDP platoon guide, it hardly felt like work at all.

"This was a great opportunity for the Silent Drill Platoon, and the children loved it because the Marines sat right down and played with them, or let the kids sit on their shoulders and joke around," said Ferguson.

Hayes is currently looking for Marine's assistance with events like the 14th Annual Black History Swim Meet, an the Therapeutic Olympics for physically and mentally challenged children at H.D. Woodson High School.

Marine Corps Institute, familiar leader takes the helm

by *Cpl. Matthew E. Habib*
Staff Writer

The Marine Corp Institute witnessed a change-of-command ceremony on Jan. 23, when Captain Brian M. Howlett passed command over to Lt. Col. Lloyd Hamashin, MCI company commander.

The new commander is excited and proud to be working with such a unique unit and its personnel.

“The Marine Corps Institute is unlike any other organization in the Marine Corps. MCI impacts (the entire military), and has become more efficient in the past year, which resulted in more positive feedback from the fleet,” said Hamashin. “The Marines and civilians who work here are some of the most dedicated and motivated people I have met in my Marine Corps career.”

Hamashin has also been attached

to MCI as deputy director since July 1997, and says the bottom line on MCI is to help Marines everywhere better themselves in every way possible.

“Marines need the education MCI provides to receive promotions and be effective as war fighters,” said Hamashin. “Luckily, I am backed by the dedicated personnel who work at MCI and rise to the challenge every day.”

United States Marine Band honors 196 year tradition

by *Sgt. Sean Fitzpatrick*
Editor



Members of “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band continued a 196-year-old tradition when they serenaded Gen. James L. Jones, commandant of the Marine Corps, and members of his family and staff in the commandant’s back yard New Year’s Day.

The tradition originated when Capt. Taylor Branson directed the Marine Band behind the Home of commandants New Year’s Day in 1804.

Marines graduate Corporals Course Class 2-00

photos and story by *Cpl. Matthew E. Habib*
Staff Writer

Marine Barracks graduated 38 corporals and 20 senior lance corporals from Corporals Course 2-00 January 24, at the Marine Corps Institute auditorium.

The course is part of the barracks’ annual training plan, and covers topics of Marine Corps knowledge that all NCOs need to be a sound leader. Things like, organizing and leading physical training sessions, and understanding a Leave and Earnings Statement.

The main objective of the course is to instill confidence in the Marines and send better leaders back to their units.



ALICE packs out, MOLLE packs in

Marine Corps adopts more versatile field equipment

by Sgt. Bryce R. Piper and
Cpl. E. M. Thorne

CAMP HANSEN, OKINAWA, Japan (Jan. 5) — As the tip of the spear, Marines from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) will be the first in the Pacific to receive the new Modular Lightweight Load Carrying Equipment (MOLLE) pack, according to MGySgt. Walter Miller, III MEF Supply Chief.

“By the 15th of January, the entire MEU with all the attachments will have the MOLLE,” said Miller.

According to the manufacturers and testers from the military’s test lab in Natick, Mass., the MOLLE pack, more comfortable and versatile, will replace the All Purpose Light Weight Individual Carrying Equipment (ALICE) pack. The Department of Defense began looking to replace the ALICE pack in 1994.

Approximately 150 Marines from the 31ST MEU (SOC) Command Element will get the rifleman configuration of the packs next week. These Marines recently attended a four-hour class on properly using the pack and its features. The class was taught by Richard Landry from the Marine Corps Team at the U.S. Army Natick Research, Development and Engineering Center based in Natick, Mass.

Landry stressed the importance of teaching and training fellow Marines to properly use the system, the complexity of which is outweighed by its extreme versatility and well-thought-out features.

“This allows you, the individual Marine, to customize your equipment to your mission,” said Landry.

The key to the system is its flexibility, according to Capt. Alvin S. Church, project officer with Individual Combat Clothing and Equipment, Marine Corps Systems Command. Unit commanders can determine what equipment their Marines need, direct them to assemble their packs, and then easily change them as the needs of the mission change, said Church.

MOLLE pack features include:

- Removable pockets and adjustable straps, allowing individual Marines to customize their packs; extra-padded waist belt which shifts most of the weight to hips vs. shoulders.



Sergeant Daniel Santiago, 31st MEU (SOC), Ground Combat Element, 1st Battalion 5th Marines, 81's Platoon, learns how to set-up and use the new MOLLE Pack system during a class. (photo by Cpl. E. M. Thorne)

- 2,800 cubic inches of storage space vs. the ALICE packs 1,800 cubic inches.

- A shock-resistant plastic frame, tested in extreme cold and heat; fabric weave, twice as strong as the ALICE packs fabric.

- Anatomical fit and tie-down straps to minimize shifting; a hydration bladder from the company that makes Camel Back (tm) water bladder.

- An improved quick-release system that allows two different methods of quickly releasing the main pack.

- A modular sleep-system pouch; replacement buckles, straps and fasteners designed to attach canteen covers, K-Bar knives, e-tools and other equipment.

- An instruction booklet and VHS tape.

Marines can further customize their packs by using one of five different vests designed to accompany the pack and replace the current load-bearing vest and cartridge belt. There are vest configurations designed for riflemen, grenadiers, SAW gunners, and Corpsmen. Elements of each vest are interchangeable with the whole system, according to Miller.

Corps' new two-man tents to replace shelter halves



Marines of 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, at 29 Palms Calif., are putting new two-man tents to the test. Their reviews are largely positive. (photo by Lance Cpl. Travis A. Gannon)

by Lance Cpl. Travis A. Gannon

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (Jan. 13) — The new two-man, nylon tents replacing shelter halves are being issued to combat units and put to the test.

The tents are larger than the shelter half, water-resistant, easier to set up, compact and lightweight, and better accommodate Marines of all sizes.

They feature: a dome that overlays the tent to keep out water; a waterproof base; a rain-fly; weights 8 1/2 pounds including stakes and poles; and comes in a pouch that can be attached to an ALICE or MOLLE pack.

Although the tents received rave reviews, it is dangerous around fire or high levels of heat.

No more out-of-pocket spending for off-base housing

by Cpl. Joseph R. Chenelly

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON (Jan. 13) — If Secretary of Defense William Cohen has his way, military personnel who live off base will be paying less out of pocket in the near future.

Cohen, who visited the 11th Marine Regiment Jan. 6, said his ultimate goal is to eliminate housing costs for service members who live off base.

“What I am proposing to the president of the United States, and what I will propose to the Congress in the next couple of weeks, is that we change and increase the basic housing allowance,” said Cohen.

Service members living off base are required to pay a minimum of 15 percent of their housing cost, but added, “The fact is, you’re really paying anywhere from 18 to 18.8 to almost 19 percent out of your pocket if you’re off base, or your families are off base.

“We’re going to change that. Next

year, we’re going to go down to the 15 percent. Within five years, we’re going to eliminate any differential, so that those who have to live or choose to live off base will have the same rate as those who live on (base).”

Under Cohen’s plan, a married E-6 would receive about \$175 more per month. For an E-4, it’s \$111 a month.

“This is going to be real money going into your pocket to be able to allow you to have the quality of life for you and your families that you really need,” Cohen explained.

The plan calls for \$3 billion allocated during the next five years to accomplish his goal.

“It is something that I will fight very hard to get through Congress,” Cohen said, “because there’s no reason in the world why you should have a mandated 15 percent out of your pocket if you happen to be living off base because you don’t have adequate housing on base.”

This announcement comes on the heels of the pay raise that went into

effect Jan. 1. Another pay raise is scheduled for July.

“We can never pay you what you are really worth to this country, [but] we can pay you more than we’ve been paying you,” Cohen told the Marines. “That’s why we’ve worked so hard to get that pay raise through. “We have to retain you. Recruit you, yes, but retain you as well. That’s where the pay, compensation and the retirement come into play. We can’t have the best military in the world unless we keep the quality of people that you represent.”

The Secretary of Defense also mentioned another project he will be discussing soon.

“I know those of you with families are concerned about the quality of health care they’re able to achieve.

“It’s one of the basic complaints that I hear, time after time, that the TriCare System is not working as we had intended. We will make some changes there as well.”

College: Distance learning helps students earn credits and degrees online

by Lance Cpl. Travis A. Gannon

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (Jan. 13) — Military personnel are enjoying expanding educational opportunities - via their home computers.

One opportunity is the American Military University. The university's electronic classroom is accessible around the clock world-wide, and offers 300 courses in 10 areas of study for both bachelor and master degrees.

The AMU uses a distance learning program that unites students and professors via the AMU electronic classroom, telephone, fax and letters, allowing them to earn a degree on a more flexible basis. However, it requires a computer, modem, on-line service and browser applications.

Students can enroll in the desired courses and start their college studies when they have the essentials. Once curriculums are assigned, students are required to use the same resources as in conventional studies to complete assignments.

Students can download curriculums to meet course standards and are required to research projects such as

term papers and theses. Learning online also allows a student to save online discussions in text so they can refer back to it whenever necessary.

Interested students are reminded to ensure the college or university is licensed and accredited; know the registration requirements as well as the start and finish dates of the course; find out whether course materials and texts are included in tuition; keep a record of communication and names of college representatives you have contacted in case you have any problems.

The Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support lists the courses and programs offered through distance learning and other programs.

Also, students can view many school catalogs using cyber links from the DANTES home page at <http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/dl>.

Students can use any search engine to find the program of their choice. Helpful sites include the American Military University (www.amunet.edu); Barrington University, which claims the world's largest Internet distance learning program (www.barrington.edu); Distance Learning (www.distance-learning.co.uk); and E-Education at www.e-education.com.

Marine Corps University receives accreditation

by Sgt. Ronna M. Weyland

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. (Jan. 7) — Students from the Command and Staff College received a gift that will keep on giving.

Marine Corps University earned its accreditation Dec. 6, boosting the value of all master's degrees issued to its graduates.

The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Atlanta, Ga., voted to grant MCU full membership in the association at its annual meeting Dec. 4-7.

"Now those degrees are worth

more than the paper they're written on," said Dr. Charles D. McKenna, dean of academics for Command and Staff College.

According to McKenna, approximately 450 previous graduates dating back to 1995 will be notified that their degrees are now accredited with civilian institutions.

When a university is accredited it has been recognized as maintaining standards that qualify graduates for admission to higher or more specialized institutions.

The MCU's accreditation is good for five years and then it will undergo a reaffirmation for accreditation lasting another 10 years.



Last of the Corps to sound the score

Armed services' only active duty drum and bugle corps keeps traditions alive

by *Cpl. Sara Storey*
Staff Writer

Marine Corps bugle calls have stirred the air and lifted spirits since 1810, when the Corps switched from fifes to bugles, accompanying the raising of the Colors and breaking through the night with the mournful tunes of Taps. However, what was once the Corps' quickest form of communication on the battlefield is strictly tradition today.

The "Oldest Post of the Corps" is the epitome of ceremonial performances in the Marine Corps, and also has the only active duty drum and bugle corps in the armed services. So, while other posts turn to "canned" music, the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps company continue the endearing tradition of live bugle calls.

"I am representing what the founders of this organization did before me," said Sgt. Joshua G. Brown, D&B company, mellophone bugler. "this preserves our heritage, because [the Drum and Bugle Corps] is a direct result of the [field musicians] who performed these calls in the Corps' early days."

While the original musicians might be disappointed to find the beauty and necessity of their calls replaced with a cassette player at other commands, the duty bugler's mission here has changed little since the D&B's inception in November 1934.

"It holds so much more meaning when I hear a live call, especially something like Taps," said Cpl. Alexander Pagan, Headquarters and Service company, training NCO. "It seems so much colder when someone just hits 'play' on a cassette player."

The bugler produces a beautiful sound, but being the lone bugler on Center Walk can be a nerve wracking experience. It is nearly silent in the morning, and the crystal clear tune of the bugle can be heard throughout the barracks and as far as three blocks away.

"I am used to performing in front of people, but I still get a touch of nerves when I am the duty bugler," said Sgt. Jay A. Thomas, D&B company, soprano bugler. "The calls we play are something almost anyone can recognize, so they notice even the smallest mistake."

Duty buglers can play the calls without glancing at sheet music, but they practice before each performance,



Sergeant Daniel G. Dantin, D&B company, soprano bugler, performs "Chow Call" during a rainy December afternoon on Center Walk. (photo by Cpl. Sara Storey)

striving for perfection. However, even if the call sounds flawless, the buglers know if they erred, according to Sgt. Betsy Wilkinson, D&B company, mellophone bugler.

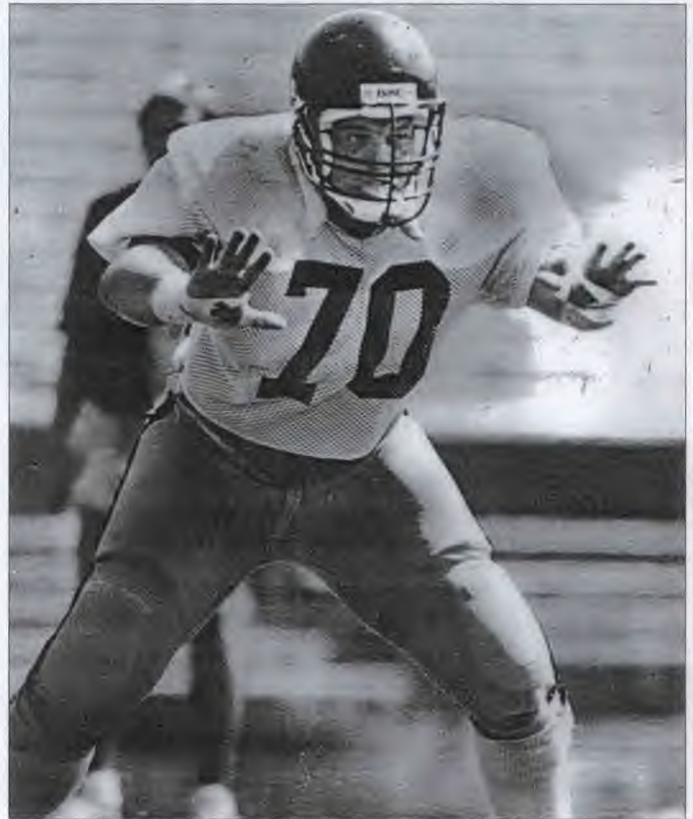
"Nobody wants to make a mistake, especially during 'Morning Colors,'" said Wilkinson. "The buglers joke about it, they say it sets the tone for the entire day."

"Some things, like the weather though, cannot be helped," said Wilkinson. "Muscles tighten up when it is cold, so it is harder to produce a clear sound. I put that out of my mind, because to do my best I cannot worry about what is going on around me."

Despite any perceived imperfections, several Marines at the barracks have a deeper appreciation for the calls that were once the communication line of the Corps.

"Knowing the importance of bugle calls in the past lends significance to what the buglers do every day," said Pagan. "Many traditions just slip away, so it is nice to see the Drum and Bugle Corps working so hard to uphold this one."

TRIALS - & - TRIBULATIONS



Five years as a varsity defensive lineman, professional football tryouts, God, suffering and salvation ... just a few reasons why the chaplain helps Marines

by Sgt. Sean Fitzpatrick
Editor

Sometimes the weight of guilt, sadness or depression becomes too much to carry, even to the chaplain's office. This weight can also cause people to feel uneasy confessing uncomfortable subjects with a chaplain because of his righteous life-style or underestimate their own feelings, and they may also fear his judgement.

Lieutenant Gregory C. Cathcart, barracks chaplain, said the situation makes him raise an eyebrow at its irony, because life's trials and tribulations brought him into the folds of his office.

"The irony is that Marines feel reluctant to speak to me because they think I never did anything wrong," said Cathcart. "My history gives me a unique perspective, and they certainly have no reason to worry about me passing judgement."

Despite the chaplain's easygoing and gentle demeanor, he spent his college days with the rough-and-tumble Tigers at the University of Missouri as varsity linebacker and defensive lineman. His athletic talents even earned him the opportunity to try-out for a position with the New York Giants and the Dallas Cowboys.

This photo ran in the "Missourian" in 1985 with the caption, "Missouri nose tackle Cory Cathcart will be hunting North-western quarterbacks." (photo by Anne C. Williams.)

Cathcart had plans to join the Marine Corps when talent scouts, from what was then called "The Big Eight," contacted him his senior year in high school, and he went to play for Missouri.

"I was 'red shirted,' or held back a year, to develop as a player and grow my first year," said Cathcart. "This was when defensive coordinator George Wheeler moved me from linebacker to defensive lineman. I had to hit the gym, but within two years I weighted in at 260 lbs. and evened out at around 240 lbs. my senior year."

He was only 18 when ran through the archway of the 82,000-man arena as a varsity lineman, but he also entered an egocentric world of temptation and distraction.

It was 1983, Brian Bosworth, Keith Jackson, Barry Sanders and Mike Kelly were making college sports headlines, and the Tigers were ranked in the Top-20. The around-the-clock training and "second place is first loser"

mentality was taking its toll on the player's bodies and education. Of the original 60 players recruited with Cathcart, only 12 made it to their senior year, and only seven of those players besides Cathcart graduated with degrees, according to Cathcart.

"My fiancée really wanted to see the movie 'Any Given Sunday,' so I took her even though I really do not follow football at all anymore," said Cathcart. "Some of the movie was obviously Hollywood, but other parts, like the locker room scenes where everyone was in pain, were so real it was like a flashback – I felt like I was playing again."

The intensity to win bordered on fanatic. Cathcart's average week went something like this: Monday through Friday up at 6:00 a.m., visit medical, attend classes, hit the weight room for two hours, tape-up joints, view films of practice and opponents, prepractice warm-ups, position drills, live scrimmages, and view more films. Fridays were lighter so players could heal. Saturdays were game days, and Sundays, traditionally a day off, were used for conditioning. He said he never got to sleep before 11:00 p.m.

Training, conditioning, drills, scrimmages, films – there was no off season.

"It stopped being a game for me my sophomore year," said Cathcart. "We were there to win games and gain money for the university. When you are winning, friends come out of the woodwork. People you don't know pat you on the back and tell you what a great guy you are, but when you lose you cannot buy a friend. It was a very intense time!"

The Tigers changed head coaches during Cathcart's senior year, and the untested coach moved key players to new positions with disastrous results. The Tigers dropped out of the top rankings, which hurt the teams' airtime and the player's chances for selection in the National Football League draft.

He opted for Free Agency, where he and five other players from around the nation were picked up by the New York Giants to compete for Lawrence Taylor's position, who was currently in drug rehabilitation. Halfway through Spring Training, however, Taylor returned and all five players were cut from the rosters.

Cathcart quickly caught a flight to Texas to meet with Tom Landry's Dallas Cowboys, but it was not enough.

"I remember walking off the field in Dallas knowing I would never play professional football, and I have not touched a football since," said Cathcart despite offers from both the Canadian and European football leagues. "For me, it was play in the NFL with the best or don't play

at all."

Suddenly football was out of his life and his insane schedule book was empty. With no particular goal except to do something completely different, he accepted a job offer from a close friend to work in a long-term facility, or retirement home.

It took five years for him to come down from the win or die philosophy, and adjust to life without football. It was during that time Cathcart said his views of life, death and courage changed forever.

"I was often asked to sit with residents who were on their deathbed if the family did not visit," said Cathcart. "They ask the hard questions, about God's existence, life after death, and whether or not their lives made a difference. Seeing how they coped with the loss of their faculties, their limbs, and ultimately their lives showed me what real courage was.

"I do not remember a day of college ball when I was not injured and healing, but these people were losing everything and they knew they would not heal," said Cathcart. "It made me search for answers to those hard questions. I wanted to know more about what was really important."

His part-time seminary studies in night school became a full time pursuit for a Masters of Divinity, and quickly enough the secular linebacker was harrowing the halls of the straight and narrow.

Shortly after completing his studies, a friend told him if he was going to be a pastor, then he should consider being a Navy chaplain. After all the effort to be a professional football player, Cathcart said God's desire for him to be a chaplain opened up inside his heart – he would finally be among Marines.

"I understand the reluctance to speak to a chaplain," said Cathcart. "But I made a promise to myself to never count myself above another, and I feel my history helps me identify with Marines. Besides, my job is to help not judge, and I am totally approachable ... about anything."



Cathcart limps off the field with strained knee ligaments during a preconference game against Notre Dame in 1984.

The Marines in the Operations and Training section use a steady hand to coordinate endless events and seamlessly weave the ...



Lance Corporal David M. Gotzh, S-3, clerk, performs one of the unique missions of the Operations and Training Marines, like playing music and cueing personnel in the sound room during the "Evening Parades." (photo by Sgt. Sean Fitzpatrick)

Fabric of "The Oldest Post of the Corps"

by Cpl. Sara Storey
Staff Writer

Between the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, Silent Drill Platoon, Body Bearer Platoon and the Marine Corps Color Guard, the barracks' Marines perform more than 3,000 ceremonial commitments annually, as well as completing training necessary to ensure military readiness.

The Operations and Training/S-3 section is behind these ceremonial commitments and training exercises, operating as the hand and eye coordinators, organizing everything to the smallest detail.

The section chooses Marines from the line companies for on-the-job training to become part of this intense work force. They want self-starters who have computer skills, and a fantastic work ethic, according to Gunnery Sgt. Julien C. Duncan, S-3, operations chief.

These traits are constantly tested, because each Marine has a specific job when it comes to scheduling ceremonial commitments whether it is scheduling for D&B, the SDP, the color guard or the body bearers.

Even though the commitment-pace slows for many sections during the off-season, the S-3 continuously receives requests from various organizations via e-mail, faxes, phone calls and letters.

The section quickly compiles these requests, checks them with the current calendar schedule and finally the availability of Marines to support the event. It is then they mail out letters confirming the Barracks can either support or not support the event.

It is a hectic pace, but the parade season turns the office into a madhouse, according to Duncan.

"Our fax machine constantly prints out requests and I count on the phones ringing about 500 times a day, on av-

erage, during the parade season," said Duncan. "It is usually outside agencies wondering about seating, publicity, dates and times."

The Marines are expected to know and reply to any question. Many times the questions are simple, such as locations of the "Sunset" or "Evening Parades," but occasionally it requires more research.

"People call for any number of things," said Lance Cpl. Thomas F. Trimpey, S-3, administrative clerk. "If we cannot give them an answer, at the very least we will point them in the right direction."

Though the Marines from S-3 are not performing in the spotlight, a feeling of deep pride comes from watching a flawless parade and knowing they played a part in its success.

When visitors see the beauty and splendor of a parade, the planning and organizing that went into it beforehand easily goes unnoticed. When you see

the public walk away smiling and proud, it means S-3 is running smoothly, according to Gunnery Sgt. Allen C. Benjamin, S-3, battalion training chief. "The flow of experience, professionalism and precision makes it look easy."

Although the barracks' main mission is ceremonies, Marines are basic riflemen first, and Operations and Training Marines do not lose sight of that. They ensure the battalion receives infantry training through events like the field training exercises.

"We arrange transportation to the training sight, figure out where Marines are going to eat, sleep and conduct live fire assaults," said Trimpey. "We make sure the smallest detail is taken care of, because Marines need

to concentrate all their energies on the training at hand."

The Operations and Training section handles requests from small units within the battalion the same way. Most people do not realize these requests can take up to a month to arrange, according to Benjamin. It also coordinates with range control in Quantico, Va., to make sure training areas and range space are available and communicates with the individual units.

In addition to organizing all infantry training and ceremonies, the barracks' S-3 schedules individual training for the Marines. A few of these responsibilities include scheduling rifle range dates, land navigation courses,

and making sure each Marine has a current physical fitness and basic skills test score.

"We have so many other commitments here, it would be easy to let a Marine's personal training slip through the cracks," said Benjamin. "We would not be doing our job if we let that happen."

"I do not know how the barracks could operate without the Marines in the S-3 office," said Lance Cpl. Michael P. Higgins, H&S company, company office clerk. "They take care of all the details so we can concentrate on our assigned tasks, knowing we are in good hands."

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

H&S Company

Capt. R.E. Rhode III
Gunnery Sgt. A.C. Benjamin
Sgt. C.A. Hupfeld
Sgt. M.C. Ifill
Cpl. M.E. Habib
Cpl. J.A. Swinton
Lance Cpl. P.D. Dunphy
Lance Cpl. M.S. Miesowitz Jr.
Lance Cpl. A.R. Perry

MCI Company

Capt. C.F. Johnson
Lance Cpl. R.P. Munday

"A" Company

Capt. T.M. Boeding
Cpl. W. Torres Jr.
Pfc. J.A. Webb

"B" Company

Capt. M.C. Ganley
Cpl. J.M. Pedergrass

Cpl. W.B. Tillotson
Cpl. W.W. Woodall

D&B Company

Gunnery Sgt. J.C. Cox
Gunnery Sgt. G.P. Yoder
Cpl. B.D. Swank

Security Company

Sgt. A.A. Bennett
Cpl. R.C. Ferdman
Cpl. J.P. Magee

USNA Company

Lt. Col. C.A. Simkinssmullins
Capt. K.C. Hummons

Congratulate the following Marines for the awards they recently received.

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

NEWSMAKERS

Cpl. J.S. Grier

Certificate of Commendation

Lance Cpl. J.M. Beck
Lance Cpl. J.R. Morales

Meritorious Mast

Cpl. J. Frye
Cpl. P.J. Pendleton
Lance Cpl. W.E. Busch
Lance Cpl. J.G. Cushman
Lance Cpl. J.E. Elmore
Lance Cpl. J.B. Jones
Lance Cpl. C.T. Lustig
Lance Cpl. S.A. O'Connell
Lance Cpl. M.C. Roberts
Lance Cpl. J.C. Rossi
Lance Cpl. C.J. Scott
Lance Cpl. R.S. Wise

Snow Day

When storms brought the district to a halt, the barracks continued to march



There but for the grace of God go I

God's sacrifice is the origin of Man's salvation. This simple truth is the core of Christian faith.

by *Lt. Gregory C. Cathcart*
Barracks Chaplain

A prerequisite for serving as a chaplain to the Marine Corps is that you have to be familiar with many faith backgrounds other than your own, including various rituals, observances and practices.

The Marine Corps, being a microcosm of society, represents most of the world religions within its ranks from Catholicism to Judaism, and Buddhism to Islam. However, the other day a Marine approached me with several questions concerning various faith groups and their relationship to one another.

This particular Marine went on to say it all seemed overwhelming and confusing to him, and that he attended church occasionally when he was younger but did not see the relevance for it now.

Then he asked several questions about serving as a chaplain representing a particular faith, and eventually the conversation turned toward what I believe personally, in terms of faith, and I was asked to explain it.

In doing so, I explained my understanding of faith with a story I heard several years earlier that I would like to offer to you now.

This story involves a man. It seems he was in charge of a large operation for the railroad, in particular he operated a huge transfer station where several passenger trains went over a river on a suspension bridge.

One day this man took his son to work with him to show him what he did all day and how everything worked. The little boy was very excited to be there with his father and see all of the dials and switches and how they controlled all the trains.

Needless to say the father has a tremendous responsibility and held the safety and lives of all of the passengers in his hands.

As the day went on, the father instructed his son what areas were dangerous and what areas were safe.

The day was almost at a close and soon the father and his son would go home, however, there was one more train

to come through. It was a very large train carrying thousands of people and it was only minutes away from crossing the river.

The man told his son to stay close by him because he could not operate the controls and watch his son closely at the same time. As the train approached, he began preparing to push the master control button that puts the giant wheels in motion turning and locking the track at the proper angle. However, when he looked for his son, he was gone. He looked down and saw him crying between the giant wheels that had to be activated to lock the tracks for the train.

At that moment the incoming train's whistle blared out, announcing its imminent arrival leaving the father with a gut-wrenching decision — run into the station and rescue his son, or return to the panel board to avert the train from disaster, but there was not enough time to do both.

By now the man could see the train and even make out a few faces through the windows, and he could see that none of them were aware of the impending doom. He could also see his son's face, streaked with tears, looking to him for help.

As the train made its final approach, the man bowed his head in sorrow and slowly depressed the master switch setting the giant wheels in motion and allowed the train to pass over the river safely. Those same wheels crushed his son, killing him instantly.

As the father wept over the loss of his son he looked up at the train that passed just in front of him, and he could see all of the people on board looking back at him. Some were smiling while others seemed upset, and a few faces seemed to show gratitude while others showed indifference. However, not one of those faces on the train realized what the father sacrificed so that they might live.

I explained to the young Marine that the way I understand my particular faith is similar to this story. We are like the passengers on that train, not knowing of our need, or the father who gave Jesus Christ, his only son, to die for our sins.

He did this so we may not only live, but also have life more abundantly.

And we are like those faces on the train looking back at the Father, except that the life we are living here-and-now shapes the face and heart that stares back at him, grateful or indifferent — the decision is always ours to make.

(Nov. 3, 1913 - Jan. 6, 2000)

In Memory of Gen. Leonard F. Chapman Jr., 24th Commandant



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