

# PASS IN REVIEW

Serving "The Oldest Post of the Corps"

June/July 2000



## "B" company goes "Forward From the Sea"

Civilian clothing regulations - Corpsmen celebrate 102 years

# Ripples in the pond ...

## Temporary thinking and how it effects the Marine Corps

by Sgt. Sean Fitzpatrick  
Press Chief

I am concerned with a trend in Marines' thinking. It seems as if Marines think they are temporary, mere fixtures or decorations.

Sure, no Marine is irreplaceable, but the myth that what we do in the Marine Corps is temporary is not only dangerous, it is disrespectful. The Marine Corps is not temporary. We are the caretakers of a mysterious, malleable weapon -- the body and soul of the Marine Corps.

The Corps' soul does not live in the bricks and mortar of its Oldest Post, or even in the Home of the Commandants. It depends on its Marines, but does not live there either, because the real Marine Corps, the invisible tie that binds every Marine, past and present, is a state of mind!

It is an idea, a way of life, an organization for conducting and winning wars, and we are part of it and we are responsible for it. We receive it like good, fine food through training, education and our own experience; we digest it like food and it becomes part of our perception, our state of mind, making us Marines.

*This* is what the Marine Corps is, and it has been handed down like father to son, from Marine to Marine since 1775.

There is a second Marine Corps though, and it is temporary and visible. Too many people think the physical Corps, the branch of the armed services that owns property, pays salaries, receives money — the legal entity — is what the Marine Corps is. But it does not generate new knowledge or evaluate ideas. It is merely the buildings, settings and locations where conditions are favorable for the real Marine Corps to exist. When citizens confuse the two it is a nuisance, nothing more; but when Marines think of themselves as temporary, or as part of something temporary, they become poor caretakers. They do not invest the same kind of energy, enthusiasm or good judgment they would if they knew they were part of something immortal.

C.S. Lewis drew a similar comparison, using math in his book "Mere Christianity." He said that with math everyone tries to be exceptionally accurate at each step, in each sum of an equation. It would be idiotic not to, for every mistake will cause trouble later on. In the same way, every failure born from temporary behavior is going to cause trouble, probably for others, and certainly for the Marine Corps.

Temporary thinkers are also egocentric — what will happen to me? This thinking makes room for bureaucratic pressure, and it makes Marines who respond to it and respect it. Bureaucratic pressure dictates that Marines should clean build-

ings from the floorboards to the rafters to please inspecting generals, placing themselves in a favorable light. This sends a message "that higher ups should be feared and impressed." My personal view is that buildings and equipment should be cleaned because it keeps them working and in the long term that saves the Corps money, and that is good for everyone. But bureaucratic Marines are motivated by self-gain, and they have no knowledge of the immortal, intangible Marine Corps, or if they do they ignore it. Consequently, they are not concerned about the damage their indifference causes down the road because, "hey man, I won't be around. Let someone else worry about it."

Let me pose this situation. If you only had two days to live, several things would not be worth doing. Maybe you would skip sleep, showers, or drop responsibilities to do the things you've always wanted. However, if you acted this way and lived for a million years, life would become unbearable. The same is true of life in the Marine Corps.

Bureaucratic pressure pries too many Marines away from reason. A true leader's primary goal is always the Marine Corps. When the pressure is mounted, leaders must act as if they never heard the threats. Their primary goal isn't to the community, it is to the Corps, and it is to serve, through reason, its goals.

We must realize that our heritage — our Marine Corps — is shared today; that it will be experienced by others in the future, and our actions shape how the Corps will look in the future. We are delinquent if we think otherwise, because we are disbelieving in the Corps' future, and our indifference will steal the value of the Corps' identity.

This is a war with an invisible enemy — the second Corps; blindness, bureaucratic pressure and indifference. Our weapons are honor and courage, and while these words are slung around casually by others, we hold them in high regard because they are not casual or common. A man or woman with honor and courage is like a rock breaking the current in a river or stream; only more rare because it takes real strength and moral fiber to decide to go against the grain and move forward.

We cannot forget our true tie, our bond beyond occupation, rank, status, age, and background — we share the real Marine Corps.

Though I will leave our ranks like a drop of water from the ocean, those close to me and those who bear the indelible mark of my leadership will take a piece of me with them and shape the Corps' future. It is exactly this mark that inspired me to write.

Ask yourself what kind of mark you are making. Is it sculpture or graffiti?

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*Pass in Review* is an authorized publication for members of the Armed Forces. It is published six 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

Loaded with a squad of "B" company Marines, a CH-46 flies over the water at Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Va. See story, page 10. (photo by Gunnery Sgt. Shannon Arledge)

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## In The News

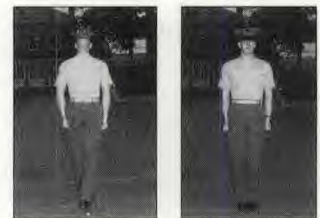
### Marine Corps Institute's change of command

Lt.Col. Lloyd J. Hamashin Jr., was replaced by Lt.Col. Glenn E. Gearhard as the deputy director of MCI in a change of command ceremony, May 31.

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### Two-point about face returns to drill

After years of performing the three-point about face as part of the barracks ceremonial drill, the barracks returns to the original fleet drill facing movement.



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## Features

### Electronic technology or the postman?

Despite e-mail's convenience, speed and reliability, most Marines would give up e-mail for "snail mail" if they had to choose.

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### Navy Corpsmen celebrate 102nd birthday

Navy Corpsmen around the globe celebrate more than a century of faithful naval service.

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# MCI welcomes new deputy director and first sergeant

story and photos by Sgt. Justin C. Bakewell  
Media Chief

**M**arine Corps Institute company recently had a combined Change of Command/Post and Relief ceremony on the tennis courts outside Lejuene Hall, May 31.

Lieutenant Colonel Lloyd J. Hamashin Jr., former Deputy Director of MCI, passed the torch to Lt. Col. Glenn E. Gearhard, deputy director of MCI, after almost three years at the barracks.

“As the Institute’s deputy director and company commander, Hamashin managed to juggle the operational tempo of the institute while ensuring his Marines were taken care of.

Lieutenant Colonel Gearhard comes to us with a full understanding and appreciation for the Institute’s mission.

“We look forward to his forward thinking as he takes the Institute into the 21st Century,” said Sgt. Vinh H. Nguyen, MCI company, headquarters section, training/administrative NCOIC.

**“... the job we do here at MCI is of the utmost importance. Marines in the FMF depend on us to maintain accurate records of their MCI courses.”**

First Sergeant Leon S. Thornton

To make the ceremony complete, 1st Sgt. Mitchell C. Cole, recently retired MCI company first sergeant, handed over the reign of the senior enlisted billet of the company to 1st Sgt. Leon S. Thornton, MCI company first sergeant.



First Sergeant Mitchell C. Cole passed the senior enlisted company billet to 1st Sgt. Leon S. Thornton.



Lt. Col. Lloyd J. Hamashin Jr., receives the company guidon, which he will pass to Lt. Col. Glenn E. Gearhard, symbolizing the change of command.

Thornton’s last command was 8th Communication Battalion, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, where he was the first sergeant of Headquarters company.

“I am very honored to be here at MCI and I love taking care of Marines. I think the job we do here at MCI is of the utmost importance” said Thornton. “Marines in the [Fleet Marine Force] depend on us to maintain accurate records of their MCI courses. We pride ourselves on accuracy and timely entries/shipments of these courses.”

The Marine Corps Institute’s change of senior leadership will keep the company headed in the right direction and help continue the success of the Marine Corps’ long distance education program.

# Barracks returns to two-point about face

by Sgt. Sara Storey  
Editor

The three-point about face performed in ceremonies at the Oldest Post is no longer authorized.

Barracks Marines will only perform two-point about faces, like those learned in recruit training and Officer Candidate School, according to the barracks commanding officer.

"We will do two-point about faces wherever we go," said the commanding officer. "We will do them on grass and glass, gravel and dirt, on up-slopes and down-slopes, on pavement, asphalt, terrazzo, marble, wood, tongue in grove, Astroturf, and non-skid."

Regardless of who barracks Marines are marching with, the two-point about face will be executed.

One of the reasons behind the change is continuity – keeping drill the same throughout the Marine Corps.

"I don't want a Marine from another duty station coming to a parade and thinking our drill is better because it's easier or different," said the barracks commander. "I want them to see 'their' drill performed flawlessly.

"I'm not talking about the precision of drill – we will still focus on being the best at this, as well. That's

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***"We haven't become passionate about executing [Fleet Marine Force] drill yet. We will -- wholeheartedly."***

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Barracks commanding officer



Many Marines at the barracks have become used to executing the three-point about face for parades and ceremonies, instead of the two-point about face learned in Officer Candidate School and recruit training. The three-point about face is no longer used at the "Oldest Post." The two-point about face will be used in all parades and ceremonies. (photos by Sgt. Sara Storey)

our job. I'm talking about the tactics, techniques and procedures of drill."

First Sergeant William A. Winters, "A" company, first sergeant, says the change is for the best, although it may take the Marines a little time to adjust.

"The marchers are professionals, they'll make the changes and adjust," said Winters. "They're not learning something new, it's the same drill they learned in boot camp. It's like riding a bicycle – even though you may not do

it every day, it's not something you forget."

More changes are on the way, and the barracks will soon be performing standard Fleet Marine Force drill across the board, according to Marine Barracks commanding officer.

"I don't think we've sunk our teeth into it yet," he said. "We haven't become passionate about executing FMF drill yet. We will – wholeheartedly."

# Marines represent the Corps in and out of uniform

by Sgt. Sara Storey  
Editor

Marine Barracks order on uniform regulations and grooming standards, Barracks Order 1020.5C, states that civilian attire must be neat, clean and in good taste, on and off base.

The barracks order is modeled after Marine Corps order P1020.34F, which states uniform regulations and standards for personal appearance.

Both orders state that Marines may be associated and identified with the Corps, even when in civilian attire. To promote a positive image of the Marine Corps, Marines need to ensure their dress and personal appearance are conservative and uphold the high standards traditionally associated with the Marine Corps.

“Our branch of service sets us apart [from other branches],” said Sgt. Maj. Ronnie L. Edwards, barracks sergeant major. “We look sharp in uniform and we take a lot of pride in it. We should take the same amount of pride in our civilian attire. We are Marines 24 hours a day.”

Civilian clothing items authorized for barracks Marines include, but are not limited to, shirts with collars, crew neck shirts, sweaters, and trousers or jeans in good condition.

Marines are not authorized to wear half shirts, undershirts and T-shirts, or ripped, frayed or soiled clothing.

Edwards says common sense should be the ruling factor in the clothing choices made – if trousers have belt loops, you should wear a belt; if you’re wearing a T-shirt you normally wear for PT or as an undershirt, it

probably isn’t appropriate civilian attire; if you’re headed to the beach, it’s OK to wear appropriate beach attire.

“A good rule of thumb – look in the mirror before you leave and exercise good judgement. If you’re wearing a T-shirt you’d wear for PT, change into more appropriate liberty attire,” said Edwards.

Casual civilian clothing is also allowed on and off post, however, Edwards would like to see Marines dressed nicely on parade nights, such as slacks or a skirt.

“We’re taking ‘parade atmosphere’ to the next level,” said Edwards. “Visitors come here to see the precision and professionalism we showcase on the parade deck. We should promote that same image in the civilian clothing we wear.”

## Barracks Order 1020.5C Civilian Dress Code

“When worn, civilian attire must be neat, clean and in good taste.”

### Authorized civilian attire

Shirts with collars, crew neck shirts and sweaters (shirt tails will be worn tucked in)

Trousers/jeans which are not excessively faded or frayed (belts will be worn with trousers having belt loops)

“Bermuda” type shorts

Socks worn with shoes (socks need not be worn with docksiders, sandals, or similar leisure footwear)

### Unauthorized civilian attire

Halter tops/half-shirts

Undershirts/T-shirts

Ripped, frayed or soiled clothing

Shorts/trousers without a finished hem (cut-offs)

Shower shoes

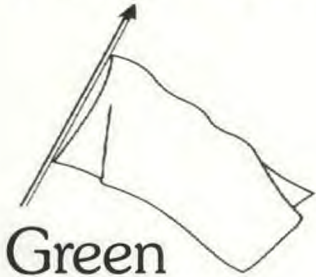
Earrings by male Marines

Eccentric hairstyles or colors

Clothing portraying inappropriate language or offensive gestures

Trousers/shorts hanging below the natural hip line exposing undergarments

## Watch for different flags as summer heat rises



### Green

80-84 degrees

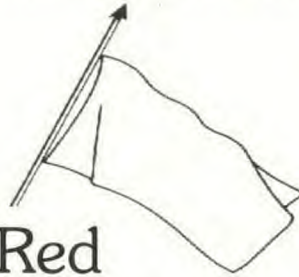
Heavy exercises for personnel who are not acclimatized should be conducted with caution and under constant supervision.



### Yellow

85-87.9 degrees

Strenuous exercises, such as marching at standard cadence, should be suspended for unacclimatized Marines in their first two or three weeks.



### Red

88-89.9 degrees

All physical training should be halted for those troops who have not become thoroughly acclimatized by at least 12 weeks of living and working in the area.



### Black

90 degrees and above

All strenuous, nonessential, outdoor activity should be halted for all units.

*by Sgt. Sean Fitzpatrick*  
Press Chief

The heat poses a real threat to everyone who exercises in the summer. To protect Marines against heat-related injuries, the Corps uses the Heat Condition Flag Warning System.

The system uses green, yellow, red, and black flags to represent the severity of the current heat condition, and what exercises are acceptable. These flags are flown over the parade deck parking lot here.

The green flag indicates moderate temperatures between 80 and 84 degrees. Heavy exercises for personnel who are not acclimatized should be conducted with caution and under constant supervision.

The yellow flag is flown when temperatures are between 85 and 87.9 degrees. Strenuous exercises, such as marching at standard cadence, should be suspended for unacclimatized Marines in their first two or three weeks. Outdoor classes in the sun are also to be avoided.

The red flag covers the narrow margin between 88 and 89.9 degrees. All physical training should be halted for those troops who have not become thoroughly acclimatized by at least 12 weeks of living and working in the area. Those troops who are thoroughly acclimatized may carry on limited activity, not to exceed six hours per day.

The black flag indicates the most severe heat condition and is flown when the mercury goes above 90 degrees. At this temperature all strenuous, nonessential, outdoor activity should be halted for all units. An essential activity is

recognized by the burden it would place on personnel or resources, its expense, and ability to significantly reduce a unit's combat readiness if it is disrupted.

Essential physical activities should be conducted at an appropriate level, determined by the unit's commanding officer and the unit's medical personnel. These activities should be rescheduled for a cooler time of the day, like the morning or later in the evening.

"The best way to prepare for the heat is to drink enough water, and PT during appropriate hours," said Petty Officer 2nd class Donnie Pennington, barracks senior medical representative. "People should drink at least a quart of water a day, and double or triple that amount for physical exercise during the summer months, especially if it's a black flag day.

"Also, remove any headgear during physical training," said Pennington. "The body releases most of its heat through the head, and anything on the head holds that heat in, making it easier to become a heat casualty."

In the extreme heat, without proper hydration people are much more likely to become casualties of one of the three common types of heat injuries: heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. These types of casualties weaken individuals so they may suffer a worse heat injury later, and are potentially life threatening.

Heat cramps are acute, painful spasms of voluntary muscles – usually the legs or abdomen – following strenuous activities in the heat without adequate fluid and salt intake.

Some signs and symptoms of heat cramps include:

*continued on pg. 8*

## Summer continued

Severe muscle cramps.

Exhaustion.

Dizziness or periods of faintness.

Treatment for this includes:

1. Removing the casualty from the heat.
2. Increasing fluid and salt intake.
3. Massaging the cramp to ease the pain.
4. Placing a cool, moist towel on the head and on the cramping area.

Heat exhaustion is an acute reaction to heat exposure. Blood pools in the vessels as the body attempts to release heat. It can lead to physical collapse because of inadequate blood flowing to the brain.

Some signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion include:

Rapid and shallow breathing.

Weak pulse.

Cold and clammy skin.

Heavy sweating.

Total body weakness.

Dizziness that may lead to unconsciousness.

Treatment for this includes:

1. Removing casualty from the heat.
2. Removing enough clothing to cool the casualty without chilling them.
3. Fanning the casualty.
4. Giving fluids with salt, or a 1/2 and 1/2 mix of a commercial drink and water. However, do not give water to an unconscious casualty.

5. Treating for shock.

6. Calling 911 if the casualty loses consciousness.

Heat stroke is an acute, dangerous reaction to heat exposure, characterized by a body temperature above 106 degrees.

Some signs and symptoms of heat stroke are as follows:

Deep breathing then shallow breathing.

Rapid strong pulse, then rapid weak pulse.

Dry, hot skin.

Dilated pupils (small black part of the eye).

Unconsciousness.

Seizures or muscular twitching.

Treatment for heat shock includes:

1. Cooling the casualty in any manner and rapidly move them into the shade.
  2. Removing clothing and wrap in a sheet and pour cool water over the sheet, because the body heat must be lowered or brain cells will start to die.
  4. Treating for shock.
  5. If ice packs are available, putting one under each armpit, under each knee, on the groin, on each wrist, and on both sides of the neck.
  6. Calling 911 as soon as possible – do not delay!
- “These casualties can be prevented when people take care of their bodies,” said Pennington. “Remember to drink water the day prior, the day of, and the day after any physical activity.”



At a ceremonial burial held at Arlington National Cemetery, Gunnery Sgt. Roland W. Henderson, Headquarters & Service company, Training and Operations section, casualty representative, presents Ms. Marion Boyd with the flag that was draped over the casket of her son, Pfc. Walter “Butch” Boyd. Boyd was killed in Vietnam May 12, 1975, but was listed as Missing in Action until recently. (photo by Petty Officer 1st class Robert Benson)



# Increase in traffic fatalities worries senior leadership

**MARADMIN 277/00**

*edited for space by PAO staff*

For the first seven months of the year 2000, traffic fatalities involving private motor vehicles have increased nearly 40 percent compared to the same period last year, and continue to be the largest cause of injury and death to Marine Corps personnel.

During April, one sergeant major, eight lance corporals, and one private first class lost their lives in motor vehicle accidents. These deaths bring the total of Marines killed in off-duty traffic accidents to 39 this fiscal year. Our traffic fatality rate remains the highest of all military services. At this pace, 26 more Marines and sailors will lose their lives before October, providing the Marine Corps with the highest number of motor vehicle fatalities in seven years.

To combat our most serious killer, we must continue to stress the hazards and consequences of irresponsible behavior. A review of the completed fatal mishap reports indicates the same recurring casual factors. Lack of seat

belts and fatigue were contributing factors in half; speeding was a factor in one third; and alcohol was evident in one quarter of the fatal mishaps. More than one factor was involved in many of the accidents.

Leaders at every level are charged to take steps to end this senseless loss of life by placing additional emphasis on personal accountability and responsibility, communicating

with Marines and intervening when necessary. Most importantly, lead by example, because by not buckling your own safety belt, failing to wear a motorcycle helmet, or exceeding the speed limit, you are doing untold damage to all who observe those actions.

Applying operational risk management can have a positive impact on Marines. Also, explain how to apply the principles of ORM to the daily use of their motor vehicles.

Marines everywhere must take immediate corrective action to prevent further loss of life. Demonstrating concern for Marines and sailors will save the lives of the men and women who wear our uniform.

General Terrence R. Dake

Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps

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***“Leaders at every level are charged to take steps to end this senseless loss of life ...”***

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Gen. Terrence R. Dake

## Driving safety tips

- Rest when tired. If you begin experiencing trouble keeping your eyes open or staying focused on the road, pull over at the next stop and get some sleep. There is no substitute for rest, and this includes caffeine pills and coffee. These may curb the need to sleep for a while, but it drains what little energy there is in the body, so when the effects leave, they leave suddenly.

- Some fatigue can be avoided by making scheduled stops every few hours. Use this time to stretch, use the restroom, eat a meal, or catch a nap. Napping is great way to stay rested without losing a lot of time.

- Alcohol is an obvious risk while driving, however, many drivers say they know their limit. A simple rule: don't drive if you've had anything to drink. Alcohol impairs judgement, coordination and reactions.

- Pay attention to the posted signs. Signs can warn of upcoming dangers such as curves, ice, or construction. These can be difficult to navigate around, especially if you're exceeding the speed limit.

- Maintain your vehicle. A deflated or over inflated

tire is a serious risk for a blowout. Check the air pressure in the spare tire. Also, ensure the fluids are full, the wipers work, the headlights function, and carry a portable gas can and money for gas.

- Expect the unexpected. It never hurts to have a tire pump, a tire repair kit, flares, cold weather clothes in the winter, water and food, and a current map.

- Situational Awareness. Know how far it is to the next gas station or telephone, and keep tabs on how tired you are so that you can plan for rest. Know your location – it is difficult to give a tow truck directions if you don't know where you are.

- Give yourself enough time to get there and back. If people are expecting you, let them know if you're going to be late. Besides being a common courtesy, it is vital to let the command know if you are going to be late for any reason. Call and tell the Duty NCO, the Staff Duty, or the Officer of the Day where you are and how you can be contacted. The information is not always well received, but ruffling feathers is better than a phone call waking your family notifying them of your accident.

- Be smart. Be aware. Plan ahead. Be flexible.



A squad of Marines board a CH-46 Sea Knight for a familiarization flight around Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Va. (photo by Gunnery Sgt. Shannon Arledge)



Many of the Marines flew in the CH-46 for their first time and enjoyed their introduction in helicopter operations. (photo by Gunnery Sgt. Shannon Arledge)



Lance Corporal David C. Coronado, "B" company, marcher, looks out the turret of an Amphibious Assault Vehicle. (photo by Gunnery Sgt. Shannon Arledge)



## Marines and sailors team up for amphibious operations

by Gunnery Sgt. Shannon Arledge  
Public Affairs Chief

On the late evening of June 27, the Marines from "B" company departed Marine Barracks towards the Eastern Coast of Virginia. The 118 Marines understood their mission—to participate in a unique Professional Military Education into Marine Corps amphibious operations.

Captain Howard F. Hall, "B" company, commanding officer, says the rapid deployment and proficiency of Marines in amphibious operations are essential, and amphibious operations are the nucleus of the Marine Corps.

"Every Marine in Company "B" is an infantryman. There is about a 90 percent chance these Marines will be attached to a battalion landing team for deployment with a Marine Expeditionary Unit when they transition into the operating forces," he said. "We cover straight-leg infantry basics in Quantico [during our field training exercises]. This PME was designed to complete the package and introduce the Marines to the tools they will be using when they deploy."



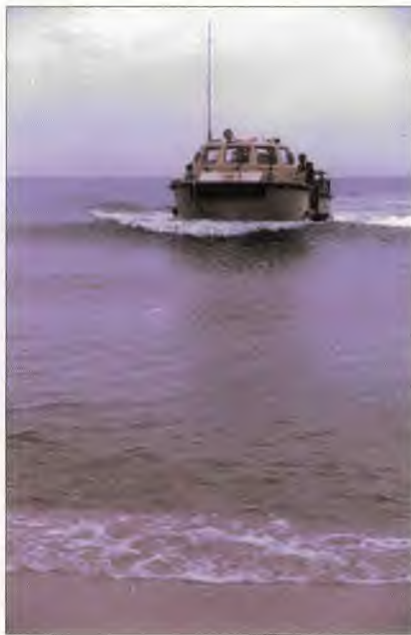
am up to learn about operations

After arriving to Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Va., during the early morning of June 28, the Marines were ready for a few hours of sleep before the morning's training kicked off. After requesting permission, they made their way aboard the *USS Carter Hall* (LSD 50). The *Carter Hall's* primary mission is to project naval power ashore by transporting landing force elements and assault vehicles to an objective area and providing command, control and communication support of amphibious operations against hostile shores.

When reveille sounded, the Marines embarked on a day of amphibious landings, landing craft air cushion and assault amphibian vehicle displays, and helicopter air operations.

The Marines visited several units at Little Creek that offered an indepth view of their roles during amphibious operations.

The first stop was at Assault Craft Unit-4. The Marines received a welcome aboard video and Powerpoint presentation on the mission, capabilities and parameters for the LCAC. Afterwards, they were given an opportunity to tour an LCAC and get an upclose look at one of the



The LARC, mostly used by the Navy during the final wave of an amphibious assault, took Marines from shore to sea to experience its capabilities. (photos by Gunnery Sgt. Shannon Arledge)

Navy and Marine Corps' newest vehicles, which assists in transporting Marines and equipment from sea to land easily and quickly.

Next, Beach Master Unit-2 took the company onto the beach and afloat. The sailors, or beach masters, displayed their various vehicles that make getting supplies ashore a reality. Normally, according to Hall, Marines never see this side of an amphibious landing because it's done after the Marines have landed, during the final phase of an invasion.

Lance Corporal Chris T. Chandler, "B" company, third platoon, said it was a great PME. "We would never have been able to see everything we did in a couple of days somewhere else," said Chandler. "The trip was planned well, organized and gave us an opportunity to see what the fleet will be like."

One highlight of the trip took the Marines airborne.

*continued on pg. 12*

## “B” company continued

Each were given a ride from HMM-774, one of the CH-46 helicopter squadrons aboard the naval base. After a tour of the squadrons facilities, they were flown around the ports, near the aircraft carriers and other ships that were in port.

Lance Corporal Felix R. Ramos, “B” company, first platoon, was intrigued by the trip, making it easier for him to get more involved and learn more about amphibious operations.

“I am looking forward to a new assignment with the fleet,” said Ramos. “This [PME] opened my eyes and now I am anxious to hit the operating forces.”

On the final day of the PME, the group visited the Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Atlantic. This basketball-court size facility offered the Marines a unique overall view of an amphibious assault. Through the use of special lighting, miniature models of ships and a city, the presentation highlighted the entire scope of an amphibious assault by incorporating animation through moving ships, aircraft raids, and shore assaults.

The last stop of the two-day visit was an insight into what some may call the heart of an amphibious operation. The leathernecks were given instructions on the importance of the Assault Amphibian Vehicle or AMTRAK by

the Marine Reserve AMTRAK company at Little Creek.

Lance Corporal David E. Harvey, “B” company, second platoon, was excited about the PME when it was first mentioned, and has always looked forward to joining the operating forces.

“I enjoy and take advantage of every chance I get to train,” said Harvey. “Many of the Marines I’ve talked to are more motivated by this kind of training. A lot of the Marines who come to Marine Barracks only see the barracks. Training like this will keep good Marines in the Corps.”

“Each Marine took away something different from the PME,” said Hall. “From the Marine’s [feedback], I can confidently say we accomplished the mission. A number of the Marines have commented on the fact that they are now confident they will re-enlist.”

As part of a Marine Air Ground Task Force, Marines are required to operate from assault ships of the United States Navy amphibious forces. These ships provide the combat power to facilitate an amphibious operation. Bravo company Marines were introduced to some of these combat systems first hand, assisting in their preparation when attached to a battalion landing team or Marine Expeditionary Unit. Professional Military Education such as “B” companies’ increases awareness, and gives the necessary knowledge of what the Marine Corps and Navy team mean to warfighting.

The battle rages on between the speed of technology and joys of a handwritten letter in the war of ...



# E-mail vs. Snail mail

by Sgt. Sean Fitzpatrick  
Press Chief

The setting sun was a shimmering, orange disc melting into the tree line as the Marines gathered around a mud-caked flatbed truck for mail call. Marines were lying against their packs inviting the evening breeze to chill their sweat-soaked utilities as they swapped bawdy jokes and methodically ate dinner with varying degrees of Tobasco.

The Motor Transport operators were leaning against their vehicles as Marines asked about the news and listened to the radio hoping to hear a song or two before being going to their tents.

The staff sergeant handing out mail called a Marine’s name, and from the thick audience a Marine made his way to the truck. His white teeth, bright and smiling, were a vibrant contrast to his mud-soaked utilities and camou-

flage painted face.

“Mail received, aye aye, Sir,” he said, mimicking recruits in training. Waving the letter above his head like a trophy, he slipped away from the noise, friends patting his back as he passed, his hands already digging into the paper envelope with his girlfriend’s letter inside. As the paper rips open, delicious tendrils of perfume reach powerfully into his memory, cradling his mind’s eye with the power of nos-

talgia and desire ...

Similar scenarios occurred throughout the centuries in every military. It is more than just correspondence – it is evidence of a Marine’s existence – it shows that other people know where they are and care about them. Technology is changing that.

Because e-mail is reliable and convenient, Marines with computer access are not using stamped mail as much. Consequently, Marines with e-mail accounts receive 75 percent less mail, according to Lance Cpl. Michael P. Smith, Headquarters & Service company, S-1, mail clerk.

Smith sorts mail for all the companies here, as well as for the security detachments at the barracks, Camp David, and the White House Communications Agency. Except for bills, Smith said the Marine Corps Institute company and H&S company, the two largest companies here, receive almost no mail.

“Access to computers and e-mail means less mail,” said Smith. “[E-mail] is less work and it’s free. Personally, I think e-mail is exciting, I mean, I can’t wait to see who wrote me when I log on to my computer each morning. That’s why I like it, and I’d take it over receiving a letter any day.”

Everyone interviewed for this story agreed that they love the convenience of e-mail, and that they were more likely to write friends and relatives with it, than without. However, if they could only keep one, only two of the 20 Marines questioned

chose e-mail. They were both 20-years-old.

“It’s a generational thing,” said Chief Warrant Officer Brian J. Dix, Drum & Bugle Corps company, executive officer. “They are used to using e-mail and they like it more because that is their most recent experience. I think handwritten letters are much more meaningful because it takes time and it adds a personal touch. E-mail will allow you to communicate with someone on the other side of the world in a few seconds, but I would give it up for hard mail.”

Other Marines would give up e-mail even though it is convenient and relatively inexpensive, because many of their friends and family members don’t have personal computers.

“I’ve had e-mail for one year, and the only person I really talk to over the Internet is my girlfriend,” said Lance Cpl. Robert A. Rodriguez, MCI com-



pany, Student Services Division. “Personally, with all the parades and with what goes on in the office, e-mail is about the only way I can communicate with her. However, if I had to make a choice, I would give up e-mail for hard mail. E-mail is great, but [computers are fairly expensive and] my family

can’t really afford the technology.” People who can afford the technology are also paying, because they

are losing a very personal means of contact. The letter is three-dimensional. It has weight, a smell, and they have the personal handwriting of a friend or loved one. Lance Corporal Venus A. Ungaro, H&S company, S-4/Fiscal office, fiscal budget technician, summed up what several Marines said mail meant to them.

“It’s personal [receiving mail],” she said. “You have that anticipation when you receive a letter. You wait for it; you get it; but you don’t open it right away. I put it aside, and then after work when I’m really relaxed, then I’ll read my letter. It makes my day.”

If the current trend continues, computers will become a necessity rather than a luxury, and e-mail will be the norm. That will certainly impact how people communicate, but how will it affect those mud-soaked Marines in the field who don’t have any luxuries, except the occasional hot meal and a letter from home?

Some Marines would give that up for instant, electronic communication, but not many, and definitely not that Marine reading his girlfriend’s letter.

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***“You have that anticipation when you receive a letter. You wait for it; you get it; but you don’t open it right away ... when I’m really relaxed, then I’ll read my letter. It makes my day.”***

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Lance Cpl. Venus A. Ungaro

With the needle buried,  
the pedal to the metal,  
and 400 angry horses powering his engine ...

## Marine goes where the

by Sgt. Sean Fitzpatrick  
Press Chief

Beginnings are important.

The author of Genesis, the first book in the Old Testament, began the text with "In the beginning;" and the ancient Greeks referred to the beginning as Alpha, meaning the most important thing. Incidentally, the most important step on a long journey is the first step.

The first step Staff Sgt. Mark J. Gonzales, Marine Corps Institute, course writer, took on his automotive odyssey was buying the car of his dreams – '97 Camaro Z28 convertible, with a unique cayenne color.

The steps that followed changed his dream car into a sleek machine with more juice than a Gatorade warehouse, and gave a hobbyist a second family.

In 1997, after cruising over the blacktop in Carlsbad, Calif., another Camaro owner walked up to him and asked if he knew of any Camaro car clubs.

"I thought, 'Hey, that sounds pretty cool,' and he said, 'Yeah, pretty cool, but there's nothing around here,'" said Gonzales. "It got my attention, and after a while I located the material I would need to start my own car club."

The primary reason for being in a car club, in Gonzales' opinion, is to show off cars, swap automotive knowledge, and meet people. With that in mind, he created the Southern California Camaro Club, and in seven months more than 37 Camaro enthusiasts, mechanical and body modification experts, and people who just loved Camaros were active members.

This was his turning point. Gonzales said his father always had nice cars and taught him to take pride in who you are and the car you drive, so he already had his attention on making his car look better. Now, with the car club and the knowledge each member brought with them, he had an encyclopedia of information about mechanics and modifications.

"I started modifying the car with bolt-on options for the exhaust and the intake to help the car breathe," said Gonzales. "If you want performance, that's where you want to start."



Staff Sergeant Mark J. Gonzales has made many modifications to his Camaro, including a Borla dual Cat-back Exhaust, a throttle body air foil, and a sport rear wing.

He installed a Borla dual Cat-back Exhaust, a big-block front hood with enough room for a blower, a General Motors' Performance Cold Air Induction package, a throttle body air foil, a 160 degree thermostat, and he also reprogrammed his car's onboard computer for higher performance. In layman's terms, that means he achieved an extra 75 horsepower with bolt-on parts, bringing the horsepower to 360, and a car that gets up to 160 mph on the racetrack.

Other nonperformance modifications include: ground effect, sport rear wing, roll bar, Eibach 1 1/2 inch lowering springs, K&N valve cover breather, chrome emblems, and a strut tower brace. His new Rockford Fosgate stereo system packs two 10-inch subwoofers, two six-by-nine inch mid-range speakers, two six-inch low-range speakers, two tweeters, a six-pack CD changer, a 75 watt amplifier,

# rubber meets the road



to his dream car, a '97 Camaro Z28, including a Borla dual g. (photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Mark J. Gonzales)

and a 250 watt amplifier.

Time went on and as his rotation date neared, he requested orders to the barracks. Consequently, he would leave his club and try to find another home on the East Coast.

"I requested orders in December 1998," said Gonzales, "but I really liked the camaraderie [of the club]. So when I moved here, I requested information from several organizations about local clubs. That's when I contacted the Mid-Atlantic F-Body Association and found a local chapter."

Not too long after he joined MAFBA, he entered the 1999 10th Annual Mid-Atlantic Camaro Show. It was his first car show and his car swept away the competition, clinching 1st place in the Street Modified Category. The club officers soon filled the vacancy for the Virginia State

Chapter Director by voting him in.

"Boy, was I amazed," said Gonzales. "I mean, it was my first car show and I took 1st place and I was made the director."

Gonzales has currently poured more than \$10,000 into modifications, and has plans to pack some punch under the hood by adding a blower to his engine. The relatively small addition will give the engine more than 600 horsepower. By comparison, if that power were added to a Mazda Miata, the axle would probably break like a china doll and send the wheels flying through the neighbors' window three blocks away.

Unlike the Miata owner, Gonzales' face brightens at the mention of a blower.

"There are quite a few things I will need to change so that the car can handle that kind of power," said Gonzales. "Major modification to the engine will effect gears, the speedometer, and the computer monitoring the engine. Then there are things to consider, like how the power will change the handling, and maybe I should get different tires. By Christmas I hope to have it ready for the blower – it's my big gift."

The powerful addition of the blower will seriously change the car, but it will not be the finishing touch. He said he changes his mind about how he wants the car to look all the time. Some days he wants a powerful dragster, and other days he wants something that will hug the turns. Instead of seeing this as a conflict, he smiled and explained that all art is a work in progress.

"Growing up, my father had nice cars and he taught me to respect what I had and how to make it better," said Gonzales. "He took care of his vehicles, and I guess that rubbed off on me because I get a lot of pleasure from changing [my car]. I do all the work myself, except for any major engine work.

"As for finishing the car, I will never be 'finished' with it, because there will always be something to improve, or reshape, or tighten. Or I could change my mind and start from scratch. I like that!"

Additional photos of Staff Sgt. Gonzales' Z28 are available on his personal website: [www.myfreeoffice.com](http://www.myfreeoffice.com)

# Corpsmen: Providing 102 years of medical care for sailors and Marines

by Sgt. Sara Storey  
Editor

The Navy Hospital Corps turned 102 years old, June 17.

Hospital corpsmen have a long and proud history of caring for the sick and injured. An Act of Congress determined the need for a place to be set aside on ships for medical care in 1799. The first enlisted medical person was known as a "Loblolly Boy." The "Loblolly Boy" was replaced with the "Surgeon's Steward" in 1843. In 1866, the "Apothecary" replaced the "Surgeon's Steward." Finally, on June 17, 1898, an Act of Congress formed what we know today as the Hospital Corps.

The Hospital Corps is the most highly decorated corps in the Navy. Dating back to the Boxer Uprising, the Hospital Corps has received 18 Medals of Honor, 84 Navy Crosses, 127 Silver Stars, two Legions of Merit, 290 Bronze Stars, 4,565 Purple Hearts, along with numerous other awards.

Hospital corpsmen, or "docs," are stationed on every ship in the fleet; they are stationed and deploy with the Fleet Marine Force; they are assigned to numerous hospitals and clinics around the world; and they have a long-standing tradition at Marine Barracks, as well.

The duties of a corpsman at the barracks are similar to what they would deal with in the FMF, but there are several differences. One of the most noticeable, is the number of docs.

"In the fleet, a unit this size would have about 65 corpsman - we have three," said Petty Officer 2nd class Donnie Pennington, barracks senior medical representative. "The battalion would have a Battalion Aid Station with around 25 to 30 corpsman. Each line company would have about 6 or 7 corpsman."

Docs are equivalent to civilian emergency medical teams or paramedics, and are required to provide fast medical care to Marines in the field or on the parade deck.



**Petty Officer 3rd class Teresa L. Shine, hospital corpsman, checks a barracks Marine's blood pressure. (photo by Cpl. Matthew E. Habib)**

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*"It's an honor to carry on the tradition of the docs who have gone before me. And, it's an honor to be stationed here ..."*

---

HM2 Donnie Pennington

"Most of our time is spent at parades and ceremonies, but we spend our share of time in the field, too," said Pennington. "Between the three of us, we provide a representative for every parade and we provide medical coverage when any Marines at the barracks go to the field. In addition, we see Sick Call patients at the Navy Yard Clinic. We maintain and keep up on medical records, medical boards, limited duty boards, and dental readiness tracking. It keeps us busy."

Pennington says working at the barracks trains the sailors to be better corpsmen because they work without the support of a medical officer.

"We have to be confident in the correctness of our medical decisions when dealing with a patient, because you can't turn and ask the doctor what to do," said Pennington. "We're responsible for our decisions, and we have an obligation to provide the best care we are capable of giving to each and every patient, so we really need to know our stuff."

"It's an honor to carry on the tradition of the docs who have gone before me," said Pennington. "And, it's an honor to be stationed here at the 'Oldest Post of the Corps.'"



## Marines pound out some aggression at Fort McNair

Barracks Marines take to the ring during the "Highlander Challenge," after a nearly three-mile run to Fort McNair, June 26. Marines from the battalion battled four-on-four, with fireteams armed with pugil sticks and protective gear. The field of 256 Marine warriors was narrowed down to eight, and they fought it out for the championship title, with "B" company taking the bragging rights. (photos by Sgt. Sara Storey)



## OUTSTANDING!

Sergeant Sara Storey, Headquarters & Service company, Public Affairs Office, editor, was selected as the backup "voice" of the barracks. She will be the primary narrator for Battle Color Detachment ceremonies. She is the first female Marine to be chosen for this position. (photo by Cpl. Matthew E. Habib)



# Marines celebrate Independence Day

## Concerts and "Sunset Parade" draw large crowd



(above and below) Greeters from Headquarters & Service and Marine Corps Institute companies tell spectators about the Marine Corps, the "Sunset Parade" and the Marine Corps War Memorial. (photos by Sgt. Justin C. Bakewell)



(right) Spectators covered the lawns, bringing chairs, blankets and coolers to watch the day's festivities. Many of them stayed after the concerts and parade to watch the fireworks exploding over the monuments. (photo by Sgt. Justin C. Bakewell)



(above) The United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps performs "Music in Motion" for thousands of spectators. (below) Guest of Honor, Harvey Kietel, distinguished actor and director, arrives with the official party for the Independence Day "Sunset Parade." (photos by Sgt. Justin C. Bakewell)



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

**H&S Company**

**June**

- Cpl. D.M. Gotzh
- Cpl. J.E. Rioux
- Cpl. D.S. Steakin
- Cpl. J.M. Vazquez

**July**

- Cpl. C.W. Morgan
- Cpl. R.I. Nagy
- Lance Cpl. B.R. Casey
- Lance Cpl. D.B. Graves
- Lance Cpl. C.B. Hameline
- Lance Cpl. W.T. Hashimoto
- Lance Cpl. R.L. Lopez
- Lance Cpl. C.J. Mason
- Lance Cpl. I.J. McConnell
- Lance Cpl. J.D. Sjo
- Lance Cpl. C.T. Smith
- Lance Cpl. J.L. Smith
- Lance Cpl. A.S. Thornhill
- Lance Cpl. R. Weatherspoon Jr.

**MCI Company**

**July**

- Cpl. J.D. Price
- Lance Cpl. K.D. Johnson
- Lance Cpl. J.M. Wood
- Lance Cpl. D.H. Younkins

**“A” Company**

**June**

- Cpl. J.G. Cushman
- Lance Cpl. T.M. Holland
- Lance Cpl. J.N. Keough
- Lance Cpl. J.T. Pigan
- Lance Cpl. G.A. Serwo

**July**

- Cpl. M.C. Roberts
- Lance Cpl. D.R. Hu Jr.
- Lance Cpl. D.J. Johnson

**“B” Company**

**June**

- Lance Cpl. J.M. Cloke
- Lance Cpl. D.C. Coronado
- Lance Cpl. R.J. Hoffrichter
- Lance Cpl. A.C. Lee

**July**

- Cpl. C.L. Baugher
- Cpl. T.M. Johnson Jr.
- Cpl. R.K. Scheucher
- Lance Cpl. M.W. Chapman
- Lance Cpl. G. Demott
- Lance Cpl. A. Dika
- Lance Cpl. T.W. Gwynn
- Lance Cpl. J.R. MaGee
- Lance Cpl. J.M. Mahaffey
- Lance Cpl. J.M. Pergram
- Lance Cpl. F.R. Ramos

**Security Company**

**June**

- Sgt. S.E. Padgett
- Cpl. J.D. Horton
- Cpl. A.L. Viggiani
- Lance Cpl. E.T. Syc

**July**

- Cpl. A.L. Grant
- Cpl. J.C. Sutfin

**USNA Company**

**June**

- Cpl. J.K. Lunceford
- Lance Cpl. S.P. Ashman
- Lance Cpl. J.D. Denham
- Lance Cpl. A.D. Gleave
- Lance Cpl. B.G. Martin

**July**

- Cpl. D.L. Favor
- Lance Cpl. J.A. Gibbs
- Lance Cpl. F.S. Osuna
- Lance Cpl. M.S. Rahn

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

**Meritorious Service Medal**

- Maj. R.P. Ackley
- Capt. S.R. Bowers
- Capt. K.B. Ellison

**Navy Commendation Medal**

- 1stSgt. M.C. Cole
- Master Sgt. J.R. Barclay

**Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal**

- Gunnery Sgt. C.J. Sager
- Cpl. J.B. Buchanan
- Cpl. D.M. Gotzh
- Cpl. A. Pagan

**Certificate of Commendation**

- Sgt. A.D. Ledford
- Cpl. J.B. Buchanan
- Cpl. M.S. Davidson
- Cpl. J.M. Pendergrass
- Cpl. D.A. Schay
- Cpl. A.V. Williamson
- Lance Cpl. M.T. Gray
- Lance Cpl. R. Hardy
- Lance Cpl. A.M. O’Neill
- Lance Cpl. D.G. Rodriguezpadilla
- Lance Cpl. C.L. Walters

Sgt. Benjamin M. and Mrs. Robin M. Laster gave birth to a 8-pound, 2-ounce baby boy, Tyreek Lee, March 15.

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.

# Marine Color Guard and Ceremonial Detachment, 1958



Marine Color Guard and Ceremonial Detachment from Marine Barracks in the grand finale at the international Military Tattoo at Edinburgh, Scotland, August 23 through September 13, 1958.

FIRST CLASS

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