



PASS IN REVIEW

Serving "The Oldest Post of the Corps"

March 2000



Protecting Democracy

Company "B" conducts civil disturbance training at FBI Academy

Parade Deck renovations - Women's History - West Coast Tour

Marines do not mistreat Marines

There continues to be confusion and misunderstanding in the media concerning the DoD Homosexual Conduct Policy

by *Lt. Gen. Jack W. Klimp*
Deputy Chief of Staff, Manpower
and Reserve Affairs

Edited for space

**Headquarters United States
 Marine Corps, Washington, D.C.
 (February 25) --**



Contrary to recent reports, all members of the Armed Forces are not being required to undergo “sensitivity training” on homosexual conduct policy; nor is all the training on the policy “new.”

The secretary of defense directed, in an August 1999 Defense Department memorandum, that commanders take appropriate action when a service member reports being threatened or harassed. Commanders are directed to focus their investigation on the person making the threats, not the individual being threatened. This has always been our policy.

A second memorandum highlighted procedural changes on how investigations should be conducted, and it required that service inspectors general begin inspecting the type of training being conducted on the policy.

Marines treat others with dignity and respect; this is a fundamental aspect of our core values and our warfighting discipline. It is the intangible element that binds Marines into the cohesive, selfless organization that has fought our nation’s battles since 1775.

Marines who fought at Iwo Jima and in Vietnam did not need sensitivity training to understand that unity, cohesion, and respect were fundamental for success on the battlefield.

Today’s Marines are trained in a like manner. Starting in boot camp, our core values of honor, courage, and commitment are inculcated in all Marines.

Simply stated, Marines don’t mistreat other Marines, for any reason.

Successful implementation of the law and accompanying policy is accomplished through sound leadership and education — two trademarks of the Marine Corps. The DoD homosexual conduct policy is explained to all recruits

at the Military Enlistment Processing Stations prior to reporting to boot camp.

During recruit training, we instill in all recruits a sense of integrity, accountability, and an overarching emphasis on treating others with the respect due fellow warriors who will fight to preserve each other’s lives on future battlefields.

As with all official policies, Marine officers and NCOs are those primarily tasked with enforcing the DoD homosexual conduct policy. They receive special training commensurate with their leadership responsibilities.

Commanders, due to their unique leadership roles, receive focused training when selected for commands that includes those circumstances that warrant investigation, as well as how to proceed with such investigations.

Among the many reasons we have a Marine Corps is to fight and win our nation’s battles — the ultimate contribution to our national security. Accomplishing this mission requires both discipline and strict conformity to high standards of behavior regarding appearance, sexual conduct, freedom of speech, and certain political activities.

Those who wear a Marine uniform accept and defend the principle of “service before self” that our society has long expected from its fighting forces. Society also understands that these freedoms are yielded voluntarily and solely for the purpose of providing an effective and cohesive fighting force.

Federal law and DoD policy are mutually supportive. We ensure that Marines live and work in an environment where everyone is treated with respect and is given equal opportunity to rise to their full potential. Self discipline and respect continue to form the bedrock of unit discipline upon which we rely to win our nation’s battles — the very same discipline our foes discovered during Marine battles for Belleau Wood, Iwo Jima, Chosin Reservoir, and Hue City.

Simply, these are the attributes America has come to expect of her Marines. We will continue to provide Americans with a Corps in which they can take pride.

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On the Cover

Yellow smoke, simulating tear gas, was employed as rioting citizens escalated their mock protests to stop negotiations between the United States and Columbia. (photo by MCB Quantico, PAO)

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The symposium gives junior leaders a chance to express their opinions to the "higher-ups" in the Marine Corps.

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BCD takes it to the West Coast

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Marines experience ship life

Marines from Headquarters & Service company enjoy some R & R while learning the lifestyle aboard a ship.



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Parade deck gets facelift for upcoming parade season

by *Cpl. Sara Storey*
Editor

The parade deck has undergone three major renovations, in preparation for the upcoming parade season.

The major change was the installation of a concrete pad. This pad of concrete is large enough to place bleachers, and leaves room for a five-foot cement walkway.

This should save time for grounds/maintenance Marines, because they no longer have to lay out plywood boards covered with rubber matting, which served the same purpose as the concrete pad, before every parade.

In addition, workers set up new bleachers, with padded seats, on the cement pad. The bleachers will remain there throughout the parade season.

Five trees were removed, and replaced with new, full grown ones. The old trees were diseased, becoming hollow, and posed a safety hazard.

The improvements totaled more than \$400,000, but will save time and money in the long run.



(photos by Public Affairs Office)



Marines strut their stuff for parade try-outs



(above) Lance Corporal Dameon D. Hunter, H&S company, post supply, gives his best effort as he tries out for time orderly. (top right) Lance Corporal Kevin J. Greenhalgh, "A" company, police sergeant, salutes after popping the flag. (bottom right) Lance Corporal Jessica M. Vasquez, H&S company, battalion mail clerk, marches down "Center Walk" with Molly, the Marine Barracks mascot, at her side. (photos by Sgt. Justin C. Bakewell)



2000 Parade support staff

Mascot Handler

Primary -- Lance Cpl. J. M. Vazquez

Alternate -- Lance Cpl. W. D. Frinkle

Flag Breaker

Primary -- Lance Cpl. R. W. Almond

Alternate -- Cpl. A. G. Seals

Time Orderly

Primary -- Lance Cpl. E. Y. Cunningham

Alternate -- Lance Cpl. D. D. Hunter

Color Lowering Detail

Sgt. M. K. Chrisite

Cpl. J. C. Warren

Lance Cpl. T. R. Mitchmore

Alternate -- Lance Cpl. G. C. Leasing

Marines help clean up Beaver Dam Creek

by Sgt. Justin C. Bakewell
Media Chief

Marines from the barracks recently lent a helping hand to the community by volunteering to help remove tires that were dumped in the Anacostia River.

Nearly 60 Marines from the barracks joined forces with Navy Sea Bees from the Naval District of Washington, to help the Watershed Society remove more than 600 tires that were illegally dumped into Lower Beaverdam Creek Feb. 26 by an unknown perpetrator.

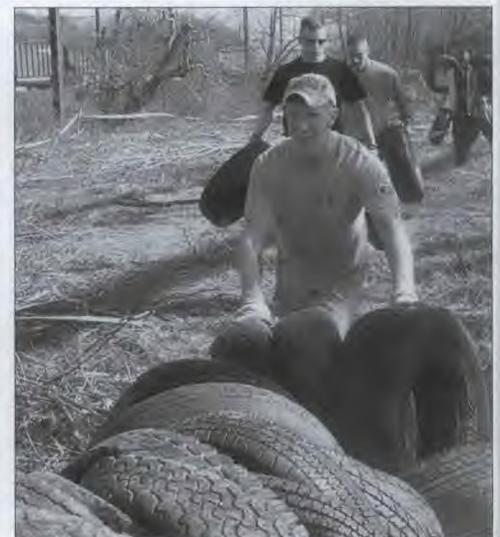
The Marines and Sailors spent roughly four and half-hours hauling muddy tires out of the river.

"This was the most cooperative effort in the 10 years I have worked on the Anacostia River," Robert Boone, president and founder of the Anacostia Watershed Society, said in a story published in the Washington Times. "It was an incredible human effort."

The Marines wasted no time retrieving the tires. From the most junior Marine at the barracks to the commanding officer, volunteers quickly became knee deep in the smelly water of Anacostia River. They formed human conveyer belts, passing the tires from one Marine to the next until they ended up in gigantic trash bins.

Although it was a dirty job, the Marines left with a sense of accomplishment and the knowledge of another job well done.

Marines from the barracks lend a helping hand by retrieving tires that were dumped in the Anacostia River. Pfc. Alissa M. Drewniak (right) and Cpl. James A. Binkley (far right) both from MCI company, do what they can to help the volunteer effort. (photo by Sgt. Justin C. Bakewell)



March is “Women’s History Month”

by Cpl. Sara Storey
Editor

“Women’s History Month is about highlighting the extraordinary achievements of women throughout our history, while recognizing the equally significant obstacles they had to overcome along the road to success,” said President William J. Clinton during a presidential proclamation. “It is [partly] about the women who bravely donned uniforms and fought for our country.”

Today, almost 800 women account for 4.3 percent of all Marine officers and more than 8,000 women make up 5.1 percent of the active duty enlisted force in the Marine Corps. These numbers continue to grow, as do opportunities to serve. Ninety-three percent of all occupational fields and 62 percent of all positions are now open to women. Significant changes are noticeable in training, as

women are now receiving combat training and graduating from many formerly male-only special skills schools, and in the Fleet Marine Force, where women are showing up in non-traditional jobs and previously restricted units and deploying shipboard.

Master Sergeant Milo P. Lucio, Headquarters and Service company, adjutant, has experienced many of those changes during her 21 years in the Corps.

“We still have a ways to go, but I think we are ahead of many in the civilian sector,” said Lucio. “As an Equal Opportunity advisor, I have seen first hand that we have much work to do to modify the behavior toward women in the Marine Corps, but I also know we have made great strides.”

Women in the Marine Corps today, like their distinguished predecessors, continue to serve proudly, honorably, and capably in whatever capacity country and Corps requires. (compiled by Maj. Carolyn C. Dysart, HQMC)

Women celebrate 82 years in the Marine Corps

- Aug. 12, 1918 – World War I – 305 “Reservists (Female)” were admitted into the Marine Corps to perform clerical duties, and “Free a Marine to fight.”
- Aug. 13, 1918 – Opha Mae Johnson, the first woman Marine, enlisted in Washington, D.C.
- July 30, 1919 – Major General George Barnett, Commandant, issued orders for the separation of all women from the Reserve.
- Nov. 7, 1942 – General Thomas Holcomb, Commandant, approved the formation of the United States Marine Corps Women’s Reserve.
- February 1943 – World War II – women’s continuous active service began.
- June 12, 1948 – Congress passed the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act (Public Law 625) which authorized the acceptance of women into the Regular component of the Marine Corps. Women could not exceed two percent of total service strength or hold permanent rank above lieutenant colonel.
- 1949 – Third Recruit Training Battalion was formed at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C., The Women Officers’ Training Class was established at Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Va.
- August 1950 – Korean War – for the first time in history, Women Reserves were mobilized.
- 1965 – Vietnam War – a strength increase was approved and by 1968 there were 2,700 women Marines on active duty.
- Nov. 8, 1967 – President Johnson signed Public Law 90-130, a bill which repealed the limits on the number of women in the services, permitted permanent promotion to colonel, and provided for the temporary appointment of women to brigadier general if filling a flag rank billet.
- 1975 – The Marine Corps approved the assignment of women to all occupational fields except infantry, artillery, armor, and pilot/air crew.
- Oct. 1, 1994 – Restrictions on women’s assignments were reduced to units whose primary mission is to engage in direct ground combat.
- July 1996 – Lieutenant General Mutter became the second woman in the history of the armed services and the first woman Marine to wear three stars.

USO International Gateway Center opened at BWI

by Sgt. Justin C. Bakewell
Media Chief

United Service Organizations have been providing morale, welfare and recreation-type services to military personnel since its inception in 1941.

The USO was founded by the combined efforts of the YMCA, YWCA, National Catholic Community Service, National Jewish Welfare Board, Traveler's Aid Association, and the Salvation Army, after a challenge made by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to handle the on-leave recreation needs of the Armed Forces.

"Camp Shows," where numerous entertainers went without pay to bring American troops live entertainment within the United States, were the first forms of entertainment the USO provided. Upon U.S. entry into World War II, the famous "Camp Shows," went on to bring live entertainment to Americans fighting overseas.

The USO has been present in every major U.S. conflict since World War II. Shows were organized for American troops in Vietnam in 1963 and in Haiti in 1994.

Today, the USO has over 120 centers around the world, located in places such as Germany, Bahrain, Iceland, and the Virgin Islands.

The most recent addition to the USO family happened at Baltimore-Washington International Airport in January. The \$1.1 million dollar, 5,000-square-foot USO Interna-

tional Gateway Center features various comforts for traveling service members. A lounge with a 72-inch television, a technology center with computers and on-line access and sleeping area are some of the center's attractions.

"Millions, literally millions of soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines are going to be transiting through this lounge in years to come," said Gen. Charles T. Robertson, commander of the Air Mobility Command.

Almost three-quarters of American troops are sent to Europe and the Middle East through BWI. Last year alone, more than 145,000 service members took flights into or out of BWI.

The lounge will be run by 100 volunteers and will cost between \$200,000 and \$250,000 annually, according to Elaine Rogers, Metropolitan Washington USO president. Most of the support is derived from the generosity of corporations, including Microsoft, AT&T, and Lockheed Martin.

The USO offers many other general programs and services in addition to the airport centers. They include family-oriented picnics, cultural awareness seminars, and employment assistance for separating service members.

The center closest to the barracks is at the Washington Navy Yard in Lejuene Hall.

For further information on the USO's programs and opportunities call the USO World Headquarters at the Washington Navy Yard at (202) 588-5119.

Spotlight

Name: Lance Cpl. Erwin B. Macasarte

Unit: Headquarters & Service company, S-1

Job: Unit Diary clerk

Enlisted: December 1, 1997

Home Town: Stockton, California

Favorite Part of the

Job: I like helping fellow Marines solve problems and taking part in anything my section needs.

But, the very best part is being a Marine and making my family proud.



Marines put wraps on first NCO Symposium

Forum considered an excellent way to involve junior leadership

by Pfc. Damian McGee, Marine Corps News

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 7) — What started on a very high note for 20 Marines ended on an even higher one.

As the first-ever NCO Symposium came to a close Friday, March 3, the feelings shared throughout the room were ones of completion and accomplishment, not to mention the fact that these 20 Marines had just made history - history that could forever improve life for Marines in the future.

The symposium was a forum set up for the upper half of the Marine Corps to begin to listen to the leadership at the lower level. It is a way for the "higher-ups" to realize what is going on with the Corps, before they start making policies that effect the Corps.

"We don't want to make policy and think we have all the ideas," said Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Alford L. McMichael. "We have to speak to the bottom level to find out what they're really going through." And that is exactly what they did.

The four days consisted of discussions and brainstorming sessions on topics from retention to unserviceable uniforms and availability of rifle range personnel, to investment programs; childcare costs, promotions, and many more.

The event convened with absolutely no agenda, other than that of each individual Marine. It quickly became obvious that there was a lot of commonality among the issues they wanted to discuss.

"I came with nine issues and, believe it or not, seven were used, which shows that there is a consensus of concerns," explained Sgt. Charles E. Dorsey, Quantico, Va.

One of the good things about this is the Marines are looking for changes to come about because of their actions, but are realistic in the time it may take to see the

change.

"Some [changes] could be seen as early as Monday, while others may not be seen for a year," explained McMichael.

One thing that was not an issue was gender. In fact, for the only female Marine present, this was good news.

"I didn't come here as a female Marine, I came here as a sergeant of Marines," explained Sgt. Paulette M. Woolsey, Support Battalion, Camp Lejuene, N.C. "The

only issue that arose relating to gender in any way, was the fact that it is a hassle for female Marines to handle their NCO sword properly, because of the lack of belt-loops on their dress blue trousers."

The ideas and views of this group were expressed very openly and heard very clearly by Gen. James L. Jones, commandant of the Marine Corps. Not only did Jones listen attentively, but he also provided input for the Marines — in many cases to do nothing more than to agree with them.

"We are in a competitive market and every Marine needs to be evalu-

ated according to his or her potential," explained Jones. "We really need to look at our policies and procedures. If we lose one good Marine because we do not have policies that are flexible, then we are really hurting ourselves."

Overall, the NCOs touched on multiple subjects and expressed things that they honestly felt were problems.

"We all brought agenda topics that were very near and dear to us," said Woolsey. "Quite simply this means that if these are things that are important to them, it is only because it is important to their Marines."

Despite the fact that this was the first NCO Symposium, none of the participants could point out any real problems with the way the event was conducted.

"There was nothing bad," said Woolsey. "The only thing lacking was to bring in "B" billet Marines, because they have a different outlook on the Marine Corps."

When asked of his thoughts concerning a future symposium McMichael said, "I don't think there will be future symposia, I know there will be. This is not the ending, this is the beginning."

“ I don't think there will be future symposia, I know there will be. This is not the ending, this is the beginning. ”

Sgt. Maj. Alford L. McMichael, sergeant major of the Marine Corps.

Corps uses non-lethal weapons for peacekeeping

by *Cpl. Derek A. Shoemake*

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. (Feb. 17) — Any doubts Lance Cpl. Steve Braithwaite, Weapons Platoon, assistant gunner with Battalion Landing Team 2/2's Fox company, may have had about the effectiveness of non-lethal weapons were squelched after his face was squirted with pepper spray.

"I have never experienced this much pain in my entire life," said the Brooklyn, N.Y. native as he walked hunched over in circles, rubbing his runny nose and watering eyes to try to relieve the burning sensation. "I'm dealing with it, but this is really testing me."

Testing the BLT 2/2 Marines of Echo, Fox, Weapons and LAR companies was exactly the point of the Non-Lethal Weapons Course, taught by Marines from Camp Lejeune's Special Operations Training Group at the Stone Bay Physical Training field here.

According to Staff Sgt. Christopher Blackler, SOTG instructor and Boston, Mass. native, a non-lethal weapon is any weapon with the sole purpose of wounding, but not killing.

What makes this course so important, adds Blackler, is learning how to correctly use the non-lethal weapons. If the weapons are used incorrectly or carelessly, they could result in more serious harm than intended.

"This training is certainly important as we prepare for our deployment," said Lt.Col. Larry D. Nicholson, BLT 2/2, commanding officer, the unit which will serve as the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Ground Combat Element during their upcoming deployment to the Mediterranean region in July. "There tend to be more and more situations which require Marines to use the knowledge [learned in courses like this]."

During the two-week course, Marines learn how to control various types of crowds and study the backgrounds, uses and applications of non-lethal weapons.

Some of the weapons covered in the course are ones that create blunt trauma: the foam rubber projectiles, which can be loaded into an M-209 grenade launcher or grenade; the stinger balls, 23 the 24 small balls made from hard plastic and also loaded into the M-209 grenade launcher or a gre-

nade; the bean bag, a small bag with lead pellets which is loaded into a shotgun shell; the rubber fin stab, a rubber cylinder with protruding fins which is also loaded into a shotgun shell; and the police baton.

Also covered in the course are non-lethal weapons, such as the pepper spray, which is used to wound without creating blunt trauma.

"These are definitely the weapons of tomorrow," said Staff Sgt. Ken Barnes, Echo company, 1st Platoon, platoon sergeant and Myrtle Creek, Ore. native. "A lot of these Marines are fairly new to the [Marine Corps] and have only been taught to use lethal weapons in recruit training, like the M-16."

The Marines of BLT 2/2 agree that the non-lethal weapons training is important and related to what they do. "If I'm controlling a crowd in another country, [anything could happen]," said Lance Cpl. William N. Bernardiz, gunner with Fox company's 2nd Platoon. "If someone gets out of hand I may need to protect myself, but at the same time I can't cause an international incident by using unnecessary force."

New Web site offers \$300 million in scholarships

by *Lance Cpl. Nathan J. Ferbert*

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (Feb. 17) — A Web site gives veterans, active-duty military and family members all the information they need when selecting a college, and it's accessible all day, every day at www.gibilllexpress.com.

They can use the site to gather information on scholarships available to them, and it was reviewed by Defense Activities Non-Traditional Education Services for security and authenticity, according to Lynette Brauer, adviser at the Joint Education Center.

The site's report card section grades more than 500 schools in: policies on accepting credit for military training; tuition and fee discounts to military personnel; job placement rates and other programs.

Thomas, a Navy veteran and the son of a disabled Air Force veteran, said the site will rank colleges based on the discounts available to veterans by March. Another section lists federal and state education benefits, and tips on how to use military experience to get admitted to the top schools.

The Web site's designer, Erik W. Black, a graduate of Arizona State University, is one of four co-founding veterans who had problems financing school.



“West Coast Installation Tour”

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

“Ladies and gentlemen, Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., takes great pleasure in presenting the Marine Corps Battle Color Ceremony. Participating units include, ‘The Commandant’s Own,’ the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, the United States Marine Silent Drill Platoon, and the Color Guard of the Marine Corps ...”

These words cause thousands of spectators to grow silent before the Drum and Bugle Corps takes its position on the center of the parade deck and begins to play its melodies, — the start of a Battle Color Detachment ceremony.

A casual observer can see young and old alike, intently watching the SDP perform their precision drill, but digging deeper, he can actually see the pride of being an American swell inside every spectator.

Whether it is a teen, seeing what he might like to achieve someday, a parent watching their son or daughter perform, or a veteran simply remembering times long past; the Marines of the BCD brought the majesty of the “Sunset” and “Evening” parades to those on the West Coast during the annual “West Coast Installation Tour.”

The crowds see the ceremony the Marines produce, but they don’t get a chance to see the preparation required to make the end result of perfection possible. In Washing-

The “West Coast Tour” took six weeks to finish and months of planning to be a success. In the end, the Battle Color Detachment visited over a dozen different show locations, from Texas to California.



ton, D.C., the three units spend countless days practicing before leaving for Yuma, Ariz. to drill and rehearse in the hot desert sun.

Marines use the time in Yuma, three weeks prior to their first ceremony, to get away from any distractions at home, according to Master Gunnery Sgt. James P. O’Keefe Jr., D&B company, drum major.

“The Marines do not come to Yuma for a vacation or to sit around and tan,” said O’Keefe. “The Marines come here to get away from the hectic schedules and icy weather of [Washington, D.C.]. Yuma gives the different units the time, space and concentration they need to perfect their drill and musical sequences to make every performance the best it can be.”

For three weeks, the routine is almost constant — wake up, P.T., drill and practice, lunch, drill and practice, dinner, review the day’s progress, liberty until early the next morning when the cycle repeats itself. This goes on for 21 straight days, and while it may be in a relaxed

continued on pg. 12

West Coast Installation Tour continued

The Marines in the BCD practice hard to make every show as perfect as possible.

(right) Corporal Ryan J. Edie, Drum & Bugle Corps, contra bass bugler, practices in the Arizona sun, while (bottom) Lance Cpl. Jon J. High, "A" company, silent drill platoon member, is evaluated on his drill by Sgt. Ryan L. Blaine, platoon rifle inspector.



environment, it does get monotonous, according to Cpl. Stephen J. Samoranski, D&B company, bugler.

"We get to the point where we don't even need a wake up call, because we get so used to the system. Then, for the rest of the day, it's like we are on auto-pilot scrutinizing every drill and musical sequence trying to make it perfect," said Samoranski. "With as many Marines as we have on the parade deck at one time, this is really the only way to make the ceremony work. During the ceremony, you have almost a hundred Marines working as one. Luckily, our liberty at night gives us time enough to recuperate and get ready for the next day."

The Marines finally enjoyed their first day off with a picnic, after almost an entire month into training and two days prior to their first ceremony. From there however, it was non-stop action as the Marines jumped from location to location to perform.

From Arizona to Texas and to 10 different locations in California, the Marines flew and drove, with equipment, thousands of miles around the West Coast, racing against fatigue and time to their next location. Once there, the Marines empty the vehicles and head to the sight as fast as possible, making any last minute preparations, ensuring the performance runs smoothly, according to Cpl. James C. Comerford, "A" company, color guard battle color bearer.

"It's hectic from minute one. The Marines wake up in the morning, make sure all the gear is ready and stow it on

the trucks to be transported to the site. We all look like a group of ants as we pass off rifles and instruments to one another and pile them in," said Comerford. "Once we get to the site, it is the reverse of what happened at the beginning, except now Marines are borrowing uniform items from each other left and right, uniform tape is being thrown everywhere, and everyone is yelling to one another, letting them know what is going on – it's the final countdown for everyone."

"There is a calm before the storm as the Drum and Bugle Corps warms up, the Silent Drill Platoon practices, and the Color Guard scrutinizes the colors and streamers," said Comerford. "With their bearings back, the Marines are ready to put on a great show, and that's what we always end up doing. That's what we're the best at and the people love it."

When the Marines are performing, they are truly the best as everything they have previously strived to accomplish unfolds perfectly before the crowd, according to Cpl. Michael S. Beames, D&B company, xylophonist.

"The Marines are always concentrating on the next sequence of the show (over 80 drill movements for the Drum & Bugle Corps, alone), but I feel we owe these people 100 percent of what we have. When all those eyes fall on us during a show, it just makes me want to give more," said Beames. "At the end of a show, the roar of the crowd heals any pains we might have, and gives us the strength and desire to go on to the next location to show the people what we can produce."

This ritual continued until the BCD's final show in Rialto, Calif., March 12. After a successful tour, the Marines returned to their families and homes back in Washington, D.C., and although the tour is finished, the ceremonial duties of the different units are far from over.

The units will break up and individually visit locations around the country, after taking a short break from the "West Coast Tour". However, it won't be long before the Marines can no longer deny their urges to get out and continue making their great image even greater, according to Sgt. Ryan L. Blaine, "A" company, SDP rifle inspector.

"All of these Marines have put their hearts and souls into developing their talents and honing them so the world outside of the Marine Corps can see what we can accomplish. Anyone in the world would need a break after the kind of stress we experience, but we only need a short breather," said Blaine. "The weekend the SDP gets back, the platoon already has a another show scheduled. But that's what really drives us — giving these people the show of their life."

Armorers help keep battalion on target

*story and photo by Sgt. Justin C. Bakewell
Media Chief*

When Marines take part in the barracks' annual field exercise or go to the range, most fire their weapons without fear of the rifle misfiring or having any stoppages.

Marines in the armory spend long, tedious hours ensuring every weapon in the battalion is safe to fire, so the Marines have the luxury of firing their weapons with complete confidence.

According to Staff Sgt. Eric W. Young, Headquarters and Service company, battalion ordnance chief, the Marines in the armory put in roughly 60 hours a week. Every weapon in the armory must be inspected at least once a month. At present, the armory has four armorers. Because of the additional duties of the senior armorers, Lance Cpl. Adam J. Roth, H&S company, armorer, usually inspects every weapon.

"Depending on complications like dirty weapons, it can take anywhere from 26 days to a full month to inspect every weapon," said Roth.

The armorers have to deal with many different problems when it comes to the weapons in the armory. The biggest issue is cleanliness. According to Roth, many of the Marines in the battalion do not understand the true importance of a clean weapon.

The armorers are responsible for every weapon in the armory, regardless of where they are being fired.

"The job that Lance Cpl. Roth does is extremely important," said Young. "The Marines in this battalion [unknowingly] depend on him for their rifle score. If he does not do his job the weapon will not function properly."

Unlike the rest of the barracks, the armory never has an off season. During parade season they have to be present for all ceremonial commitments. Armorers also have the unique responsibility of maintaining the historic M-1 Garand.

The barracks is the only post in the Marine Corps that carries the M-1 Garand. The armorers are not taught about M-1s during their MOS school, therefore, they rely heavily on outside sources and the marching companies to keep them up to date with their training. According to Young, the companies bring a different perspective to the table because they use the weapon day in and day out.

"The custodians do most of the work with the M-1s, it makes my job much easier knowing that I can rely on



Lance Corporal Joseph G. Hunter, "A" company, weapons custodian, performs a weapons check on a M-240G. them," said Roth.

When the parade season ends, the workload for the armory does not waiver. The FEX begins, companies strive to fill rifle range quotas, and the Silent Drill Platoon's post parade season commitments begin to add up at an astonishing rate. Any time one of these events takes place, an armory Marine must be present to issue and retrieve weapons.

"There have been times when I had to be in the armory issuing weapons to the Drill Team at three o'clock in the morning and had to be back at eight o'clock that night in order to retrieve the weapons," said Lance Cpl. Joseph G. Hunter, "A" company, weapons custodian.

When the armorers and custodians are not busy issuing weapons they are busy with other things, such as training and accountability.

"Every week we have training classes on armory protocol and when we aren't having classes, we are ensuring that every weapon is functional and accounted for," said Hunter.

Marines in the armory say their job can be summed up in two words: accountability and responsibility. They take both very seriously and complete their mission without any discrepancies. The armory must remain vigilant -- if they do not, accountability and responsibility are lost.



Marines barred volunteers, acting as demonstrators and protesting the mock negotiations between Columbia and the United States, from entering the compound. (photo by Sgt. Sean Fitzpatrick)

CIVIL DISTURBANCE TRAINING

FBI BACKDROP HELPS CREATE REALISTIC SCENARIO

After several warnings, the Marines issued a final order to the "protesters," saying that if they didn't comply with the laws governing peaceful protests and stay a safe distance from the barricades, the Marines would employ tear gas. These Marines prepare to enforce that order. (photo by Sgt. Sean Fitzpatrick)



In a final act of desperation, Mr. Tariq, a known terrorist, draws a submachine gun and attempts to fire into the crowd.

However, Marines were on the way when he was drawing his weapon. He was taken into custody without firing a shot. (photo by Sgt. Sean Fitzpatrick)



Corporal Adam J. Lane, "A" company, is brought into custody after inciting the crowd to violence and physically challenging the barricades. (photos by Sgt. Sean Fitzpatrick)



“ I didn’t do anything. I was just standing there and they grabbed me!

Cpl. Adam J. Lane, “A” company, mock protester and demonstrator

”

by Sgt. Sean Fitzpatrick
Editor

Marines from the barracks sprinted the short distance between the FBI Academy’s main gate and Hogan’s Alley, flooding through the small town’s doorways like a camouflage avalanche. When it completely enveloped a section of town a few minutes later, it offered its protection to two high-ranking government officials who had the potential to end the “War on Drugs” in Columbia.

While most called it a stroke of genius, not everyone rejoiced at the prospect of a new peace agreement. Chief among those criticizing the negotiations were the people who stood to lose money or gain unwanted attention. People like Don Tomas, head of the Cali Cartel, would feel the bite if Columbia closed her shores to trafficking, and Mr. Tariq, international terrorist, head of all Middle Eastern drug trafficking, is the heir apparent to the full weight of America’s scrutiny if Columbia struck a bargain. Neither of these men, nor their followers wanted the negotiations to go through.

All of these factors came to a

head at the Columbian embassy (Hogan’s Alley), where angry civilians, played by Marines, congregated outside of the building where the negotiations were being held. They held picket signs, probed the barricades, and violently exploited any weakness they found.

This highly realistic, make-believe evolution tested all three pillars of civil disturbance: personnel checks; vehicle checks; and ready reaction teams with riot gear. It also marked the end of five months of civil disturbance training for “B” company, according to Capt. Howard F. Hall, “B” company, commanding officer.

“It was the best training we’ve had when it comes to civil disturbance,” said Hall. “It was very carefully planned and enthusiastically participated in by all of the Marines. Having believable conflicts and objectives with Hogan’s Alley as the backdrop really added to the realism of the training. I was impressed.”

Despite the realism, the planning and training efforts, Hall said initiative, the Corps catchall term for immediate and appropriate response, defined the training’s success at Hogan’s Alley. Marines demonstrated it across the

board.

“I was most impressed by watching the Marines improve the process” said Hall. “Instead of a staff NCO or an officer pointing things out to them, [the Marines] were already doing it — it was happening by itself. Marines were identifying problems, finding solutions, and refining their process. So what you had was an evolution of self-education.”

One of the aspects lending to the training’s realistic appearance, were representatives from Public Affairs, Training Audio and Visual from Quantico and the barracks, and also the Navy Marine Corps News. These Marines and Sailors played the role of aggressive local and foreign media members.

So, while the Marines successfully held an angry crowd at bay, or escorted the U.S. Envoy through the barricades, they were beset on all sides by microphones, flash photography and video cameras held by journalists demanding answers to friendly as well as security-sensitive questions. This exposed the Marines to the increasing role the media has in the military, and how that changes the way the Corps meets its mission.

USS Ashland: Marines join how sailors live

by Cpl. Sara Storey
Editor

Twenty Marines from Headquarters and Service company boarded a bus destined for Little Creek, Va. on a sunny afternoon Feb. 23. Four hours later, the Marines, with seabags in tow, walked up the gangplank of the *USS Ashland, LSD 48* and requested permission to board, learning their first lesson in naval life and traditions.

The *USS Ashland* is an amphibious warfare ship, designed to transport Marines and their combat equipment to designated areas throughout the world. It launches and supports assault landing craft and helicopters during amphibious operations against hostile shores.

Marines boarded the 610-foot vessel, capable of holding 49 officers and 800 enlisted sailors and Marines, and were led to their berthing areas. Marines unpacked their belongings and put them in the space below their racks, commonly called "coffins" because of their design.

"The Marines have two weeks on board, and that's a good period of time," said Gunnery Sgt. Angelo Goodwyn, H&S company, company gunnery sergeant. "It's just long enough for the Marines to get a taste of life on ship, but they're not going out of their minds with boredom."

Marines were left with some free time on their hands to become familiar with the ship. After wandering, adventurous Marines found soda and candy machines, two gyms, and several lounge areas to relax and watch television.

"It is like walking around in a maze," said Cpl. Danielle Burnard, H&S company, maintenance section, plumber. "Everything looks the same on ship, passageways and ladderwells are everywhere, which makes it really easy to get lost."

The next morning, Marines took a tour of the ship, learning where to do laundry, eat, and receive medical and dental services.

Marines rotated through various sections, learning everything about the ship from its weapons systems and radar, to the galley.

"We worked hand-in-hand with our Navy counterparts to give our Marines an opportunity to experience a little bit of everything," said Goodwyn. "Being directly involved in the ships operation gives them a better realization of what they might get into in the [Fleet Marine Force] and gives



Marines from Headquarters and Service company boarded board life, naval history and traditions on the way to the U.S.

them a better perspective of shipboard life."

Because of the differences in their missions, most Marines on ship aren't involved in the day-to-day upkeep of it, according to Petty Officer 2nd class Rachel E. Starbuck, advanced electronic weapon systems operator.

"Sometimes people think hot water just magically appears, but we have sailors in some deep, dark hole making it hot," said Starbuck. "Sailors make everything on this ship happen; we're completely self-contained. Having the Marines work directly with sailors, while they're doing their job, teaches Marines more about us."

Marines kept themselves occupied throughout the day in their sections, and with P.T. in the late afternoon.

Running got monotonous for Lance Cpl. Adam J. Roth, H&S company, armorer, as space constraints forced Marines to run in circles around the deck.

"It's boring to run around in circles, especially when the space is so small and the ship is rocking," said Roth.

It was a challenge to come up with new ideas to keep Marines motivated about P.T., according to Burnard.

Marines ran around the well deck and flight deck, played dodge ball, and played a game of freeze tag, with

the crew on board to learn
live, work and play



the 610-foot *USS Ashland* for two weeks, learning about ship-Virgin Islands. (official USN photo)

slightly different rules. When a Marine was tagged, instead of freezing, he did calisthenics until he was “unfrozen” by another Marine.

“After running around in circles for days the game of tag was a welcome break,” said Lance Cpl. Daniel Steakin, H&S company, administrative clerk.

Running space got even smaller as two Landing Craft, Air Cushion vehicles (LCAC) were brought in, taking up half the well deck. LCACs are non-displacement assault landing craft capable of exceeding 40 knots, about 46 mph, while carrying a 60-ton payload.

Marines watched the LCACs approach from the beach. The stern gate opened and the vehicles were parked in the well deck.

“It looked like something out of a movie,” according to Burnard. “It didn’t seem real, the LCACs hovered just over the water, and then the pilots just drove them right up into the ship.”

During the evenings, Marines stayed busy reading, working on MCIs, watching television and playing cards. They enjoyed the sunsets from the bow of the ship and peering over the edge of the ship at night, they saw



(top left) Lance Corporal Jonathan E. Rioux, H&S company, cook, lends a hand in the galley. (top right) Cpl. Matthew J. Cuomo, H&S company, assistant police sergeant, enjoys snorkeling on St. John’s beaches during liberty. (photos by Cpl. Sara Storey)

phosphorescent jellyfish glowing in the ship’s wake.

“I’m making the best of it,” said Roth. “It’s not luxurious like a cruise liner, but I’ve got somewhere to eat and sleep, and there’s always something to do.”

Even with all the interesting things to do on ship, Marines agreed the highlight of the trip was liberty in St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands. Two-thirds of the island is unspoiled U.S. National Park and has some of the most photographed beaches in the world.

Most Marines spent their days on white, sandy beaches, sipping cool drinks, swimming and snorkeling. They could also take a water taxi across the bay to St. Thomas. For the most part, Marines spent their nights on both islands dancing and talking with sailors, locals and tourists.

After two days and three nights of liberty, Marines headed back to the *USS Ashland*, which got underway the same day liberty expired.

The night before their return, Marines packed their gear and staged it in the well deck with the LCACs.

Marines awoke before reveille, and made their final trip to the well deck. They sat aboard the LCACs, watching the sunrise. The pilots did final preparations for the trip and took Marines on a thirty minute, bumpy journey to the beach.

Stepping off the LCACs, onto the Camp Lejeune, N.C., beach, the Marines turned and saw the *USS Ashland* in the distance, waved goodbye, and gathered their gear for the seven-hour bus ride back to Washington, D.C.

“I have a deeper respect for sailors and Marines on ships because of this trip,” said Burnard. “I think this was a good learning experience – however, two weeks was just long enough.”

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

H&S Company

Sgt. J.C. Bakewell
 Cpl. R.S. Davis
 Cpl. R.E. Harvell
 Cpl. C.D. Massey
 Cpl. J.D. Manzifortich
 Cpl. J.M. Townly
 Lance Cpl. J.L. Antonelli
 Lance Cpl. N.J. Chambers
 Lance Cpl. K.A. Dombrowski
 Lance Cpl. P.J. Donovan
 Lance Cpl. E.M. Mingott
 Lance Cpl. D. Moore
 Lance Cpl. J.M. Watts

MCI Company

Cpl. M.P. Jackson
 Cpl. L.A. Perez
 Lance Cpl. C.L. Englerth
 Lance Cpl. J.L. Masters

"A" Company

Cpl. J.C. Rossi
 Cpl. T.R. Testa Jr.
 Lance Cpl. C.L. Adams
 Lance Cpl. A. J. Buckley
 Lance Cpl. S.S. Caputa
 Lance Cpl. K.J. Cintorino
 Lance Cpl. T.C. Cole
 Lance Cpl. J.M. Eder
 Lance Cpl. D.M. Groomes
 Lance Cpl. D.A. Lee
 Lance Cpl. K.J. Lopez
 Lance Cpl. M.P. Luna
 Lance Cpl. J.E. Millspaugh
 Lance Cpl. N.M. Overman
 Lance Cpl. R.R. Rohner
 Lance Cpl. J. H. Walker
 Lance Cpl. M.H. Willerson
 Lance Cpl. J.D. Williams

"B" Company

Cpl. C.M. Callinan

Cpl. L.A. Mendoza
 Lance Cpl. N.D. Andrews
 Lance Cpl. A.S. Betz
 Lance Cpl. C.W. Black
 Lance Cpl. R.L. Cauthen
 Lance Cpl. M.S. Cowley
 Lance Cpl. D.T. Dial
 Lance Cpl. S.R. Horton
 Lance Cpl. J.B. Johnson
 Lance Cpl. J.T. Larock
 Lance Cpl. J.A. Madden
 Lance Cpl. B.J. Marcum
 Lance Cpl. D.A. Mitchell
 Lance Cpl. T.E. Mitchell
 Lance Cpl. E.D. Parrish
 Lance Cpl. L.R. Peters II
 Lance Cpl. M.P. Stewart
 Lance Cpl. C.D. Stuart
 Lance Cpl. J.C. Taylor

Security Company

Cpl. J.M. Beck
 Cpl. A.M. Taylor

USNA Company

Cpl. C.R. Anderson

D&B Company

Cpl. P.J. Sanders

Congratulate the following Marines on the awards they recently received.

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Master Sgt. A.G. Jones
 Gunnery Sgt. C.J. Sager
 Pfc. T.M. Byers

Certificate of Commendation

Sgt. J.D. Barto IV
 Cpl. R.E. Harvell
 Lance Cpl. M.K. Aktar
 Lance Cpl. J.D. Barber
 Lance Cpl. M. Escobar
 Lance Cpl. E.E. Henderson
 Lance Cpl. A. Morales Jr

Best wishes to the following Marines and their spouses on the recent additions to their families.

Lance Cpl. and Mrs. B.L. Kirk had a 6-pound, 1-ounce baby girl, Morgan Montgomery, March 11.

Sgt. and Mrs. C.E. Hall had a 6-pound, 8-ounce baby boy, Nolan Terrence and a 5-pound, 11-ounce baby girl, Allison Belle, March 11.

Capt and Mrs. K.B. Ellison had a 7-pound, 14-ounce baby girl, Lindsey Elizabeth, March 19.



Outstanding!

Officers and Staff NCOs from the barracks walk the last leg of a 46-mile march, crossing the Anacostia River and heading into Washington, D.C. The Marines celebrated the 200-year anniversary of the march to Washington, D.C., from Ft. McHenry, Baltimore, to establish a Marine Detachment. (photo by Sgt. Justin C. Bakewell)

Military members safeguard freedom and peace

by Lt. Gregory C. Cathcart
Barracks Chaplain

Over the ages the scriptures, specifically the Torah or first five books of the Old Testament, have been referred to for instruction and inspiration and used as a guide governing our conduct in this life. However, the Torah has been misused, misinterpreted, misunderstood, and used out of context to suit one's personal agenda.

The most common misinterpretation of scripture is the sixth commandment, "thou shall not kill."

Being a Marine chaplain, one question I am frequently asked by civilians or someone who feels they are a conscientious objector, is how to reconcile your faith with violence.

Many assume the Bible would favor conscientious objectors or, at least, a minister would. This is not necessarily the case.

Certainly no one in their right mind wants war – especially those who have already been. But I feel it is important to clear up what the scripture actually says about war and its sanctioning.

The sixth commandment refers to murder, as opposed to killing in a state-sanctioned war. In the Pentateuch the word "retsuch" defines killing, in reference to murder. The Hebrew word for killing in a state-sanctioned war is "hareega." The two are vastly different and should not be confused or used in the same context. It is like calling a Soldier a Marine or a Marine a Soldier – the two are similar but, ultimately, very different.

The Bible doesn't speak closely to the issue of war, but there are many scriptures used to support nonviolent resistance. Jesus said, "blessed are the peacemakers," and, "love your

enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

On the other hand, Jesus had many opportunities to preach pacifism that he never took. For example, a Roman Centurion, an Army officer who had fought in numerous imperialistic wars, approached Jesus. Not a word is spoken to the Centurion about pursuing pacifism. Instead Jesus said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith."

**War is a horrible thing,
but pacifism has been
twisted over the years
into a tool just as deadly
as war ...**

Lt. Gregory C. Cathcart

In other Biblical passages, Paul tells soldiers to be satisfied with their wages, soldierly virtues are said to be an illustration of Godly living, and God gives direct orders to raise an army and even to take specific objectives.

The Roman Army had a religion that was equated to emperor worship. Soldiers were often required to worship the unit standard, so it was the religion of the Roman Army that kept the Early Christians from military service, NOT the military itself. There is nothing to indicate that force could not be used, if used "appropriately."

War is a horrible thing, but pacifism has been twisted over the years into a tool just as deadly as war, in my opinion. Pacifism has corrupted enormous numbers of people because it does not have any way of avoiding wickedness or setting limits to it.

Zbigniew Brzezinski said, "I believe that pacifism would dictate the victory of evil in our world and that it

is escapist to think otherwise the practice of pacifism in our historical age would mean that Auschwitz would have become not a monument to a evil past, but our current, reigning reality. The Gulag, too, would define the essence of our contemporary human existence. Therefore I do believe that there are values worth dying for."

We go to war, as a nation, when the government issues the warrant – I, as a Sailor, professionally execute that warrant. I have a duty to obey those in authority over me, and a responsibility to those in my charge. Professionalism is built around the trained and restrained use of deadly force. If war cannot be prevented, then I am ready to professionally employ violence. However, my fundamental task is the preservation of peace by preventing war and by fighting in such a manner that the restoration of peace will not be hampered.

As a Christian Marine what is my contract with society? In the words of the Catholic Letter: "All those who enter the military service, in loyalty to their country should look upon themselves as the custodians of the security and freedom of their fellow-countrymen; and where they carry out their duty properly they are contributing to the maintenance of peace."

Society must treat Marines with compassion and respect, in return.

The next time you hear an argument for conscientious objectors or pacifism realize that many gave their lives so that the argument could be given a forum.

Sergeant Major of Women Marines retires, 1976



An era ends as the sixth and last Sergeant Major of Women Marines, Grace A. Carle, retires at a ceremony held at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., Oct. 30, 1976.

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