



PASS IN REVIEW

Serving "The Oldest Post of the Corps"

May 2000



Oldest Post bids farewell to 13th barracks sergeant major

MCI Grad of the Year - Asian-Pacific Heritage Month

Marine Barracks sergeants major: Past and Present



by Sgt. Maj. D. Scott Frye
Outgoing sergeant major

I hope the barracks Marines take something away from the time I spent here.

I tried to achieve balance in my every-day effort to put forth the image of a Marine who knew his job, took care of his Marines, instilled discipline when necessary, offered compassion when necessary, and demonstrated pride and enthusiasm as a Marine in and out of uniform. I trust that my Marines took notice of my twenty-four hour a day work ethic – first in/last out – and my focus on maintenance of physical fitness.

Marine Barracks will always be near to my heart. It was my home for the last 39 months, and it is indeed a spiritual home for all Marines – past and present.

I thoroughly enjoyed my tour and feel confident that on my watch, we maintained the high, historic standards of excellence that the “Oldest Post of the Corps” is renown for.

My best to all the Marines and their families. I deeply appreciate their hard work and sacrifice. They are making history – special history – each and every day.

“Marine Barracks will always be near to my heart. It was my home for the last 39 months ...”

Sgt. Maj. D. Scott Frye

by Sgt. Maj. Ronnie L. Edwards
Incoming sergeant major

Being assigned to the “Oldest Post in the Corps” is a dream come true for me. It doesn’t get any better than this.

As I look around, I see the barracks working like a well-oiled machine, so I’m not looking to change the way the battalion does business. I just want to do my part to make a great command even better.

I would like to personally thank Col. Brickhouse for this opportunity and for having the confidence in me to take the post of barracks sergeant major.

My main focus is the 1,200 Marines stationed here. I’m looking forward to getting out and meeting each and every one of them – the Marines in the spotlight, and those behind the scenes.

I am very impressed with the more visible elements of the barracks, but I am equally impressed by the Marines in the Motor Transport section, Grounds/Maintenance section, S-1 – Marines in each and every section.

I think it’s important to understand that only by working as a team, are we as good as perceived.

“Being assigned to the ‘Oldest Post of the Corps’ is a dream come true for me.”

Sgt. Maj. Ronnie L. Edwards

Public Affairs Office
Marine Barracks
8th & I Sts. S.E.
Washington, D.C.
20390-5000
(202) 433-4173

Commanding Officer

Col. G. Kevin Brickhouse

Public Affairs Officer

Capt. Kenneth E. Lucas

Public Affairs Chief

Gunnery Sgt. Shannon Arledge

Press Chief

Sgt. Sean Fitzpatrick

Editor

Sgt. Sara Storey

Media Chief

Sgt. Justin C. Bakewell

Staff Writer

Cpl. Matthew E. Habib



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Sergeant Major D. Scott Frye ends his tour as barracks sergeant major during a "Post and Relief" ceremony May 9. For details, see the story on page 4. (photo by Sgt. Sara Storey)

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Senior enlisted leadership at barracks changes hands

by Sgt. Justin C. Bakewell
Media Chief

Sergeant Major Ronnie L. Edwards relieved Sgt. Major D. Scott Frye as the sergeant major of Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., during a “Post and Relief” ceremony May 9.

Sergeant Major Edwards joins the barracks after serving as the sergeant major of Marine Corps Security Force company, Bangor, Washington. After more than three years at the barracks, Sergeant Major Frye will assume his new duties as the sergeant major of Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

As the barracks’ new sergeant major, Edwards is aiming to uphold the traditions of the Marine Corps, as well as the traditions of Marine Barracks. Edwards said the best way to accomplish this is by interacting with the Marines and having fun.

“The high visibility – the [marching] companies, the Color Guard, the Drum and Bugle Corps, the Silent Drill Platoon ... it’s amazing!” said Edwards. “I thought Marine Security Guard duty was pretty high-speed, but all the moving parts of the barracks are amazing. You can’t come to a place like this and sit in your office. You need to interact with the Marines.”

Edwards said that while the demands of “spit and polish” are going to continue, he hopes to be a breath of fresh air.

“With so much going on at the barracks, senior Marines often forget how to have a good time,” said Edwards. “I’m fair, firm and compassionate, and if there is a way I

Sergeant Major D. Scott Frye salutes Col. G.K. Brickhouse, barracks commanding officer, as he ends his tour as the sergeant major of “The Oldest Post of the Corps.” (photo by Sgt. Sara Storey)



Sergeant Major Ronnie L. Edwards took over as the barracks sergeant major during a “Post and Relief” ceremony May 9. (photo by Sgt. Sara Storey)

can make it fun, [then that] is what I want to leave [the Marines with].”

Sergeant Major Edwards is a native of Greenville, Miss. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in June 1976, and attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif.

After completing Infantry Training School in 1976, he was assigned to “E” company, 2d Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif. until June 1978.

In June 1978, he was assigned to “I” Company, 3d Battalion, 4th Marines, 3d Marine Division, Okinawa, Japan, as a platoon sergeant.

Edwards received orders to Drill Instructor School at Parris Island, S.C., in June 1979. Upon completing Drill Instructor School, he served as both drill instructor and senior drill instructor with “B” company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion. He was meritoriously promoted to staff sergeant, and completed his tour as a senior drill instructor.

Edwards was assigned as a platoon sergeant at the Officer Candidate School, Marine Corps Combat Development Center, Quantico, Va., in 1982. He served as academic instructor and academics scheduling chief during subsequent assignments to OCS. He was meritoriously promoted to gunnery sergeant during his tour at OCS.

In October 1985, Sergeant Major Edwards was assigned as the operations chief for the Tactical Evaluation

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Sergeant Major continued

Control Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Okinawa, Japan.

In October 1986, Sergeant Major Edwards received orders to Marine Security Guard School and upon completion of school, was assigned as the detachment commander for the American Embassy in Ouagadougou, Burkina, Faso in West Africa and for the American Consulate in Hamburg, West Germany.

From December 1989 until July 1993, he was assigned to 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, 2d Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, N.C., as company gunnery sergeant for Headquarters & Service company. Upon selection and promotion to first sergeant, he was assigned to "C" company and deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm. He also participated in operation Provide Promise off the coast of the country formerly known as Yugoslavia.

Edwards was assigned to the Inspector/Instructor Staff

Pittsburgh, Penn., in July 1993. While serving there as first sergeant for Military Police "B" company, he was selected for sergeant major.

Edwards was assigned to Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii where he served as sergeant major for Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 165 and Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 in August 1995.

Edwards was the sergeant major of Marine Corps Security Force company, Bangor, Wash., from April 1998 to May 2000, when he became the sergeant major of Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C.

Sergeant Major Edwards' personal awards and decorations include: the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with two gold stars in lieu of three awards; the Navy and

Marine Corps Achievement Medal; and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Sergeant Major Edwards is married to the former Frenchie Keith of Myrtle Beach, S.C., and has two children, Ronnie and Ciera.

"You can't come to a place like this and sit in your office. You need to interact with the Marines."

Sgt.Maj. Ronnie L. Edwards



Check out the
Marine Barracks
Web site at
**www.
mbw.
usmc.
mil**

CMC honors MCI's 1999 Graduate of the Year

*story and photo by Sgt. Sean Fitzpatrick
Press Chief*

The commandant of the Marine Corps presented the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal to Sgt. Lee S. Mahlstede Jr., Marine Corps Institute's 1999 Graduate of the Year, in a ceremony at the Pentagon May 9.

General James L. Jones presented Mahlstede with the medal for successfully completing 15 MCI courses, two Period of Military Education programs, and amassing considerable credit hours through off-duty education for an associates degree in general education during one fiscal year. He was also recognized for his extensive community contributions as an assistant soccer coach and Sunday school teacher, and his positive influence on his unit, the Marine Corps, and the local community.

Mahlstede, accompanied by his wife Michelle during his visit here, said the award was a pleasant and completely unexpected surprise.

"It's an honor [to be selected]," said Mahlstede. "[Michelle] has helped me with every step of my career, and she is excited to see our efforts rewarded. Honestly, neither one of us expected this type of an award for learning more about the job I do - we didn't even know the award existed."

Mahlstede said he not only wanted to refresh his understanding of the knowledge and skills every Marine learns in basic training, but also to improve his knowledge-base as an electrician.

"One reason I completed so many MCIs is because we had a little competition going in the office to see who could get different and interesting MCIs," said Mahlstede. "We've since used the course manuals to train our Marines, and [I've found] if you approach the courses in a positive manner, the morale within the work center increases, as does [the Marines'] basic knowledge."

The number of MCIs Mahlstede's completed is daunting, but perhaps more impressive are the results. His "leadership by example" has had a huge impact on the 20 other Marines in his shop. Last year they had three meritorious promotions, three Marines of the Quarter, two NCOs of the Quarter for the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron, and one NCO of the Quarter for the 3rd Marine Air Wing.

The announcement of his award also brought about other, unforeseen rewards. According to Mahlstede, the publicity motivated several Marines' to take MCI courses



General James L. Jones, commandant of the Marine Corps, presents Sgt. Lee S. Mahlstede Jr., Marine Corps Institute's 1999 Graduate of the Year, with the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal May 9.

beyond the required minimum.

"I think that is an outstanding product and testimonial to the impact of this award on a unit," said Mahlstede.

Aside from the elation and pride of being the MCI Graduate of the Year, he said he and his wife are really excited about visiting the nation's capitol.

"It is an honor, and I am grateful for this selection," said Mahlstede. "This is the first time my wife and I have been to Washington, D.C., and we think it's an honor that we have had such an important 'welcoming committee!'"

Eugene Proctor, president of the National Capital Council Navy League of the United States, was part of that committee and presented Mahlstede with a plaque and a \$500 savings bond.

Mahlstede, a Radar Set Test Station technician at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., was meritoriously promoted to sergeant in May 1999. He will complete his degree through the Meritorious Enlisted Commissioning Education Program while attending the University of Utah in August. He also said he would like to earn his pilot wings and maybe fly one of the sleek F-18s he works with everyday.

USNA company supports Commissioning Week

by Sgt. Sara Storey
Editor

Marines from the United States Naval Academy company supported Commissioning Week at the academy by performing ceremonial duties and providing security details from May 19, until graduation May 24.

Midshipmen participate in events during Commissioning Week celebrating their transition from midshipmen to commissioned officers.

Marines from USNA company played a significant role throughout the week. They performed a Colors Ceremony May 19, at Tecumseh Court in front of Bancroft Hall, where students live while attending the academy; executed ceremonial drill for the Dedication Parade and Parent's Day; and provided security for these events and the commencement ceremony.

"These Marines are an integral part of the commencement evolution," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Ann Trevarrow, USNA, protocol writer. "The ceremonies went off flawlessly. That wouldn't have been possible without the support of the Marines here."

Commissioning Week ended for the Marine after the May 29 graduation, where they performed several security measures before any of the



Marines from USNA company participate in a Colors Ceremony at Tecumseh Court at the Naval Academy. (photo by Carrie Norris)

students or guests arrived at Memorial Stadium.

This included guarding the stage during graduation to help ensure none of the 34,000 guests or 70 media representatives went in restricted areas.

"Our job during [Commissioning Week] doesn't change a lot from our day-to-day routine, it's just much more visible this week," said Sgt. Jeremy D. Norris, USNA company, operations chief.

According to Trevarrow, due, in part, to the Marines efforts, the ceremony for the 935 graduates went off without a hitch.



PFC Steve P. Ashman, USNA company, is one of 15 Marines providing security for the commencement ceremony. (photo by Sgt. Sara Storey)

Post receives thanks for participation in Bone Marrow Drive

April 13, 2000

Dear Colonel Kevin Brickhouse,

I would like to thank you for your contribution in the Bone Marrow Drive held at Henderson Hall on March 30, 2000. The participation Headquarters Battalion received was tremendous, and I know that this is due in part, to your support. Please pass on to the Marines of 8th and I my appreciation for a job well done.

I am always delighted to see our military members

continuously reaching out to help other families, not only in our military communities, but in our civilian communities as well.

Again, I would like to thank you for your support. We could not have done it without you.

With best wishes and Semper Fi,

Nancy P. Anderson

Colonel, United States Marine Corps

SDP tours the streets of Philadelphia during PME

by Sgt. Justin C. Bakewell
Media Chief

The United States Marine Silent Drill Platoon recently toured the streets of Philadelphia, Pa., and reenacted the founding of the Marine Corps at Tun Tavern during a Professional Military Education period, April 12.

The Marines toured the same streets that our nation was built upon, in conjunction with a performance in New Jersey on April 13.

The day began for the Marines by walking through the streets of Philadelphia. Led by Capt. Todd M. Boeding, "A" company, Silent Drill Platoon, platoon commander, the Marines viewed various sights, such as the locations of the First and Second Continental Congress as well as the famous Liberty Bell.

"This trip was organized in order to break up the monotony of the average commitment," said Boeding. "I felt that the opportunity to tour Philadelphia would further the Marines appreciation for the founding of our country and Corps."

The Silent Drill Platoon, which is familiar with traveling and performing around the United States and abroad, appreciated the change of pace, according to Lance Cpl. David L. Binkley, "A" company, Silent Drill Platoon. With their hectic schedule they are accustomed to arriving at the performance sight and having very little time to experience the surrounding area.

"Last year when we performed, everything seemed so rushed. It seemed like the schedule was always the same: from the plane, to the bus, do the show, back to the bus, to the airport," said Binkley. "Every so often we would have an over-night trip, but it wasn't until this year that we began to enjoy the surrounding sights."

After walking through the streets of Philadelphia, the Silent Drill Platoon ate dinner at the City Tavern. The original Tun Tavern, where the first Marine was recruited, no longer exists, therefore this restaurant, with its colonial setting, was the next best place.



Members of the United States Marine Silent Drill Platoon enjoy dinner at the City Tavern, near Tun Tavern's original location in Philadelphia, Pa. (photo by Sgt. Justin C. Bakewell)

"What better place to have a PME than in Philadelphia, near the original location of Tun Tavern," said Sgt. Ryan L. Blaine, "A" company, Silent Drill Platoon, drill master.

Various Marines in the platoon volunteered to reenact the founding of the Marine Corps. The platoon commander assigned Marines with characters, then it was up to the individual to do the research. Many of our founding fathers were represented, from Samuel Nichols, to John Adams. Because no one really knows how the sequence of events took place during the founding of the Corps, the Marines had to ad lib their lines, making the performance that much more entertaining.

"It motivated me to watch my fellow Marines act out the first hours of the Corps' history," said Lance Cpl. Tyronne C. Cole, "A" company, Silent Drill Platoon. "I'm glad to be a part of the rich history of the Marine Corps."

Once the Marines introduced themselves and gave a brief background of the character, the reenactment began. They covered the founding of the Corps, the appointment of the first commandant, and the enlistment of the first Marine.

The Marines truly enjoyed their PME in Philadelphia and hope to have more like it in the future.

"I learned many things about the history of our country and Corps because of the PME to Philadelphia, I hope we get the chance to tour more areas during future performances," said Pfc. John M. Vaughn, "A" company, Silent Drill Platoon.

"What better place to have a PME than in Philadelphia, near the original location of Tun Tavern?"

Sgt. Ryan L. Blaine

Motor-T section receives Certificate of Commendation

Colonel G.K. Brickhouse, barracks commanding officer, presented the Motor Transport section, Headquarters & Service company with a Certificate of Commendation May 26 for "exceptional performance of duty while serving Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., from October 1999 through March 2000. During this period, the Marines of the Motor Transport section have consistently performed their demanding duties in an exemplary and highly professional manner while driving under difficult and challenging urban conditions. The Motor Transport Marines supported over 2,824 barracks commitments while accumulating over 138,371 road miles. On a daily basis, wherever and whenever required, the Marines of this section have provided timely, safe and professional support to Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C. Their professionalism reflected great credit upon themselves and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps."



Marines from the Motor Transport section, Headquarters & Service company, received congratulations for supporting almost 3,000 Barracks commitments and driving nearly 140,000 miles in an urban environment. (photo by Sgt. Sara Storey)

Marine Barracks first "Evening Parade" draws large crowd



The United States Marine Band, the United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps, the United States Marine Silent Drill Platoon, and the United States Marine Color Guard perform for nearly 4,500 spectators every parade.

Parade season started May 5 and ends August 25, with "Evening Parades" presented at Marine Barracks each Friday, and "Sunset Parades" performed at the Marine Corps War Memorial each Tuesday. (photo by Gunnery Sgt. Shannon Arledge)

First-ever, *EXCLUSIVE* interview with

by Sgt. Sean Fitzpatrick
Press Chief

Imagine having a job with full medical and dental, a chauffeur, free room and board (clothing is optional), receive baby-talk praise constantly, retire in 10 years with full benefits, and only perform one hour of actual work a day (walk 50 feet and sit).

No, this is not the life of a \$350 million lottery winner. This is the life of the barracks' mascot.

About the only thing missing from her Nirvana existence are German Shepherds fanning her with palm leaves.

So it came as a surprise to the personnel in the barracks Public Affairs Office how easy it was to get the mysterious purebred to agree (using a handful of bacon) to her first, exclusive interview.

Thank you for agreeing to the interview.

"It is my pleasure. You were the first to ask."

You mean nobody else ever wanted to talk with you before?

"Certainly, but only in that high-pitched 'OGGY-BOOGY-SCHNOOGAMS' baby-talk. Makes me clam right up. Can't stand it. Shows a lack of character."

(Pause. Dog licks feet and tail, looks up at interviewer and somehow manages to appear casual).

Uh humm. Well, thank you for finding the time. I'm sure your fans will appreciate it. Let's go ahead with the first question.

What is your full name?

"My official name is Lance Cpl. Chesty XI, but most Marines who know me or work for ... I mean, with me call me by my nickname Molly. The first female Marines were called Molly Marines, and I'm the Marine Corps' first female mascot, so ..."

I see, and how did you become the mascot and what type of "Devil Dog" are you?

"I was born in Roanoke, Va., on May 12, 1995, and enlisted in the Marine Corps three months later.

"I'm an English bulldog, which by long-standing tradition, is a prerequisite for the Military Occupational Specialty K9-1775. My recruiter said I was a shoe-in for the mascot."

That must have been *some* kind of age waiver. How could you join so young?

"Remember dog years and multiply by seven. I just celebrated my 35th birthday. I was young when I first



To broaden her horizons, Lance Cpl. Chesty XI, nicknamed Molly, is featured in a set of Navy Marine Corps News. (photo by Gunnery Sgt. Sha...

enlisted, but in retrospect, it was the right decision and it's all worked out for the best."

What are some of your responsibilities?

"My official mission is to help improve morale and promote a positive image of the Marine Corps, but I spend most of my time sleeping under Chief Warrant Officer [Joseph M.] Hurley's desk in the United States Marine Band's operations office.

"My most visible responsibility is to personally escort the mascot handler down Center Walk every Friday, but I also visit schools, hospitals and nursing homes, and sometimes lend a paw at Marine Corps events like the Marine Corps Marathon Expo and the Semper Fit Health Fair.

"I've been on numerous trips with the Battle Color Detachment and the Drum and Bugle Corps throughout the United States, Canada and France."

You must have been something of a celebrity.

"Oh yeah! Flying first cage, milk bones, you name it."

Must be nice, but some people say all the

Marine Barracks' mascot – MOLLY



Molly, recently toured the Naval Media Center and visited the Cannon Arledge)

paw-print autographed photos and petting have given you an ego, and that you refuse to sit on Center Walk during the parades.

“Hey, I don’t hear anyone who’s received a photo or petted me complaining. As for the parades, I’ve NEVER refused to sit. It’s just that everyone is always in such a hurry and that cement can get pretty hot in the summer. Why don’t you sit on it?”

Hey, I didn’t mean to offend ... (interrupts)

“I’m just saying, give me a second or two! After all, I only get to be a part of the parade for about 30 seconds or so anyway. It can’t be all that bad, because some people even say that I’m the most memorable part of the parade.”

Is that what you like least about being the mascot, sitting on Center Walk?

“No. Sometimes as the mascot I have to tour a ship. I hate being on a ship – canine head facilities are non-existent, and ships are greasy, loud and smell bad. Oh, and another thing – me wearing dress blues in the summer is

like you wearing a fur coat in the oven – it gets HOT!

“On the positive side, I like to make people smile – especially little kids, and I like the Marines who stop by the office to see how I’m doing. Those guys are great.”

Have you ever had to do anything strange because you are the mascot?

“A few years ago, I had to take a few dozen bites of birthday cake while photographers stood around and took my picture for the cover of the Marine Corps Times annual birthday issue. That was definitely going above and beyond. I DO have weight standards to think about.”

You do have an unusual figure, so what are the height and ... (interrupts)

“Watch it, buster! That’s a yellow zone question! I don’t know anything about dog standards, but for a 14-inch tall female Marine I’m well within standards at a lean, mean 55 pounds.”

Okay ... riiiiight ... moving right along. I understand you received Non Judicial Punishment because, as you say, you were hurried on the parade deck. Is that what happened?

“Yeah. You got a problem with that?”

No, but our readers might want ... (low throaty growl)

“Do you have some weird ‘zero defects’ mentality or what? I also have a Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Medal and a Meritorious Unit Citation.”

Do you consider yourself an East or West Coast Marine?

“I’m a United States Marine – period.”

Are you married or seeing anyone? Maybe thinking about a litter?

“The joke around the barracks is that if the Marine Corps wanted me to have a spouse and kids they’d have been issued to me. But, there is this cute yellow labrador named Joe who lives over at the [commanding officer’s] house, and when he runs across the parade deck ... (sigh)”

Do you have other job offers or are you making a career out of the Corps?

“Off-duty time I’ve moonlighted as the mascot for the Boy Scout troop at Marine Corps Base Quantico, and in a way that’s really connected to my official full-time duties as the barracks’ mascot.

“As for any other job offers, why would I even consider them? I’ve got the best job in the world right now – anything else would be a step down!”

Marine volunteers at local fire department

by Sgt. Sean Fitzpatrick
Press Chief

The fire engines' siren rises and falls in the distance. It's not good. It is never good.

It can mean anything from a fire tearing through downtown, or paramedics responding to a heart attack. Whatever the nature of the emergency, the siren carries the unmistakable tone of danger and the relief that people are coming to fight it.

Sergeant Jason P. Powers, assistant subsistence chief, is one of those rare people who become firemen. Rarer still, he is a volunteer at Riviera Beach Volunteer Fire Company #13 in Pasadena, Md.

It is a mission that requires a certain amount of risk and large amounts of responsibility, as well as the majority of Powers' free time. It requires in-depth training, long hours, and the strength of character to make life-or-death decisions in an instant.

According to Powers, it is a job that picks its employees.

"We arrived on the scene of a man having a heart attack seconds after the ambulance arrived," said Powers.

"He was an older man, maybe 80-years-old, and his heart rate was really low. The ambulance crew began putting a breathing tube down his trachea for max oxygen, and while they were doing that I was right on top of him performing CPR.

"We got him into the ambulance and attached the heart monitor, but he didn't make it. He died on the way to the hospital," said Powers. "You will know real quick if you're meant for this job."

Powers said he knew he was destined to be a fireman

since he was a boy. He grew up a few blocks away from the same fire house where he works today, and he and his friends would watch the trucks roar by. Inevitably, they asked the firemen questions about what they did and why they did it. Powers said he liked what he heard, and even cheered on a few friends who joined the department out of



Sergeant Jason P. Powers, Riviera Beach Volunteer Fire Company #13, says volunteering puts him one step closer to reaching his ultimate position -- a flight paramedic. (photo by Sgt. Sean Fitzpatrick)

high school, while he joined the Corps.

Years later, the Corps brought him full circle and put him in an ironic situation.

"It's hard to believe that I am on active duty and I'm back in my home town," said Powers, pointing to the audio equipment store across the street from Company #13. "I got my first car stereo there in high school, and my friends and I installed it. Now I work with people I went to school with. It's crazy."

Maybe not crazy, but certainly ironic. Crazy could be defined as walking through a burning building with a little bit of equipment and a whole lot of guts. Despite common public opinion, a firefighter's equipment is fire-retardant, not fireproof. It is a point he is quick to make.

"In Fire School, they put us in a burning building and gave us our first taste of fire, and man let me tell you, it gets hot!" said Powers. "The suit is not fireproof and we definitely feel the heat inside. Dehydration and heat casu-

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Fireman continued

alties are constant threats, even more than the fire. If you don't drink enough water or stay physically fit you could go down, and the other firefighters would have to waste time helping you, when they should be doing something else."

However, the fight on the ground is not what motivates Power. It is only a stepping stone to reach his goal of being a flight paramedic. In his eyes, it is the ultimate position.

Flight paramedics deal with "Priority One Patients," patients on the cusp of death. Whether by traumatic injuries from vehicular accidents, or transferring patients from hospital "A" to hospital "B", every call demands instantaneous, accurate attention. The demands and the paramedics' ability to perform are reasons why Powers has set his sights on becoming one, and why he is paying for paramedic school on his own.

"That's what I want; that's my dream," said Powers. "But it is so difficult to get, because there are so few [flight

paramedics], and they love it. [In addition to the paramedic qualifications] they also have to be Maryland State Troopers, because the aircraft are owned by the Maryland State Police."

When Powers leaves the Marine Corps, he has plans to continue volunteering at Company #13, and eventually grab his seat in a helicopter. Whether the fight is on the ground or in the air, Powers said he loves being a fireman because of the way the mission gets accomplished.

"There is no one telling you what needs to be done," said Powers. "You have to know it. You cannot tell a man having seizures, 'hold on while I figure out the algebra for the dosage of medication for your age, height and weight.' You have to do all that in your head. You have to know it, and it's part of going in as a team, with everyone knowing exactly what to do, that I love. People expect that kind of perfection, and I can't afford to give them anything less."

Marines join community for Earth Day 2000 cleanup



Marines from the barracks participated in Earth Day celebrations May 6. They planted flowers and trees in the neighborhood surrounding Marine Barracks. The volunteers were joined by civilians from The Earth Day Partnership. (photos by Cpl. Matthew E. Habib)

*by Sgt. Sara Storey
Editor*

Sixty barracks' Marines joined forces with The Earth Day Partnership, a coalition of residents, businesses, and local non-profit organizations, to clean up the neighborhood surrounding Marine Barracks May 6.

This event was a follow-up of a smaller Earth Day celebration April 22. Marines have been a link in this partnership for more than five years.

Marines combined their efforts with civilian volunteers to pick up trash, landscape the area, and plant flowers and trees.

The greenery was purchased with grants and donations from various neighbors and friends surrounding Marine Barracks.

The Marines have participated in countless clean-up projects in and around the Washington area. As a neighbor in the Southeast D.C. community, Marine Barracks is always willing to help ensure the neighborhood remains clean and environmentally sound for the next generation.



May is "Asian-Pacific Heritage Month"

by Sgt. Sean Fitzpatrick
Press Chief

Each year, the president designates May as "Asian-Pacific Heritage Month," recognizing the successes and contributions made by this diverse and growing American community.

Because so many Asian-Pacific-Americans are new to the United States -- more than 70 percent are either first or second generation -- their historical contributions are often over-looked.

The Asian-Pacific population is composed of at least 29 different countries, according to The Research Division of the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla.

The first Asian-Pacific immigration began in the early 1840's when missionaries brought Chinese students to the United States for schooling in Massachusetts, and quickly escalated with the growing need for railroad construction.

The next wave of immigration hit the United States when Congress approved the New Immigration Act of 1965, abolishing all immigration quotas in the United States. This New Immigration Act greatly influenced Vietnamese families like Sgt. Vinh H. Nguyen's, Marine Corps Institute company, administrative NCO, who fled communist North Vietnamese occupation in 1977.

"My mother was an interpreter for the Cultural Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Vietnam," said Nguyen. "At the fall of Saigon, we were evacuated to Singapore [in a helicopter flying off the Embassy's roof], and then

First Presbyterian Church in Cookeville, Tenn., sponsored our transportation to the United States."

His family eventually moved to Orange County, Calif., where they became the focus of a small community, similar to what Elian Gonzales recently experienced in Miami.

Nguyen's family eventually adapted to life in America. His father finished law school, and Nguyen fell in love with the Marine Corps after he seeing a "Friday Evening Parade."

*"... I am who I am now,
partially because of my
family's experience
adjusting to life in
America, but also
because of the
opportunities I have
living here."*

Lance Cpl. Edward Renner

While families like Nguyen's are recent immigrants, families like Sgt. Colin S. Hayakawa's, United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps, bugler, have lived in the United States for the past five generations.

"My mother grew up in south central [Los Angeles,] and my dad grew up in [Montebello, Calif.,] outside of Los Angeles," Hayakawa explained. "We're pretty much Americanized, but we also remember where we came from. You can't ever forget that."

Asian-Pacific-Americans, whose communities reflect the military's diversity and cohesion, also have a distinguished reputation in the United States Armed Forces. There are the famed Japanese-American 100th In-

fantry Battalion, the Korean augmentation to the U.S. Army (KATUSA), and numerous individuals selfless bravery.

Joining the military has even become a tradition in Hayakawa's family.

"My whole family is in the military," said Hayakawa. "My dad was a [Navy] master chief, my grandpa was in the Army, my other grandpa was in the Navy, and my uncle is a Marine. I even had an uncle stationed in [Bethesda, Md.]"

The Asian-Pacific experience in America is a mixture of old traditions and American culture, and depending on the family it creates a unique personality, according to Lance Cpl. Edward Renner, Headquarters & Service company, S-1, personnel clerk.

"I have a rich mixture of German and Filipino culture and values," said Renner. "My family abided by a vigorous work ethic and taught that family comes first. There was also an unwritten rule among Asian children when I was growing up -- you never let anyone out think you on a test. So, I am who I am now, partially because of my family's experience adjusting to life in America, but also because of the opportunities I have living here."

Opportunity has been America's hallmark since the War of Independence. Today, more than four million Americans who trace their ancestry to Asia or the Pacific Islands, are afforded every chance at success because their forefathers' heroic struggle to carve out a better life. May's designation as "Asian-Pacific Heritage Month" serves as a reminder of their contributions.

Press shop Marines let off some steam

by Sgt. Sara Storey
Editor

The steam rises from the presser as white trousers and blue jackets get pulled from their hangers and laid flat across the presser to be ironed.

The Marine standing before the presser wipes the beads of sweat from his brow with the back of his hand, as another Marine with another set of uniforms steps up to the counter.

"Take a number and fill out the logbook, please," says Lance Cpl. Michael P. Higgins, Headquarters & Service company, press shop operator.

Higgins and the three other Marines working in the press shop iron more than 300 uniforms each week. They iron creases and smooth wrinkles for Marines in H&S company, Marine Corps Institute company, the United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps company, and even the barracks mascot.

"The number of uniforms really fluctuates depending on the number of ceremonial commitments the Marines have in a week," said Higgins. "Friday is our busiest day, but we almost always have a steady stream of uniforms coming through."

In addition to the uniforms that



Lance Corporal Michael P. Higgins, Headquarters & Service company, press shop operator, carefully lays trousers on the presser and steams the wrinkles from them. (photos by Sgt. Sara Storey)

are pressed, the press shop Marines smooth the wrinkles from tablecloths for use in the chow hall, rec center, and for other parade events.

Keeping up the barracks' "spit and polish" image requires the Marines in the press shop to take a little extra time to ensure a perfect crease, or a perfectly smooth tablecloth.

"The things we press will be seen by thousands of spectators, so we do our best to make sure it's done right," said Higgins.

"The pressing process takes a little time, so when we get a load of uni-



forms in on Friday, we can't spend as much time on each individual uniform," said Higgins. "If a Marine knows about an upcoming ceremonial commitment, he should bring his uniform in as early as possible instead of waiting for the last minute. This saves us both time, and ultimately, his uniform will get a better press, because we won't be rushed."

Press shop hours

During parade season:
7 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday,
Wednesday and Thursday
7 a.m. - 6 p.m. Tuesday
7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Friday

During off-season:
7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Daily

Authorized items:

Uniforms worn in the conduct of ceremonies or ceremony rehearsals (marchers, hosters, parking detail, etc. for parades, phase I and II, funerals, and other ceremonial events).

Sheets/Tablecloths from the dining facility, MCCA, and grounds

Dress uniforms worn by the guard section during parades

Unauthorized items:

Camouflage utilities will not be pressed. This action damages the metal cover on the machine and causes an uneven press on the dress and service uniforms.

Jet skiing gives Marine thrills with break-

by Sgt. Sean Fitzpatrick
Press Chief

American's have an affinity for machines and competition. It is not enough to simply have a car, a motorcycle, or even a jet ski. Someone has to make it sleeker, faster – better. It was true in the '60s when Harrison Ford and Richard Dreyfuss were cruising the strip in "American Graffiti," and it is still true with jet skis.

Jet ski racing has been speeding into the extreme sports' scene for more than a decade. Its relatively low participation cost – the price of the jet ski, minimal equipment and a nominal International Jet Sport Boat Association annual membership – and easy access make it a target sport for anyone who likes the water.

Staff Sergeant Todd A. Young, Headquarters & Service company, Mess Hall, galley captain, is relatively new to the sport and is already making waves with his natural ability. He also clinched one of 56 available positions in 1997 and 1998 for the World Finals, placing 28th and 29th respectively.

Young got his first taste of jet skiing as a summer diversion when he was in the Delayed Entry Program. In no time at all he was shredding waves and catching "mad air" on his personal jet ski, and people took notice.

"I loved it," said Young, describing his first ride. "I have a knack for this sport; it's something I picked up on pretty easily. I asked questions and started doing what the competitive skiers were doing, but it was two of my friends who really showed me the ropes."

His new friends were a husband and wife racing team, before Young joined them to form the "Camp Copley" team. The Copleys shared their knowledge of racing, and most importantly, they taught Young how to maintain his own jet ski to keep costs down. Six years after he broke into the racing circuit, Young has invested more than \$30,000 dollars into his hobby; he owns three jet skis; a large trailer filled with enough spare parts to build an engine for a fourth; and a bookshelf lined with trophies.

"My first memorable win was about two years ago," said Young. "The awards announcer cupped the microphone as I walked up to receive my trophy, and he asked if this was my first – first place win. He stopped the



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presentation when I told him that it was, and then told the audience. I knew all the racers in the crowd, but it felt pretty special to have the announcer stop to tell them."

This friendly, personal treatment colors everything about this sport, according to Young.

"At my racing level, [I am my own pit crew], so if anyone has a trick to go faster we share it," said Young. "We're all very competitive – we are on the water, banging fiberglass, but I've seen racers wipe out and the guy in front of him turn around and see if he was okay. There are no hard feelings."

There are three types of jet ski competitors: novices, experts, and professionals; and three classes of jet ski

neck speeds and razor-sharp turns



Sergeant Todd A. Young, Headquarters & Service company, 1st Marine Air Landing Helicopter Battalion, galley captain, races his jet ski in the 1998 World Finals, finishing 29th of 56. He's been jet skiing since his entry in the Marine Corps Entry Program. (photos courtesy of Vic Stiles Photography)

competition: stock (right off the shelf), limited (over the counter parts), super-stock (any modification that does not alter the skids or frame), and modified (no limitations). The International Jet Sport Boating Association lets the racers decide their racing level.

Safety is a main concern for Young and other competitors. He spent time learning safety precautions before buying a jet ski, and encourages other riders to do the same.

Simple safety steps are some of the most important -- wearing a life jacket and helmet. These are critical for racers and weekend jet skiers.

Young just finished a year-long tour on Okinawa, and will continue racing as a novice on a super-stock jet ski until he gets comfortable riding again.

"I spent a year on Okinawa and never even rode. Not once," said Young. "I know, I know ... it's this big island

and I never ever got the chance to ride, but there was just no competition. I'd like to start racing experts, but that's the point isn't it, to look for the next challenge?"

One of the challenges any racer faces is what Young calls "reading the water." Most Washington, D.C., drivers will vouch for the importance of watching the road for potholes and debris. Water is not that much different.

Jet skis put out a fairly large wake when they bolt across the water at more than 55 mph. When 15 or 20 jet skis tear through a racetrack, their combined wakes create a "washing machine effect." Essentially, this is a patch of water churning, spinning and boiling over in a hundred different directions.

"If you negotiate it correctly, it isn't a problem," said Young. "You can lean back and ride over it. You can even pull up on the handlebars and jump it, but if you let the ski nose down you're going under -- totally submerged. That's why we call those things holes. They're great if you're competing in a free-style competition -- the move is called a submarine -- but it's no good in a race."

Races last anywhere from five minutes to a half an hour, depending on the length and number of laps. The laps are a real change from most motor races because they have forks and alternate routes. This prevents any one motorist from hogging the inside lane, but it also creates intersections and potential hazards. Despite these, and other inherent risks of motor racing, Young said jet skiing is probably the safest of them all.

"I've never seen anyone get seriously hurt," said Young. "It's all bumps and bruises. Besides, we know each other, [and] we look out for one another."

Young has his sights set on racing professionally, but he still loves the Marine Corps more than watercraft racing.

"I could race all day, every weekend, and never get tired of it. I just love it that much," said Young. "If I could find a way to bring the Corps and racing together, and make a living I think I'd be in Heaven."

"I could race all day, every weekend, and never get tired of it ... if I could find a way to bring the Corps and racing together ... I think I'd be in Heaven."

Staff Sgt. Todd A. Young

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

H&S Company

Sgt. G.O. Pageot
 Cpl. B.M. Blackburn
 Cpl. V.R. Lauersdorf Jr.
 Cpl. C.D. Register
 Cpl. K.S. Round
 Lance Cpl. M.A. Barton
 Lance Cpl. C.A. Bennett IV
 Lance Cpl. L.A. Castillo
 Lance Cpl. S.R. Dollard
 Lance Cpl. M.J. Frame
 Lance Cpl. M.R. McHugh
 Lance Cpl. B.V. Mohr
 Lance Cpl. A.W. Peterson
 Lance Cpl. A.D. Rivera
 Lance Cpl. R.B. Schaafsma
 Lance Cpl. J.M. Steffen
 Lance Cpl. E.J. Taylor

MCI Company

Master Sgt. C.D. Sullivan
 Master Sgt. J.L. Teachey
 Sgt. A.M. McCreary

"A" Company

Cpl. R.W. Almond
 Cpl. C.P. Ambrose
 Cpl. R.T. Jordan
 Cpl. T.J. Miklos
 Lance Cpl. J.C. Crader
 Lance Cpl. J.L. Phillips
 Lance Cpl. J.D. Samples
 Lance Cpl. A.M. Wohlever

"B" Company

Cpl. A.V. Williamson

Security Company

Sgt. D.K. Lockett
 Cpl. K.L. Abbotts
 Cpl. N.J. Aljets
 Cpl. J.N. Cari

Cpl. D.S. Donaghy
 Cpl. J.J. Garcia

USNA Company

Sgt. J.J. Gobin
 Lance Cpl. D.N. Hutson

D&B Company

Staff Sgt. C.E. Hall
 Sgt. R.J. Eide
 Sgt. G.M. Freeman
 Lance Cpl. N.J. Goessl

Congratulate the following Marines on the awards they recently received.

Meritorious Service Medal

MGySgt. J.P. O'Keefe

Navy Commendation Medal

Capt. P.M. McGee

Capt. E.H. Traupe
 Capt. J.W. Walker
 Gunnery Sgt. S.L. Samuels III

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Master Sgt. A.G. Jones
 Master Sgt. P.J. Marino
 Gunnery Sgt. B.M. Stanly
 Sgt. R.L. Blaine
 Cpl. A. Pagan
 Lance Cpl. M.K. Akhtar
 Lance Cpl. J.J. High

Certificate of Commendation

Motor Transport section
 Lance Cpl. W.P. Phillips

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. Please include your spouse's first name and middle initial; and the baby's weight full name, and date of birth.

OUTSTANDING!

Captain Patrick M. McGee, Headquarters & Service company, executive officer, stands at attention as Col. G.K. Brickhouse, barracks commanding officer, presents him with the Navy Commendation Medal, May 3.



Memorial Day: A time to honor our nation's heroes

by Lt. Gregory C. Cathcart
Barracks chaplain

Most people think of Memorial Day as the beginning of summer, and their thoughts turn to warm summer days filled with long weekends of family picnics and trips to the lake.

Most Americans probably don't think of the holiday's origins, which occurred during a time when war was tearing apart families, states, and America. I would like to share a brief history of the start of the Memorial Day celebration, as it is explained in the article from U.S. Holidays.

In 1866 the country was recovering from the ravages of the Civil War.

"A drugstore owner named Henry Welles from Waterloo, New York, thought it would be the honorable thing to close all the shops in town to honor those who were killed and buried in the local cemetery. To that end, on this morning of May 5 the towns' people placed flower wreaths and crosses on the graves of the Northern soldiers. More over, General Jonathan Logan planned for another ceremony of those who survived the war in which he led the veterans through town to the cemetery to decorate the graves of their comrades with flags. It was not a happy celebration, but rather a memorial.

Those who observed that day called it 'Decoration Day.'

"In 1868 the two ceremonies were joined together and the northern states commemorated the day on May 30. Children read poems, sang songs and civil war veterans came to their schools wearing their uniforms and medals to give first hand accounts of battles. Eventually, the veterans began to march through town, followed by the townspeople, to the local cemetery where rifles were shot in the air to honor the Northern soldiers who kept the states together.

"In 1882 the name was changed to Memorial Day and it became an official holiday. However, the southern states commemorated their war dead on different days until as recently as 1971, when then President Richard Nixon declared Memorial Day a national holiday the last Monday in May."

In America, we have all shared the blessing of peace within our borders for decades. Most active-duty military

members today have never been in or anywhere near actual combat, let alone entertained the idea of it within their country, state or hometown. The concept to most Americans is a foreign one – it seems we have enjoyed peace and freedom for so long that the idea of war anywhere seems unrealistic.

A person who has experienced the horrors of war fully appreciates what it means to live in America and enjoy its freedoms. But as all Marines know, freedom comes at a horrible cost, paid with human life.

History is littered with accounts of the many wars and battles, as well as the men and women who have gone down in history with their particular contribution to the effort. However, for every well-known Marine, soldier, sailor and airman, there are thousands of brave men and women performing courageous acts, that we may never know about.

For those who have seen war or have listened to stories from those who have been, there is no doubt that freedom is a treasure and its price is understood.

So often war has been glamorized by Hollywood without its tragic cost being illustrated until films such as "Coming Home" or "Saving Private Ryan." Most of today's young Marines who have seen the latter movie should realize that it was focusing on just one person's ordeal of war. But, for every war, battle, or peace-

keeping mission there are thousands of Marines, soldiers, sailors, and airmen that give everything, including their lives. Their actions are known only by God, but those unknown actions are what ensure that you and I can live in a place of peace and freedom.

Those brave souls help define the true meaning of Memorial Day. Many ceremonies and events take place over the holiday, and some well-known heroes may be mentioned or reflected upon, but I encourage you to honor, in your own way, the unsung heroes.

Honor those heroes who are not known, who never received notice or recognition, and were never listed on any footnote in history. They fought courageously so you and I would not have to. More often than not, it is those behind the scenes, who remain unknown, that we owe the most to.

Semper Fi and God bless.

"Honor those heroes who are not known, who never received notice or recognition, and were never listed on any footnote in history."

Lt. Gregory C. Cathcart

Marine Barracks, 1953



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