



# PASS IN REVIEW

Serving Marines, Sailors, and the families of "The Oldest Post of the Corps"

April 2004



*"8TH & 1" MARINES TAKE TIME  
TO SHARPEN FIELD SKILLS ...*

## OFF THE DECK



# CO'S CORNER

By Colonel Daniel P. O'Brien  
Barracks Commanding Officer

## Tis' the Season...

This edition of the Pass in Review comes to you as we are conducting final preparations for the 2004 Parade Season. As everyone at the Barracks knows, the summer is a VERY busy season for everyone assigned here. With 11 Tuesday night "Sunset Parades" and 17 Friday night "Evening Parades" on top of the already hectic security commitments, educational and ceremonial duties, and many support functions that keep us all busy year round, our summer calendar has very little "free time." However, at this time of the year, when we are not in "parade season," I am often asked by those unfamiliar with the battle rhythm of the Post "what do you all do at the Barracks when you aren't doing those parades?"

I am writing this article on an airplane heading to California to spend a few days with the Battle Color Detachment. The BCD begins public performances for the 2004 season at Camp Pendleton and at MCRD San Diego during the next few days. Today I was at a meeting of East Coast Base and Station Commanders at Camp Lejeune and got to spend a few minutes last night with the officers of Company B who are conducting non-lethal weapons training at Camp Lejeune with their Marines this week. Next week Company A will send Marines to Camp Dawson in West Virginia for mountain warfare training. We have Marines on the rifle range, Marines attending resident Professional Military Education, and armed Marines standing post at various locations. I visited the Motor Pool this week and know how busy (and safe!!) our team there is every day. A team from the Marine Corps Institute is out making annual "command visits" to units around the globe.

I met with our facilities team this week and can assure you that those Marines and Civilians are keeping a significant number of very important projects on track to maintain the "Oldest Post of the Corps." Their task is not easy and requires technical skills, the energy and experience to maneuver in the system. Without them the Post would never look as good as it does and would lose its ability to support our many functions. I spoke on the phone with the Executive Officer while waiting for this flight and learned that, among many other tasks, we handled two full-honors

funerals on the same day. I've heard from Protocol about several upcoming events and exchanged views with a few Marines about the upcoming summer and post-parade season personnel rotations. The admin section is hard at work checking in new Marines, taking care of those we have on board, preparing to commission new officers at Annapolis and making sure we'll have enough "cleared" Marines for all of the Inaugural events in January 2005.

In short, I tell my friends that "Marine Barracks Washington is a busy place year round!!!" It takes the attention, energy and professionalism of the entire team to make it work.

We've been very well taken care of in terms of the Marine Corps budget. We have those great blue buses, a renovated Mess Hall, the roofs have just been replaced, we have new doors on the Band Hall and there are many more renovation projects planned. The Annex is nearly complete and we've recently broken ground on a new Motor Pool. We've been able to afford to send many Marines to schools, and units for training and purchase new overcoats for our Marines who perform ceremonial duties in the extreme cold. However, as the Marine Corps sends thousand of Marines forward to Iraq, Afghanistan and Haiti, our service will be stretched to pay the bills. Part of those costs may cut into the budget that has allowed us to renovate our Post. As the Commandant prioritizes resources to support the operational units that are truly going "in harms way" we may have to postpone some of our projects. That is as it should be and our thoughts and prayers go with our Marines deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan and in other places around the world. Meanwhile, keep in mind that to the American people you represent all those forward deployed Marines. Let's do our part to honor their service.

Thanks for you hard work and devotion. 2004 is going to be a great year for the Oldest Post. Take care of one another.

Semper Fidelis,

Colonel Daniel P. O'Brien

# Pass in Review

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**On The Cover:** A graphic design featuring "B" Company Marines, during Non-Lethal Weapons and Tactics Training at Camp Lejune, NC. (Photo by Sgt. Travis W. Shiflett / Graphics by Sgt. Leah A. Cobble)

# Clark retires after **41**-year career

story and photo by Cpl. Nathan A. Tiller

## ► If you've ever

turned in an exam to the Marine Corps Institute, chances are it's passed through the hands of one woman, along with the exams of thousands of other Marines.

On Jan. 22 the Marine Corps lost one of its greatest civilian assets when Patricia Clark retired as registrar for MCI's Student Services Division after a cumulative 41-year government career, at a luncheon held aboard Washington Navy Yard.

While she was registrar, she

handled the enrollment and record management of hundreds of thousands of Marines, in addition to numerous other activities and tasks



**The Commanding Officer, Col. Daniel P. O'Brien, awards Patricia Clark for her 40-plus years of devotion to the Marine Corps Institute at her retirement ceremony held on Jan. 22.**

she had to handle on a day-to-day basis. She also acted as a catch-all,

providing services and offering assistance to any MCI student who needed help while they were taking courses from the Institute.

Looking back, Clark remembers her father serving in the Corps in the 1940s, which helped to develop her love for the military, the government and especially the Marines.

Nothing illustrates this more than the testimony of her fellow co-workers and friends, many of whom recently traveled great distances to be near the person who had touched their life. Clark's children flew in from Florida and Robert Rodriguez, a former corporal that worked with her, drove in from New York.

"She was like a mother figure," said Rodriguez. "She was always there to offer advice."

## CMC visits MCI



Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Michael W. Hagee, and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sergeant Major John L. Estrada visit to the Marine Corps Institute in order to get an up close and personal look at operations and new developments at MCI.

Seen here, Cpl. Jacob W. Bull, NCOIC, Student Services Development, shows Gen. Hagee and Sgt. Maj. Estrada how Marines enroll in classes through the MCI Website. (Photo by Sgt. Branden P. O'Brien.)

# First Sergeant Posts

The former Company First Sergeant for the Marine Corps Institute assumed duties as First Sergeant for "B" Company in a ceremony here Feb. 17.

First Sergeant John F. Forbes succeeds 1st Sgt Leon S. Thornton (now a sergeant major), who reported to the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Aircraft Wing Okinawa, Japan. (Photo by Lance Cpl. E. Ashley Thomas.)



## Marine Barracks welcomes new Color Sergeant

### ► Sergeant Brian T.

Strickland, an Ozark, Ala. native, was nominated as the 30th Color Sergeant of the Marine Corps here on Feb. 2.

Strickland enlisted in the Marine Corps in Sept. 1998 and attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina.

In Jan. 1999, after completing Marine Combat Training, he was assigned to Marine Air Training Support Group, Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., as a student for Marine Air Traffic Control. After graduating third in his class, he reported to calibration school at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Miss., where he spent five more months studying electronic theory.

In December 1999, after graduating calibration school, he was

assigned to MALS-14, MAG-14, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, Cherry Point, N.C., where he served as a calibration technician.

After his return from deployment in March of 2001 he received orders for Presidential Support Duty at Executive Flight Detachment HMX-1 located at Marine Corps Air Facility, Quantico, Va.

During June 2002 Strickland graduated from The Martial Arts Center of Excellence and was given a secondary MOS of Marine Corps Martial Arts Instructor. He is currently a certified Black Belt

Instructor and has personally trained



Sgt. Branden P. O'Brien

**Sergeant Major John L. Estrada, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, congratulates Sgt. Brian T. Strickland for being chosen as the 30th Color Sergeant of the Marine Corps.**

over 1,000 Marines.

Strickland will continue to serve the Corps as the next Color Sergeant of the Marine Corps.

# FROM SHINING SEA

MARINES HONE WATER SURVIVAL AND NIGHT SKILLS

# TO DAUNTING DARKNESS

Story and photos by Sgt. Stephen L. Traynham

The phrase, “every climb and place,” refers to a tract or region of the Earth. From the depths of the Mediterranean Sea to the darkness under the triple canopies of Thailand, Marines train in order to be prepared to fight in any condition. Today the Marines of Headquarters and Service Company, Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., left the comforts of home in the nation’s capital, in exchange for a day of field training targeted at ensuring this readiness. The training included a swim re-qualification and a trip to the Night Integrated Training Environment Lab aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico, Quantico, Va.

Swim qualification is something all Marines had to endure in boot camp. It is only fitting that the swimming skills of Marines are refreshed and exercised periodically, just like marksmanship, martial arts,

and close order drill.

“The Marine Corps is an amphibious fighting force, so it’s important for Marines to be confident in an aquatic environment. It’s our job at the Water Survival Section of The Basic School to instill that confidence in Marines,” said Sgt. Zachary J. Hulet, Chief Instructor for the Water Survival Section.

H & S Marines traveled to Ramer Hall Combat Conditioning Facility located on Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., where they tested their individual skills, completed a series of events and passed onto the different levels of qualification. The minimum required level for all Marines is Combat Water Survival level 4. Nonetheless, Marines are offered the opportunity to splash their way up the different qualifications to reach the top level: Water Safety Qualified.

While it may have been easy for

most of the Marines to adapt to the water — under the darkness of night, situations can take on a different appearance.

The Night Integrated Training Environment Lab is an indoor facility that simulates combative engagements and obstacles under the cover of complete darkness. In this training evolution, Marines were armed with modified M-16A2 service rifles and ANPVS7 B Night Vision Goggles to

Marines adjust to using their ANPVS7B night vision goggles to negotiate the obstacles in the Night Integrated Training Environment Lab aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.



Lance Cpl. Jason A. Jozwiak, guard section, Headquarters & Service Company, practices treading water during re-qualifications.

## Water Survival/Night Skills

manipulate the obstacles and take out “Carlos the International Terrorist.”

The M16s were mounted with PQ2 Aiming Devices on the handguards and laser beam transmitters on the front site aperture. These devices, along with blank rounds made it possible for the Marines to engage inanimate targets with the reality of firing a standard M16.

The Marines began in a practice room to acclimate to their newly found green and black vision. With their NVGs adjusted, the Marines negotiated through several obstacles they would later encounter throughout the course. After completing the practice room, they continued through several different rooms, each different in terrain as well as objective. They rescued hostages from a bus in the desert, infiltrated a drug lab in the jungle and even cleared a house after taking out a machine gun nest. All this with just the use of the AVPVS7B night

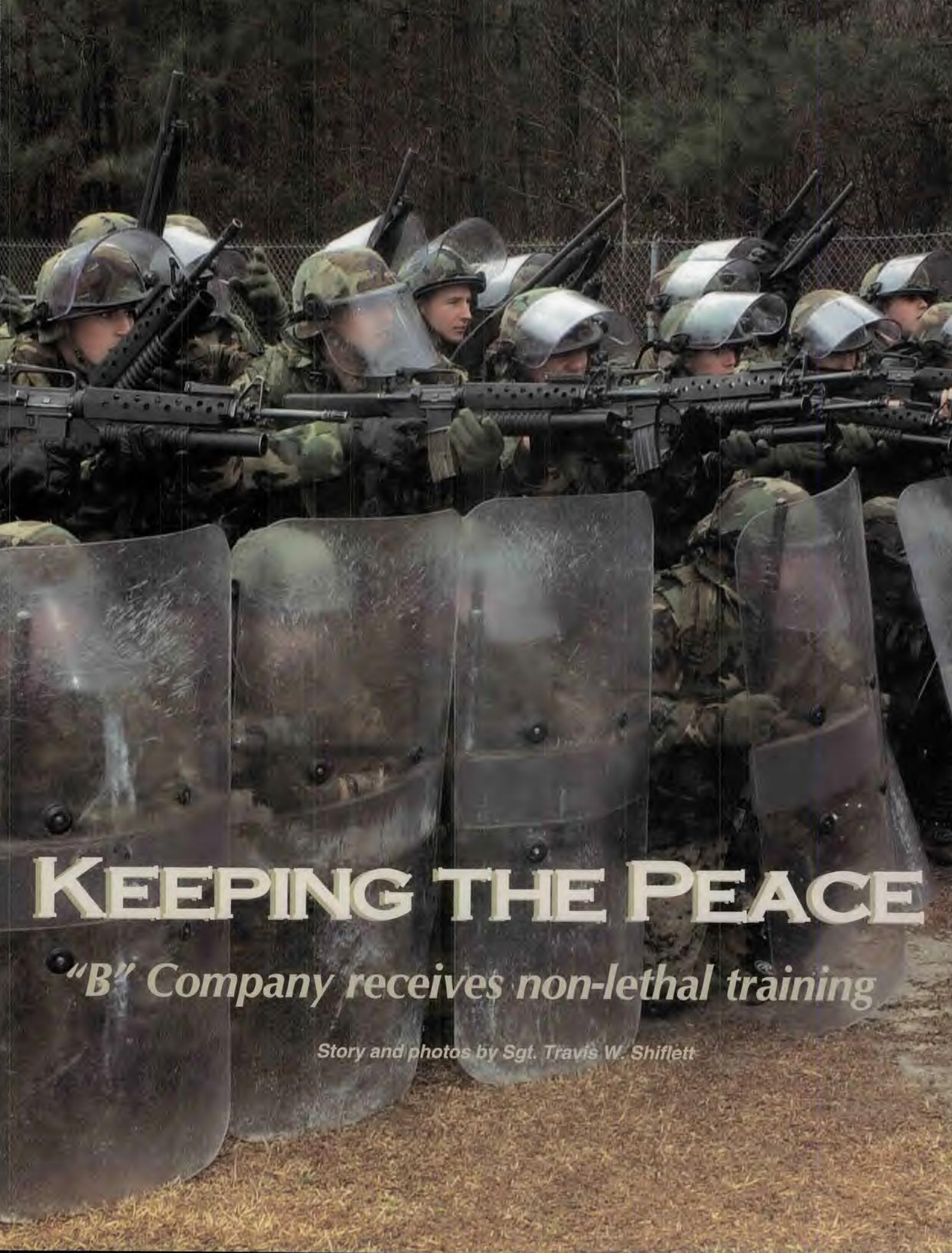
vision goggles.

If engaging “Carlos” wasn’t difficult enough, trying to negotiate a chain ladder, monkey bars, rope bridges, and even a simulated waterfall made up for the challenge. The night vision goggles provide the Marines with the ability to see in the dark, but they also alter their depth perception, which is why it is important to train in facilities like the N.I.T.E. lab.

The objectives of the N.I.T.E. Training Facility are reality based; the same goes for swim qualification. This is the case with most training evolutions conducted by the United States Marine Corps. In order for Marines to achieve the ultimate goal—winning wars—the training they receive is as close to a combat scenario as one could get without actually being in combat. In the words of retired Master Sergeant Michael B. Fink, N.I.T.E. Training Facility Administrator, “We train how we fight so we can fight how we train.”



Marines from Headquarters and Service Company gather up all their gear as they prepare to begin the annual swim re-qualification at Ramer Hall, Combat Conditioning Facility located on Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.



# KEEPING THE PEACE

*"B" Company receives non-lethal training*

*Story and photos by Sgt. Travis W. Shiflett*

## Keeping the Peace

“Accepting the consequences, I turned around and waited for the pain that was about to hit my face. One solid spray and the fire was burning, halfway through 10 pushups and my skin felt radio-active while needles prick my eyeballs—at least that’s how it felt. ‘Follow my voice,’ screamed an escort as I stumbled to a Marine holding a punching bag. Before throwing a punch I attempt to open my eyes, air and sunlight sweep in and suddenly those needles turn into nails—hot nails. Fumbling through two more stations, I made my way to the water hose and then the cool-down circle where there wasn’t much “cooling-down” taking place. An hour later, the fire started to feel more like an annoying sunburn, but after what I just went through a sunburn felt just fine.”

-- Sgt. Travis W. Shiflett; Combat Correspondent, Headquarters & Service Company.

▶ A Special Operations Training Group instructor sprays Oleoresin Capsicum into the face of Cpl. David B. Mack, police sergeant, "B" Company.



HM3 Tareem T. Hill, corpsman, Headquarters & Service Company, uses a water-hose to cool down the face of Cpl. Nicholas J. Boire, squad leader, "B" Company, who just completed the O.C. Certification Course.

In an effort to enhance their civil disturbance capabilities, nearly 120 Marines from "B" Company, Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., went to Camp Lejeune, N.C., Feb. 22 for a weeklong non-lethal weapons and tactics course.

Along with being sprayed by Oleoresin Capsicum in order to receive O.C. certification, the Marines were trained by the Special Operations Training Group in various crowd-control exercises including riot baton techniques, vehicle and personnel searches, commu-



**"B" Company Marines practice riot baton control techniques as part of their non-lethal weapons and tactics training.**

nication skills, riot control formations, the use of the M203 Grenade Launcher and Mossberg 500 Shotgun.

"This course was designed as a 10-day evolution for the MEU (Marine Expeditionary Unit) with the focus on non-lethal management of aggressive behavior," said SOTG Chief Instructor, Master Sgt. Daniel Dixon. "However, this training is pertinent for all Marines and especially for "B" Company because of their mission."

While the ceremonial commitments of the "Oldest Post" often overshadow their role as a civil disturbance response team, the Marines jumped at the chance to gain this valuable training. At first only a handful of Marines went to the course to become trainers but when the command saw the amount of great training and experience they returned with, it was decided that the entire Company would close up shop for a week, and board the buses for Camp Lejeune.

While much of the week was spent in less than desirable conditions due to a combination of cold temperatures, high winds and freezing rain, the Marines pressed on and gained valuable knowledge throughout the course. Each element of the course was first covered in a classroom setting under detailed lecture format; the instructors then demonstrated the techniques followed by plenty of practical application time for the students. At the end of the entire evolution, the Marines combined all that they had learned into a

field training exercise.

"I've been in the Company for three and a half years now and this was the best field operation I have ever been on," said Cpl. Joseph J. Ceremuga III, armory custodian. "The training we received at SOTG was far superior than any we had received before, and I hope we form our operating procedures around it."

As Gunnery Sgt. Jon P. Quimby, SOTG Instructor, kept reminding the Marines, the training that they gained will not only benefit them, it will also help future Marines who they can teach the techniques to, and most importantly will help protect the city and Marine Barracks if a situation were ever to arise.

Capt. Torey S. Hinkson, Commanding Officer, "B" Company, said the training will enhance his Marines' abilities to fulfill their mission.

"Overall, I thought the training was outstanding. It enhances our ability to execute our civil disturbance mission in and around D.C., and it also served to build camaraderie, esprit de corps, and pride within the company."

Although Marines are typically associated with lethal proficiency, the new war they face emphasizes urban threat, possible riots and terrorism at all levels. These Marines who march and pull ceremonial duty in the nation's capital now stand ready for any civil disturbance threat they may encounter.



**Sergeant Nicholas R. Kalokoski, platoon sergeant, "B" Company, is searched at a simulated checkpoint during vehicle and personnel search training.**

*Story and photos by Sgt. Stephen L. Traynham*

**From walking a tight rope  
to walking the slopes of**

# **Briery Moun**

A Marine detachment from Alpha Company 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, reinforced with a squad from 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon traversed the rough terrain of Camp Dawson, West Virginia. The Marines departed Marine Barracks, Washington, for the five-hour drive to Camp Dawson.

Upon arrival, the objective was clear: mountains. More so how to ascend and descend them as a platoon employing tactical techniques. Marines from the Special Operations Training Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force provided the training for 8<sup>th</sup> & "I" Marines.





Lance Cpl. Jeremy R. Dean, a ceremonial marcher with "A" Company, 2nd Platoon, keeps his eyes to the sky as he descends the rappel tower aboard Camp Dawson.

e,  
**tain**

# The

first two days were spent mostly in the Robert C. Byrd West Virginia Army National Guard Regional Training Institute, where the Marines participated in classes on mountain safety, cold weather clothing, mountain navigation and cold weather injuries. Outdoor classes were also conducted so Marines could apply the techniques needed for the challenge ahead of them. Some of the focal points of the outdoor training were knot tying, crossing a one rope bridge, and rappelling in full combat gear.

Once all of the classroom time was completed, it was time to tackle Briery Mountain. Captain Richard C. Mitchell, detachment platoon commander, had a terrain model built and delivered the warning order along with the commander's intent to the platoon sergeant and the squad leaders. The order, with all pertinent information, was disseminated to all the troops; rucksacks were packed, and the Marines from "A" Company were ready.

Even though the Marines are

used to marching on the parade deck of 8<sup>th</sup> & "I", they showed that the hills, draws and fingers of Briery Mountain were no problem. The Marines formed a tactical column and proceeded to step out on the first leg of the eight mile forced march. Hand and arm signals were used to pass information throughout the movement, at every stop, the Marines hustled to set up security displaying the skills that were instilled in them at the School of Infantry.

The endurance of the Marines was unveiled when they reached their first objective almost three hours before the deadline stated in the warning order. Upon reaching the objective, Mitchell set up a security perimeter and set out to complete the mission

of attacking and seizing several simulated terrorists camped out near Camp Dawson. The Marines of "A" Company moved in on the target and prevented three out of the four



Private First Class George C. Eberdt, a ceremonial marcher with 2nd Platoon, "A" Company, gives a glance down from the side of the rappel tower to ensure the Marine on belay is in position.

First squad from 2nd Platoon, "A" Company, uses a tactical column to ascend Briery Mountain to locate a resupply point.



Lance Cpl. Cedrick Thompson, a ceremonial marcher from 2nd Platoon, "A" Company, uses a one rope bridge to cross a pond on Camp Dawson.

perpetrators from escaping. This would mark the end of the first mission and the end to a hard day at the office.

“The Marines moved exceptionally well today. They maintained a constant and steady pace moving from the line of departure to the first objective,” said Capt. Urbano Cruz, officer in charge of the SOTG instructors.

Shortly after the conclusion of the mission, a bivouac site was arranged and weary Marines were able to get some much-needed rest. The next morning Marines woke to pounding rain trickling down their cheeks, and another full day of training.

The platoon separated into squads, with each squad navigating itself through the mountain to locate a resupply point and moving on to establish their squad patrol bases. With the guidance of the small unit leader, defensive security was set up and reinforced fire teams were sent out on patrols.

As the Marines completed their

patrols and settled into their tents, Mitchell received the last warning order for the training evolution. The squads had to reconnect to a platoon in order to accomplish their final mission. Already pushing their bodies beyond what they thought capable, they headed out to tackle the final objective with packs on and weapons in hand.

Showing little signs of fatigue, the Marines stormed the enemy compound as brazen as they were on the first training day. To the surprise of the attacking Marines, a small twist was added to the objective—their leader Mitchell, became a casualty of war and needed to be medically evacuated. There was a slight moment of panic before Sgt. Eric L. Mitchell took charge of the platoon. Filling the shoes of the platoon commander, his namesake, proved tasking, but the enlisted Mitchell did a successful job.

Once the platoon arrived at the medevac site, the mission was over and once again the Marines had completed their task with ample time

to spare. Their three day venture in the mountains was now at an end, or was it? One more task—the five mile trek down the slope of Briery Mountain. Altogether, the Marines hoofed close to twenty miles up and down the oversized mound of granite that at times reached elevations of nearly 2,500 ft.

“I had a slight idea of what to expect when we left for Camp Dawson, but I never imagined that we would be climbing Mount Everest,” said HM3 James R. O’Hara, hospital corpsman attached to the Barracks.

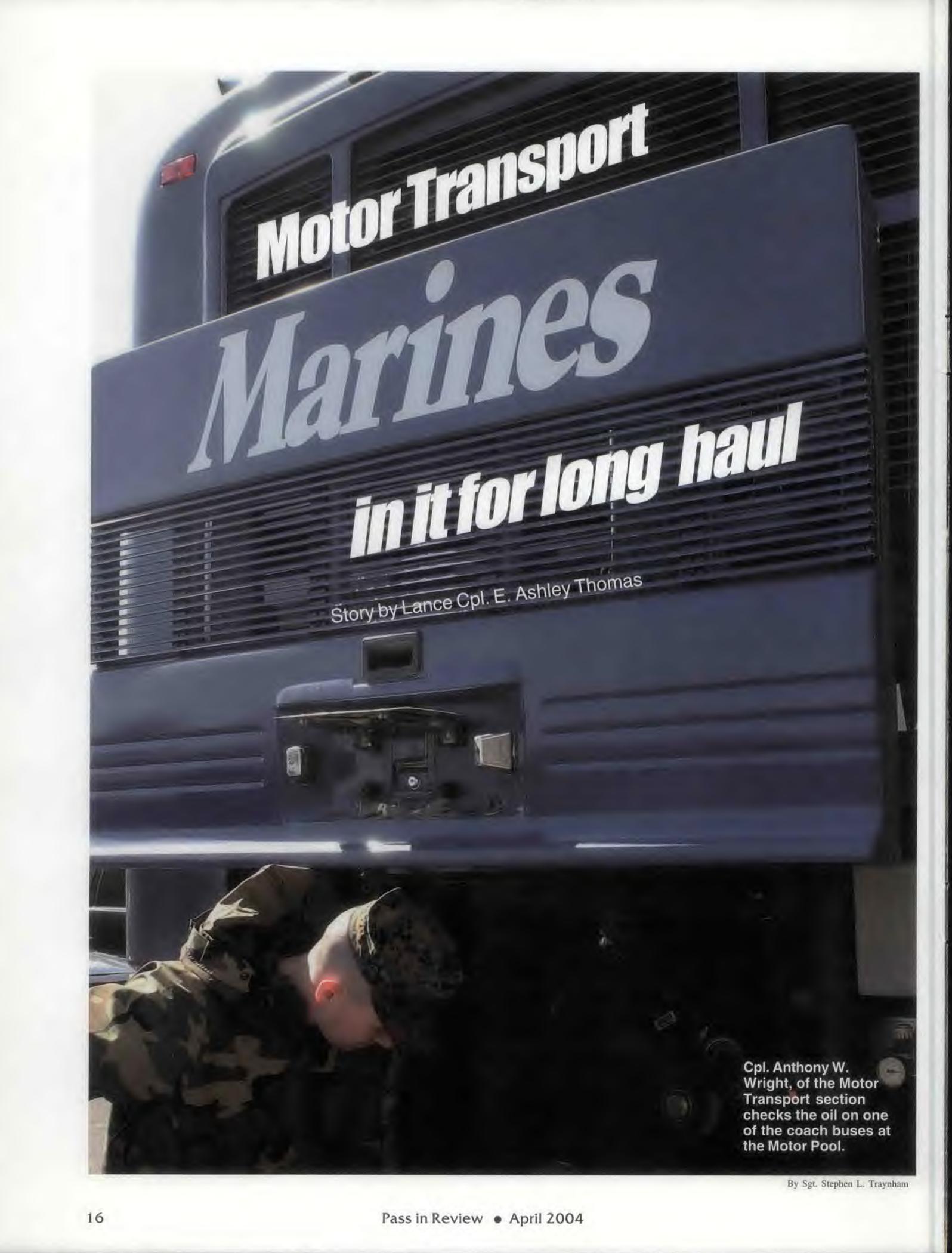
The Marines walked away from Camp Dawson with a sense of what the mountain training would be like in Bridgeport, Calif.

“We put together a small package for the Marines to get a taste of mountain survival and tactics. They adapted and even surpassed some of the expectations of myself and the instructors,” said Cruz on the accomplishments of the Marines. “They did pretty good.”

Last laughs are passed among the Marines before they reach the top of the rappel tower.



Sgt. Scott M. Barrios, an instructor from II Marine Expeditionary Force, Special Operations Training Group, explains how to regulate the gas pressure of a field oven to Lance Cpl. Kevin A. Chambers.



Motor Transport

# Marines

*in it for long haul*

Story by Lance Cpl. E. Ashley Thomas

Cpl. Anthony W. Wright, of the Motor Transport section checks the oil on one of the coach buses at the Motor Pool.

By Sgt. Stephen L. Traynham

# To

say times have changed in the Corps' 228 years is an understatement. From musket and cannons to M16 and Howitzers, the Marines' technology has advanced, however, the weapon is not the only change.

When the barracks was founded some 200 years ago, horses and wagons were a common sight. Horses still are - but are usually under the hood in the form of a HMMWV (Hummer) and the Corps newest "beast of burden," the 7-ton truck.

Keeping Marines moving and supplied is one aspect of what won the war in Iraq and most every war Marines have fought in leading up to it.

"The Marines at Motor T are always on the road," said Staff Sgt. Miguel Contreras, motor chief, Motor Transport. "Sometimes they drive all night just to turn around and drive right back."

Motor T currently has 35 Marines to handle the constant workload. But when the unpredictable nature of Marine Barracks starts churning, things can get stirred up and tossed about, leaving the Marines of Motor T to push through the storm.

"It's hard to get used to keeping these long hours at first," said Lance Cpl. Charles H. Moricle, motor vehicle operator, Motor Transport. "But like with any other situation in the Marine Corps, you learn to adapt to the changes."

Unlike the other offices within Headquarters and Service Company, there is no set time that the motor pool starts the day because the shop is operational 24 - hours - a - day. Between over-night trips out of town, the duty driver making various trips throughout the night, and the Marines who standby on dispatch, the motor pool is a perpetual motion machine that never stops.

"There is no such thing as a typical day around here," said Contreras. "The motor pool is always active. When the Marines aren't driving they are getting MOS trained and of course we have physical training every Monday morning for the Marines that are not on the road."

The overflowing list of requests that are taken in by Motor T are filtered down and reviewed by the Operations Chief.

Another factor of assigning jobs is what license is required for the job.

"When new Marines get here they only have a 7-ton license. After checking in they are put through a rigorous training program where they train on every vehicle, starting with a van and a sedan," said Sgt. Jorge Careaga, license NCO, Motor T. "After getting a learners permit they graduate to the 7 - ton commercial cargo truck and so on all the way up to the new coach buses."

Aside from their nonstop schedules and endless training regime, ten Marines from the motor pool were temporarily attached to "B" Company and placed on stand-by for possible riot control in the capital area during

the President's most recent State of The Union Address; once again, showing every Marine is a rifleman.

The often overlooked efforts of Barracks Motor Transport Marines were noticed and spotlighted by Brig. Gen. Michael E. Ennis in a letter he wrote to Col. Daniel P O'Brien, commanding officer, praising the outstanding logistical support from the Barracks while transporting a



Sgt. Stephen L. Traynham

**Corporal Greg A. Raney, Motor T, meticulously navigates a 61-passenger bus to the Motor Pool after performing a preventive maintenance check on the vehicle.**

foreign attaché last fall.

It is the second time Barracks Motor Transport Marines have been requested by the foreign liaison office to transport diplomats, and once again they flawlessly supported the request.

The Motor Transport Marines of today benefit from technology to help make their job easier. There are now cameras on the outside of the new buses allowing the driver to see any pedestrians approaching and they also help with blind spots that would normally be a safety hazard. A driving course at the motor pool also allows for training opportunities on the over-sized buses.

Although technology, equipment, and even horses have changed, the commitment of Motor T Marines has not. Driving in every condition and time of day, these Marines keep the Barracks rolling.

# Local Marine spotlighted for accomplishments

Story and photo by Sgt. Stephen L. Traynham

► **Since 1801, Marines** have served and protected Marine Barracks 8<sup>th</sup> & I, Washington, D.C. These members of the few and the proud come from all parts of the country; some from as far away as Alaska and as close to the Barracks as Maryland and Virginia. Such is the case of Richard C. McQuillen, now a lance corporal stationed here, who is a native of Frederick, Md.

“Mac,” as he is called, graduated from Middletown High School in May of 1998. He then furthered his education at the University of Maryland, College Park. During his continuation of higher learning, Mac was approached with the idea of life as a United States Marine.

It was a member of the McQuillen clan that presented the idea, his younger brother Ryan, who

is also a lance corporal in the Marines. He spoke of the benefits of being a Marine and how the title “Marine,” can open doors that otherwise would be closed.

“It sounded like a plan to get me



**Lance Cpl. Richard C. McQuillen, guides the lanyard as PFC Ryan M. Holtsford, raises the flag during the Morning Colors aboard the Washington Navy Yard.**

on the right track,” said McQuillen. “A good change in atmosphere; plus benefits.”

McQuillen stepped onto the

yellow footprints of Parris Island in April of 2003. He then continued his training at the School of Infantry at Camp Lejeune, N.C., later moving on to Security Force Training Battalion. McQuillen graduated from Security Force Training in December 2003, with the highest cumulative average in the class, which deemed him the Honor Graduate, a title that carried with it a meritorious promotion.

“I just focused on school,” said McQuillen. “I took in as much knowledge as I could and I was constantly studying. I wanted to do my best, but I had no idea that I would be the Honor Grad or be promoted.”

Lance Cpl. McQuillen will continue to hone his proficiency and his knowledge involving security issues that affect the Barracks and the entire Washington Metropolitan area. He not only serves the “Oldest Post,” in the Corps, but the great nation he calls home.

## Thompson receives the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal

► **On Feb. 24, Capt. Gary D. Thompson** received the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for meritorious service while serving as a Platoon Commander, Company “C”, Transportation Support Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group, Assistant Operations Officer, Combat Service Support Detachment 17, Transportation Support Detachment Commander, MEU Service Support Group 11, 11th MEU and Company Commander for Combat Service Support Company 192, Combat Service Support Battalion 19 from January 2002 to 15 January 2003.

During this period Thompson performed his duties as combat logistics officer, enabling daily mission success during deployment with the 11th MEU, and during combat operations in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Thompson ensured that unit equipment was always available. His service in command of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force March Departure Airfield Control Group safely deployed the personnel and combat equipment of the Marine Expeditionary Force to Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Sgt. Leah A. Cobble

**Captain Gary D. Thompson, assistant logistics officer, S-4, Headquarters & Service Company, stands at the position of attention while Col. Daniel P. O'Brien presents him with the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal Feb. 24.**

# FORGET TRAVELOCITY AND EXPEDIA...

Story by Sgt. Travis W. Shiflett



## Marines travel for small fee

What if a local airport was offering a free round trip flight from Baltimore to Frankfurt, Germany? And to make it better, the flight is aboard a civilian operated, commercial airliner with flight attendants, an in-flight movie and a free meal. Too good to be true, right?

Service members have hit the travel jackpot with a relatively unknown program started by the Air Mobility Command in the 1950's that makes this seemingly unrealistic opportunity a reality.

The program known as "Space Available," or "Space-A" is widely used by military members to travel from one military base to another on cargo planes. What most patrons don't know is that the program is also available at commercial airports on major airlines.

Known as Patriot

Express, the AMC's commercial chartered flights are a cheap and efficient way for the military to move large numbers of personnel. AMC purchases all the seats on a commercial carrier and then any seats that aren't used become open to "Space-A" travelers free of charge.

"All a traveler needs is their passport (international flights), leave papers and to be on time for their flight," said Capt. Jason M. Pelt, Barracks legal officer and "Space-A" veteran. "It's easy, I could get my leave papers signed, grab my stuff, then drive to Baltimore-Washington International airport and be in Germany tonight."

The flight availability is broken down into six categories of importance. The level of the traveler's category will determine where he falls on the list of

those receiving seats on their particular flight. For example, a Marine on emergency leave will get a seat before a retiree who wants to go on vacation.

While the program is great for military members and their dependents, it still has downfalls. For one, there are only a few commercially operated airports where you can benefit from this program. These airports include BWI, Norfolk Naval Air Station and Atlanta Hartsfield International for east coast departures to Europe; and Seattle-Tacoma International and Los Angeles International for west coast departures traveling to Asia. The other drawback to "Space-A" flying is the uncertainty of scheduling and lack of guarantee of a time or seat on a particular flight. However, travelers can get an estimated flight

schedule by calling the "Space-A" help line at their nearest participating airport. According to the website [www.spacea.info](http://www.spacea.info), travelers should call for flight details two days in advance as flight information can't be provided any sooner than that due to security reasons.

"The best way to explain it is if you need to be at a wedding tomorrow and back to work by Monday, then Space A is not right for you," said Pelt. "However, Space A is great for those people with little money, but a lot of time and flexibility."

So if the Old World charm of Europe or the spicy tastes of Asian culture sound like the ingredients to your next great vacation, then its time to pack your bags, fill out your leave papers and let the military fly you there for free.



# AROUND THE BARRACKS



Sgt. Leah A. Cobble

▲ Captain Matthew D. Lundgren, 1st Platoon Commander, "B" Company, searches Lt Col John Herring, British Liaison Officer to Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., in the British Royal Marines during Reparations Night 2004.



Sgt. Stephen L. Traynham

▲ Marine Barracks "8th & I" Marines wait at attention for their next cooldown exercise after a Battalion Run March 19, that finished at the Lincoln Memorial.



Sgt. Travis W. Shiflett

▲ Marines of Headquarters & Service Company secure the landing zone as they exit a CH-53 Sea Stallion helicopter during a helo operation and land navigation exercise.



Sgt. Travis W. Shiflett

◀ Private First Class Carlos Salinas, a member of the Marine Barracks guard section fires the Benelli shotgun during shotgun familiarization fire at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.



Sgt. Leah A. Cobble

▲ Showing them a few moves of their own, Drum & Bugle Corps Marines spend some time with performers from the theater group STOMP.



Sgt. Leah A. Cobble

▲ Sergeant Jason N. Crawford, separations chief, S-1, Headquarters & Service Company heads into the gas chamber as his instructor gives him some last minute advice Feb. 20.

# News makers

## Promotions

### H&S

WO Scott D. Keller  
Sgt. Adam B. Craig  
Sgt. Jesse Chavez  
Sgt. Jamie R. Darrell  
Sgt. Lenny Paz  
Sgt. Jason P. Roberts  
Sgt. Travis W. Shiflett  
Cpl. Joel Aubin  
Cpl. Ryan A. Bates  
Cpl. Joshua C. Bryant  
Cpl. William Z. Corder  
Cpl. Ailyn C. Eslick  
Cpl. Rudolph V. Gary Jr.  
Cpl. Richard W. Gusner  
Cpl. Christina N. Majors  
Cpl. Brian C. Roby  
Cpl. Jason R. Vandusen  
Lance Cpl. Robert J. Boyles  
Lance Cpl. Matthew T. Dawson  
Lance Cpl. David A. Dedecker  
Lance Cpl. Roger L. Ford  
Lance Cpl. Dale A. Gargrave  
Lance Cpl. Michael L. Gately  
Lance Cpl. Elijah W. Haws  
Lance Cpl. William P. Hession  
Lance Cpl. Ryan M. Holtsford  
Lance Cpl. Andrew A. Johnson  
Lance Cpl. Sean M. Kelly  
Lance Cpl. Tyler S. Klemas  
Lance Cpl. Trevor C. Maynard  
Lance Cpl. David J. Neu  
Lance Cpl. Juanpaolo S. Pascual  
Lance Cpl. Albert F. Perez III  
Lance Cpl. Robert O. Richards III  
Lance Cpl. Dimitria J. Taylor  
Lance Cpl. Jeremy M. Vance  
Lance Cpl. Joseph P. Viola III  
Lance Cpl. Nickolas F. Worth  
Lance Cpl. Joel A. Yake  
Pfc. Nicholas A. Granter

### Company A

Staff Sgt. Trevor H. Johnson  
Cpl. Eric S. Jahnke  
Cpl. Joshua M. Shields  
Lance Cpl. William B. Barnes  
Lance Cpl. Joseph A. Bissonnette  
Lance Cpl. Justin P. Borchers  
Lance Cpl. Brian P. Collins  
Lance Cpl. Darrell J. Elliott  
Lance Cpl. Justin P. Faifer  
Lance Cpl. Jamie Garcia, Jr.  
Lance Cpl. Nick G. Hardison  
Lance Cpl. Sherman E. Hartman Jr.  
Lance Cpl. Michael P. Laska  
Lance Cpl. Kent E. Laukhuf  
Lance Cpl. Bryan P. McCandless  
Lance Cpl. Joseph D. Peal  
Lance Cpl. Lawrence R. Philippon  
Lance Cpl. Brandon D. Shreves  
Lance Cpl. Brian P. Taylor  
Pfc. Davis E. Dolezal  
Pfc. Alexander J. Kurdi  
Pfc. Joseph L. Rice  
Pfc. Joseph J. Selvig  
Pfc. Ryan P. Sullivan

### Company B

Sgt. Thomas L. Morehead  
Sgt. Benjamin J. Watrous  
Cpl. Matthew R. Houston  
Cpl. Miguel A. Perdomomoreira  
Cpl. Graye A. Wolfe  
Lance Cpl. Nathan K. Hockberry  
Lance Cpl. Christopher E. Martin  
Lance Cpl. Kyle L. Taylor  
Lance Cpl. Joshua E. Tiller  
Lance Cpl. Donald W. Wilson  
Lance Cpl. Matthew R. Wilson Jr.  
Pfc. Donald A. Ferreira  
Pfc. Zachary D. Hancock  
Pfc. Steven R. Murphy

### Security

Cpl. Brett L. Johnson  
Cpl. Thomas P. Massad III  
Cpl. Grant S. Roberts Jr.  
Cpl. Gabriel D. Ramirez  
Cpl. Andrew A. Quenga

### D&B

Sgt. Robin L. Hobbs  
Sgt. Alexandra J. Perkins  
Cpl. Krystle A. Kilmer  
Cpl. James L. Strand  
Lance Cpl. Pheng Yang

### BAND

Lance Cpl. Andre J. Hendrickson

### ANHQ

Staff Sgt. Bryan J. Alberts  
Sgt. Robert C. Quezada  
Cpl. Darl J. Vanklompberg

### MCI

Cpl. Christopher Cuzzort  
Cpl. Daniel M. Farfan  
Cpl. Robert L. Lismore  
Cpl. Oscar Oland  
Lance Cpl. James E. Lew  
Pfc. Joshua E. Huff

### HPRO

Cpl. Daniel L. James

# What do YOU offer?

By Lt. Ted L. Williams, Barracks Chaplain

**A**s a Chaplain, I am often asked questions about God. Who is God? What does God do? Does God care when I pray? These are obviously some deep questions that people have debated, discussed, and searched out

for centuries. Many times though, it seems that God uses the simple things to confound the wise. Sometimes the answers are very plain, so plain in fact that we might even miss them if we search too hard. I hope you find the following refreshingly simple, yet very

profound. This story was written by 8-year-old Danny Dutton of Chula Vista, CA (near Camp Pendleton). For his third-grade homework assignment he was given the un-daunting task to explain God. I wonder if any of us could do as well?

*“One of God’s main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn’t make grown-ups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way He doesn’t have to take up His valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers. God’s second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like the sick, preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn’t have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere, which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn’t go wasting His time by going over your Mom and Dad’s head asking for something they said you couldn’t have. You can pray anytime you want and he is sure to help you because he got it worked out so he is on duty all the time. You should always go to church because it makes God happy, and if there’s anybody you want to make happy, it’s God. Don’t skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn’t come out at the beach until noon anyway. If you don’t believe in God you will be very lonely, because your parents can’t go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He’s around you when you’re scared in the dark or when you can’t swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids. But you shouldn’t just always think of what God can do for you. Finally, I figure God put me here, and He can take me back anytime He pleases. And that’s why I believe in God.”*

Remember that God is there and is never too busy to hear about our concerns and requests. Semper Fi and blessings to you and your families as we prepare for the 2004 Parade Season!

Chaplain Ted Williams

"On the Horizon"



The Battle Color Detachment performs at Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar Calif., during their 2004 West Coast Tour.

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