



# PASS IN

YEAR IN REVIEW EDITION

# REVIEW

2ND QUARTER 2005



SERVING MARINES, SAILORS AND THE FAMILIES OF "THE OLDEST POST OF THE CORPS"

# PASS IN REVIEW

VOLUME 24

YEAR IN REVIEW

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## YEAR IN REVIEW 2004

This edition of the Pass in Review highlights the memorable moments of 2004 for the Marines, sailors, civilians and families assigned to the Corps' "Oldest Post."

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On The Front Cover: Marines participate in a demanding season of events throughout 2004 Official USMC Photos.

On The Back Cover: Collage shows some memorable moments of Marine Barracks Washington in 2004. Graphic by Pass In Review Staff.

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# Barracks Marines sharpen mettle A fight for freedom a return home



Story by Gunnery Sgt. Kent  
Flora

For a few of "the Few," the opportunity to serve their country on the battlefield became a reality last year as several of the Marines assigned to this historic post went to become part of a changing history in the once ruthlessly-run country of Iraq.

The ceremonial life of a Marine at the Corps' "Oldest Post" is a dream for some spending clear summer nights under the lights entertaining heads of state, yet many Barracks Marines yearn for something more. They desire service elsewhere, with their comrades on the battlefields.

The fight for freedom, in a land that has not been peaceful in some time, is what many Marines who are serving or who have served in Iraq constantly think about, according to one such Barracks leatherneck.

"I feel that the respect for my brethren who are fighting is well earned," said newly-minted Sgt William S. Cason, from Hadley-Luzerne, N.Y. "While I was there, I didn't think about congrats and awards, I did it for my buddies and for my love of country. I just wanted to do my job and come home." Cason was assigned to Regimental Combat Team 7, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force while serving in Iraq.

The 2001 graduate of Hadley-Luzerne High School said that the deployment went by quickly and he learned a lot, especially about himself; he also admitted that he feared for his friends.

"When reports would come in from the forward units, and you had friends there, you never really knew if they were okay until you heard from them or a mutual friend, or you saw them when you came home. That was one of the worst experiences, not knowing if your buddy would come home," he said.

Coming home to see the smiling face of his wife, Christie, and being able to hold his 4-year-old daughter Rhyza and newborn daughter Makaela, flooded the mind of Santa Maria, Calif. native Cpl Jeremy LaForce. LaForce, a grounds maintenance Marine assigned to Headquarters and Service Co. here, was assigned to B Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division while in Iraq.

"Holding my wife and daughters again kept me going," said the 24-year-old LaForce. "When I joined the Marine Corps, I wanted to make sure that my children and my grandchildren would never have to go through the same hardships I have dealt with. But after serving in Iraq, I know what hard-

ships THEY have gone through. Watching the smiling faces of the Iraqis and the 'thank you' for bringing freedom to them made my time there worthwhile. It has taught me to never taken anything for granted."

Another thing LaForce said he would never take for granted were friendships, friendships hardened by extreme situations seen in combat.

"Watching out for one another is vital in combat," said LaForce, a 1998 graduate of Righetti High School. "The most horrible feeling in combat is seeing your buddy hurt. The worst day I had was when my squad was pinned down in a house in Fallujah and one of my Marines was dead. I've never felt so helpless in my life."

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**"We were headed  
from Fallujah to  
Baghdad and got  
ambushed.."**

**Cpl. Ian A. Denu**

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One of LaForce's friends, Cpl Thomas P. Hodges, from Elysian Fields, Texas was with him in Iraq part of the same platoon and had been wounded a day before LaForce was pinned down in Fallujah.

For Hodges, assigned to A Co. here, serving in Iraq and fighting for freedom runs deeper into his love of country than most. The 22-year-old admitted that, while in high school, he had no desire to join any military service so much so that he purposely failed the Armed Services Vocational Apti



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jonathan C. Knauth

*Cpl. Jeremy S. Laforce (far left) takes a breather along with the rest of 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, Bravo Company, 3rd Platoon during a house-to-house clearing raid in Fallujah Iraq. Laforce's platoon was taking cover from insurgent sniper fire while awaiting air support.*

tude Battery test, given to many high school seniors across the country. But his attitude changed on Sept. 11, 2001 while sitting in U.S. World History II at Panola College in Texas.

"After I saw the planes hit the World Trade Center, I knew we were going to war and I told everyone in that class I'd be there," recalled Hodges. "Ironical that I'm making history and not sitting in class anymore."

Making history in Iraq, giving them some of the same freedoms that we as Americans enjoy, has made Hodges' service and dedication worth his wounds.

"Fighting against terror has made me value the freedoms and privileges I have as an American," said the Elysian Fields High School graduate.

"Seeing friends, someone you've gotten close to, suffer and die, it's far worse than any physical pain you feel yourself."

Hodges received the Purple Heart for wounds he suffered in ac-

tion on Nov. 25, 2004.

"With the ongoing war against terror, I know my service matters to my country and those who seek democracy and want peace," said Cpl Ian A. Denu, a Dubois, Ind. native and Corporal of the Guard, Headquarters and Service Company Guard Section. Denu served in Iraq, assigned as vehicle commander for convoy security platoon, Regimental Combat Team 1, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

Denu, who joined the Marines to do his part in the fight against terrorism, said he was excited, but anxious, about his call to duty in Iraq. "It's what I set out to do when I joined to go and make a difference and to help the Iraqi people," said the self-proclaimed outdoorsman. "After being there, I realize how good WE have it here in the States; how we take what we have for granted."

Denu, who eventually aspires to become a police officer or firefighter, recalled one of his worse

moments in Iraq.

"We were headed from Fallujah to Baghdad and got ambushed-small arms fire and RPGs flying all around," said the 2001 Northeast Dubois High School graduate. "During the engagement, our platoon sergeant got hit. Twenty seconds seemed like an hour. Waiting to find out what had happened to him was an eternity. We were fortunate that we didn't have any fatalities in my unit while I was there. But I do think of those Marines who have given their lives in Iraq and those who have been injured. They are the ones who have sacrificed so that others may have freedom."

For those "few" who have been called upon, a fight for freedom has been fought. Their desire to join their comrades on the battlefield has been fulfilled, and they have taken their place in the newest history books of a fledgling democracy. They have fought well; their mettle forged and sharpened. Most importantly they've returned home to Marine Barracks Washington.



*Corporal's Course honor graduate Cpl. John L. Strand, D&B Company, addresses his fellow graduates as they stand proud on their graduation day December 9.*

*Photo by Lance Cpl. Earnest J. Barnes*



*A Company Marines participate in a patrolling exercise at Marine Corps Base Quantico October 12.*

*Photo by Lance Cpl. Earnest J. Barnes*



*The Marines of A Company participate in a training run with the Lymphoma/Leukemia Society's "Team in Training" in preparation for the team's participation in the Marine Corps Marathon.*

*Photo by Lance Cpl. Earnest J. Barnes*

With a parade season that Col. Daniel P. O'Brien, former Barracks Commander, called "one of the best yet," and an off-season filled with numerous training and ceremonial events, including the first state funeral in 30 years, the year 2004 will be a memorable one for many of the Marines here.

## January--

### The beginning of a new year for the Oldest Post

Marines here rang in the new year with the Marine Band's New Year's Day Serenade to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, a tradition established nearly 140 years ago. The serenade was held in the Marine Family Garden; the backyard of the Home of the Commandants.

The ceremony included performances of the "Marines Hymn," "The Stars and Stripes Forever," "Bless this Home," and closed with the Sousa march, "Semper Fidelis."

## February--

### A time for training

A Marine detachment from A Company, second platoon, reinforced with a squad from first platoon journeyed to the rough terrain of Camp Dawson, W. Va., for a taste of mountain and cold weather training. The main objective was learning how to ascend and descend mountains as a platoon employing tactical techniques.

During the evolution, the Marines assaulted simulated terrorist camps, set up bivouac sites,



*Photo by Sgt. Stephen L. Traugham*

*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*

hoofed close to twenty miles up and down the oversized mound of granite, at times, ascending nearly 2,500 ft.!

The Marines of B Company headed south to take part in a weeklong non-lethal weapons and tactical training course at Camp Lejuene, N.C. The training was designed to help better prepare the company for response to possible civil disturbances in the nation's capital. They were trained by the Special Operations Training Group in various crowd-control exercises, communication skills, and use of the M203 grenade launcher and Mossberg 500 shotgun. Each element was first covered in a classroom setting, then demonstrated by the instructor and finally reinforced through practical application by the Marines. At the end of the evolution, the Marines combined all that they had learned into a field

training exercise.

## March--

### A new face in the Home of the Commandants

One of the oldest buildings in the nation's capital received a new face—that of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James L. Jones. Now the Supreme Allied Commander Europe and the Commander of the United States European Command, Jones returned to his previous stomping grounds to be present during the unveiling of the painting that bears his likeness. Like past commandants, Jones' portrait serves as an indelible image of his tenure, but unlike all the previous CMCs, Jones returned to view the unveiling from his current active duty assignment. All other CMCs have retired immediately after .

holding the Corps' top position.

## April--

### A tribute to the director

With the sky shedding its tears as a backdrop, raindrops fell on blue and red uniforms as tribute was paid to the Director. For many, the word director means principle leader—and that is true enough. For the United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps however the word director had meant Colonel Truman W. Crawford, a name that for them is synonymous with a musical legacy for the last four decades of the 20th century. Crawford directed the Marine D&B for 25 years and now as a salute to the man who started his career with the Corps in 1967 as arranger/instructor, "The Commandant's Own" paid homage to their own, their comrade, their director—their friend. Nearly 50 members of the present D&B, who recall Crawford's tenacity for perfection, honored Crawford at his graveside in Arlington National Cemetery with a service, the performance of two selections written by the colonel, a wreath-laying and "Taps." The tribute comes one year after his death and on his birthday to celebrate his contribution to country and Corps.

## May--

### Honoring the past and the start of Parade Season

This year's parade season

was highlighted with two full Evening Parades honoring World War II veterans, as the nation dedicated a monument honoring the service of more than three million men and women. The Barracks honored U.S. Senators Ted Stevens of Alaska and Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii who stood on center walk of the parade deck for a special Evening Parade on May 27. Sen. Stevens, who was twice awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for service in the 14<sup>th</sup> Air Force and Sen. Inouye, the combat-promoted Army Second Lieutenant and Medal of Honor recipient, watched alongside the numerous other World War II veterans, as Marines paid tribute to those present at the Evening Parade. Many of the veterans gathered in the Nation's Capital for the WWII memorial dedication ceremonies on the National Mall during the Memorial Day weekend.

The Evening Parade on May 28<sup>th</sup> honored Medal of Honor recipient, and 26<sup>th</sup> Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Louis H. Wilson, his successor, the 27<sup>th</sup> CMC, General Robert H. Barrow. During the parade, the current Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Michael W. Hagee, attached the Global War on Terrorism and the Presidential Unit Citation battle streamers to the Marine Corps Colors to honor the ongoing participation of Marine Corps units in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

## June--

Halfway there,  
but far from over

The Marines of the "Oldest Post," started the month by honoring an Operation Iraqi Freedom Marine. Cpl. James Wright was presented the Bronze Star for valor by the Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz in front of the United States Marine Corps War Memorial for his actions while serving as the assistant team leader with 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. Gen. William L. "Spider" Nyland, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps and Sgt. Maj. Bryan B. Battaglia, Marine Barracks Sergeant Major, assisted Wolfowitz with the presentation.

On June 5<sup>th</sup>, the nation was shocked to hear of the death of the 40<sup>th</sup> President, Ronald Reagan. His death marked the first time that the nation's capital would hold a complete State Funeral in more than three decades. Upon receiving the word, a small detachment of Marines from the Corps' "Oldest Post"—Dress Blues and weapons in hand—boarded an awaiting plane at Andrews AFB and flew to California to begin funeral preparations and honor guard responsibilities. The Reagans returned to the city they called home for eight years on June 9. Joint service body bearers transported the casket from the plane to the hearse. After the transfer of his casket to horse-drawn caisson, for his final ride to the Capitol building, the Barracks Marines played an integral part carrying the former president up the 100-plus steps of the building and into the rotunda.

A National Day of Mourning was declared June 11, and most government agencies shut down to observe and remember the life of the president. The Marines at the Barracks continued to, as their commander says it, “press the mission.” That mission being to prepare for a special recognition parade, honoring the former president and the role he played in American history.

On June 26, Master Gunnery Sgt. Charles V. Corrado passed away after a lengthy battle with Lou Gehrig’s disease. Throughout his illustrious 45 year career with “The President’s Own,” Corrado acquired a reputation as a popular fixture at White House social events. He performed for 10 presidents including the current commander-in-chief. He served as the Staff Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of any musical commitment involving jazz and popular music groups at the White House and provided consultation to the White House Social Office on many occasions regarding special musical requirements occurring during events at



*Photo by Sgt. Stephen L. Traynham*  
Pfc. George C. Eberdt, gives a glance down from the side of the rappel tower at Camp Dawson to ensure the Marine on belay is in position.

the Executive Mansion.

## July-- Friends in high places

Through musket fire and the melodic sounds of the fife and drum corps, the Fort Henry Guard performance, which highlighted the July 30 Evening Parade, marked the



*Ceremonial marchers perform at the Marine Corps War*

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the friendship established between the FHG and the Barracks in 1954.

The first meeting of the two on August 18, in recognition of the Ogdensburg Agreement (an establishment of defense for the northern half of the western hemisphere) signed 14 years before in 1940, saw members of “The Oldest Post of the Corps” shaking hands across the world’s largest undefended boarder with members of one of Canada’s oldest forts.

## August-- Memories, friends, and changes of command



*Official USMC Photo*

Gunnery Sgt. Josh F. Brown, plays a solo during a sunset parade at the Marine Corps War Memorial, Arlington, Va.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Aaron K. Clark

Memorial for the annual Non Commissioned Officer Parade, July 20.

As the operations tempo associated with parade season began to wind down, the Marines of "8<sup>th</sup> & I" celebrated the bitter-sweet memories of Parade Season 2004, and began to focus on the coming months of training, and preparations for the next parade season that will be here before they know it.

Major Joseph W. Jones relinquished command of USNA Company to Capt. Olufunmike F. Adeyemi, during a change of command ceremony at the Naval Academy.

Capt. Christopher M. Westhoff passed the H&S Co. Guidon over to Major. John G. Corbett, at a change of command ceremony on the parade deck.

## September-- A leader for the devil dogs, a new dog house

After 28 months of construction, the new "8<sup>th</sup> & I" Marine Barracks Annex and Band Support Facility opened its doors. Located on the corners of 7<sup>th</sup> and K streets S.E., the new building can house more than 325 Marines and is home to members of Headquarters and Services Company, the Marine Corps Institute, and the Marine Drum and Bugle Corps.

The Marine Band facility incorporated into the Annex was carefully constructed to meet the

needs of "The President's Own." The dimensions were concentrated specifically on internal acoustic properties, sound isolation, rehearsal private practice areas, and adequate climate controlled storage space. Additionally each rehearsal room is equipped with full audio and video feeds to the recording control booth, allowing the band to rehearse and record multiple groups simultaneously

Col. Daniel P. O'Brien relinquished command to Col. Terry M. Lockard, during the Battalion



*Members of Color Guard present the battle colors at the Marine Corps birthday ball on Nov. 10.*

*Photo by Lance Cpl. Earnest J. Barnes*



*Marines of USNA Company participate in a wreath laying ceremony on Nov. 10 at the gravesite of former Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Ben H. Fuller.*

*Photo by Lance Cpl. Aaron K. Clark*



*Body bearers from B Company fire the cannons during an evening parade, May 28.*

*Photo by Sgt. Stephen L. Traynham*

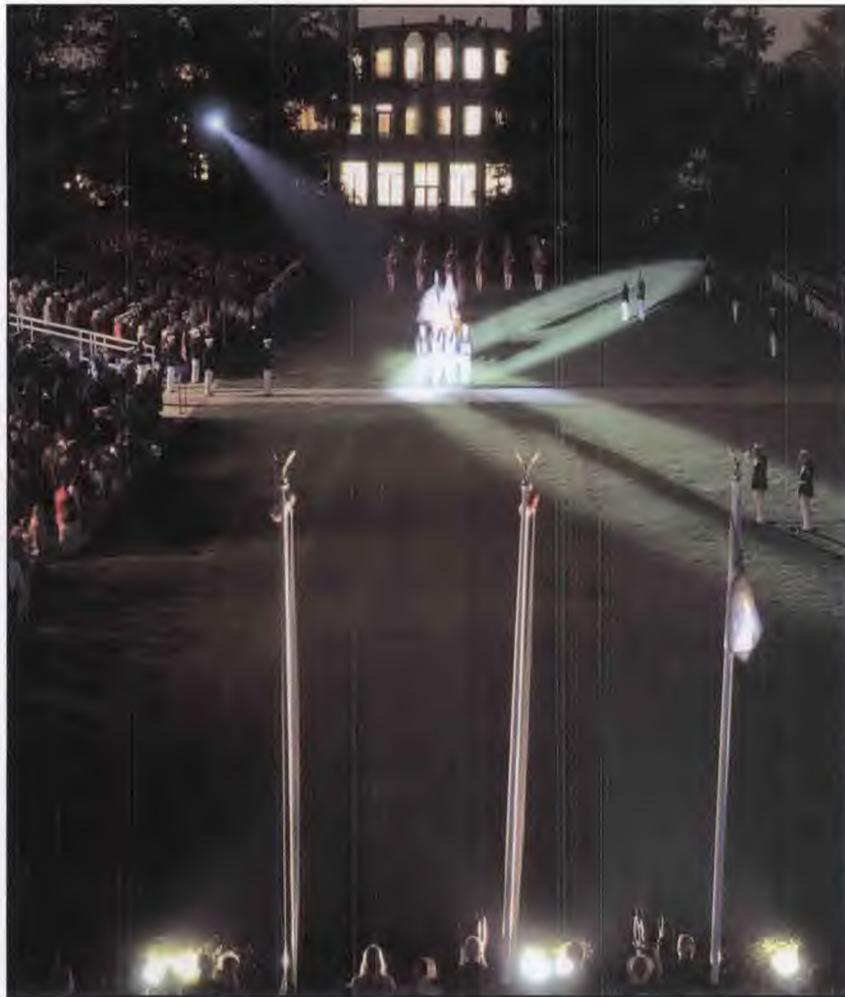


Photo by Cpl. Nathan A. Tillier

*Floodlights illumine an eager crowd at the start of the first evening parade of the season, May 14.*

Change of Command Ceremony held on the parade deck. The Commandant of the Marine Corps awarded Col. O'Brien the Navy and Marine Corps Distinguished Service Medal during the ceremony for his distinguished leadership of the barracks for more than 5,000 ceremonial commitments and the first state funeral in 30 years.

October--  
I'm ready for war,  
he's ready for war

Marines from the United

States Naval Academy Co. endure a day long training exercise that involves running the PFT course, manipulating an obstacle course, and then shooting the M16A2 Service Rifle. "We are grunts, and the only way for us to remain grunts is to train as grunts," said Sgt. Cecil L. Tucker, section leader, 1<sup>st</sup> section, USNA Co.

November--  
Celebrating the Past and  
Heritage of our Corps

"The Presidents Own"  
United States Marine Band and

the Marines here honored the man who some say was the best band director of all-time on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth on Nov. 6.

Only a stone's throw from where John Philip Sousa grew up on G Street, the newest Band Hall in the Marine Corps, situated on the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and L Streets S.E., now bears his name and has become home to the organization that he led for 12 years from 1880-1892.

Marines of "8<sup>th</sup> & I" celebrated the Marine Corps' 229<sup>th</sup> year of existence at a frigid November 10 wreath laying ceremony at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery, honoring the generations of gallant heroes who fought and died defending freedom throughout the world.

Also honored was Mr. Felix W. de Weldon. His widow, Ms. Joyce de Weldon, received the Superior Public Service Award (posthumously) from the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Michael W. Hagee, on behalf of her husband, who died in 2003. This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the dedication of monument.

December --  
farewell to a year

As the Marines of "8<sup>th</sup> & I" prepared to visit family and friends for the Holidays, embedded in their minds were memories of the passing year, and inquires about what adventures lie waiting for them, here at Marine Barracks Washington in 2005.

*Marine Corps Base of the USNA Company take part in night training exercises at Quantico, VA, Nov. 11.*



*Photo by Sgt. Stephen L. Traynham*

*The Marine Band marches down Center Walk during an Evening Parade, May 28.*



*Photo by Sgt. Stephen L. Traynham*

*Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps John L. Estrada (Left) and acting MBW Sgt. Maj., 1st Sgt. John J. Forbes, render honors during a wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, Nov. 10.*



*Photo by Sgt. Stephen L. Traynham*



*Marines with B Company refreshes their skills with grenades at Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA, Aug.13.*

*Photo by Lance Cpl. Earnest J. Barnes*



*Gunnery Sgt. R. Lee Ermey (Ret.) is met by Maj. John G. Corbett, commanding officer of Headquarters and Service Company, during one of his visits here July 16.*

*Photo by Lance Cpl. Earnest J. Barnes*



*Lance Cpl. John L. Hathcock stands at the position of attention after sounding chow call here.*

*Photo by Sgt. Stephen L. Traynham*

*Marines of B Company led by Capt. Michael S. Hays and 1st Sgt. John P. Ploskonka Jr., run by a playground as they approach the center of Harper's Ferry during a relay run on Nov. 19.*



*Photo by Lance Cpl. Jordan M. Welner*

*Lance Cpl's Ryan D. Frazier and Lindsey C. Leonard work hard every day to maintain documentation on the Marines at 8<sup>th</sup> and I, such as pay and allowances, and personal records.*



*Photo by Lance Cpl. Jordan M. Welner*

*Located on the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and K Streets, the Marine Annex and Band Support Facility opened its doors on Aug 23. The state-of-the-art facility is the new home to single Marines assigned to the Barracks.*



*Photo by Lance Cpl. Jordan M. Welner*



*Barracks Officers salute Navy LT. Ted L. Williams, the MBW Chaplain, one last time during his playoff ceremony, Oct. 13.*

*Photo by Lance Cpl. Jordan M. Welner*



*Marines of A Company are all ears, as they receive a grenade range briefing from their platoon commander on Sept. 29.*

*Photo by Lance Cpl. Jordan M. Welner*



*The Marine Corps Color Guard presents the colors during a cake-cutting ceremony at the National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda, MD, Nov. 2.*

*Photo by Lance Cpl. Aaron K. Clark*



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