

PASS IN REVIEW

VOLUME 24

ISSUE 3



CO'S CORNER

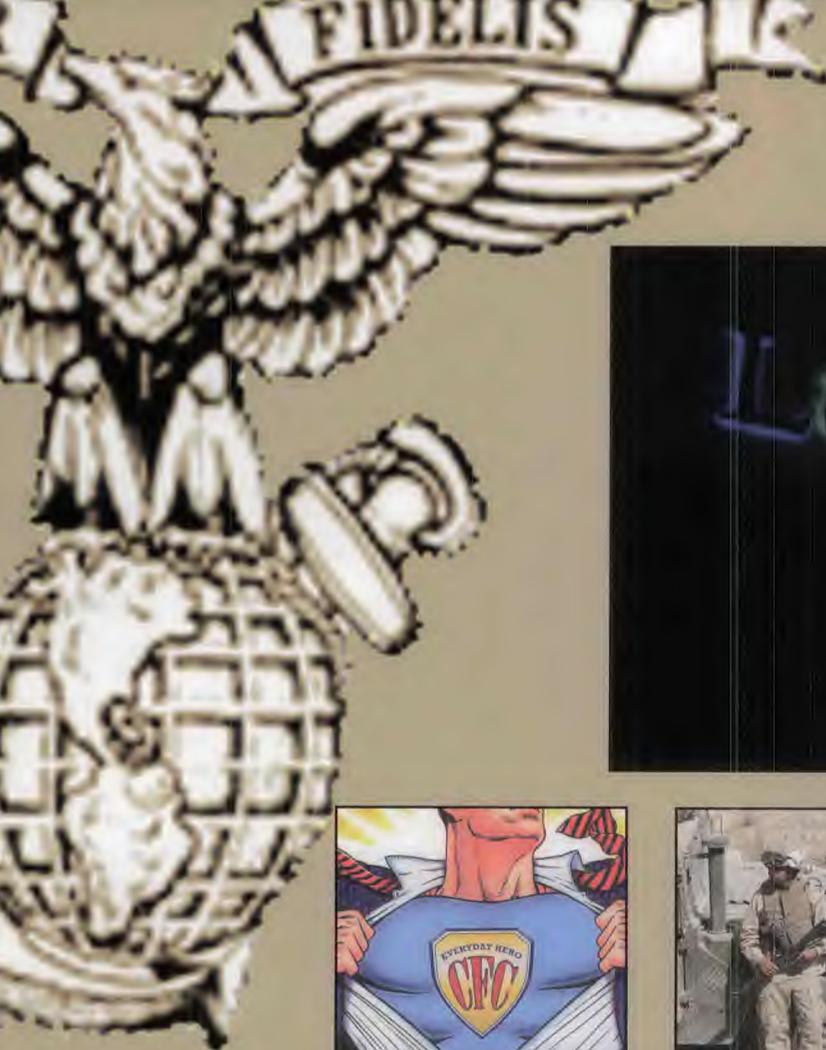
All of us assigned to Marine Barracks Washington are acutely aware of our primary mission to support the Marine Corps' ceremonial commitments within the National Capitol Region. Many know we are also charged with providing security at several designated locations in the region, as well as being prepared for any contingency security missions. And I'm sure all of us are familiar with the mission of the Marine Corps Institute to conduct the primary distance education programs for all Marines.

Anyone who has been here longer than a few weeks would likely agree that we have more than enough to keep us busy throughout the year. But there is another critically important mission at the Barracks that we must never lose sight of, and that's to prepare our Marines to serve in the operating forces. With our country and our Corps at war, preparing our Marines and Sailors for the operating forces has never been more important. Training and preparing for service after the Barracks goes well beyond simply maintaining a high level of physical fitness and going to the rifle range every year. We must take advantage of every opportunity to conduct MOS and small unit training; to plan and to get the most out of our limited time away from our day- to- day duties.

We are fortunate this year to have many veterans of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom assigned to the "Oldest Post." Leaders who know first hand what our Marines need to know to be successful. Our field training, though all too infrequent, has been challenging and designed to keep our junior Marines and Sailors familiar with their weapons and to provide them with the individual and small unit skills that will be their foundation when they arrive in the operating forces. Our Marines and Sailors have the tremendous discipline we've developed through the exacting requirements for ceremonial drill and security missions while developing the leadership skills daily that will make them effective leaders. It is encouraging to see we are taking advantage of the time we have to train them in the skills our Corps will need from them in the future. However, we can all do better.

I charge all of us to continue to look for ways to improve how and when we train. During the past couple of years, a number of us have been called away from the Barracks as Individual Augments for OIF and OEF. The vast majority of our Marines who have been here for two years have gotten orders to deploying battalions. All have given credible service. And we all know that if we haven't had the opportunity to get into the fight, we soon will. We may not know exactly when we'll be called, but it is our duty to be always ready.

Semper Fi,
Col. T. M. Lockard
Barracks Commanding Officer



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On The Cover: The Silver Star Medal adorns the chest of Capt. Joshua L. Glover, Headquarters and Service Co. Executive Officer, after being awarded the medal at the Corps' "Oldest Post" by General Michael W. Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps. The CMC presented Glover with the Silver Star Medal for his actions in Al Fallujah, Iraq. (Photo by Cpl. Aaron K. Clark)

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Navy Marine Corps Intranet brings barracks into the future

Story and photos by
Cpl. Aaron K. Clark

At the beginning of November a “changing of the guard” will take place. While there won’t be any rifle twirling or bands playing, this transition is just as important to the “Oldest Post of the Corps” as any change of command.

The new Navy Marine Corps Intranet will replace the faulty computer network that Marines here work off of now. Tasks ranging from the processing of transcripts at the Marine Corps Institute to updates to the web site of the Silent Drill Platoon will run much more smoothly with this new “digital backbone” supporting the Barracks.

The initial idea was to combine the network that connected the Marine Corps and the Navy, so that both services could easily communicate with one another, said Sgt. Joseph Nunez, Chief of the Information Systems Management Office.

“What has happened is that all the personal computers in the battalion have been signed over to NMCI and all of the machines that do not meet the minimum system requirements for participation on the NMCI network will be replaced. Because none of our

PC’s meet these standards all of them will be replaced,” said Nunez.

As the changeover to the new equipment happens, the Marines of the ISMO will be constantly working to keep everything working like it should.

“All the Marines in the ISMO will be supporting the changeover in one form or fashion,” said Nunez.

While the new equipment isn’t coming in until December, as with other government projects, the project has been in the works for a very long time.

“The planning and implementation began with the initial NMCI contract being signed in 2000. Logistical planning for the Barracks’ changeover start in the summer of 2003,” said Nunez.

Just like all the other changes in the Corps, Marines here will have to adapt and overcome new obstacles that result from the changes.

“With the replacement of the computers within the battalion, the users will be experiencing some growing pains as their data is migrated from their old box to the new one,” he said. “But in the end we get better technology as a result.”

Season of giving falls on Barracks

True meaning of “always faithful” revealed

*Story and photos by
Cpl. Aaron K. Clark*

Every year around this time, the Marine Corps Reserve sponsors ‘Toys for Tots,’ a program that makes Christmas brighter for needy children. Not as visible to the public, but just as important, the Combined Federal Campaign was kicked off at the ‘Oldest Post’ at the beginning of the month.

Since it is an annual campaign, some people may just assume it’s a routine fundraiser that they don’t need to contribute to, but in reality the contributions the Marines and Civilians make serve as a huge contributor to the success of the campaign.

“The Navy and Marine Corps is the largest overall contributor from the Department of Defense towards the CFC,” said Master Sgt. Philip D. Niskanen, administrative chief at Marine Barracks Washington.

“The National Capital Area is the largest DoD region for contributions to the CFC,” he said, “and the DoD is the largest contributor of any government agency towards the CFC.”

As their role in the Global War on Terrorism expands, some might say the Corps has given enough already, but Marines here feel differently.

“I give to a medical based charity because a family member



Cpl. Quinby T. Akal, protocol NCO, explains the process of filling out a Combined Federal Campaign form to Lance Cpl. Earnest M. Dixon, reservation clerk.

was diagnosed with a condition that this charity has greatly helped,” said Cpl. Brandon M. Angeloff, platoon sergeant, 2nd platoon, Company A.

“It’s in our nature (as Marines) to give,” said Staff Sgt. Harvey M. Grimmett, platoon sergeant, 1st Platoon, Company A. “Many of today’s Marines come from the working class segment of society, who are usually brought up with more of a giving spirit.”

Maybe being a Marine makes you more likely to give, or maybe

the type of people that volunteer to be yelled at, physically and mentally pushed and endure constant hardships are the type of people that are willing to give.

“As Marines we already have that mindset that everything we do is not always about ourselves,” said Cpl. Quinby T. Akal, protocol NCO, Marine Barracks Washington.

“By joining the Marine Corps we show that we are willing to give, and the CFC is just another way to do that,” he said.

Answering the call

*By Lance Cpl.
Jordan M. Welner*

Two children in Chicago, a wife and unborn child in North Carolina and an ailing grandmother in Montana-- these are just some of the components that make up the lives of three servicemembers. To leave such things would be unthinkable. That is, until the safety of these valued treasures along with the country that provides them is threatened.

That is exactly what forced two Marines and a Sailor to temporarily put their lives on hold and leave the things that made them whole behind. It caused them to do the unthinkable-- walk out of their comfort zones and into a war zone.

Religious Program Specialist 2nd Class Jorge V. Arocho, GySgt. Angeline M. Williams and Sgt. David S. Worswick, all currently stationed at Marine Barracks Washington, are such people of noble character. During the past four years, each one of them has deployed to Iraq and other parts of the Middle East, each one of them did it without hesitation.

In the face of injury, confusion and extreme heartache, they answered the call. Why? Because they understand that freedom exists only when heroes intervene to preserve it, even if it means leaving the things you know and love behind.



Gunnery Sgt. Angeline M. Williams stands in front of a messhall in Iraq while wearing an M40 field-protective mask.

The gift of tomorrow is not promised

Iraq teaches Marine, mother to live life

Story by Public Affairs Staff

Photos courtesy of Gunnery Sgt.

Angeline M. Williams

Imagine your six-year old child asking if you were going to die on deployment. As hard as the question may be to answer, Gunnery Sgt. Angeline M. Williams had to answer her son, TyVonn, the day before she deployed to Iraq for Operation Enduring Freedom I.

When Williams, Assistant Contract Officer Representative for Marine Barracks mess hall, received orders to deploy in January 2003, she had less than a week to make preparations to leave. Making arrangements for her two children was not an easy thing to do with just three business days left

before she deployed. With all of the legal and financial issues taken care of in those three days, Williams had only two days left to spend with her kids before going on deployment, not knowing if she would ever return.

It was Saturday, and she had just given the kids a bath and tucked them into bed after their nightly prayers when she went downstairs to take care of things around the house before she turned in for the night. When she walked back up the stairs, she noticed her son's clothes were on the floor.

"I know I just picked up all the clothes," said Williams. "I walked in the bathroom and my son was sitting in the tub."

Almost crying he asked me if I was going to carry a weapon, said Williams. When I said yes and

he replied with “But mommy, I thought you told me that guns were bad.”

I had to explain to him that I was trying to protect him and everyone else in our country, and that the freedom to walk around and do what we want sometimes requires people to pick up weapons, said Williams.

“But what if you get shot?” he asked me out of nowhere. After losing four family members in the past six months, including his uncle and his grandfather, my son already knew what death was, so I had to think for a minute before I answered the question,” she said.

“You don’t think that a six year old has the (intelligence) to talk about these things,” said the loving mother. “Mommy doesn’t know what is going to happen, but know mommy loves you and that I will always be with you, if not physically then spiritually and emotionally,” said Williams.

After what must have seemed like hours, he finally told his mother not to worry because he knew she would come home and that he loved her. There wasn’t enough time for that conversation with her son to affect her, because Monday morning she was on a plane to Iraq.

“It didn’t hit me until I got back in August,” said Williams. “The reason I say that is because I still had to pack my sea bag, transfer money and give directions for the kids schooling. There was no time for me to analyze anything.”

“You realize that once you get in country there is no time to think about anything,” said Williams. “I



Williams catches a ride on a CH53 on her way to Al Asad for a unit report meeting in January 2005.



“The Gunny” stands outside the air wing headquarters at Al Asad in January of 2005, where she attended several command meetings.



The OIF vet stops for a photo in front of an Iraqi building during a tour of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Headquarters in January 2005.

really didn’t think about me being a mommy.”

Being that the Marine Corps is a family, Williams played the role of a big sister.

“I wasn’t a mommy out there,” said Williams, “the only thing I knew myself as for eight months was ‘The Gunny’.”

Williams said she is a very emotional person and even though it was hard in Iraq, she had to be strong and didn’t let the distance between her and the children affect the mission.

“I couldn’t allow myself to break down because when you do, it is hard to get focused again,” said Williams. “I didn’t want to think about what my kids were doing, and at that point and time I was in



While Williams was in Iraq, she worked as legal chief with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 for eight months.

a war zone and couldn't afford to be emotional."

Williams said she chose to trust God to take care of her children while she was gone.

"I know you've got my babies God, and you'll make sure that they're taken care of. Right now this Gunny has to make sure that she comes back home," she prayed.

She knew she had to remain focused to get herself and her troops back home. But even though mental discipline comes easy to Marines, her children at home were dealing with the absence of their mother.

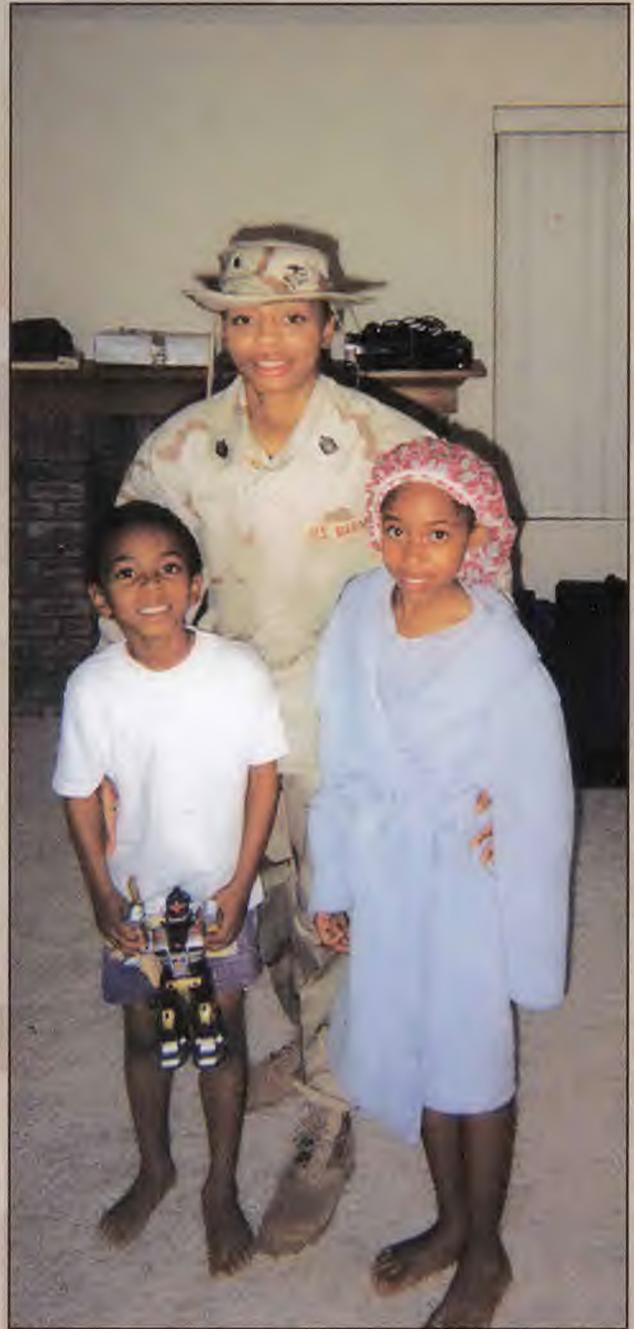
"Their father couldn't let them watch the news for fear of them seeing something that would make them think I was gone," she said.

"My daughter is very emotional and cries a lot," said Williams. "They missed me so much, but there were periods of time where I couldn't call, and so I wrote letters to my children every other day."

Even though the mail was slow, Williams made sure she let her children know she was all right.

At the end of the deployment, when she finally touched down on American soil and saw her children again, she knew it was ok to break down and cry.

"It was an emotional time. My daughter and my son ran and hugged me," said Williams. "We cried (tears of joy) and besides birth, it was the most touching moment in my life. My son said 'See mommy. I told you, you were going to come home.'"



Williams poses with her son TyVonn (left), and daughter Tyanna (right), before her deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Her son's question about getting shot in Iraq made her realize that she might have never seen her children again. It taught her a lesson she'll never forget.

"I think after being in Iraq, I have learned to live life like each day is going to be my last," said the mother of two. "I never take anything for granted because tomorrow is not promised to you."

Orlando native makes

Deals with the rush hour of life

Story by

Sgt. Stephen Traynham

Photos courtesy of

Sgt. David S. Worswick

For some, the road to college is laid out before them. Others move straight from high school to the American work force. Life takes us in many different directions. But what happens when the direction you were moving towards takes an abrupt turn?

For Orlando native, David S. Worswick, the highway of life has taken many twist and turns, yet he continues to push on with a smile. The first sharp curve Worswick had to endure was during his senior year at Winter Park High School.

"I was always a great athlete, but I didn't make great grades," said the dedicated Boston Celtics fan. "I figured I could make it in one of the small colleges that were scouting me at the time."

Worswick received numerous scholarships for his basketball skills. During a Christmas Tournament, which will always be embedded in his side, his hopes for college along with the scholarships would be diminished.

"We were playing against Vince Carter in one of the games," said the 6-foot-2-inch Worswick. "During the game, Vince caught an alley-oop over me. As he dunked the ball, his knee went into my side and broke three of my ribs. The docs told me I would be out for the rest of the season as well as next season. Man could he jump."

Standing at a fork in the road, Worswick turned to a man that helped his sister when she was at a similar intersection in her life—a Marine Corps recruiter.

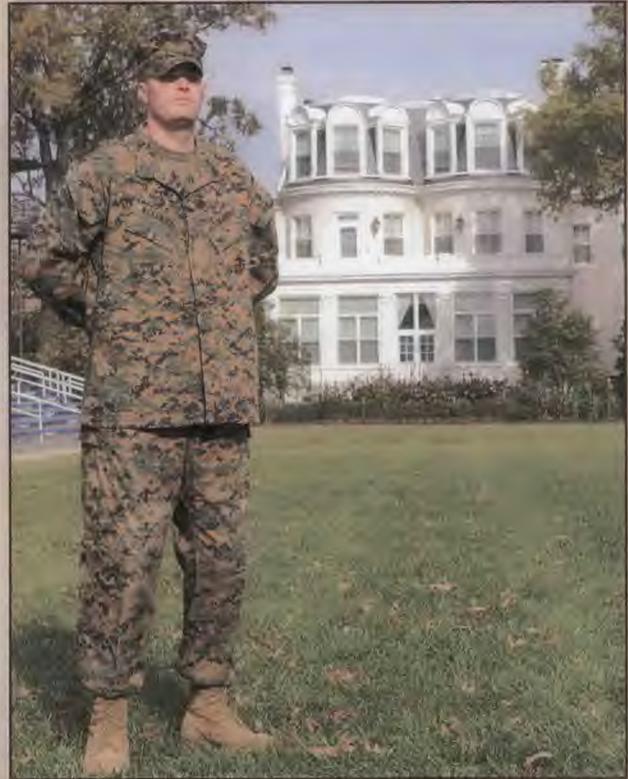
"I wasn't really mature at the time. I mean, boys at 19 aren't really mature," said Worswick. "I needed direction, and I thought the Corps could give me that."

Worswick joined the Corps in July of 1995 as a Marine infantryman. Upon fulfilling

his four-year contract and obtaining the rank of sergeant, he believed the Corps had instilled in him the discipline and maturity he needed to be successful in life.

"When I got out I felt I was ready for the world," said Worswick. "I moved to Miami where I got a job working for a foreign currency exchange corporation. I also bartended at a few bars."

After spending two years in Miami, Worswick went to Montana to aid his ailing grandmother. It was three days after the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001, that Worswick received a phone call



Sgt. David S. Worswick, platoon sergeant for the Marine Barracks guard section, stands on the Parade Deck in front of the Home of the Commandants.

that gave him the green light to re-enter the Corps.

"I kind of expected the call and even looked forward to it," said Worswick. "If I wasn't recalled I was going to re-enlist anyway. I felt obligated—as any American should."

Instead of being a part of the ready reserve force, Worswick chose to re-enlist and even took a reduction to corporal.

"I've trained for four years as an infantryman," said the dedicated grunt, "there was no way I could come back in and do anything else."

Once back in uniform,

way through traffic



Worswick left the Florida sun and moved to Montana to take care of his ailing grandmother, Gloria Gaspard.

Worswick was attached to 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines. This is where he underwent hours of refresher training and pushed himself to get back into shape and ready for combat. It was only a few months after returning when the orders were given for his unit to report to the USS SAIPAN to be deployed to Kuwait. While on ship, Worswick would have an accident that almost cost him the chance to serve in combat with the Marines he trained with just months before.

“On the way over to Iraq, I fell down one of the ladderwells on the ship,” said Worswick. “I dislocated my knee and broke my wrist. I spent four days in the intensive care unit and was told by my command that I wouldn’t cross the line of departure.”

“When we touched down in Kuwait, I was overwhelmed,” said

Worswick. “Every Marine and every infantryman always say they want to go to war. But once you get there, the reality of being there sets in, and you start to question yourself. Am I ready? Do I really, really want to be here? I knew I was there for a reason, and this was something I wanted to do.”

Police say never to leave the scene of an accident, and Worswick’s command said he wouldn’t leave the base at Kuwait. Against the orders of his command

and the doctors, Worswick cut both his casts off and began physically training himself.

“While we were waiting to move into Iraq, I had to prove to my command that I was fully rehabilitated and wouldn’t be a burden to the mission,” said the tenacious Worswick. “I would go on pack runs around the base wearing my gas mask. My Marines went as far as coming up with a petition for me to cross over with them. They even submitted it to the command!”

Worswick was cleared for full duty and crossed into Iraq with his unit. Although his unit may not have made many news headlines, they played a strategic role in a mission that was publicized around the world—a rescue mission.

“I was part of a Marine detachment that made an attack in



Worswick stands with Gunnery Sgt. Alex Russell at Camp Shoup, Kuwait, days before the start of Operation Enduring Freedom.

An Nasiriyah that was actually a diversion, so the main element could land at Saddam Hospital and rescue Jessica Lynch,” said Worswick. “They found her and got her out, I thought that was cool.”

After spending five months in Iraq, Worswick was headed back to the states only to make a u-turn four months later. This time he was headed to Asadabad, Afghanistan where he hit a dead end, or in his case, a windshield.

His unit was in the process of relieving another unit when the base came under fire from 105mm mortars spotted coming from a mountaintop. At the time, only one helicopter had dropped off Marines from the oncoming unit. Worswick was the senior enlisted man on the ground from his unit, so along with two gun trucks and a captain, he led a group of privates first class and lance corporals on a mission to make contact.

“There was only one serviceable road that we could use,” said Worswick. “The enemy knew that and setup roadside bombs. They aren’t stupid. About 20 minutes into the mission we hit an IED (improvised explosive device), and I did a face plant into the windshield. I was out for a few seconds. When I came to, there was total confusion around me. I crawled to the rear of my hummer and posted Marines to provide security.

“The explosion injured three of my Marines. One lost his leg, one took shrapnel to the left side of his face and body, and one took shrapnel to his throat. We administered immediate first aid to them all. We had to perform a tracheotomy and use some quick clot on the Marine with the neck injury. Luckily for us, the helos were still in the area, so it didn’t take long



Worswick embraces his wife, Heather, after returning from Iraq.

for the medivac to arrive.

“I opted not to go. I wasn’t going to leave my Marines. We had a mission to do. Plus, I didn’t know the extent of my injuries. My adrenalin took over, and we switched to a search and seizure mission. We were told two hours later to report back to post.”

When back at post, Worswick’s body acted like a car without gas and stopped working.

“I passed out. I guess the adrenalin wore off,” said Worswick with a smile. “My lieutenant found me blacked out in my hooch. When I came to, I was on a Black Hawk headed to Bagram Air Base. I stayed there for three weeks, then I went to the Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Md.”

While at Bagram, Worswick was treated for a concussion, ligament damage in his neck and back, micro fissure down the spine, a compressed spine and disc damage-- all injuries that occurred during the explosion. After leaving Bethesda, he was sent back to his unit at Camp Lejune, N.C., where he underwent therapy

for four months. He was then left standing at another fork in the road. He was given the choice to be medically discharged or seek therapy back at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda.

“When I signed the contract to re-enlist, it was for four years,” said Worswick. “My four years weren’t up yet. I needed to be stationed somewhere around Bethesda in order to undergo therapy.

I came to Marine Barracks Washington and spoke with the sergeant major and pleaded my case. He sent me to speak with the Barracks guard chief. It was like going up for a job interview. Only this was for more than my job—it was for my life.”

Worswick is currently the platoon sergeant for the guard section here. He is still under going therapy at the Naval Hospital in Bethesda.

Throughout all his travels, all the twist and turns life threw at him, Worswick still managed to find his way home—in the Marine Corps.

Committed to God, country, Corps

Sailor serves "Oldest Post"

Story by *Public Affairs Staff*

Photos courtesy of
RP2 *Jorge V. Arocho*

Honor, courage and commitment-- these are the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps' core values. They are words that touch Marines and Sailors on some kind of emotional level. For a Naval Religious Program Specialist, the meaning of these words are not taken lightly when it comes to helping Marines and Sailors in their walk of faith. Religious Program Specialist 2nd Class Jorge V. Arocho, the RP for Marine Barracks Washington, has found these words take on a whole new meaning throughout his travels in the Marine Corps and Navy.

While on deployment he is considered a combatant, and it is his job to protect the chaplain. As the RP for the "Oldest Post of the Corps," he assists the chaplain with religious programs for the battalion.

"I am the right hand of the chaplain," said the Puerto Rican native. "I coordinate and organize just about everything he does."

Arocho is great with coordination due to years of experience in his church community back home. Before his time in the Navy, he was a leader in his youth group, a member of a local religious ministry team and a catechism class instructor for young children.

"I was really involved," said the devout Catholic. "I wanted to do my part for the community."

As ingrained into his community as he was, Arocho still had a desire to serve his country.

"I joined for the same reason we are in Iraq, Afghanistan and all over the world," he said. "To fight for freedom and democracy."

He was to do just that. He received orders to the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit in February of 2004 to take part in Operation Enduring Freedom.

His wife Johanna is also an RP and was 18 weeks pregnant with their first child when she received the news.

"She started crying when I told her," said



Arocho poses for a picture with his wife, Johanna, after being promoted to Religious Program Specialist 2nd Class and receiving his Good Conduct Medal and a Certificate of Commodation.

Arocho. "I told her God always has a purpose. God has a plan for everyone."

It was a huge adjustment process when Johanna started to realize her husband was actually going to deploy. It was a hard truth that both of them had to accept. When it came time to leave in February 2004 he knew God had a purpose for him, so he stuck to his commitment.

The days and weeks dragged on, but he didn't lose sight of the role he played during the time away from his family. The things that surprised him while he was in Afghanistan was the harsh reality of the wide spread poverty in that country.

"People over there don't have electricity, and they don't even know what TVs are. Their houses are built out of rocks and mud, and they die from things that in the states can be cured with Tylenol,"

said the OIF and OEF veteran.

All the earthly possessions I have in the states are a blessing, said Arocho.

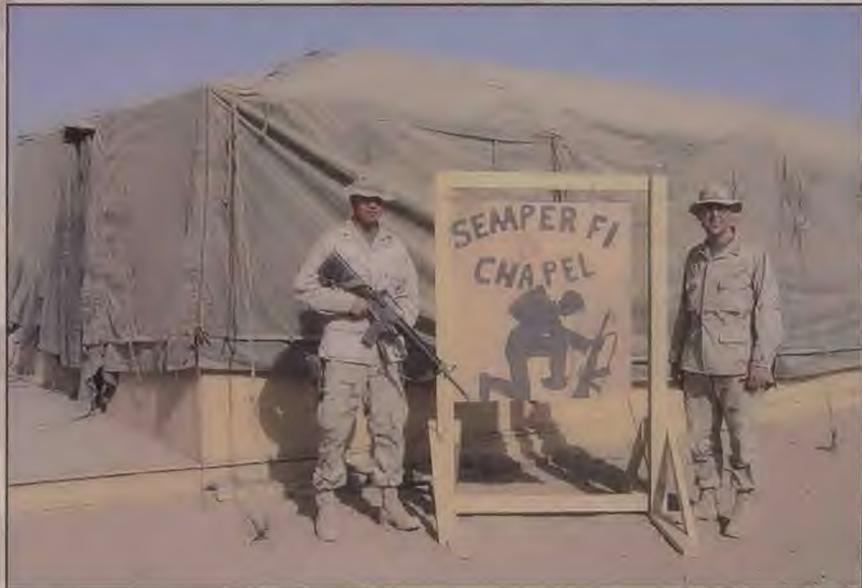
He never complains about the food or not having the newest clothes, and believes nothing in life should be taken for granted.

“Whatever I have, I am happy with,” said the Sailor who always wears a smile on his face.

The day before Father’s Day was one he will always remember. On that day the sergeant major of the 22nd MEU was contacted with good news from the states. He walked straight to the chapel to seek out the Sailor. When he found him he said, “Happy Father’s Day.” Arocho looked at him like he was crazy.

“I asked him what he was talking about,” said Arocho. “I told him, ‘Sergeant Major, my wife is still pregnant.’”

Then Arocho was told that his wife had just



Arocho stands with his M9 pistol and M16 service rifle along side CDR Gregory N. Todd, 26th MEU Chaplain in front of a make shift chapel in Tavin Kowt, Afghanistan.

given birth to their son, Joshua. Shortly after the news, he was given the opportunity to call back to the states and speak with his wife for about 10 minutes.

“I almost started crying,” said the new father. “He was born healthy, and my wife was alright.”

Just three months after the birth of Joshua, the 22nd MEU packed up their seabags and headed home. When Arocho stepped off the ship, he looked for the family he had been so eagerly waiting for but was not able to find them. Out of nowhere, Johanna walked right next to him with their new-born-child.

“First thing he did was hug us both, and then he grabbed Josh,” said Johanna. “He is a great father and husband.”

Arocho carried on with the mission the Navy gave him and stayed committed to it by honoring the Navy and Marine Corps core values. It was a challenge for him to leave his family behind but he knows the words honor, courage and commitment are the values we use to protect freedom. His next challenge in life is passing this knowledge to his son and another child he has on the way.

“Every servicemember fighting for his country knows what we do now is for our (children’s) future,” said Arocho.



Arocho and his wife, Johanna, crouch next to their son, Joshua, on his first birthday.

Marine receives Silver Star

Story by

Cpl. Aaron K. Clark

The annals of Marine Corps history are filled with stories of men and women who have sacrificed their all in service to their country. Puller, Basilone, Lejeune, Butler, Daley—names that are synonymous with valor in combat and Marine Corps lore.

“There is a fellowship of valor that links all U.S. Marines, past, present, and future,” said Joseph Alexander, retired Marine Colonel in his book *The Battle History of the U.S. Marines: A Fellowship of Valor*.

Now, another story of valor can be added to the Marine history books and for one Marine officer assigned to the Corps’ “Oldest Post,” that story is one of modesty and simply taking care of his Marines.

Dallas native, Capt. Joshua L. Glover was presented the nation’s third highest award for valor in combat—the Silver Star medal.

Glover, a 2001 United States Naval Academy graduate, received his award in a chilly early morning ceremony held aboard the Corps’ “Oldest Post,” Oct. 28, 2005, from the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Michael W. Hagee.

The 26-year-old received the award for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while serving as 81 mm Mortar Platoon Commander with Weapons Company and Quick Reaction Force Platoon Commander, 1st Marine Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom on April 13, 2004, in Al Fallujah.



Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Kent Flora

General Michael W. Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps, stands with Capt. Joshua L. Glover, Headquarters and Service Co. Executive Officer at the Corps’ “Oldest Post” after presenting Glover with the Silver Star Medal for his actions in Al Fallujah, Iraq.

When asked about the award, Glover humbly diverts attention away from himself.

“I received this award because of something we did as a platoon, and I am really proud of what we accomplished that day,” he said.

Occurring during the second of his three



General Hagee says a few remarks about the valor of Glover after pinning him with the Silver Star Medal while Glover's mother Lynn, looks on.

deployments to Iraq, Glover led and directed his platoon through enemy lines to recover classified material from a downed CH-53 helicopter. The platoon was attacked by Iraqi forces employing machinegun, small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire. Glover skillfully maneuvered his force and assaulted through the ambush to friendly lines, inflicting numerous enemy casualties.

After successfully completing the mission, Glover was ordered that same evening to recover a destroyed Assault Amphibious Vehicle and assist in the rescue of a besieged rifle platoon deep behind enemy lines. Glover and his Marines found themselves up against a company-sized Iraqi force along the enemy's main line of resistance where as

stated in Glover's Silver Star citation, "he repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire as he engaged enemy targets at point-blank range while directing the rifle platoon's relief and coordinating recovery operations."

Glover attributes the battle as a success because of the hard work of the Marines in his charge, and his common sense approach to leadership.

"When you train Marines you have to get them to focus on the basics. In a chaotic situation such as combat, the basics will get them through," said Glover.

According to Glover, it's more than just training that makes a platoon of Marines successful in combat. Strong leadership in your Non-Commissioned Officers is vital. In order to be successful,

with the dispersion between elements in today's combat environments, your NCOs have to be equipped and empowered to make decisions, he said.

And through something very challenging, Glover has earned a new outlook on his life.

"I have learned to appreciate what we have here in the U.S., both the general

safety we enjoy and the quality of our lives," said Glover.

And while the battle for which Glover was awarded was a success, he feels the enormity of the price that was paid.

"I lost a Marine that day, as did another unit in the battalion. We can not separate [the victory from the loss], and I think we need to do our best to make them and their families proud," he said.

For those Marines who have been called upon to defend freedom in far off lands, sacrifice is the common thread that binds them together. The desire to join their brethren in combat keeps them ready to go. And, at the Corps' "Oldest Post," another story can be added to the history books—one of sacrifice, humility and valor.

“Commandant’s Own” dazzles at 40th annual Texas tour

Story and photos by
Cpl. David Revere

“The Marines are the best thing about the Texas State Fair,” says Dallas native Thomas Justice directly after a concert by “The Commandant’s Own,” United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps, at the Fairground’s Marine Corps Square.

That’s quite a review considering the afternoon performances of these Marines occur alongside country concerts, auto shows, rodeos and thrill rides that seem to grow more elaborate with every passing year.

Marking their 40th consecutive Texas tour, the Drum and Bugle Corps performed daily at the Texas State Fair from September 30 through October 17 to packed crowds and enthusiastic acclaim. While generations of Texans have come and gone, these Marines have returned steadfastly every year, establishing themselves as a state fair institution.

“I’ve seen these guys perform here since 1970,” said Justice, who said everyone in his family is a dedicated fan.

It’s folks like the Justice clan who have helped create one of these Marines’ most loyal and appreciative fan bases.

Chief Warrant Officer Brian Dix, who has served as the D&B’s director for seven years, said the 40th anniversary in Dallas signifies more than just popularity. There are roots here that go deep into Texas.

“When someone comes up to meet me afterwards and introduces me to their children, I’m reminded why we’re still here,” he said. “People are passing their patriotism and appreciation of us on to the next generation.”

The unit travels in excess of 60,000 miles a year while completing more than 500 ceremonies, but



Gunnery Sgt. Reginald Jackson, United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps soprano bugler, directs the D&B as the acting drum major during the Texas State Fair starlight parade.

a special place is reserved in their hearts for the annual trip to Texas.

“There’s so much respect and appreciation for us here,” said Cpl. Jonathan Alexander, a soprano bugler for D&B. “They’re proud of us and what we’re doing. As musicians, it makes us want to perform our best.”

Pfc. Nicholas J. Tandy, a soprano bugler who performed as the D&B’s junior member this year, echoed the sentiment.

“I’ve just been thinking how lucky I am that I get to do this for my job,” said Tandy. “It brings out the best in everyone’s performance when they can sense the energy of the audience. Out there, you can see the people singing and the little kids clapping. They love us.”

Dix and the D&B’s drum major will typically pause during the middle of a concert to dialogue with the audience, answering questions and passing out compact disks of their music. This light-hearted banter results in a good amount of laughter and provides fans a chance to go home with a personal touch they might not have expected from a military performance.

“I don’t know how to explain it really,” said Brenda Miller from Sulphur Springs, Texas, a die-hard fan for the past five years. “It’s something about the way they play that makes all the goodness come out of you. They play from the heart, and it shows.”

Justice said the performances are about a feeling every true American shares.

“I’ve lived through tumultuous times,” said the Vietnam veteran. “Life is always changing, but the Drum and Bugle Corps has always been there. They’ve been that foundation here that never changes. They bring together all the military organizations, all the political parties and solidify them into one thing... America.”

As the only drum and bugle corps in the entire armed forces today, perhaps it’s that unifying, patriotic spirit expressed through expertly-performed music that makes these Marines’ presence so enduring.

“We’ve been privileged to perform here for 40 years,” said Dix. “We’re looking forward to the next 40.”

A final farewell...

Marines return home after n



Marines from Company B, Marine Barracks Washington, stand ready to present folded flags to 11 families during the interment ceremony Oct. 7, 2005, at Arlington National Cemetery for the Marines recently brought back from Vietnam.

*Story and photos by
Gunnery Sgt. Kent Flora*

The families of 11 Marines, their long wait finally over, said a final goodbye to loved ones not forgotten after nearly four decades.

Arlington National Cemetery, the final resting place for America's honored heroes, was the rain-laden backdrop to the history-making event that saw hundreds of friends, service members and families pay tribute to the men who gave the ultimate sacrifice so many years before.

For one family, the link to the Marine Corps is ever present. A Marine now serving returned the POW/MIA bracelet that had adorned his wrist for 15 years to the sister of one of the fallen Marines—Lance Cpl. James Sargent.

"I'm so glad Jimmy is finally home," said Alice Fay Davis of Leckie, W. Va., "it's time for him to rest and it gives our family relief knowing he is home."

Not only does May 10, 1968 (the day of Sargent's death) mean something to the Sargent family but also to the Marine who wore the bracelet—Gunnery Sgt. Mark Oliva, Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division.

"Wearing that bracelet for Lance Cpl. Sargent has become a big part of who I am," said the 15-year veteran. "His name has been with me, halfway around the world and back, even to Iraq—twice. To be able to give that bracelet back to the family is a fulfillment of duty and honor—it's a promise kept. It is what we do as Marines; it's the definition of 'Semper Fidelis.'"

Although Oliva admits his wrist feels lighter and that he will always remember Sargent, he couldn't have been happier to return it to the sister of the man it honors.

"To give it to Fay and tell her 'Jimmy's home,' was the greatest honor I could have done for him

early four decades

and his family.”

Even with the tears shed by the families and the fellow Marines who served with the men, there is relief—relief that they all have returned home.

“I saw in the eyes of every family member, sorrow and relief,” said Gunnery Sgt. Barry L. Baker, Marine Corps Funeral Director. “It puts an end to years of wondering. It truly is a privilege to give these Marines their final military honors so they can rest in peace.”

The Corps’ motto rings true when speaking about never leaving any Marine behind and the ceremony marks the second time this year that Marines have returned home for proper burial at ANC. The first interment was in May when three Marines and a Navy Corpsman of Alpha Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion were honored after returning from the Quang Tri Province of South Vietnam.

The Marines of the Corps’ “Oldest Post” are entrusted with the ceremonial duty of laying their brothers to rest at ANC. The Body Bearers of Company B here have the responsibility of burials at Arlington.

Flags were presented to family members during the interment ceremony. Dennis King, brother to Cpl. Gerald E. King; Bertram Cook, brother to Lance Cpl. Joseph F. Cook; William Fritsch, father to Lance Cpl. Thomas W. Fritsch; Janice Costello, sister to Lance Cpl. Raymond T. Heyne; Marjorie Mitchell, mother to Lance Cpl. Donald W. Mitchell; Willard Sargent, brother to Lance Cpl. James Ray Sargent; Donald Blackman, father to Pfc. Thomas J. Blackman; Dean Czerwonka, brother to Pfc. Paul S. Czerwonka; Virginia Hempel, mother to Pfc. Barry L. Hempel; Margaret Lopez, sister to Pfc. Robert C. Lopez; and Harry McGonigle, father to Pfc. William D. McGonigle all accepted flags on behalf of their families.



LIFE OUTSIDE T

STORY



THE "OLDEST POST"

AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. JORDAN M. WELNER



Ding, Ding!

Four rings of the bell marks the end of another busy workday at the Corps "Oldest Post." Scrambling to finish your last assignment, you can already feel the fresh air breathing into your bootless feet. The nation's capital is at your fingertips and it's only 4:00pm. Yet even now, one simple question manages to stump you—what are you doing after work?

Washington, D.C., is a new home to many Marines, so there is a natural longing to get out and meet new people. Like most major cities, D.C. is not lacking in the nightlife department. Just ask night owl Cpl. Daniel M. Farfan, training Non-Commissioned Officer for MCI Co.

"I've got one word for you," declared Farfan. "Dream!"

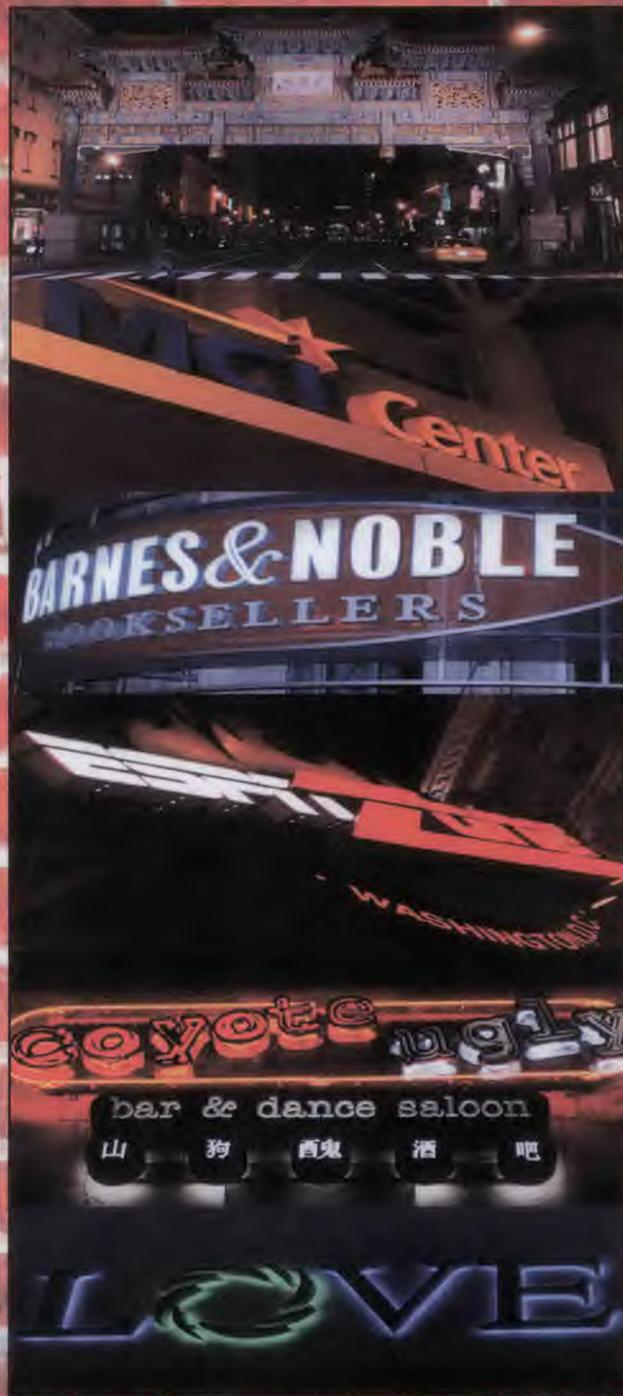
For those of you who automatically associate this word with your nightly voyage to neverland, Dream, which is now called Love, is a nightclub located in Northeast D.C. comprised of four floors, each featuring a different style of music and atmosphere.

"It's a nice contrast to the sometimes resonant nature of the barracks," said Farfan, a former Marine Corps Mascot handler. "Right when you walk inside, your feel liberated from all your problems, and everyone's main concern is just to have fun."

Excitement can also be found under a new morning sun in our own Southeast end of the district. According to Staff Sgt. Gregory C. Markley, a percussionist with the Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, getting up early offers access to one of the cities best-kept secrets, and it's within walking distance from the front gate.

Every Saturday morning Eastern Market features a farmer's market showcasing a vast array of food and crafts.

"It's like a festival every Saturday that brings the culturally diverse community together and offers a great place to meet



Whether checking out a Capitals game in the multifunctional MCI center, getting your groove on at Love nightclub, or sitting down for a coffee and a read at one of many bookstores scattered throughout the city, entertainment is easily found under the District's city lights.

people,” said Markley. “It’s truly something you have to experience to really appreciate.”

As Saturday turns into the new work-week, Friday is here again. After last weekend’s unforgettable trip to Ocean City, Md., your funds, along with that attractive young vixen’s number, have been washed away with the tide.

No need to get down on yourself. That card the Marine Corps gave you with your picture on it offers all access to any local military installation and, according to members of A Co., entertainment that won’t burn a hole in your pocket.

Cpl. Matthew H. Hutcheson, a squad leader and ceremonial marcher with 1st platoon, can’t get enough of the top notch golf course at Fort Belvoir, Va. Lance Cpl. Jay P. Wigginton a team leader with 2nd platoon likes to take advantage of such amenities as the bowling alley and the Olympic-size swimming pool at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, D.C.

Still need to release a little stored tension? Cpl. Nicholas A. Granter, a fiscal clerk with H&S Co., has a stress reliever that will have you banging your head in no time.

Granter just attended Ozzfest, a daylong music festival at the Nissan Pavilion in Bristow, Va., featuring several heavy rock bands.

“During the summer time, parade season can become stressful,” said Granter. “When I’m at an event like this, listening to one of my favorite bands, the frustration from a long work-week just comes out of me.”

The Marines here are temporarily stationed in a cultural melting pot of art, entertainment, history and current events. A place where almost every day a new musician will awe crowds at venues like the intimate 9:30 Club in Northwest D.C., and a new artist’s work will captivate the masses at the Smithsonian Art Museum.

What are you doing after work? Before you answer, stop and think about where you live, so your stay in the nation’s capital doesn’t pass you by.



Every Saturday, Southeast D.C.'s Eastern Market holds a farmers market making available fresh food grown outside the city and a flea market showcasing some of the areas most unique and innovative artists across a broad cultural field.



Photo by Cpl. Earnest J. Barnes

Former Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, General William L. "Spider" Nyland speaks at his retirement ceremony.



Photo by Cpl. David Revere

Drew Carey offers some light-hearted motivation to the marchers of A Company prior to their Friday Evening Parade.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Jordan M. Welner

The Washington Redskins Cheerleaders perform a few of their routines for the Marines of the "Oldest Post."



Photo by Cpl. Aaron K. Clark

Sgt. Scott A. Pierce, soprano bugler, Marine Drum & Bugle Corps, performs with the D&B at the 2005 Modern Day Military Expo at Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Va.



Photo by Cpl. Aaron K. Clark

Marines from A Company, 2nd Platoon and Silent Drill Platoon interact with a new resident at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, D.C.



and



the

acks



Chesty XII, the Marine Barracks mascot, is promoted to the rank of sergeant by Col. Terry M. Lockard, barracks commanding officer, and Sgt. Maj. Michael J. Watkins, battalion sergeant major.



Photo by Sgt. Stephen L. Traynham
Gunnery Sgt. Gregory R. Hardy (Left) pins chevrons on his wife, Gunnery Sgt. Remayl Shaffer-Hardy, as she pins chevrons on him during their promotion to their current rank.



Lt. Col. Michael J. Colburn, current director of the United States Marine Band, leads "The President's Own" through John Phillips Sousa's famous piece "Stars and Stripes Forever," during the unveiling of Sousa's statue.



Photo by Sgt. Stephen L. Traynham
First Sgt. John P. Ploskonka, company first sergeant for Company B, stands at the position of attention during the Staff Non-Commissioned Officer Evening Parade.



General "Spider" Nyland, former assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, presents a certificate of appreciation from The Honorable Gordon England, Secretary of the Navy, to Lt. Gen. Richard L. Kelly, former deputy commandant for installation and logistics, during Kelly's retirement ceremony at the Barracks.

Promotions

Headquarters and Service Company:

Major M.S. Castellano
Captain J.L. Glover
Gunnery Sergeant G.A. Hardy
Sergeant T.L. Edwards
Sergeant R.L. McClinton
Sergeant A.J. Nyback
Corporal C.J. Askew
Corporal S.D. Buie
Corporal A.K. Clark
Corporal J.S. Galeas
Corporal N.A. Granter
Corporal E.W. Haws
Corporal T.W. Mize
Corporal Z.A. Rel
Corporal M.J. Scali
Corporal M.R. Schwarz
Corporal S.H. Vickery
Corporal O.J. Vigil
Corporal L.D. Wright
Lance Corporal G.E. Bryte
Lance Corporal R.I. Cherrick
Lance Corporal E.M. Dixon
Lance Corporal B.S. Fugitt
Lance Corporal G.L. Grant
Lance Corporal T.J. Hand
Lance Corporal J.A. Keithley
Lance Corporal P.J. Klebaur
Lance Corporal S.F. Kreyenhagen
Lance Corporal M.R. Lemmens
Lance Corporal S.J. Lopez
Lance Corporal J.A. Lyle
Lance Corporal M.A. Navas
Lance Corporal J.T. Pasay
Lance Corporal J.M. Perrine
Lance Corporal G.A. Roberts
Lance Corporal E.M. Slates
Lance Corporal J.J. Torcello
Lance Corporal A.Z. Torres
Lance Corporal P.M. Vandevoorde
Lance Corporal J.R. Vera
Lance Corporal A.N. White

Private First Class R.F. Fraumann
Private First Class J. Keophilavanh
Private First Class K.C. Martin
Private First Class J.M. Stuber

A Company:

Captain R.K. Aldrich
Sergeant D.L. Adams
Corporal J.A. Billy
Corporal J.T. Hays
Corporal J.E. Kopp
Corporal C.A. Olerud
Corporal M.P. Roberts
Lance Corporal P.J. Bankard
Lance Corporal T.E. Brickett
Lance Corporal C.A. Campbell
Lance Corporal R.A. Reupena
Lance Corporal M.J. Valenti
Private First Class A.P. Bakker
Private First Class A.R. Crockett
Private First Class R.A. Morton
Private First Class J.M. Plummer

B Company:

Corporal J.T. Alexander
Corporal D.A. Ferreira
Corporal Q.C. Papenhausen
Corporal K.L. Taylor
Corporal M.R. Wilson
Lance Corporal P.L. Akins
Lance Corporal P.M. Bietsch
Lance Corporal J.D. Goodin
Lance Corporal C.W. Gray
Lance Corporal C.B. Hopkins
Lance Corporal D.A. Odell
Lance Corporal J.N. Squires
Lance Corporal J.L. Vanhorn
Lance Corporal B.L. Whitmarsh
Private First Class J.R. Burnett
Private First Class N.D. Comeau
Private First Class T.D. Gaul
Private First Class W.C. Grimes
Private First Class A.J. Johnson

Private First Class C.J. Jones
Private First Class S.J. Jones
Private First Class S.J. Kiernan
Private First Class M.S. Ramos

Marine Corps Institute:

Major H.L. Gardner
Captain J.L. Sullivan
1st Sergeant M.T. Mack
Corporal L. Chacko
Corporal C.M. Choe
Corporal J.E. Huff
Corporal R.W. Odom
Corporal J.S. Pascual
Corporal C.L. Sereday
Corporal H.S. Valadez
Corporal D.R. Vogel
Corporal W.L. Waddell
Corporal E.J. White
Lance Corporal R.E. Gazdag
Lance Corporal A.C. Mikicic
Lance Corporal A.K. Warner
Private First Class A.F. Avitabile
Private First Class L.J. Geter
Private First Class T.B. Lloyd

U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps:

Master Sergeant M.E. Meier
Gunnery Sergeant C.E. Hall
Sergeant R.C. Owens
Sergeant S.W. Rogers
Corporal B.J. Sanders
Corporal E.J. Shaw

USNA Security Company:

Corporal A.A. Johnson

U.S. Marine Band:

Corporal J.J. Kalish



Give the gift of giving

For opportunities to volunteer with the local community, contact 2nd Lt. Helmer, 433- 6660, Gunnery Sgt. Flora, 433- 6682, or Chaplain Foskett, 433- 6201.





Photos provided by U.S. Marine Corps Motion Picture and TV Liaison Office

Marines from "The Oldest Post" stand with the Secretary of Defense, The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld, after the filming of "Flags of our Fathers." The Marines were dressed in the 1954 era Dress Blue uniform for their portion of the film. The movie is based on the WWII accounts of James Bradley.

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