

# PASS IN



# REVIEW

VOLUME 27

ISSUE 1

**BRAVO  
COMPANY  
GOES TO  
JAIL**

**ALPHA  
COMPANY  
HEROES**

**WEST  
COAST  
TOUR**





General James T. Conway  
1st Commandant of the Marine Corps

## ALMAR 020/07

### **SUBJ:** TO THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE

To be a Marine is to be a part of something that represents the best of our nation. It is to accept a way of life that embodies selfless service, to defend those who cannot defend themselves, to thrive in the hardship and sacrifice expected of an elite warrior class, to march to the sound of the guns, and to ably shoulder the heritage created by those who have gone before us.

Only a few Americans choose the dangerous and necessary work of fighting our nation's enemies. As a consequence of that choice, some have paid the ultimate price, joining the honor roll of heroes who built the noble legacy of our Corps. For those of us who carry on that legacy, it is our obligation to honor those fallen Marines. As Marines gather in celebration of our history, we gather in the shadows of greatness. Though our fallen can no longer participate in our traditions, they will always be a part of us and who we are.

Therefore, I am directing that all unit mess nights and Marine Corps Birthday Ball ceremonies include worthy and appropriate tributes to our fallen comrades. Subsequent changes to the drill and ceremonies manual will reflect this requirement. Through meaningful remembrance, the sacrifices of "those who have gone before" will not become distant memories, but will live always in our warrior culture.



**MARINES**  
THE FEW. THE PROUD.

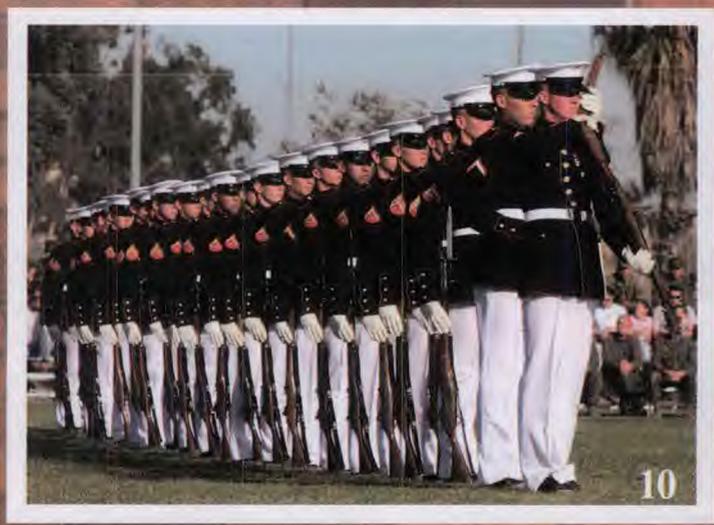


# Pass In Review

Volume 27

April 2007

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On the cover: The Silent Drill Platoon performs the "Thunder Dome" for more than 500 Marine veterans at the Marine Corps Museum in Quantico, Va., April, 26. The platoon's performance was part of a six-day celebration for the 5th reunion of the Marines of Long Ago. Photo by Cpl. John J. Parry.  
 On page 2: ALMAR 020/07, issued by General James T. Conway, Commandant of the Marine Corps, addresses changes that affect mess nights and Marine Corps Birthday Ball ceremonies.

Pass in Review is an authorized publication for members of the Armed Forces. It is published quarterly by the Marine Barracks Public Affairs Office, Washington, D.C., 20390, and contains information released by Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Armed Forces Information Service, Navy News Service and public affairs offices around the Marine Corps. Contents are not the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Navy, or the United States Marine Corps. All photos are official U.S. Marine Corps photos unless otherwise stated.

# MARINES DO HARD TIME

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
CPL. AARON K. CLARK

As the sun started to rise, a squad of Marines dispersed along an icy road. Intelligence reports said insurgents were using the route as a supply line. Suddenly a loud “boom” echoed across the sky, as an improvised explosive device detonated right in front of the Marines.

Had this been an actual combat zone, the Marines of Bravo Company, Marine Barracks Washington, would have taken multiple casualties. Only an exercise, however, the two and one-half day training evolution turned an abandoned prison in

Lorton, Va., into a simulated town filled with both local civilians and home-grown insurgents.

Designed to teach Stability and Support Operations, or SASO, the training exercise used a small group of

Barracks Marines from Alpha Company and the Marine Corps Institute. These Marines played the roles of both the civilians living in the town and insurgents who blended into the population.

**“The role players would randomly assault our patrols with small arms fire and improvised explosive devices, just like the enemy would overseas.”**

**- Pfc. Samuel R. Holland, 2nd platoon**

within the town.

When problems arose, they seemed to hit the Marines all at once. The patrols encountered enemy ambushes and random IED attacks. They also encountered unarmed

Once the Marines of Bravo Company had “dug-in” and established their operating base, three platoons of infantrymen rotated between an interior guard shift, a reactionary shift and a patrolling shift. While on patrol, the Marines interacted with the local population and handled any complications that developed



civilians, who quickly turned into hostiles that had to be subdued, searched and detained.

The culmination of the exercise entailed a house full of insurgents who received word that a platoon-sized element would soon be assaulting their stronghold. While the enemy established their fortified position, the Marines located, closed with and destroyed the enemy by fire and maneuver.

As the smoke from the battle began to clear, the Marines secured the objective with decisive action and small-unit leadership.

"It was the best training I have ever done," said Pfc. Samuel R. Helland, Bravo Company ceremonial marcher and Ft. Wayne, Ind. native. "The role-players would randomly assault our patrols with small arms fire and improvised explosive

devices, just like the enemy would overseas," he said.

While the primary duties of the Marines in Bravo Company are ceremonial in nature, as infantry Marines, they must constantly train to maintain their combat-proficiency for potential deployments.

"The Marines did an outstanding job," said Gunnery Sgt. Wayne Wyatt Jr., Bravo Company, company gunnery sergeant. "Our intent was to expose them to realistic training and prepare them for what they might face when they get to the fleet and go in-country."

As the sun set, the Marines made their way back to Marine Barracks Washington, with a better understanding of their diverse role they may face on the battlefield. The training had brought the Marines closer to



**Pfc. Jonathan W. King, Bravo Company, 1st Platoon, rifleman, provides security for the platoon as they hone their infantry skills at Lorton Prison, in Lorton, Va., Feb 22.**

the fight overseas, so someday they could join their brothers-in-arms, and help keep safe the freedoms they swore to protect. 

**Pfc. Corey Jannings and Pfc. Hayden Young, Bravo Company, 1st Platoon, riflemen, evacuate a casualty from a simulated combat zone at Lorton Prison, Lorton, Va.**





PLEASE STAND BEHIND THE LINE UNTIL YOU ARE CALLED TO ENSURE PATIENT PRIVACY.  
THANK-YOU FOR ENSURING PATIENT PRIVACY

MARINE BARRACKS  
8th & I  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
MEDICAL SECTION

PHYSICAL EXAMS  
DEPT  
HOURS OF  
OPERATION  
MON-WED 0700-1530  
FR- 0700-1200  
CLOSED FOR LUNCH  
HOUR 1230-1300

# CORPSMEN NEW MEDICAL SECTION BRINGS PATIENT CARE INTO

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. JO

**T**he corpsmen of Marine Barracks Washington are ready to take the medical care of their Marines, Sailors and civilians into a new era.

While the corpsmen of the “The Oldest Post” have always had the heart and determination to provide the best care for their patients, the facilities in which they operated were not always the best. This was until the new Branch Medical Clinic opened aboard the Washington Navy Yard, Feb. 26.

Located on the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> and N streets, the 68,000 square-foot

building consolidated all the medical sections, including dental, optometry, pathology, radiology, pharmacy, physical exams, primary care nutrition, immunization, and preventative medicine, providing a patient-friendly environment and a one-stop shop for medical care.

Hospitalman Chief Petty Officer Robert D. Witherspoon, MBW senior



medical department representative, remembers the day he came aboard at “The Oldest Post,” and what a difference a day makes.

“When I arrived in October of 2003, our office was literally a barracks room located in the bachelor enlisted quarters,” Witherspoon laughed. “We could only take one patient at a time, and it was difficult to accommodate a private environment.”

Today, the corpsmen of MBW have three state-of-the-art exam rooms, as well as a treatment room, which is used for conducting many surgical procedures. The new medical center now offers 100 percent patient privacy, and according to Witherspoon, patient wait time has decreased more than 50 percent.

The significant decrease in wait time is attributed to the facilities layout, which efficiently locates all medical departments not only in the the same building, but on the same floor.

“In the past, we had to send patients to the third floor for I.V.’s,” said Hospitalman 2nd Class Tareem T. Hill, Leading Petty Officer. “Everything being directly across the hall makes it much easier to transition patients.”

Additionally, the medical staff is now equipped with up-to-date technology, comparable to a Naval Hospital.

“I think our patients will leave the new facility with a refreshed sense of confidence in their medical care,” Hill added.

Beyond their con-tinuous mission at the Barracks and Washington Navy Yard, the corpsmen are always busy providing medical support for Tuesday and Friday evening parades throughout the



Located on the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> and N streets, the 68,000 square-foot Branch Medical Clinic consolidates all the medical sections, to include dental, optometry, pathology, radiology, pharmacy, physical exams, primary care nutrition, immunization and preventative medicine.

summer, as well as, assisting in numerous field training evolutions executed by MBW.

“Corpsmen are so vital to the fight overseas, so it is very important for our Sailors to maintain a field-ready mindset,” said Witherspoon. “The new facility is a great addition, but it takes great docs to accomplish the mission.”

Whether during sick call, a field-fire exercise or the summer parade season, the Devil Docs of MBW are responsible for any medical emergency that may arise. And rest assured when something does go wrong, help you can count on is always just a “Corpsman Up!” yell away. 🦅



Petty Officer 2nd Class Roland J. Orr II, mans the front desk at the new Branch Medical Clinic, March 26.

## UP! ACTION FUTURE

DAN M. WELNER



Hospitalman Chief Petty Officer Robert Witherspoon inspects Staff Sgt. Jennifer Mills in an exam room.

# Alpha Company

Story and photos by  
Cpl. Earnest J. Barnes

## Heroes

What if you were given the opportunity to help a complete stranger who had been seriously injured? Would you just walk away or would you take immediate action to help save the person?



## Exit to Chinatown, 7th and H Sts

**T**wo infantrymen from Alpha Company were faced with a situation when they witnessed a male in his mid-twenties who was assaulted in the late evening of Feb. 24.

Lance Corporals Jared Bolhuis and David Trester were on their way to watch a movie in Washington, D.C.'s Chinatown. They had just departed the subway when they heard a disturbance at the top of the escalator. As the two Marines reached street level, they found the man surrounded by a group of 15 skateboarders.

"There was a young guy, nicely dressed like he was going out. He was squared off with a skateboarder that looked like he was about 18 years old. The skateboarder's friends surrounded the two of them and everyone on the streets was watching this build up," said Bolhuis, a Zeeland, Mich. Native. "Before I knew it, one of the older skateboarders came from behind and blindsided this guy with a punch right in the temple, knocking him out cold."

As soon as the victim was hit, the leathernecks rushed to his aid. As the Marines with their high and tight haircuts approached the victim, the gang of skateboarders quickly dispersed into the crowd.

"Right away, I applied my terrorism awareness training and tried to gain proper identification on as many of those who were involved," Bolhuis added.

As the suspects were fleeing the scene, Bolhuis called for the police.

Pedestrian after pedestrian passed by the victim, while some even tried to step over him. Resilient in their efforts to help the man, Bolhuis and Trester kept the crowd away from the victim to allow

breathing room and to assess the extent of his injuries.

The man was laying stomach down, bleeding from the mouth. The Marines saw broken teeth on the ground and it appeared the victim may have suffered trauma to the neck after the fall.

"I tended mostly to the victim, while Bolhuis continued to do crowd control," stated Trester, a Chicago, Ill. native.

Within a few minutes the police were on the scene. Right away Bolhuis informed them of the situation and condition of the victim. At this time a person emerged from the crowd, who claimed to be trained in emergency services.

"He instantly tried to roll the victim over on his back, but I stopped him right there," Trester said. "From all the training I received in the Marine Corps, I knew that last thing you want to do with an unconscious casualty with potential neck injuries is move them without proper stabilization."

Shortly after, emergency services showed up on the scene. Trester directed the emergency medical technicians on what the apparent injuries were, so they would know where to begin treatment on the victim.

Meanwhile, Bolhuis jumped in the car with the police and told them the direction the suspects had headed. Just three blocks to the east of where the incident took place, the police were able to locate three men with the help of this leatherneck.

"I was nervous when I pointed them out," Bolhuis said. "What if I was wrong? The wrong guys could go to jail, but when we got closer, I knew it was them."

When Bolhuis returned to the scene of the incident, the victim was gone and

Trester was standing off to the side. After the police took the Marines' witness statements and contact information they sent them on their way.

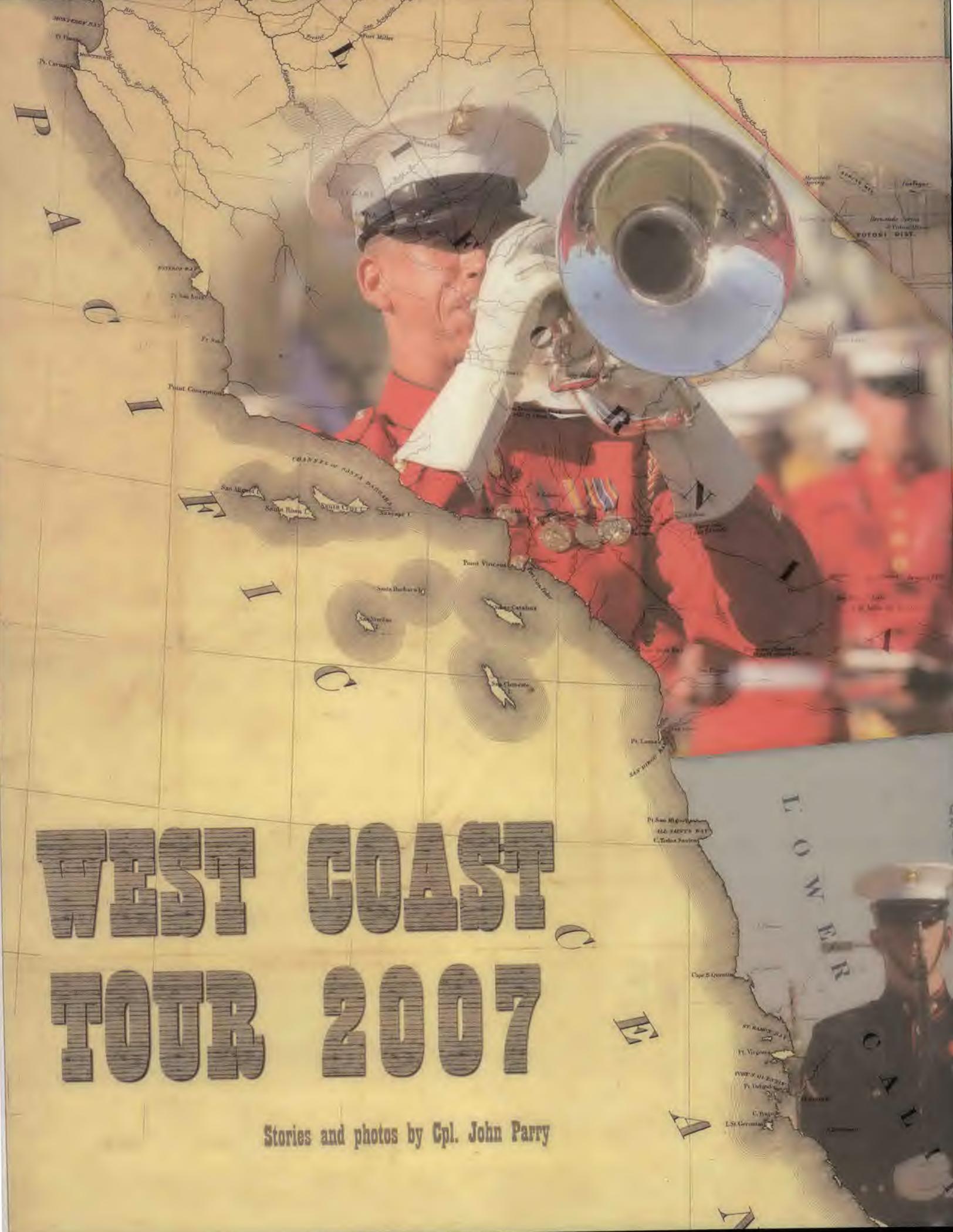
Bolhuis and Trester never learned the name of the man they helped. When they called the police station to see how he was doing, the police told them because of their fast actions and knowledge of first aid, the victim's neck could have been much worse. They may have possibly saved his life. As for the suspects, two of the three men who were arrested are in jail awaiting trial.

"It feels good to know the bad guys are in jail and the good guy is back on his feet," Bolhuis said. "As an infantryman in D.C., we don't get the experiences you might in Iraq, so wherever possible, we have to be ready to employ our training and look out for one another."

Bolhuis and Trester do not consider themselves heroes because they said they were only applying what they were trained to do. By using their Marine Corps knowledge and acting on instinct, these modern day men of valor ensured a complete stranger lived to see another day. 



Lance Corporals Jared Bolhuis and David Trester stand outside the Chinatown subway stop, where they helped an injured man.



# WEST COAST TOUR 2007

Stories and photos by Cpl. John Parry





# Challenge Day

Marines compete to represent



The Marines in Silent Drill School practice "Thunder Dome," a crowd-pleasing formation, where the Marines lunge their M-1 Garands outward in all directions from the center of a circular formation.



Sgt. Jeffrey Kopp evaluates candidates for the Silent Drill Platoon on Challenge Day, Feb. 13. During the evaluation, the Marines perform elaborate rifle throws requiring Marines to use partners.

**C**HALLENGE DAY—a day of reckoning and celebration for the Marines of the U.S. Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon, one of the military's most prestigious units. It is the day where Marine candidates who completed Silent Drill School face off against their peers and instructors in a relentless competition for one of 24 marching spots.



# Silent Drill Platoon Rifle Inspectors

## Marines work hard to lead the elite

**F**or more than two years, they have proudly represented the Marine Corps throughout the nation and around world. Through sheer determination they have proven they are the best. Corporals Ray Franklin and James Sinovich were named the 2007 rifle inspectors for the U.S. Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.

Rifle inspectors lead the platoon through the climax of each performance—the inspection. The inspectors use an array of spins, few others have mastered, and they have ascended to the top of this elite infantry unit.

“When I first saw the Silent Drill Platoon, I thought, ‘man, this is perfect,’” said Sinovich, a 22-year-old from Joliet, Ill. “I thought I could make the platoon, but there was no way I thought I was going to make rifle inspector.”

The Marines began their ascent up the ladder by first attending Silent Drill School. As the Marines worked their way through SDS, more than 60 percent of their peers were cut from the school.

“When you first try the drill, the only thing you can do is seek improvement,” said Franklin, a 21-year-old from College Station, Texas, who, with Sinovich, made the platoon in February 2005. “When I saw I was getting better, that’s when I knew making inspector was possible.”

At the completion of SDS, Marines undergo an audition at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., called Challenge Day. On Challenge Day, each Marine is expected to showcase the drill they have learned while competing against both peers and instructors. The leathernecks are judged on their precision drill and ability to maintain their bearing.

According to Franklin, any Marine who wants to move up in the platoon needs confidence.

“You’ve got to believe you can do it,” Franklin added. “If you’re afraid to try, and you question yourself, it’s only going to be harder on you.”

Despite the rigorous training the two had already completed, they never stopped working hard. The Silent Drill Platoon’s mantras are “Drill is life,” and the Marines train every day to maintain their flawless appearance.

Before becoming a rifle inspector, members of the platoon have to work on an inspection team. The Marines

on the inspection team are usually in their second year and are among the best drillers in the platoon. They work with the rifle inspectors on complex signature movements that are part of the inspection.

“You’re a team, but you’re still in a friendly competition with the other Marines to get better,” Sinovich said. “When I made the inspection team, I had one goal I hadn’t yet attained, and I wanted it—to make rifle inspector.”



Corporals James Sinovich and Ray Franklin were named the 2007 Silent Drill Platoon rifle inspectors.

Performing for the president of the United States and stadiums filled with more than 60,000 people, the unit worked a difficult schedule in 2006 and the schedule will be no different this year.

“It’s a craving,” Sinovich said. “Even when you’re on top, it still takes a lot of long days and hard work to stay there.”

Only one inspector works during each performance. On any given night, he will march a line formed by the Marines of the platoon to ensure the platoon’s immaculate appearance. Making his way down the line, the inspector will stop at a Marine to inspect his rifle.

The Marine to be inspected quickly goes to work, spinning his M-1 Garand and looking over his weapon before tossing his rifle to the inspector.

Not to be outdone, the inspector, using his peripheral vision and one hand, snares the 10-pound rifle out of the air. He spins the rifle with ease, looking down the barrel for proper weapon maintenance. When he’s finished with the inspection, he throws the rifle from behind his back, over his head and returns it to the Marine.

“Sinovich and I work harder than ever because we know the Marines entering the platoon look up to us,” Franklin said. “We want to set the example for them because a couple of those guys will be in our place in a few years.”

With their reassurance and hard work, the two rifle inspectors will help maintain the high standards that have become the pillar of the United States Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.

# Music In Motion 2007

H COLORADO

"The Commandant's Own" creates musical masterpiece for the New Year



**E**ntertaining more than 100,000 fans on a yearly basis isn't easy, but the Marines of the "The Commandant's Own," the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, tackle the task each year with gusto. The unit trained non-stop for weeks in the Arizona sun until their martial masterpiece, "Music in Motion," was ready for the public, Feb. 27.

"Yuma prepared us for a tough schedule," said Chief Warrant Officer Brian Dix, the director of the drum and bugle corps, regarding the unit's upcoming March tour of the West Coast. "It was our training camp, so that when our schedule began we were ready to display the qualities of what it means to be a Marine."

The 2007 edition of "Music in Motion" combined different genres of music, from recognizable epics of centuries past to the popular sounds of today.

William Billings' "Chester, A March," a theme of the revolutionary war, is the first piece in the unit's lineup, meant to honor all military veterans dating from our nation's first warriors for freedom.

The music entered the romantic era with the next composition "Gypsy Dance," a 19th-century piece from the opera "Carmen," featuring the drum and bugle corps' percussion section.

With the unit's next musical score "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy of Company B," "The Commandant's Own" moved into the swing era of WWII.

"The Andrews sisters' classic may be more than 50 years old, but age doesn't matter with this timeless hit, as it still makes crowds want to dance," Dix added.

"The Best of Bond, James Bond," combined more than 40 years of musical themes originally composed for Ian Flemming's Agent 007.

"The Best of Bond is one of the more in-your-face pieces," said Sgt. Bradley Sanders, drum and bugle corps, mellophone bugler. "It's loud, recognizable and gets the audience going. We enjoy feeding off of the audience's response."

Next in the lineup is the 2005 award-winning song, "You're Beautiful," by James Blunt, and the performance is closed with John Phillip Sousa's musical classic, "The Stars and Stripes Forever."

"The American public wants their Marine Corps to be sharp and up-to-date," added Dix. "We

want our show to reflect that, so we provide a large selection of music with something for everyone."

The unit has combined precision drill with its music to create a performance memorable for all to see.

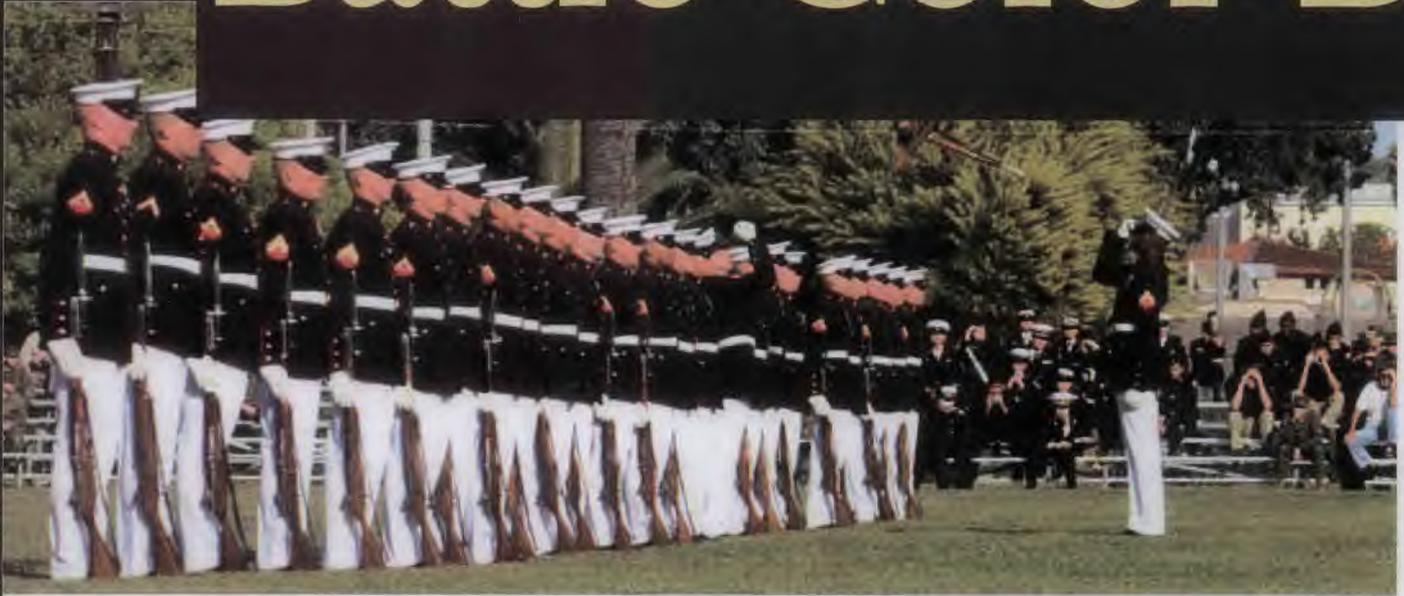
According to Dix, "The public isn't able to see the everyday operations of the Marine Corps. We provide them an opportunity to see Marines in action."

The unit performs more than 400 times a year while traveling more than 50,000 miles, creating a rigorous schedule for these motivated leathernecks. Leaving one thing certain—those who come to see a performance by "The Commandant's Own" will be entertained by a show everyone can enjoy.

**"THE AMERICAN PUBLIC WANTS THEIR MARINE CORPS TO BE SHARP AND UP-TO-DATE. WE WANT OUR SHOW TO REFLECT THAT."**

-CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER BRIAN DIX, DIRECTOR, DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS

# Battle Color D



**P**acking up all their rifles, bugles, drums and uniforms, the Marines of the Battle Color Detachment from Marine Barracks Washington hit the road for their 2007 West Coast tour from Feb. 27 to March 9.

From high schools, to bases, or legendary arenas, the Marines travel year round, representing the Marine Corps in front of thousands of spectators around the world.

The detachment's show, the Battle Color Ceremony, included performances by the Washington, D.C., based units "The Commandant's Own" the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, the Official Color Guard of the Marine Corps and the U.S. Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.

"The Marines' performances went well," said Lt. Col. Brent A. Harrison, Battle Color Detachment, commanding officer. "Whether it was Marines behind the scenes or on the center stage of each performance, these leathernecks showed the public what it means to be a Marine."

According to many who came to watch a performance, the ceremony was the first time they've seen Marines in action. It is the Marines' job to represent the values the Corps holds dear—honor, courage and commitment.

"At every show, the crowd rose to its feet when we played the Marine Corps hymn," said Pfc. Zack O'Bryant, drum and bugle corps, percussionist, this



The Marine Corps Color Guard performs at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz. The Official Battle Color, carried by the unit, is the center of the Battle Color Ceremony, as it represents all the awards and campaigns of the United States Marine Corps.

being his first tour with the Battle Color Detachment. "Every time they would stand, it reminded me of what I do this for. The public's respect for the tradition behind the ceremony helped me realize how important the Marine Corps is to this country and to me."

For many of the veterans who came to each performance, the ceremony reconfirmed their confidence in the Corps' service to the nation, Harrison added.

"When I see these units out here, it reminds me of things our nation has done to come as far as it has today," said Henry Wilson, Marine veteran and

# Attachment tours West Coast



**Master Gunnery Sgt. Mark Miller, U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps Drum Major, marches his Marines during "The Stars and Stripes Forever." The Drum Major leads the drum and bugle corps through their show, "Music in Motion."**

volunteer for the Semper Fi #1 Memorial Honor Detail based in Riverside, Calif. "It recharges the batteries when you see the same thing done by young Marines as what we've done in the past to make our nation safe."

As the ceremony can be significant for those watching it, it can be unforgettable for the Marines who take part.

"Performing on the 50-yard line of the Rose Bowl was awesome," said Sgt. Jason Mosser, drum and bugle corps, soprano bugler. "With the history behind the stadium and more than ten thousand people looking on, it was definitely cool to be a part of it all."

Each ceremony began with a performance by the drum and bugle corps. Renowned as musical ambassadors for the Commandant of the Marine Corps, their performance, known as "Music in Motion," consistently brought audiences to their feet.

"Their performance was as tight as could be," said Stephanie Chamberlain, choir teacher for Eisenhower High School in Rialto, Calif. "The drum and bugle corps came out and was locked on. It was their accuracy in hitting each difficult note that made the performance special for me."

Following "Music in Motion," the Silent Drill Platoon marched onto the field, fixed bayonets and performed a breathtaking series of rifle spins and throws.

The performances by the "The Commandant's Own" and Silent Drill Platoon came before the presentation of the colors by the Official Color Guard of the Marine Corps. The unit presents the National Colors along with the Official Battle Color of the Marine Corps.

Displayed on the Battle Color are 54 streamers and silver bands. They represent more than 400 awards and campaigns, spanning 231 years of Marine Corps history.

"We appreciate these units coming out. I love these guys because they represent esprit de corps," said retired Master Gunnery Sgt. John C.

Wolfe, at the Battle Color ceremony in Rialto, Calif. "They honor the past, and it reminds me of the attention to detail it takes to be a good Marine."

The West Coast Tour was important for the Marines of "The Oldest Post," as it marked the beginning of their performance schedule. While leaving an indelible impression on many of those who came to watch their show, the Marines of the Battle Color Detachment returned to MBW ready to perform for the more than half-million expected spectators in 2007. 

# THE COMMANDANT'S OWN HONORS WOUNDED HEROES

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
CPL. JOHN J. PARRY



**T**he Commandant's Own," the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps entertained wounded servicemembers, who served in the Global War on Terrorism, for the opening ceremony of the Center for the Intrepid and two Fisher Houses, Jan. 29.

More than 3,200 guests, including the Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James T. Conway, attended the event honoring the young men and women who protected the countries' freedoms.

After the introduction of more than 50 recovering heroes, the ceremony began with "The Commandant's Own" playing "You're a Grand Old Flag" for the march on of the colors by a joint service color guard.

"When I watched all the servicemembers who've been injured in combat take their seats, it made me realize how important this center is to them," said Sgt. Shawn C. Preston, drum and bugle corps, snare drummer. "I'm grateful that these heroes will be well taken care of, and it's an honor to play for them. It's something I'd do for them anytime."

The Center for the Intrepid and Fisher Houses, located at the Brooke Army Medical Center in Fort Sam Houston, Texas, were made possible by the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund and Fisher House Foundation, Inc. The four-story, \$50 million center and homes will help servicemembers recover from their wounds sustained during combat.

Distinguished guests in attendance were Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Senators Hillary Clinton and John McCain who spoke about the sacrifices made by members of America's military.

Many held back tears as an emotional speech from Pace summed up what the wounded servicemembers' contributions

mean to the country.

"There are those who speak about you who say, 'he lost an arm, he lost a leg, she lost her sight.' I object..." said Pace. "You gave your arm, you gave your leg, you gave your sight, as gifts to your nation that we might live in freedom. Thank you."

When all the distinguished guests had finished speaking, "The Commandant's Own" played the National March of the United States, "The Stars and Stripes Forever" and the official march of the United States Marine Corps, "Semper Fidelis." The unit then played a stirring tribute to the heroism of U.S. Navy corpsman in combat with "Corpsman Up."

As the performance by "The Commandant's Own" came to a close, the distinguished guests at the ceremony moved into position to cut the ribbon and officially open the center and houses. When all had taken their place, the drum and bugle corps played one last song, the "Armed Forces Medley," as a salute to members of the military.

"It was the least we could do for those who've given so much," said Chief Warrant Officer Brian Dix, director of the drum and bugle corps. "We're honored that we were requested for this ceremony."

After a fly-over by the U.S. Air Force, the ribbons on the Center for the Intrepid and Fisher Houses were cut, and the ceremony came to a close.

For those wounded in combat protecting America's freedoms, the new medical facilities are a whole-hearted show of support from the public. The center and houses will help servicemembers recover from their injuries, so they can return to their lives. 



# MCI celebrates 87th birthday with

# ROLE

Story by 1st Lt. Antony Andrius

**T**he Marine Corps Institute celebrated its 87th birthday ceremony, Feb. 2, by replacing its Digital DP-37 exam with the new Random Online Exam (ROLE), for students taking MCI courses online.

“It was great to recognize the illustrious history of this Institute, and the ceremony let our staff know that we are happy with their performance. It also gave us a chance to enjoy some lunch and fellowship,” said Gunnery Sgt. Donald E. Knecht, MCI Company gunnery sergeant.

The celebration included a well-deserved luncheon accompanied by a cake cutting ceremony. Food was plentiful and attendance high as much was to be celebrated.

It is customary to receive gifts on birthdays, but for MCI’s birthday they presented a gift to the entire Marine Corps. Through laborious efforts and dedication to Marines throughout the Corps, MCI has entered a new, technological realm for educating Marines by revamping and developing ROLE.

ROLE is designed to provide Marines across the globe the ability to get test results and complete college courses online into the Marine Corps promotions system, avoiding complications of cutoff dates and missed promotions. “The MCI hit the ground running this year after working many hours to get ROLE up and running, to ensure that the educational needs of the Marine Corps are being met,” added Knecht.

Cpl. Bradon R. Lengerich, network administrator, logged many long and tedious hours working on the new system. The Marine technician received a Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his diligence in perfecting ROLE.

“Corporal Lengerich was awarded the medal because he put in 16-hour days, sometimes sleeping in his office, to work

out complicated computer issues in order to get the system up and running,” said 1st Sgt. Rudy S. Gonzales, MCI Company 1st. Sgt.

Despite his recognition and modesty, Lengerich knew his accomplishments where due, in part, to his fellow Marines who underscore the saying, “One team, one fight!”

“We buckled down to make it happen. Everyone - all the way from the command level to the privates first class, who worked in the student services section, made a fantastic team effort, and we accomplished the mission,” Lengerich said proudly.

According to Cpl. Massiel A. Morrow, quality assurance non-commissioned officer, “The project demanded long hours and eating lunch at our desks for a whole month. Our single focus was to get it done. And we did!”

The Marines who perfected the system believe it is just one step in a comprehensive effort aimed at moving the MCI into an increasingly technologically-oriented future.

Gunnery Sgt. Robert T. Kruger, student services division, staff non-commissioned officer in charge, states, “MCI is proud to be celebrating its birthday by continuing to support the Corps and its war fighters in innovative ways. The ROLE system is a terrific first step towards ensuring the MCI continues to have many happy birthdays, for many years to come.”

As MCI approaches nine decades of excellence in distance learning, ROLE ushers a new period of academic rigor and integrity. Marines can access exams through the Command Unit Verification Report (UVR) portal at <https://www.mci.usmc.mil/CommandUVR/>.

# Marines remember Antietam

Story by Staff Sgt. Will Price

Photos by Cpl. Earnest J. Barnes

Fresh off the success at the Battle of Manassas, in Virginia, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee sought to bring the Civil War north. With his 40,000 Southern troops, Lee was about to face off against an 87,000-man Federal Army of the Potomac, led by Gen. George B. McClellan.

The clash between these two legendary generals would culminate at the Battle of Antietam, Sept. 17, 1862, in the bloodiest day of fighting on American soil. All totaled, there were more than 23,000 casualties on both sides...



**More than 144 years later, the Leathernecks of Marine Barracks Washington made the 75-mile journey southwest from Washington, D.C., to Sharpsburg, Md., where the historic fighting took place. Capt. John PriceVanCleve, Headquarters and Service Company, executive officer, led a platoon of 26 Marines on a period of professional military education on Civil War history, focused on military tactics and the weaponry involved.**

"Antietam is one of the greatest battle sites, in terms of valor, courage and battlefield preservation," PriceVanCleve said. "It was an honor for us to see where so many Americans gave their life in just one day for the freedoms and rights they held true."

Before reaching the legendary battlefield at Antietam, the Marines spent the morning walking the terrain at South Mountain with Lt. Al Preston, asst. park manager of the South Mountain State Battlefield. Preston shared with the Marines all of the weaponry and types of ammunition used throughout

the fighting in Southern Maryland. The Marines also learned about different scouting techniques and the shift in fighting styles from Napoleonic to trench warfare.

"The Civil War fighting began with more of an on-line fighting mentality," Preston said. "By the end of the Battle of Antietam, both sides began utilizing the terrain for cover and concealment. By the time WW I came around Napoleonic tactics would be extinct."

The leathernecks were taken to Turners Gap, as well as Fox Gap, and stood on the hallowed grounds, where McClellan and Lee's armies would first clash on Sept. 14, 1862. It was during this fighting Confederate Gen. Samuel Garland and Union Gen. Jesse Reno were both mortally wounded. Eventually, Lee and his forces would be forced to retreat and regroup at a field in Sharpsburg, just west of Antietam Creek.

"The Marines got to see first hand how the simplest of deviations in terrain could sway a battle," said Sgt. Joseph McQuillan, Grounds Combat Element, Staff Non-Commissioned Officer-in-Charge. "We wanted the Marines to think about how they would fight under both the battle conditions of 1862 and the present."

In the afternoon, the Marines arrived at the Antietam National Battlefield Visitor Center, the Marines were greeted by Brian Baracz, ANB park ranger. Baracz first gave the





Marines a complete overview of the battlefield. From a hilltop, the Marines could see the Turners and Fox Gaps, off to the east, where they had been earlier in the day. It gave the Marines a clear view of the route the Confederates took to reach Antietam.

According to Baracz, of the more than 23,000 casualties, just over one third were killed in action, another third were severely wounded and the final third would be injured, but able to return to combat shortly thereafter.

Baracz explained the epic battles that occurred throughout the day, from the fighting in the Miller cornfields and its West Woods, where there were 2,200 casualties out of 5,000 soldiers in just one half hour, to the trench warfare at Sunken Road. It was at Sunken Road where the Confederate armies took cover along a 700-yard long road sitting in about a 6-foot defilade. For more than four hours, Union and Confederate troops, battled over this sunken country road, resulting in nearly 5,500 more casualties. For this it earned the name "Bloody Lane."

The day's tour concluded as Baracz brought the Leathernecks of "the Oldest Post" to Burnside Bridge at Antietam Creek. It was here that 400 Georgian riflemen held off Gen. Burnside's Corps for more than four hours. Expert marksmanship and use of the terrain, as the Northern soldiers tried to cross the 10-foot wide, 100-foot long bridge, led to more than 500 Union casualties compared to only 120 Confederate casualties. The delay of the Union to get across the bridge and onto the battlefield, consequently gave Gen. A.P. Hill the time he needed to meet and repel Burnside back to the bridge he had sacrificed so much to capture.

This is where the epic Battle of Antietam ended. According to Baracz, it is the Confederates who refer to the fight of Sept. 17, 1862 as the Battle of

Sharpsburg, but to the Union, they call it the Battle of Antietam, for the valiant fighting at a small stone bridge spanning the Antietam Creek.

At the end of the day, both sides suffered equally catastrophic amounts of casualties. However, after losing nearly a quarter of his troops and being forced to retreat back into Virginia, Lee looked to be on the losing side of the battle.

"What I hoped our Marines would ultimately take away from Antietam are the far reaching consequences of actions in battle," PriceVanCleve added, referring to the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, signed Jan. 1, 1863, that would eventually lead to the reunification of the nation. "We have incurred losses and sacrifices during the Global War on Terrorism, but if one day our children and grandchildren can live in a world of freedoms and democracy then that is a

consequence worth fighting for."

As PriceVanCleve and his Marines left the battlefield at Antietam, they departed with a heightened respect and appreciation for their history and what their forefathers had endured on that dark day. And somewhere high in the sky, Generals Lee, McClellan and all the brave men and women of the Civil War looked down with pride, knowing their sacrifices and love for country would never be forgotten. 🇺🇸



**Brian Baracz, Antietam National Battlefield park ranger, begins his brief to the Marines of Headquarters and Service Company, as Capt. John PriceVanCleve and Gunnery Sgt. William Edwards look on.**



**The Marines of H&S Co. stop for a photo at "Sunken Road." Union and Confederate troops battled over this country road, resulting in nearly 5,500 casualties in just four hours of fighting, thus earning the nickname "Bloody Lane."**



# “The Presic Kicks Off 207th Season

**O**n Aug. 21, 1800, in America’s newly-designated capital city of Washington, D.C., on a hill overlooking the Potomac, a small group of Marine Band musicians made their first performance.

That day, led by Drum Major William Farr, dressed in brilliant red coats trimmed in blue, the Marine Band began an important tradition of public service that would survive more than 207 years—the tradition of sharing music with the people of Washington.

One month before giving their first Washington concert, the original members of the Marine Band traveled from Philadelphia to Washington via ship, stagecoach, and on foot. They set up camp near what is now E Street, between 23<sup>rd</sup>



The Marine Band gives a public concert on the South Lawn of the White House, July 16, 1921.

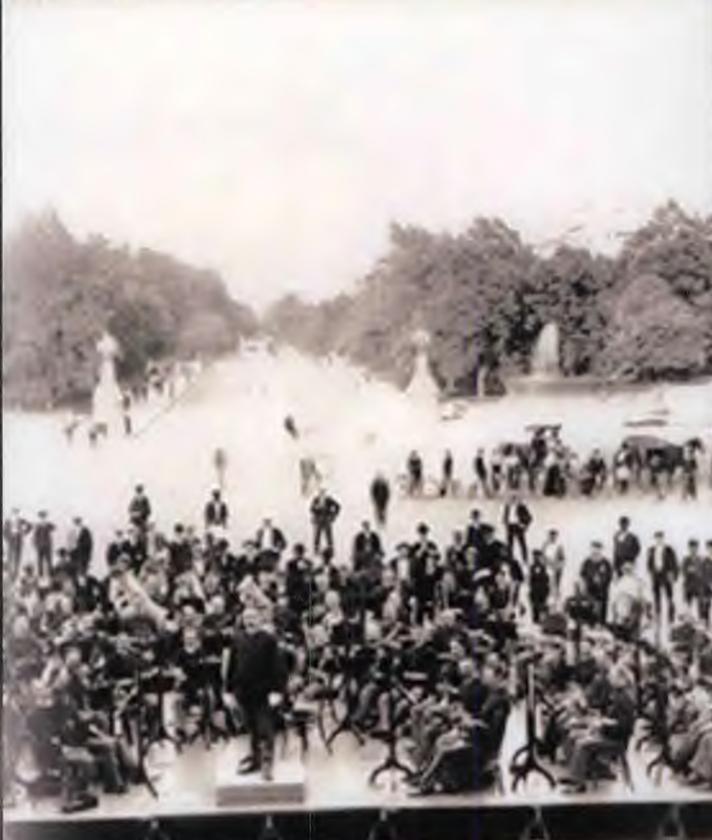
and 25<sup>th</sup> Streets, NW, in a city of “mud, cow paths, and wooden huts.”

The band was warmly received, and during Martin Van Buren’s Presidency in the 1840s, the Marine Band began making regular public performances outside the U.S. Capitol building, initiating a tradition that continues to this day.

In January 1845, President John Tyler invited the Marine Band to present public concerts on the South Lawn of the White House. These continued for nearly a hundred years.

President Abraham Lincoln was a fan of the band’s summer concerts on the White House lawn. He would often listen while resting on the sofa in the Blue Room. On one occasion, when the President stepped onto the South Portico, the audience clamored for a speech. He returned indoors, saying, “I wish they would let me sit out there quietly and enjoy the music.”

Big band music was hugely popular in the late 1800s, and during the tenure of famed Marine Director John Philip Sousa, programs listing musicians and programs



# President's Own<sup>®</sup> Season of Summer Concerts

Story by Gunnery Sgt. Kristin Mergen

were published in newspapers, much like today's television listings. Crowds at the White House and the Capitol routinely reached 5,000 per concert.

For a number of years on the Potomac River, an immense barge was a popular site for the Marine Band's Sunday evening concerts. More than 8,000 people would sit on the west steps of the Lincoln Memorial and listen to the band, and others would enjoy the music from boats anchored nearby. This practice ended in 1972, after Hurricane Agnes destroyed the floating stage, along with music stands and chairs, forcing the show to relocate.

For more than two centuries, "The President's Own" has serenaded Washingtonians and visitors in concert, from the first informal performance near the Lincoln Memorial, to weekly concerts at the Capitol and Sylvan Theater. The

Marine Band proudly looks forward to continuing this grand, national musical tradition for many, many years to come.

"The President's Own" United States Marine Band proudly kicks off its 207<sup>th</sup> season of summer parades starting at 8 p.m., Wednesday, June 6, on the west steps of the U.S. Capitol.

The program will be repeated the following night starting at 8 p.m., Thursday, June 7, at the Sylvan Theater, on the grounds of the Washington Monument. The summer parade series continues throughout June, July, and August, Wednesdays at the U.S. Capitol and Thursdays at the Sylvan Theater, both at 8 p.m. All concerts are free, and tickets are not required. 



Hurricane Agnes ripped through the capital in June of 1972, destroying a barge used as a floating stage for many of the Marine Band's Sunday evening concerts.

# Around the Barracks

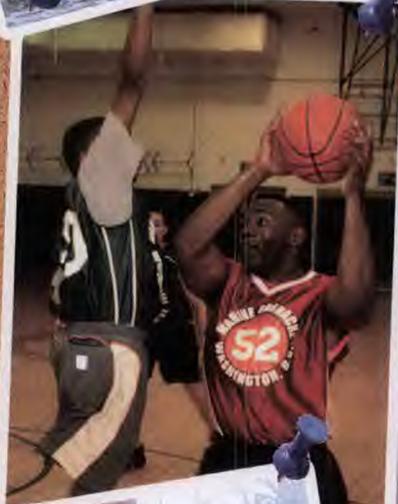


Staff Sgt.  
Just a reminder,  
I need to go to the  
rifle range next  
quarter

Cpl. B



# Around the Barracks



# PROMOTIONS



## A Company

Sgt. C.A. Olerud  
Cpl. C.A. Campbell  
Cpl. R.W. Elsie III  
Cpl. J.A. Snow  
Lance Cpl. E.J. Baca  
Lance Cpl. C.M. Bailey  
Lance Cpl. K.J. Beaudoin  
Lance Cpl. D. Brooks  
Lance Cpl. R.D. Clough  
Lance Cpl. C.J. Hardesty  
Lance Cpl. A.T. Harris  
Lance Cpl. M.J. Lesiewicz  
Lance Cpl. J.D. Miller  
Lance Cpl. A.D. Montes  
Lance Cpl. B.L. Quarles  
Lance Cpl. T.P. Sullivan  
Pfc. A.T. Worthington

## U.S. Marine Band

Master Gunnery Sgt. K.J. Jackson  
Master Sgt. C.S. Ferrari  
Gunnery Sgt. E.D. Sabo

## Marine Corps Institute

Cpl. J.A. Delgado  
Cpl. B.R. Lengerich  
Cpl. S.R. Hinds  
Lance Cpl. J.W. Flowers  
Lance Cpl. D.R. Sullivan

## B Company

Sgt. G.T. Zarger  
Cpl. J.V. Anderson  
Cpl. P.M. Bietsch  
Cpl. A.M. Ebert  
Lance Cpl. C.R. Andrews  
Lance Cpl. B.T. Boeddeker  
Lance Cpl. B.M. Bush  
Lance Cpl. N.J. Castillo  
Lance Cpl. R.F. Charfauros  
Lance Cpl. J.A. Cockerham  
Lance Cpl. I.H. Cole  
Lance Cpl. B.K. Forristal  
Lance Cpl. J.T. Gonzalezportalatin  
Lance Cpl. C.L. Hamilton  
Lance Cpl. C.M. Hornsby  
Lance Cpl. J.L. Hubbard III  
Lance Cpl. A.R. Krause  
Lance Cpl. A.J. Maughan  
Lance Cpl. W.S. Otwell  
Lance Cpl. N.R. Roussin  
Lance Cpl. C.B. Seaman  
Lance Cpl. J.H. Skeens  
Pfc. J.D. Farrier

## Security Company

Sgt. M.B. Holan  
Cpl. G.L. Grant  
Cpl. J.J. Torcello  
Lance Cpl. R.M. Brosko

## U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps

Lance Cpl. C.L. Williams

## H&S Company

Staff Sgt. P.J. Chamorro  
Cpl. L.H. Faber  
Cpl. S.C. Gardner  
Cpl. J.J. Grummer  
Cpl. J.M. Harris  
Cpl. C.S. Kelk  
Cpl. C.P. Martin  
Cpl. B.A. Smith  
Cpl. A.M. Titus  
Cpl. A.D. Wisener  
Cpl. D.A. Wyatt  
Lance Cpl. M.J. Adams  
Lance Cpl. J.M. Ameele  
Lance Cpl. I.L. Chamberlain  
Lance Cpl. A.J. Diamante  
Lance Cpl. L.M. Evancoe  
Lance Cpl. T.R. Guidry  
Lance Cpl. M.G. Joseph  
Lance Cpl. H.C. Hopkins  
Lance Cpl. M.A. Maddigan  
Lance Cpl. D.M. Marler  
Lance Cpl. C.P. McIntyre  
Lance Cpl. B.M. Quast  
Lance Cpl. J.J. Ropecka  
Lance Cpl. B.A. Seng  
Lance Cpl. J.V. Smith III  
Lance Cpl. M.D. Swenson  
Lance Cpl. J.H. Waterman  
Lance Cpl. B.F. Wintermyer  
Lance Cpl. J. Zapatamorales

# Chaplains Corner

## After the Storm



**A**s the weather starts to get warmer, I am reminded of the weather forecast of approaching thunderstorms and tornados in various parts of our nation. Even though each season has a beauty and climate of its own, a thunderstorm or tornado knows no boundaries. There are some tornados that strike without warning. The worst are those that strike during the late-night hours while many are asleep. The after math of a tornado leaves many devastated with the loss and destruction of property- even life.

Survivors who managed to brave the catastrophe pick up the pieces of what is left of their personal belongings and effects. In the end, only those who endure and persevere are able to re-establish their lives after such devastation. Many individuals have literally lost it when they saw all that they owned was gone or destroyed in a split second. But there are others who have endured the same fate and managed to have something greater than themselves inside them to take them through such an ordeal. How often have we had life's tornados and storms come through our lives and upset the peace and tranquility we once had, only to find ourselves angry upset frustrated and even overwhelmed.

Dr. Robert Schuler, pastor of the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, Calif., once said, "Tough times don't last, only tough people do." After a storm, there is the clean up and restoration process. The residents of disaster areas rebuild their lives in the same spot, while some leave, never to return. Others have succumbed to depression and anxiety disorders due to the overwhelming brunt of the situation.

We can learn from the gargantuan problems we face. They can provide us the opportunity to rebuild our lives and start afresh, just like cherry blossoms that bloom in the spring after a rough winter. Even after a severe thunderstorm, the trees with their branches that are littered all over the place somehow can be seen as nature's way of pressure washing the things that need cleaning. Usually during such a tempest, if you look on the bright side, the trees are pruned and old sitting ponds and resevoirs are refreshed with new water. After

the clean up, life resumes to a certain normalcy.

Regardless of one's religious background or tradition, I've come to realize that it is not the force of the storm that one faces; it is the size of one's faith and endurance that matters. In the New Testament, Jesus told his disciples in Matthew 17:20: "I tell you the truth,

*"I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move."*

-Jesus to his disciples  
Matthew 17:20

if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Over the course of my life, I have learned that challenges, difficulty, disappointment and even disaster can give us opportunities to build character, start over and learn a lot about our inner strengths and ourselves. While all good things must come to an end, keep in mind that the bad things in life must meet its end as well.

***God Bless,  
John R. Logan,  
LT, CHC, USN***

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UNITED STATES



**COMMANDING OFFICER  
MARINE BARRACKS  
8TH AND I STREETS S.E.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20390-5000**

**JEAN PETERSON  
3616 20<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
LEWISTON, IDAHO 83501**

Gunnery Sgt. William Edwards debarks a helicopter during a field exercise at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., while Lance Cpl. Patrick Clemens provides security, Jan. 9.