

MCMAP KICKS IN



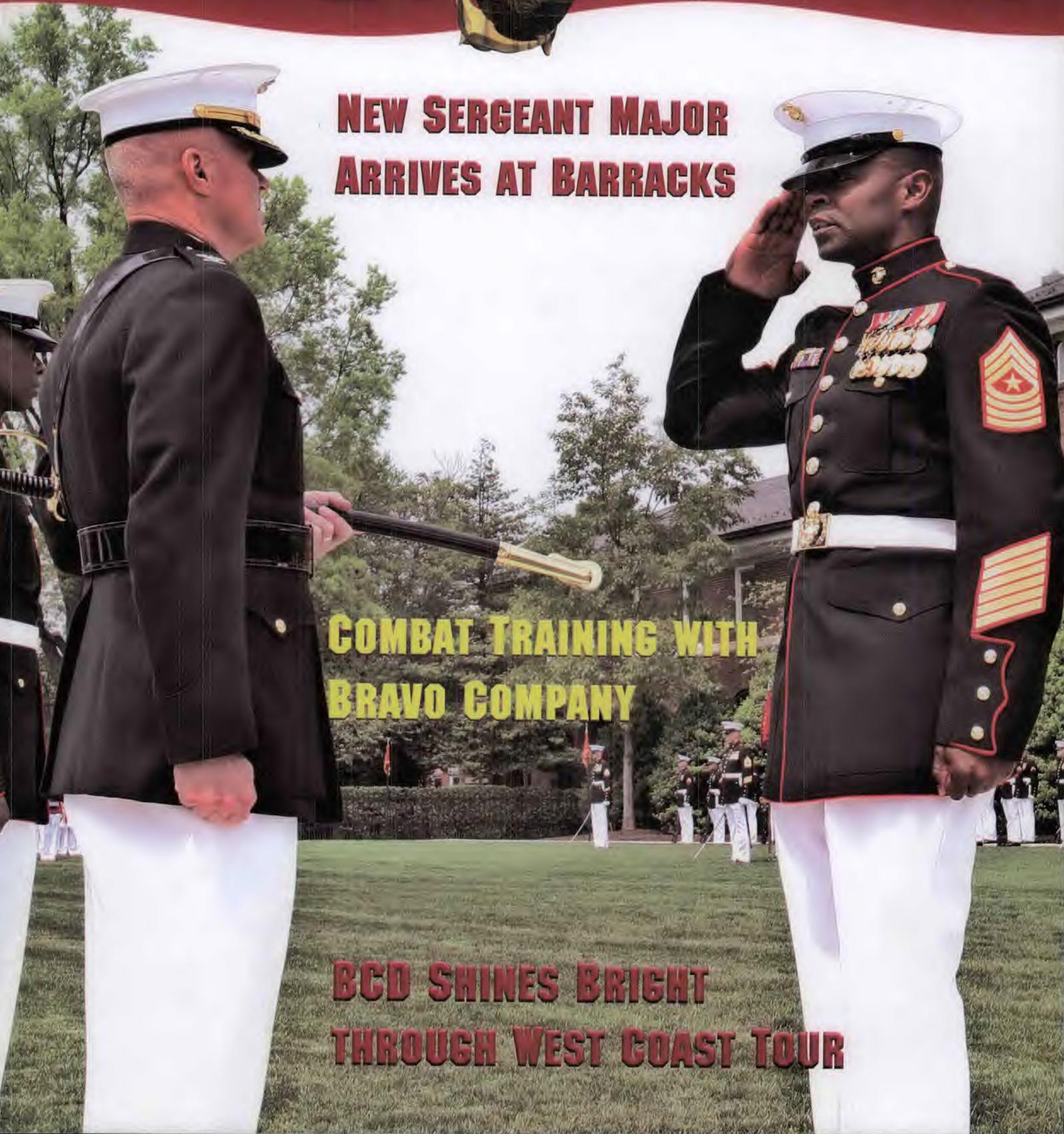
VOL. 28, ISSUE 1

PASS IN REVIEW

**NEW SERGEANT MAJOR
ARRIVES AT BARRACKS**

**COMBAT TRAINING WITH
BRAVO COMPANY**

**BCD SHINES BRIGHT
THROUGH WEST COAST TOUR**





Pass In Review

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Cover Shot:

Sgt. Maj. Sylvester D. Daniels salutes Col. W. Blake Crowe, MBW commanding officer, before receiving the sword of office, May 1.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Jacob H. Harrer



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MARINE EARNS CITIZENSHIP

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. ERIC N. CARRANZA

"I FIGURED IT IS ONLY FAIR THAT IF SOMEONE CAN LAY THEIR LIFE DOWN FOR A COUNTRY, THEY SHOULD EARN THE RIGHT TO BE A CITIZEN."

SGT. JUAN C. LLANOS



For Sgt. Juan C. Llanos, earning the title "Marine" also meant earning the title "United States citizen."

Llanos emigrated to the U.S. from Bolivia in the early 1990s with his father, Marin. Llanos' two sisters and younger brother stayed behind in Bolivia while their father and his 10-year-old son set out on the long path to America.

"We took a plane from Bolivia to Mexico," Llanos recalls, "and from there we walked the rest of the way—through the rivers, over the mountains and right into San Diego."

Llanos and his father endured the harsh climate changes from hot to cold, battling fatigue, hunger and most of all, thirst. After arriving in San Diego, Llanos and his father made their way to the East Coast, stopping in Arlington, Va.

"For a while it was really hard," Llanos said. "Everybody at school spoke English, and I only spoke Spanish. Adjusting to the U.S. took a little while."

It was in school where he found a way to really make America his home.

"Every Wednesday, military recruiters would come into the school and set up tables with stuff on them. They would talk to us about the military and explain what they do," Llanos said. "The Marines would come in their dress blues, always looking good and very professional."

Llanos said he remembered the Marine recruiter saying that the Corps was not for everyone and that some recruits don't make it. Llanos knew he would join the Marine Corps.

"I figured I beat the odds when I came to this country, and if I could make it here, I could make it anywhere," Llanos explained. "My friends told me it was going to be tough and said I wouldn't make it."

Llanos joined the Marines through the Delayed Entry Program in September of 1997. By the end of that year, he began basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island.

Llanos served in Okinawa, Japan, with the 9th Engineering Support Battalion and transferred to 2nd Marine Division Combat Engineer Battalion. He received orders in early 2000 to serve at Marine Barracks Washington before being sent back to Okinawa. During his tour, he spent two years in Iraq, deploying in December of 2005 and returning in spring of 2007.

Before deploying to Iraq, Llanos started working with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to earn his citizenship.

"I figured it is only fair that if someone can lay their life down for a country, they can earn the right to be a citizen," he said.

After completing his deployment and arriving at Marine Barracks Washington, Llanos thought it was about time to complete the process of becoming an American citizen. A few months after completing his package, he sat in the Pentagon



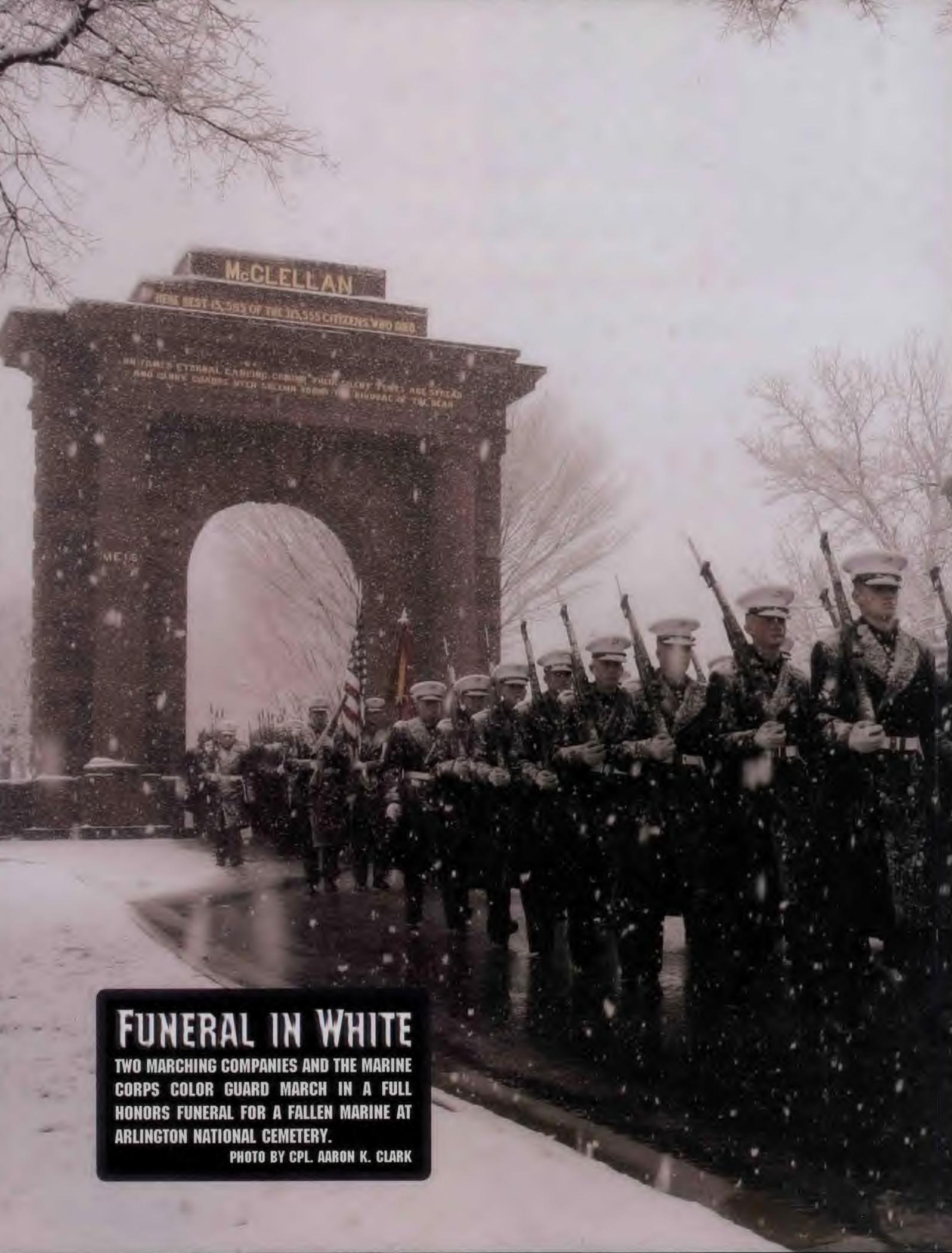
Sgt. Juan C. Llanos stands next to high-ranking civilian officials with his new citizenship certificate in the Pentagon Center Courtyard, Mar. 14.

Center Courtyard with more than 25 other service members from the Navy, Army, Air Force and Coast Guard. Llanos was sworn in as a U.S. Citizen during a naturalization ceremony at the Pentagon, March 14.

Gordon England, Deputy Secretary of Defense, spoke to the servicemembers. Dr. Emilio T. Gonzales, Director of USCIS, welcomed the newest U.S. Citizens.

"It made me feel real special, said Llanos. "I thought, 'Wow! I'm at the Pentagon with all these important people here, and they are all here for us.'"

Llanos is currently a hygiene equipment operator assigned to the maintenance section at Marine Barracks Washington, "The Oldest Post of the Corps." After more than 17 years living in this country, Llanos—who came to America as a boy and fought for his country as a Marine—finally earned his right to call himself a citizen of the United States of America. 



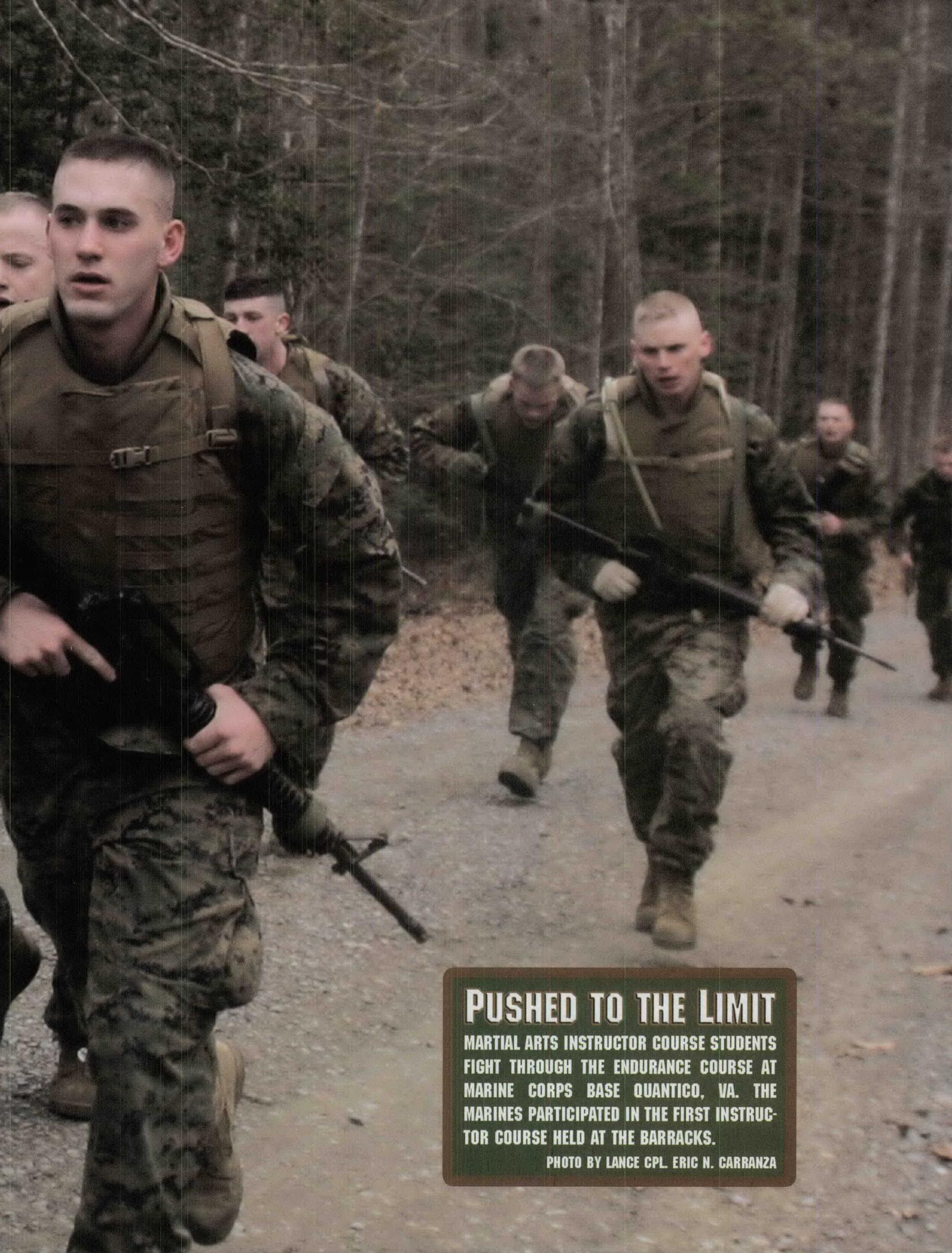
FUNERAL IN WHITE

TWO MARCHING COMPANIES AND THE MARINE CORPS COLOR GUARD MARCH IN A FULL HONORS FUNERAL FOR A FALLEN MARINE AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY.

PHOTO BY CPL. AARON K. CLARK







PUSHED TO THE LIMIT

MARTIAL ARTS INSTRUCTOR COURSE STUDENTS FIGHT THROUGH THE ENDURANCE COURSE AT MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, VA. THE MARINES PARTICIPATED IN THE FIRST INSTRUCTOR COURSE HELD AT THE BARRACKS.

PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. ERIC N. CARRANZA



ROCKETS RED GLARE

**MARINE BODY BEARERS FIRE CANNONS
TIMED TO BEETHOVEN'S 'ODE TO JOY'
AS PLAYED BY THE U.S. MARINE DRUM
AND BUGLE CORPS DURING A FRIDAY
EVENING PARADE.**

PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. JACOB H. HARRER



PASS IN REVIEW

MARINES MARCH PAST THE REVIEWING OFFICIAL AND GUEST OF HONOR DURING A FRIDAY EVENING PARADE. MILITARY UNITS HONOR THE PRESIDING OFFICIALS BY PERFORMING EYES RIGHT AND SALUTING.

PHOTO BY CPL. AARON K. CLARK







CRIME-FIGHTER AWARDED MEDAL BY DC POLICE

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. JACOB H. HARRER

**LATE ONE NIGHT, AN ARMED FELON
MADE THE MISTAKE OF RUNNING INTO
A UNITED STATES MARINE.**

A guard Marine from Marine Barracks Washington was awarded the Chief of Police Medal of Merit at the Metropolitan Police Department headquarters, May 5.

Cpl. David Chancellor received the medal for helping police take down an armed felon across the street from the Barracks, Oct. 21.

“The remarkable courage and tenacity of Cpl. Chancellor directly resulted in the capture of a suspect and recovery of a weapon,” said Cmdr. Dave Kamperin, 1st district assistant chief.

It was late at night when Chancellor, then a 19 year-old lance corporal, had just been relieved of duty. Still in uniform, Chancellor saw a police officer questioning a driver, as well as a passenger who was standing outside a car. Unknown to police officers involved, the passenger had several felony charges.

Reflecting upon the event, Chancellor, a Mississippi native spoke plainly and softly, describing the events with the precision and demeanor of a professional police officer.

“I stopped to observe the police officer at the traffic stop, and the suspect punched a female officer in the face and proceeded

running toward the Navy Yard,” Chancellor said. “At the time, I ran toward the playground and hid behind the slide. I was waiting to see where he would go. Then I saw the subject come running through the open parking lot and toss a gun on top of a roof.”

Chancellor hid behind a fence, and the suspect ran toward him. Chancellor, prepared from years of jiu jitsu and Marine Corps Martial Arts Training, was ready to deal with the situation, he said.

“He started climbing on top of the fence, and when he reached the top, I pulled him off and took him down,” Chancellor said. “He tried to resist at first. He tried to regain his posture, but I took him straight down. He stopped resisting, and I had his arm pretty much locked.”

“I felt totally calm from being trained in MCMAP,” Chancellor said. “You could say I felt totally confident in what I was



Cpl. David Chancellor awaits his award in the command center of the Metropolitan Police Department's 1st District. Accompanying him are Sgt. Shawn Tate, Sgt. Mitchell Akers and Gunnery Sgt. Ronnie Cross.

doing the whole time.”

When additional police officers arrived two minutes later and saw Chancellor in his woodland camouflage utility uniform, they let him finish the job.

“I already had him, and I just told them to give me the handcuffs,” Chancellor added.

“At that point, Cpl. Chancellor then directed the officers to the area where the suspect threw the gun and recovered what was a Taurus .357 revolver loaded with six rounds of ammunition,” Kamperin said.

After helping assist in the arrest, Chancellor filed a police report, while the female officer thanked him for helping with the arrest. The police informed him that the suspect had a long list



Police chiefs from the Metropolitan Police Department present the Chief of Police Medal of Merit to Cpl. David Chancellor.

of pending felony charges against him.

By the time Chancellor got back to his room, it was already 12:30 a.m.

The next morning, he called his parents to tell them what happened. His father, a former sheriff, answered the phone.

“It wasn’t a shocker to him that I’d done something like that,” Chancellor said. “My dad expected that out of me.”

Like his father, Chancellor has a knack for law enforcement. After finishing

his contract, he plans to reenlist in the reserves and work in federal law enforcement, carrying on his family’s tradition of protecting his community. 

During a post-and-relief ceremony, Sgt. Maj. Sylvester Daniels assumed duty as the Barracks Sergeant Major from Sgt. Maj. Michael J. Watkins at “The Oldest Post,” May 1.

Watkins passed the non-commissioned officer’s sword to Col. W. Blake Crowe, the commanding officer of Marine Barracks Washington, who then passed the sword to Daniels, signifying the transfer of the position of senior enlisted leader and adviser and keeper of traditions for the Barracks.

As sergeant major, Daniels will supervise the Marines of the Barracks in ceremonies across the nation and abroad.

“The only thing I ask of you is to stay motivated, stay dedicated and continue to show the professionalism you are known for throughout the Marine Corps,” Daniels said to the Marines of the Barracks.

Daniels enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in 1982 and was assigned the infantry military occupational specialty of mortarman.

In 1989, Daniels reported to 1st Battalion, 4th Marines located at Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he participated in Operation Desert Shield and fulfilled duties as squad leader, platoon sergeant and platoon commander while serving with Weapons Company.

Later, Daniels would report to Drill Instructor School at MCRD San Diego, where he would later serve as a drill instructor and senior drill instructor.

Daniels continued his distinguished career, when in 2003, he was assigned as the Company First Sergeant of Interim Marine Corps Security Force Company Bahrain, while participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He arrived at the Barracks after leaving Battalion Landing Team 2/1, where he was the Battalion Sergeant Major.

During his speech, he said to the Marines of “The Oldest Post,” “I have heard great things about you, and I look forward to serving you as the next Barracks sergeant major.”

“8th & I is losing one great Marine... make no mistake about that. I have some big shoes to fill,” Daniels said about Watkins.

Watkins first came to Marine Barracks Washington, as part of the color guard section where he became the first black Color Sergeant of the Marine Corps.

Returning to the Barracks to supervise more than 5,000



ceremonies worldwide, he received the Legion of Merit for superior service as sergeant major of “The Oldest Post.” Watkins and his family are moving to Atlanta, where he will retire after completing more than 30 years of service in the Marine Corps. 



PASSING THE SWORD: NEW SERGEANT MAJOR ARRIVES AT THE BARRACKS

STORY BY CPL. AARON K. CLARK

PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. JACOB H. HARRER



Below: Col. W. Blake Crowe shakes Sgt. Maj. Michael J. Watkins' hand at his post-and-relief ceremony. Watkins began his career at the "Oldest Post" in the Marine Corps Color Guard, becoming the first black Color Sergeant of the Marine Corps in 1981.



Above: Sgt. Maj. Michael J. Watkins salutes Col. W. Blake Crowe during his post-and-relief ceremony. Watkins then passed the sword of office to Crowe, who entrusted Sgt. Maj. Sylvester Daniels with its care.



Above: Sgt. Maj. Sylvester Daniels speaks to his new command. Daniels served all over the world before coming to the Barracks, most recently as sergeant major of Battalion Landing Team 2/1.

Left: A very emotional Sgt. Maj. Watkins sheds some tears as he reflects upon the dedication of Barracks Marines.

BRAVO COMPANY IN...

NIGHT OPS

PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. JACOB H. HARRER

Bravo Company Marines conducted several live-fire exercises at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Feb. 15. The training included refresher courses for the Advanced Combat Optical Gunsight and the AN/PAQ-4A Infrared Aiming Light. Marines also conducted low visibility navigation.



Lance Cpl. Dustin Hobgood sights in on his targets with the Advanced Combat Optical Gunsight. Bravo Company Marines honed their shooting skills at an unknown distance range in Quantico.



Cpl. Philip Bietsch adjusts his sights during a BZO exercise. Each rifle needed to be zeroed before being used at the unknown distance range.



Capt. Christopher Kuehne, 1st platoon commander, instructs Bravo Company Marines on conducting a grouping exercise.



Bravo Company Marines shoot targets using an infrared laser seen only through night vision goggles. Marines fired at least two magazines during the course.



Lance Cpl. Tylando Taylor navigates the night course using NVGs, which narrow his field of vision.



Lance Cpl. Campoamor Ayala not only looks imposing for this photo, but he also finds it easier to shoot with the NVGs!



Sgt. Samuel Bass, 1st platoon sergeant, observes his Marines, ensuring nobody gets lost or injured during the night exercise.



The Battle of Belleau Wood was a turning point in “The Great War,” as well as a defining moment in the history of the U.S. Marine Corps. In 1918, Marines halted and pushed back what many thought was an unstoppable German offensive in Belleau Wood, France.

In a last ditch effort to halt a German offensive in early June 1918, the Allied high command thrust the 4th Marine Brigade, consisting of the 5th and 6th regiments, into battle.

The Marines, unproven and new on the scene, met the French, who were retreating after yielding the woods to the Germans. The French warned the new arrivals to do the same, inspiring Capt. Lloyd Williams, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine regiment, to respond: “Retreat, hell! We just got here!”

On May 25, The Battle of Belleau Wood’s 90th anniversary was observed by a ceremony attended by the Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment, Marine Forces Europe, Marine Security Guard Detachment Paris and a detachment of French soldiers. The ceremony was held at the Aisne-Marne American cemetery, where 2,289 American service members who fell in WWI are buried.

The ceremony began with Gen. James T. Conway, 34th Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Maj. Gen. Elrick Irastorza, major general of De l’armee de Terre, placing wreaths at the “Iron Mike” U.S. Marine Corps memorial. “Iron Mike,” nestled under a sunny canopy in the middle of the woods, was the first memorial built at the site, in 1955. The statue has an inscription recalling the events of the battle. It says, “May the gallant Marines who gave their lives for Corps and Country, rest in peace.”

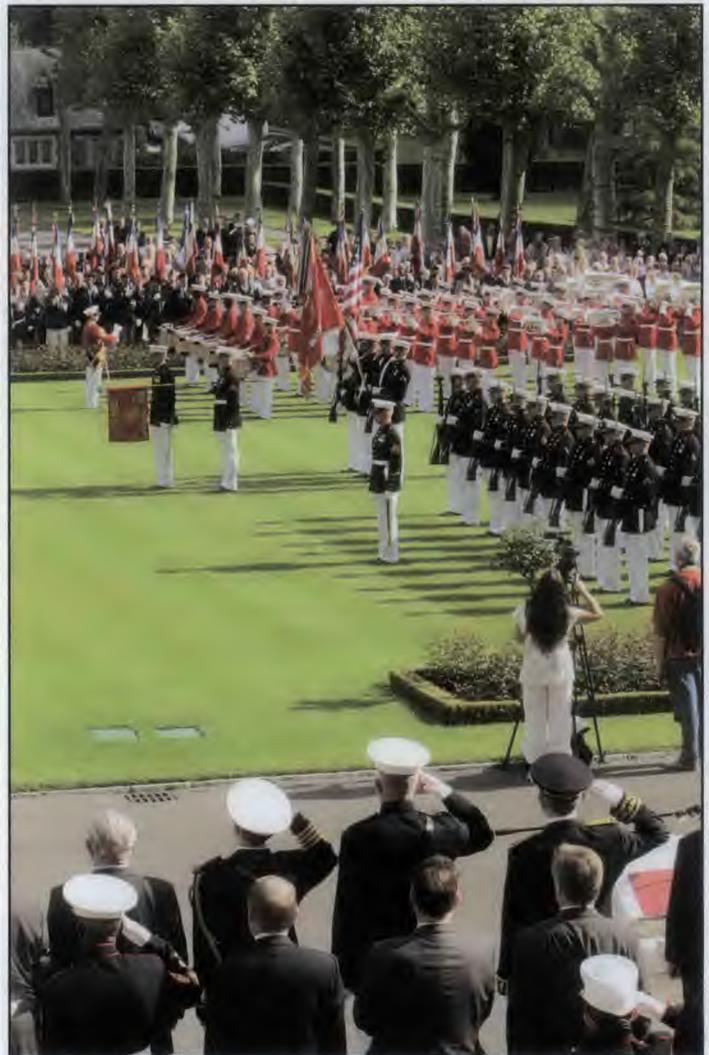
Next, the Marines of the BCD and their French counterparts marched out, resplendent under the shadow of the cemetery’s 80-foot-tall Memorial Chapel, which served as an impressive backdrop for a flyover by the U.S. Air Force.

The French band, Musique Principale de l’Armee de Terre Francaise, played their national anthem, “Les Marseillaise,” followed by the Marine Drum and Bugle Corps’ rendition of “The Star Spangled Banner.”

Both Gen. Conway and Maj. Gen. Irastorza spoke of the significance of the battle to the more than 5,000 French, American and British guests at the event.

“The sacrifice of these men 90 years ago sealed in blood the unshakeable ties that bind our two countries,” said Irastorza in French.

“It showed the willingness of the United States to unite its sons with those of France for the defense of freedom, reviving the ties that Yorktown had woven - thereby setting the stage for

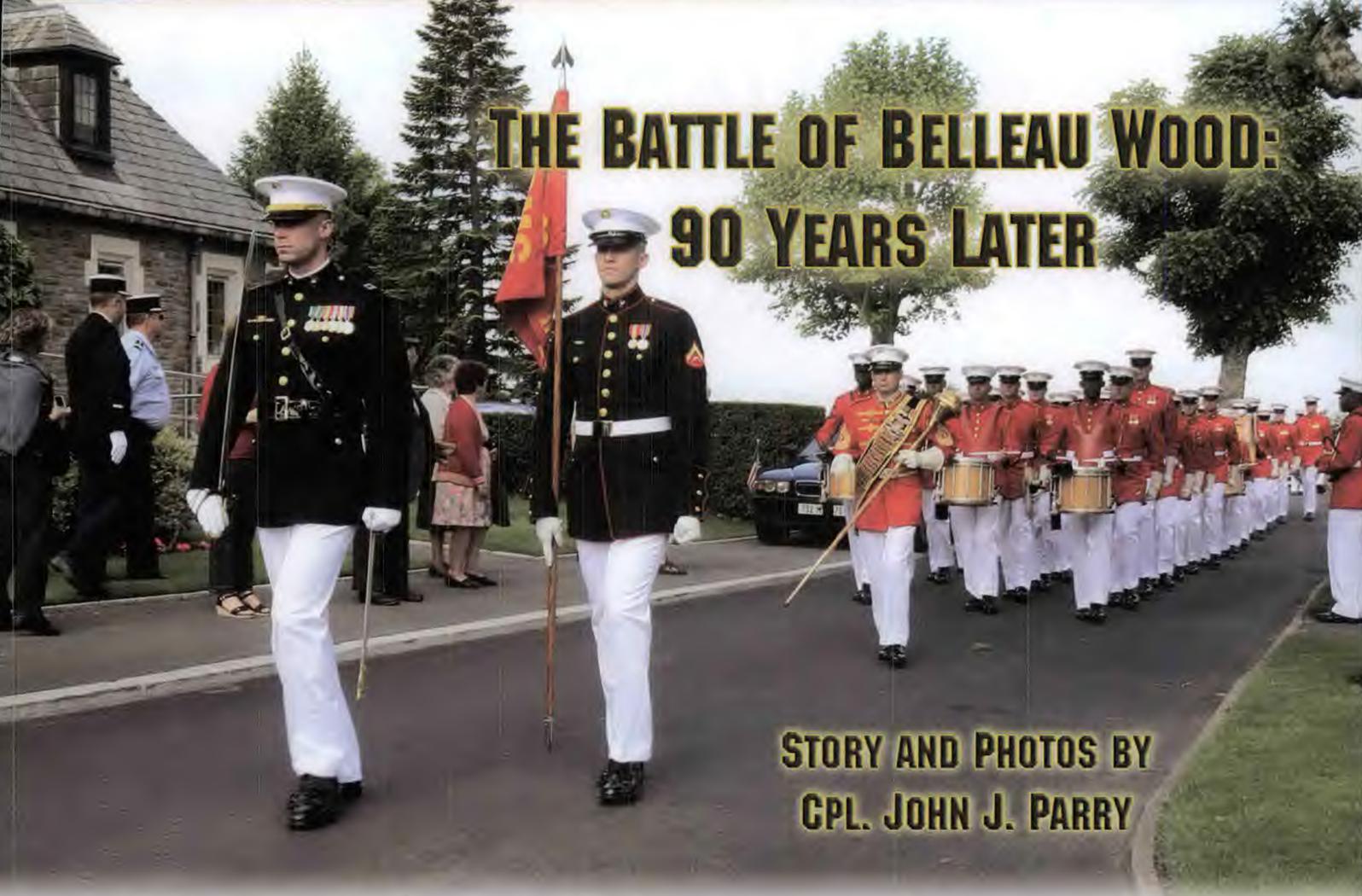


U.S. and French servicemembers salute in honor of their fallen brethren who lost their lives during the Battle of Belleau Wood.

the battles to free our countries 26 years later, during the second global conflict.”

The battle was the first real major ground offensive ever fought by the Marines, Conway added. They proved themselves more than capable, evidencing a fighting spirit that has achieved legendary status in the Marine Corps. The Marines honored their

THE BATTLE OF BELLEAU WOOD: 90 YEARS LATER



**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. JOHN J. PARRY**

fallen brothers of Belleau Wood with a 21-gun salute and a stirring rendition of “Taps.”

After a crowd-pleasing musical performance by the French, the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps took the field to perform various numbers, concluding with “Ode to Joy.” The audience responded with a loud and long standing ovation.

Next, the fabled Silent Drill Platoon marched onto the field, thrilling the crowd with their amazing precision and intricate drill movements.

“It was pretty amazing to march on the hallowed ground where so many Marines gave their lives,” said Lance Cpl. Nicholas Meekins, part of SDP’s “Marching 24.” “I’m proud to have been a part of the ceremony. I think the Marines who died here embodied honor, courage and commitment. I feel we also have brought those values here today.”

“These Marines were thrust into a situation without adequate supplies or the proper means to fight,” Meekins added proudly. “They adapted and overcame the situation, using innovation to outfox the Germans.”

The Germans were unaware of the Marines’ precision at long distance marksmanship. They were stunned as the Marines stopped their advance dead in its tracks, hitting them from more than 500 yards. The American barrage took a decisive toll on the unsuspecting Axis troops, who had never seen such accurate fire from infantry units at such great distances.

Then, on June 6, the Marines charged north and east across

the open wheat fields, gaining entry to the woods at a high price — some units incurred casualty rates as high as 90 percent. Despite the staggering numbers of Marines killed and wounded, they pushed on, making their way through barbed wire and suffering through mustard gas attacks. Ultimately, they were able to enter the woods.

A grueling battle raged on for several weeks, climaxing in a brutal four-day showdown. The Marines relentlessly assaulted the German positions until they forced them out of the woods for good. The final battle report, sent June 26, stated, “Woods now U.S. Marine Corps’ - entirely.”

Official German reports referred to the Belleau Wood Marines as “Teufel Hunden,” or “Devil Dogs,” a nickname that has followed them ever since. More than 1,000 “Devil Dogs” were killed in the fighting along with more than 7,000 Germans. These losses were the highest the Corps had ever incurred, surpassing the grand total of men lost in all previous conflicts.

In honor of the Marines’ heroism during the battle, the French renamed the woods “Bois de la Brigade de Marine,” which means “Woods of the Marine Brigade.”

“We sent LaFayette and our Navy during the American Revolution,” said Adjutant Francois Gavin, a historian of the French Republican Guard.

“And France will never forget that Americans helped save France — twice.”

SILENT DRILL PLATOON WINS



STORY AND PHOTOS

Most of the world's most powerful militaries have used drill to teach discipline and obedience. In the Washington, D.C., National Guard Armory, four of the United States' ceremonial drill units competed.

In a competition of precision, poise and pride, to the victor would go the spoils. With immaculate uniforms, spit-shined shoes, and a dizzying array of spins, each unit wowed an audience of more than 300 spectators at the U.S. Armed Forces Joint Ceremonial Drill Competition, April 12.

The four competing drill teams at the event included the U.S. Army Drill Team, the U.S. Navy Ceremonial Guard Drill Team, the U.S. Coast Guard Silent Drill Team and the U.S. Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon, who took home the first place trophy.

"We all sent our best out there," said Army Staff Sgt. John Wolfe, who, along with a group of his fellow soldiers from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, made the event happen. "It was a tough competition between the services, but I expected nothing but excellence. I'm glad I wasn't one of the judges because their job definitely wasn't easy."

According to Zaida Walters, gold star mother of Marine Pfc. Leroy Sandoval, the performances were surprising because she had only seen Marines drill during their boot camp graduation ceremony.

"I love all those who serve-- those who choose to do this," said Walters proudly. "Everyone was great. My daughter is so jealous of me that she couldn't make it today. It's an honor to

see this and to be a part of it. I love it!"

Much like Walters expected, the Marines proved themselves best on this day.

"This is why my son was so proud to be a Marine," said a grinning Walters. "They call them the few, the proud for a reason."

Unlike the other units, the Marines marched out to the center of the building and didn't have to make adjustments to begin their routine. They went right into their sequence.

"When they began, nobody made a sound," Walters added. "They were stunning. It was incredible!"

The performance included a double-dome formation, closely resembling old infantry formations used to stave off cavalry charges. Finally, the platoon formed into a long line and concluded its routine with a flawless inspection that brought many to their feet.

According to Wolfe, it was the precision and calculated timing of each movement that stood above the rest—movements such as each Marine simultaneously slamming their rifle into the deck. Their professionalism demonstrates perfection to the public like no other, Wolfe added.

"We practice day after day and are confident that every time

INTERSERVICE DRILL COMPETITION



BY CPL. JOHN J. PARRY



Cpl. Anthony Hill performs a double rifle toss with Cpl. Jeremy Holster during the performance.



Sherwood D. Goldberge, civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army, awards the first place trophy to Capt. John Greenwood, Silent Drill Platoon commander.

we go out, we will do our best,” said Lance Cpl. Ricky Schmidt, a member of the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon. “It doesn’t matter what event or who we perform for, we go out and represent the Marine Corps everyday.”

The units trained for hundreds of hours to represent their service at the competition, but more importantly to prepare for hundreds of thousands who come to watch these fine-tuned servicemembers each year.

Each of the services selects candidates for their units based on requirements in individual appearance and conduct. However, these are not the only things necessary to earn a place in one of these heralded units. Servicemembers must compete against each other through rigorous training and evaluations, as only those who distinguish themselves from their peers will be allowed to perform. 



PERSONNEL OFFICE ACES MCAAT INSPECTION

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. JOHN J. PARRY &
LANCE CPL. JACOB H. HARRER



The results are in, and the numbers are staggering. Due to sheer dedication to duty, Marine Barracks Washington's Personnel Administration Office received one of the highest scores from the Marine Corps Administrative Analysis Team, with a 99.46 percent on their inspection, Feb. 7.

"The Marine Corps' goal is to receive at least a 96 percent command effective rate from the MCAAT, so immediately preceding the conclusion of the inspection, we presented the Barracks' personnel administration office with a well-deserved MCAAT Certificate of Excellence," said Chief Warrant Officer Cheryl Garcia, MCAAT team leader.

Inspections are routine for military units worldwide, usually revealing numerous areas for improvement. The MBW inspection was nearly flawless.

"The average score is between 90 and 94 percent," said Chief Warrant Officer William Miller, MCAAT team member.

"Coupled with the fact they only had \$125 in actual mispayments, they hit it out of the park."

"That's a phenomenal achievement considering administration is not their primary duty," said Chief Warrant Officer Alex J. Childress, MBW personnel officer. "Every Marine's primary duty at the Barracks, regardless of MOS, is providing ceremonial support."

Administrative units from across the Corps have heard the hype.

"We've had calls from up and down the East Coast asking for our systems," said Sgt. David P. Martin, MBW promotions clerk. "A few even drove to the Barracks from their units hundreds of miles away to look at our stuff."

"We've been bragging a bit about '8th and I' when we visit other units who are struggling," said Gunnery Sgt. Kimberly Simone, MCATT team member. "The team even encourages those units to contact the Barracks to get copies of their procedures."

Sharing the Barracks' systems will assist other administrative units and help to improve the overall reputation of the administration community, said Sgt. Roberto W. Rospigliosi, MBW pay and travel non-commissioned officer-in-charge.

According to Staff Sgt. Reggie Henry, MBW personnel NCOIC, these inspections are important because they ensure Marines will not have to worry about individual issues.



Standing (left to right) are Sgt. David Martin, Cpl. Johnny Odombrown, Cpl. Drew Conklin, Lance Cpl. Ruben Rodriguez, Chief Warrant Officer Alexander Childress, Joseph Vallely, Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Simmons, Cpl. LaQuinton Geter, Staff Sgt. Reggie Henry, and Lance Cpl. Arron Cerda. Kneeling are Sgt. Roberto Rospigliosi and Lance Cpl. Bobo Smith.

The Personnel Administration Office provides support to more than 1,100 Marines, Sailors and Civilians throughout the National Capital Region.

“That’s an awesome responsibility and one we take very seriously,” said Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Simmons, MBW personnel chief. “Their efficiency ensures Marines are not thinking about their pay or promotion during a ceremonial performance.”

Devotion to duty paid off for Cpl. Drew Conklin, whose turnover binder and database earned him a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

“Funny thing is, I just did what I was told,” said Conklin with a smile. “My personnel officer taught us to follow the checklist and work on our turnover binder every day.”

“The personnel office had been preparing for the inspection for two years,” said Childress. “I’ve always tried to instill in my Marines not to adopt the mindset that you don’t follow administrative pay policies or manage the effectiveness of internal controls until you were notified that MCAAT was coming.”

The MBW personnel Marines put in a few late hours in the final weeks leading up to the inspection.

“We worked on improving individual sections and reviewing

internal controls,” said Cpl. Johnny L. Odombrown, MBW service record book clerk. “We know Marines can feel confident with us handling their service records.”

“Although this inspection was an analysis of how we are doing, it also reflects the support we get from the companies and other commodity areas,” said Cpl. LaQuinton Geter, MBW SRB clerk. “Without their cooperation in ensuring all reportable training and pay-related events are brought to our attention, we could not have done as well as we did.”

They also capitalized on the talents of the administrators assigned to the U.S. Marine Band, who assisted in preparation for the MCAAT. “They are our ‘eyes and ears’ down at the Marine Band, and they support us in ensuring their service records are being kept up to date” said Geter.

The motivation and hard work of the Barracks personnel administrators resulted in stellar dividends, helping them score above and beyond the Marine Corps’ goal for the MCAAT inspection. However, they have not forgotten it is their continuing commitment to excellence that will keep their customer service unbeatable for the Marines. 🦅



THE ROAD TO GREATNESS

BECOMING A MARINE CORPS

MARTIAL ARTS INSTRUCTOR

**PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. ERIC N. CARRANZA
& LANCE CPL. JACOB H. HARRER**





(Left to right) Lance Cpl. Ryan McDowell, Lance Cpl. Christopher Sharp and Sgt. Samuel Bass catch their breath during an endurance course exercise at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Jan 24.



Lance Cpl. Christopher Sharp sprints through the endurance course, followed closely by Lance Cpl. Michael Oliver.



Lance Cpl. Christopher Hamilton lowers himself from a rope after completing the Obstacle Course at Quantico, Jan. 25.



Lance Cpl. Michael Oliver leads MAI students through log squats during a log training exercise at Quantico, Jan. 17.

Marines participated in the Barracks' first Martial Arts Instructor Course Jan. 7-29. Five Marines passed the course as green belt instructors.



Lt. Col. Rip Miles, MBW executive officer, congratulates Cpl. John J. Parry, the honor graduate of the course.



Above: Sgt. Moises Navas inspects Lance Cpl. Julius Howard (left) and Lance Cpl. Arron Cerda during gray belt training at the annex field, Mar. 4. Navas received the Gung Ho Award for his enthusiasm and exceptional performance during the Martial Arts Instructor Course.

Left: Sgt. Samuel Bass endures freezing temperatures during the log run.

FROM DAWN TO SETTING SUN: PREPARING FOR THE PARADE SEASON

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY LANCE CPL. CARRANZA



The Marines of the Battle Color Detachment make their performances look all too easy, but what the spectators rarely see are the countless hours, days, weeks and months of preparation it takes to be a part of the best of the few and the proud.

The Marines who make up these units are dedicated and committed to working hard. Before becoming a part of the BCD each Marine was hand selected and chosen for their skill and commitment to their profession.

The “Commandant’s Own,” the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, the U.S. Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon and the Official Color Guard of the Marine Corps perform for thousands of spectators during the West Coast Tour through Arizona and Southern California. These performances are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to each individual’s commitment to their duty.

Although this season’s first public BCD performance took place in late February, the preparation began months before.

“We started conditioning our bodies and memorizing music on Jan. 1, so when we came out to the Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma, Ariz., we could focus on putting the drill and music together,” said Lance Cpl. Michelle Mayo, a percussionist in the Drum and Bugle Corps.

Throughout the West Coast Tour, the Marines of “The Commandant’s Own” worked more than 10 hours each day preparing for this year’s edition of “Music In Motion.”

“It is a lot of hard work, a lot of long days and endless nights of drill rehearsal,” said Lance Cpl. Chris Courtney, Silent Drill Platoon. It all pays off with each performance. Every Marine knows their job is important.

For Marines in SDP, training began in November with Silent Drill School. Upon completion of hundreds of hours of training, they come face to face with one defining moment—“Challenge Day.”

Marking the end of the course, every Marine competes on Challenge Day to earn a place among the “Marching Twenty-Four.” Candidates are evaluated on appearance and individual drill performance.

“The BCD is all about commitment. Every individual works their hardest to perform perfectly, which makes the entire performance perfect,” said Mayo.

With these Marines back in Washington, D.C., the summer parade season and hundreds more performances are just around the corner.

Throughout the year, these Marines have and will continue to face the challenge of rigorous travel and rehearsals. As the mark of a new parade season begins, the BCD will continue to travel our nation and abroad, carrying on Marine Corps’ traditions and commitment of excellence. 🇺🇸



Lance Cpl. Jay Hewlett exhibits his skills for Cpl. Daniel Anderson, the drill master. Hewlett must earn his spot during Challenge Day.

ON THE ROAD



Lance Cpl. John Nelson wrapped electrical tape around his bayonet to stop the blade from cutting his arm.



Marines of the Silent Drill Platoon practice in Yuma each year to handle the intense heat of the parade season, when they must endure thick humidity in their dress blue uniforms.

(Below): Marines of the Drum and Bugle Corps practice to ensure they strike each beat and hit each note in unison.



Members of the Drum and Bugle Corps came away with sunny, West Coast tans following intense practices. (Left to right): Sgt. Stuart Davis, Sgt. Shawn Preston, Gunnery Sgt. William Rulapaugh, Sgt. Clifford Peters, Staff Sgt. Keith Satonica, Cpl. Joseph Kelley and Cpl. Jonathan Keever.

STEEL SHARPENS STEEL: CORPORAL'S COURSE TEACHES LEADERSHIP

STORY BY CPL. JOHN J. PARRY
PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. ERIC N. CARRANZA



Baby NCOs! This controversial term used for Marine non-commissioned officers in a recent article by the Marine Corps Times has caused outrage throughout the Marine Corps. After all, NCOs have always led the way.

However, one would be hard pressed to find an NCO or future NCO who needs a babysitter from this group of 22 Marines who recently graduated Corporal's Leadership Course 1-08 at Marine Barracks Washington, March 21.

The goal of the course was to build a solid foundation of knowledge and leadership skills for non-commissioned officers, said Gunnery Sgt. Shawn K. Reckard, chief instructor. Through education and mentoring, the 19 corporals and three lance corporals learned the fundamental knowledge they needed to grow as leaders in the Marine Corps.

This end state proved challenging as the Marines undertook a tough curriculum over three weeks where a typical day began as early as 5 a.m. and lasted well into the evening.

Despite the long hours, spirits were high as the students eagerly consumed periods of instruction on drill, uniforms, physical training and war-fighting.

Sgt. Marcus Banks, a sergeant instructor, set the tone at beginning of the course by stressing "motivation is contagious," and non-commissioned officers must set the tone for the Marine Corps.

The students took this expression of leadership to heart, pushing each other to strive for their very best.

"Sergeant instructors are there to show the next step of

leadership for young leaders to look up to and emulate," said Reckard, also a distance learning instructor at the Marine Corps Institute. "Our corporals should always strive to better themselves and what better way than to realistically show them."

Each day began just before dawn at the Barracks' multi-purpose field. Unfazed by the crisp, cool air of the winter mornings, the sergeant instructors taught the Marines how to improve methods when conducting PT and challenged the students with runs of up to six-miles long.

"Our physical training began with us leading each other in stretches and warm-up exercises," said Cpl. Sean Hinds, student and class commander. "We would then go for a run to be followed up with strengthening exercises. It was a difficult grind considering we had classes later on, but it paid off as all the Marines earned 1st class physical fitness test scores."

The graduates finished the course with an average PFT score of 269 out of 300.

According to Hinds, also the non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the Marine Corps Institute's postal section, the instructors maintained a challenging pace, moving from one phase of the course to the next, exceeding most of the student's expectations.

"The overall course progression was intense," Hinds added.



Corporal's Course 1-08 was led by Gunnery Sgt. Shawn Reckard, chief instructor, and Staff Sgt. Walter Sweeney, assistant instructor. The two were assisted by six sergeant instructors, seen here at the annex field. The course graduated 22 Marines, Mar. 21.

"All we could do was work hard and push one another each day to meet the pressure to perform."

All the newly acquired information was tested through three written exams, uniform inspections and a Marine Corps drill critique. The Marines excelled and exceeded expectations with a class average of 92.73 percent, something Reckard was proud to point out at graduation.

"Our non-commissioned officers performed very well," Reckard added. "They took every phase of the training evolution with a can-do attitude and a willingness to better themselves."

"We all came in with a lot of experience," said Cpl. Kyle Layman, the course honor graduate. "The instructors presented us with a lot of information, and I spent four to five hours each day after class, preparing for the next assignment because NCOs can use this information to lead Marines."

According to Layman, also an infantry weapons repairman

for Company B, the students competed with each other, and this propelled them to excel in the course. After each test, the instructors would post each student's grades in the entryway of

the classroom, so everyone could see where they stood among their peers.

"Competition breeds success. It was up to each student to perform and meet expectations," Layman added. "I pushed myself hard because I wanted to be the best Marine I could. I felt that by excelling, my example would help drive the Marines around me."

The Marines' determination and teamwork paid off as not a single one was left behind throughout the training.

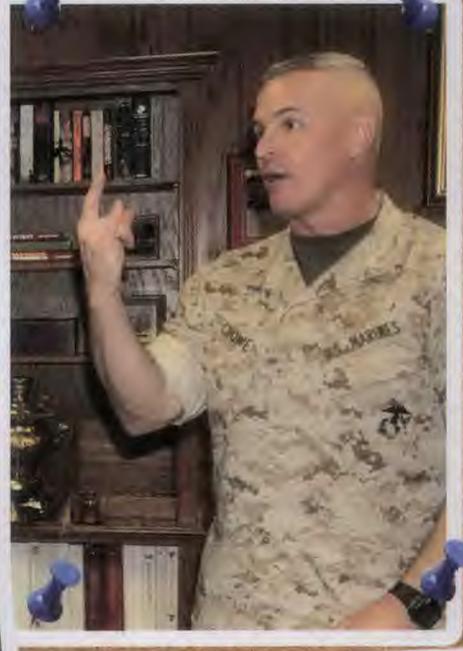
"The term 'Baby NCO' is unfair and insulting to our young

leaders," Reckard said. "These are men, and we give them a great responsibility at a young age to lead from the front. Corporals have proven time and time again, on and off the battlefield, that they will accomplish the mission." 



Staff Sgt. Walter Sweeney and Gunnery Sgt. Shawn Reckard write correspondence courses at the Marine Corps Institute.

Around the Barracks

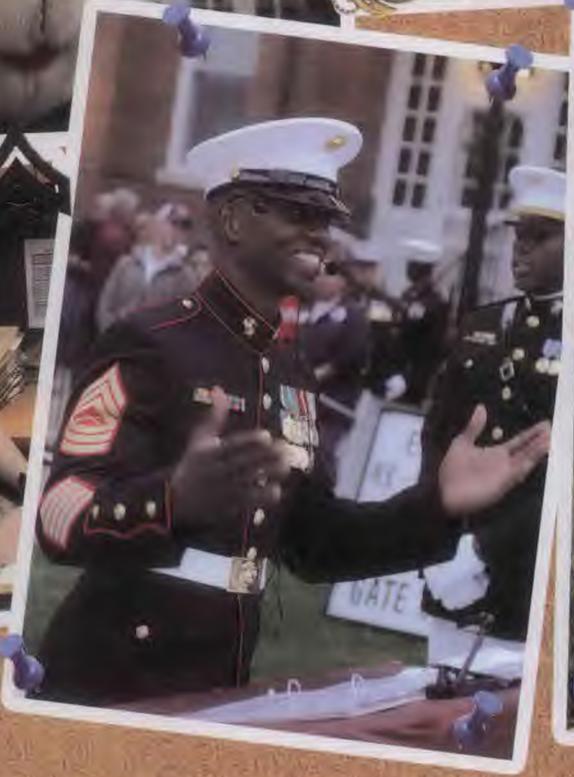
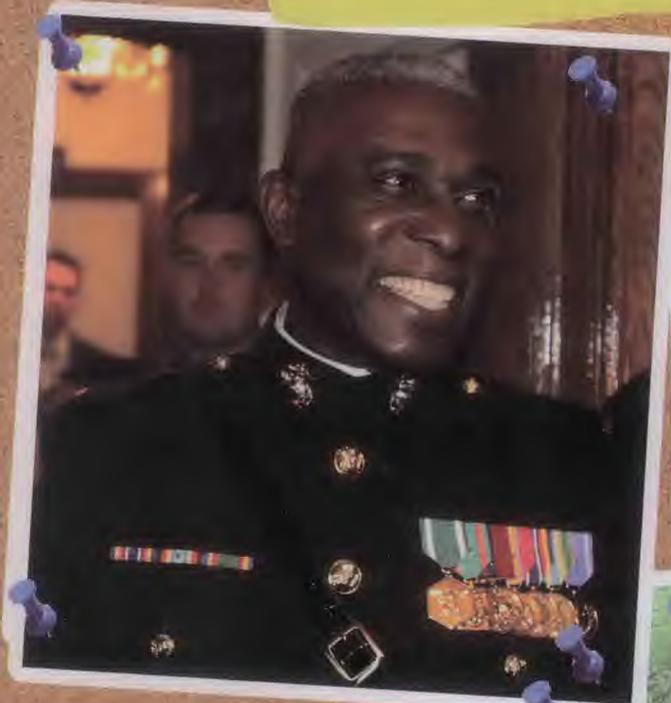




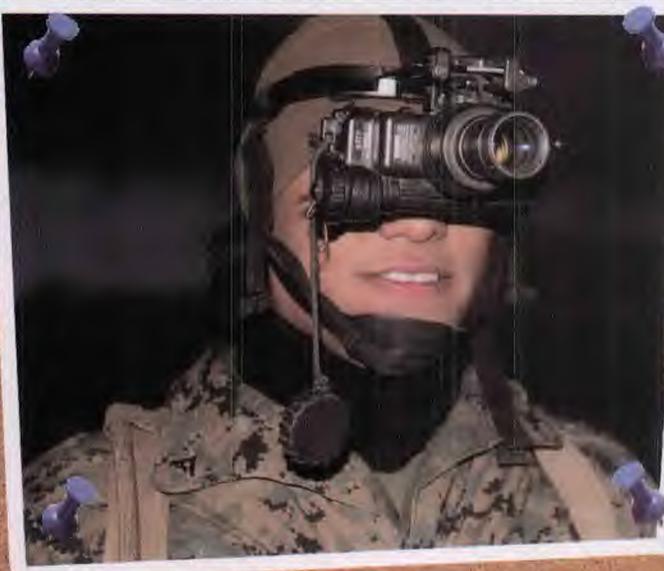
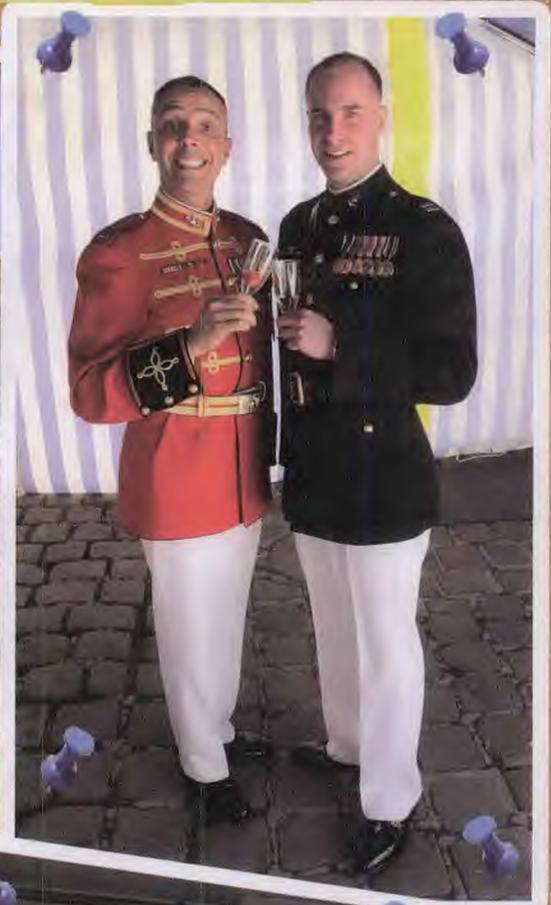
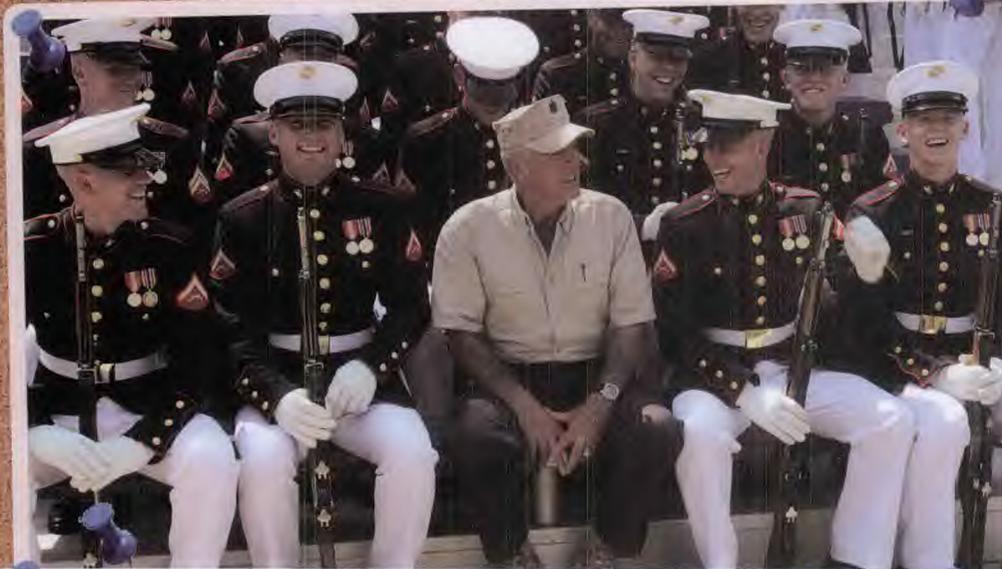
Around the Barracks



Around the Barracks



Around the Barracks





COMMANDER'S COLUMN

COL. W. BLAKE CROWE

I am leaving the Barracks as another successful parade season comes to a close. I believe it's an appropriate time because you as Marines have made me successful in my tour here. Everything you do, from giving a sharp salute and greeting guests as they arrive for a parade, to taking your time to volunteer in the community makes both the Barracks and the Marine Corps as a whole look good.

Your hard work and long hours are what set the standard for professionalism and Esprit de Corps, and I constantly receive compliments from general officers, guests and distinguished officials.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish fair winds & following seas to Sgt. Maj. Watkins and Mrs. Annie. It was a privilege to serve with him at the end of his 30-year career, which began and ended here at the "Oldest Post."

Welcome aboard to Sgt. Maj. "Big Dawg" Daniels who has made an immediate positive impact at the Barracks. I look forward to watching him grow into this esteemed billet.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize Majors Weston, Priddy and Castellano, who worked feverishly to prepare this command for the 2008 Parade Season.

In closing, it has been a privilege to serve at Marine Barracks Washington. I look forward to serving with all of you in the future.



Semper Fidelis,
W. BLAKE CROWE



THE "WE" IN TEAMWORK

STORY BY LT. JOHN R. LOGAN

PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. JACOB H. HARRER



You have heard the saying; "there is no "I" in team." I have discovered that team work requires the word, we.

No one makes it to the top alone. When you look at the accomplishments of famous and distinguished individuals, you realize their accomplishments were not done single-handedly. Academy Award-winning actor Denzel Washington stated in his book, "A Hand To Guide Me," "Every one of us looks back on a coach or a teacher or some person who set us straight and steered us right. You don't get to the top of your game or the top of your field or the top of the charts entirely on your own..."

One of the things that makes a unit successful and desirable is unit cohesion and camaraderie. Apart from belonging to an organization, members need to feel supported and experience the *Esprit de Corps*. Our jobs as leaders is not to make it to the top and stay on top, but the true purpose of leadership is to mentor and encourage each subordinate to go beyond their capabilities. By so doing, great undertakings can be accomplished if each one feels a part of the organization. Col. Don Myers, former Marine Barracks Washington commanding officer, in his book, "Leader-



Lance Cpl. Tristian Wright leads the way as Marines and volunteers install a playground.

ship Defined," stated: "There are hidden talents and leaders in all groups. The leader's job is to discover and develop those talents."

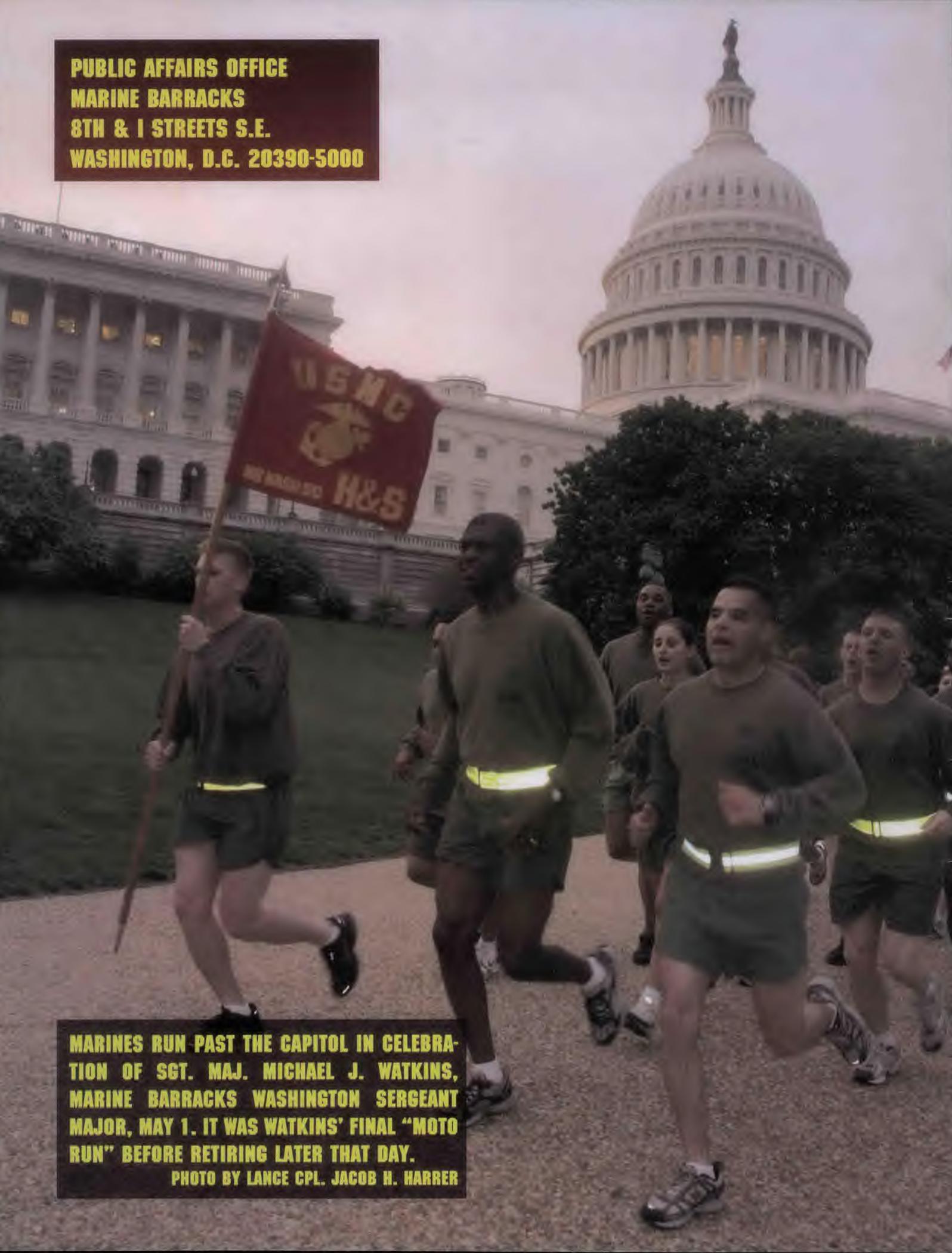
Another thing to keep in mind is that one individual cannot do everything. In the Old Testament book of Exodus (18:1-20;23) the account is told of the Patriarch Moses who, after leading the Children of Israel out of Egypt, was overwhelmed with leading the Israelites and being their judge. His father-in-law, Jethro, a Priest from Midian, saw this and advises him to establish a system of courts to relieve him of the crushing burden of judging all disputes. This in turn alleviated Moses and allowed him to carry out the mission God called him to do. This method of the distribution of labor is also called the Jethro Principle.

As you consider your next big project or undertaking, take to heart the Seneca Tribe proverb that says, "He who would do great things should not attempt them all alone." 



Cpl. Carlos Mercado and Master Sgt. David Robinson cheerfully assist construction efforts.

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MARINES RUN PAST THE CAPITOL IN CELEBRATION OF SGT. MAJ. MICHAEL J. WATKINS, MARINE BARRACKS WASHINGTON SERGEANT MAJOR, MAY 1. IT WAS WATKINS' FINAL "MOTO RUN" BEFORE RETIRING LATER THAT DAY.

PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. JACOB H. HARRER