

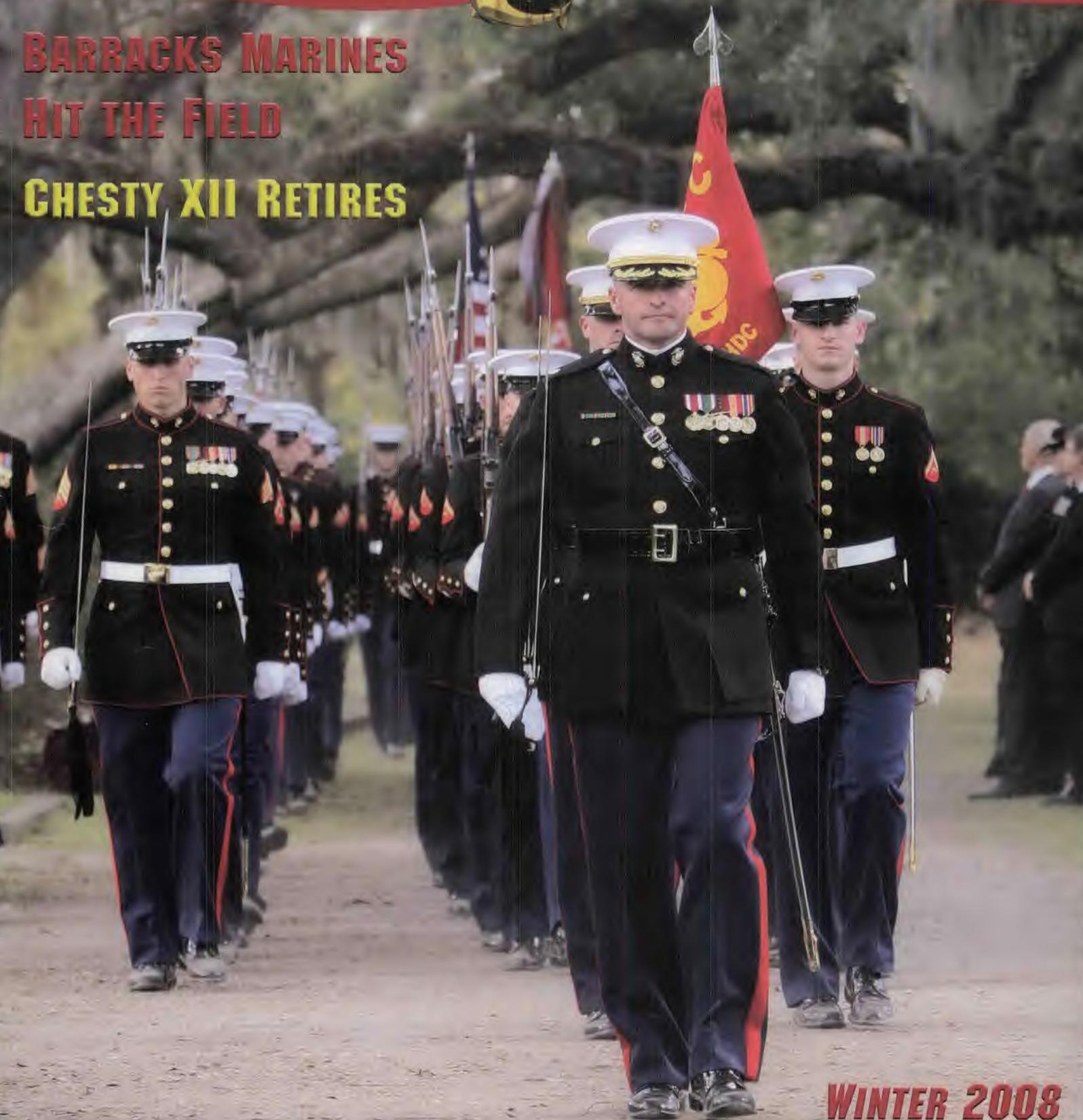


PASS IN REVIEW

BARRACKS MARINES

HIT THE FIELD

CHESTY XII RETIRES



WINTER 2008

COMMANDER'S COLUMN

COL. ANDREW H. SMITH



It is truly a pleasure and privilege to serve with you in the “Oldest Post of the Corps.” My wife, Colleen, joins me in expressing our appreciation for a terrific change of command ceremony and the warm welcome the Barracks extended to the Smith family—thank you for making our arrival a meaningful time in our service to the Marine Corps.

Since my arrival to the Oldest Post, I have been tremendously impressed with your professionalism, skill and esprit de corps. Your service in support of the Barracks’ mission and for our Corps speaks volumes not only about your individual and collective professionalism, but the tremendous importance our Corps places in projecting the image of Marines—a military force well-trained, disciplined and ready for today’s and tomorrow’s challenges. Educating our Nation’s citizens and inspiring their continued confidence and pride in the Marine Corps is an integral aspect of our mission.

Indeed we must embrace the ideal of being the Oldest Post of the Corps, the guardians of Marine Corps traditions and the living tangible example of the pride, esprit and history that have distinguished our Corps since 1775. Further, and as I have articulated, our preparation and execution of our ceremonial mission—an aspect of our overarching mission most visible to our Nation’s citizens—must be of the caliber to bring honor to Marines—those who have come before, those who serve today and continue to lay it all on the line for their country and their fellow Marines, and those who will follow in our foot steps.



Finally, the mission of Marine Barracks Washington cannot be achieved without the magnificent Marines, Sailors and civilians that stand in its ranks. Your individual contribution and the collective contribution by your specific unit are vital to mission accomplishment. Therefore, we must look to the professional, physical and spiritual health of each other and families of the Oldest Post. Marines take care of each other; we shoulder the burden together and we leave no one behind. This ethos, this philosophy that speaks to the infinite value of each member is affirmed through the honor, courage and commitment that must be demonstrated by every Marine to their Corps.

Here’s health to you and to our Corps which we are proud to serve...

I extend my very best wishes to each of you and your families for a joyful and safe holiday season. 

Semper Fidelis,
Col. Andrew H. Smith



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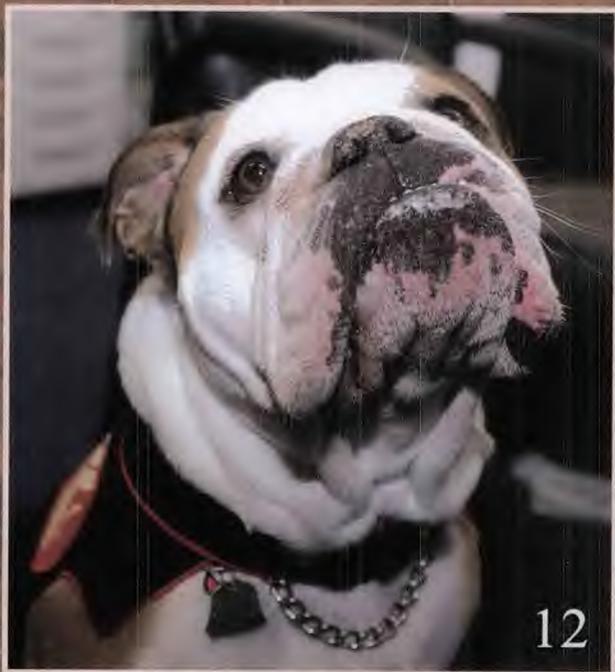


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Cover Shot:

Maj. John Barclay marches more than 100 Marines from Marine Barracks Washington for the funeral of Gen. Robert H. Barrows in St. Francisville, La., Nov. 3. Barrows, the 27th Commandant of the Marine Corps and veteran of three wars, passed away Oct. 30.

Photo by Sgt. John J. Parry



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NCOS TAKE CHARGE!

NCOS MARCH IN THE SUNSET PARADE, INCLUDING THE FIRST FEMALE TO MARCH IN THE NCO PARADE STAFF, CPL. ALICIA ROSEMAN. PICTURED (LEFT TO RIGHT) ARE ROSEMAN, CPL. CODY A. CAMPBELL, AND CPL. CHAD JOHNSTON.

PHOTO BY CPL. CHRIS DOBBS









VISUAL SWEEP

**CPL. KEYTH A. LLOYD, MCI CO. WAREHOUSE,
"CLOSES ON AN ENEMY" IN A LIVE-FIRE
EXERCISE AT MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO
DURING MCI COMPANY'S FIELD TRAINING
EXERCISE SEPT. 19.**

PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. ERIC N. CARRANZA



TRAIN AS YOU FIGHT! MARINES PRACTICE SHOOTING AT THE INDOOR RANGE

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. CHRIS DOBBS

An Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer has been installed here this summer, giving Marines the opportunity to train with a variety of weapons before packing up and heading out to the field, range or operating forces.

The new ISMT, located on the third floor of Building 8, is stocked with M-249 Squad Automatic Weapons, M-9 pistols, shotguns, M-16 rifles and MP-5s. It provides a realistic environment, which gives Marines the chance to train as they fight.

"While nothing is as effective as actually going out to the field, this will at least keep Marines in the mindset of what they are expected to do in the fleet," said Sgt. Ron Tinsley, ISMT instructor and S-3 training chief.

The trainer offers three types of shooting formats: lanes training, where Marines can hone their accuracy with the rifle and pistol from known distances on both still and moving "B-Mod" targets, computer-generated imagery and video training. Detailed feedback, including visual shot grouping, accuracy ratings and pass/fail grading, provides Marines the chance to identify their weaknesses and improve their marksmanship.

"Marines are able to maintain a state of readiness, proficiency in their MOS, weapon awareness, and the fundamentals of marksmanship by utilizing the facility," Tinsley said.

The project of installing the ISMT began in early March, and the facility was first used by Marines who were preparing to qualify on the pistol range, July 2. The trainer's effectiveness was immediately validated by the Marines' range scores.

"Ninety-five percent shot expert, three percent shot sharpshooter and two percent shot marksman," Tinsley said

about the pistol qualification at Fort Meade, July 9.

Another benefit of having the ISMT is more frequent training opportunities, something many Marines have already taken advantage of.

"There's a lot less Marines here than at many of the bases in the fleet," Tinsley said. "That means we'll be able to get Marines more repetitions, and the more repetitions, the better the training."

The training also gives rusty Marines the chance to hone their skills prior to requalifying with either the rifle or pistol, said Master Sgt. Kevin Pinckney, Marine Corps Community Services operations chief.

"It feels good. It gets the juices flowing," Pinckney said about completing a lanes-training evolution with the pistol, July 14. Pinckney, who has deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and hasn't qualified in more than 18 months, said he felt using the ISMT was a good

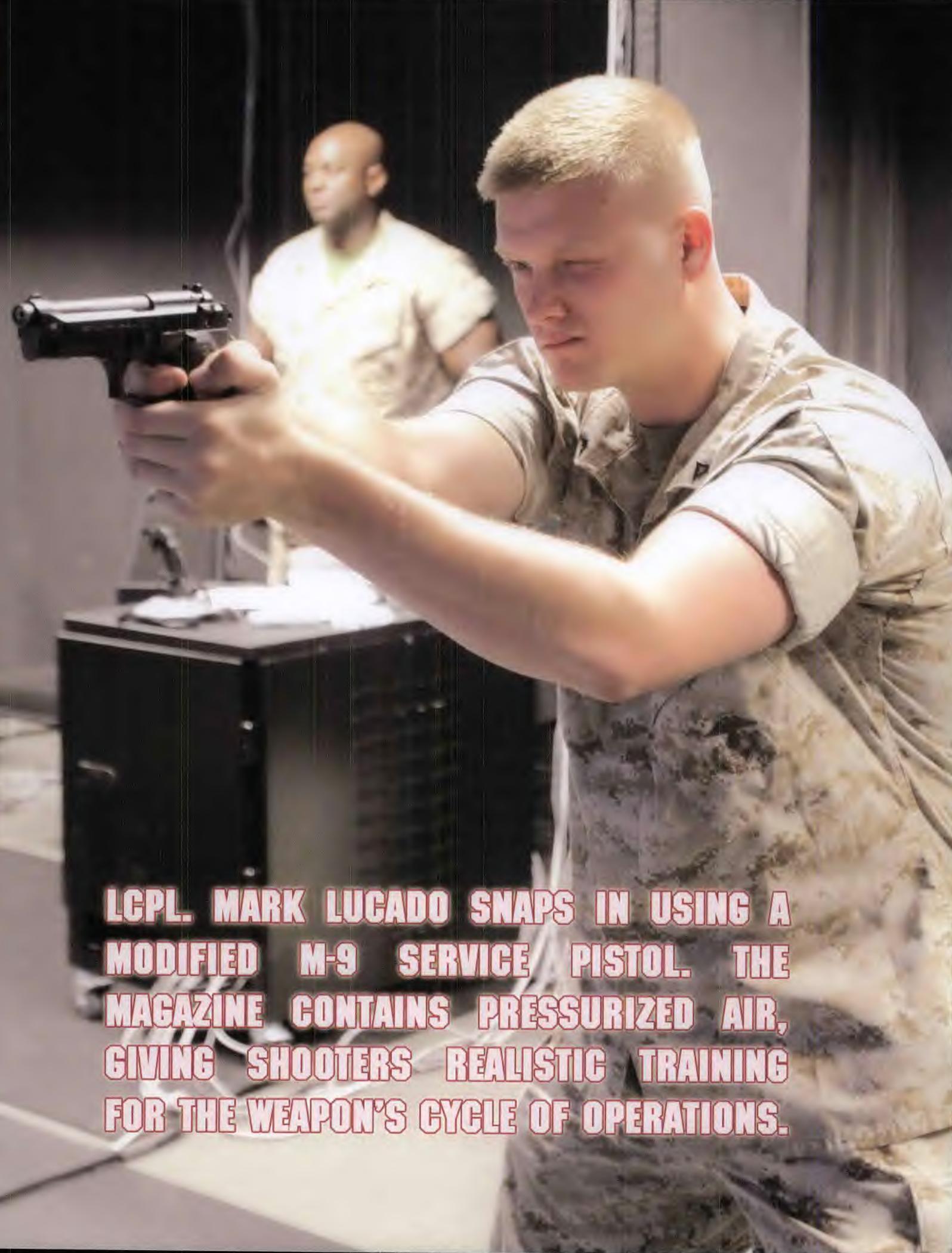


Sgt. Ron Tinsley coaches Cpl. Moncelly Fuller at the virtual training course. His advice paid off when Fuller qualified expert at the pistol range, Aug. 14.

warm-up for the range.

"After using the ISMT, I'm looking forward to getting out there and seeing what I can do," Pinckney said.

When Marines aren't fighting, they're training, and the new ISMT is providing Marines with the opportunity to train in marksmanship. Whether they want to sustain their skills as a rifleman or become proficient with another weapon, Barracks Marines now can practice right here. 🦅



LCPL. MARK LUCADO SNAPS IN USING A MODIFIED M-9 SERVICE PISTOL. THE MAGAZINE CONTAINS PRESSURIZED AIR, GIVING SHOOTERS REALISTIC TRAINING FOR THE WEAPON'S CYCLE OF OPERATIONS.

MARINE CORPS COLOR GUARD MENTORS FUTURE MARINES

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. JACOB H. HARRER



The Marine Corps Color Guard was honored to have the opportunity to mentor a group of Manassas Young Marines in ceremonial drill at the Barracks, July 18.

The Marines routinely perform for color guards within the Corps, but this was their first time teaching the Young Marines who represent the future of our Corps. The Color Guard worked with the children and teenagers individually, coaching them on the unique drill movements of the Marine Corps Color Guard.

The Young Marines arrived in well-pressed, old-fashioned Marine woodland utility uniforms and shiny black boots, ready to meet the Marine Corps Color Guard. Sgt. Maj. Sylvester Daniels, MBW sergeant major, noticed the clean appearance and model conduct of the group. "Look at you guys!" Daniels exclaimed, "Even your pockets are pressed!"

"They had discipline and bearing, and followed orders like any Marine unit would," said Color Guard member Lance Cpl. Robert Clough. "They were snapped to. They were courteous, very respectful, and willing to learn."

The adult Marines towered over their younger counterparts, many of whom were less than five feet tall and younger than 12 years old. Most of the Young Marines were new to the organization and had never practiced colors before.

Young Marine Staff Sgt. Anthony Maenza, Company First Sergeant, was one of a handful of youngsters who had experience in colors ceremonies. Maenza appreciated the willingness of the Color Guard to spend time with him and his unit. The Young Marines were divided into two groups, allowing them to drill with both rifles and colors.

"I think it's an honor for the Color Guard to teach us how to drill," said Maenza.

The Young Marines then assembled in a tight formation and marched from place-to-place. Sgt. Scott Jewel, 32nd Color Sergeant of the Marine Corps, and Lance Cpl. Michael Lesiewicz led the Young Marines through the drills, helping them into oversized colors slings, most of which hung down past their waists. After adjusting and tightening the slings, the Young Marines were ready to drill. They practiced formations and learned how to hold the colors.

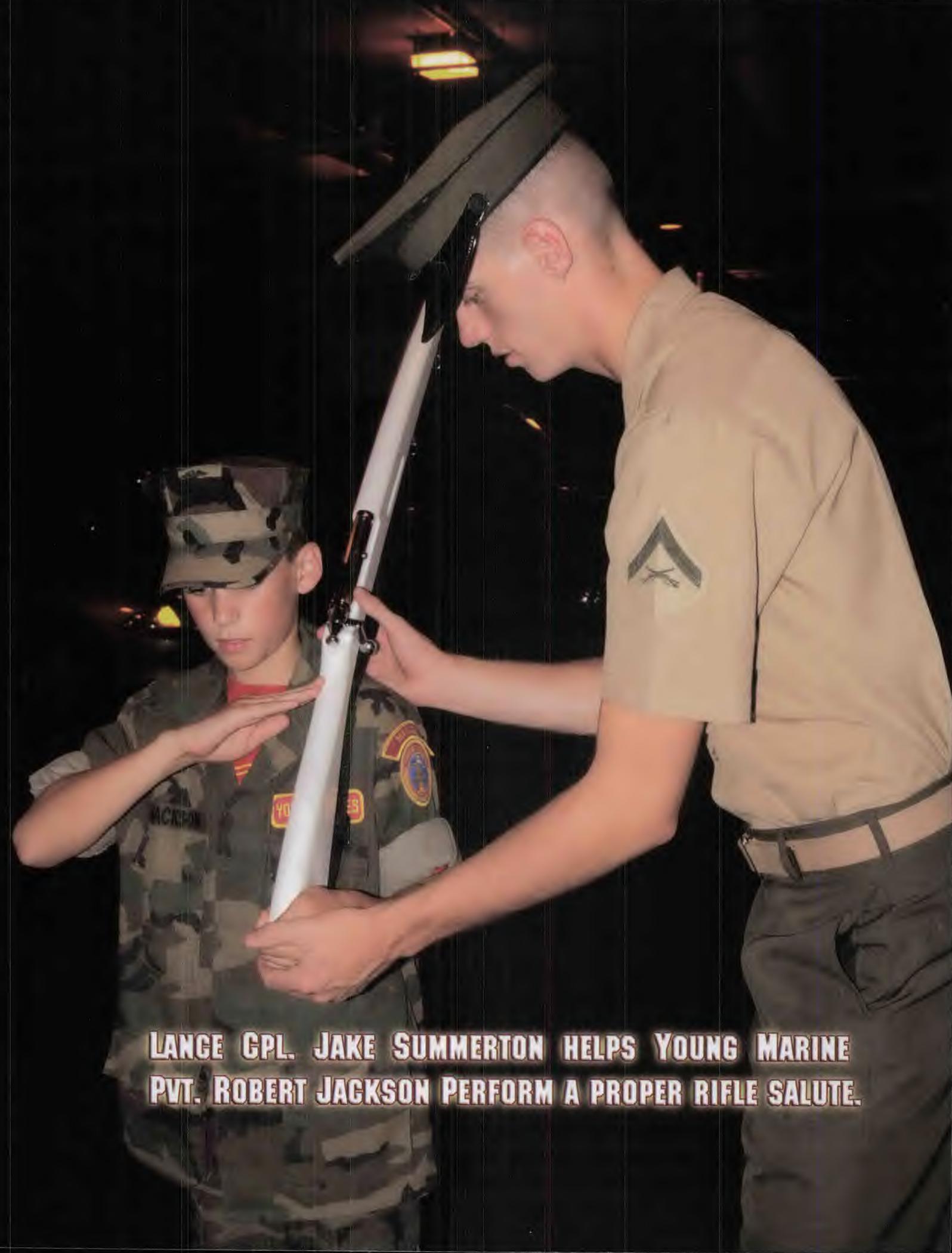
Though they were new to MBW ceremonial drill, the Young Marines added some unique rifle drill movements to the standard routine. Lance Cpl. Jake Summerton, who instructed rifle drill, lined up with Maenza to perform right shoulder arms, a standard movement for the color guard.

Summerton was pleasantly surprised when the Young Marines performed the move differently from Barracks' drill, incorporating a rifle salute before cutting. Summerton had never seen the move performed that way.

After the Young Marines finished practicing with colors and rifles, members of the Color Guard took them on a tour of their unit hallway, which is decorated with photos of famous ceremonies of the past.

"It was an honor to teach these Young Marines drill," said Lance Cpl. Robert Clough. "It will motivate them later on to join the Corps, and give them a better outlook."

The discipline and dedication of these Young Marines will prove invaluable as they grow up, eventually taking their rightful place as the U.S. Marine Corps of tomorrow. 



**LANCE CPL. JAKE SUMMERTON HELPS YOUNG MARINE
PVT. ROBERT JACKSON PERFORM A PROPER RIFLE SALUTE.**



Sgt. Chesty the XII's six-year tenure as the official mascot of the Barracks came to an end during a retirement, July 25.

LIVING THE DREAM! SGT. CHESTY XII RETIRES

STORY BY CPL. CHRIS DOBBS
PHOTOS BY CPL. CHRIS DOBBS
& CPL. JACOB H. HARRER

Approximately 100 guests were on hand for the ceremony, which featured the "President's Own," The United States Marine Band, "The Commandant's Own," The United States Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps, and the Silent Drill Platoon. The six-year-old mascot and his successor, Pfc. Chesty the XIII, sat abreast one another on center walk as they were honored by participating Marines.

Chesty the XII, a fawn and white pedigree English bulldog who enlisted in the Marine Corps on March 30, 2002, will spend



Col. W. Blake Crowe, former MBW commanding officer, awards the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal to Sgt. Chesty XII for outstanding service while enduring hoards of children and thousands of photographs while serving as the Barracks' mascot.

his years in retirement at home with his caretakers, Gunnery Sgt. Michael Mergen and his wife, Gunnery Sgt. Kristin Mergen, who are both members of the The President's Own.

During his six-year career, which marks the longest tour in Barracks' mascot history, Chesty XII made an appearance at every Evening Parade and participated in several other events in the national capitol region, most notably the Marine Band's "Music in the Schools" series. For his devotion to duty, Chesty XII was awarded a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

"After every parade, Chesty XII sat patiently as he was photographed a myriad of times with children and other guests of the Barracks," said Col. W. Blake Crowe, MBW commanding officer, after presenting the award to Chesty. "We owe him some much deserved compensation time and leave, which he'll get the chance to burn during the next few months."

Retirement will mark the first time Chesty XII has taken leave in six years. The break will give him a chance to do some of his favorite things, which include taking naps and playing with small toys and basketballs, according to Gunnery Sgt. Michael Mergen.

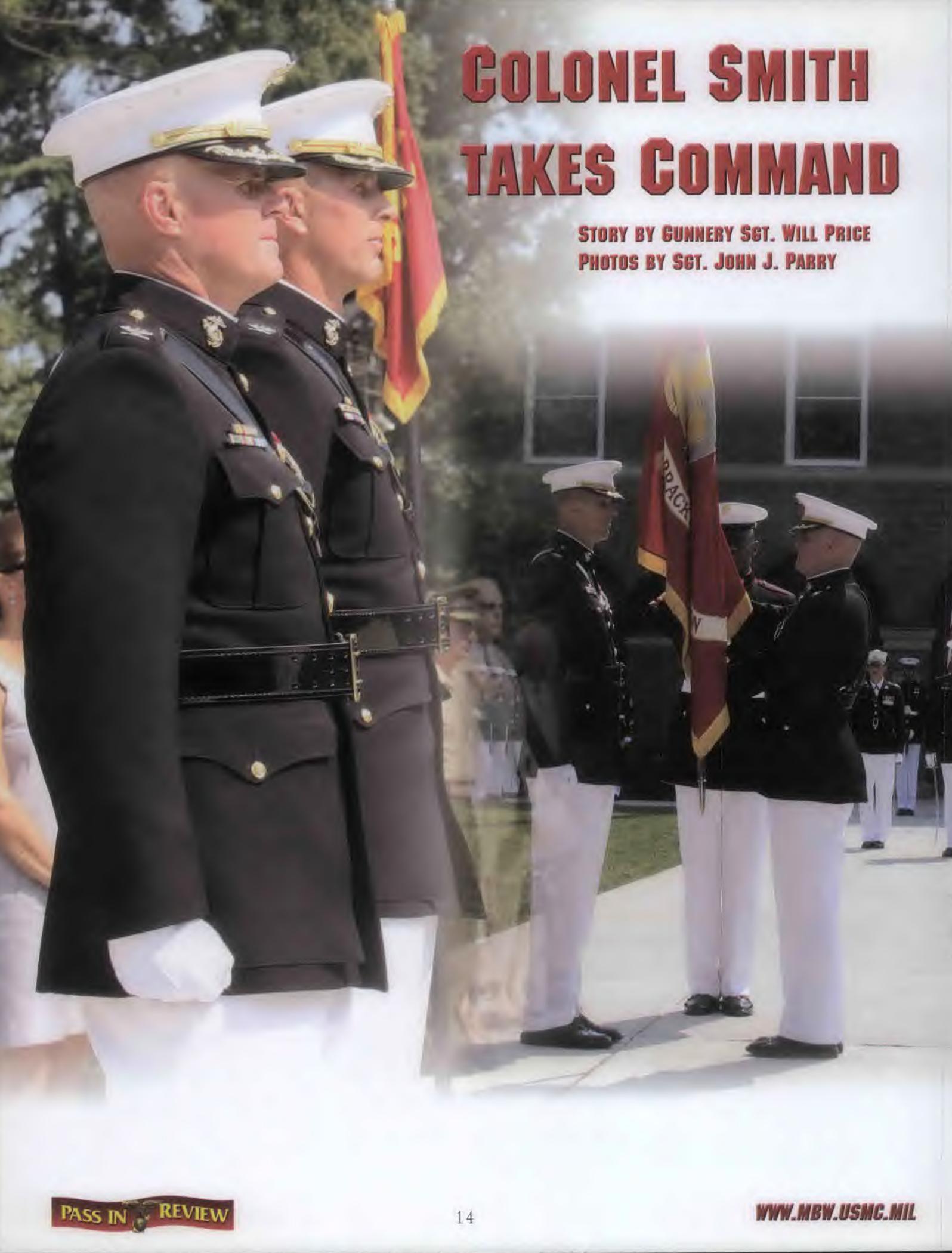
"He's a handful," Mergen said. "Our daughters love to play with him, and they're glad he's retiring, because they'll have more time to spend with him."

Now that Chesty the XII has been relieved of his duties as the Corps' mascot, he can go back to being an ordinary bulldog. However, if the one-year-old Chesty the XIII cannot live up to the standards expected of mascot, Chesty the XII will be called back to duty until a new mascot is found. But for now, he can kick his legs out, chew on his favorite toy and be proud of his service.

"We're very proud of him," Mergen said. "He made an excellent mascot."

As the Marine Band concluded Friday's ceremony with the performance of the Scottish song, "Auld Lang Syne," Chesty the XII officially marched off center walk for the last time. While the song goes, "Should old acquaintance be forgot," rest assured Chesty the XII's service to country and Corps will always be remembered.

Good night, Chesty the XII, wherever you are!



COLONEL SMITH TAKES COMMAND

STORY BY GUNNERY SGT. WILL PRICE
PHOTOS BY SGT. JOHN J. PARRY



Marine Barracks Washington, "The Oldest Post of the Corps," has a new commanding officer after a change-of-command ceremony, Aug. 7.

Col. Andrew H. Smith assumed command of MBW, after taking the helm from Col. W. Blake Crowe, who was selected for brigadier general, to become the Principal Director, Asia and Pacific, Office of the Undersecretary of Defense.

Following a prayer by Navy LT. John Logan, MBW's Chaplain, the ceremony opened up with a concert by the United States Drum & Bugle Corps led by Lt. Col. Brent Harrison, D&B commanding officer. They played three songs: "Corpsman Up," "You're Beautiful," and Beethoven's "Ode to Joy," which concluded with a 21-cannon salute, being fired off by the Body Bearer section of Bravo Company.

More than 300 friends, family members and guests filled the seats to include such notables as: Gen. James T. Conway, 34th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Lt. Gen. Charles G. Cooper, a former Barracks commander, Sgt. Maj. Carlton Kent, 16th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, and Medal of Honor recipient, Col. Wesley L. Fox.

Under a hot August sun, all watched as Crowe and Smith reported to centerwalk to conduct the turnover sequence. Sgt. Maj. Sylvester Daniels marched sharply, handing the official Battle Color of the Marine Corps to Crowe, who then officially relinquished command by passing the Marine Colors to Smith.

Afterward, Crowe paid thanks to the Marine Corps Institute, Headquarters & Service Company, the United States Marine Band, the Drum & Bugle Corps, Sgt. Maj. Daniels and his "right-hand man and XO, 'Rip'" referring to Lt. Col. Rip Miles, who was parade commander during the ceremony.

"I especially want to thank the Marines of the marching companies," Crowe said, referring to the 150 Marines of Alpha and Bravo companies. "It's the Marines who make this place run. You are all magnificent and we couldn't be prouder of you."

Next, Marine Barracks Washington's newest leader spoke

to audience. He spoke briefly and humbly for himself and his wife, Colleen.

"I am in awe to be here standing on centerwalk talking to you all. Colleen and I are thrilled to be here," Smith said. "We intend to preserve the tradition of Marine Barracks Washington, as it is a tribute to our continued Esprit de Corps, our commitment to duty, and our Marines serving overseas. Thank you and Semper Parati!"

After earning his commission in May of 1987, Lt. Smith deployed with the 11th and 15th Marine Expeditionary Units to the Western Pacific and Arabian Gulf. In July of 2000, Maj. Smith assumed command of Recruiting Station Portsmouth, N.H. Most recently, in August of 2006, Lt. Col. Smith was assigned as the executive officer, 2nd Marines, Regimental Combat Team 2, and deployed that December in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM 06-08. While serving as Regimental Executive Officer, Smith organized and led Task Force Tarawa in support of RCT-2 counter-insurgency operation in western Al Anbar Province.

After the pass-in-review was conducted honoring the two commanders of MBW, and the ceremony was complete, another former Barracks commander, Lt. Gen. Cooper, spoke very enthusiastically. "I was the CO from 73

to 75. This ceremony is timeless. Their precision and attention to detail was remarkable. It never changes... simply remarkable!"

In his speech, Crowe's last words to his successor, said it all. "I could not be more pleased to have 'Drew' Smith take this command over. You will bring this post to the next level!"

With Smith's love of country and Corps, the Marines of MBW's *next level*, is sure to be nothing short of *remarkable!*



Sgt. Maj. Sylvester Daniels presents the Battle Color of the Marine Corps to Col. W. Blake Crowe, who relinquished command of the Barracks to Col. Andrew H. Smith.



FILLING TEXTBOOKS WITH BULLETS: MARINE CORPS INSTITUTE DISTANCE LEARNING INSTRUCTORS



STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. JACOB H. HARRER

The quarter is coming to a close and new composite scores will soon be calculated. The rush is on to complete correspondence courses. Whether serving on duty or playing barracks rat for the long weekend, Marines are studying the bullet-ridden, diagram-filled booklets.

For some of them, the course is simply 15 more points toward their composite scores. For others, it is the difference between corporal and sergeant.

While the extra points are helpful for promotion, the mission of a Marine Corps Institute course is to fill training gaps, said Capt. Jennifer Ryu, MCI Co. deputy director of the Distance Learning Technology Department. A select group of Marines is responsible for identifying deficiencies in regular training, developing a thorough curriculum and polishing each correspondence course. These experts are known as MCI's distance learning instructors.

Translating real-life experience into textbooks requires Marines who are willing to devote themselves to becoming professional educators. The information they pass on will be read by thousands of Marines across the world and used in training events and combat. Any deficiencies in the curriculum could compromise future missions.

"Having been in the fleet for so many years, you get to see areas where Marines need more training," said Staff Sgt. Walter Sweeney, one of 20 distance learning instructors. "It's actually a privilege to be able to help them [Marines] with their training before they make those mistakes. It's more of a proactive approach than a reactive approach."

According to Ryu, MCI ensures each course contains accurate and timely information, and proficient Marines from many different occupational specialties must write them. The

distance learning section is comprised of Marines from nearly every MOS, ranging from infantry and combat arms, to legal administration and electronics.

Each year, a screening group travels to Camp Lejeune and Camp Pendleton to search for and interview potential instructors. Each candidate is expected to have a proven record in the operating forces.

"We want Marines who have operational experience, who are ready to have a deep impact on their MOS," added Ryu.

Sweeney, an aviation maintenance specialist, is one such Marine. Sweeney deployed to Indonesia in 1999 and Al-Asad, Iraq in 2004, gaining valuable experience for his job. Also, throughout his extensive travels, he met many Marines working in his MOS, an essential pool of knowledge for distance learning instructors. After arriving at MCI in September of 2006, Sweeney was put through a self-paced instructor training program that typically lasts about nine months.

"It was down and dirty," Sweeney said. "It was like a crash course. You have a whole learning system to master."

After learning how to write correspondence courses, instructors must review current courses for updates. Instructors work with senior Marines from all around the Corps to find gaps in training.

The operational experience of the distance learning instructor helps tremendously during this phase of course development.



“Having the outside entities and knowing Marines in the upper echelons helps you attain the material you need,” Sweeney said.

By speaking with instructors at each schoolhouse and gathering information from the most experienced Marines in each career field, instructors identify areas for improvement in regular training and MCI courses. The writers then develop goals for what needs to be taught, known as a “targeting board.”

Using the targeting board and the experience of their peers, instructors produce a training manual, then test it on other Marines. With these results, the instructors revise their work to ensure the final product is effective and meets each goal on the targeting board.

Once a course manual is finalized, instructors create the online exam. What began as the revamping of training, ends in a streamlined system of personal study and speedy internet testing. After about nine months, the final result is the simple, red textbook laying on the duty desk, waiting to be read.

Marines all over the Corps can take advantage of MCI courses to immediately improve their skills and earn points towards promotion. They can be confident about the knowledge they gain, as it comes from some of the Corps’ finest Marines, the MCI distance learning instructors. 🦅



Staff Sgt. Walter Sweeney and Gunnery Sgt. Shawn Reckard stand at ceremonial at ease with their parade staff.



Staff Sgt. Walter Sweeney (far left) and Gunnery Sgt. Shawn Reckard (far right) flank the parade staff during a parade rehearsal, July 25. They represent the distance learning instructors and the Barracks well, as only the best Marine marchers are selected to be on the parade staff.



A photograph of several Marines in camouflage uniforms running across a grassy field. The image is blurred to convey a sense of motion. In the background, there is a line of green trees under a clear blue sky. On the left side, a large, dark, cylindrical object, possibly a piece of equipment or a barrel, is visible.

FIRE & MANEUVER

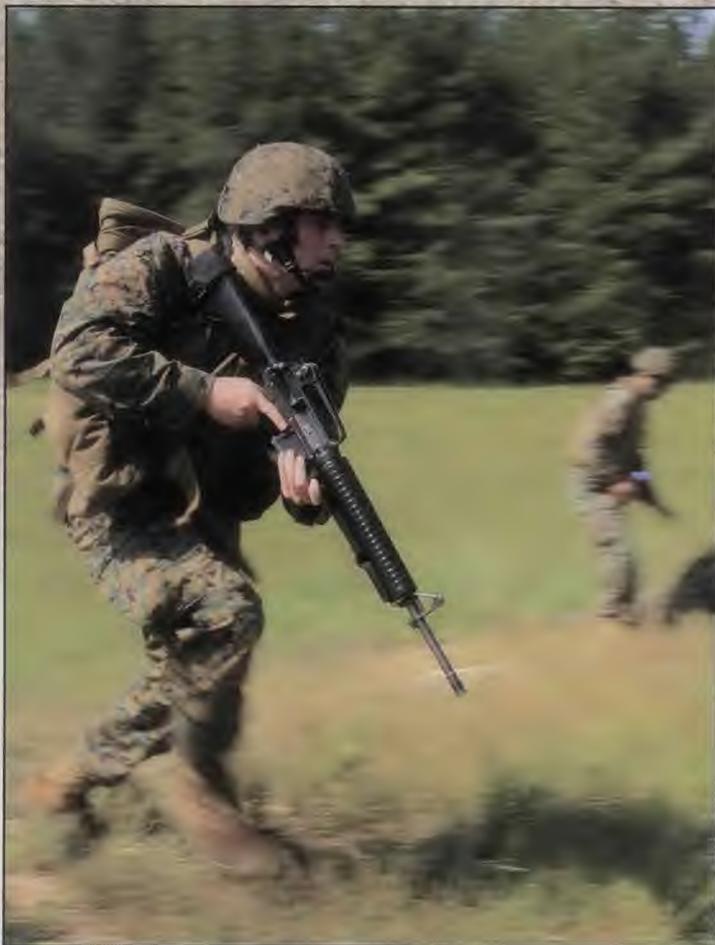
MARINES HIT THE FIELD

PHOTOS BY PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

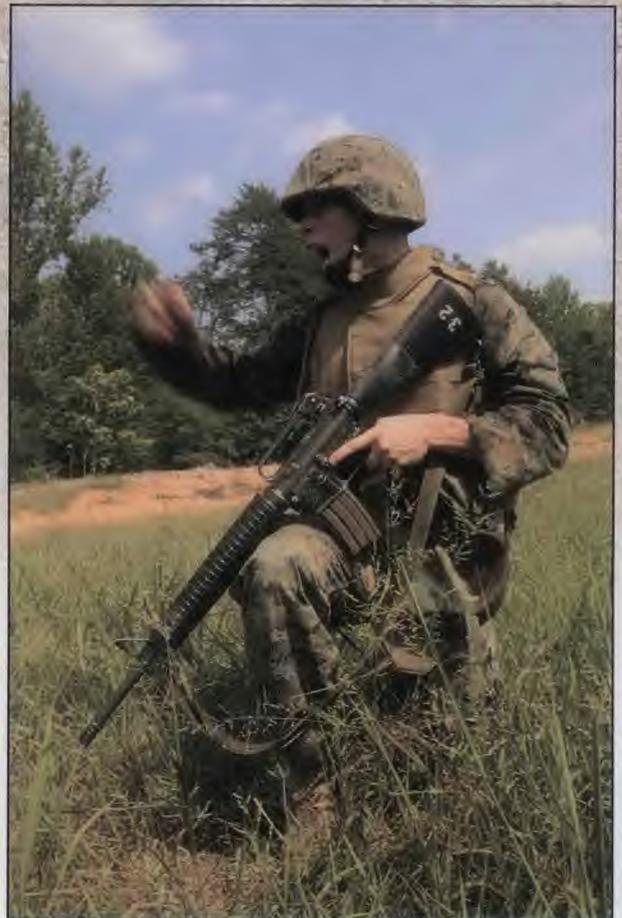


Alpha Company Marines engage targets during combat marksmanship exercises. The training is geared to prepare them for the Table-2 Rifle Qualification at the range next year.

As the end of parade season neared, Marines from the Barracks began field training at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. Bravo Company practiced fire and maneuver skills Aug. 4, and Alpha Company trained in combat marksmanship and fired the MP-5 submachinegun, Aug. 27. MCI Company spent a week in the field practicing a variety of skills, including grenade throwing and patrolling, Sept. 15-19.



Lance Cpl. Thomas Hoisington, a rifleman with 3rd Platoon, Bravo Company, prepares to assault "the enemy" while moving downrange. Bravo Company Marines coordinated their rushes with one another to ensure consistent firepower was sent down range throughout the assault.



Lance Cpl. Cody Andrews, a rifleman with 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, barks out orders with squad members during squad tactics training. Teamwork was vital to success during the group training exercise.



Lance Cpl. John Bewley, a rifleman with 3rd Platoon, Bravo Company, yells orders to squad members during fire team rushes. Intensity was a defining characteristic of the training as Marines rushed toward and assaulted a group of targets while navigating woodland terrain in full gear.



Lance Cpl. Chutu Yang, a mortarman with 3rd Platoon, Bravo Company, rushes down range. Despite handling the heavier, more cumbersome SAW, Yang maintained an impressive pace throughout the evolution.



Lance Cpl. Andrew Burlison, a rifleman with 3rd Platoon, Bravo Company, looks on pleased after observing his shot group. Burlison and fellow Marines ensured their weapons were zeroed before blitzing a group of targets with a barrage of firepower during the training.



Lance Cpl. Andrew Beaty braces Lance Cpl. Thomas Sullivan against the recoil of the MP-5.



Cpl. Allen E. Lucas III, logistics warehouse clerk, awaits the chance to get out and fire his M-249 squad automatic weapon.



GySgt. Patrick S. McClung, MCI Co. Gunny, passes links of ammunition to GySgt. Glen W. Rootsey, distance learning instructor. Marines of MCI Co. fired SAWs during their company field exercise in Quantico.



Lance Cpl. Alyssa Walters kneels and scans the area before continuing the assault forward.



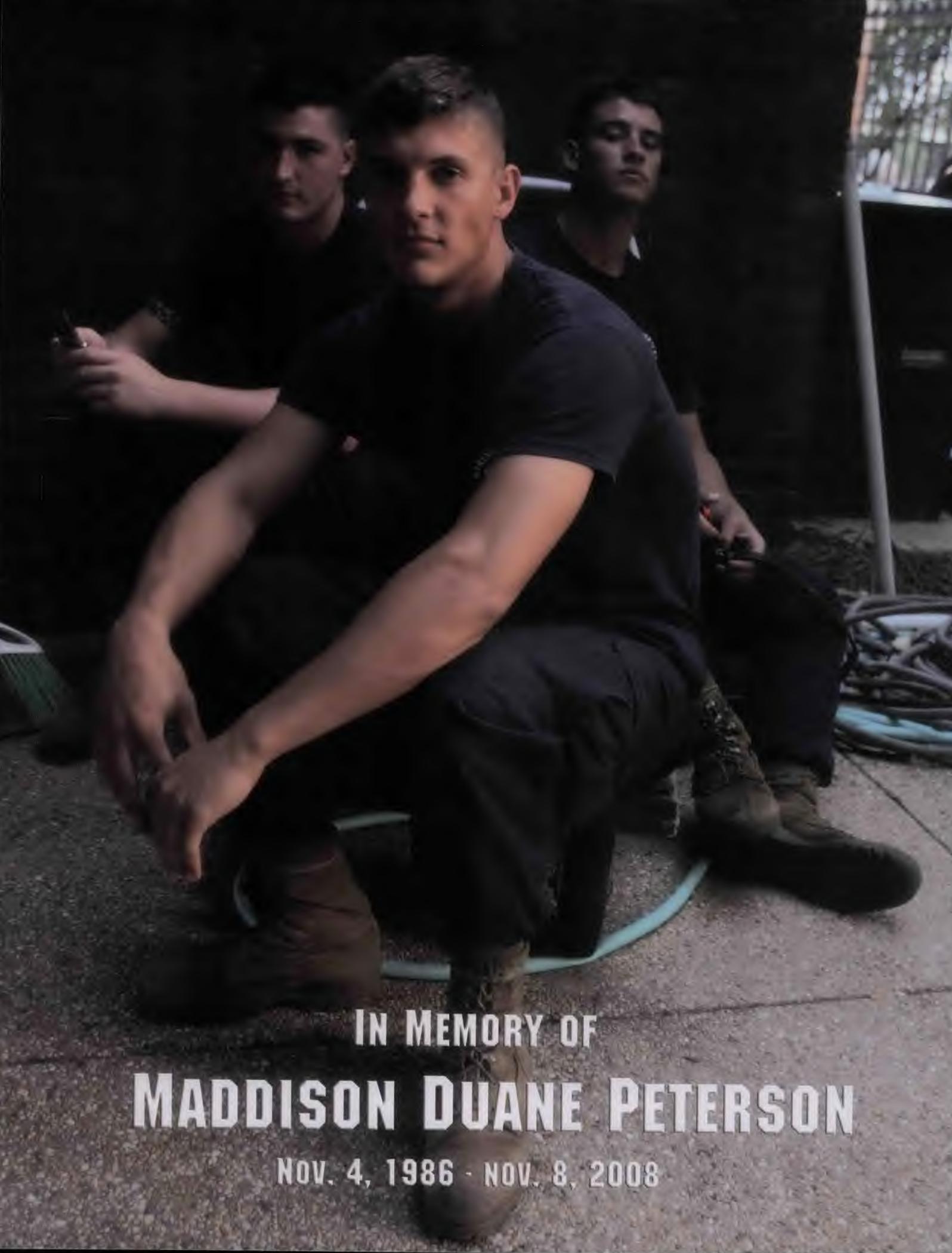
Gunnery Sgt. Cole Daunhauer, Alpha Company gunnery sgt., gives a brief PME to his Marines before having them fire the MP-5.

Around the Barracks



Around the Barracks





IN MEMORY OF
MADDISON DUANE PETERSON

NOV. 4, 1986 - NOV. 8, 2008



THE SPIRIT OF THANKFULNESS

BY LT. JOHN R. LOGAN

On the early morning of Thanksgiving Day, I made a pact with myself that I would spend the next week being thankful for all things great and small in my life.

It is human to often contemplate and complain about our needs and wants. Sometimes the challenges that we endure make us focus on what we want vice what we should be thankful for. Ann Landers, the famous newspaper columnist, wrote a poem on being thankful that says ...

“Be thankful for the taxes you pay, because it means you’re employed.”

“Be thankful that your lawn needs mowing and your windows need fixing, because it means you have a home.”

“Be thankful for your heating bill, because it means you are warm.”

“Be thankful for the laundry, because it means you have clothes to wear.”

“Be thankful for the space you find at the far end of the parking lot, because it means you can walk.”

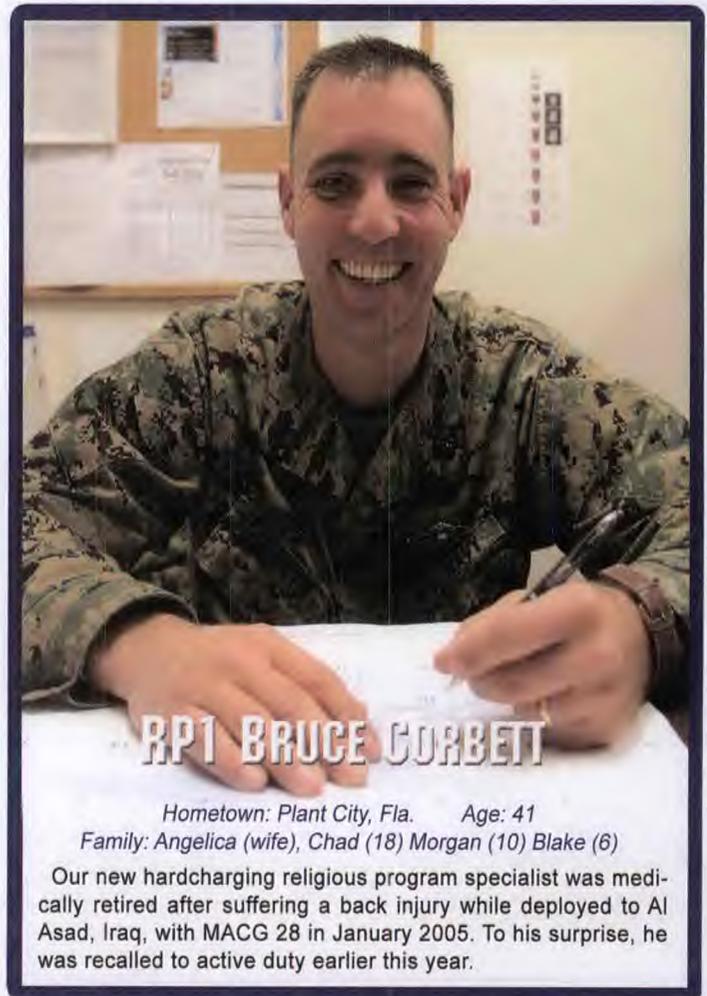
“Be thankful for the lady who sings off-key behind you in church, because it means you can hear.”

“Be thankful when people complain about the government, because it means we have freedom of speech.”

“Be thankful for the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours, because it means you’re alive.”

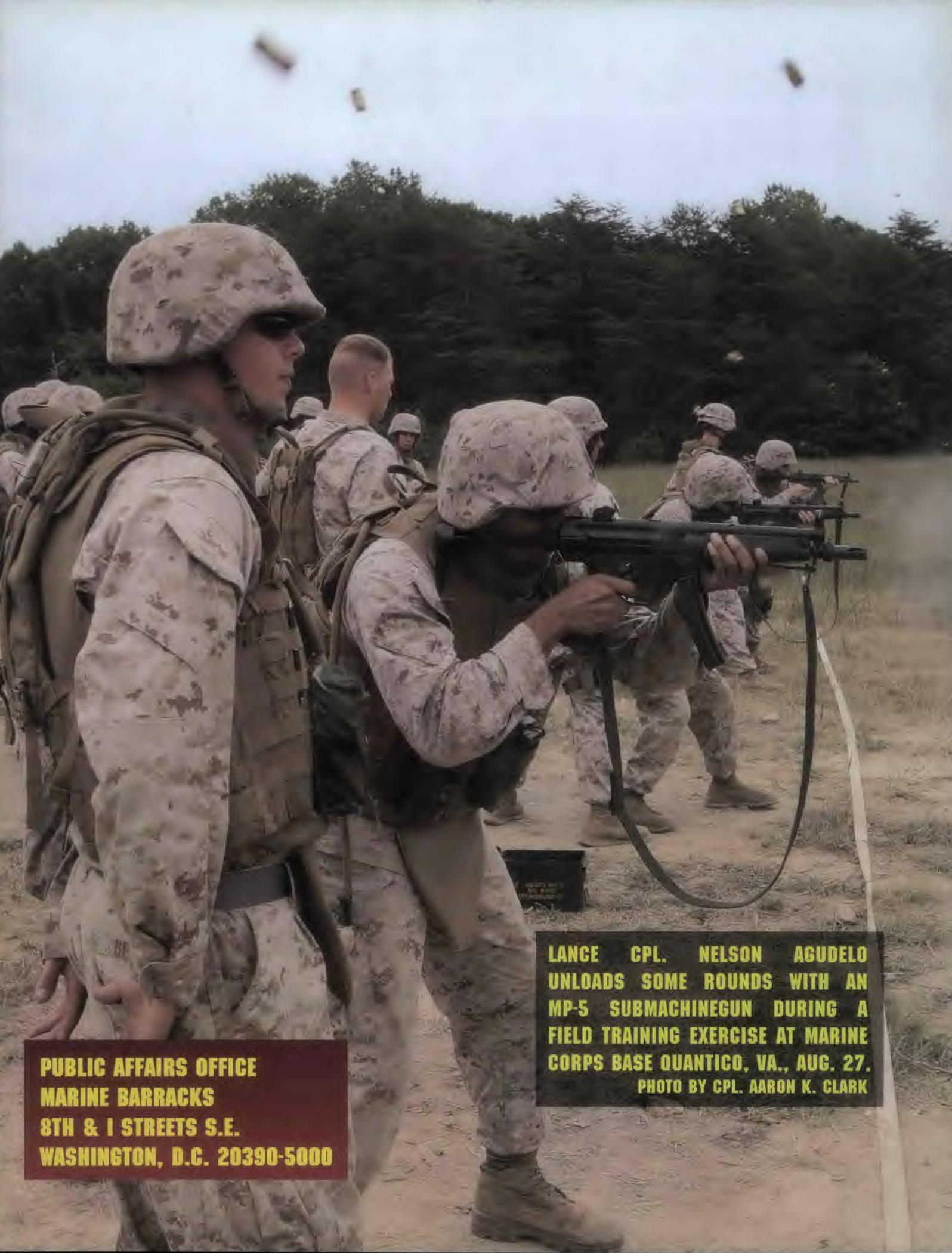
I add be thankful for the trials and hardships you have endured because in it you gained strength and have learned to overcome. Scripture tells us in 1Thessalonians 5:18, “In all things give thanks, for this is the will of God....”

As we bring in the Holiday season and look forward to a new year, let us be mindful of the things that matter most where in we should be thankful. This year has been a tough year with a troubled economy and financial hardships; however in spite of the life’s difficulties I am sure there are some things that we can all be thankful for.



Hometown: Plant City, Fla. Age: 41
Family: Angelica (wife), Chad (18) Morgan (10) Blake (6)

Our new hardcharging religious program specialist was medically retired after suffering a back injury while deployed to Al Asad, Iraq, with MACG 28 in January 2005. To his surprise, he was recalled to active duty earlier this year.



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**LANCE CPL. NELSON AGUDELO
UNLOADS SOME ROUNDS WITH AN
MP-5 SUBMACHINEGUN DURING A
FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE AT MARINE
CORPS BASE QUANTICO, VA., AUG. 27.
PHOTO BY CPL. AARON K. CLARK**