

PASS IN REVIEW

SPRING 2010





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PHOTO: J. YARBROUGH

WAR GAMES

Video games are a universal link between Marines and the battlefield

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PHOTO: J. YARBROUGH

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CPL BOBBY J. YARBROUGH

MCI LOGISTICS

Delivering education to Marines worldwide

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Ask the Gunny

Since I have been in the Marine Corps, I have heard the term “new Corps.” You have been in awhile. Many have asked the question, “Have you noticed a difference?”

Of course there are more things that contribute to the development of a Marine, but without the basics nothing else matters.

Where do we draw the line on when the “old Corps” ended and the “new Corps” begin?

Every enlisted Marine since the inception of our illustrious Corps has walked onto those infamous two yellow footprints in their quest to become a Marine. Marine Corps boot camp is not something to just get through. It’s a stepping stone in our lives that makes us who we are today.

The transformation takes place with each Marine once he or she has completed boot camp. Whether you do four years or 20, all Marines are referred to as “former Marines” because of the indelible mark left by the Corps on our heart and soul.

Of course recruit training has changed over the years, just as the Marine Corps has evolved over the years. What hasn’t changed is the Marine. Marines have the same honor, desire, patriotism, sense of duty, and possess the same warrior ethos as the first Marines recruited at Tun Tavern.

What has changed is technology, aside from the obvious advancements made in weaponry and machinery. Marines who served prior to the 1990’s did not experience the technology that Marines today use on a daily basis. It wasn’t until the 1990’s that mobile phones began their initial rise to prominence of today. The internet and the World Wide Web didn’t begin to catch on until 1997, and text messaging became popular by the year 2000. Although this technology has made our lives easier in some ways, this same

technology when used with less than common sense has caused Marines to face disciplinary action. As of late, Social Media sites have become the latest method to communicate and socialize with anyone in any part of the world.

Today’s Marines in every climb or place, in combat or garrison, can have their actions or words transmitted around the world in a matter of minutes. We now live in a world where mass communication or mass media has to be taken into account for everything we do. From the embedded news reporter on the front lines to the everyday citizen with a camera phone, Marines must be cognizant of their actions.

With that being said, the only difference I see separating Marines throughout our 234 years is technology. It is the era in which Marines serve that continues to influence the way we conduct the business of being America’s force in readiness.

Marines, no matter the era in which they served, have always been required to uphold the highest of standards. The actions of one Marine can have an overarching effect on all Marines as well as our Corps. Although we no longer fear the possibility of a country without her Marine Corps, our actions must epitomize our core values of honor, courage and commitment.

“Old breed? New breed? There’s not a damn bit of difference so long as it’s the Marine breed!” Lt. Gen. Lewis Burwell “Chesty” Puller.

Michael D. Reed
GySgt USMC

WAR GAMES



Story by Cpl. Bobby J. Yarbrough

Today, video game dialogues have a
fields. From accurate depiction of w
rines can become combat savvy wi



AMES

distinct likeness to real world battle-
eapon systems to modern cities, Ma-
hout ever having to experience war.

TODAY, MILITARY-THEMED VIDEO GAME DIALOGUES HAVE A DISTINCT LIKENESS TO REAL WORLD BATTLEFIELDS.

Video games like Call of Duty, SOCOM Navy Seals and Delta Force have given society an in depth look into modern warfare. These games are designed to provide users with a realistic depiction of combat, illustrating every detail; including weapon systems, infantry tactics, and modern cities. Using the same attention to detail, the Marine Corps has implemented virtual simulation as a form of education.

WAR GAMES

The Marine Corps has taken notice to the benefits of using virtual training environments as a means to both teach and train Marines for deployment operations.

According to Maj. Brian Kibel, the modeling and simulation officer for Training and Education Command (TECOM), the Marine Corps has implemented 10 different systems throughout the Corps.

The training systems have broadened the abilities of the Fleet Marine Forces (FMF), stretching the gamete of operations for both ground combat and aviation elements.

GROUND FORCES

With system developments like the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer (ISMT) and the Deployable Virtual Training Environment (DVTE),

the Corps has expanded its ability to offer safe and realistic training for yearly training and pre-deployment operations.

The ISMT, which is an interactive audio-video weapons simulator, provides Marines the capability to conduct standards-based training in basic and advanced marksmanship. Since marksmanship is a yearly training requirement, for most units, this method of training conserves resources as well as saves time.

“Virtual environments are being incorporated in the daily training



Photo by Lance Cpl. Eric C. Schwartz

Cpl. Adam Bosley, a vehicle commander with Weapons Company, Task Force, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines searches the Virtual Convoy Combat Trainer screens for insurgents programmed into the system.

schedules of most units,” Kibel said. “They conserve training resources, such as ammunition and fuel, and are more efficient in time. Training performed in a simulated environment can be performed, reviewed, and corrected many times in comparison to a live exercise.”

Most Marines agree the Corps needs to continue to implement additional virtual training environments as a tool to learn basic Marine skills.

“Simulation training is great for familiarization,” said Cpl. Daniel Rhodes, training chief for Guard Company, Marine Barracks Washington.

“They serve as a perfect environment for learning fundamentals.”

With the Marine Corps currently engaged in war in Afghanistan, virtual training environments have also proven to be invaluable resources for preparing Marines for combat deployments.

The DVTE is a computer-based program that allows Marines to simulate a synthetic natural environment and engage in virtual combat scenarios. The system allows Marines to practice scenarios such as convoy operations, calling in fire missions, and military operations urban terrain (MOUT) training.

“These types of technologies have given the ground fighters an advantage in combat,” Kibel said. “By providing Marines with computer-based teaching resources, we have increased the individual awareness of Marines and prepared them for situations they will likely face while in combat.”

AVIATION

Virtual training environments have also been expanded into military aviation. Marine aviation officers can now conduct flight operations by utilizing flight simulators for both rotary and fixed-wing aircraft.

Flight simulators, such as the KC-130J and the AV-8B simulator, provide pilots an enclosed training environment that has a 360 degree video projection system, displaying satellite images of the local area.

Flight simulators, such as the KC-130J and the AV-8B simulator, provide pilots an enclosed training environment that has a 360 degree video projection system, displaying satellite images of the local area.

The simulator allows the pilots to practice flying in many different circumstances. Pilots can use the simulator to learn flight patterns, how to handle in-flight emergencies and can even simulate

poor weather conditions. For the pilots, the simulators have proven to be an invaluable resource.

"With the simulators, we are able to practice our procedures over and over again so that they almost become second nature," said Capt. Chris Tchinski, an AV-8 Harrier pilot stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C. "Simulators allow us to experience almost any scenario that we might encounter in the real world, and make the mistakes associated with those scenarios without putting lives at risk."

Tchinski said flight simulators are absolutely vital to the success of the Marine Corps, and will become more so in the future.

MEDICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Although the virtual training environments are mainly being used to train Marines, they are also being used to treat Marines who return from combat.

Since 2006, the Marine Corps and the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Emory University have conducted tests on service members to determine what effect combat has on individual Marines.

The technology has allowed doctors to use a virtual reality system to duplicate the experience that each service member encountered while in combat.


For example, if a Marine was injured by a roadside improvised explosive device (IED), they would reproduce the scenario using sights, sounds and smells that were similar to what the service member had experienced. Doctors then observe how the service members react to the stimuli and record the results.

The results of the tests have given doctors hope that this form of technology will better enable them to understand and treat combat injuries, including Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

"Preliminary results of ongoing studies using virtual reality exposure therapy to treat combat-related post traumatic stress disorder are promising," said Maryrose Gerardi, the assistant professor of Psychiatry at Emory University. "We hope that this technology may offer a form of treatment which is both familiar and acceptable to Marines."

THE FUTURE

With technology shaping the way in which service members fight on the battlefield today, one can only imagine the possibilities that lie ahead for the future.

"The Marine Corps at its present strength of 202,000 active duty personnel is expanding its use of virtual and constructive simulation based training," said Capt. Geraldine Carey, the public affairs officer for Marine Corps Systems Command. "The Marine Corps will continue to incorporate additional simulated training assets to prepare our Marines for whatever they may encounter, both now and in the future." 



Left: The Marine Corps has been using realistic training environments to better prepare Marines for environments they will most likely face in combat. The pilots are utilizing a KC-130J flight simulator to rehearse flight patterns for taking off and landing.

Photo by Cpl. Daniel Flynn

MCI 1920A

MARINE CORPS INSTITUTE



DELIVERING EDUCATION TO MARINES WORLDWIDE

STORY AND PHOTOS
SGT. JACOB H. HARRER

MCI LOGISTICS: DOING MORE WITH LESS



In the Washington Navy Yard, surrounded by a sea of red brick buildings, sits a small warehouse. The building is the home of the Marine Corps Institute logistics section.

Wedged between a tennis court and the post office and off from the main street, it is easy to miss, but the section is actually a part of Marine Barracks Washington. The logistics section delivers hundreds to thousands of MCI textbooks daily to Marines worldwide, who rely on completing correspondence courses to enhance their abilities and make them more competitive for promotion.

Established in 1919 at Marine Barracks Quantico, Va., MCI moved to Marine Barracks Washington in 1920 and set up shop adjacent to MBW at the corner of 7th and G streets, Southeast. In 1967, MCI relocated to the Washington Navy Yard, where it continues its daily operations of providing distance learning materials to Marines across the globe, as well as supporting Barracks events.

Because MCI is a part of Marine Barracks, the Marines must also fulfill duties associated with the Evening and Sunset Parades, funerals and numerous other hosting events. Master Sgt. Timothy Greenleaf, MCI logistics chief, wanted to ensure his Marines were able to accomplish the mission with less personnel.

Since 2008, MCI logistics Marines have been modifying their facilities and processes to make sure Marines get their course materials on time, said Greenleaf. When he arrived on deck in May 2008, the section was backlogged with orders for 30 days or more still on the invoices.

Marines would sometimes begin packing textbooks at 6:00 a.m. and finish up past 6:00 p.m., said Sgt. Henry Perez-Cano, warehouse chief. Even with the long shifts, the Marines remained swamped with orders, which continued to come in.



Lance Cpl. Zackery Strong, warehouse clerk, shrink wraps textbooks, which fall neatly into a convenient stack.





Lance Cpl. Zackery Strong, warehouse clerk, Marine Corps Institute, loads a textbook into the shrink wrap machine at the MCI warehouse at the Washington Navy Yard in Washington, D.C., Jan 14. The processed textbooks are then sorted into bins, where they are ready to be swiftly loaded onto a conveyor belt at the beginning of the shipping run each day.



Master Sgt. Timothy Greenleaf, logistics chief, explains the warehousing operations in the bulk storage area of the MCI warehouse at the Washington Navy Yard in Washington, D.C., Jan 6. Textbooks for professional military education are maintained separately in this aisle to allow the warehouse clerks to easily assemble and process multiple books, which are shipped out as part of a series.





Sgt. Henry Perez-Cano, Marine Corps Institute warehouse chief, offloads a pallet of textbooks from a shelf at the Washington Navy Yard in Washington, D.C., Jan 14. All Marine warehouse clerks receive forklift training and certification as part of their formal schooling.



The shipping run begins with the Pik-2-Lite system, which sorts processed Marine Corps Institute textbooks into coded bins and indicates how many of each book are on order. Only one Marine is required to operate this system, which gives the Marines more time for other operations and training.

“Initially it was a little overwhelming, but as I geared myself in a little bit more, within two or three months I knew the process, I knew what needed to be changed, I knew what needed to be modernized, and from there a couple key things happened,” said Greenleaf. He met with professional developers and engineering contractors to redesign the entire warehouse from scratch.

“We asked ourselves, ‘How can we be more efficient back here with less people?’” said Greenleaf.

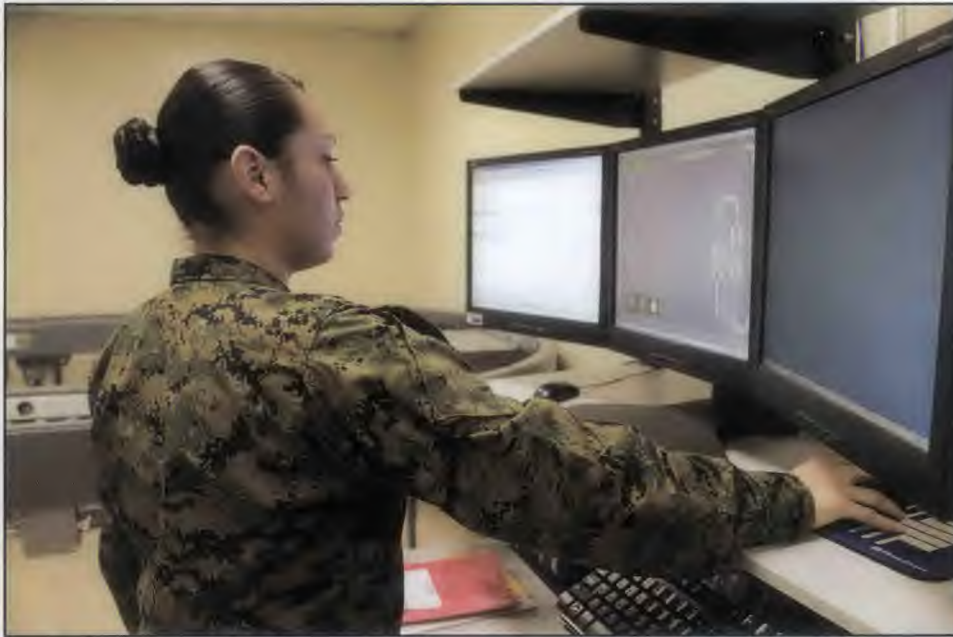
Starting with blank sketches of the room, they rearranged equipment and processes to make the Marines more efficient, saving them time and delivering products sooner.

One such change is the Pik-2-Lite system, a simple but effective arrangement of bins, red buttons and number screens. Much like an arcade system in a gaming room, a red light will illuminate a button above a bin, letting the Marine know which courses need to be shipped. The small screen indicates how many textbooks have been ordered.

The Marine moves from bin to bin, grabbing textbooks, placing them on a conveyor belt and hitting the red button, which deactivates the light and tells the computer how many books were used.

Whenever the bins or raw materials are close to being depleted, the system will report how many textbooks need to be processed or reordered so the shipping process never stops. The Pik-2-Lite system cut down the manning requirement from three people to just one Marine, said Greenleaf.





Sgt. Alejandra Hernandez, Marine Corps Institute postal chief, monitors the progress of the shipping run using the Ascent automated tracking system. The screen will indicate when mailing bags have reached full capacity.



Sgt. Henry Perez-Cano and Sgt. Alejandra Hernandez ensure the warehouse is running smoothly from day to day. Their responsibilities are great, but it's all in a day's work for sergeants of Marines.


Along with automated inventory, the Marines streamlined their mailing system. Machines along the belts automatically label and sort textbooks for shipment to various Marine Corps bases in the U.S. and abroad, including Iraq and Afghanistan. Two Marines monitor the belts, weigh the shipments and load bins for the U.S. Postal Service to pick up in the afternoon.

The modern system has resulted in big dividends for Marines all around the Corps. The Marines began fulfilling their backorders and catching up on requests until they finally completed every order on Sept. 28, 2008. In other words, the Marines had mailed out each textbook ordered the day before. The industry standard for online shipments is 72 hours, and the MCI logistics section surpassed that benchmark by 48 hours that day and every day since. Most Marines in the U.S. now receive their order within four days.

"We were all amazed when we finally made one hundred percent completion," said Perez-Cano. "I took a photo of the computer screen with my cell phone and emailed it to Master Sergeant [Greenleaf]." That photograph, now framed, rests on a cabinet in Greenleaf's office, above a collection of Marine Corps-affiliated NASCAR race cars and semi-trucks.

The Marines in the MCI logistics section give credit to each other for their continued success.

"There's not one standout Marine," said Staff Sgt. George Dobison, MCI logistics platoon sergeant. "Everyone here knows what needs to be done."

Their hard work has paid off, as Marines now receive their course materials within days, helping them get ahead in their education, as well as enhance their careers. It all happens inside a red brick warehouse in the Navy Yard, where a few good Marines have a giant impact on the Corps. 





Cpl. Corey Quill, Marine Corps Institute postal clerk, loads MCI course examinations onto the final portion of the conveyor belt, where they are sorted into mailing bags. Paper-based examinations are too light to move across some portions of the belt.



The 359 ft. conveyor belt ascends high into the Marine Corps Institute warehouse, allowing clearance for the forklift to operate underneath. The belt then descends into the postal section, where automated rollers sort books into mailing bags for shipment.



Since the conveyor belt sorts out all the mail, the Marines need only to replace mailbags as they become full and pack course materials destined for individual addresses.



REMEMBERING THE FLAG RAISING ON IWO JIMA



STORY BY SGT. JACOB H. HARRER
PHOTOS BY SGT. JACOB H. HARRER
AND LANCE CPL. JOHNNY MERKLEY

A DAY TO REMEMBER...

To commemorate the 65th anniversary of the flag raising on Mt. Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima, servicemembers, veterans, and supporters gathered at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va., Feb. 23.

Roughly 150 guests attended the event hosted by Marine Barracks Washington. The ceremony featured a performance by the U.S. Marine Band, ceremonial marchers, a firing party, and the Marine Corps Color Guard. Cpl. Stephen Brewie, a body bearer, performed in the wreath laying ceremony at the base of the memorial.

Several notable guests turned out for the event, including Senator Mark Warner of Virginia and Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar. Lt. Gen. Duane Thiessen, Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources and guest of honor, presided over the event with several veterans who fought on Iwo Jima.

James Wheeler reflected on his experiences while fighting on Iwo Jima 65 years ago. Sporting the signature red Marine Corps League ballcap, the now 83 year-old Marine veteran had turned 19 just three days before the assault on Iwo Jima. Wheeler landed on the second day, where he climbed to the top of Mount Suribachi and witnessed the original flag raising.

"When they raised the first flag, that's when we all cheered and everything," Wheeler said. "We thought, 'Well that's probably then end of the battle, and we can all go home now.' By the time the second flag was raised when I was up on Suribachi, we didn't even pay much attention to it because it was a replacement flag."

AP Photographer Joe Rosenthal captured the image, which remains an icon of the Marine Corps to this day. Wheeler stayed on top of Mount Suribachi spotting for his artillery battery and



witnessing the rest of the battle unfold. With a bird's eye view of the battle, Wheeler endured a "rough 30 days" until the Marines had finally captured the island.

"Those were tough days, really tough days," Wheeler said. "We never knew when one of those shells was gonna come in and get us."

Throughout the battle, Marines and sailors were motivated enough to pull through their hardships and take the island.

"We were young," said Wheeler. "We could take it. We were gung-ho Marines."

Many children and teenagers involved with the Young Marines organization came out to the event to assist veterans and learn about the history of Iwo Jima directly from the men who fought there. Most of the surviving veterans of the battle were young men in their teens, and so meeting face to face helped veterans and youth make an instant connection, said Mike Kessler, Young Marine executive director.


"I've always felt that it's important that our youth understand the sacrifices of particularly America's greatest generation," Kessler said.

Thousands of veterans are passing away each day, and it is important to keep the history alive by inviting them to such memorial ceremonies, he added.

The sacrifices made by the "greatest generation" were a gift to future generations, Thiessen said.

"What they did, they did for the future of the United States, and that future is us today," he added. "They handed us the standard, and we will not fail their confidence.

Marines and sailors continue to uphold that standard as they continue fighting America's battles, Wheeler said.

"I think they continue to exhibit the valor and courage that Marines showed on Iwo Jima," said Warner, whose father is a survivor of the Battle of Iwo Jima. "They're showing that courage in Iraq and Afghanistan now." 



Master Sgt. Christopher Rose, U.S. Marine Band drummer, performs during the concert for guests at the ceremony. Many veterans smiled as the Band played "The Stars and Stripes Forever."



The firing party from 3rd platoon, Company B, presents arms after delivering a flawless volley of fire as a salute to fallen Marines.

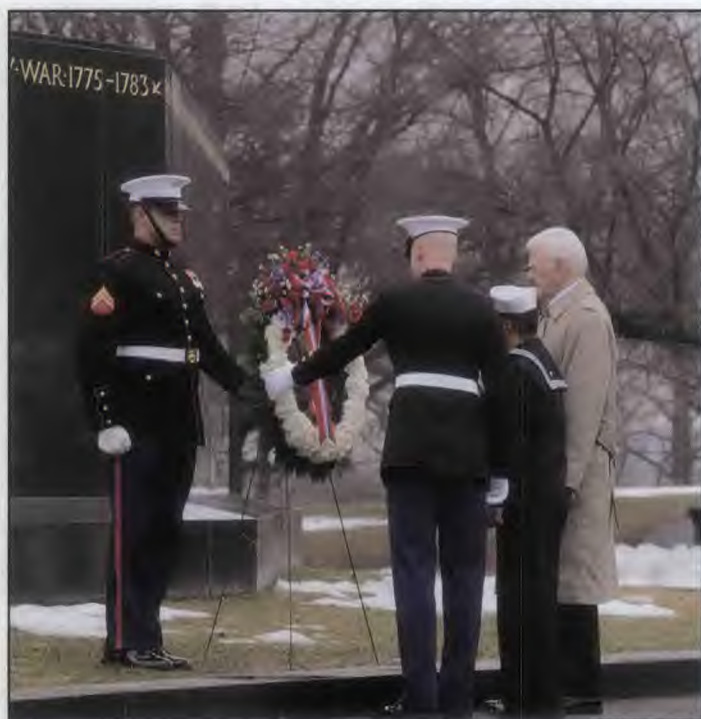




Left: Many young men and women from the Young Marines organization attended the ceremony to assist the veterans and learn about their national history. The Young Marines was formed to help develop the leadership and character of youth, as well and promote a drug-free lifestyle.



Right: Young people are the reason for the ceremony and the sacrifices of the Marines and sailors, said Lt. Gen. Duane Thiessen, Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources. The greatest generation of Americans set the standard that we live by today.



Cpl. Stephen Brewer, Lance Cpl. Thomas Mooney, Petty Officer 2nd Class Stephen Albright, and retired Lt. Col. Robert Lindholm, place a wreath in commemoration of the 65th anniversary of the flag raising on Iwo Jima.



THE PERILS OF ALCOHOL ABUSE

STORY BY LANCE CPL. JOHNNY MERKLEY

FOR MARINES, LIBERTY IS A TIME FOR PERSONAL INTERESTS AND RELAXATION. BUT SOMETIMES MARINES DON'T UNDERSTAND THE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES THAT CAN OCCUR WHEN THEY LOSE RESTRAINT, ESPECIALLY WHEN ALCOHOL IS INVOLVED.

"Alcohol can be a catalyst for many negative things," said Gunnery Sgt. Carson Zumalt, Barracks Substance Abuse Control Officer. "Age is irrelevant when considering the negative effects it has on a Marines life."

A Marine can end up spending thousands of dollars just on court fees and attorney expenses when they receive a DUI, not including violation fines and cuts in pay.

"I lost half my pay for two months and had to pay a hundred dollars a month for probation fees," said Pfc. Mark Fidler, Battalion Training NCO, Headquarters and Services Company. "I'm living paycheck to paycheck just to pay off the loan I had to take out for all the expenses."

Illegal drinking offenses aren't the only financial setbacks that come from alcohol. Alcohol can cause Marines to spend much of their paychecks on alcohol, leaving them with very little or no money for emergencies, Zumalt said.

The economic effect of alcohol is dreadful, but alcohol can also destroy your body.

"One night of binge drinking can alter a person's life forever," said Zumalt, "Alcoholism is a progressive disease that can force a person to become dependent on its consumption."

According to drugfree.org, long term alcohol abuse can cause permanent damage to vital organs such as the brain and liver.

"Alcohol is one of the only drugs that can actually kill you," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Monté Grace, Medical Leading Petty Officer, Branch Clinic Navy Yard. "If you try to stop abusing alcohol cold turkey, based on the dependency it could end your life."

Long term alcohol abuse may have serious health risks, but short term alcohol use can be just as harmful if the substance is abused.

"The impairment of judgment and lack of coherency can cause people to harm others or themselves if not careful," said Grace. "Several different service members I've known throughout my military career have injured the passenger or themselves in car accidents do to alcohol abuse."

Many times Marines will go out drinking, unaware of how much they are actually consuming, said Grace. A lot of cases Marines drink four to five times the normal intake of alcohol recommended.

It isn't always the Marines health that is the biggest concern. When a Marine drinks alcohol irresponsibly, often it affects

other Marines surrounding the abuser and causes problems for the command.

When a Marine is caught abusing alcohol he must be evaluated immediately, said 1st Sgt. Peter Ferral, Headquarters and Service Company First Sergeant. With this comes a set back for the entire command and the mission doesn't get completed in time.

Ferral is hardly a rookie when it comes to dealing with Marines and alcohol abuse. Ferral entered the Marine Corps in 1986, and with his twenty four years of experience, Ferral has seen the ends and outs of alcohol abuse and its effects on Marines.

While serving with 3rd Battalion 3rd Marines in 1997, Ferral watched hopelessly as a fellow Marine in his platoon was kicked out of the Marine Corps for having constant incidents of alcohol abuse.

"He was the best machine gunner in the company!" said Ferral. "When he was discharged we were one man down, making it harder on everyone."

For years alcohol has been getting the best of Marines and their families. Often, alcohol abuse starts at a young age and increases into a terrible problem over time.

"Many times alcoholics were introduced to alcohol through their parents," said Grace. "They grew up thinking drinking heavy amounts was the normal thing to do, we have kids drinking at thirteen and fourteen years old in ways of coping with things because that's the way they see their parents deal with it."

Whether the abuse originated through family or not, the abuse of alcohol is detrimental for a Marines family, command, and career.

"Many Marines lose their careers do to alcohol, when you drink, the first thing that goes out the window is judgment," Said Ferral. "You've got to have that smart guy, or designated driver at all times."

Whether it's in formation or in writing the Marines appointed in high leadership positions like Ferral continue to push the message of responsible drinking habits.

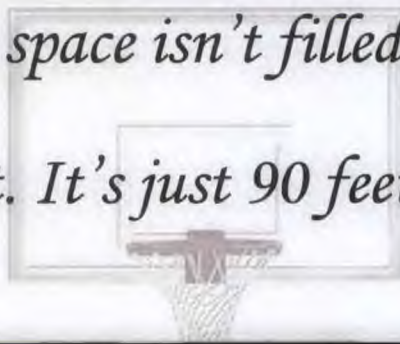
"If Marines plan on drinking, they need to have a plan. A DUI isn't just bad because of the punishments that come with being caught," said Ferral, "it's bad because of the injury or death you might cause if you make the decision to get behind the wheel drunk."



Chairmen of the Boards



Ryan McLellan's office space isn't filled with fancy furniture or decorative wall art. It's just 90 feet of hardwood floors.



Story by Cpl. Bobby J. Yarbrough

At first glance, Cpl. Ryan McLellan doesn't portray the image of a typical basketball prodigy. At 5'9, he looks like any another average Joe when he laces up his shoes. But when he steps out onto the floor with a basketball in his hand, he is anything but.

For the last three years, McLellan has shown the Marine Corps that size doesn't matter in the game of basketball.

McLellan first started playing basketball at 8 years old. He said growing up in the farming community of Newport, Maine, there wasn't much to do. So for fun, he would play basketball with his brothers and stepfather in the backyard.

"When I first started to play basketball, it was just a means for me to stay close to my family," McLellan said. "It was just a simple game that eventually grew into a passion."

It was in high school when McLellan started playing basketball competitively. Each fall he would play basketball for Nokomis Regional High School, Newport, Maine, while each summer he played on a traveling Amateur Athletic Union team in Maine.

"In high school, basketball consumed my life," McLellan said. "I can't ever remember a time when I wasn't playing ball."

After high school, McLellan said he stayed active in basketball, playing in adult leagues and in basketball tournaments. But it wasn't until he enlisted in the Marine Corps and was stationed in Okinawa, Japan, that he truly became recommitted to the sport.

"I started playing basketball at the gym on Okinawa," said McLellan. "That led me into playing tournaments and eventually into my selection for the All-Marine basketball team."

On the court, McLellan is a genius. He has the innate ability to pick defenses apart, by both driving to the basket and with his passing. But it's his shooting that sets him apart from the rest. McLellan said it is his work ethic that has made him the player he is today.

"In high school I would always spend my time in the gym," McLellan said. "Every day for hours all I would do is just shoot basketball. I still have the same mentality today. The only way I get better is through practice."

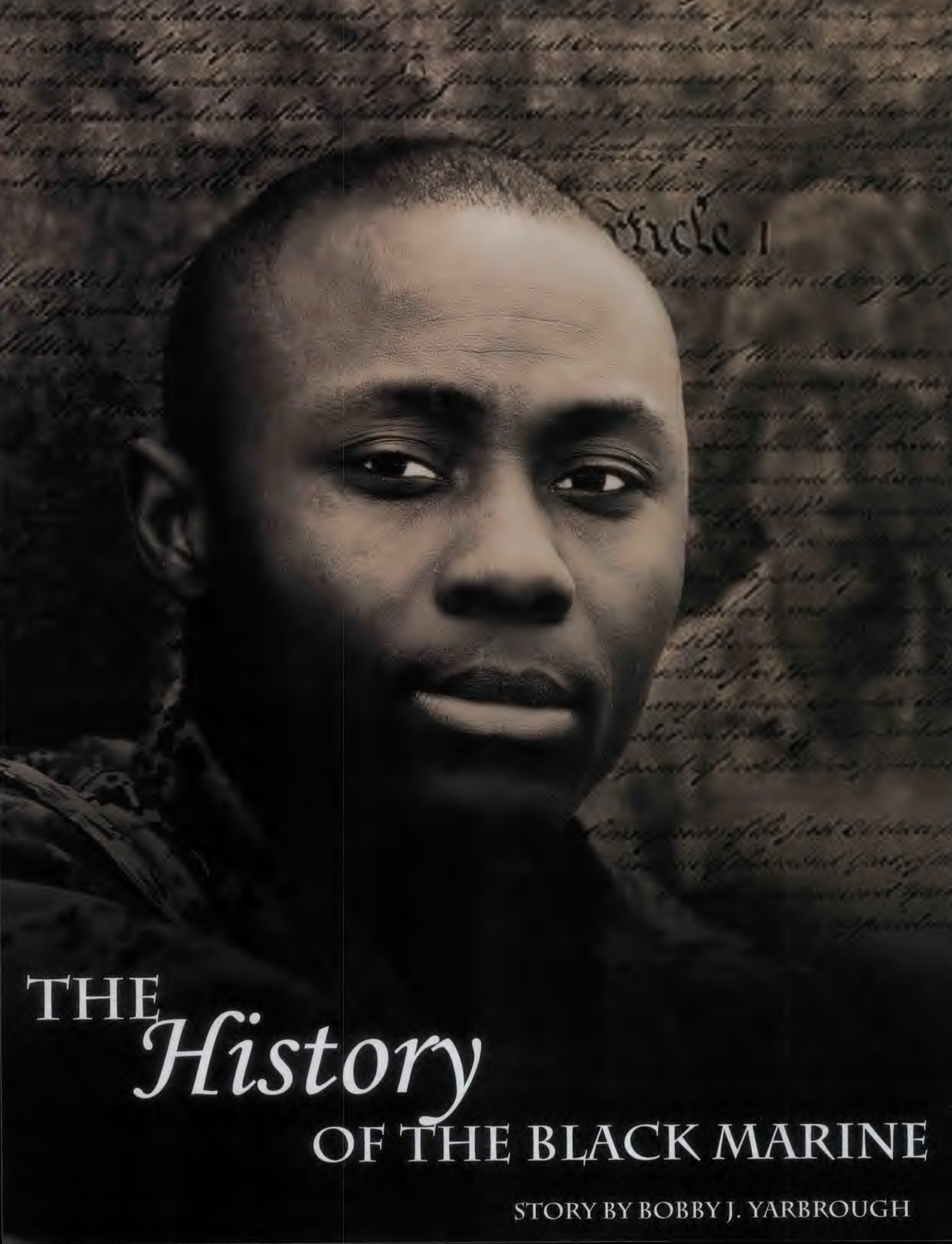
For McLellan, the practice has paid off. McLellan was selected as a member of both the All-Marine Basketball team and the All-Armed Forces Team. On his merits, he was also chosen as the 2008 Marine Corps Athlete of the Year. McLellan admits winning the award was a humbling experience.

"The Marine Corps is full of great athletes," McLellan said. "To even be considered as one of them is an honor."

McLellan, who is currently stationed at Marine Barracks Washington, said he will try out again this year for the 2010 All-Marine Basketball team. Although he has accomplished so much in basketball, he said he isn't done yet. He has hopes this year to win gold at the Conseil International du Sport Militaire in Texas, and if history repeats itself, he will.

"Playing against the military teams from around the world has shown me the potential I have in the sport," said McLellan. "Every day, I continue to strive to be the best player I can be." 🐦





THE
History
OF THE BLACK MARINE

STORY BY BOBBY J. YARBROUGH

The year was 1941; our country was still overcoming the severe economic conditions of the Great Depression and racial segregation was widespread throughout the nation. At the time, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt wanted to create fair employment practices for the United States Armed Forces and decided to integrate the American military.

He issued Executive Order 8802 on June 25, 1941, which prohibited all racial discrimination in the Armed services.

From its inception until 1941, the Marine Corps refused to recruit African Americans and other minorities. The executive order forced the Corps, despite objections from its leadership, to begin recruiting African American Marines in 1942.

In early 1942, the Marine Corps established a camp in Montford Point, N.C., as a recruit depot to train African-American Marine recruits. The sum of \$750,000 was allotted to construct and enlarge temporary barracks and supporting facilities for the segregated Montford Point Camp adjacent to Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Recruiting began on June 1, 1942. Alfred Masters became the first African American to enlist in the United



States Marine Corps. Shortly thereafter, more than 900 other African Americans enlisted.

The first Marines' arrived at Montford Point on August 26, 1942. Between 1942 and 1949, approximately 20,000 recruits received basic training at Montford Point, most of them going on to serve in the Pacific during World War II as members of support units.

During the early years at Montford Point, segregation still played a huge role. The Montford Point Marines were not allowed into neighboring all-white camps without being accompanied by a white Marine. However, in 1948, President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order 9981, ending color bias in the American armed forces. Montford Point was deactivated as a recruit training depot in 1949.

The Montford Point Marines are hailed as important figures in American history, because they willingly fought to protect a nation that still did not offer them basic civil rights. Their actions set the precedent for the Corps, and their legacy continues within the Marines who serve today.

OFFICIAL MARINE CORPS PHOTO



THE PACIFIC

Story and Photos by Lance Cpl. Johnny Merkley



World War II veterans attend a ceremony hosted by HBO in honor of the upcoming miniseries "The Pacific." The Pacific is a ten part mini-series based on the island hopping campaign of World War II.

If you travel south of Tokyo, you could run into any of the thousands of islands that shield the Japanese coast. Rich with culture and history, the islands are plentiful and dispersed like an unfinished puzzle. However there is one island that stands out above all the others, an island with stains of invisible red running through its roots.

The island of Iwo Jima isn't just another island in Japan's massive realm. It has history that separates it and puts it into a category of its own.

Approximately 100 World War II veterans gathered in Washington D.C., March 10, to view the premier of the HBO series, "The Pacific," a ten part mini-series based on the island hopping campaign of World War II.

"I was interviewed about four years ago for the film," said Ack Cozza, an Iwo Jima veteran who served with K-3-5 Company, 1st Marine Division. "From what I've seen so far the series seems pretty accurate."

As the veterans flew into Washington D.C., they were greeted at the airport by service members from all branches of the military who were there to welcome the shocked and excited veterans.

"It is vitally important to support our veterans," said Elizabeth Dole, former U.S. senator from North Carolina. "They saved the world for freedom and democracy and we can't ever let these accomplishments be forgotten."

The ceremony for these American heroes was held at the World War II memorial in Washington D.C. March 11. Along with these hundred plus veterans that gathered around the memorial came guest speakers Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks, co-producers for the HBO series.

“Ordinary Americans hate going to war,” said Hanks. “Which is a paradox since it was ordinary Americans who made the difference between freedom and terror 70 years ago.”

Pain struck the eyes of many of the veterans as they remembered the struggles and experiences they underwent during World War II. Service caps pulled over their eyes as they listened to appreciative words being spoken about their generation.

“This is why I made ‘Saving Private Ryan.’ This is why I and Tom Hanks made ‘Band of Brothers’ and ‘The Pacific,’” said Steven Spielberg, film director and producer. “We did it because all of you are the greatest stories ever told.”

For James Maniatis who was only 22 years old at the time of the assault on Iwo Jima, he still remembers the original flag rising on Mt. Suribachi and the thousands of his fellow Marines who lost their lives during the invasion.

“When they raised that flag on Iwo Jima, the next day I went up there and raised an observation post,” said James Maniatis, a Marine who served with Joint Assault Signal Company, 2nd Battalion 24th Marines. “On Iwo Jima almost the entire 4th Marine Division was wiped out, but I was there.”

For the Americans who left their homes and lives and the borders of their country to face the horror of war, these men surpassed the responsibility of their generation by their actions and by their sacrifices’, said Hanks.

“For veterans like Maniatis, it was their courage that defined their generation;” Spielberg said. “It was the hard working men who had come out of the Great Depression that made their generation what it was, the greatest generation.”



Top: Elizabeth Dole, a former U.S. senator from North Carolina, embraces Ack Cozza, an Iwo Jima veteran, following the ceremony March 10.

Below: Lance Cpl. Kevin Hurst talks with Frank DeZenzo, a retired Marine, following the ceremony at the World War II Memorial March 10.





Photo by Lance Cpl. Benjamin Harris

According to Marine Administrative Message 029/10, released Jan. 15, individual tattoos, such as the one on Lance Cpl. Derrick Stevens' arm, visible in the standard physical training uniform will be no larger than the wearer's hand, and officers will be limited to a maximum of four tattoos visible in the PT uniform.

CORPS CRACKS DOWN ON EXCESSIVE TATTOOS

STORY BY CPL. PRISCILLA SNEDEN

Maintaining high standards of military appearance is a pillar in the Corps' history that has distinguished Marines for more than two centuries. Today, as the tattoo trend continues, the Corps still strongly supports the notion that excessive tattoos detract from the professional appearance expected of a Marine.

Recent guidance issued by the Commandant is not intended to discourage Marines from decorating their bodies. However, it informs Marines how to stay in compliance while ensuring that no tattoos are of a nature that would bring discredit upon the Marine Corps.

"We have realized that we needed to provide more amplifying guidance to clear up questions our Marines have about the existing policy to allow them more opportunities within the Corps and once they leave the service," Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps said.

The overall intent of the policy is to ensure Marines can remain worldwide assignable, by maintaining the professional demeanor and high standards expected of the Corps. Addition-

ally, the Commandant wants to inform Marines that tattoos can negatively impact their future career goals, especially if that involves law enforcement.

"Marines are recognized around the world because of our high standards of military bearing and appearance," Kent said. "We want Marines to set the example and be assignable to any billet, in any location."

The policy seeks to balance the personal desires of Marines with their responsibility to set the example and present a sharp military appearance.

"Tattoos of an excessive nature do not represent our traditional values and are contrary to our professional demeanor and the high standards America has come to expect from us," said Maj. Shawn D. Haney, public affairs officer, Manpower and Reserve Affairs in Quantico, Va.

Marine Administrative Message 029/10, released Jan. 15, clarifies past and current policies. It prohibits sexist, racist, eccentric, vulgar or otherwise offensive tattoos. Tattoos that



express an association with illegal drugs, anti-American content or affiliation to any extremist group or organization are also prohibited.

The policy also prohibits tattoos on the head, neck, hands, fingers and wrists as well as full, half and quarter sleeves visible in the standard physical training uniform.

Individual tattoos visible in the PT uniform will be no larger than the wearer's hand, and officers will be limited to a maximum of four tattoos visible in the PT uniform.

Marines with grandfathered sleeves have no restrictions for reenlistment or promotion. However, they are no longer eligible for any enlisted-to-officer program, recruiting duty or Marine Security Guard duty.

"Marines need to understand the intent of the policy and the specific guidance that is published so that they can make an informed decision before getting a tattoo," Kent said.

The tattoo policy is in place to deter Marines from excessive tattooing, which can hinder their future career opportunities in the Corps or as civilians.

"As we adjust our policy on tattoos so are many civilian agencies," said Kent. "I have met with many former Marines who told me they could not even get a job at a fast food restaurant because of their tattoos."

Recently, a team at Headquarters Marine Corps conducted research on state police and highway patrol tattoo policies. All 50 state police or patrol departments were contacted about their respective tattoo policies. Overall, 39 states have official written policies covering tattoos and body art or modifications, as well as other personal appearance standards.

Former Marine, John Beekman, is a 16-year-veteran detective in Chandler, Ariz. He advises service members to consider their future career choices before getting new ink.

"Keep in mind the tattoo itself; the type, size, and [location on your body] - how will it affect you later?" said Beekman.

"When you're young and motivated you're not thinking about the future. But, one day you will get out of the Marine Corps and perception is reality. The general public is going to look a person with [excessive] tattoos and make an immediate judgment. "

Beekman attests to the fact that many law enforcement agencies are also pulling in the reins on excessive tattoos.

"Our department policy on tattoos states that if visible while working in an official capacity, all tattoos must be covered," he said. "This policy became permanent in 2008."

"As of this date, no applicants have been turned away simply for excessive tattoos. However, if an applicant has visible tattoos that are deemed inappropriate, or those visible tattoos that cannot be covered must be eliminated if the applicant wishes to be hired."


The Chandler Police Department, along with many departments across the nation agree with the Corps' tattoo policy standards prohibiting tattoos that are offensive to a person's race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

The driving force behind the amplification of the tattoo policy is to ensure that Marines can prosper no matter what career path they choose.

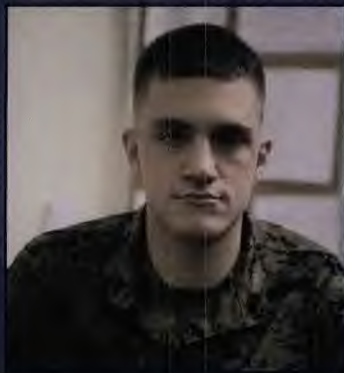
"The success of our Marines during their career, as well as afterward, is important," Kent said.

Although many may not agree with the policy, all Marines must adhere to it.

"Tattoos are one of the bonds we have as Marines, [but] setting the standard has always been our job," said Sgt. Stephen B. Dolo, an anti-tank missileman currently serving as the assistant training chief for Headquarters Battalion, Headquarters Marine Corps, who personally has two tattoos within regulations.

Marines not in compliance with this policy should have their tattoos grandfathered via the appropriate channels within their chain of command by June 1. 

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE NEW CHANGES TO THE TATTOO POLICY?



"Tattoos don't take away from a Marine's personal professionalism."

Sgt. Michael Lesiewicz
Marine Corps Color Guard



"As long as the tattoo is not offensive, I don't see how it would affect a Marine's proficiency and conduct."

Lance Cpl. Alex Chafetz
Clearance Clerk

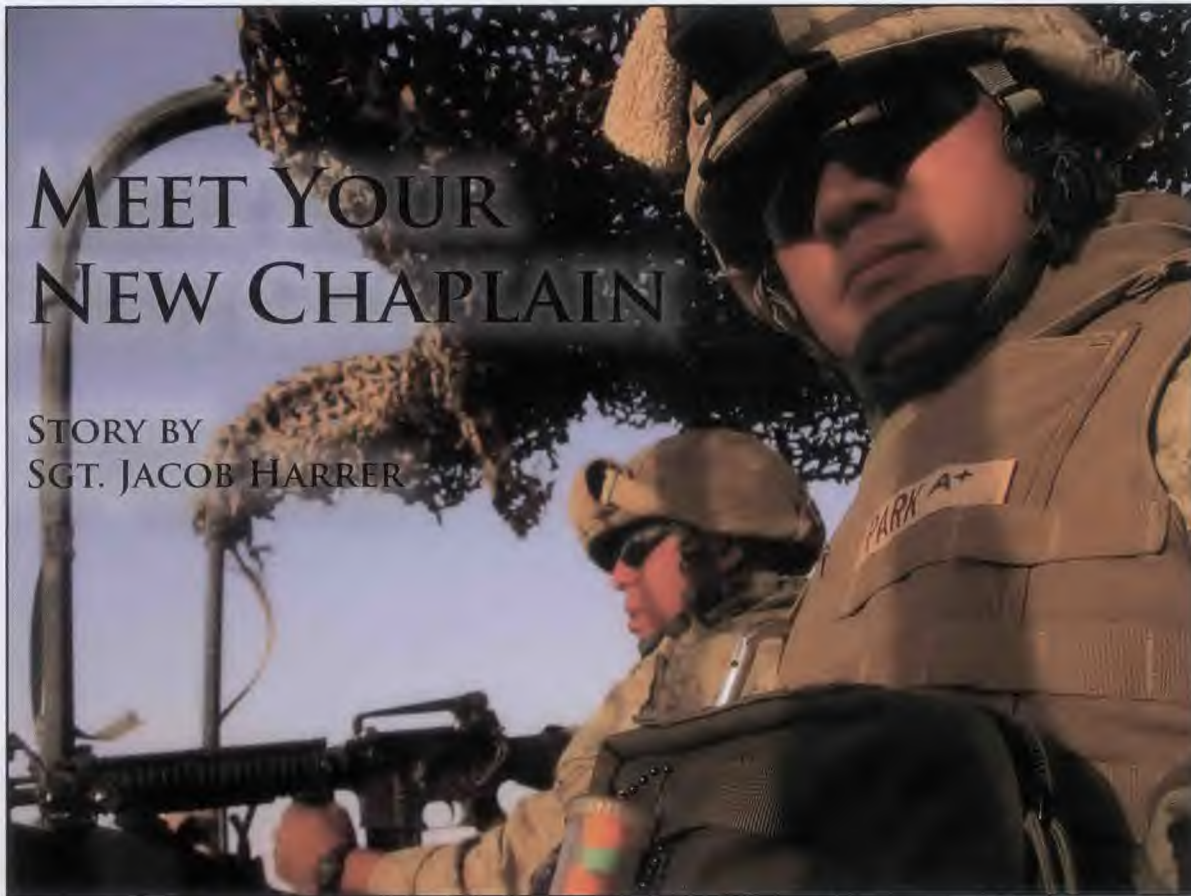


"Even though tattoos are more socially accepted, they still portray a negative image in the public's eye."

Gunnery Sgt. Chris Albright
H&S Company Gunnery Sergeant

MEET YOUR NEW CHAPLAIN

STORY BY
SGT. JACOB HARRER



Lt. Philip N. Park deployed to Al Anbar Province, Iraq, with 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment for September 2005 to April, 2006. He made himself available by travelling on 84 convoys to various outposts in the area of operations. Although the threat of IEDs loomed large, Park said he felt safer on convoys than on base because insurgents often attacked his outpost with mortars, grenades, and RPGs shortly after arriving.

A new chaplain has arrived at Marine Barracks Washington. You can't miss Lt. Philip N. Park as he strolls through the hallways and visits with Marines. The 5 ft. 7 in. Korean pastor is easy to recognize and even easier to start a conversation with. Recently selected for promotion to lieutenant commander, Park brings to the table a wealth of experience with both Marines and sailors, as well as a profound respect for the Marines of the "Oldest Post."

Park stands out as a Korean chaplain, which are few in the Navy Chaplain Corps, he said. In 1979, he immigrated to the United States when he was ten years old. Carrying two suitcases in hand and basic knowledge of the alphabet, he adjusted to life in the U.S. He learned English and attended church with fellow Koreans, where he eventually committed to Jesus Christ while a teen at a church youth camp.

While attending college at Biola University in La Mirada, Calif., Park started out as an architectural engineering major when he felt the calling to join the ministry. He struggled with the decision, weighing out all of the options until prompted by a pastor visiting the school during the summer for a doctoral program.

"I think you have prayed long enough," the pastor said. "I think you just need to go and do it."

The encouragement gave Park a sense of relief, and he changed his major to biblical studies. After graduating, he attended a rigorous, 120-hour master of theology program at the

Dallas Theological Seminary. The intense schedule consisted mainly of studying, eating, and sleeping, Park said.

After four years, Park graduated with his master's degree and began work in the church planting field, helping organize the ministry. After a few years, Park desired to step into a more pastoral role. Following the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001, he sensed a need to minister to the men and women going into harm's way, Park entered the Navy as a chaplain.

"During a time of war, unfortunately, men and women will die in combat, and they need pastoral care during that very difficult time," Park said.

Not long after becoming a Navy chaplain, Park found himself aboard the amphibious transport dock, USS Ponce, participating in the initial invasion of Iraq in 2003. All of the sailors and Marines on board experienced fear at one point as they wondered if they were going to make it back, Park said. He witnessed Iraqi scud missiles in flight, hoping they weren't fitted with nuclear or chemical warheads. During this trying time, Park relied on prayer to remain peaceful and calm throughout the deployment.

"If I panic, it's gonna show among the sailors, and it's not gonna help the sailors if the chaplain is panicking," Park said. "Through God's grace, I think I was relatively calm throughout the whole scene."

Because Park served as the ship chaplain, he was not able to land with the battalion landing team.



"I felt that call that I gotta be with the Marines because when I saw the Marines leaving for shore I was kicking myself because I was the ship chaplain," Park added.

Park received his wish when he was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment in Camp Pendleton, Calif. They deployed to Al Anbar, Iraq in September 2005, four days after his first daughter was born, missing the first seven months of her life. Park also experienced Marine Corps austerity: weeks without showers, salt-encrusted cammies, and lots of baby wipes. The Marines were also taking serious casualties.

"The most difficult part is handling the fallen Marines and how it impacts a unit," Park said.

The first death in the battalion was an eye-opening experience for him. An IED explosion struck a convoy, and one of the injured Marines died shortly after being evacuated from the site. Before the convoy arrived back to base, Park and the command had to break the bad news to the returning Marines.

"To tell the truth and see the reaction was difficult," Park said. "At the same time, there was healing. Men huddled up and supported each other. They were very strong. It's hard to describe that dynamic in words."

Park strived to be accessible to many of the Marines, who were spread out over various forward operating bases. During his deployment, Park moved 84 different times, spending a few days on post before hopping onto another convoy. He desired to be present for Marines because a crisis moment can happen at any time, he said.

"Things happen in the field and on the homefront," Park said. "Tragedy takes place. Death takes place. All the things that life gives happens while the men are deployed and I'm there, handling it together."

Park's dedication to the Marines continued after he left the division to serve as a staff chaplain at Naval Support Activity Naples, Italy. In January 2009, he was approached by the widow of a Marine captain whom Park had wedded her to while he served at 3/1. She personally requested that he come to Arlington National Cemetery to bury her husband. Park paid for all of the expenses to fly his family to Virginia and participate in the ceremony.

"To come out on his own initiative to bury one of his Marines when he really didn't have to...that to me said a lot about him, so I think he really cares for our Marines, he'll go the extra mile for them," said Lt. Cmdr. John Logan, outgoing MBW chaplain.

The full honors funeral was the first time Park had seen Barracks Marines.

"It was very, very impressive what the Marines did for the family and for me and for the guests who came who have known this captain in a personal way," Park said. "Every single step is done in perfection, and I see that face."

After coming to the Barracks, Park witnessed the tremendous effort it took for the Marines to perform seemingly flawlessly.

"What I didn't see back then is a different kind of face. It's the sweat and tears that will fall behind the presentation in order to do one task, one ceremony. Now I see how much effort and energy and time and commitment that is required to do that face.

Behind the scene in the garage, sweating during the hot summer or freezing in winter under the snow. The men are practicing and practicing."


The busy schedule at MBW presents a special challenge for Park, as he is the only chaplain for an entire Barracks of around 1,200 Marines and Sailors. He must plan his day in order to be available to Marines while attending meetings and visiting Marines on post, the Washington Navy Yard and Anacostia.

"I like to schedule life and squeeze every hour and every minute as I can to maximize effectiveness for overall mission," Park said.

In recent weeks, Park has had an average of four counseling sessions per day. Lasting 30 to 90 minutes each, counseling can easily take up half a day. Managing the hours can seem overwhelming, but no matter how busy he is, he always begins each day with a prayer and scripture study, Park said.

"Some may think that I'm losing time by doing that, but I think I gain time because it helps me to focus on things that are important," Park added. "Things that are not temporary, but hopefully more eternal."

Along with his organizational skills, Park's love and dedication for the Marines will make him a successful chaplain at the Barracks, said Logan.

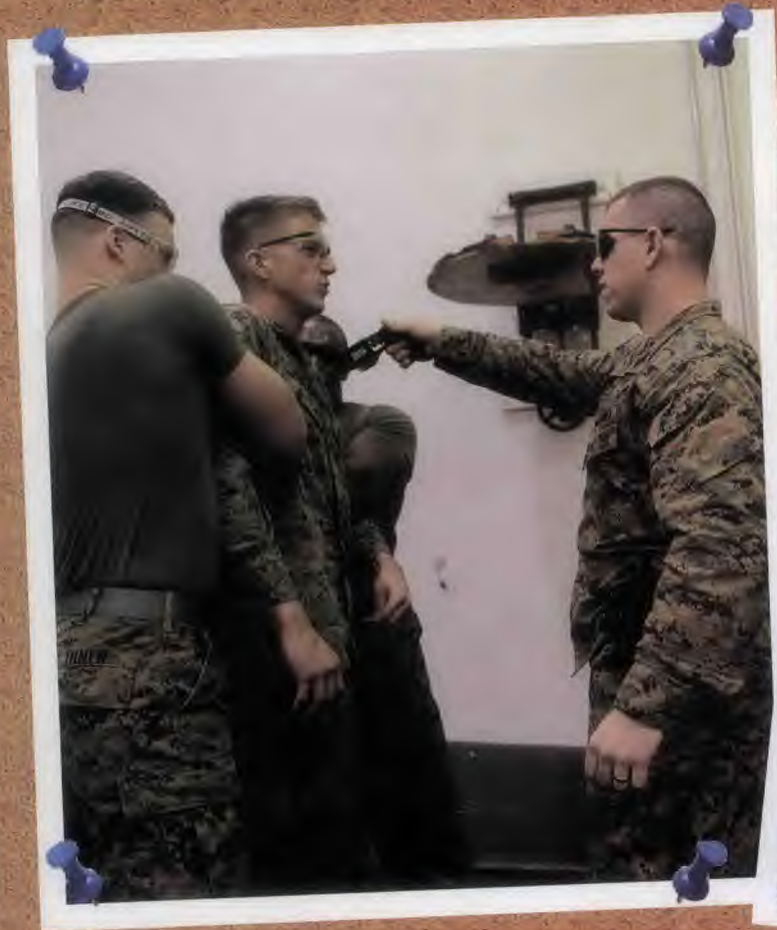
"I prayed to the Lord to send a good relief for me," Logan added. "I felt God answered that prayer when I met Chaplain Park. I can go to sleep at night knowing the Marines of 'eighth and I' are in good hands." 



Lt. Philip N. Park first deployed as the ship chaplain for the USS Ponce as part of an expeditionary strike group, ministering to both Marines and sailors as they prepared to invade Iraq in 2003. Park remained calm throughout the deployment in order to provide peace of mind for them.



Around the Barracks





Around the Barracks





CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

WHY AM I HERE AT
MARINE BARRACKS WASHINGTON?
BY
LT. PHILIP N. PARK

I AM FINALLY HERE AT MARINE BARRACKS WASHINGTON, THE "OLDEST POST OF THE CORPS," ESTABLISHED IN 1801. I COULD ONLY IMAGINE A LIST OF REASONS WHY A MARINE OR SAILOR WOULD BE MOTIVATED TO COME HERE.


Some want to be a part of the deeply rooted history and legacy of the United States Marine Corps. Others may have dreamt about becoming a member of the Silent Drill Platoon, the President's Own, the Drum and Bugle Corps, or the seasonal parades that reveal the pride, precision and honor of the Marine Corps to the public. Many have dreamed about coming here since their childhood, waiting patiently for the day of recruitment to the United States Marine Corps. But why am I here?

I heard the sound of the trumpet call to come to Marine Barracks. Last year January, I had the honor to officiate the funeral and committal service to honor the fallen Marine and a friend. His name was Capt. Warren Frank. We served together at 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment at Camp Pendleton, Calif. We deployed together to Al Anbar province, Iraq. After the deployment, Warren fell in love and wanted to marry Allison. He asked me to wed them both, forever in holy matrimony, in South Carolina. There was no greater pleasure for any Chaplain than to bless them in a chapel. Families and friends gathered together to celebrate the beginning of their new life together.

Then three years later, I received an unexpected email. Allison was looking for me, but more importantly she was looking for me to bury her late husband who was killed in action in Iraq. The earth stood still for me when I read the email. I was shocked

and overwhelmed again at the loss of another Marine, a friend and a brother. This couldn't be true, not him, not Warren.

Marine Barracks Washington arranged the full honors funeral in January 2009. I took my wife and three little girls and flew out of Naples, Italy to Dulles, Virginia. I never thought in a million years that I would be the one who would lay his body to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. There, for the first time, I saw a group of fine Marines who dedicated themselves to every burial step with the greatest attention to detail and precision in order to honor the Marine, husband and father at his final resting place. The Marines of Marine Barracks Washington rendered their honor to Capt. Warren Frank superbly. I thought to myself, "That's how it is done. Don't change a thing."

Finally, I heard three volleys of the 21 gun salute, followed by taps at the end of committal service. I heard every note played on the trumpet. It sunk deeply into my ears. Taps replayed again in my head and reminded me of many familiar faces in the past who gave their ultimate sacrifices on the altar of freedom. I heard the sound of the trumpet call to Marine Barracks Washington. So, I am here in memory of Captain Warren Frank and to serve those who are serving our grateful nation faithfully. I am glad to be here. Semper Fidelis! 





A woman watches as the Body Bearers fold the flag at the funeral of Pfc. Darius Ray.
Photo Illustration by Cpl. Bobby J. Yarbrough



Cpl. Stephen Brewer participates in the funeral for Congressman John Murtha, who was buried in Johnstown, Pa., Feb. 16.

