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PASS IN REVIEW

WINTER 2010

*Honor
Courage
Commitment*

*Honor
Courage
Commitment*



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WINTER 2010

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COVER ILLUSTRATIONS BY CPL. BOBBY J. YARBROUGH

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FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER



Marines, Sailors and civilian Marines of the Oldest Post of the Corps.

First, allow me to express how pleased and proud I am of your service to this venerable post. It is truly a privilege and pleasure to observe the members of this command and units in action and to be in your professional company as we continue to carryout a very important mission within our Corps. Each and every one of you has my most genuine thanks for superb mission accomplishment throughout 2009. As we celebrate this holiday season and soon thereafter as we begin preparing in earnest for the mission in 2010, you and your families have my best wishes.

Concurrent with our celebration and preparation, I ask that we remain mindful of our fellow Marines and service men and women who are forward deployed, all standing to be counted in the service of their country, confronting complex challenges and remarkable dangers. Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Marines, indeed you are a member of the finest organization in the world. Our Corps is truly unique; in its organization and war fighting capability—every Marine a rifleman; in spirit and cohesion; and in the place we hold in the hearts of our nation's citizens. As a military force well-trained, disciplined and ready for today's and tomorrow's challenges, U. S. Marines are feared and respected by our nation's enemies and loved and admired by their countryman. Be proud of your service and be proud of your Corps.

Marine Barracks Washington, D.C....a living tangible example of the pride, esprit and history that have distinguished our Corps since 1775. Our stewardship and service to this great post, 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 that serve today and that continue to lay it all on the line for their country and their fellow Marines; and those who will follow in our foot steps.

The mission of Marine Barracks Washington cannot be achieved without every one of the Marines, Sailors and civilians that stand in its ranks. Your individual and collective contributions to mission accomplishment are evident. As we enjoy the holidays and as we continue to serve together, the importance of the physical, emotional and spiritual health of each of our members and families cannot be overstated. Marines are faithful...they take care of their own. When the hustle and bustle of daily duties tends to dominate, it is the individual Marine, the competent and faithful servant standing shoulder to shoulder with fellow Marines, who gets the job done.

In offering "Happy Holidays" and "best wishes for the New Year" allow me to charge this terrific team with the following: Leaders: Take care of your Marines. To all Marines of the Oldest Post: Serve to the very best of your abilities and be willing to reach out to the extended helping hand. There are many extended hands, starting with me—your commanding officer, your unit leadership, our Barracks Chaplain, and through our Family Readiness Officer and the many capable programs available. Marines, no one goes it alone, and Marines leave no one behind. There is perhaps no greater indicator of personal strength and maturity than the willingness to ask for assistance. And in concert, there is no greater endeavor or reward than to be there for a fellow Marine.

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 healthy and joyful holiday season. Take care of yourself and your families, return safely to our Oldest Post. Forward and together we march!

Semper Fidelis,

Andrew H. Smith
Colonel, USMC



Lt. Col. Brent Harrison joins the drum line of the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps for a final performance as commanding officer. Harrison said he entered the Barracks with a drum in hand, and he was leaving the Barracks with a drum in hand.

Photo by Cpl. Jacob H. Harrer





A cake cutting detail escorts a Marine Corps birthday cake during the cake cutting ceremony for the U.S. Senate in Washington, Nov. 5.

Photo by Cpl. Erin Kirk-Cuomo



Capt. Michael Deal takes the guidon from Capt. John Greenwood as a symbol of the change of command for Company A at a ceremony at Marine Barracks Washington, Oct. 7.

Photo by Cpl. Bobby J. Yarbrough





**SALUTE TO THE STARS:
WASHINGTON WIZARDS HOST LUNCHEON
IN HONOR OF SERVICE MEMBERS**

STORY BY
LANCE CPL. JOHNNY MERKLEY

THE WASHINGTON WIZARDS BASKETBALL PLAYERS AND STAFF INVITED SERVICE MEMBERS FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TO A LUNCHEON AT MORTON'S THE STEAKHOUSE IN WASHINGTON, OCT. 21.





Lance Cpl. Johnny Merkley and Gunnery Sgt. William J. Dixon meet with Washington Wizards cheerleaders during the luncheon hosted at Morton's The Steakhouse in Washington.
Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle Sullivan

Marines from Marine Barracks Washington, alongside service members from each branch of the armed forces, were treated to a luncheon by the NBA's Washington Wizards. The team held the luncheon, titled "Salute to the Stars," to honor service members and their families for the sacrifices they made on behalf of the nation.

Players, coaches and executives personally entertained service members throughout the event while serving food and beverages. Many players, including Caron Butler, Brendan Haywood and Mike James, posed for photos and signed autographs.

The Wizards cheerleading team joined in for more pictures and autographs while Marines snapped photos with their cameras and cell phones.

The Wizards momentarily took a break from hosting to personally thank the service members for their service and explain the reason for hosting the event.

"You guys serve on a daily basis and this event just gives us a chance to finally serve you," said Brendan Haywood, the starting center for the Washington Wizards.

Being thanked by famous celebrity basketball stars was a once in a life time opportunity that was gratifying for many of the service members attending the luncheon, said Lance Cpl. Kyle Sullivan, a supply clerk with Headquarters and Service Company, MBW.

"Meeting Caron Butler and other famous basketball stars was an experience I will remember forever," added Sullivan. "I felt honored to have them serve us and treat us with that kind of respect."

The Wizards handed out gift bags for the departing service members, which included tickets to the upcoming Wizard's "Salute to Stars" basketball game, autographed posters, and gift cards.

"I can't thank the Wizards enough," said Sgt. Pedro Rivera, the S-4 training chief, H&S Co., MBW. "The food was great, the service was wonderful, and the event as a whole was something I will never forget." 



Brendan Haywood towers over Capt. Lisa Lawrence at the luncheon.
Photo by Lance Cpl. Johnny Merkley



“THE COMMANDANTS OWN” CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. JACOB H. HARRER



MARINES, VETERANS AND FRIENDS CELEBRATED THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. MARINE DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS WITH A CEREMONY HOSTED BY GEN. JAMES T. CONWAY, 34TH COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS, AT MARINE BARRACKS WASHINGTON, NOV. 4.



Conway presented the D&B with a congratulatory certificate signed by every living commandant of the Marine Corps.

Sgt. Joshua D. Miles, D&B narrator, recounted the history of the drummer and buglers in the Marine Corps, from their service as a communication element on the battle field to the duty bugler on ships. The D&B created a music video synchronized to "Birth of a Drum Corps," which the unit performed live for the audience. The music was timed flawlessly as the movie displayed the D&B performing at venues around the nation.

The ceremony drew supporters from various armed services from around the world. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Joe Tersero, bassoonist from the U.S. Air Force Band, came out to the event to support his fellow military musicians. He was introduced to the D&B through Chief Warrant Officer Brian J. Dix, D&B director.

"The stick technique of the percussionists to the playing of the brass players... it's right up there with the top professional drum and bugle corps in the world," Tersero said.

"What we've seen these folks do under leadership over the years has been amazing," Conway said.

The D&B started an idea conceived by Capt. Lemuel C. Shepherd, former MBW guard officer and later 20th Commandant of the Marine Corps. In 75 short years, the D&B has become an elite body of musicians representing the Marine Corps around the world, travelling more than 60,000 miles each year, Conway said.

When the D&B was first formed, the unit was comprised of an underfunded group of musicians who practiced drumming on inner tubes and road tires in order to save money and pre-



Gen. James T. Conway, 34th Commandant of the Marine Corps, presents a certificate to the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps.



Chief Warrant Officer Brian J. Dix directs the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps at the 75th anniversary ceremony.



“THEY ARE INDEED MARINES
IN EVERY SENSE FROM THEIR
BEARING, TRAINING AND
PROFESSIONALISM TO THE
UNPARALLELED SENSE OF
PRIDE AND SERVICE TO THEIR
CORPS.”

COL. ANDREW H. SMITH
BARRACKS COMMANDER



Staff Sgt. Richard Owens and Staff Sgt. Randy Rivera perform during the celebration ceremony for the 75th anniversary of the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps.





Lt. Col. Brent Harrison shows off a trophy awarded to the D&B from Drum Corps International for serving youth and music for 75 years. Dan Acheson, DCI executive director, presented the trophy, which is modeled after the annual championship award.

serve their drums, said Lt. Col. Brent Harrison, D&B commanding officer.

The D&B did not have buses to transport them to events, said Harrison. Their first road trip was to the Milk Festival in Manassas, Va., in 1935. The Marines marched with rucksacks and instruments to the train station, where they caught a train to Manassas and boarded a bus to the fair ground. When the bus broke down, the Marines marched miles to their destination, where they camped out and performed for four days before returning to Washington.

“Rigorous schedules... buses breaking down... it’s good to know that some things haven’t changed,” said Harrison.

Marines from the D&B still train each year through rigorous physical fitness tests and rifle qualifications. Recently, Sgt. Nathan Morris and Sgt. Michelle Mayo returned from a four-month deployment to Iraq. Their ability to put down their instruments and pick up their rifles truly makes them unique among military musicians around the world.

“They are indeed Marines in every sense from their bearing, training and professionalism to the unparalleled sense of pride and service to their Corps,” said Col. Andrew H. Smith, MBW commanding officer. 



Staff Sgt. Hochiang Wang checks out the letter of commendation awarded to the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps by Gen. James T. Conway, 34th Commandant of the Marine Corps. The letter was signed by all living commandants of the Marine Corps.



FROM COMBAT ZONE TO PARADE DECK:
INFANTRY NCOS TRANSITION FROM
THE FLEET TO THE BARRACKS

STORY BY LANCE CPL. JOHNNY MERKLEY





Cpl. Javier Hinojosa stands a ceremonial at ease on the parade grounds of Marine Barracks Washington. As a ceremonial marcher, Hinojosa has had to master ceremonial drill movements and learn cadences unique to the "Oldest Post of the Corps."

Photo by Cpl. Bobby J. Yarbrough

THE LEADERSHIP OF NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS IS VITAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE MARINE CORPS WORLD WIDE. MARINES APPOINTED UNDER THEM LOOK FOR GUIDANCE THROUGH EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE THAT NCOs HAVE GAINED OVER THEIR CAREER. AT MARINE BARRACKS WASHINGTON, INFANTRY NCOs HAVE THE SPECIAL CHALLENGE OF LEADING CEREMONIAL MARCHERS, NEW ADDITION TO THEIR USUAL ROUTINE OF THROWING GRENADES, SHOOTING WEAPONS, AND DEPLOYING TO WAR ZONES.





Left: Cpl. Javier Hinojosa mans a turret-mounted MK-19 at an outpost in Iraq. While deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Hinojosa sustained injuries and was awarded the Purple Heart.

“It takes these NCOs’ time to adjust after a combat deployment,” said 1st Sgt. Ramon Nash, Alpha Company, former Drill Master at the Barracks. “Many of the NCOs’ have to adjust their leadership styles and take a different approach toward their Marines.”

Wearing dress blues and drilling with an M-1 Garand rifle is a new experience for infantry NCOs who arrive at the Barracks. These NCOs often come for help from Marines under their charge, said Cpl. Javier Hinojosa, 2nd Platoon Guide, Bravo Company.

“Just because I’m a leader doesn’t mean I can’t be led,” said Cpl. Bobby Kling, 1st Platoon Squad Leader, Alpha Company. “I try to be the best at everything that I do. If asking a lance corporal for help is going to make me better, then I have no problem with that.”

Another challenge of transitioning to the Barracks is the way Marines from various infantry military occupational specialties may have to serve as leaders in marching units comprised mainly of riflemen. As a motorman taking charge of a platoon of riflemen, Hinojosa must mentor Marines from another MOS. He isn’t able to answer many of the questions coming to him from his junior Marines when they ask him about the operating forces.

“I can only lead by a basic example of leadership in the Marine Corps,” said Hinojosa. “I tell Marines they should take what they’ve learned at the Barracks into the fleet.”

Not only is it hard for these NCOs’ to teach young Marines knowledge of the Corps, but transitioning to MBW after seeing the horrors of combat can also be a difficult task.

For both Hinojosa and Kling, the result of combat has made their transition even harder. Both have experienced the physical and mental hardships of war, as both have been awarded purple hearts for injuries inflicted during combat.

“It was kind of hard at first because I couldn’t relate to anybody,” said Hinojosa. “But finally after a couple of weeks I started letting out to staff non-commissioned officers who had experienced the same things I had.”

For Kling, memories of Silownia, Iraq, still haunt his past. While on patrol Kling’s vehicle was hit with shrapnel from many angles with a triple stack of mortars set up by insurgents. The blast left many Marines wounded.

“The barrel of my [machine gun] looked like it had been blown to shreds,” said Kling, “I feel extremely lucky to have made it out with such few injuries.”

Though the transition is hard, and these NCOs’ from MBW know it is not a simple task to accomplish. They continue to set the example for their junior Marines by putting long hours into perfecting ceremonial drill.

“Practice makes perfect,” said Kling, “and the more I practice, the better I become.”

Together Kling and Hinojosa know what it is like to be in both the operating forces and garrison Marine Corps, as well as understand the importance of being at MBW and its significance.

“I take the same amount of pride here as I did out in the fleet,” said Kling. “It’s not the same mission, but it’s equally important.” 





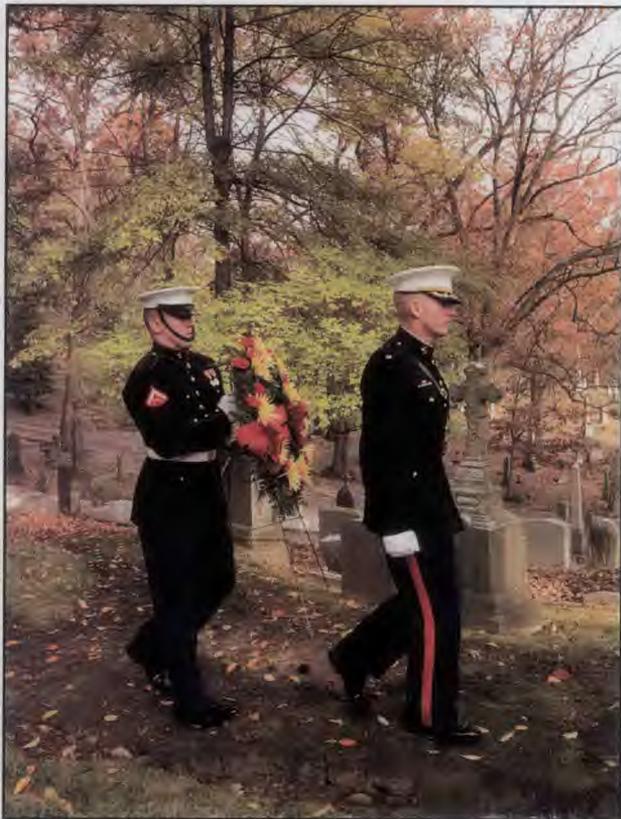
For Hinojosa and Kling, the impact of combat has made their transition even harder.





IN MEMORY OF OUR FALLEN

PHOTOS BY USMC



Lance Cpl. Garrett Quinn and Maj. Justin Anderson walk a wreath to a grave site at Oak Hill Cemetery in Washington.



Maj. Peter Dahl and Lance Cpl. Lamour Hilburn pause for a moment of silence for Maj. Gen. Ben Fuller.



Maj. Justin Anderson places a wreath at the gravesite of Col. John Harris, sixth Commandant of the Marine Corps. Harris is buried at Oak Hill Cemetery, a picturesque botanical garden in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington.





(left to right): Gunnery Sgt. Shawn Reckard, Capt. Alexis Steele, Maj. John Barclay, Capt. Nute Bonner, and Master Sgt. Paul Dees form the parade staff for the wreath laying ceremony at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va., Nov. 10.



Cpl. Jason Darby, body bearer, assists retired Gen. Peter Pace, 16th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in placing a wreath at the foot of the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va.



U.S. MARINE DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS PERFORMS AT THE REOPENING OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR

STORY AND PHOTO BY CPL. BOBBY J. YARBROUGH



TO MARK THE 68TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR, THE U.S. MARINE DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS PERFORMED AT NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR DEC. 7 IN FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS.

Approximately 5,000 people attended the ceremony that honored World War II veterans and their accomplishments in the Pacific War. Distinguished guests included former President George H.W. Bush and wife Barbara, Texas Gov. Rick Perry, and Gen. James T. Conway, 34th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

During the ceremony, Bush, who was the youngest naval aviator in WWII, reminded patrons it is important to remember the sacrifices made by his generation, but also remember those that continue to fight for freedom today.

"It is right and important that we honor the genuine valor of men and women who throughout our history have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, for the cause of freedom, and perhaps most of all for each other," Bush said.

"We're also right to pause and thank the living for the honor and commitment they've shown, and continue to show, to preserving and protecting this, the greatest and freest nation on the face of the earth."

Keynote speaker Conway, said the war that took place within the Pacific is an event that we as Americans must remember.

"You and I must bring our children and grandchildren here so they can grow to appreciate the gifts the greatest generation bestowed on us all," Conway said.

Conway also spoke of the courage of service members currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan and reminded guests that our freedom is well protected.

The ceremony ended with Conway helping Bush use a pair of golden scissors to cut a ribbon marking the reopening of the George H.W. Bush gallery.

The George H.W. Bush gallery received a \$15.5 million expansion that takes guests on a chronological journey of the events and battles of WWII that took place within the Pacific.





Gen James T. Conway, 34th Commandant of the Marine Corps, addresses thousands of attendants at the reopening ceremony of the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, Texas, Dec. 7.





STAYING **GREEN**: REASONS WHY MARINES REENLIST

STORY BY CPL. JACOB H. HARRER



S UDDENLY, A CAREER IN THE MARINE CORPS LOOKS PROMISING. WITH THE NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT AVERAGE NOW PAST 10 PERCENT, THE STEADY PAYCHECK AND FREE HEALTHCARE PROVIDED BY UNCLE SAM ISN'T SUCH A BAD IDEA.

However, after four years of service, 80 to 85 percent of first-term Marines will return back to civilian life, said 1st Sgt. Peter Ferral, Headquarters and Service Company first sergeant at Marine Barracks Washington.

While the healthcare and job security may make a military career appealing to Marines with families, other factors often have a greater impact on retention than mere benefits, said Ferral. The decision to stay in the Marine Corps varies from person to person, and the economy is just one of many things to consider in each individual situation.

"No reenlistment is ever the same," said Gunnery Sgt. Tonya Hill, MBW career retention specialist. "I don't think the economy affects retention that much." Hill would know, as she oversees every reenlistment and extension for the more than 1000 Marines assigned to MBW. At any time of the day, she can be found behind her large desk with papers stacked in her organizer and a Marine sitting across from her, discussing career options with her.

Some Marines are set on getting out either way. Many are not able to reenlist because there are no positions available for them in their career field. Some Marines are not eligible because of medical or legal reasons, said Hill. Others have a choice but prefer to get out of the Marine Corps.

The Few, the Proud

Sgt. Danielle Martinis has been on both sides of the fence. When she left the Marine Corps in 2006, she found work in all sorts of jobs, from bartending and waitressing, to pouring concrete on construction projects in the Midwest, to sending faxes and rebates in an office packed full of women. After 13 months of moving from job to job as a civilian, Martinis returned to the Corps and reenlisted as a motor vehicle operator, her original job in the Marine Corps.

Martinis enjoyed the camaraderie of serving with Marines during deployments and in garrison. She deployed to Iraq and drove in convoys, as well as helped security forces by searching females at various checkpoints. "At the end of the day I felt more sense of accomplishment being a Marine," said Martinis. "I think I'll always be able to find some sort of job. I prefer to be a Marine than settle for something I don't want to do."

Cpl. Michael Lesiewicz can also find employment in the civilian market, but not enough to cover his new expenses. The Tuesday before Thanksgiving, he was sitting in Hill's office holding a paper with various reenlistment bonuses ranging in up-

wards of \$80,000. Lesiewicz recently discovered he has a child due in April. He wouldn't be able to support his family without a degree, so he plans to reenlist, land a bonus and use Marine Corps tuition assistance to pay for online college courses. "Before I even think about getting out in the civilian world I want to make sure my education is where it should be, at least with a bachelor's degree," said Lesiewicz.

Besides the benefits, the Marine Corps will give Lesiewicz a chance to deploy overseas, which he has been unable to do. After enlisting in the infantry, his career took an unexpected turn when he was selected for duty with the Marine Corps Color Guard at MBW. Since arriving in Washington, Lesiewicz has marched the colors at many high profile ceremonies and funerals around the nation, including the 44th Presidential Inauguration of President Barack Obama.

After nearly three years in the Color Guard, Lesiewicz is ready to take off his Dress Blues and deploy. "I kind of want to see what it's like to wear cammies everyday and get boots dirty," said Lesiewicz.

The Bottom Line

"A lot of Marines have different views on reenlisting," said Ferral. While in Iraq, many of his Marines reenlisted for tax-free bonuses of up to \$90,000, he said. Others, like himself, reenlisted because they enjoyed their jobs. However, a Marine's work environment has a greater impact on their first reenlistment than any other factor, said Ferral.

"Many Marines, especially young Marines, will reenlist or not reenlist depending on their environment in that unit," said Ferral. "For example, you'll have some Marines that are just not having a good time, and they don't like the Marines that they're working with. They think everyone's against them."

A good working environment, or high morale, depends on leaders enforcing order and treating Marines fairly, said Ferral. Effective leaders also give young Marines a sense of purpose in their daily jobs.

"If you have great leaders, great mentors, you tend to keep more Marines," said Hill.

Lesiewicz grew up with a strict father, and he appreciates having a tough gunnery sergeant around to uphold high standards. "Discipline... it's nice to know there is discipline still out there," he said. "This has made me realize this is exactly what I was made for." 





SPARTANS RUN OVER
CLAIM FLA



THE COMPETITION

G FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

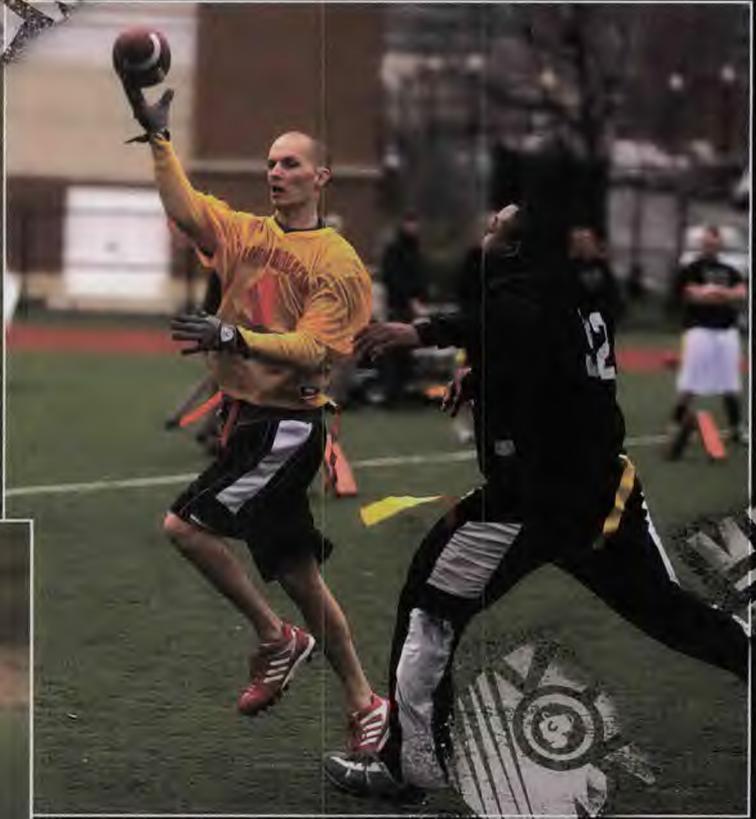


(Top Left) Ausin Benz uses his body to block a defensive player from getting to the quarterback. (Top Right) Lorenzo Williams catches a 53-yard touchdown pass from David Petty to score the first touchdown of the game. (Bottom Right) Jonathan Switzer uses his speed to break away from a Spartan defender in the first half. (Bottom Left) With his eyes closed, Daniel Rhodes jumps to catch a pass during the championship game.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. BOBBY J. YARBROUGH

THE FINALS ENDED IN A SHOOTOUT, BUT THE SPARTANS OF BRAVO COMPANY OVERTOOK THE GUARDS FROM GUARD COMPANY TO CLAIM THE 2009 MARINE BARRACKS WASHINGTON FLAG FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP ON DEC. 8.





(Top Left) Kurtis Toppert looks down field as he breaks past the defense for a 60-yard touchdown in the first half. (Right) The Spartans defense forces Ronnie Davis to throw an incomplete pass in the second half. (Bottom Left) Chris Brown runs past three defenders for a 23-yard touchdown in the second half of the game.

The finals looked to be a fair match-up between the two football powerhouses, as there was only one loss between the two teams. But it was the Spartans' dynamic air attack that eventually won out over the Guards' tenacious defense. With the win, Bravo finished the season undefeated with a record of 10-0.

The game started off quickly for Guard Company as wide receiver Daniel Rhodes scored a touchdown off a 13-yard pass from Ronnie Davis with 15:21 left in the half. The Guards attempted a run play for a two-point conversion, but was stopped short making the score 6-0.

It only took one play from the line of scrimmage for the Spartans to tie the game as Lorenzo "Silk" Williams caught a 53-yard touchdown pass from David Petty with 13:19 left in the half. The Spartans connected on a point after touchdown (PAT) conversion, taking the lead 7-6.

On their next possession, the Guards marched down the entire length of the field to retake the lead 12-7, finishing the drive with a 7-yard touchdown pass from Davis to Nathan Ihnen. Again the Guards attempted a two-point conversion, but was sacked short.

On the ensuing kickoff, the Guards kicked the ball out-of-bounds, giving the Spartans the ball on their own 40-yard line. Again, it only took one play for the Spartans to score as Kurtis Toppert ran the ball 60 yards for the touchdown. Petty attempted a PAT, but the pass was incomplete, making the score going in to halftime 13-12.

The second half started off slow for both teams. It was the Spartans who were first to attack. With 17:31 left in the game, Williams intercepted a pass from Davis and returned the interception for a 55-yard touchdown. The Spartans attempted a PAT, but was unsuccessful, leaving the score 19-12.

On the Guards' next possession, the Spartans' defense blitzed the quarterback and the Guards threw a short pass to Rhodes, who ran 41 yards past three defenders before being called down at the 23-yard line. The Guards capped the drive off with a 23-yard touchdown run by Chris Brown. The Guards completed a pass for the PAT, tying the score 19-19.

Both teams traded touchdowns on their next possessions. But it was the Spartans who sealed the win, finishing with a 40-yard touchdown pass from Petty to Williams to end the game 32-26.



Around the Barracks





Around the Barracks





CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

PUTTING ON GOD'S ARMOR

BY

LT. CMDR. JOHN R. LOGAN

With U.S. troops operating throughout the troubled areas of the globe, a combat deployment signifies that they must be prepared for battle. Over the years, researchers and defense contractors have worked on improving and manufacturing state of the art weapons and personal armor protection for military use.

The modern combat service member would not think about going into a combat zone without proper protective equipment (PPE) meant to preserve life. In the field these items include a weapon, flack jacket, and Kevlar helmet along with the other essentials designed for the warrior going into battle.

As an example, in the U. S. Marine Corps, it is well noted and emphasized that "every Marine is a rifleman." No matter the MOS or position, all are trained in marksmanship and must maintain that skill throughout their career. They are a "warrior first."

With special attention given to body armor, weapons, and training the U.S. military maintains a world renowned "gold standard" in war-fighting. The effectiveness and the dedication of our men and women in the uniform services of the Armed Forces are nothing short of outstanding.

As a military chaplain I'm drawn to contemplate the effects of another war that is fought continuously. It is namely the internal spiritual warfare that rages inside each of us. In truth this war has a consequence which is linked to the cosmic powers of eternity.

In Christian scriptures, Ephesians Chapter 6 verses 12-13, records the Apostle Paul writing, "For our struggle is

not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." Here it is noted that the battle is within, and he goes on to say in verse 13, "Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."

In conventional warfare we are well acquainted with the necessary outward protection needed to shield us from the blast of shrapnel and firing of bullets. But in spiritual warfare we must include consideration of the protection needed as we "put on the full Armor of God." For in this same chapter of Ephesians we read how each piece of equipment is outlined for us. It includes "the belt of truth buckled around our waist, with the breastplate of righteousness," and our feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the "gospel of peace."

In addition, we are encouraged to take up the "shield of faith, with which we can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one" and the "helmet of salvation and sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

Through our faith in the Lord, it is good to know that while we face the on slot of spiritual internal battles, we can rest assured that if we are girded with God's protective armor victory will be ours.

So, as we think about the invaluable armor that protects war fighters and personnel in a combat zone from physical harm, let us equally in faith take hold of the spiritual armor that God provides throughout our lives to protect against the mental and spiritual attacks that we face everyday. 



From all the Marines at Marine Barrack Washington
Happy Holidays





I, Brian Wilson, do solemnly swear
 that I will support and defend the
 Constitution of the United States
 against all enemies, foreign and
 domestic; that I will bear true
 faith and allegiance to the same;
 that I take this obligation freely,
 without any mental reservation or
 purpose of evasion; and that I will
 well and faithfully discharge the
 duties of the office on which I am
 about to enter.

So help me God.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 MARINE CORPS
 MARINE BATTALION 12
 MARINE CORPS
 MARINE BATTALION 12
 MARINE CORPS
 MARINE BATTALION 12

