

Pass In Review

June/July 1989



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On the cover...

In the center of this issue's cover, (L to R) LCpl. James Clift, LCpl. Lance Knowles, PFC Garrett Hendrix and LCpl. Ben Bourgeois show their determination as they help pull B Co. to victory. For more highlights of the annual Barracks field meet see page 12.

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"Czeching" out "Red" weapons

Bravo Co. Marines recently had a chance to "fam-fire" Soviet Bloc weapons at MCCDC Quantico, Va. Above, LCpl. Brian Carver fires an East German MiPKS assault rifle. The Marines also familiarized themselves with Chechloslovakian and Chinese weapons.



Barracks Talk

How do you plan to beat the summer heat?



LCpl. Kevin Vresh, A Co.

"I have a cast on my arm right now, but once it comes off I'll go to Ocean City or my pool at home."



Cpl. William Rasgorshezh, D&B Co.

"Pray for rain on Tuesdays and Fridays!"



LCpl. Michael Boyenga, H&S Co.

"Go to the beach, drink some cold beer and party in the shade."

Command Information

Spouse abuse can be stopped

Ask any military commanding officer if spouse abuse has occurred among his troops, and you will hear, "Unfortunately, yes."

Stress can lead to abuse in any family. But the military family suffers additional stressors that are unique, with abuse an all too common result. Low pay, many moves, job loss for the non-military spouse following transfers, money problems, and loneliness can all lead to spouse abuse.

Spouse abuse is a learned behavior that can be prevented. The first step is detection; second is crisis intervention, removing the victim to safety.

The final step is individual and/or group counseling for both the abuser and the victim. There is now a nationwide, toll-free hotline for victims of domestic violence 1-800-333-SAFE.

The telephones are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by personnel trained to respond to women calling for confidential information, referrals to local shelters and advice on the options available to them. The Henderson Hall Family Service Center's staff of counselors maintains information on various programs offered for both the abuser and the abused partner in the area and are available for counseling.

Henderson Hall FSC

Do you think you're a rifleman?

Riflemen are not born, they are made. Two hundred years ago, the youth of the day were not only learning to shoot straight, but were also learning the arts of concealment and outdoorsmanship that enabled them to steal upon their prey -- whether two or four footed.

Most, if not all, of our frontier heroes had their initial training in performing the ordinary routine work of their daily lives. Deer, turkey and elk furnished a large part of their larder. To successfully stalk and kill this game a man inevitably had to learn the stealth of the game itself. From those men and their achievements came the slogan labeling America "a nation of riflemen."

Our forbearers persevered and were extremely successful in eradicating their enemy because everyone was a rifleman; and their ability was not only in their marksmanship, but also their knowledge of the outdoors, their alertness, initiative and self-reliance under all circumstances. They were riflemen, but what about now?

For the last 80 years the military has been training men in the art, or science, of rifle shooting. Each Marine goes to the range once a year where everything is run according to schedule. The target is fixed in the same place it was yesterday; it won't move, it will stay right there until we're finished and, more over, someone down range will tell us exactly where each bullet strikes. That's great. We learn a lot from it. Sighting, holding, squeezing, et cetera.

But what happens in battle? In addition to hitting a clearly visible target at a known distance, we must know how to take advantage of all the available protective cover, move stealthily and adjust our fire. Without the other skills that make a rifleman, we create only a "man with a rifle."

With tanks, machine guns, automatic rifles and all the other machinery of modern war, it seems that the riflemen has been driven back



into his last ditch, the one he came from when America was a "nation of riflemen."

Every Marine, for the protection of his buddies and his own hide, must be able to locate the enemy and to place himself in a position where he can deliver effective aimed fire upon the enemy. Failing this, he can rest secure in the knowledge that his grateful nation has a spot reserved for him in Arlington -- with ceremonial support from Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C.

If a Marine is to survive at all, it must be because of his ability to go into battle as an individual, even though flanked by thousands of others. To be of any practical service whatever, he must be able to take advantage of cover, be able to search out individual men of the enemy, and in the heat of battle, shoot and hit those targets.

It's not easy, but it can be done. It is up to the real riflemen who are truly endeavoring to prepare themselves for war service. They must strive not only to qualify themselves, but to encourage and participate in training that fosters the development of those basic qualities that go into the making of a real rifleman.

by Capt. R.L. Anderson

Sergeant Major leaves the Barracks ...again



Col. Peter Pace and SgtMaj. L.R. Sanders.

"Baaaaa-tallion." The soft thud of hundreds of gloved hands snapping into the position of parade rest in unison resounds within the Barracks' walls. "Ahhten-huh." Once again the two companies of "marching" Marines come to life and lock themselves into the rigid form of attention.

Sergeant major's drill period is never a piece of cake, especially on a stifling summer day in Washington. The sergeant major demands perfection. He does not accept anything less. His attention to detail can turn a routine drill period into a numbingly monotonous hell.

SgtMaj. L.R. Sanders knows that. He knows how the sweat burns as it rolls into an eye, and he knows how stiff and sore

muscles get after standing still as a rock for hours. He knows because he served in a marching company during his first tour here almost 20 years ago. Now he is again leaving the Barracks for another command, making another entry in his career log-book.

Sanders began his military life in 1969 after he dropped out of college. With the war in Vietnam raging he knew it was only a matter of time before he would be drafted. So instead of waiting for an induction notice he enlisted in the Marine Corps.

"I felt it was the right thing to do," he said. "It's just the way I was brought up. I was taught to support your country. If the United States was committed to fighting the communists in Viet-

nam then I would help support that policy."

After boot camp at MCRD San Diego, Calif. and infantry training he was assigned to the USS Bennington from June to September 1969. He was then transferred to G Co., 2nd Bn., 7th Marines in the Republic of Vietnam. Despite the politics and controversy that muddled the war, Sanders didn't become disillusioned, he just concentrated on being a Marine.

"We never got wrapped up in the politics of it all," he explained. "We were all just young Marines thinking like professional soldiers. We worried about the people around us and our responsibilities and missions."

Feature

While serving with G Co., 2/7, Sanders' gift for leadership was recognized. He arrived in Vietnam as a private first class and left 13 months later as a sergeant. Most distinguishing were his meritorious combat promotion to corporal and earning the Navy Achievement Medal with a combat "V". His modesty does not allow him to talk about the circumstances which led to those awards.

After returning to the United States, he served in Security Bn. at Camp Pendleton, Calif. where he was interviewed for duty at 8th & I.

"I was working at the brig at Camp Pendleton and I was trying to get duty as a drill instructor in October 1971," said Sanders. "I made NCO of the quarter twice in a row and then they offered me a tour here at the Barracks. I didn't know much about 8th & I but I had heard a lot of sea stories about it so I felt pretty privileged to be selected for duty here."

Sanders was assigned to Guard Co. and then worked his way on to the Silent Drill Platoon where he served as the rifle inspector.

At that time there was only one company dedicated to ceremonial commitments, Guard Co. MCI Co. performed

as the other marching company in Evening and Sunset Parades.

According to the sergeant major a few other things have changed since his first tour here.

"Now we have the new BEQ for our enlisted Marines. When I was here during my first tour we lived in open squadbays in what is now the Barracks office spaces," he said. "We had footlockers and our rifles were kept in rifle racks right in the squadbay. The chowhall was where



Overseeing an Iwo Phase II.

the S-4 offices are now. As far as commitments go, both our responsibilities and our unit strength have increased proportionally over the years."

Sanders was promoted to staff sergeant in 1975 and served as a drill instructor for a year and a half. He was then reassigned to D.I. School as an instructor and meritoriously promoted to gunnery sergeant. He completed his tour on the drill field as the Drill Master at

D.I. School from December 1976 to May 1978.

Sanders then served as the company gunny for I Co., 3/4 in Okinawa, Japan. He followed that with a tour as the 81 mm mortar assistant platoon commander for 1/7. In May 1980 he attended recruiter's school and served as a recruiter in Recruiting Station Seattle, Wash.

He returned to "The Oldest Post" in 1982 as the first sergeant for B Co. In August 1986 he was promoted to sergeant major and assumed the duties that accompany that title.

Sanders said it will be hard for him to leave the Barracks -- for the second time. He said he will miss the quality of Marines and the special camaraderie that is unique to this post.

"It's been a tremendous pleasure to serve with so many superb officers, staff NCOs and enlisted Marines," he said. "Of course serving as the sergeant major at 8th & I is an honor that speaks for itself."

As Sanders heads off to become the battalion sergeant major for 3/8, SgtMaj. E.E. Jarrell will assume his duties as the new Barracks sergeant major.

"SgtMaj. Jarrell is a fine example of everything a sergeant major should be and he is a strong leader," said Sanders, describing his successor.

Sanders knows that strong leadership first hand. Jarrell was his platoon sergeant when he served as a marcher during his first tour at 8th & I.

**story and photos by
Cpl. J.D. Moore**

Screening begins for new Color Sergeant

Screening for the new Color Sergeant of the Marine Corps began here June 20. The Color Sergeant carries the National Flag at all Evening Parades and is the NCOIC of the Color Guard Section.

Some prerequisites include; combat arms MOS, height of 6'3" - 6'5", no NJPs or courts-martial, rank of sergeant with less than three years in grade, capable of obtaining top secret security clearance, a minimum of two years remaining on enlistment, strong leadership skills, and excellent oral communication skills.

Part of the selection process was a five-day evaluation for all candidates which began June 19 here. After these "try-outs", the final selection will be made no later than July 3.

The duties of the Color Sergeant include serving as the NCOIC of the Color Guard Section, according to Capt. Mark McDonald, Assistant Operations Officer. "The Color Guard takes part in about 80 ceremonies a month."

A proven leader

Because of the unique duties of the position, the Color Sergeant of the Marine Corps must be an NCO with proven leadership, poise and maturity.

The 20 Marines of the Color Guard section make up several color guard teams that perform at various official functions in the Washington,



The Color Guard represents the entire Marine Corps.

D.C. area. While the competition for the more junior members of the Color Guard is not as intense as for the Color Sergeant of the Marine Corps, these Marines, too, are hand selected during screening trips to each of the infantry training schools.

Like other color guards, the standard Marine Barracks Color Guard is also composed of four Marines. These include the Color Sergeant who carries the national flag, the bearer of the Marine Corps Battle Color and two riflemen who flank the standard bearers during the ceremony.

The Color Guard performs during every Friday Evening Parade here and in the Sunset Parades each Tuesday at the Iwo Jima War Memorial adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery.

The Color Guard also travels with the Marine Corps' Battle Color Detachment comprised of the U. S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and Silent Drill Team. They perform before hundreds of

News Feature

thousands of Marines and civilians on their annual East Coast and West Coast tours.

The Color Sergeant also plays a key role during "joint-service" ceremonies and at White House functions. As a member of the joint-service color detail, the Color Sergeant is present at every state dinner, official reception and arrival ceremony with the president.

"He's responsible for carrying the Presidential Colors in White House Ceremonies," McDonald said, "that's why he needs a top secret security clearance."

The Presidential Color, the President's personal flag bearing the Presidential seal on a blue background, is carried at official state functions when a joint-service color guard is required, according to McDonald.

The Color Sergeant is also charged with custody of the Battle Color, or official flag of the Marine Corps. This Battle Color, like those of each Fleet Marine Force unit, is the traditional flag bearing a large Marine Corps emblem on a scarlet field with gold fringes accompanied by various streamers representing the decorations the unit has received.

The Battle Color

What makes this color unique is the 47 streamers, decorated with palms, oak leaf clusters, and stars, representing all the battles and campaigns in which the Marine Corps has fought since 1775. On the Battle Color staff, or lance, there is another unique element; below the color, forty-seven engraved silver bands ring the staff, augmenting the streamers by noting the dates of each battle, campaign, and expedition. The Battle Color has traditionally been kept here at the Oldest Post of the Marine Corps.

The selection process for a new Color Sergeant begins every two-to-three years as the present Color Sergeant prepares for normal transfer back to the Fleet Marine Forces.

Initially, a message is sent to all active Marine divisions and brigades in the U.S. and to the two recruit depots, outlining the basic requirements for the position. Each command then screens applicants and sends the best man they have for the final five-day screening.

The evaluation process is one that involves teaching the nominees the basic sequence, timing,

and techniques required for the Color Guard's movements. It usually takes three days to learn the sequence, with one day of introduction and two days of practicing before the final evaluation on the last day.

It is more than just the practical application that counts, though. Interviews are conducted on various levels; with the present Color Sergeant, company commander, sergeant major, and finally the commanding officer of Marine Barracks 8th & I.

The Color Sergeant tradition

The history of the position dates back to the mid-1960's when GySgt. S. L. Eakins served as the first Color Sergeant from February to September of 1965. The Color Sergeants who have held the post since that time are listed on a plaque in the Color Guard office. D-Juan R. Boyd, is the present and 21st Color Sergeant of the Marine Corps who began his tour in September of 1987. The position of Color Sergeant is only one of the two enlisted posts which carry the title "...of the Marine Corps" -- the other is the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.

With this kind of tradition to uphold, the job will be a big one for the 22nd Color Sergeant of the Marine Corps. It's a position that offers a Marine in the rank of sergeant has opportunity to be a part of events that few Marines of any rank experience.

story by
Capt. M.D. Visconage

The selection process for a new Color Sergeant begins every two-to-three years as the present Color Sergeant transfers back to the Fleet Marine Force.

B Co. dominates at battalion field meet

With 63 points, B Co. left the rest of the battalion far behind at the close of the Barracks field meet and picnic at Anacostia Park May 24.

Bravo Co. steadily built their lead up throughout the day by dominating in most of the 11 events. They took first place in six events, and settled for second place only three times. A Co., leading the rest of the companies, totalled 39 points, capturing second place honors.

From the very beginning it was a see-saw battle between the two marching companies. A Co. fired the first salvo by placing first in the 100 yard dash; B Co. was second. Then Bravo Co. returned fire, taking first in the 880 relay and leaving A Co. in second. The sit-ups competition added another eight points to Alpha Co. leaving B Co. with five points for second.

With A and B Companies tied with 21 points each, D&B Co. surged ahead in the pull-ups competition leading the rest of the pack past the leaders. For once the marching companies tasted defeat with A Co. taking one point for fourth place and B Co. receiving no points for their last-place finish.

D&B, MCI and H&S Companies moment of glory was short-lived however. B Co. snapped back by taking first in the M-16 disassembly and assembly. The event marked A Company's downfall when they

took last place and surrendered the lead to B Co.

The shelter half assembly race was MCI Company's turn for glory with H&S Co. close behind them.

B Co. then exploded and secured their lead by stealing first place in the stretcher race, dizzy izzy and the run of the ranks. In just three events they nearly doubled their score from 26 to 50 points, leaving their only close competition, A Co., 19 points behind.

MCI Co. displayed their dexterity by carefully catching first place in the egg toss. B Co. came away with second adding another five points to their total.

The last event of the day was the tug-of-war with the marching companies facing off in the final battle between the two adversaries. Although the eight points for first in the tug-of-war wouldn't be enough to catch B Co., Alpha Co. fought hard to save face. A Company's determination wasn't enough to overcome B Company's squad fortified with behemoth body bearers.

With the tug-of-war victory B Co. claimed the laurels for the day with 63 points. A Co. followed with 39 and MCI Co. was close behind with 37. H&S Co. took fourth place with their 25 points and D&B Co. finished with 23.

**story and photos by
Cpl. J.D. Moore**



B Co. Marines pull their way to final victory



Sports



at the Barracks field meet.



Far left: Both tall and small alike enjoyed the field day and picnic. Left: Col. Peter Pace's steady hands kept his egg from breaking -- for a while anyway. Above: Despite this D&B Marine's efforts A Co. won the sit-ups contest.

Lyme disease spreading

HQMC News Release

The number of cases of Lyme disease, a potentially serious and extremely debilitating disease that can affect the skin, joints, nervous system and heart, has increased dramatically. It was reported that there were more than 5,000 cases in 1988. The Northeast, upper Midwest and Pacific states are the most heavily infected areas, but Lyme disease is now reported in 43 states.

The Northeast is one of the most heavily infected areas.

The disease's cause was traced to the bite of the Ixodes ricinus tick. The ticks are found in tall grass and brush and usually attach themselves to animals (especially deer and mice -- rarely humans), feeding on their blood. It is with the tick's biting and feeding that spirochetes from an infected tick enter man and thereby cause Lyme disease.

The disease manifests itself in three stages:

Stage I: *Occurs about three to 14 days after the tick bite, shows up as an expanding round or oval shaped rash. Up to 85 percent of patients develop this rash. It is the most important clue to early diagnosis.*

Stage II: *Occurs several weeks to months after the tick bite in untreated persons, appears as joint pain in about 60 percent of untreated persons. It can appear as headaches, meningitis, paralysis of facial muscles, or other neurologic findings, and can cause heart problems such as irregular heartbeat, dizziness and fainting in smaller percentages in untreated persons.*

Stage III: *The later stages of the disease occur in a small number of untreated persons months to years after the bite. It may cause progressive arthritis, intellectual deterioration or psychiatric disease. It is important to diagnose Lyme disease early in stage I, by the characteristic rash, and the*

patient's recollection of the tick bite. Blood tests for the disease are less effective in the earlier stage, but do prove beneficial in the later stages.

Protecting yourself from tick bites is the best prevention. Avoid wooded or grassy areas, particularly those inhabited by deer.

Oral antibiotics are effective in treating Lyme disease in its early stages. Penicillin or tetracycline derivatives are the treatments of choice. In later stages, intravenous antibiotics may be necessary.

Protecting yourself from tick bites is the best prevention. When you are living or traveling in an area known to be populated by ticks, avoid wooded or grassy areas, particularly those inhabited by deer.

When you do have to enter such areas, wear long sleeve shirts, long trousers, and pull your socks over your trouser legs so ticks cannot attach themselves to exposed skin. Insect repellents containing deet may be helpful. The ticks are small, about the size of a pinhead, but after a meal of blood, they may increase to many times their original size. Shower after exposure, and check your body for ticks. If you find any, promptly remove them with a pair of tweezers by grasping the tick as close to the mouth as possible and gently pulling it away from your skin. Parents should be especially careful to check their children after outdoor play periods. Also check your pets for ticks that may travel from the pet to a family member.

Lyme disease is a very serious health problem and the principal defense is protection, and if exposed, early detection and treatment. The skin rash is the earliest warning.

Hawaii Marine named MCI Honor Graduate of the year

By Capt. L.W. Fryer
MCI Co.

MARINE BAR-RACKS, Washington, D.C. -- SSgt. Mark S. Sidor was named the Marine Corps Institute (MCI) "graduate of the year" at a ceremony here recently.

The award is presented annually by MCI to a Marine selected from nominees from throughout the Marine Corps. A board of officers and civilian education specialists select the winner based not only on excellence in correspondence courses, but for areas such as useful application of skills learned, public service and the parent commands' recommendation. Sidor is a native of Johnstown, Penn.

As the MCI Honor Graduate, Sidor represented the Marine Corps in follow-on competition among other correspondence schools and was chosen as one of 13 National Home Study Council

Graduates of the Year. The National Home Study Council (NHSC) is the organization which accredits over 100 United States and international home study/correspondence schools, including MCI.

Sidor, an avionics specialist, is assigned to Station Operations and Maintenance Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. He has completed over 240 specialized skill training courses as well as numerous non-resident professional

military education courses. These have included the Staff NCO Academy, The Basic School, Amphibious Warfare School, and the Command and Staff College non-resident courses.

Sidor has completed over 240 MCI courses.

"I proved to myself that with a bit of push and studying there is no limit to what can be achieved," Sidor said. "I have taken on every military course as a personal challenge and, as a result, I strongly feel I have been able to provide the Corps with more than just an avionics man."

In addition to the benefits of self-im-

provement, Sidor also received several more tangible rewards for his efforts. As the graduate of the year, he received a free four-day trip to Washington, D.C. to accept his awards. Activities held in his honor included a tour of the nation's capitol, a reception and dinner on "embassy row", an NHSC awards luncheon, a tour of MCI, and a private photo session with his Congressional representative and senators.

Nomination forms for the next competition should be received by all commands during September, 1989. The "graduate of the year" award is a part of MCI's continuing efforts to recognize excellence among Marines enrolled in MCI correspondence programs.

Further information regarding MCI "graduate of the year" nominations can be obtained by contacting Terry M. Franus or Capt. L. W. Fryer at AUTOVON 288-2672.

Recruiter's Assistants needed in the South

6th MCD PAO

The 6th Marine Corps District needs Marines to serve as permissive TAD recruiters in Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

The details of this program are outlined in MCO 1130.62.

Marines interested in the program should contact their first sergeant or sergeant major. Further questions should be directed to MGy-Sgt. E.C. Wimberly at the 6th Marine Corps District headquarters, comm. (404) 347-7550.

Barracks Information

Chaplain's Column

We hear it said so many times, "Like father, like son." I don't know about you, but when I think about my son being like me, it frightens me. I don't always want my son to be like I am.

When I was growing up I thought I had all the answers and my father didn't know as much as me. But as I got older, my father seemed to gain more and more knowledge. Of course becoming a father myself really helped me appreciate my father, and the positive influence he has had on my life.

Father's Day is a day set aside in June to remember our fathers. It was first observed on June 17, 1910. In 1923 the third Sunday of June was fixed as the official day, and in 1924, President Coolidge recommended its national observance.

Our fathers deserve the commendations conferred on them, and many of us will make it a special day for them. But Father's Day shouldn't be the only day we show our appreciation for our fathers. Everyday of the year our fathers should know how we feel about them.

It has been said that God is like a father. In some cases, if God is like a father some children would have nothing to do with him. Therefore, we should remember that fathers should be like God. Then we would all be happy to say "Like father, like son."

"I thank thee, Lord, for all the good my father shared with me; and though he made his own mistakes, He sought to live for thee."
-- Dennis J. DeHann

The best inheritance a father can leave his children is a Godly example.

Remember your father.

by LCDR James Griffith
Barracks Chaplain

July at a glance...

☛ July 4

Independence Day. NBC "Today" show broadcasts live from the Barracks.

Sunset Parade.

☛ July 6

French Bicentennial special parade.

☛ July 7

1941--1st Marine Aircraft Wing founded.

Evening Parade.

☛ July 10

1941--2nd Marine Aircraft Wing founded.

☛ July 11

Sunset Parade.

☛ July 12

Sergeants Major Post and Relief ceremony.

☛ July 14

Evening Parade.

☛ July 18

Staff NCO Sunset Parade.

☛ July 21

Evening Parade.

☛ July 25

Sunset Parade.

☛ July 28

Evening Parade.

Note: Due to ceremonial commitments, some of the events listed above may be rescheduled or cancelled. Use your chain of command for more detailed information.

Help Wanted

Parade Announcer needed -- P/T position as announcer for Evening and Sunset Parades is now open. Announcer may also travel with ceremonial units on road shots. **No prior experience or resume required.** All applicants must audition. Applicants call SSgt. H. Freeman, Public Affairs Office at 433-4173/4497.

Ask the Gunny

Before we became a nation, our land knew many flags.

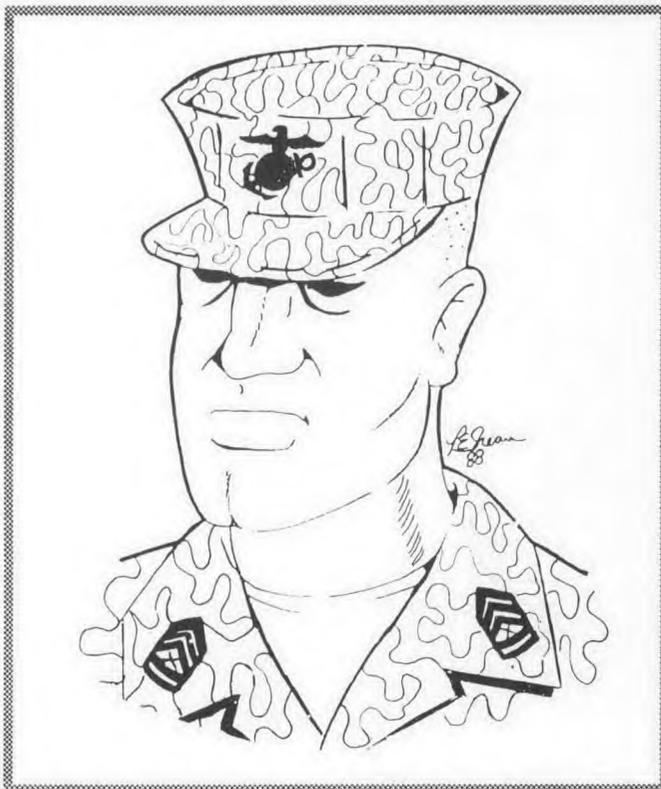
Long ago, the norsemen probed our coastal waters sailing under the banner of the black raven. Columbus carried a Spanish flag across the seas. The pilgrims carried the flag of Great Britain. The Dutch colonists brought their striped flag to New Amsterdam (now New York city). The French explored the continent under the royal fleur-de-lis. Each native Indian tribe had its own totem and insignia. Immigrants of every race and nationality, in seeking a new allegiance, have brought their symbols of loyalty to our shores.

During our revolution, various banners were used by the not-yet-united colonies. A green pine tree with the motto, "An appeal to Heaven," was popular with our young Navy. The rattlesnake's warning, "Don't tread on me," was displayed by aroused colonists along the Atlantic seaboard. The Moultrie "Liberty" flag, a large blue banner with a white crescent in the upper corner, rallied the defenders of Charleston, S.C. in 1776. The "Bunker Hill" flag was a blue banner with a white carton filled with a red cross and a small green pine. The flag of the maritime colony of Rhode Island bore a blue anchor under the word "Hope". Strikingly similar to today's "Stars and Stripes" was the flag carried by the Green Mountain Boys of Vermont at the battle of Bennington on August 16, 1777.

When George Washington took command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, Mass. in 1776, he stood under "The Grand Union Flag" which continued to show a dependence upon Great Britain. The carton of this flag was filled with the crosses of St. George (England) and St. Andrew (Scotland).

The first "Stars and Stripes" was created by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777. This date is now observed nationally as Flag Day.

In this flag the 13 stars, representing the constellation, were arranged in a variety of designs. The most popular -- with the stars in a circle so that no state could claim precedence over



another -- is known as the Betsy Ross flag in honor of the seamstress who is supposed to have sewn the first one.

Initially a star and a stripe were added for each new state admitted to the Union. It was the flag of 15 stars and stripes that withstood the British bombardment at Fort McHenry in Baltimore Harbor in 1814 that inspired Francis Scott Key to write the "Star Spangled Banner."

Later, as other states were added, the Congress, feeling that more stripes would blur the basic design, returned to the original red and white stripes.

Since 1818, each new state has brought a new star to the flag. This growing pattern of stars could be said to reflect the growing dimensions of America's responsibilities, as the 13 stripes reflect the constant strength of our country's traditions.

Semper Fidelis,

Smedley D. Smutt
GySgt. USMC



From the attic...

Although the actual skyline of the city hasn't changed much in 15 years, the view from the girders of the "new" BEQ afforded one a slightly different perspective in October 1973.