

Pass In Review

March 1989





photo by SSgt. Matthew Peraz

An H&S Co. Marine fires the M-60E3 during warrior training at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

"We're going to jazz it up a little around here; less of these [ceremonial] details and a little more time out in the field. I think we need to balance it out. The sergeant major tells me we're looking at 200 more performances this year than we

had last year. I'm going to walk that one back a bit."

"Clearly, if you serve at Quantico, or Albany, or here you're not going to go to the field as frequently as others, and so that time must be precious used." -- Gen. A.M. Gray,

Commandant of the Marine Corps speaking to Barracks Marines last September



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On The Cover

Capt. Steven Suddreth teaches B Co. squad leaders how to use a sand table to illustrate the terrain shown on a map. B Co. has a modified version of the Squad Leader's Course for its Marines.



photo by Cpl. J.D. Moore

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Commanding Officer Col. Peter Pace
Managing Editor SSgt. R.H. Odermann

Public Affairs Officer Capt. M.D. Visconage
Editor Cpl. J.D. Moore

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Command Brief

Reenlistments and extensions limited

First termers requesting reenlistment after their military occupational specialty (MOS) is closed will be required to lateral move to an open field according to ALMAR 30-89.

Marines whose end of active service (EAS) is in fiscal year 1989 and plan to reenlist or extend must declare their intentions by June 15. This will allow the Marine Corps to meet its congressionally authorized end-strength.

Local authority to approve a single one month extension, to allow a Marine to submit a reenlistment or extension request is suspended for Marines with an EAS in September.

Marines who do not reenlist or extend before the deadline risk losing their opportunity for any

further service because of the needs of the Marine Corps.

The following extension categories are not affected by this policy:

- to avoid undue hardship
- to accept promotion to gunnery sergeant and above
- transfer to the Fleet Marine Corps Reserve
- Marines in short MOSs who extend to be deployed

For more information contact the Career Planner, SSgt. Frye at 433-5404.

Barracks Talk

Have a gripe or a suggestion? Write it down and drop it off at the Public Affairs Office and we'll print your comment and an answer from a command representative in this column. All submissions must be signed.

How has decreases in military benefits affected your decision to make the Marine Corps a career?



SSgt. John Waldschmidt, D&B Co.

"That doesn't really affect me. I think it's an honor to serve in the Corps, but when I retire I'll be upset if they cut them."



LCpl. Chris Jones, H&S Co.

"You should base your decision on how much you like being a Marine, not on what you will get in benefits."



Sgt. Joseph Steele, Marine Band

"I just reenlisted so it hasn't affected my decision. I'm more concerned with what's going on in the Marine Corps today."

Leadership Outlook

Editor's note: The following article was published in "Marine Outlook", a newsletter for midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy who are interested in becoming Marine Corps officers. Although the wording may be directed towards midshipmen, the lessons are applicable to all Marines.

After four years as a midshipmen, I finally realized that graduation was right around the corner. From day one of plebe summer I was pointing towards the day that I could don the uniform of an officer of Marines. However, as commissioning approached, I realized that I had some worries and doubts about whether or not I would measure up to the Marine standard, a standard of excellence. I had some ideas on how things should be in the Marine Corps. Some of the ideas proved to be right, many wrong. I was anxious to get started in my career upon graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy and then also from The Basic School (TBS). A few of the things that I've learned or experienced along the way I'd like to share.

Upon reporting to my first duty station, I was amazed at how much I didn't know about the Marine Corps. One of the most valuable assets in our Corps today is our staff noncommissioned officers (SNCO). Seek out the real good ones for their advice and counsel. As a brand new second lieutenant, rifle platoon commander, I was fortunate enough to have a company first sergeant who charged himself with the responsibility of assisting in my professional development. I was extremely fortunate to have a career Marine with 17 years in the service indoctrinating me in the Marine Corps way of doing things. Our professional and personal relationship has proved to be invaluable even today. I realized that in order to learn I had to be willing to listen.

With the small size of our Corps you will find that, throughout the years, you will serve with many of the same officers and SNCOs time and time again. The professional reputation that you establish at TBS and most importantly at your first duty station is extremely important. You should try to be an officer who can be counted on to get the

job done in the best, most efficient way possible. Remember that if you don't complete the mission in a timely manner, someone is going to have to take up the slack. A team player knows the need to make the pressure lay-up or turn the double play, so too on the Marine team. Very simply stated, we don't let our fellow Marines down.

Oftentimes, there are preconceived ideas regarding the type of leadership style an officer should possess and exhibit. The leadership style that will probably prove to be the most effective for you is one developed from past experiences and from the heart. If you attempt to act as you think you should, and in essence be a false person, you will be found out. Your creditability will decrease as your fellow officers and Marines see through your act. Be true to yourself, while keeping the Marine way of doing things as a part of your style, personality and life.

You will find yourself with many tasks and missions assigned to you that will require action almost immediately. Consequently, you will have to count on your Marines to get the job done. You will have to place your confidence in them while still realizing the need to supervise their actions. Try to allow your Marines an opportunity to make decisions and formulate plans for mission accomplishment without constantly looking over their shoulders, while continually remembering that you are ultimately responsible for all they do or fail to do. There is a fine line between too much supervision and not enough. You will find out that you will develop a sense of how much supervision is necessary in relationship to the task at hand and the Marines assigned to complete it. However, the bottom line is that you should always take care of your Marines and in turn they will take care of you.

As a brand new second lieutenant, I remember how proud I was to put my uniform on for the first time. Today, I am even more proud to be an officer of Marines. I have never regretted my decision to enter the Corps. Every day I am challenged. The Marine Corps has entered into one of its most exciting periods in years. We're changing and growing to maintain our reputation as the finest fighting organization in the world. Those of you who decide to take the challenge and join our ranks, well done. Congratulations and welcome aboard.

Capt. D.A. Bethel USMC
U.S. Naval Academy

Royal Marine Visits Band

Observant viewers of President George Bush's inaugural parade may have spotted one distinctive uniform among the Marine Band's sea of red coats. This uniform was worn by Maj. John Ware -- the newly-appointed Principal Director of Music of Her Majesty's Royal Marines -- who made history by becoming the first Royal Marine to march with the U.S. Marine Band in a presidential inaugural parade.

In preparation for becoming principal director of music for the British Royal Marines' Bands on March 2, Ware requested to spend six weeks with "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band to observe the musical, organizational and administrative aspects of the band.

"Every new principal director is given a six month sabbatical to be used in the most productive way possible," he explained. "I came here for part of that time because I thought it would be very useful and something I'd enjoy doing. I wanted to observe how the Marine Band works and I wanted to broaden my own musical experience."

In addition to listening to the Marine Band, Ware was also invited to conduct. "I've had the great experience of conducting rehearsals with the band and have enjoyed working with such able and professional musicians," he said.

Ware also spent many hours in the Marine Band library doing research in the archives and listening to recordings. "Much of your American band music is not in the band repertoire of the United Kingdom," he explained. "In doing research, I've gotten ideas for pieces to include in our repertoire."

During his time with the U.S. Marine Band Ware spent a few days visiting the Marine Corps band at Quantico, Va., the Armed Forces School of

Music in Norfolk, Va., and the other major service bands in the Washington, D.C. area. "It was interesting to see how the bands' musical approaches differed according to their audiences," he said.

In comparing the Royal Marines Band with the U.S. Marine Band, Ware commented, "Although in many ways our procedures are different, the basic problems we encounter are very much the same. It seems as if they're worldwide problems. For example, we share similar manpower and financial problems. In days when the services are making manpower and budget reductions, there's a constant degree of self-analysis that has to go on in order to maintain an efficient and worthwhile music program."

According to Ware, the bands also face a similar challenge.

"The real value of all of this is the exchange of ideas and the opportunity to find out how others do things. There are procedures here that we can implement and procedures we have that perhaps I have added to your system."

-- Maj. John Ware

"Constant adjustment must go on to produce the very best music while fulfilling our important military role."

One musical difference created a challenge for Major Ware; the disparity between British and American musical terminology. "When you go to a foreign country that speaks a totally different language you either understand it or you don't. It's really much

more difficult when you go to a country that basically speaks English because then you think you know the language but find that many words mean something entirely different," he explained.

"Many of your musical terms actually mean something very different in the United Kingdom.



photo by MSgt. Andrew Linden

Maj. John Ware conducts the Marine Band.

For example, when you talk about a tone, we would talk about a note. Also you have whole notes, half notes, quarter notes, eighth notes, etc., which is mathematically precise and more descriptive. Our equivalents are semi-briefs, minims, crotchets and quavers. When I worked with the band, I was never totally convinced that my message was getting across to the musicians!"

"The real value of all of this is the exchange of ideas and the opportunity to find out how others do things," said Ware. "There are procedures here that we can implement and procedures we have that perhaps I have added to your system."

Ware has a wealth of military band experience from which to draw. He has served in several Royal Marine Bands including a two year commission with the band of the Royal Yacht, "Britannia".

In 1968 Ware became a Licentiate of the Royal Academy of Music in London. He was promoted to Band Sergeant in 1973 and two years later became the first Band Sergeant to be commissioned directly to Lieutenant.

He has served as Director of Music to the Flag Officer, Naval Air Command and the Commando Training Center Royal Marines and Commando Forces. As Director of Music of Commando Forces, Ware served aboard the SS Canberra during the Falklands Campaign of 1982. That same year he was promoted to Captain. He served as the Director of Music Training at the Royal Marines School of Music in 1987.

In July, 1988 he was promoted to Major and selected to become Principal Director of Music, Royal Marines.

Before coming to America, Ware used his sabbatical period to compose, arrange and transcribe music. He also spent time at the College of Technology near Manchester, working with their new degree course in Band Musicianship which is the first of its kind in England.

In addition to doing musical research work, Ware had what he described as "uniquely American experiences" during his stay in Washington.

"Marching with the Marine Band in the inaugural parade was a great honor for me which I will remember all my life," Ware said.

"Having Ware march with the Marine Band in the inaugural parade symbolically represented the brotherhood of these two very old musical traditions," said Col. John R. Bourgeois, Director of the U.S. Marine Band.

Ware also had the honor of meeting President Bush. Ware described the event: "I attended the Alfalfa Club dinner where I was introduced to President Bush. When I shook his hand he commented on seeing me marching in the parade with the Marine Band. That he remembered such a small detail from a day when so much was happening to him, I think, indicates the sort of person your new president is."

Ware also spent time in the Library of Congress' music division. "The opportunity to look at the musical treasures there -- to hold the original manuscripts of Bach, Beethoven, Brahms and even Benjamin Britten -- was marvelous," he said.

Although he had a full schedule, Ware found time to go sightseeing with his wife, Elizabeth. They toured the Pentagon, attended many concerts and operatic performances at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and visited most of the Smithsonian museums. "We found the Air and Space museum particularly intriguing because the United States and the Soviet Union are the only two countries in the world in the position to have such a museum," he said.

Ware left for England February 17 and assumed leadership of the British Royal Marines' Bands March 2. Aside from the knowledge and experience he gained with "The President's Own" Marine Band, Ware cited another, equally important reason for his visit here. "This visit helped to re-establish and strengthen the ties which have existed between our two sides of the Atlantic Ocean for a very long time."

story by

SSgt. Nancy Colburn

The Man Behind The Mask

It's 10 p.m. on a cold night in January. The sky is clear, the stars are shining, and warm breath hangs like a cloud in the night air.

The outdoor Tucker Road Ice Skating Rink, in Oxon Hill, Md., is alive with shards of ice spraying from flashing blades. Hockey sticks slam into the ice, trip up skaters, and bounce off walls.

These players are doctors, lawyers, judges, pilots, businessmen, retirees and grandpas.

They are the diehards of hockeydom -- the over 50 bunch.

"Basically we were coaches or officials, or a combination of both," said goalie, Truman Crawford. "We started getting together and rented the ice because we enjoyed the game."

Since he was a toddler growing up in Endicott, New York, Major Crawford, the director of the U. S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps has been active in some aspect of hockey. However, it was during a break in military service from the Air Force in 1963 that he and his family became "hockey nuts".

"That's what they called us," quipped Crawford. "We went to every Black Hawk game for four years."



The Man Behind The Mask -- Maj. Truman Crawford

Crawford entered the Marine Corps as a staff sergeant in 1967 and rose to the rank of master sergeant by 1973 when he was commissioned as a warrant officer. He recalled that hockey had really started to flourish back in '67.

"My three boys grew up in a hockey family," said Crawford. "That's when I began coaching."

Through his experiences, officiating in the American Youth Hockey League, Crawford has made many friends.

Now, they suit-up every Tuesday to race on steel blades across frozen water playing

against each other. Each weekly encounter is a panacea for these warriors -- reliving the magical sense that comes from competition, personal satisfaction and ageless camaraderie.

There aren't any crowds to cheer these gladiators on, save the isolated thud of a hockey stick banged on a rail signifying a successful goal attempt.

There aren't many pucks that get by Crawford. He describes his style as floppy not sloppy. In the hockey vernacular it's called a "floppy goalie"--one who goes down to cover the ice surface.



Crawford defends his goal.

"I'm fortunate. I've got very long legs," said the 55 year-old Crawford. "I'm able to compensate for my lack of speed, at this archaic old age, by covering a lot of space."

Crawford looks at his goalie position as a challenge and a constant gauge to temper other expectations in life.

"The goalie is the last bastion of defense," said Crawford. "So it's you against everyone. When the goalie is scored against, the other skaters just skate off. The spectators look toward the goalie as the one who let the puck come in. There's a lot of frustration to that!" said Crawford. "But you learn to accept the challenge of the guys taking the shot. Accept the pitfalls when the puck goes in the net, wipe it off and go on to the next play." added Crawford.

"If you think about it there's a parallel to life. If you

let one little disappointment bug you, the next is going to be even worse. That's the basic philosophy that I relate to," said Crawford.

There are some nights that things don't go right. But the night's that go well are best remembered. Like the night Crawford stopped a retired National Hockey League player on a break-away.

"I remember coming in and telling my Marines, 'Wow. I just had the highlight of my career. I stopped Buggy Watson on a break-away.'" Crawford reminisced. "Well, the first thing out of their mouths was, 'What's a break-away?' and 'Who's Buggy Watson?' So it's sort of an inner circle (we play in). I'll be 90, sitting around in my rocking chair, and I'll remember that as much as shaking hands with the president. That may sound kind of weird, but it showcases the kind of enjoyment we get out of the game."

"We usually go by a first name basis on the ice," Crawford said. "Realistically, the only thing we have in common is that couple of hours we play hockey. The greater majority of the players have no idea what the other guy does for a living--who we are doesn't make a diddly-darn."

It's no problem for Crawford to suit up for the 10 p.m. to midnight games.

"It's never too hard to do that!" Crawford exclaimed. "It's hard the next morning. The excitement of getting out and playing takes away any aches and pains you may have before-hand. The next morning...you feel it."

Although Crawford jogs and exercises regularly, playing hockey uses a whole different set of muscles.

"I just played in a game and then went on a battalion hike the next day," said Crawford. "That was a mistake. I knew that I wasn't as young as I used to be. But, then I found out that I wasn't as young as I used to be!"

For Crawford, gathering to play hockey is no different than meeting to play basketball or volleyball. It's the enjoyment of playing with friends.

Yet, they skate with a purpose, flying hard down the rink with one thing in mind -- to drive a flat, round, 3-inch, hard rubber disk into the net behind the final outpost of defense, the 55 year-old goalie.

"For a few moments of life you're Bobby Hall, you're Phil Eposito, you're a star," said Crawford. "Then it's over to fast. But it's a lot of fun."

story and photos by

SSgt. Richard H. Odermann



Capt. Steven Suddreth instructs squad leaders on Soviet tactics and equipment.

B Co. squad level leaders are working hard to keep up with their Fleet Marine Force (FMF) counterparts by attending a uniquely modified squad leader's course.

The class was adapted by Capt. Steven Suddreth, B Co. Executive Officer, from the 2nd Marine Division's eight week Squad Leader course. Suddreth condensed the course into 36, three hour classes. It is mandatory for all of the company's non-commissioned officers (NCOs) regardless of their end of active service, and all lance corporals serving as guides, squad leaders or in the company headquarters.

"We found that a lot of our key leaders on the squad level are weak in tactics when compared to their peers in the FMF," said Capt. David Close, B Co. Commanding Officer. "Because of our unique mission here at the Barracks, our leaders tend to be picked primarily for their leadership and drill skills.

B Co. trains squad leaders

Through this training we can round out their professional education and make them more tactically proficient."

During the classes, which are held over the lunch hour, the Marines are taught about squad offensive and defensive tactics, how to call for supporting fires, night fighting and urban warfare.

They learn about mechanized infantry, and helicopter operations. A large part of the course covers the employment of most of the Marine Corps' small weapons systems like the Squad Automatic Weapon, M-60E3 Machine Gun and M203 Grenade Launcher.

"We're being taught all of

the skills that we will need in the FMF to make us better leaders in combat," said LCpl. Bob Coppage, Admin NCO.

The classes meet every Monday through Thursday during lunch and continue into the early afternoon. Although much of the training is field oriented, all of the classes have to be taught in garrison because of Barracks commitments. The students and instructors work around this using a lot of practical application, and yes, "homework" too.

"When we were planning the course we had to compare what we wanted to teach with what we could teach them because of our



Cpl. Joe Nenzel inspects a Communist bloc weapon.

time limitations," Close said. "Ceremonies are our number one mission, so we had to compromise."

"To compensate for the lost field time we stress practical application," he continued. "The Marines have handled several different weapons systems and they use the sand table to learn tactics. We also augment the classes with audio-visual training aids to reinforce the lessons."

"Finally, the class will go to the field for a squad leader's field exercise March 31 to April 2 to apply and be tested on all they've been taught," said Close.

As a student, Coppage admits the lack of field time detracts from the course, but feels the practical application

does help replace some of it.

"The course would be more effective if we could go to the field more, but we do get a ton of 'hands-on' training," said Coppage. "It's not the same as being in the field so we have to work harder in the classroom to get around it. We may not know the weapons and tactics practically, but we know them technically, and that kind of knowledge will lead to the other."

Close said he thinks the course will have a definite impact on the quality of leadership within his company.

"The number one effect it will have is it will build our squad leaders' confidence in their abilities and knowledge. We are training the trainers. We want to make them the tactical experts within their respective squads," Close said.

"We're already seeing the effects of lessons on 'issuing orders' spill over into our day-to-day functions like field day and accountability," he added. "The students are applying what they've learned so we know we're having a positive effect."

"I think the course will help us become a better leaders," said Coppage. "We're broadening our span of knowledge so we can lead a squad more effectively. But more importantly, we'll be able to teach our Marines so they'll be versatile and able to take our places if we become casualties."

Since the information learned in the classes won't be used on a constant basis here like it would be in the "Fleet", the real test of the new B Co. course will be when these first 22 students move on to the FMF. Coppage is confident that the

training is an advantage for B Co. Marines headed to another command.

"We're getting a real insight and an edge on the other Marines that go to the Fleet from the Barracks," he said. "We will be the most tactically proficient company here at the Barracks. We're eager to learn and we want to be the best. This training can't do anything but make you a better Marine and a better leader."

Although their version of the Squad Leader's Course is still in its early stages, Close hopes that through trial and error, the course can develop into a regular block of B Co. training.

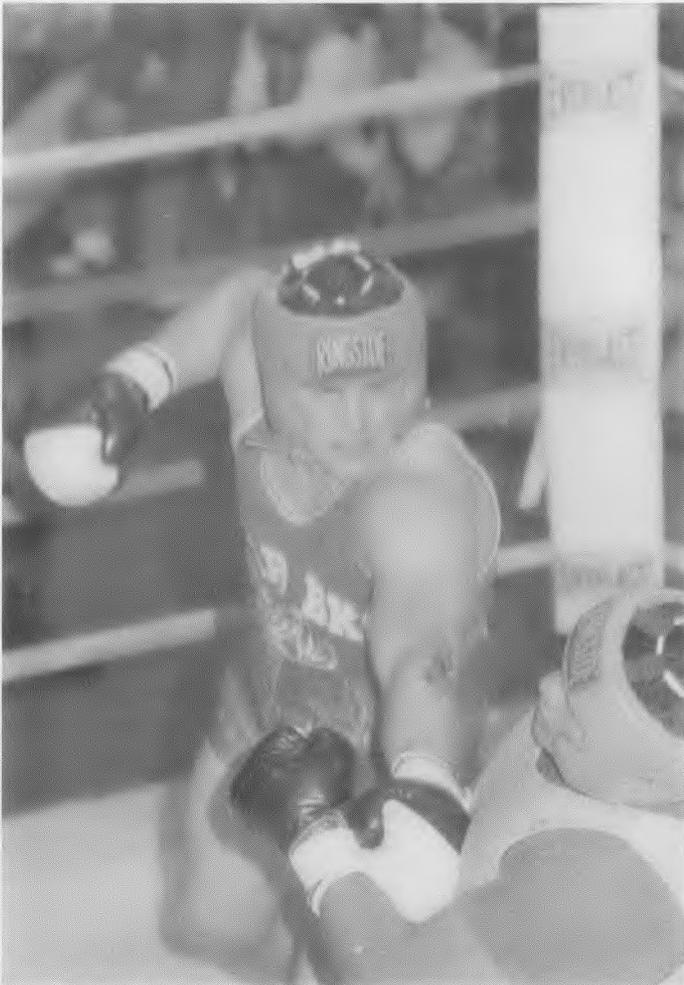
"This is the first time this has been done here at the Barracks so we're going to take a look at how we can improve it based on feedback from our students and instructors," he concluded.

story and photos by
Cpl. J.D. Moore

"This training can't do anything but make you a better Marine and a better leader."

-- LCpl. Bob Coppage

Barracks Slugfest



LCpl. "Gus" Hedger nails LCpl. "Speedy" Gonzales.



photos by Cpl. J.D. Moore

PFC A.D. Caswell swings at LCpl. "Hammer" Henderson.



Cpl. Wayne Sanchez wraps a boxer's hand.

Boxing Smoker Results

W	Pvt. "Boom-Boom" Rodriguez	A Co.	183 lbs.
L	LCpl. "Optomist" Simpson	B Co.	188 lbs.
W	PFC S.A. Robinson	A Co.	178 lbs.
L	PFC "T.N.T" Carver	B Co.	167 lbs.
W	LCpl. "Gus" Hedger	A Co.	208 lbs.
L	LCpl. "Speedy" Gonzales	H&S Co.	194 lbs.
W	LCpl. "Hammer" Henderson	A Co.	185 lbs.
L	PFC A.D. Caswell	H&S Co.	196 lbs.
W	PFC "Walsp Stanga" Brock	A Co.	209 lbs.
L	PFC T.J. Nelson	B Co.	220 lbs.

Tanker jacket available

The new intermediate weight tanker's jacket should now be available at most Marine Corps exchanges.

The jacket, designed by the Clothing Designing Branch at Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany, Ga. is made of a poly/wool gabardine fabric and is water repellent. It features a ribbed collar, cuffs and waistband, and four pockets, two breast pockets on the inside and two slash pockets on the outside.

"That's more pockets than any Marine Corps jacket has ever had," said Carmen Dippolito, chief of the Clothing Design Branch.

The jacket is authorized for wear with service "B" or "C" uniforms and can be worn alone or over the service sweater. It cannot be worn with cammies.

"It is also authorized for men and women," said Judith Legg, military uniform specialist in the office of the Marine Corps Uniform Board, HQMC. "Women may need a larger size than they normally wear, however, and we recommend that everyone try the

jacket on over the service sweater before they buy it to ensure the best possible fit."

When worn with a uniform, the jacket must be zipped at least to the top of the slash pockets. If worn over the service sweater, the cuffs and waistband of the sweater must not extend past the cuffs and waistband of the jacket.

Grade insignia for officers should be worn on the shoulder strap, the same as for the all-weather coat. Enlisted Marines will fix metal or plastic grade insignia to the shoulder strap with the single point inboard, placed in the same manner as for field or company grade officers.

The tanker's jacket can be worn during duty hours, to and from home "basically at the same times as the service sweater," said Legg. It is not authorized for wear during inspections, ceremonial formations or in parades, however. It can also be worn with civilian attire providing grade insignia is

removed.

Because the jacket is water repellent, it must be dry cleaned, and, "we recommend that the water repellent treatment be reapplied (by the cleaners) after every four or five dry cleanings," said Legg.

The new jackets can be purchased at the Henderson Hall exchange for \$64.50. According to Bob Bailey, assistant sales manager, the Uniform Shop did not have any of the jackets in stock as of Feb. 14, but a shipment is expected in the near future.

Bailey also said defects have been found in the placement of some of the shoulder straps. "We've found that some of the epaulets have been sewn on off center," he said. "If a customer finds this the case on their jacket, they should return it to the exchange they purchased it from so the problem can be fixed."

by Ginger Watson
MCLB Albany, Ga.

Essay Contest

The U.S. Naval Institute is sponsoring a Marine Corps Essay contest titled, "Moving Forward Into the 1990s."

Essays should discuss current Marine Corps issues and the future direction of the Corps.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the three winning essays. The essays will also be published in the November, 1989 issue of "Proceedings," the monthly magazine of the institute.

Contest rules are available by writing to: The U.S. Naval Institute Membership Department, Annapolis Md., 21402.

Staff NCO degree completion open

Applications are currently being accepted for the fiscal year 1989 Staff Noncommissioned Officer (Staff NCO) Degree Completion Program.

Active duty Marines from staff sergeant selectees through first sergeant or master sergeant who have accumulated sufficient college credit to obtain a bachelor's degree during 18 months full-time college attendance may qualify for the program.

Further information is available in Marine Corps Order 1560.21B and ALMAR 281-88.

Chaplain's Corner

Lent is a glorious 40 day retreat. During this retreat we should take the time to ask, "What have I been doing with my life? What has God been teaching me? Where have I succeeded in living God's way? Where have I failed? What do I need to confess to God, and what should I change?" A Lenten retreat is a time to recognize God's call to come back.

Like the story of the young man in the scripture called the Prodigal Son who makes a calculated choice to come back to his father.

"I will get up and go to my father and say, 'Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired workers...'"

Like the son in this story, I marvel at the father's response.

"He was still a long way

from home when his father saw him; His heart was filled with pity, and he ran, threw his arms around his son, and kissed him. He said, 'Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet...let us celebrate with a feast!'"

O Lord, you are tender, compassionate, gracious and so slow to grow angry. Thank you.

"You are our peace, O Lord from the thousand wearinesses of our daily life, from the nervous and senseless haste, we turn to you and are at Peace. The clamor dies, we are alive in the sunshine of your presence. Even so come, Lord Jesus, to this soul of mine." -- Meditations for Lent by Joyce Hedged

Lt.Cmdr. James Griffith
Chaplain

March at a glance

March 2

- 1776 -- Revolutionary Marines conduct their first amphibious raid on New Providence, Bahamas.

March 6

- Drum & Bugle Corps, Silent Drill Platoon and Color Guard begin the West Coast Battle Color tour.

March 7

- Happy Birthday to the Brazilian Marine Corps -- founded in 1808.

March 13

- Battalion hike.

March 16

- 1945 -- Operations on Iwo Jima end.

March 17

- Battalion commander's uniform inspection.
- Happy St. Patrick's Day!

March 24

- Good Friday -- Easter '96 weekend begins.

March 27

- Easter '96 ends. Time to get back to work!



Support the USO.
With no direct federal funding, the USO relies on private contributions.

Ask the Gunny

Ask anyone to name the first president of the United States and "George Washington" is the likely response. But, it could be argued that in 1781 a lesser - known American, John Hanson from Maryland, became the first president.

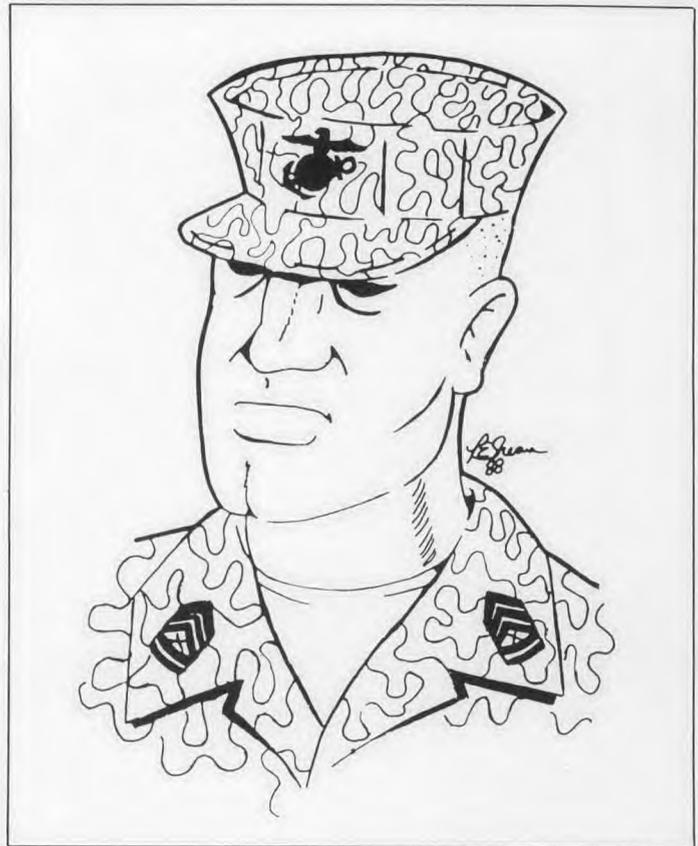
After Hanson, seven other men held that high office before Washington was elected on April 30, 1789.

The reason: Although the office of the President as it is known today, was not created until 1789, the office of "President of the United States in Congress Assembled" has existed since 1781.

Hanson first attracted public notice in 1757 when he was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates, or General Assembly, where he sat until 1779. A staunch patriot, he established himself as a prominent leader in the growing discontent and agitation over British rule of the Thirteen Colonies.

To represent their interests, the colonies established the Continental Congress in 1774 with delegates sent by each colony. Although reticent at first, the Congress responded a year later to the outbreak of hostilities by creating the Continental Army under the leadership of George Washington. On July 4, 1776 the Declaration of Independence was issued. John Hanson was elected to congress as a Maryland delegate in 1779.

Apart from conducting the war against Britain, Congress was also concerned with the creation of a federal constitution. There was a pressing need both to define the relative powers of congress and of the states themselves. A committee, with one member from each state, was created to examine the problem. In July, 1776 the committee issued what became known as the Articles of Confederation. From 1781 until 1789 these 13 articles were the law of the land, until superseded



by the Constitution.

One of the Articles stated that a delegate could be appointed "to preside" over the Congress. John Hanson was elected to this office on November 5, 1781. He served in the post for one year. During his tenure peace terms with Britain were drawn up, treaties with foreign powers signed, and government departments instituted.

Hanson lacked the executive powers that a constitution would invest in Washington and his successors. He was powerless to enforce the measures of Congress, which were often ignored by the individual states.

By 1786 the political weakness of the Articles were identified. In 1789 the newly formed Continental Congress governed the United States. John Hanson, largely forgotten, had the honor of being its first president.

Semper Fidelis,

Smedley D. Smut
Smedley D. Smut
GySgt USMC

From the attic...

Barracks Marines stand in formation sometime in the 1860s. Behind them is the "old" Centerhouse on the 8th Street side of the Barracks.



U.S. Marine Barracks,
Washington D.C.