

PASS IN REVIEW

OCT. NOV. DEC 2011



Photo by Cpl. Austin Hazard

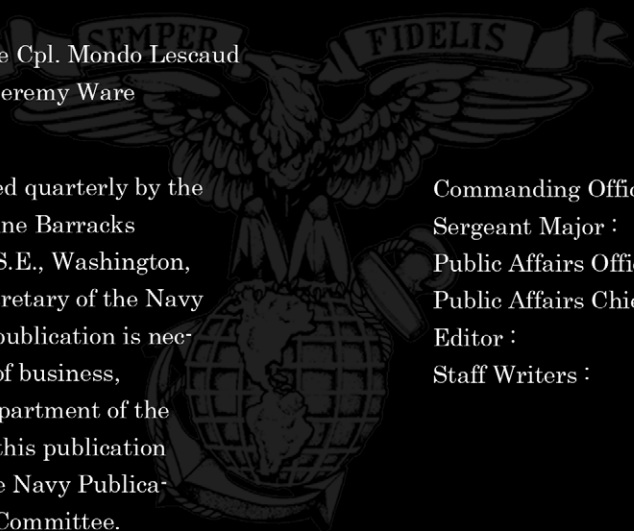


Pass in Review

Oct.Nov.Dec 2011

Front cover photo by Lance Cpl. Mondo Lescaud
Back cover photo by Cpl. Jeremy Ware

Pass in Review is published quarterly by the Public Affairs Office, Marine Barracks Washington, 8th & I Sts. S.E., Washington, D.C., 20390-5000. The Secretary of the Navy has determined that this publication is necessary in the transaction of business, required by law, of the Department of the Navy. Funds for printing this publication have been approved by the Navy Publications and Printing Policy Committee.



Semper Fidelis

Commanding Officer :
Sergeant Major :
Public Affairs Officer :
Public Affairs Chief :
Editor :
Staff Writers :

Col. Paul D. Montanus
Sgt. Maj. Eric Stockton
Capt. John D. Norton
Staff Sgt. Ryan S. Scranton
Cpl. Austin Hazard
Cpl. Dengrier Baez
Cpl. Jeremy Ware
Lance Cpl. Mondo Lescaud

CHECK US OUT AT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.MARINES.MIL/UNIT/BARRACKS



Seizing the cup

The 2011 Commander's Cup comes to a close after dozens of competitors fight through 15 unique events

Page 6

Beyond the call

Marine Barracks Washington conducts Sgt. Dakota Meyer's Medal of Honor flag presentation ceremony

Page 16

Tactical 2 Practical

Barracks Marines field the Marine Corps' newest pistol holster and tell you what they think

Page 30

Other Stories

Measuring up
Finding the path
Happy 236th birthday
Brothers of the guard
Music in the Schools

Page 10
Page 12
Page 14
Page 22
Page 24



6



14



24



Public Affairs Office

Notifications

The good, the bad and the digital:

Why you should follow your unit's social media and how to represent the Corps digitally

[See All Notifications](#)



Cpl. Austin Hazard posted...

Social media is no new phenomenon, but the trend is fairly new to Marine Barracks Washington. While there are a few stipulations related to interacting with unit social media sites, you shouldn't be deterred from supporting your unit or keeping up with the Barracks.

In November, the oldest post of the Corps set up official unit Facebook, YouTube and Flickr accounts, relating events from around the Barracks on a regular basis. The Barracks uses these sites to relay current unit news and events, as well as links to other relevant news or pop culture events, like Justin Timberlake's blog about his Marine Corps birthday ball experience.

However, these tools don't simply work one way; followers can provide their input and help improve any of the sites or inform us of what kind of stories or content they want to see. In this way, you can influence the information we provide or how we deliver it. Suggestions are always welcome.

Families and friends may also appreciate your unit's social media prospects and enjoy seeing a better picture of what you do and what your duty station is all about. The Marine Corps can be a difficult thing to explain to loved ones, and the Barracks is specialized even further from the rest of the Marine Corps. Following a unit's social media outlets can be a useful asset to help them understand your day-to-day. With a little luck, they may even see a photo, story or video that includes you on one of our sites.

While it is recommended every Marine here at least browse the pages, and preferably follow them, Marines should have a basic understanding of the Corps' social media policies. All of these guidelines are detailed in the "mission" section of our Facebook page and "about" section of our YouTube page. They are pretty simple and straight forward and match the rules of etiquette for most websites, easily summarized as common propriety. Essentially, avoid posting anything offensive or inappropriate, including foul language and hurtful or explicit statements.

Regardless of whether you follow the Barracks' page, Marines should be just as mindful of their own Facebook accounts and the things they post on them. Saying something derogatory on your page about a superior or the command in general can land someone in hot water. It is your page, but that doesn't mean you can't be held responsible for what you say on it. Even employers in the civilian sector will sometimes research applicants through Facebook and subsequently reject them based on the individual's page, so don't think the Marine Corps can't operate in a similar fashion. Marines should always strive to be the consummate professional, on and off duty, on and offline.

[Like](#) · [Comment](#) · 46 minutes ago ·

Gregg Schmuckately
Man, Gunny Beltbuckle is an idiot. He has no idea what he's doing...
18 minutes ago · [Like](#)

David Beltbuckle
Good to go, PFC. Be in front of my hatch at 0700.
13 minutes ago · [Like](#)

Write a comment...

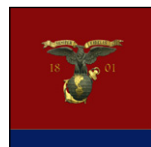
About

Marine Barracks Washington is the oldest post of the United States Marine Corps and is one of the hallmark units of the Corps.

PAGES



www.youtube.com/1801marinebarracks



www.flickr.com/marinebarracks



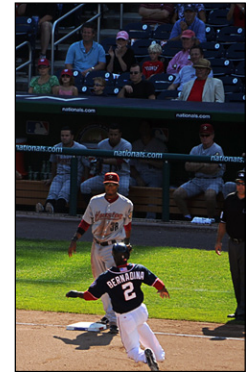
www.facebook.com/marinebarracks

Cpl. Austin Hazard also posted...

There's a lot of merit to what these sites offer, and as long as you mind what you say as you would in public, there should be nothing to worry about. It doesn't mean you can't have fun or be yourself, just remember you always represent the Corps.

Despite your actual level of involvement, I think every Marine and sailor should follow his unit's social media pages to give him an idea of what is going on with his unit outside of what's passed at formations. Plus, the Barracks is a small unit, and you never know when you might see your picture in one of our photo galleries or your face in a YouTube video.

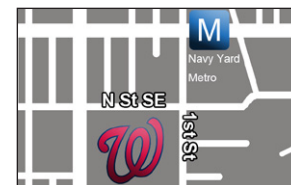
[Like](#) · [Comment](#) · 48 minutes ago ·



TOURING DC

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Story and photos by Cpl. Dengrier Baez



Hot dogs, a cold drink, a baseball mitt and your favorite team's jersey are all you need to enjoy a few hours of fun on the weekend. The folks at Marine Corps Community Services have the rest covered.

Barracks Marines can enjoy a regular season game of baseball, football, basketball and even soccer if tickets are available. MCCS often offers these tickets to major sporting events in D.C.

This fall, I took advantage of some free tickets to go see a Washington Nationals baseball game on a hot Sunday. Although I'm not a fan of the local team, I grabbed my glove and baseball cap and headed to the ballpark.

If you're not a fan of the home team, there's always a chance your favorite team will play here so be on the lookout for tickets. But I think an afternoon of baseball, or any other sport for that matter, is one well spent.

Luckily for me and the other Marines here, the journey is only a few short blocks. To avoid parking hassle, which I recommend, drivers

should opt to use the metro system if available.

My seats were in the upper level by center field and there also wasn't any cover from the sun. It was a bit uncomfortable, but nothing some sunscreen and a baseball cap couldn't cure.

It was definitely a family atmosphere, though toddlers and infants might not have the tolerance to endure a two-to-three-hour event like this one. When taking children, I would ask MCCS if the event is child-friendly before acquiring the tickets.

Keeping my family in mind, I noticed the team's merchandise was priced the same as any other team across the league but food and beverages were a bit expensive. My suggestion is to eat at a decent-priced food establishment before the game to save money for snacks and souvenirs for friends and family.

I sat through the whole game and enjoyed a cold drink and a pretzel. To my surprise, the home team came out on top after three back-to-back homeruns were smacked into

the stands by the Nats' players in one of the latter innings.

Besides a good game, I enjoyed the different activities like the president's run, in which members of the Nats staff dressed in cartoonish costumes of Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson and George Washington and raced around the field.

The ballgame was dedicated to the victims of 9/11 and military service members. It hit home and by the expressions of some fellow leathernecks in the same section, I could see the sentiment was mutual.

Next time MCCS has tickets, take advantage of the opportunity and get yourself and a buddy out to enjoy a game. Even if it's not your favorite team, get out there to enjoy an afternoon at the ballpark or sports arena of your choosing.

If that's not what you're looking for, you should check with the Barracks family readiness officer and MCCS for other activities. MCCS has events ranging from volunteering to concerts, all available to you and your fellow Marines.





Seizing 

 **the** **CUP**



The 2011 Commander's Cup

— Story by Cpl. Dengrier Baez —

It was a competitive and exciting nine months at Marine Barracks Washington for the competitors of the 2011 Commander's Cup.

Running, tossing, pushing and even crawling at times, the competition proved challenging to its participants. The cup came to an end with a competition fit for warriors, the Ammo-can Decathlon, Nov. 16.

The strength and stamina challenge was modeled after the combat fitness test, which is used to test Marines' physical capabilities. Three events consisting of ammo-can lifts, an 880-yard run and 80-yard maneuver course with a casualty evacuation were timed and counted for a final score.

"It was definitely a challenge," said Pfc. Marco Briceno, Company A marcher. "The CFT is one thing, but maxing out and then pushing beyond that was really hard."

The Barracks' 2011 Commander's Cup was composed of 14 competitions from mid-March to mid-November, ranging from obstacle courses to kayaking. The competition challenged the Marines' military knowledge, marksmanship, competitiveness and physical and mental discipline. Marines were awarded points for their performance in each event.

The decathlon was a bittersweet end to what has been the Barracks' showmanship of strength, endurance and will. Among the events, a few in particular wedged in the minds of the competitors and attendees throughout the series.

The Cliffhanger -- The opening competition of the cup tested the Marines ability to boulder up a rock wall without support. Bouldering is a form of rock climbing in which the climber isn't harnessed in by a rope when he climbs. During the competition, climbers followed a color-coded route on the face of the wall that was determined by the difficulty of the climb.

Rambo -- Running, shooting and traversing a quarter-mile course was the mission of the day for the competitors of this event. After a two-mile run, Marines shot a pistol to hit an assigned target before they could move on to an obstacle course and back again to ace another target to complete the timed challenge.

Whitewater Wipeout -- Marines participated in the kayaking challenge in which they had to maneuver through 10 gates while kayaking down a winding, treacherous river. They were given a small inflatable kayak, a paddle and a



Whitewater Wipeout

The Whitewater Wipeout consisted of competitors kayaking through half a mile of man-made whitewater rapids at Deep Creek Lake, Md., Sept. 29. The Marines aimed to pass through several gates and were scored by the number of gates they successfully hit. Pfc. Dan May, Barracks armorer, won the event for Headquarters and Service Company.

Points: 90



Musclefest

Eight strength challenges comprised Musclefest, six of which were timed. All of the events were conducted here at the Annex field Oct. 18. The events included a truck push, 45-pound keg lift, 25-pound kettlebell throw, 100-pound tire flip and 135-pound sled pull. Cpl. Zachary Williams, Marine Corps body bearer, won the event for Company B.

Points: 80

brief 20-minute crash course on how to safely traverse the course.

Tough Mudder -- In this event, competitors tackled 27 obstacles spread across more than 10 miles of mountainous Virginia woodlands. The course's many obstacles included a log carry, barbed wire crawl, running up a quarter-pipe and advancing through hundreds of dangling, exposed live wires. Several other obstacles involved frigid water, adding wind chill to the event's many challenges.

Other notable events were the Angry Aardvark, Raging Rhino, Musclefest, and the Marine Corps Marathon.

The cup's overall point leaders were Capt. Nicholas Schrobach, male and overall top finisher, and Capt. Lorelei Gaus, female top finisher. Schrobach won 7 out of 14 events, totaling 860 points. Gaus participated in 9 out of 14 events,



Raging Rhino

The Raging Rhino had challengers running and swimming at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., Oct. 25. The Marines began running two miles, followed by a 300-meter swim, another mile run and a final 150-meter swim. Maj. Phillip Ash, Barracks operations officer, won the event for Headquarters and Service Company.

Points: 100



Ammo-can Decathlon

The Ammo-can Decathlon had challengers running a modified combat fitness test here Nov. 16. This final challenge consisted of Marines running 880 yards in boots and the camouflage uniform, maximum ammo-can lifts in two minutes, and a maneuver under fire course. Capt. Nick Schroback won the final event for Company B.

Points: 30



Tough Mudder

The "toughest event on the planet," held at Wintergreen, Va., Oct. 22, comprised 27 obstacles spread across more than 10 miles of mountainous woodlands. The obstacles included a log carry, barbed wire crawl, and advancing through hundreds of dangling, exposed live wires. Capt. Nick Schroback and Capt. Eric Dwyer tied the event.

Points: 90



Final standings

Company A won the 2011 Commander's Cup on the unit level with a total of 5,903 points. The standings were calculated as the sum of all the points each company's Marines earned throughout the tournament. The second-place unit was Company B. Capt. Nick Schroback and Capt. Lorelei Gaus were the overall male and female winners.

Points: 5,903

totaling 615 points.

"The competition did an excellent job of showcasing all of the great activities available in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area," said Gaus. "I greatly enjoyed competing in the events and I am looking forward to seeing what new events will be available."

The top finishers were each to be rewarded an Apple iPad, but in the spirit of competition the top commissioned finishers surrendered their prizes to the two top enlisted finishers during an awards ceremony at the Barracks. Lance Cpl. Felipe Ramirez, top enlisted finisher and Company B marcher, and Sgt. Kevin McAllister, second place enlisted finisher and Drum and Bugle Corps bugler, were presented the prizes by Col. Paul D. Montanus, the Barracks commanding officer, Nov. 28.

"We're going to bring back some of the events that challenge the Marines' abilities like Whitewater Wipeout, Musciefest and some others," said Montanus. "Everyone did a really good job and it was beyond my wildest expectation."

To close the ceremony, Montanus presented the last prize, the trophy, to Capt. James Hagerty, Co. A commander. Co. A finished with a total of 5,903 points to beat out Co. B, which finished with 5,789 points, and Headquarters and Service Company which finished with 3,750 points.

"The Marines in Co. A are really athletic and highly motivated, which is why their great performance throughout the competition didn't surprise me," said Hagerty. "This cup is the result of the collective hard work of the Marines. I'm really proud of them and what they have achieved."

Measuring

MCI carries Lejeune's legacy into the digital

Founded by Lt. Gen. John A. Lejeune, commanding general of Marine Corps Bases Quantico, Va., in 1920, the Marine Corps Institute provided vocational education for the Marine Corps, later transitioning to military education by correspondence. Today, the institute uses a re-vamped system where students can enroll in, study for, and take tests for courses online.

Originally at Quantico, the institute moved to Marine Barracks Washington near the end of 1920, where it evolved over the years into what it is today.

MCI started out by providing job training and skills for the civilian world, according to its website. The school's first graduate was Lance Cpl. Walter C. Irving, who took a livestock course.

It was in 1926 that Lejeune, then the commandant of the Marine Corps, began transitioning MCI to by-mail military courses. The institute removed its vocational courses in 1953, switching solely to military education. At this time, the school also dropped its old materials and curriculum, created by the International Correspondence Schools, and began to create its own.

The institute retains its own resident experts, who write the study materials and exams Marines will use. These experts often travel to different posts in the Corps to confirm and gather information. With its own facilities and equipment, MCI is also capable of printing its own study books and test books, though it sometimes contracts its printing out to other companies.

The institute relocated to the Washington Navy Yard in 1967, moving a couple more times around the shipyard before finding its current home in 1993.

According to the institute's website, the online transition began in 1999, when MCI accepted its first online enrollment. After the anthrax postal scare following 9/11, MCI furthered its transition to avoid the delay experienced with governmental postage. The institute completed the shift in 2005, offering study materials and exams over the Internet.

Now, testing by correspondence is only offered to reservists and Marines in special cases who cannot test online, effectively slashing the institute's environmental footprint and expenses. Based on the exams and materials MCI would have printed to cover the Corps' online examinations since 2005, approximately 13,000 trees have been spared.



The total number of course manuals, or "red books," the Marine Corps Institute has printed to date could reach the orbiting International Space Station more than three times when stacked end to end. The space station orbits 173-286 miles above the planet's surface. Additionally, the number of red book pages MCI is estimated to have printed could wrap around the equator nearly eight times when laid end to end.



ng Up

age By Cpl. Austin Hazard



Online



The number of red books MCI has printed over the years are estimated to weigh more than 10 C-17s loaded to their maximum takeoff weight. The books' net weight is upwards of 3,000 tons.



k The number of trees MCI Co. has saved by going online and decreasing their environmental footprint is north of 13,000. That's the equivalent of a small forest.



million

The expenses MCI Co. has cut by going online and decreasing their print production is approximately \$7.6 million. That's only over a six-year period.



x 20k

By reducing printing, packaging and shipping by going digital with tests and study materials, the institute has saved more than 190,000 man hours since 2005, based on conservative estimates.



Petty Officer 3rd Class Gary Facteau hunches over his smart phone, engrossed in its content, barely noticing the stares of passers-by. His camouflage uniform stands in bold relief to his stark white surroundings. His rank pinned precisely to his collar; U.S. Navy proudly stitched to his chest; Star of David necklace hanging around his neck; black yarmulke snugly on his head.

The 24-year-old Navy corpsman spends the few precious spare moments in his busy clinic schedule studying religious texts.

A little more than a year ago, while stationed at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, N.C., Facteau decided to dedicate his life to Judaism. Since then, he has been maneuvering between his burgeoning faith, his Baptist roots and his duties in the Navy.

Facteau said Judaism caught his eye after his own religious experiences left him wanting, but the small town of Jacksonville outside the base and in the heart of the Bible-belt was a less-than-ideal environment for his conversion.

“It was difficult in North Carolina,” said the sailor. “If you make a life altering change, the people around you start asking a lot of questions. Then I got orders to Marine Barracks Washington and the stars aligned because there is a strong Jewish community in the area.”

D.C.’s Jewish collective emboldened Facteau to take a leap of faith. Soon after arriving to the District in August, he contacted the Barracks chaplain to find a local synagogue and has been donning his modest black cap ever since.

“I wear the yarmulke every day, both in and out of uniform,” explained Facteau. “Nobody has ever said anything about it, but I do get a lot of looks.”

Facteau has had to adapt to more than just the looks. His conversion requires the supervision of a rabbi and the observance of many new customs. With more than 600 Mitzvot, or commandments, that govern the Jewish faith, Facteau said he has had to work hard to strike a balance between his personal faith and his duties to the Corps and the Navy.

At work

As a corpsman at the medical clinic at the Washington Navy Yard, Facteau helps support approximately a thousand Marines at the Barracks. Day-to-day operations can be taxing. Barracks



Petty Officer 3rd Class Gary Facteau, Marine Barracks Washington hospital corpsman, takes a moment to Nov. 15. Facteau visited the museum as part of a Barracks function, but the trip held a special meaning and adjusting to the new lifestyle. He cannot complete his conversion until he makes a pilgrimage to

Marines support dozens of events each week and corpsmen frequently travel in tow. This demanding schedule often conflicts with his religious requirements, compelling him to forgo religious formality for daily practicality.

“It’s difficult sometimes because I have prayers that I am supposed to say, usually in the morning when I have clinic hours” said Facteau. “You’re supposed to pray at the same time as those at synagogue, but sometimes I’ll pray in the early morning because I won’t have time later.”

Longer junkets are especially difficult for Facteau, like when he traveled with the Marine Drum and Bugle Corps to the Texas State Fair in October. Facteau spent three weeks with the D&B in Dallas as they performed and helped the Corps recruit. Performances were a daily occurrence and the weekends were no exception. The three-week tour also coincided with the Jewish holy days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Facteau missed out on some of the observances, but the D&B helped him find a local synagogue and ferried him back and forth



Finding the PATH

By Cpl. Jeremy Ware

Photo by Cpl. Jeremy Ware

reflect on the atrocities of the Holocaust in the Hall of Remembrance at the National Holocaust Museum for the young corpsman. Facteau is currently converting to Judaism, studying religious texts Jerusalem, which he plans to do within a year, and receives a blessing from religious officials there.

to many services. He said he is dedicated to both his duties and the Jewish faith, but understands that at times the two will conflict. He also said reconciling those differences is made easier with the backing of his command.

“It’s hard balancing the two,” Facteau said. “But, it’s a lot easier knowing the Barracks supports me.”

There’s an app for that

The yarmulke atop Facteau’s head and the necklace he always wears never let him forget his goal, and the phone in his pocket helps him get there. Facteau has blended theology with technology by using some of the many religion-oriented applications now available for his smart phone to help alleviate some of the difficulties with his conversion.

“My phone is the lifeline to my conversion,” said Facteau. “I have a couple of books at home, but my main source of prayers is my phone.”

With a few swipes and taps, Facteau has access to apps that

help him memorize Jewish prayers, learn Hebrew and even keep him eating right.

For the 120-pound sailor who loves to eat, the latter can be the most difficult. Although numerous rules dictate the preparation and consumption of food for orthodox Jews, Facteau said the one he finds the most difficult to stick to is from the Books of Exodus and Deuteronomy, concerning meat and dairy. He can’t cook meat and dairy on the same stove and can’t consume dairy right after eating meat. Many of his Jewish friends wait up to 12 hours before consuming dairy after meat, but he only waits one hour.

“I get hungry,” Facteau said, “That’s kind of my human side coming out. I want to do what’s right, but I want to do the easy thing as well.”

For some, these changes may be too difficult, but Facteau’s faith has tempered his perspective. “I don’t think of it as never having a cheeseburger again,” he said. “I think of it as becoming Jewish.”

Hard habits to break

Having grown accustomed to work, Facteau balances his job and his religious convictions every day. What he still can’t get the hang of is not working. Each week from sunset on Friday to the following night, Facteau observes Shabbats or the Jewish day of rest reserved for spiritual reflection.

Facteau explained that on this day Jewish people are not allowed to use electricity, fire or even drive a car. All these things are considered work, and Jewish people are not supposed to work on their day of rest.

“My biggest problem is lights,” Facteau confessed. “Turning on a light switch is considered work, so you can’t do it on Shabbats, but turning on a light when you walk into a room is a hard habit to break. I will walk into a room and flip on a light and immediately know something is wrong. Then it hits me, ‘The light wasn’t on!’ That’s one of the hardest things right now.”

Since Facteau is not Jewish yet, he is not bound by Jewish laws. But because of his desire to convert, he strives to abide by them.

With each passing day, Facteau’s Baptist roots become unanchored and he gains a firmer footing in his Judaic convictions. He said he thinks he will continue to have his gaffs and miscues as he moves closer to his goal, but is not too hard on himself.

“My rabbi said its okay...,” laughed Facteau. “I’m not Jewish yet.”

Happy 236th birthday

Barracks honors former leaders of the Corps

By Cpl. Austin Hazard

Whether Marines are deployed or stateside, the Marine Corps celebrates its birthday in a number of ways every year. Part of those festivities includes honoring the leaders from our past.

Annually, Marines from Marine Barracks Washington, along with the commandant and sergeant major of the Marine Corps, pay their respects to former commandants, sergeants major of the Marine Corps and other Corps heroes who are laid to rest in and around the Capitol.

This year on Nov. 10, six

teams, each comprising a Marine Corps body bearer, Marine Drum and Bugle Corps bugler, and either a Barracks officer or the Barracks sergeant major, visited 25 graves of prestigious Marines throughout Arlington National Cemetery, Congressional Cemetery and Oak Hill Cemetery, as well as Naval Academy Cemetery in Annapolis, Md.

“It’s important to remember and honor those who preceded us,” said Sgt. Maj. Eric Stockton, Barracks sergeant major. “This is not just for the birthday, but also to honor our veterans for Veterans Day.”

The Marines honored included Brig. Gen. Archibald Henderson, Lt. Gen. John A. Lejeune, Cpl. Rene Gagnon, one of the famous flag raisers on Iwo Jima, Lt. Col. William Ward Burrows, the Corps’ second commandant and founder of the Barracks, and Gen. Leonard Chapman, the 24th commandant and “Father of the Evening Parade.”

“It’s a unique

privilege that we can honor some of the Marines that made the Barracks what it is today,” said Stockton.

Four of the wreath-laying teams preceded a modified parade, in which Gen. Joseph Dunford Jr., assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, Col. Paul D. Montanus, Barracks commanding officer, and Sgt. Dakota Meyer, the guest speaker and first living Marine Medal of Honor recipient since the Vietnam War, laid a wreath at the foot of the Marine Corps War Memorial.

Following the ceremony, Dunford and Sgt. Maj. Micheal P. Barrett, sergeant major of the Marine Corps, visited the graves of former commandants and sergeants major, respectively. Barrett’s group, which included the Barracks sergeant major, also laid a wreath at Gagnon’s grave.

After paying respects to each individual, Barrett began coordination to incorporate a visit to the grave of Cpl. John Mackie, the first Marine Medal of Honor recipient, into next year’s event.

“We’ll invite Sgt. Meyer to place a wreath at Cpl. Mackie’s grave here at Arlington next year,” said Barrett. “Connecting these Marines is a befitting way for one great warrior to honor the other.”

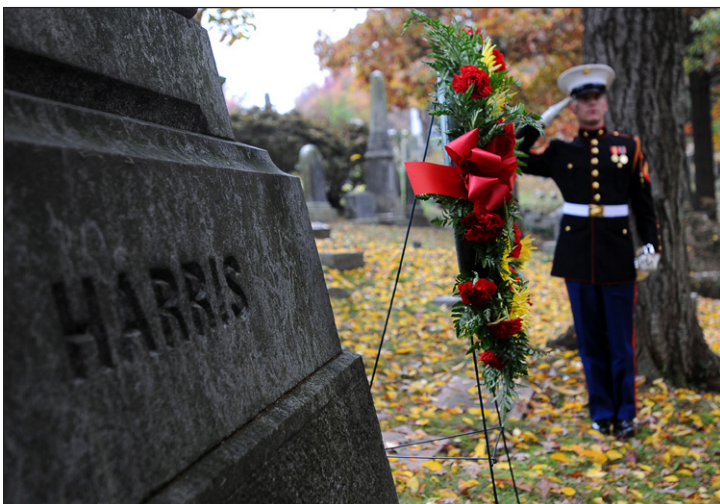


Photo by Lance Cpl. Mondo Lescaud

Cpl. Caleb Steel, Marine Drum and Bugle Corps soprano bugler, salutes the sarcophagus of Col. John Harris, sixth commandant of the Marine Corps, after playing “Taps” during a wreath-laying ceremony at Oak Hill Cemetery Nov. 10.



Photo by Cpl. Austin Hazard

Sgt. Dakota Meyer, first living Marine Medal of Honor recipient since the Vietnam War, Gen. Joseph Dunford Jr., assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, and Col. Paul D. Montanus, Marine Barracks Washington commanding officer, march away after laying a wreath at the base of the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va., Nov. 10. Six teams from the Barracks, including Dunford and the sergeant major of the Marine Corps, also visited graves of former commandants and sergeants major of the Marine Corps.



Photo by Cpl. Austin Hazard

Sgt. Maj. Eric Stockton, Marine Barracks Washington sergeant major, and Sgt. Maj. Micheal P. Barrett, sergeant major of the Marine Corps, pause for a moment of silence after laying a wreath at the grave of Sgt. Maj. Herbert Sweet, fourth sergeant major of the Marine Corps, at Arlington National Cemetery.



Beyond
the CALL

By Cpl. Austin Hazard

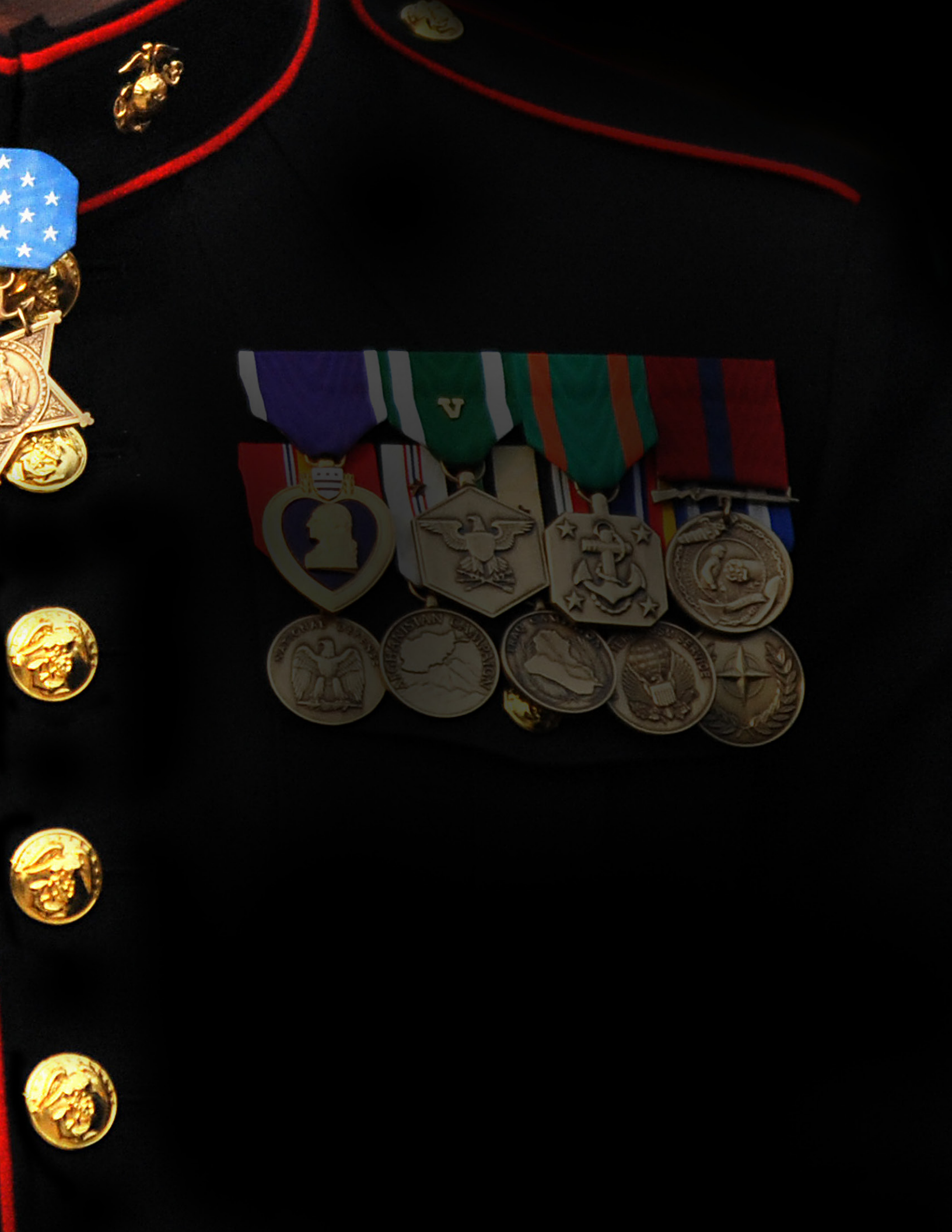




Photo by Cpl. Dengrier Baez

Sgt. Dakota Meyer, the Corps' newest Medal of Honor recipient, stands at attention on Center Walk moments prior to receiving his Medal of Honor flag during a presentation ceremony at Marine Barracks Washington Sept. 16. The scout sniper saved 36 American and Afghan troops during the Battle of Ganjgal in Kunar Province.

LIVING LEGENDS



Name:	Capt. Arthur Jackson	CWO4 Hershel Williams	Pvt. Hector Cafferata Jr.	Cpl. Duane Dewey	Pfc. Robert Simanek	Sgt. Robert O'Malley	Col. Harvey Barnum Jr.	Col. Robert Modrzejewski
Date of action:	Sept. 18, 1944	Feb. 23, 1945	Nov. 28, 1950	April. 16, 1952	Aug. 17, 1952	Aug. 18, 1965	Dec. 18, 1965	July 15, 1966
Location of action:	Peleliu, WWII	Iwo Jima, WWII	Korea	Korea	Korea	Vietnam	Vietnam	Vietnam



Q: What was going through your mind during the ambush?

A: It wasn't a matter of if I was going to die, but when I was going to die. All I was thinking about was getting my guys out of there.

Q: What part of your Marine Corps training or life experience best prepared you for that situation?

A: A combination of how I was raised and my training, because in a situation like that, your true self reacts.

Q: What was your favorite thing about the Marine Corps?

A: Camaraderie, brotherhood.

Q: What advice would you give to junior Marines to help them better succeed in the Corps?

A: To believe in what you're doing. Do your best every single day.

Q: What part of your Marine Corps experience best prepared you to return to civilian life?

A: I think everything the USMC has instilled in me has prepared me for returning to civilian life.



Capt. John McGinty III July 18, 1966 Vietnam	MSGt. Richard Pittman July 24, 1966 Vietnam	Lt. Col. Howard Lee Aug. 8, 1966 Vietnam	Col. Jay Vargas April 30, 1968 Vietnam	Maj. Gen. James Livingston May 2, 1968 Vietnam	Col. Wesley Fox Feb. 22, 1969 Vietnam	Sgt. Maj. Allan Kellogg March 11, 1970 Vietnam	Sgt. Dakota Meyer Sept. 8, 2009 Kunar Province, Afghanistan
-----------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------



Lance Cpl. Mondo Lescaud

Sgt. Dakota Meyer, the first living Marine Medal of Honor recipient since the Vietnam War, receives a Medal of Honor flag from Gen. James F. Amos, the commandant of the Marine Corps, during Meyer's flag presentation ceremony at Marine Barracks Washington Sept. 16. Meyer was presented the Medal of Honor by President Barack Obama the previous day.

Marine Barracks Washington and Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, honored the first living Medal of Honor recipient since the Vietnam War, during his own parade at the Barracks Sept. 16.

Though President Barack Obama gave Sgt. Dakota Meyer his Medal of Honor at the White House the day prior, Amos presented the native of Columbia, Ky., with his official Medal of Honor flag during the ceremony here.

"It was a great honor to be recognized by the commandant and the 'oldest post in the Corps,'" said the 23-year-old. "It's the place I requested the ceremony be held at."

Meyer was awarded the nation's highest military award for valor for his actions in the Battle of Ganjgal, in Afghanistan's Kunar province in 2009. Ambushed by more than 50 insurgents, Meyer braved heavy enemy machine-gun and rocket-propelled grenade fire five times, saving the lives of 36 Afghan and American troops.

"It wasn't a matter of if I was going to die, but when I was going to die," said the former scout sniper. "All I was thinking about was getting my guys out of there."

Manning the machinegun of a Humvee, Meyer personally killed at least eight enemies during the six hours of fighting. Meyer was also injured early on, receiving several shrapnel wounds in his right arm, but pushed on with the fellow members of Embedded Training Team 2-8. Staff Sgt. Juan Rodriguez-Chavez, who drove the vehicle Meyer fired from, was also recognized for his actions in the fight, receiving the Navy Cross, the U.S. Navy's second highest award for valor.

"When you leave the perimeter, you don't know what's going to happen, regardless of what war you're fighting in," said retired Sgt. Maj. Allen Kellogg Jr., the last living Marine to receive the Medal of Honor, which he was awarded for actions in Vietnam in 1973. "Once you get to a point where you make the decision 'I'm probably going to die, so let the party begin,' once you say in your mind you aren't getting out of there, you fight harder and harder."

Despite the publicity and media attention, Meyer has remained humble, usually answering questions by stating the medal really honors those who died that day or that he simply did his job.

"I didn't do anything more than any other Marine would," said Meyer.



The citation

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving with Marine Embedded Training Team 2-8, Regional Corps Advisory Command 3-7, in Kunar Province, Afghanistan, on 8 September 2009. Corporal Meyer maintained security at a patrol rally point while other members of his team moved on foot with two platoons of Afghan National Army and Border Police into the village of Ganjgal for a pre-dawn meeting with village elders. Moving into the village, the patrol was ambushed by more than 50 enemy fighters firing rocket propelled grenades, mortars, and machine guns from houses and fortified positions on the slopes above. Hearing over the radio that four U.S. team members were cut off, Corporal Meyer seized the initiative. With a fellow Marine driving, Corporal Meyer took the exposed gunner's position in a gun-truck as they drove down the steeply terraced terrain in a daring attempt to disrupt the enemy attack and locate the trapped U.S. team. Disregarding intense enemy fire now concentrated on their lone vehicle, Corporal Meyer killed a number of enemy fighters with the mounted machine guns and his rifle, some at near point blank range, as he and his driver made three solo trips into the ambush area. During the first two trips, he and his driver evacuated two dozen Afghan soldiers, many of whom were wounded. When one machine gun became inoperable, he directed a return to the rally point to switch to another gun-truck for a third trip into the ambush area where his accurate fire directly supported the remaining U.S. personnel and Afghan soldiers fighting their way out of the ambush. Despite a shrapnel wound to his arm, Corporal Meyer made two more trips into the ambush area in a third gun-truck accompanied by four other Afghan vehicles to recover more wounded Afghan soldiers and search for the missing U.S. team members. Still under heavy enemy fire, he dismounted the vehicle on the fifth trip and moved on foot to locate and recover the bodies of his team members. Corporal Meyer's daring initiative and bold fighting spirit throughout the 6-hour battle significantly disrupted the enemy's attack and inspired the members of the combined force to fight on. His unwavering courage and steadfast devotion to his U.S. and Afghan comrades in the face of almost certain death reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

As written in original citation



Photo by Cpl. Austin Hazard

Amos delivers his remarks during Meyer's flag presentation ceremony at the Barracks.



Photo by Cpl. Dengrier Baez

Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, cuts a birthday cake with a Mameluke sword while flanked by two cake escorts from Marine Barracks Washington at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum in New York City Nov. 3.

STORY BY CPL. AUSTIN HAZARD

Marines from Marine Barracks Washington participated in nearly two dozen cake-cutting events in November observing the 236th birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps.

In all, Marines helped serve up more than 150 pounds of the celebratory confection to thousands of leathernecks and devil dog devotees in the National Capital Region, including such notable guests as American actor Harvey Keitel of “Reservoir Dogs” and “Taxi Driver” fame, members of Congress, and the director of the FBI, Robert Mueller.

“It’s all about tradition and sharing our legacy,” said Lance Cpl. Aaron Szabo, who is a member of one of the Barracks’ three cake escort teams. “Coming to the Barracks was an experience in and of itself, but I got to be a part of the tradition... and represent that to other agencies. That was a real experience.”

For 90 years the Corps has celebrated its November 10 birthday by reading a birthday message from Lt. Gen. John A. Lejeune, 13th commandant of the Marine Corps, followed by the cake-cutting. This custom involves the oldest Marine present taking the first bite of cake and passing the slice to the youngest Marine present, representing the passing of tradition from one generation to the next. Both of these aspects of the ceremony are fulfilled by Barracks Marines in the various events they support.

“Our mission is to ensure the cake arrives where it is meant to be in a ceremonial manner and perform the cake-cutting ceremony or provide assistance to the staff when requested,” said Gunnery Sgt. Anthony Davis, Barracks drill master. “These escorts we provide give us the opportunity to show our pride in who we are and share our tradition with others.”

Sharing the tradition took the Marines to the Library of Congress,

the Russell Senate Office Building, the Pentagon and the Central Intelligence Agency.

However, not every event the Barracks participated in was for government agencies, as the cake escort teams also served dessert at balls for the commandant, the Montford Point Marines Association and for a ceremony aboard the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum in New York, which was hosted by Harvey Keitel for Marine units near the Big Apple.

“Every ceremony we’ve done, we’ve seen people happy and motivated,” said Szabo. “That sense of camaraderie and tradition inspires us. The ball is about everyone being in one place, celebrating our pride in our organization and who we are.”

The Barracks supports these ceremonies each year throughout November and sometimes into December for nearby requesting agencies and units.



Brothers of the GUARD

Story and Photos by Lance Cpl. Mondo Lescaud



Lance Cpl. Shawn Brown, 24, hails from Hagerstown, Md.

The first Roman emperor, Augustus Caesar, implemented an organization of elite guards in the city of Rome, the Praetorian Guards. These guards were hand selected by the emperor. They were the only military force allowed in the city, and held a much more important position than other soldiers. They served as imperial and palace guards, as well as police and riot control for the city.

Much like their ancient Roman counterparts, Barracks guards are hand picked to guard several senior officials of the Corps, including the commandant and assistant commandant of the Marine Corps.

These Marines hail from across the U.S. with varying personal stories and hobbies, but their exclusive mission knits them together. Among this unique company of Marines, are two young

men who share an unbreakable bond - Lance Cpl. Shawn Brown and Lance Cpl. James Gigliello. Their brotherly bond is one that has been born out of endurance and their journey reflects the majority of their fellow guard Marines. Together the pair has endured the Corps' recruit training and School of Infantry and pushed through the Marine Corps' demanding Basic Security Guard School in Chesapeake, Va.

Their arrival to the Barracks in southeast Washington represented the culmination of more than 25 weeks of intense training, but not the end of their journey. Upon their arrival, they faced three additional weeks of training at the Barrack's Guard Academy to prepare them for the unique duties of the post.

"We've been side by side since boot camp, SOI and Security Guard School, so we were looking forward to



coming to the Barracks,” Gigliello said. “We were also looking forward to taking the next step in our Marine Corps careers and using all the skills we had gained from our training.”

The location of the Barracks presents a set of challenges that are almost unprecedented throughout the rest of the Corps. Having been built more than 200 years ago, the city of Washington was constructed around the Barracks, leaving little buffer between the two. This fine line of delineation uniquely positions Barracks guards as both frontline ambassadors and its first line of defense.

“The Marines that man the posts here at the Barracks have a demanding job,” said Maj. Brent Hampton, Guard Company commander. “They need to be able to be cordial and greet visitors with a smile while at the same time being vigilant and retaining the ability to eliminate a would-be threat. They have to be ready for anything. This requires them to rely on each other and maintain this delicate balance at all times, seven days a week, 365 days a year.”

This interdependence closely mirrors Brown and Gigliello’s relationship and the relationships of many others in the company and often extends beyond just their time on post. Brown and Gigliello serve in the same squad, sleep in the same room and spend much of their off time together.

“We spend so much time together now, it’s like we’re brothers.” Gigliello said. “You build a bond any time you spend hundreds of hours with somebody like I have with Brown. Pretty much every Marine in our platoon has that bond with each other.”

In addition to protecting the Barracks’ physical structures and the Marines they house, guard Marines also protect the integrity of the Barracks’ high standards by helping maintain good order and discipline through the enforcement of the regulations of the Barracks commander.

“The Marines who stand post every day have a tremendous amount of responsibility and greatly contribute to maintaining the high standards of the Barracks,” said Sgt. Maj. Eric Stockton, Barracks sergeant major. “They not only help enforce that high standard, they look and act the part as well, setting the example for others to emulate.”

This squared away mentality is a prerequisite in the screening and training process for the company’s secondary mission of providing Marines for potential follow-on presidential

support duties.

“The primary mission of Guard Co. is the security of government property, the protection of personnel and the enforcement of regulations,” Hampton said. “But we also have a secondary mission of screening, evaluating and training Marines for potential duties supporting the president. It’s a mission that we take very seriously. Discipline, focus and commitment are the common threads that hold the company together and allow us to accomplish both missions simultaneously.”

Like the ancient Praetorian Guards, Guard Co. Marines will continue to guard these hallowed grounds, preserving order, enforcing regulations, and protecting property.



Lance Cpl. James Gigliello, right, is 23 and hails from Boston.



Music

in the **Schools**

By Cpl. Dengrier Baez

Musicians from the U.S. Marine Band shared their passion and appreciation for music with approximately 5000 elementary school students in the D.C. area as part of their annual Music in the Schools Program this fall.

Throughout the month of October, “The President’s Own” visited more than 30 schools educating and entertaining young audiences with live music.

“Because we are professional musicians we understand the importance of music education and exposing kids to music. As both professional musicians and Marines, we consider this one of our most important missions,” said Maj. Jason K. Fettig, Marine Band senior assistant director and executive officer. “The only way to cultivate interest in music is to get out there and let kids experience it, especially live.”

The music played during the band’s presentations ranged from classical to popular movie tunes such as “The Pirates of the Caribbean” theme. Students were encouraged to interact with the band by identifying the songs that were played. Children were also taught about musical tempos and had an opportunity to ask questions and interact with each of the band members on a one-on-one basis.

“The visual aids and seeing the adults play some of the same instruments that they play, were the best two things for the children,” said Jacqueline Snowden, the arts integration coordinator at Lafayette Elementary School. “At the end, they all wanted to ask questions to show they know the instruments because they play them too.”

For nearly five decades the U.S. Marine band has been bringing music into many schools where children have little or no formal musical education. The chance to share their passion and knowledge of music is what many band members say they cherish most about the program.

“Some schools unfortunately don’t have music programs and



Staff Sgt. Joseph De Luccio, U.S. Marine Band oboe player, talks about about the two different tempos of music with students at Lafayette Elementary School.



Master Sgt. Amy Horn, a French horn player with the U.S. Marine Band, explains to students what instrument she plays during a Music in the Schools presentation at Lafayette Elementary School Oct. 26.



Master Gunnery Sgt. Elizabeth Matera, U.S. Marine Band clarinet player, performs during a MITS presentation at Lafayette Elementary School .



A student watches as members of the U.S. Marine Band perform a skit during a Music in the Schools presentation at Lafayette Elementary School. For approximately five decades, the MITS program and "The President's Own" musicians have brought education and entertainment to children through small instrumental group performances.



even if they do, children might not have the chance to see the type of instruments we play,” said Staff Sgt. Joseph De Luccio, an oboe player with The President’s Own. “As professional musicians we all want to share our love of music with others, especially the next generation.”

In addition to developing a greater appreciation for music, students are encouraged to take other lessons away from the program such as the importance of team work and dedication.

“Another part of the program that’s so important is trying to present a concept that is beyond music,” said Fetting. “During the program they talk about team-building and working together. The lessons apply to music but also transcends into other concepts including school, sports or student organizations. Understanding these concepts is important to the children’s development as they’re growing up.”

The MITS program has been expanding since its inception in the 1950s. The program no longer focuses solely on bringing musical appreciation to young kids but the Marine Band now works closely with many area high schools helping young adults develop their musical skills.

“When we bring the MITS program in the high schools we are helping the students hone their skills as musicians,” said Fetting. “At the high school level they have already been exposed to music, we want to help them take their musical talents to the next level.”

Throughout the year, the band performs regularly at the White House and for thousands of spectators at more than 500 public performances across the nation as well as at every Friday Evening Parade performed by the Barracks.



Master Gunnery Sgt. Elizabeth Matera, a clarinet player with the U.S. Marine Band, shares a laugh with students at the conclusion of a Music in the Schools presentation at Lafayette Elementary School here Oct. 26. The U.S Marine Band conducted more than 30 performances in D.C. area primary schools bringing music to approximately 5,000 students throughout the month of October.



Around the Barracks



TACTICAL Practical

How does the Corps' new BLACKHAWK! M9 holster compare to other models?

STORY BY CPL. AUSTIN HAZARD



With the assistance of other Marines here, I recently tested the Corps' newest pistol holster, purchased in bulk from BLACKHAWK!, and compared it to other models available.

Only months ago, the Marine Corps purchased approximately 20,000 units of the tactical gear-maker's Serpa holster model and delivered them to deploying units in Hawaii, according to BLACKHAWK! officials at the 2011 Modern Day Military Exposition. Since many deploy with sidearms, including Marines in my field, the change is likely to affect a large swath of Marines, should the holster be selected for Corpswide use.

Many aspects of the system are slick and smooth, as well as convenient and adjustable. The kit comes with four pieces; the holster, a leg-strapped drop platform, a belt platform, and a flak jacket-compatible platform.

The most prominent feature I noticed was the gear-shaped connection adapter, which allows you to easily swap the holster from one platform to another. The connector also enables you to angle the holster to your preferences, though this could become an obstacle, however slight, if a Marine were to adjust it without testing it first.

Despite its simple customization and the ability to easily remove the holster from its platform entirely, the system is very tight and stable. Once the holster locks into place, it's unlikely that you'll feel any movement or shaking from it.

Aside from its personalization, the holster is also very smooth and ergonomic in its use. For most of my evaluation, I used the system as a drop holster, a setup that was very comfortable and natural with this equipment.

The holster's release button is simple but effective, located on the outside, near the center. If you're like me, and accustomed to grabbing the M9 with your trigger finger already straight, you'll

find the release right where your finger naturally sits when you draw. This makes general use and quick draws comfortable and easy.

This release mechanism is better than certain more awkwardly situated holsters, some of which place the release at the top front of the holster, activated by your thumb. Draw time is noticeably different between the two styles, perhaps by whole seconds.

Fumbling over a button is not something I want to experience in combat, even if it is only for a second. That alone elevates our newest model over some of its competition.

The holster is made of a durable, coyote brown plastic that covers and protects most of the M9 when holstered. Where many models only cover up to the rear sights or top of the ejection port and leave the hammer bare, the Serpa holster shields most of the weapon, with exception to the grips.

The only real drawback I noticed for the Corps' newest holster was the harshness of the angles the connecting adapter offers (it rotates in 45 degree increments). The flexible nature of this feature is great, but I simply feel it could be a little more precise and allow for more customization of the angles at which the holster can be worn.

However, the setup also lacks magazine carriers, forcing Marines to rely on the much older olive drab green pouches the Corps uses, which are secured with buttons, potentially causing a delay in reload times. The drop platform has two docks to attach magazine carriers, and if it came with them the issue would be moot.

All-in-all, the system works very efficiently with the M9 and is an improve-



ment over old gear, like the latching soft holsters the Marine Corps used to employ, and even the more recent hard plastic holsters.

While the system has been tested for combat situations, it is also convenient for personal use, such as target practice at a civilian range. It isn't too outlandish and can be worn there or elsewhere in public, but the coyote brown may stand out a little.

Though the first shipment went to Hawaii a month or so ago, possibly intended for large-scale field testing in Afghanistan, I hope to see them throughout the fleet soon.



THE BARRACKS IS NOW ON SOCIAL MEDIA

JOIN US AT: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MARINEBARRACKS

WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/1801MARINEBARRACKS

WWW.FLICKR.COM/MARINEBARRACKS

