

Pass in Review

March/April 1990



Pass in Review

M A G A Z I N E

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On the cover...

Waiting for transportation during Alpine Warrior 90, Cpl. Todd Schumacher of B Co. is well insulated from Wisconsin's cold climate.



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"Lock and load!"

Marines of H&S platoon's 2nd squad fly toward their objective, Volk Airfield, Wis. During Alpine Warrior 90, 22 H&S Marines of mixed MOSs reinforced B Co. in the annual cold weather exercise.

CHAMPUS reform initiative may expand

The CHAMPUS Reform Initiative, the Department of Defense's pre-paid health care project in California and Hawaii, may expand to three more Western states this summer, a DoD health affairs official speculated.

Good reviews in a recent Rand Corp. study may mean the project's spread to Arizona, Nevada and New Mexico, although probably not before August, the official noted.

The demonstration project offers less expensive health care to patients who go to "preferred providers"--doctors and hospitals selected by a contractor. DoD pays the contractor, Foundation Health Corp., a fixed fee for providing the care. The project has two plans, one requiring enrollment called CHAMPUS Prime and a supplemental plan called CHAMPUS Extra.

California and Hawaii have some 865,000 beneficiaries, a number equal to 17 percent of the CHAMPUS population in the continental United States. Adding the 213,000 beneficiaries in three new states would bring the demonstration project population up to 20 percent of beneficiaries in the nation.

According to the Rand report, 97 percent of the beneficiaries in the demonstration projects were satisfied with the care they received. Results indicate the project saves money: CHAMPUS costs in California and Hawaii grew only 4.5 percent during the test period; costs in regular CHAMPUS-covered areas grew 17 percent. Claims costs in the demonstration areas actually declined 10 percent, but were offset by higher administrative costs that accompany managed care efforts.

The contractor solved an initial problem with timeliness of claims payments and during the study period had processed 97 percent of the 2.6 million claims filed. From April through June 1989, the claims inventory was less than three

weeks' work, which is considered good by industry standards, the official said.

Health care providers complained early in the program, and the contractor paid more attention to their concerns. By the review period, complaints were resolved to the extent that most providers called the project a sound approach with advantages for beneficiaries. The report noted complaints from providers who are "philosophically opposed to such (managed care) plans," but called them evidence the program is working.

The biggest savings came in mental health services, the cost of which declined by what Rand termed "an astounding 34 percent." Mental health accounts for some 25 percent of CHAMPUS costs, so the finding is particularly good news, the DoD health official said.

Much of the mental health savings could have resulted from the reform initiative's policies requiring prior authorization for mental health admissions and more careful reviews of mental health claims, the Rand report noted. The DoD official said the initiative's review rates of mental health claims were closer to industry practice than standard CHAMPUS.

Services under the demonstration project began Aug. 1, 1988; the Rand study covered the period from April 1 through June 30, 1989. Researchers hedged their conclusions, saying the cost estimates for those three months may or may not reflect longer term costs under CHAMPUS reform.

"With more data and the opportunity to conduct more extensive analysis of the changes that underlie the cost trends," the reporter said, "we will be able to draw firmer conclusions about (the reform initiative's) effectiveness in containing costs without adversely affecting beneficiaries."

story by

Evelyn D. Harris

American Forces Information Service

Donations Sought for Women's Memorial

President George Bush declared March "Women's History Month." In a special proclamation, he noted: "Women have written many proud pages in the history of the United States, throughout all areas of our national life."

Women's History Month is a time to recognize those contributions and the critical role they have played in the preservation of the principles and values that all Americans hold dear.

"Women have served with distinction in all professions; they have contributed to our nation's prosperity in all fields of business; they have served our country with courage in time of conflict; they have educated and inspired our children; and they have figured prominently in all our great struggles for political and social reform."

"Women in Service for America" is the theme of the Department of Defense Women's History Month observance, according to Rosemary Howard, DoD Federal Women's Program Manager. DoD will distribute taped highlights of the Pentagon observance.

Retired Air Force BGen. Wilma Vaught, president of the Women in Service for America Foundation, will speak at the Pentagon event. Her group is spearheading the construction of a women's memorial at Arlington National Cemetery near President John F. Kennedy's grave site.

Then-Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci authorized DoD personnel to take part in fund-raising for the memorial in a letter dated Dec. 21, 1988, Howard said. Congress authorized the memorial, donated the site and gave the group until Nov. 9, 1991, to raise \$15 million.

Donations rose sharply after the foundation announced its memorial-design

contest winner on Nov. 9, 1989. Spokeswoman Patricia Ready said the group received \$250,000 between then and the end of year, bringing the total raised to \$1 million.



Vaught is counting on donations from those who believe in the importance of recognizing and honoring the vital role played by women who have served in the armed forces.

A computer registry will be a key element of the memorial and is its main fund-raising medium. There

are 1.2 million women veterans alive today and about 400,000 women now on active duty or in the National Guard or Reserve. For a minimum \$25 donation, they can register their photos, names and information such as period of service and highest rank or rate held. They may include stories of their most memorable military experiences.

Vaught said many people gave donations to register friends, mothers, grandmothers and even such historical figures as Molly Pitcher, who reputedly took her husband's place at his cannon when he fell wounded in a Revolutionary War battle.

To obtain posters, brochures or other information from the foundation, or to contribute to the memorial fund, contact: Women in Military Service for America Foundation, Department 560, Washington, D.C. 20042-0560.

story by
Evelyn D. Harris
American Forces Information Service

BARRACKS MARINES

prove to be

READY WARRIORS



FORT MCCOY, WIS--When most people conjure up an image of "Marines," they likely envision the spit-and-polish, razor-sharp precision of those who serve at Marine Barracks, 8th & I, Washington, D.C.

But make no mistake, though they are one of the Corps' showpiece units, the Devil Dogs from 8th & I are -- first and foremost -- warriors.

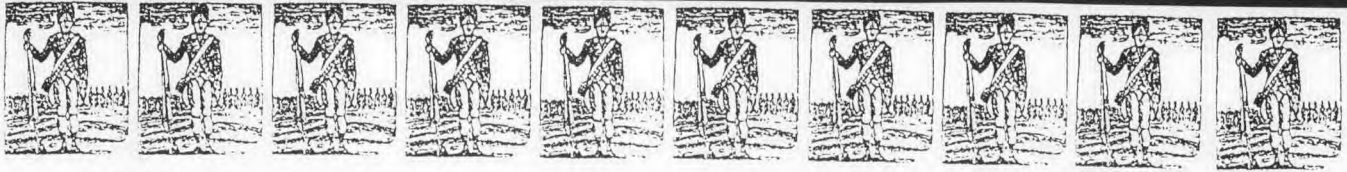
"Back in D.C., it's all 'look good.' We perform," noted LCpl. Keith Hammonds as he scanned the terrain from a fighting position on a hilltop at Fort McCoy, where B Co., 8th & I, was serving as the "OpFor" (opposing force) during exercise Alpine Warrior 90.

"Here, it's all down and dirty. We learn to fight."

B Co., reinforced by a platoon from H & S Co., acting alternately as naval infantry, airborne and even motorized infantry "aggressor" units, impressed themselves -- and many observers -- during the annual winter exercise by the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade. "They were kind of questioning themselves when they first came out here about how well they would perform," commented 1stLt. Sherman Bierly, an instructor with the Special Operations Training Group's Arctic Warfare Unit and a controller during the four-day field training exercise (FTX).

"When it came over, it hit them and they were saying, 'Hey, we did it!'" Bierly added. "What they lack in experience, they made up for in attitude and motivation."

For many of the 8th & I Marines, facing a field training experience was a relatively new experience.



Barracks
Marines prepare
to repel an
assault by 2/24.



A snow-filled gully serves as cover for some D.C. Marines.

"We don't get to go to the field very often, although they're trying to get more field training lined up for us," noted LCpl. R.K. Anderson. "A lot of Marines are fresh out of the School of Infantry, and rather inexperienced. But 8th & I instills a lot of discipline, and you can see that at work here."

The 8th & I Marines arrived at Fort McCoy and underwent a four-day cold-weather training cycle provided by the SOTG unit.

"People are really motivated," PFC Bill Licata said. "This is different from drill every day, and it's one of the few times we'll get the chance to work on our field skills while we're stationed here."

"I expected to be frozen the whole time," LCpl. Raymond Fogle said while brewing a canteen cup of hot chocolate. "But it's not that bad. I've

been colder in D.C.," added the H&S Co. clerk.

The company's success in the field was a result of outstanding leadership on the part of its NCOs, the company first sergeant said.

"Everything going on out there, it's the NCOs and Staff NCOs who make it work," said 1st Sgt. John Mersino. "They are motivated -- you can look at them and see it."

The squad-, and platoon-level leadership was aided by the discipline of the junior Marines.

"You tell them something once and it sticks," Anderson said. "It comes from the barracks duty, doing all the 'shots' (ceremonies)" at the White House, Pentagon, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and Arlington National Cemetery.

"It's easy to see they're a hand-picked bunch," Bierly said. "They



The cold was another enemy 8th & I Marines had to battle during the exercise.

did a good job because of the lightness of the unit."

Most of the 8th & I Marines spend a two-year tour on the parade deck before going to Fleet Marine Force units.

"This is a big help for us," Hammonds said. "When we go to the fleet, we'll be a lot better prepared."

The field experience also gave the 8th & I Marines the chance to do what they do best.

"They're aggressive, they're hungry, and they like to show off," Mersino said. "This is what makes the Marines a force in readiness."

**story and photos by Cpl. Dave Mundy
JPAO Camp Lejeune**

BackIn the

U . S . S . R .

After flying 15 hours and crossing eight time zones, "The President's Own" United States Marine Band landed in the Soviet

Union where it made history by becoming the first U.S. military band to tour the U.S.S.R. The 18-day tour, which began February 6, brought Col. John R. Bourgeois, Director of the band, and sixty-nine members of "The President's Own" to five major cities in three republics of the Soviet

Union. The trip fulfilled the second part of the first U.S.-Soviet Armed Forces Band Exchange which began with an East Coast concert tour January 12-29, 1990, by The First Independent Performing Orchestra of the U.S.S.R. Ministry of Defense, the premier band of the Soviet Union.

"It was a great honor for the Marine Band to represent our country in this exchange," said Bourgeois. "To understand the significance of this event, we must take a moment to look at it

With the U.S. Marine Band



Col. Bourgeois is greeted in Moscow by Gen. Maj. Mikhailov.

not only as an exchange in the past -- but also to see the significance of a meeting between our two musical organizations."

During its tour, the Marine Band visited Moscow, Kiev, L'Vov, Minsk and Leningrad and performed to full-house audiences in some of the Soviet Union's foremost concert halls. In addition to its concerts, the band was given official guided tours of the major cultural and historic attractions in each city.

Upon landing in Moscow the chill of the wind and snow was soon overcome by the cheering voices and the smiling familiar

faces of the musicians of The First Independent Performing Orchestra of the U.S.S.R. Ministry of Defense as they officially greeted the band with ceremonial music including the two countries' national anthems. "We were greeted with such warmth. It was exciting to see the military band of the district playing for us as we got off

the plane in each city," said percussionist, MSgt. Frank Del Piano.

One of the tour's highlights was the Marine Band performance to an enthusiastic audience at Tchaikovsky Hall, Moscow's foremost concert site. As with all of the band's performances, this concert began with the Soviet and U.S. anthems followed by John Philip Sousa's march, "Hands Across the Sea."

The program also included both Russian and American classics such as Glinka's "Russlan and Ludmilla," and Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue." The Marine Dixieland Band invariably brought the house down with "When the Saints Go Marchin' In" and "St. Louis Blues." At every concert, the audience continued to clap rhythmically (their signal that they wanted the band to keep playing) until the band performed encore selections. The crowd joined voices with the bandmembers as they sang the lyrics to the popular Russian song "Moscow Nights." A wave of applause and cheering swept the audiences as the band followed with "Farewell to a Slavonic Woman," the official military march of the Soviet Union.

In addition to the Tchaikovsky Hall performance, the Marine Band appeared at Moscow's Theater of the Soviet Armed Forces. The capacity audience was comprised of prominent members of military and music communities

including the Deputy Minister of Defense, the Chairman of the Council of Fine Arts in Soviet Armed Forces, and the Chairman and all representatives of the Council of Composers. "The best gift that the United States military could give to the Soviet military is the music of this wonderful Marine Band," said Lt. Col.

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***"The best gift
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Marine Band."
--Lt.Col. Nikolay
Ponomaryov***

the Moscow band," said percussionist, MSgt. Del Piano. SSgt. John Hagstrom, a trumpet player added, "It was amazing. We communicated so easily just by virtue of having the same job and the same love of music."

During an official guided tour, the band was taken to the scenic Novodevichiy Monastery and its cemetery which is the burial place of eminent artists, generals, political and public leaders and scientists. When Marine bandmen came upon the tombstone of the Russian composer Prokofiev, members of his family were placing flowers.

Through an interpreter they asked if the band would be playing any Prokofiev compositions that evening at Tchaikovsky Hall. A musician told them that Prokofiev's "March, Opus 99" was on the program list but the family members were not familiar with the name of the work until the musicians began humming it and then the relatives smiled in recognition and joined in.

On the last evening in Moscow, the band was given one of many official receptions. Among the hosts were many prominent members of Moscow's military and music community including Col. Evgenii Aksyonov, Director of the Tchaikovsky Moscow State Conservatory who said, "The United States' heart of music is



A clarinetist performs for the band before leaving L'Vov.

Nikolay Ponomaryov, Chief of the Moscow Military District Band. The Marine Band was joined for the final selection, Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture," by the First Independent Performing Orchestra of the U.S.S.R. Ministry of Defense. "One of my most exciting experiences was playing "1812" with our friends in

Washington, D.C. The Soviet Union's soul of music is Moscow. Now heart and soul are combined." General Major Nikolay Mikhaylov, Director of Military bands in the Soviet Union added, "It has been such a pleasure to work with the band which I consider the world's best. My hope is that this exchange has opened the door to friendship between our countries forever. While the bands are playing, the guns are silent. Let us always live in peace."

From Moscow the band made its first intercity flight on Soviet Aeroflot planes to Kiev, the capital of the Ukraine. There they played to a standing-room only audience at the 4,000 seat Ukrainian Concert

Hall, the foremost concert hall in the Ukraine and one of the biggest in the Soviet Union. Among the audience members were the director of the Ukrainian State Wind Orchestra, Sergii Ivanovich Ohkrinienko and all of the orchestra members.

After four days in Kiev the band moved on to L'Vov, the traditional economic, transport, cultural, and administrative center of the western Ukraine. The band performed two nights at The L'Vov State Theatre of Opera and Ballet, which is considered

one of the most beautiful buildings in the Soviet Union. The architect of this highly ornate hall, Gorgolewski, also designed the famous Odessa and Vienna Opera Houses. The band sat amidst the gilded splendor as it performed for full-house audiences. "What a surprise to perform in a city I had never heard of and discover that we were playing in a magnificent opera house, one

that must be among the most beautiful in the world," said vocal soloist, MGySgt. Michael Ryan. "I got a deep sense of the love of culture and beauty and art that had made such a building possible. What a thrill to be a small part of that cultural appreciation."

The bandmembers visited The Museum of Ukrainian Art which houses a collection of 14th through 18th century icons as well as 19th and 20th century works by Ukrainian artists. There the band was treated to a performance of Ukrainian folk music by an ensemble of women in brightly embroidered folk costumes performing on traditional instruments.

From the Ukraine the band flew to Minsk, the capital

of Byelorussia. The band performed to yet another enthusiastic full-house audience in Minsk's largest concert hall, The Great Concert Hall of the Byelorussian Philharmonic. "The warmth and excitement of the audiences was overwhelming," said band librarian GySgt. Kathy Allen. "Sometimes the audience's response was so enthusiastic that the band was forced to play a selection twice!" In each city the band was taken to memorial cemeteries and other monuments to those who died in World War



The band paid their respects to Soviet soldiers of WWII.

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"Sometimes the audience's response was so enthusiastic that the band was forced to play a selection twice!"

--GySgt. Kathy

II, known in the Soviet Union as The Great Patriotic War. In Minsk, which was nearly completely destroyed in World War II, the band visited several of these sites such as the K h a t y n Memorial-Complex and the Mound Of Glory Monument. Colonel



The band receives applause in Leningrad.

Bourgeois placed wreaths and flowers at these places in memoriam, as he did at all such sites.

From Minsk the band moved to the last city on the itinerary: Leningrad. On the evening of their arrival, the bandmembers enjoyed warm hospitality and American cuisine during a reception at the Residence of the American Consul General and Mrs. Richard Miles.

The concert highlight in this city was the Marine Band's joint performance with the Leningrad Military District Band at October Concert Hall, Leningrad's largest concert hall (4,000 capacity). Once again, the Marine Band and Soviet musicians opened the concert with their national anthems and Sousa's "Hands Across the Sea." The Marine Band performed the remainder of the first half of the concert and then was joined by the Leningrad

formed the music of Prokofiev, Shostakovich, and Sousa. Also featured on the program was the traditional American baritone horn solo, "Carnival of Venice." "My admiration for the soloist's performance changed to astonishment when I learned that he had had to transcribe the

solo from a tape because he couldn't obtain the sheet music," said SSgt. Michael Colburn, a Marine Band euphonium player. Once again, "1812 Overture" provided a stirring finale for the joint performance.

On February 23 the Marine Band members said farewell to their Soviet friends and boarded Marine Air to begin the long trip back to the U.S. "Traveling through the Soviet Union and meeting and performing with musicians there is an experience we will never forget," said Col. Bourgeois looking back at the historic tour. "In my 32 years with the Marine Band, nothing has touched me more deeply than the friendships we have established through this musical exchange between the two countries."

story by
SSgt. Nancy S. Colburn
Marine Band PAO

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"...nothing has touched me more deeply than the friendships we have established through this musical exchange between the two countries."

--Col. John Bourgeois

musicians for the second portion. The Soviet and American musicians sat side by side under a backdrop of both nations' flags joined by a single olive branch and a musical lyre as they per-



Sgt. Taylor didn't feel like she had anything to prove.

Underneath the layers of sweat, dirt and camouflage facepaint, there was something different about these two Marines at H&S Company's raid exercise Feb. 28. It wasn't the equipment or weapons they carried. They had everything a Marine needed for that mission. And it wasn't the way they led their teams that was different; they led them like Marine sergeants do. In fact, unless you were concentrating on gender, you never would have known they were Sgts. Madeleine Allen and Patrice Taylor. Though women Marines at the Barracks participate frequently in daytime field training, they were the first women Marines to go on a Barracks overnight field exercise. They were treated as, and performed as Marine sergeants, and that's the way they like it.

"I don't want to be thought of as a female Marine or 'one of those chicks in procurement'," said Sgt. Patrice Taylor, a procurement specialist in supply. "I am a Marine sergeant."

Taylor, who has also served in the field with the 3rd Force Service Support Group

S-4 Marines show women can train as Warriors too

said, "I felt by going on the exercise I could provide a positive role model for other female Marines."

Sgt. Madeleine Allen, who also works in procurement, feels field training for women at the Barracks has become more important since Gen. A.M. Gray's new emphasis on "Warrior Training."

"In the past women were thought of as 'office pogues,' but that's changing somewhat now," she said. "Gen. Gray wants everybody trained as a warrior. I think the Raid-Ex was a good opportunity for us, and I hope it opens a few more doors for women here."

Despite the commonly held misconceptions about "WMs" in the field, both Allen and Taylor felt no additional pressure to prove themselves.

"I don't think there was any extra pressure," Allen said. "If they didn't think we could hang with everybody else, they wouldn't have sent us."

"I didn't feel like we had to prove anything," added Taylor. The two sergeants also hope that their performance in the field will help change some male Marines' perceptions of WMs.

"I think we gained some respect by showing we weren't going to wimp out when it got cold and wet. Once you show that isn't the case, it's like you're one of the guys," said Allen. "Hopefully, they may not be as quick to judge WMs, and they saw that women have the ability to successfully take part in field exercises, if given the chance."

LCpl. Thomas Burns was one male Marine who saw his attitude toward his female counterparts change during the exercise.

"At first I couldn't see women as field Marines," he admitted. "I thought, 'they're not going to know what's going on.' But after seeing them in action, I realized they could do just as well as a male Marine."

Both Taylor and Allen have seen many changes in the role of women in the Marine Corps, but the improvements are more evident to Allen, whose sister enlisted in 1987.

"So much has changed since I went to boot camp seven years ago," she explained. "Towards the end of my recruit training they began changing WM training. We didn't qualify or drill with the rifle then. Now women do almost everything men do; rifle qualification, field training and repelling."

"I appreciate any field training I can get now because we didn't get it in boot camp," she said. Allen added she feels that through training exercises like the Raid-Ex she can be as well trained as her sister or any other Marine who has gone through the new warrior training programs.

Recent changes, such as the assignment of women to embassy duty, are an encouraging sign of progress for both Marines.

"We're moving forward," said Taylor. "I can definitely see changes taking place



Sgt. Allen hopes more women will be able to go to the field.

and I'm comfortable with the advancement women have made in the Marines. It looks like we're continuing to move upward."

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

life!

at

500

feet

and

falling

Editor's note: Due to host country's political sensitivity, the location of this story is not revealed.

Huey crew chief Cpl. Brian McGuire rolled out of his cot at 5 a.m., March 1 like he had for five mornings in a row, a little sluggish at first. Thoughts of bringing "his UH-1N" home was all the motivation he needed to speed things up. Today, after all the daily/turn-around inspection was done and flight bags stored on board, he would finally get a chance to wash six-days worth of desert sand, dirt and grime off of his pride and joy once it landed on the USS Iwo Jima (LPH-2). A hot shower and meal for himself would come later.

Within shouting distance from McGuire was SSgt. Paul Mazurkiewicz, in charge of quality assurance for Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 365 (HMM-365) Hueys; and Sgt. Myles Thorne, flight-line boss for



HMM-365's Huey power slide landing survivors.

Hueys and Cobras. Both were designated crew chiefs and would be "hitching" a ride home with McGuire.

In a sateen bungalow nearby, Capt. Larry "Stinky" Stewart, UH-1N pilot, and Lt. Steve "Breadstick" Brodfuehrer, copilot, stirred to the sounds of the tent city coming alive. Moments later they slid into their green flight suits, rearranged their gear, and chowed down on their "umpteenth" MRE.

Even though the Huey helicopter had just passed a thorough 50-hour maintenance "exam," McGuire meticulously prepped his bird. By 8 a.m., after double checking fluid levels and strapping the life raft in, he was done. Since this day was an odd number, the number one engine was fired up after preliminary checks were painstakingly taken care of. McGuire riveted his eyes to the engine daring it to show the slightest signs of malfunctioning. It didn't. Minutes later, number two engine followed his brother's lead. There was no reason for Mc-

Guire to smirk; he had done his homework and the results were evident.

At 10:15 a.m., the flight-check sequence was repeated with the same results – perfection. Pilot and copilot, along with three seasoned passengers, were relieved to lift off 15 minutes later, as a dust storm grew more irritable in the training area.

Twenty minutes into the flight, Mazurkiewicz, dead center in the back, and Stewart, in the forward right seat, were the first to see it.

The master caution light for engine number two, an amber warning light 1 inch high by 2 inches long buried in a myriad of other unlit panel lights when systems are "up," blazed like a flare in a dark closet. Brodfuehrer's eyes instantly read 30 pounds per square inch (psi) on the oil pressure guage. A nanosecond later, Stewart read zero oil pressure. "Oh Hell," he sputtered.

"Let's roll number two down to flight idle," the copilot said to his counterpart with hopes of

taking all the torque pressure off the injured engine.

Rotor speed, which hummed at 100 percent moments ago, dropped to 95 percent, Brodfuehrer noticed. Forward air speed, especially with this wind, had to be maintained or the helo would fall out of the sky like a rock. Another problem existed -- a Huey cannot hover and land with only one engine running.

Brodfuehrer, a 25 year-old native of Tonawanda, N.Y., dove into his Naval Aviation Training and Operations Standardization manual for its solution to engine oil pressure dropping below 30 psi. The NATOPS manual recommended the engine be shut down in flight.

Stewart, who followed his dad's footsteps into the Marine Corps, is not sure how much time elapsed before he heard his copilot's response, but he did know his helo had dropped from 2,500 to 500 feet faster than it takes to break a sweat. Both searched for a place to land as silent tension heated up the Huey's interior. The three passengers, with wide-opened eyes, also searched for an LZ and troublesome powerlines.

Seconds later, as the helo raced towards the desert below, the pilot and copilot heard a loud sound like somebody had clapped his hands. At the same time, the helicopter "yawed" throwing the three crew chiefs shoulder to shoulder to the right side of the helo. Its nose swung left, but Stewart immediately compensated by using his right-rudder pedal.

As the bird screamed past the 300-foot elevation mark, Stewart looked at engine number two's NF gauge (power turbine to drive

shaft) and saw it had dropped from 90 to 40 percent. "Number two just seized." It would be of no use in case a hover was attempted during landing.

As Stewart "rode" his aircraft down through 250 feet of elevation, keeping the proper airspeed was utmost on his mind. The other engine might not be able to handle the additional strain. His feet blindly worked rudder pedals to keep the helo from yawing again. His left hand worked the collective stick to control the pitch on the overhead rotor blades during his descent. His right hand matched his left in precision keeping the helo's direction and airspeed where he wanted it. His limbs responded perfectly to commands he does not remember. His eyes constantly searched outside the aircraft for obstructions in the LZ.

Every precious second meant his aircraft, loaded with life, was closer to what?

Brodfuehrer continued to be Stewart's eyes and ears inside the injured bird. At 200 feet, the copilot told him the elevation and airspeed was looking good at 60 knots. Stewart said he thought if he put the helo down next to the road below, and it did "ball up," a MEDEVAC could reach them quickly. The ground "sprinted" up at the incoming helo.

At 100 feet, it's all stick and rudder, Stewart remembers thinking as his mind raced through previous practice sessions requiring him to land a helo with single-engine failure, autorotation and tail-rotor failure. "There's only one way to get this baby in; that's to slide her in."

There were no large boulders ahead of them in the LZ; not too

much sand either, which has a tendency to grab the skids and flip a helo.

Maintain descent, MAINTAIN! Stewart silently told himself. At 50 feet he pulled the collective with his left hand, giving him 55 percent engine torque to land with. The normal 71 percent wasn't needed because he was planning on pulling a power slide.

Stewart kept the skids level to the ground while peering down 25 feet to his destiny. He faintly remembers hearing the airspeed given to him by Brodfuehrer, who remained relentless on gathering all the panel's data in front of him.

The three in back grabbed aluminum seat railings so tight their knuckles turned white. Their heads dropped into the crash position between their knees. Prayers were quick and silent.

"Got to hold the collective in the slide. All rudder controls are done with the feet -- can't let it fishtail. Keep it straight Stinky," the pilot silently told himself.

The UH-1N skids slid across the loose gravel and dirt as smooth as spreading oil on glass. Seventy feet later the Huey halted.

The adrenaline rush was so intense, Stewart and Brodfuehrer said they found themselves staring at the gauges thinking how lucky they were to be alive, they said.

At different times during the next hour or so, the five survivors managed to sneak a glance skyward with silent thanks.

**story and photo by
SSgt. Lee J. Tibbetts
24th MEU(SOC) PAO**

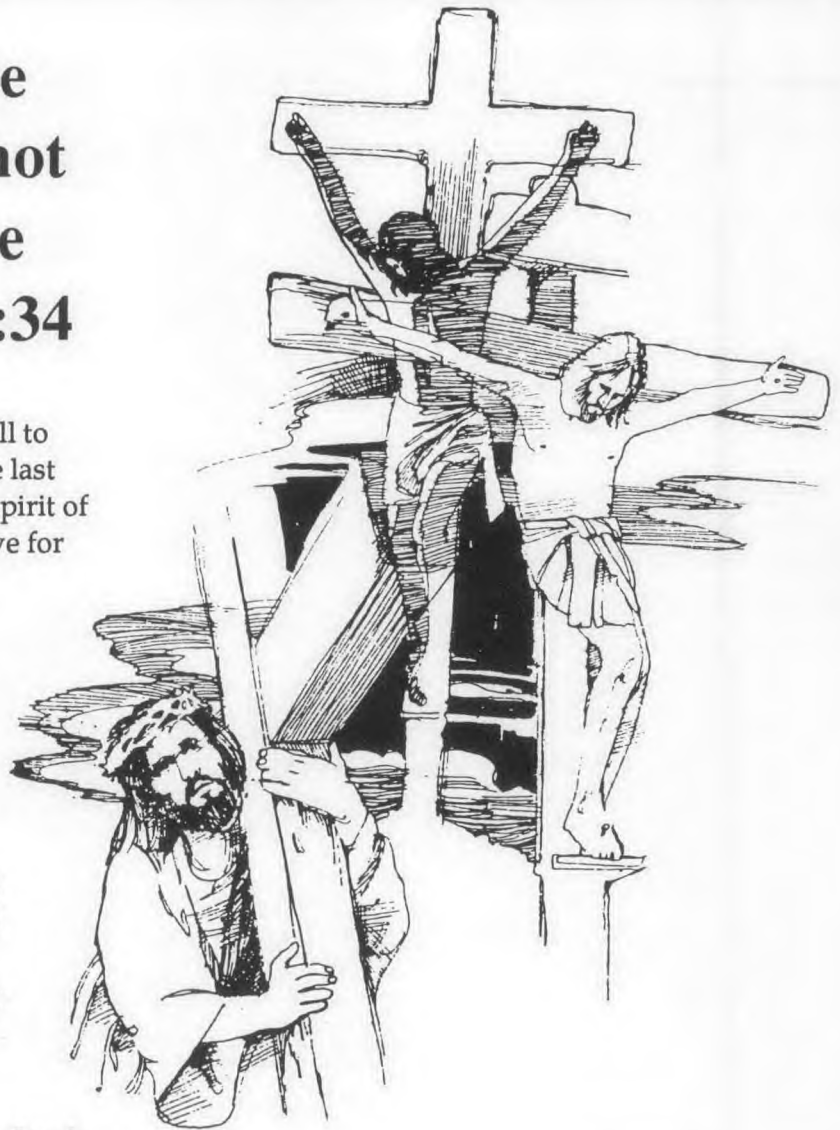
"Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." -- Luke 23:34

The season of Lent is a time for us all to reflect on the forgiveness of God. These last words of Jesus on the cross reflect that spirit of forgiveness that all believers should have for everyone. At this time of the year we begin to look within the soul to see if there is any bad thoughts or attitudes within our spirits. It is a time to draw closer to God and His holiness. As we make the decision to get closer to God we have to think about His statement on the cross.

Christian forgiveness is an amazing thing. When Stephen was being stoned to death he prayed, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." There is nothing so lovely and nothing so rare as Christian forgiveness. When the unforgiving spirit is threatening to turn our hearts to bitterness, let us hear again our Lord asking forgiveness for those who crucified Him.

Today you will meet all kinds of unpleasant people; they will hurt you, and injure, and insult you; but you cannot live like that; you know better, for you are men and women in whom the spirit of God dwells. We all need this same spirit of forgiveness that Jesus showed to us as He was dying on the cross. May we all be able to say, "Father, forgive them."

Lt.Cmdr. James Griffith
Barracks Chaplain



WORSHIP SERVICES

Washington Navy Yard

Protestant: Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

Catholic: Sunday, 9 a.m.

Daily, Noon

Bellvue Community Chapel

Protestant: Sunday, 9 a.m.

Catholic: Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

Remembering the Holocaust -- 1990



The Holocaust was the systematic, bureaucratic annihilation of six million Jews by the Nazis and their collaborators as a central act of state during the Second World War; as night

descended, millions of other peoples were swept into this net of death. It was a crime unique in the annals of human history, different not only in the quantity of violence--the sheer numbers killed--but in its manner and purpose as a mass criminal enterprise organized by the state against defenseless civilian populations. The decision to kill every Jew everywhere in Europe: the definition of Jew as a target for death transcended all boundaries...

The concept of annihilation of an entire people, as distinguished from their subjugation, was unprecedented; never before in human history had genocide been an all-pervasive government policy unaffected by territorial or economic advantage and unchecked by moral or religious constraints...

The Holocaust was not simply a throwback to medieval torture or archaic barbarism but a thoroughly modern expression of bureaucratic organization, industrial management, scientific achievement, and technological sophistication. The entire apparatus of the German bureaucracy was marshalled in the service of the extermination process...

--1979 President's Commission on the Holocaust

The Reverend Martin Niemoeller, a pastor in the German Confessing Church, spent seven years in a concentration camp. He wrote the following words:

*First they came for the communists,
and I did not speak out--
because I was not a communist.*

*Then they came for the socialists,
and I did not speak out--
because I was not a socialist.*

*Then they came for the labor leaders,
and I did not speak out--
because I was not a labor leader.*

*Then they came for the Jews,
and I did not speak out--
because I was not a Jew.*

*Then they came for me--
and there was no one left to speak out for me.*

"In front of the oven were about 15 corpses...Although I am a butcher by profession, I was strongly taken aback at the prospect of this work. 'B.' gave me a pair of asbestos gloves and said: 'You'll get used to it.' We then pulled the corpses onto a metal sheet and each time slid three to four into the cremation oven...

When a transport was to arrive, our group...went down and heated the two ovens. During the heating work we could observe when the patients were led into the shower-gas chamber. Some of the patients, who still possessed some mental capacities, took along a washcloth and soap into the gas chamber because they really believed they were going into the shower. Then the physician came down and opened the gas valve...all killed patients had received a stamp on their nape, which was of no significance to us. We only had to check whether the killed person had a mark on the chest. This meant that the marked person had gold teeth. B., Karl removed the gold teeth. We pulled them out with pliers. We had a glass with disinfectant available, into which B., Karl threw the gold teeth. Then they came into the remains department..."

--Report by a "burner" in the Sonnenstein sanatorium



From the attic...

Capt. George C.Reid (front) and the Headquarters detachment of the "Oldest Post of the Corps" in formation (on a Wednesday morning?) in front of Center House in 1887.