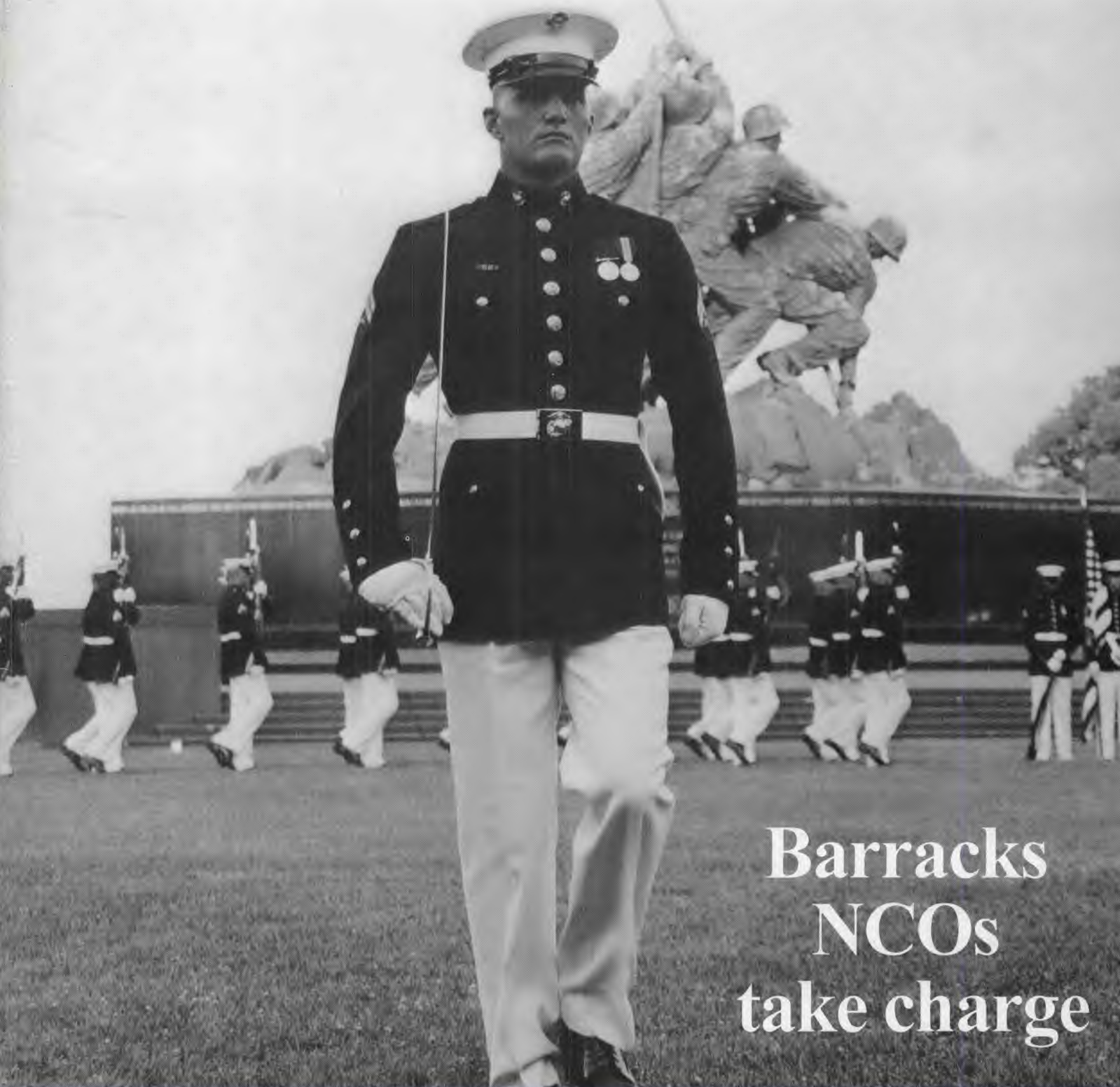




# PASS IN REVIEW

Serving "The Oldest Post of the Corps"

July 1997



**Barracks  
NCOs  
take charge**

**D&B selects new drum major - New ship named after Iwo Jima**

# CO outlines philosophy of command

by Col. Dennis J. Hejlik  
*Commanding Officer, Marine Barracks*

I am deeply honored to be joining the Corps' oldest post, and I very much look forward to meeting and working with each and every member of this diverse organization.

The barracks represents all Marines — past and present. It is important to realize what people see here can, in many cases, strongly influence their perception of Marines world-wide. To them we typify Marines posted, deployed and stationed around the globe.

That being said, there are several areas which bear careful consideration and scrutiny. I feel strongly about these issues, and I fully expect you to take them on board.

We are all leaders, no matter what our billet or responsibility. As such, we must lead by example 24 hours a day. I do not want to see the "do as I say, not as I do" attitude. Treat others under your charge with dignity and respect. Compassion does not equate to weakness in a leader, but rather a strength. Be willing to give your Marines the benefit of the doubt, but always be firm and fair.

Taking care of Marines means ZERO tolerance for any type of abuse — verbal, physical or mental. I will not tolerate, and neither will you, any "underground" rituals to "welcome" new people aboard, "acknowledge" a promotion, or recognize those who "made the team." Any such activities that degrade the dignity of an individual or defile the title "Marine" have no place in this organization. It will be neither condoned nor accepted.

Toughness and competence, two major components of training, should both be factored into your training schedules, regardless of your unit's specific task(s).

Being physically and mentally tough does not necessarily equate to a 300 Physical Fitness Test score or an inflexible decision making process. It does, however, equate to sustained peak performance over an extended period under adverse or taxing conditions.

Competence comes from basic combat skills. I expect all leaders to take every available opportunity to hone their Marines' combat skills. "Not required" is not an excuse for a failure to train.

We will take advantage of the resources we have at hand and be innovative when our schedules limit training outside the immediate geographic area. Battle studies, simple sand tables, staff rides, book reports, Professional

Military Education courses and continuous mentoring are a few examples of training/education that can be conducted within the confines of your unit.

ALMAR 266/93, effective January 1, 1996, stated successful completion of appropriate level non-resident PME courses are required for promotion and retention. Ensuring all your NCOs, staff NCOs, and officers complete their required courses is a training and leadership responsibility. Accordingly, all SNCOs and officers will enroll and complete their appropriate level non-resident courses.

Family readiness must also be one of our highest priorities. Our demanding schedules and work tempo require an active and vibrant family readiness program. We will take family readiness to the next level by ensuring that all Marines are included as members of the barracks family. We will vigilantly monitor quality of life issues affecting Marines living in the barracks and constantly seek to improve their living and working spaces.

I will be "out and about" frequently and will periodically conduct on the spot inspections of quarters, weight room, gymnasium and mess hall facilities. I charge each of you to do the same and report your suggestions for improvement to me through the chain of command. I expect all officers and SNCOs to be intimately familiar with the needs of the Marines entrusted to their care and knowledgeable about the resources available to meet those needs as situations and circumstances dictate.

Safety is paramount in everything we do, regardless of the unit's mission. Never endanger the lives of your Marines because you are unaware of what can or cannot be done during a specific event. If it doesn't look or feel right, it probably isn't. We owe it to our Marines and their families to keep them safe. They are our most precious resource.

The barracks has a well-earned reputation as the show-place of our Corps. We are but custodians of this great institution; it belongs to all Marines — those who still wear the uniform as well as those who once wore it contribute to our legacy. Guard it well!



*Col. Dennis J. Hejlik*

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**On the Cover**

**Cpl. Jonathan P. Steinbach leads the Silent Drill Platoon out during the NCO parade June 24. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Render)**

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Secretary of the Navy names LHD-7 in honor of the Battle of Iwo Jima to remember the sacrifice of the Marines who fought there.

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## Features...

### Parade turns 40...

The barracks celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Evening Parade July 5.

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### Gardner retires...

Master Gunnery Sgt. Michael H. Gardner retires after nine years at the front of "The Commandant's Own."

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## Barracks celebrates NCOs

Contra bugler Cpl. Roberto V. Espino of "The Commandant's Own," the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, marches at the Marine Corps War Memorial during the Noncommissioned Officer Sunset Parade June 24.

The NCO Parade occurs annually, allowing corporals and sergeants to fill all leadership billets. All aspects of the parade; from the parade staff to the officers' and hosting billets; are handled by NCOs.

Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Lewis G. Lee hosted the parade and the guest of honor was Master Chief Hospital Corpsman John W. Hardin, the senior Navy corpsman on active duty.

Hardin was honored by the Marines for his years of service with Marines during both peace and war.

*(photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Render)*

## Mess hall gets makeover, new equipment

*by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer*  
Staff Writer

The 8th & I dining facility recently underwent some changes and received a "galley" full of new cooking equipment.

According to Chief Warrant Officer-3 Felix M. Arnold, supply officer at 8th & I, the barracks hired civilian contractors to rebuild the salad bar and serving lines, and remodel the dining hall's floor.

"We made these improvements with the intent to compete for the next Ney award," Arnold said.

The Capt. Edward F. Ney/Maj. Gen. W.P.T. Hill Memorial Award is presented to the best dining facility in the Navy and Marine Corps. Every April, representatives from the Navy and the International Food Service inspect dining facilities Navywide, grading them on equipment, appearance of the dining facility, food preparation and many other categories.

The purpose of the Ney award is to promote excellence in food service. The award recognizes a dining facility that maintains unparalleled standards in all aspects of operation — the 8th & I mess hall is pursuing such excellence.

The food service Marines initiated their preparations

for the upcoming inspection by renovating the dining facility. The mess hall now features new countertops, new serving lines and new tile and carpet on the floor.

In addition to rebuilding the serving lines and stripping the floors, cooks now use more sophisticated equipment to prepare meals. According to Arnold, the dining facility spent \$10,000 to \$15,000 on new ovens, kettles and other cooking equipment, which aid Marines in accomplishing their mission.

"The new equipment has worked out very well for us," said Sgt. Joseph L. Fore, chief messman. "Last parade season was hectic at times because of equipment always breaking down. Now we can cook more food in less time and the 1997 parade season has been a blast."

Before receiving the new supplies, Gunnery Sgt. Roy Clark, assistant mess chief, said he initiated the renovation of the dining facility in the summer of 1995 because Marines were using equipment that was seven years old and constantly breaking down. Marines on mess duty and construction workers completed the project May 22 this year.

"I'm glad to see this project is finally coming down to the final loop holes of being finished in my last days of being at 8th & I," Clark said.

## Commandant's Own appoints new drum major

by *Cpl. Matt S. Schafer*  
Staff Writer

Master Sgt. James P. O'Keefe Jr. assumed the duties as the Drum Major for "The Commandant's Own," United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, May 29 at a post and relief ceremony here.

O'Keefe relieved Master Gunnery Sgt. Michael H. Gardner, who carried the mace as drum major for nearly nine years.

According to O'Keefe, this new billet gives him a chance to contribute to the traditions of the Drum and Bugle Corps.

"This is indeed a privilege. My intent is to perpetuate the traditions of 'The Commandant's Own,' to convey our Marine Corps pride through music, and to promote the Marine Corps wherever we go," O'Keefe said. "This is our primary function."

An Omaha, Neb., native, O'Keefe joined the Marine Corps in 1980. He began his career as a field artilleryman at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., and later served as an instrumentalist with the MCAGCC Drum and Bugle Corps.

He was a soprano bugler at Twentynine Palms until 1983 when he reported to Drill Instructor School and subsequently to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif., for a four-year tour on the drill field. There, he was meritoriously promoted to staff sergeant.

In 1987, O'Keefe attended the



*Col. Truman W. Crawford (left), commanding officer/director, United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps passes the mace to Master Sgt. James P. O'Keefe Jr., the new drum major, as Master Gunnery Sgt. Michael H. Gardner (right) stands-by. (photo by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer)*

Navy School of Music in Little Creek, Va., and in July 1988, he reported to the barracks for duty.

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## Marines run to help special olympics raise money

by *Cpl. Matt S. Schafer*  
Staff Writer

Marines here helped raise money for special olympics June 13 by participating in the 12th Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run.

According to Cpl. Glenn J. Miller, a corporal of the guard, Marines in First Section, H&S Guard Detachment ran a 2.4 mile course in a "boots and utes" formation, distinguishing them from other participants.

"It's been a tradition for guard to run in this race because we are, in one way or another, a member of the law enforcement community here," said Staff Sgt. Jack E. Thomas, guard detachment's platoon sergeant.

More than 50 agencies, including

more than 2,000 law enforcement representatives, participated in the run. Washington, D.C., Special Olympics held the run to raise funds for the 13 sports they hold throughout the year for the mentally and physically challenged.

Special olympics organizers held a ceremony before the race that featured Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich.

"It's neat to see this level of involvement by everybody, and to see that you're all willing to come out and be a part of this effort," Gingrich said to an audience of runners. "The fact that somehow we created a spirit where people help people is what I think truly makes America a remarkable society."

The Marines contributed to the effort by running in formation, singing cadence, and even picking up additional "squad members" along the way.

"We had a few people from other federal agencies join up with us and sing cadence," said Sgt. Nelson B. Moore, a sergeant of the guard. "Between that and the weather, it was a pretty motivating run."

According to Thomas, the Marines from guard participate in the law enforcement torch run annually.

"We like to get out there to show the camaraderie between our unit and other federal law enforcement groups," Thomas said. "We've done it for the last three or four years, and we plan to keep it up."

# Dalton names new LHD for 2000

by Cpl. Jerry D Pierce  
Staff Writer

The Navy named its newest amphibious warship during a ceremony at the Marine Corps War Memorial June 10.

Secretary of the Navy John H. Dalton announced the name of the the seventh ship of the Wasp class, the USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7), scheduled to be completed in the year 2000.

"It is an honor for me to name our newest amphibious ship after the battle of Iwo Jima," said the Secretary. "I am proud this great nation will commission USS Iwo Jima to honor the enduring legacy of those who fought and dedicated their lives to the United States of America."

When the ship is commissioned it will become the second to bear the name. The principal mission of the amphibious assault ship is to enable the Navy/Marine Corps team to accomplish a seamless transition from the sea to a land campaign and conduct prompt, sustained combat operations at sea.

"The naming of this ship is not



Secretary of the Navy John H. Dalton announced the new LHD during a "Sunset Parade" June 10 at the Marine Corps War Memorial. (photo by Cpl. Jerry D Pierce)

only an honor for those of us who are still here, but for those who gave their lives so long ago," said retired 1stSgt. Herbert B. Newman, Triangle, Va. "It will be great to see the ship set to sea for the first time. For me, as a veteran of the battle, it shows the dawning of a new age."

"USS Iwo Jima, to be christened at the turn of the century, will possess the most powerful technology and weapons capability available," said Dalton. "Iwo Jima's ultimate strength will be the ability to deter aggression, and her lifeblood will be our Sailors and Marines who man the deckplates. They will honor the tradition of sacrifice so honorably held by those who fought and died at the battle of Iwo Jima."

Amphibious assault ships are fully capable of amphibious assault, advance force and special purpose operations, as well as non-combatant evacuation and other humanitarian missions. The ships are fully equipped with command, control, communication and intelligence systems for flagship command duty and have medical facilities — including a 600-bed hospital.

The assault support system aboard a Wasp-class ship coordinates movement of troops, cargo and vehicles. Monorail trains transport cargo and supplies from storage and staging areas throughout the ship to a well deck, which opens to the sea through huge gates in the ship's stern. There, cargo, troops, and vehicles board the landing crafts for transit to the beach. Air cushioned landing craft can "fly" out



The USS Iwo Jima, the second ship to bear the name, will be similar to the USS Kearsarge, LHD 3 (shown above), when it is completed in 2000. (USMC photo)

of the dry well deck, or the well deck can be ballasted down for the conventional craft to float out on their way to the beach. Simultaneously, helicopters move from the hanger deck to the flight deck by two deck-edge elevators and load supplies from three massive cargo elevators.

USS Iwo Jima will be 844 feet long with a 106-foot beam. Two steam propulsion plants developing a combined 70,000 horsepower will drive the 40,500-ton ship to speeds in excess of 22 knots, or 25 miles-per-hour. It is designed to carry nearly 2,000 combat Marines, 1,200 Sailors, and a variety of Navy and Marine Corps assault helicopters, AV-8B Harriers, landing craft, and amphibious vehicles.

## Former Marine awarded for heroism in Vietnam

by Cpl. Jerry D Pierce  
Staff Writer

From the jungles of Vietnam to the parade deck of 8th and I .... Cpl. Brian S. Mayer of Medford, N. Y., a former U.S. Marine was awarded a Silver Star during an Evening Parade here June 20 for his heroic actions almost 30 years ago in the Republic of Vietnam.

Mayer received the nations third highest combat award from Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Richard I. Neal for his courage under intense enemy fire during the TET Offensive in Hue City Feb. 24, 1968.

"We are here to honor a Marine who embodies the inherent qualities of Marines around the world," said Neal. "Mayer is a Marine who we humbly recognize 29 years after risking his life to save the lives of his fellow Marines."

Mayer, stationed with the 106 Recoilless Rifle Platoon, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, single-handedly carried his fellow Marines to safety using a small transport vehicle for cover from enemy fire. According to Mayer, the early morning attack took the lives of more than 10 Marines and wounded six others.



**Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Richard I. Neal shakes hands with Mayer after presenting him with the silver star medal during an Evening Parade June 20. (photo by Cpl. Jerry D Pierce)**

"...Corporal (then Lance Corporal) Mayer completely exposed himself to intense enemy fire to rescue wounded Marines and retrieve the dead," according to the award citation. "He accomplished this daring feat by driving a open, flat-bed mechanical mule through the streets of Hue City. Ignoring the deadly enemy fire which was impacting around him, Corporal Mayer picked up the casualties and carried them to safety."

Mayer received the medal with his wife and two sons, one of whom is a Marine officer stationed overseas, looking on with a crowd of more than 5,000 parade guests. Fifty members of his company in Vietnam were also here to view the presentation, including retired Col. Robert Thompson, his former commanding officer.

"I am still in shock," said Mayer. "I'm humbled by this whole thing, but I want to use this as a way to remember those who never made it home."

Mayer, one of the Corps' more than 2,500 Silver Star recipients for heroic actions in Vietnam, said he largely credits his unhesitating reaction to his early training.

"My main concern was for the safety of

*continued on pg. 8*

## Corps honors fallen Marine with promotion

by Cpl. Jerry D Pierce  
Staff Writer

**Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C.** — A Marine major was posthumously promoted during a ceremony here June 13 — almost 47 years after his selection.

A Marine Corps promotion board selected Maj. John J. Canney Jr. for promotion Nov. 30, 1950. Unknown to the board, however, Canney died two days earlier defending his country in the Korean War, making him ineligible for promotion.

"We are here as a result of multiple forces and multiple wills to participate in a very simple ceremony," said Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Charles C. Krulak. "A promotion ceremony that is a long time in coming but is so very well deserved."

Mrs. Canney accepted her husband's appointment cer-

tificate and a set of silver oak leaves, symbolizing her deceased husband's long awaited promotion.

"We have waited a long time to see this happen," said Canney's son, John J. Canney III. "It was an honor to know that Senators Kennedy, Warner, Glenn and Smith, Gen. Krulak and President Clinton believed and worked so hard to do the right thing to honor my father."

Posthumous promotions are a very rare thing during times of peace, according to Jeffrey G. Edwards, assistant head of the Officer Promotions Branch at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. Last year the Corps promoted only five Marines posthumously. Promotions of Marines after their death are directed by the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Navy and are confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

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# Highlights of Frye's Marine Corps career

by *Sgt. Patrick E. Franklin*  
*Press Chief*

Sergeant Major Dennis S. Frye relieved Sgt. Maj. Larry J. Carson as the Sergeant Major of Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., during a relief and appointment ceremony here, Feb. 6. The new sergeant major's biography was printed in the March issue of the "Pass in Review," but it left out several significant events in Frye's career.

Frye joined the barracks after serving two years and six months as the sergeant major of 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

A native of New Haven, Conn., Frye enlisted in the Marine Corps Oct. 2, 1975, and attended recruit training at Parris Island, S.C. Upon completion of boot camp he received training as a correctional specialist and his first duty station was at Marine Barracks, Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.

In 1977 Frye was reassigned to the base brig at Camp Lejeune, N.C., where he was promoted to sergeant, and served as dormitory supervisor and the NCOIC of the Restoration Platoon.

Frye reported to Drill Instructor School in 1980, and served nearly five years on the drill field at MCRD San Diego, Calif. During this time he was meritoriously pro-

moted to the grades of staff sergeant and gunnery sergeant. He was a junior drill instructor, senior drill instructor, and drill master at Drill Instructor School for eleven classes.

In September 1984, Frye transferred to Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he assumed duties as a brig supervisor. In 1987 the sergeant major served as Chief Instructor and Detachment Gunnery Sergeant at the Marine Corps Law Enforcement Academy in San Antonio, Texas.

In 1989 Frye was promoted to the rank of first sergeant and reassigned to Marine Corps Security Force Company in Diego Garcia.

He returned to MCRD San Diego, Calif., in November 1990, assuming the duties as first sergeant of Charlie Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion and first sergeant at the Drill Instructor School.

In January 1994, Frye transferred to MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., to serve as first sergeant of Weapons Company and Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines. He assumed duties as sergeant major of 1/7 in August 1994, and served in that position until assuming his current duties.

Frye's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with gold star in lieu of second award, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with gold star in lieu of second award.

## **Drum Maj. continued**

Here, he performed as soprano bugler, mellophone bugler and was the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of public affairs.

Selected to participate in the Staff Noncommissioned Officer Degree Completion Program, he earned a bachelor degree in social psychology and served as the NCOIC of the Family Service Center at Henderson Hall, Arlington, Va. In 1995, O'Keefe returned to 8th & I to perform with "The Commandant's Own."

O'Keefe's personal awards include the Navy Commendation Medal with gold star and the Navy Achievement Medal.

## **Silver Star continued**

the wounded and to care for those who were fatally wounded," said Mayer. "From the first day of boot camp our drill instructors taught us to never leave our fellow Marines behind."

After receiving his award, Mayer said that no amount of training can mentally prepare someone for the horrors of combat.

"Watching your fellow Marines die every day is something that you just don't get used to," he said. "I was just in the right place at the right time, and I responded in a way that every Marine, given the chance, would have responded."

## **Promotion continued**

All branches of the service use posthumous promotions to honor service members. Posthumous promotion recipients must have died in the line of duty to be officially recommended for promotion to a grade other than their grade at the time of death.

Although posthumous promotions differ in their ceremonial makeup and location, the meaning behind them remains the same.

"LtCol. Canney is a Marine officer who gave his life in the service of our great country. It is our duty and honor as United States Marines to honor his family, our family, with this promotion," said Krulak.



# Order issued on hazing

**Washington (June 20)**— A new Marine Corps order, issued June 18, clarifies hazing and outlines the disciplinary action Marines found guilty of hazing may face.

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Charles C. Krulak signed MCO 1700.28, which makes it clear this activity is not tolerated in the Marine Corps.

The order defines hazing as any conduct "whereby one military member, regardless of service or rank, causes another military member ... to suffer or be exposed to an activity which is cruel, abusive, humiliating, or oppressive. Hazing includes, but is not limited to, any form of initiation or congratulatory act that involves physically striking another to inflict pain, piercing another's skin in any manner, verbally berating another, encouraging another to excessively consume alcohol, or encouraging another to engage in illegal, harmful, demeaning, or dangerous acts."

Hazing is not confined to physical contact; it can also be verbal or psychological in nature. The definition does not include mission or operational activities, or the requisite

training to prepare for them. Additionally, activities such as administrative corrective measures, extra military instruction, command-authorized physical training, and incentive training for recruits are specifically permitted by the order.

Any violation or attempted violation of the order on hazing can result in disciplinary action under Article 92 of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice (failure to obey an order or regulation). Marines who engage in hazing may also face other charges, including: Article 80 (attempts); Article 81 (conspiracy); Article 93 (cruelty and maltreatment); Article 124 (maiming); Article 128 (assault); Article 133 (conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman); and Article 134 (indecent assault, drunk and disorderly conduct, and/or solicitation).

The measures contained in MCO 1700.28 are necessary, said the commandant, because "unfortunately, some in our ranks confuse hazing with the tradition of certain military ceremonies and develop initiations or 'rites of passage' they believe promote loyalty. They do not."

To make sure every Marine

knows what constitutes hazing and the disciplinary action that can result, training on hazing will be an annual instruction requirement in the Marine Corps Troop Information Program. Entry-level training will also be provided to both officer and enlisted Marines, and be included in certain Professional Military Education courses, as well as the Commanders' Course at the Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Quantico, Va.

"This is a warfighting issue," the commandant said. "Marines do not go into harm's way, make the sacrifices they always have, or give up their precious lives because they have been hazed or initiated into some self-defined 'elite' sub-culture."

Krulak also said the order on hazing does not preclude proper time-honored traditions, such as hails and farewells, promotion/graduation ceremonies, mess nights, dining in/out, and other similar activities.

"These events are part of our heritage. ... When properly organized and supervised, these events serve to enhance morale, esprit de corps, pride, professionalism, and unit cohesiveness."

## Georgia governor thanks Corps for success

by *Cpl. J. R. Lewis*  
*MCRD, Parris Island*

**Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island** — "Drunk, dirty, disheveled, and dejected, I sat cross-legged on the floor of the Gilmer County Jail in the Appalachian town of Ellijay, Ga."

It is hard to believe these words describe a man on the path to greatness. But that is exactly how Georgia Governor Zell Miller begins his latest book, "Corps Values — Everything You Need to Know I learned in the Marines."

The path that led Miller from that jail cell in August 1953 to his position at the top in the state he loves was difficult. In fact, he took one of the hardest routes imaginable — the U.S. Marine Corps.

The decision to enlist, said Miller, is one of the best he ever made.

"I would not be governor today if it were not for those 12 weeks I spent at Parris Island and those three years I spent in the Marine Corps," said Miller in his deep

*continued on pg. 12*

## New gunnery system keeps 1st LAR on target

by Lance Cpl. Matt Hagerman  
I MEF

**Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Calif.** — The new Precision Gunnery System for light armored vehicles recently passed tests in a simulated force-on-force engagement here when 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion took it to the field.

The PGS is a recent development designed to hone Marines' gunnery skills and make combat simulation exercises, such as the Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation Standard, more realistic.

The system consists of external sensors that register hits, a pulse projector mounted on the 25 mm chain gun, a control panel to view information about shot locations, a computer processor, and a global positioning system.

One advantage of PGS is its ability to simulate an actual round's trajectory. With the lasers used on a Marksmanship Integrated Laser Engagement System, LAVs only need to point and shoot to score a hit, according to Staff Sgt. Edward Milewski, battalion master gunner. With the pulse projector, if the distance isn't calculated correctly,

the pulses won't land on target.

The PGS can also be used as a training tool after the engagements are over. By removing the memory cards from each LAV and downloading the information into a central computer, the entire scenario can be played out, including all shots fired.

"Each unit has a GPS built in so we can overlay the battle onto a map and see what really happened," Milewski said. "It makes catching mistakes and showing corrections easier."

Although the system will allow for more gunnery practice without the use of live ammo, it is not meant as a replacement for actual rounds.

"There is no substitution for the real thing," said Milewski. "PGS can't duplicate the training required to load rounds and deal with weapons jams."

The future of this system is promising, however, due to its compatibility with future combat simulators. With the MILES 2000 system in development, LAV gunners will be able to engage a number of other targets, including aircraft and infantry, using the PGS.

## Bosnian refugee joins Marine Corps to repay Marines who saved her life

by Lance Cpl. Amos Kelso  
MCRD, Parris Island

**Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island** — Each year Marines all over the world risk their lives to save others -- both on and off duty. Although this may come as second nature to most Marines, many of them may never know the impact they have on the people they protect.

Nowhere could this be more true than in a combat zone or other hazardous area. While some who are rescued can only say thank you, others, like Pvt. Adisa Dubica, find a different way to show their appreciation.

Dubica, a Bosnian refugee, gradu-

ated June 6 from Platoon 4018, Papa Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion to show her gratitude for the nameless Marines who saved her and her mother.

Dubica was still a teenager when fighting broke out in the former Yugoslavia and Bosnian Serbs began their policy of "ethnic cleansing."

"The war started in 1991 when I was 18 years old," said Dubica. "I didn't realize what war means. Then one night me and my mom lost everything."

Dubica and her mother, both Roman Catholics, lived in the city of Banja Luka in the northern region of Bosnia-Herzegovina when Serbian forces took over the area.

"Then the real war started with grenades and gunfire. It was very hard in the beginning. You don't really realize what's happening. When you do realize what's happening, then you realize you could lose your life every second."

Dubica said her life changed into an everyday challenge to survive. She explained the line between life and death began to blur as the war continued.

"You just keep going with it and a year later you don't care anymore. You don't care if you're going to stay alive or if they're going to kill you."

Dubica and her mother moved in with an aunt after their house was

taken. She said that during the next several years, Catholics and Muslims in the town were treated much the same as Jews in Germany during World War II.

"We were not allowed to lock our doors or have anything. They just came in and took whatever they wanted to take, like it was their own property."

Over the next three years she faced death five times at the hands of Serbian soldiers.

"Twice they put a pistol in my mouth and they also held a gun to my head. Two other times they put a knife to my throat. I was

very lucky because they tried five times, but they didn't kill me. The main reason why was that they thought I was 14 and they let me go. There's no words that I can use to explain that kind of feeling."

The Serbs attempted to execute Dubica a sixth time, but some much overdue good luck enabled them to escape to safety ... that escape became her first encounter with Marines.

One night Dubica and her mother joined a group of 50 people in an attempt to flee to safety. While hiding in the woods, a group of 15 Serbian soldiers captured the escapees.

"They were putting us in a line to kill us. They had a hole dug and everything ready. At that time I saw my death. I knew it, there was no way that somebody was going to come and save my life. Then these (Marines) showed up."

The Serbian soldiers were caught by surprise when an American voice coming from the woods announced they were surrounded and ordered



**Pvt. Adisa Dubica is inspected by her senior drill instructor, Staff Sgt. Pamela Dunson, in the gymnasium at the 4th Recruit Training Battalion before beginning family day liberty June 5. (photo by Lance Cpl. Amos Kelso)**

them to drop their weapons. After surrendering, the Serbs were again surprised, this time by the number of their captors.

"It was only two Marines," said Dubica with astonishment. "They hardly had anything and we thought (the Serbian soldiers) were going to grab their guns and kill them and kill us, but they just stood there like they were frozen or something. The thing is, they were afraid of Marines and American soldiers."

The Marines delivered the Serbian soldiers to their command and then escorted the refugees back to Banja Luka. Since Dubica could speak English, the Marines were able to talk to the group through her.

"I don't remember who those Marines were, but deep down in my heart I thought if I could be a United States Marine, I will so I can save somebody's life like that. I always thought that Marines are strong, and when you look at them you can see that they are mean and they can do whatever they want."

After an entire year in a Croatian camp, where they awaited transfer, the United Nations arranged for Dubica and her mother to be sent to the United States.

The two arrived in Louisville, Ky., April 11, 1995. Their sponsors, a Catholic charity organization, provided them with food and a place to live while finding them jobs and an apartment of their own. The 24-year-old Dubica, who had taught English, biology and art in Bosnia, said that adjustment to life in America was difficult be-

cause of Americans' perceptions of the refugees.

"That was the hardest part," said Dubica, "to prove to people that you're worth something and you are the same as they are. I wanted to be somebody to show Americans that I know something, and that I'm intelligent like they are."

Dubica got her chance when she met her recruiter, Staff Sgt. Matthew Jensen from Marine Corps Recruiting Station, Louisville.

Dubica arrived at Parris Island March 10. She said the physical aspects of boot camp were not difficult for her, but being away from her mother and dealing entirely in her second language posed some difficulty.

"The hardest thing for me was the separation from my mother because I was never separated from her. That was what really put me down in the first two weeks. I also had to speak English all the time and think in English even if I wanted to speak

*continued on pg. 12*

## Bosnian Refugee continued

my own language. That put some pressure on me.”

She added she had trouble trying not to be nervous during inspections. She constantly feared making a mistake before the company or battalion commander and failing the inspection.

“I didn’t have enough confidence in myself,” said Dubica. “That’s what I lost by the time that I came to America. Now, at the end of boot camp, I have it back. I think there is nothing that I can’t do.”

Dubica will go to school for Military Occupational Specialty training in financing and accounting after completing Marine Combat Training at Camp Geiger, N.C., and

says she plans to make a long career of the Corps.

“I plan to stay in the Marine Corps as long as I can. It feels great because now I can do something for this country,” said Dubica.

“I just want to say to (the Marines who rescued me), thank you for saving my mother’s and my life, and I want to thank them for opening my eyes to my future. There are no words to say to somebody who saved your life except that you are thankful for it, but that’s not good enough. Maybe someday I’m going to be in some situation like they were in combat so that I can save somebody’s life. At that time, I can pay them back. They saved mine. I’m going to save somebody else’s.”

## Georgia governor continued

southern drawl. “The values that were taught to me in the Marine Corps are values that are current in everything I do.”

With his wry southern wit and often humorous accounts of recruit training at Parris Island in the 1950s, the former Marine sergeant puts a spin on the fundamental Marine Corps values.

With these values, Miller works to improve the lives of others in his state. He backs the HOPE (Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally) program, which provides free college tuition and book allowances to students who graduate from Georgia public or private schools with at least a B average. Miller has also provided a pre-kindergarten plan for all Georgian 4-year-olds and a tough DUI plan aimed at keeping those children and their families alive.

In addition to his work in the government, Miller’s fourth literary work weighs in big on values and boot camp memories, but small on the windy, self-aggrandizing style that plagues the memoirs of many politicians. In the words of “Marietta Daily Journal” columnist Matt Towery, Miller is “gently placing his arm around the shoulder of the reader and sharing the secret to an orderly and productive life.”

“I just wanted to weigh in on the discussion of values that I had first learned from my mother and were later reinforced so strongly by the Marines,” said Miller.

Like a tattoo, those values are under Miller’s skin and have guided him every day since he left the Corps’ ranks. The values are neatness, punctuality, brotherhood, persistence, pride, respect, shame, responsibility, achievement, courage, discipline, and loyalty. Miller dedicates a chapter to each value and reinforces the value’s importance

with anecdotes, philosophies, and his version of the facts of life.

Not surprisingly, Miller’s “Corps Values” fall directly in line with the Marine Corps’ Core Values — Honor, Courage and Commitment. The two philosophies share the common idea that character is destiny, both in individuals (such as governors), and organizations (such as the Marine Corps).

“I have met very few former Marines who haven’t kept these values,” he added.

From the towering portrait of Iwo Jima that rests on the wall behind his desk in the Georgia Capitol, to his trademark black cowboy boots that are polished to mirrors at the toe, to the gold eagle, globe and anchor pinned on his suit jacket, Miller’s love and respect for the Corps are present in his everyday life.

In light of his achievements, Miller has been described as “a brilliant, brilliant governor” by President Bill Clinton, and “Tough as nails” by former Georgia Senator Sam Nunn.

But of all the words used to describe Miller, there is one word that best sums up his achievements and attitude toward success in life — Marine.



**Georgia Governor Zell Miller as a sergeant in the 1950s. (photo provided by Miller).**

# Barracks celebrates 40 years of history

compiled by  
Public Affairs Office

Shortly after nightfall here July 4, "The Oldest Post of the Corps" celebrated the 40th anniversary of what has become the most famous ceremony in the Corps — the Evening Parade.

Parade season is in full swing, and Marines here can be particularly pleased this month with the jobs they are doing. As the barracks celebrates 40 years of evening parades, Marines here can take pride in knowing they are continuing a tradition full of history.

"The Evening Parade is a ceremony that embodies the qualities every Marine around the Corps should strive for," said former Barracks Commander Col. David G. Dotterer. "Celebrating 40 years of the historic Evening Parade isn't just a momentous occasion for Marines, but for the American public as well."

Although public parades have been performed here since 1934, portions of the Evening Parade, performed since 1957 in its present format, can be traced to Marine ceremonies dating back to at least 1798. The tradition and military rituals presented in the parade are an elaboration of Sunset Colors, which was an expansion of such ceremonies as tattoo, retreat and lowering the colors.

Tattoo, slang for "tap toe," is a Dutch word for turning off the tap on a wine barrel and dates back to the 17th century. At that time, a drummer marched through the streets beating his drum at the end of each day, signaling innkeepers to turn off the taps and stop selling drinks. This encouraged soldiers to leave the inns,



Marines lower the colors during a Friday Evening Parade. (USMC photo)

which had become social centers, and return to their barracks. After recalling soldiers to their barracks in this manner ended, the tattoo remained the traditional military ceremony that signified the end of the day.

The tattoo ceremony was later abandoned, however, and the lowering of the colors at sunset became the most elaborate ceremony of the day.

The retreat ceremony can be traced back to colonial America when towns and cities were fortified. This call was used to warn residents outside the walls to return to the safety of the fort when challenged by hostile forces, or to signal the changing of the guard for night watches.

Steeped in tradition and history, the tattoo, retreat and lowering of the colors ceremonies have become part of the present day military Evening Colors pageantry.

The public, weekly ceremony that has become the present Evening Parade began as the "Sunset Parade" in 1934, usually conducted Monday or Thursday afternoons from April to November. These early parades drew

only about 200 to 300 guests because they were held during regular working hours and late afternoon rush hour.

During the winter of 1956-57, then Commandant Randolph M. Pate and Barracks Commander Col. Leonard F. Chapman moved the performance of the parade to Friday evening, making it more accessible to the public, and insisted the sequence and format adhere to strict regulations with no fancy theatrics or trick drills. It had to be military in each and every detail, and its fame would be based on military precision and execution of regulation drill maneuvers.

Moving the parade to Friday evening made the parade an immediate success, according to retired Master Sgt. Stephen Macsisak, historian and former member of the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps. Performance times and the highly "spit and polished" and expertly trained skills of the participating Marine units began drawing more and more people.

*continued on pg. 16*

# Maintenance:

## 'Fix-its' keep it all together at oldest post

by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer  
Staff Writer

Being "the Oldest Post of the Corps" gives Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., a variety of unique characteristics. It is the commandant's back yard and home of the Friday Evening Parade.

On the other hand, the oldest post may also be the home of the oldest plumbing, electrical wiring system and foundation in the Marine Corps.

That is why there are 14 Marines and nine civilians in the barracks maintenance section handling the occasional problems that develop from residing in a historical landmark.

According to Gunnery Sgt. King E. Thomas, barracks maintenance chief, the 'fix-its' at 8th & I keep the oldest post standing.

"We handle all of the facility's maintenance work on general officers' quarters, the commandant of the Marine Corps' quarters, the bachelor enlisted quarters and the administrative buildings," Thomas said.



**Sgt. Joseph C. Gray, maintenance electrician, paints a wall in the commanding officer's quarters to prepare it for the new CO and his family. (photo by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer)**

To keep the barracks running, these leathernecks perform various duties annually, such as painting the commandant's quarters, along with their regular duties, like maintaining the boiler room. Thomas explained that keeping up with the boiler room alone can be a full-time job.

In fact, the maintenance section keeps a Marine on duty at night who checks the boiler and air conditioner every two hours. The maintenance duty handles situations that occur after working hours. Without a duty Marine, if a boiler goes

down at night, there will not be any hot water, heat or air conditioning the next morning.

"The duty is a maintenance man on call for minor maintenance duties," Thomas said. "If a problem occurs that he can't handle, he calls myself or Ray Patterson, our civilian foreman, for further instruction, or we'll come in for emergency maintenance."

When the maintenance staff here can not diagnose a problem, they recruit civilian contractors through public works contracts.

"Our maintenance section is supposed to do old work only — repair or replace," Thomas said. "We are not qualified or authorized to do new work."

According to Thomas, old work includes jobs which the barracks can perform, and jobs in which items are replaced with new items that look old-fashioned. New work includes those tasks requiring equipment or manpower that 8th & I does not have.

For example, in the fall of 1996, the maintenance section contracted a civilian company to strip the parade deck and put in a new drainage system. The maintenance section also employed civilian contractors to install phone lines in the enlisted quarters.

While civilian contractors take on the tasks 8th & I Marines may not have the tools or expertise to complete, there are still plenty of other duties for maintenance personnel to handle, such as repairing holes in the walls and replacing wall lockers in the barracks.

Besides its regular commitments, the maintenance section handles the lighting and metal detectors during the Friday Evening Parades. Each Friday, these Marines assemble the magnometers and bleachers during the day, and operate the lighting system during the parade.

"We have five Marines at lights around the parade deck, including one director who gives commands and signals for the light crew," Thomas said. "The light show itself is a sequence they have to rehearse."

Thomas said the operational tempo of the maintenance section can make things hectic, but it has proved beneficial to individual Marines in the shop. Lance Cpl. John J. Pacor is a former guard Marine currently working

*continued on pg. 16*



*Former drum major, Master Gunnery Sgt. Michael H. Gardner leads the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps during a Sunset Parade at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Washington, D.C. (USMC photo)*

## Drum Major retires from career of excellence

by *Cpl. Matt S. Schafer*  
Staff Writer

For the past nine years, Master Gunnery Sgt. Michael H. Gardner marched "The Commandant's Own," United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps to the center of attention during performances worldwide.

Whether the Drum & Bugle Corps was dazzling spectators in the Far East, or in the commandant's backyard, onlookers became accustomed to Drum Maj. Gardner's confident strut as he led his Marines across the parade deck.

Gardner led the "D&B" in the spotlight for the last time in his Marine career before passing the mace to the new drum major, Master Sgt. James P. O'Keefe Jr., at a post and relief ceremony May 29, 1997, on the parade deck here.

Gardner was born and raised in the northeastern region of Tennessee. While attending high school, he participated in the Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps pro-

gram, which he said significantly influenced his decision to join the Marine Corps.

"I watched the instructors and the principal of the high school, who was a former Marine colonel, and I thought this is a group of people I would like to be with," Gardner said. "I made the decision to join the Marine Corps, and I later auditioned for the musical unit."

Gardner completed boot camp at MCRD Parris Island, S.C., in September 1975 and graduated from Music School, Parris Island the following spring.

Gardner's first duty station was Camp Pendleton, Calif., which he considers his birthplace as a musician in the Marine Corps.

"It was exciting for a guy fresh in the Marine Corps who had never been out of the state of Tennessee except for boot camp," Gardner said, "to go out to the big state of California and see everything out there. When I went out to Pendleton, I found out what being a musician in the Marine Corps

was really all about."

Gardner spent two years in California as a bugler before getting stationed at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., in 1978. During his tour here, Gardner assumed the duties of third soprano and later lead soprano, instrument repair technician and supply administrator for the unit.

In addition, Gardner had his first taste of being a drum major while stationed at 8th & I.

"In 1983, the drum major at the time threw his back out, and I was one of those guys who had always prepared myself to be a drum major," Gardner said. "Ever since I was a corporal, I'd spin broom sticks or whatever I could get my hands on trying to learn the job. And when the time came to pick a stand-in, I was the obvious choice."

Gardner said he was the acting drum major for three months at 8th & I, and in that time, he caught the eyes of some officials at Headquarters Ma-

*continued on pg. 16*

## Gardner continued

rine Corps, Arlington, Va.

"The people at Headquarters Marine Corps liked what they saw and decided to send me to Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., where I was drum major for three years," Gardner said.

Gardner said his time at Twentynine Palms gave him the chance to master the drill movements and administrative duties of a drum major.

"I'd get out and work on not only what I was doing as a drum major with the mace and leading the platoon around," Gardner said, "but I also had the chance to become a better leader."

After his tour at Twentynine Palms, Gardner returned to 8th & I as an instrumentalist. One year later, he became the drum major for "The Commandant's Own."

"Becoming the drum major was a dream come true," Gardner said. "That was the position I always wanted. That was the goal, and it was probably the most awesome thing

you could ever think of to inherit that responsibility."

For the next nine years, Gardner traveled all over the world with the Drum & Bugle Corps, meeting an array of people, from presidents to actors. In that time, Gardner carried the mace in over 2,500 performances.

Gardner also had the chance to work directly under Col. Truman W. Crawford, director of "The Commandant's Own," who Gardner refers to as his biggest influence in the Marine Corps.

"Col. Crawford has been a teacher, a commanding officer, a father and a mentor to me," Gardner said. "I learned a lot from working under him."

And to that, Crawford described Gardner as a son and one of the best staff non-commissioned officers who has ever worked for him.

"There is absolutely nothing he wouldn't do, and very little he didn't do, to make this unit successful," Crawford said. "I would not hesitate, and did not hesitate five seconds to send our Marines anywhere in the country with no commissioned officers along. The only person there to

support, guide and supervise would be Master Gunnery Sgt. Gardner."

In addition to earning the respect of his superiors, Gardner had a direct influence over junior Marines such as Sgt. Bret A. Lansdell, who worked under Gardner for six years.

"If there was a problem, he'd fix it," Lansdell said. "If he didn't have the capabilities to fix a problem, he would find a way to make things happen so the mission could keep going. That's probably what I admired about him most, and I try to handle myself the same way."

Gardner retired as drum major of "The Commandant's Own" May 29, ending a 21-and-a-half-year adventure that has taken him around the world. Gardner said when he looks back on his career, he sees a time in his life that has influenced himself, his family and Marines he has worked with.

"Probably the biggest aspect of my career that I'll miss is performing," Gardner said. "It's an awesome feeling to stand in front of the best musical unit in the world, direct them, then turn and receive applause from thousands of people. That's something that will never be replaced."

## Evening Parade continued

The crowds of visitors to the Friday Evening Parades have more than doubled since then from the nearly 2,000 people who attended the first parade in its revised format July 5, 1957 — last year the barracks welcomed an estimated 95,000 guests between May and August.

Featuring the ceremonial units here, Friday Evening Parades continue to draw visitors by demonstrating the high dedication and discipline of the Corps through the pageantry of time-honored tradition.

"One of the most memorable things for me was when the bugler marched out to the bell on Centerwalk and played taps," said Macsisak. "I can still feel the chill going up my spine. The cheer that went up after the music stopped let each of us know the overwhelming affect the parades had on the American people."

## Maintenance continued

in the carpentry section who said he plans to establish a career in the construction field.

"I like doing woodwork because it gives me a chance to see something from start to finish and know that I helped create it," Pacor said.

Thomas said there are not many buildings still in use after 91 years of occupancy. But the maintenance section at 8th & I is preserving an aging post and upholding the traditions of the barracks while giving Marines a comfortable place to live.

"When a Marine can go to his room in the barracks knowing he has light, hot water and restroom facilities, our job is done," Thomas said. "Basically, it's like our tee-shirts read: '8TH & I MAINTENANCE SECTION: KEEPING THE OLDEST POST IN THE CORPS STANDING.'"





**Lance Cpl. R. D. Polion, H&S Co., Guard Plt., stands by as Maj. Nancy Hurless, former H&S Co. commanding officer, and H&S Co.'s 1st Sgt. Felix Robles Jr. pin on his new stripes during a promotion ceremony here June 1. (photo by Sgt. Patrick E. Franklin)**

**W**hen you see these Marines, congratulate them on their June promotions:

**Co. "A"**

- Cpl. J.E. Forbus
- Lance Cpl. W.E. Johnson
- Lance Cpl. J.A. Smith

**Co. "B"**

- Cpl. D.D. Holmen
- Cpl. W.C. Steding
- Cpl. E.C. Stockbridge Jr.
- Lance Cpl. W.J. Bracken Jr.
- Lance Cpl. A.B. Calvello
- Lance Cpl. M.A. Johnson
- Lance Cpl. T.A. Matthews
- Lance Cpl. M.R. Smith
- Lance Cpl. R.F. Wilson Jr.

**H & S Co.**

- Cpl. G.A. Getter
- Cpl. G. Lopez
- Cpl. L.J. Otano Jr.
- Cpl. K. Perez
- Cpl. B.D. Rice
- Cpl. A.M. Suggs
- Cpl. C.W. Tolley
- Lance Cpl. J.M. Deforest
- Lance Cpl. A.F. Hanks
- Lance Cpl. C.J. Ostrand IV
- Lance Cpl. R.D. Polion

- Lance Cpl. D.E. Ray
- Lance Cpl. S.M. Riley
- Lance Cpl. G.A. Sims Jr.
- Lance Cpl. D.L. White

**MCI Co.**

- Cpl. M. Grundy
- Lance Cpl. S.L. Rozick
- Lance Cpl. K.R. Taylor
- Lance Cpl. R.M. Thurmond
- Lance Cpl. D.J. Wrigley

**Band Co.**

- Cpl. P.T. Samuels
- Cpl. C.R. Sherman

**USNA Co.**

- Sgt. T.H. Fowler III
- Sgt. C.M. Sloane
- Cpl. G.A. Wehby II
- Lance Cpl. C.M. Soldano

**Scty. Co.**

- Cpl. P.R. Smith

**S**gt. B.T. Fields reenlisted in June for his second tour in the Marine Corps.

Career Marines Sgt.Maj. E.N. Smith and Gunnery Sgt. P.J. Smith also reenlisted in June to continue serving the Corps.



**Sgt. and Mrs. Charles E. Dietzel wish to announce the birth of their 6-pound, 14-ounce baby boy, Charles Edward II, born May 4. (photo submitted)**

PFC and Mrs. Israel L. Castilleja had a 7-pound, 14-ounce baby boy, Israel Louise II, April 1.

Maj. and Mrs. Jon K. Lowrey had a 5-pound, 15-ounce baby girl, Christine, April 2.



**OUTSTANDING!!!**

**Cpl. Daniel R. White, Co. "B", is in his fourth parade season and is an excellent Marine and leader, according to his 1st sergeant, 1st Sgt. Shannon K. Johnson. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Render)**

## LETTERS

May 27, 1997

Dear Dave,

Please accept my sincere thanks, appreciation and heartfelt gratitude to you and all the members of your staff at 8th and I. Your outstanding support during the recent evening parade made my role as General Officer Host extremely enjoyable.

As always, it was with pride that I watched the Marines at "The Oldest Post of the Corps" show us the true meaning of professionalism and dedication. It was my honor to host this momentous event and to have had the opportunity to share it with our guests of honor from the other services and all our other guests.

Again, thank you for making this such a memorable evening for not only me and my family, but also my guests.

Semper Fidelis,  
M. R. Steele  
Lt. Gen. United States Marine Corps  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
for Plans, Policies and Operations

---

March 7, 1997

Dear Colonel Dotterrer,

Please share this letter with the Marines who attended the 1997 Black History/Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Service of Commemoration on 18 February.

My fiancée and I were just overjoyed with the professional and warm reception we received during our visit to "The Oldest Post in the Corps." My heart is still filled with the love and respect I received from my fellow Marines. As I sat and listened to retired Master Sgt. Ron Simmonds sing, I was also looking at the Marines around me, and, for a few moments, I reflected back to the days when I was a leader of Marines in peace and at war.

I really loved "my" Marines I lived with in open squad bays and those I fought with.

Remember, 24x7, "Marines take care of our own," "We never leave a Marine behind," "Leadership by Example," and Semper Fidelis. You will have a great twenty years plus in our beloved Corps. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for having me return to 8th & I to speak.

Semper Fi,  
James E. Conover  
MSgt., USMC, Retired



by Lance Cpl. David Bratz

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May 6, 1997

Dear Col. Dotterrer,

My family and I wish to convey our appreciation for the performances and reception prepared for the Seventy-First Annual Distance Education and Training Council Conference April 7, 1997.

The precision of the Silent Drill Team and the crispness of musical notes by the Drum and Bugle Corps attested to the teamwork and discipline of all members involved.

The gentleness shown to my four year old daughter by your staff exemplifies that no man or woman ever stands taller than when they bend over to help a child (If she marries a Marine, I will know when the idea was planted!).

Thank you for a wonderful memory.

Sincerely,  
Joseph D. Laskowski

# “The Vanishing Marine”

by Lt. Kenneth D. Counts  
Barracks Chaplain

Lately, I'm astounded how many good friends are making a Permanent Change of Station move out of here. It seems that I only begin to understand and appreciate someone, when suddenly he or she has to leave. I don't like that.

Then, the next minute I find myself standing on 8th Street on a Friday night, when a voice calls my name and there I am, face to face with someone I knew years ago in Okinawa.

What a privilege service with the Marines proves to be! You meet the finest people. You grow really close through working and laughing together. And then you have to say good-bye. I really hate the good-byes, but the renewal of friendships and the expansion of our lives with transfers and new duty assignments always seems healthy in the long run.

Transfers force us to change and adjust. Transfers force us to pick up the slack we let that other Marine carry before he or she departed. In that we learn to lead.

We gradually evolve into the cumulative memory and soon find ourselves to be the senior member. We are thus forced into leadership to get the new-comers up to speed.

The Chaplain would suggest there is one rare, occasional experience in these turnovers. Once in a while, you discover an individual who is irreplaceable. Once in a while, you discover someone had a superior character, or a distinctive manner for handling the stress of the shop. Once in a while, you recognize one member provided the glue that made everybody else in the section harmonize and cooperate. Once in a while, you miss a person because they added something vital and significant. Once in a while, you wish a certain Marine was here again.

Why don't you stop to think who will be leaving soon. And then before they depart, why not just voice to them some of your appreciation for the way they made a positive impact on you and the section.

Very few things in life last. But a little expression of sincere praise will still be around after granite tablets are illegible. Praise lives on in human hearts. I personally think there is not enough of it going around these days.

God Bless You Marines.

## Letters continued

June 16, 1997

Sgt. Maj. Lee (a message forwarded to Col. Dotterrer),

I just wanted to shoot you an e-mail and say thanks. Thanks for a great evening at last week's parade. Your Marines could not have been more polite and professional. Sgt. Laine and I both truly enjoyed ourselves. I would imagine that the parades become rather routine for those of you who attend on a regular basis. For myself and my Marine, however, they are a real treat. They help polish the sides of us that become worn over the recruiting years. Your Marines — from those parking cars, to escorting my date, to seating us, to the Marines on the parade deck — were sharp and professional. You are raising them right. Thanks!

Thanks again,  
An appreciative Maj. Creedon  
RS Richmond

April 10, 1997

Dear Dave,

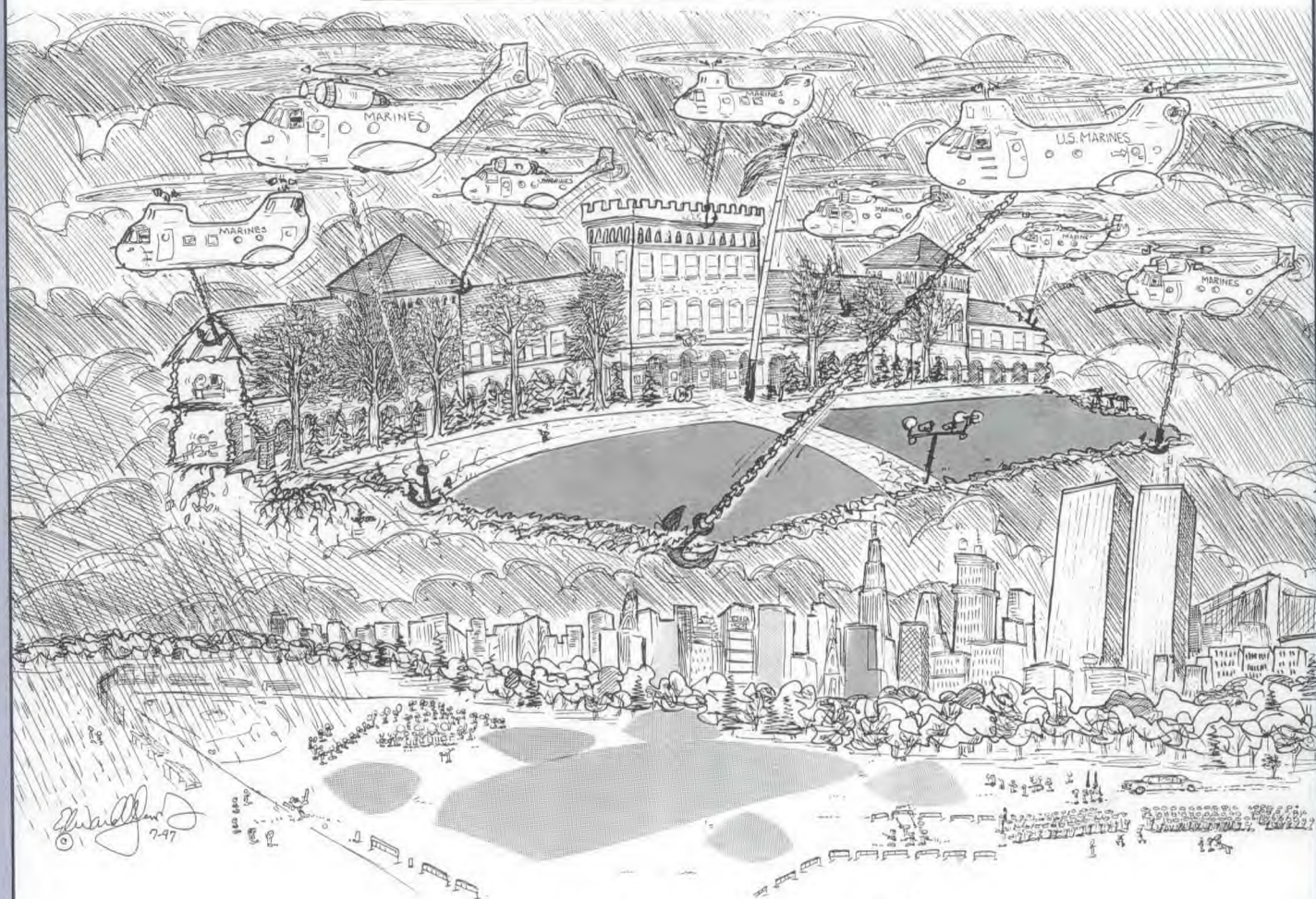
Your Marines and the MCI Staff made this DETC Conference the best in my 25 years with the council.

We can't possibly thank you enough for all that the Corps does on our behalf.

Please know how deeply grateful all of us in DETC are to you.

Semper Fi,  
Mike Lambert, Executive Director, DETC

# HARRY WHO by GySgt. E.A. Temple Jr.



“Have parade -- will travel.”

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
MARINE BARRACKS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20390-5000