



# PASS IN REVIEW

Serving "The Oldest Post of the Corps"

April 1998



## Marines attack slopes for R&R

Barracks brings home bronze - Rec Center opens doors

# If Marines do not steal, my stuff must have legs

by *Sgt. Heath F. Kuhlmann*  
*Color Sergeant of the Marine Corps*

When I was a young Marine, naive to the ways of some people in the Corps, I went to the armory where I was stationed and set my gear down by the gate. I knew every Marine in my unit and none of them would ever do anything to hurt me. Well, I was wrong — about \$400 wrong!

Now, obviously the person (I say person because “Marines” don’t steal) who took my gear never thought about what it is like to live off of ramen noodles for two weeks because your whole paycheck went to buy new “782” gear. I determined that day I would never take another Marine’s gear, because I knew what it was like. (Of course, I never left my gear by the gate again either.)

The barracks is a small duty station, but even here Marines are learning, the way I did, that not everyone who wears the uniform believes in things like integrity and trustworthiness. Occasionally, Marines are reporting clothing or gear missing from the laundry areas, a locked wall-locker or some other place they “set it down for a minute.” I don’t understand why we are stealing from one another!

I know what you are going to say, “gear adrift drifts away.” Well ... that is the wrong answer. I believe stealing is pretty much the result of a chain reaction.

Step 1: One Marine doesn’t take care of his or her gear or misplaces it. Step 2: He or she doesn’t tell anyone until it is too late. Now it is time to jump through

hoops to make an All-Weather Coat appear. Step 3: The Marine says, “I’ll just look in this wall-locker.”

Just repeat these steps for a year to get an idea of how it becomes a real problem.

Of course, this isn’t limited to the precious blue All-Weather Coat, it applies to all the gear we use here.

However, I have a solution! We as noncommissioned officers should hold our Marines accountable for their gear. We can hold formal and informal accountability inspections on a more regular basis, keep on our Marines who seem more careless with their equipment, and become more involved in teaching our junior Marines what honor, courage and commitment really mean.

In addition, I know all the gear taken isn’t always the victim’s fault, some people actually break-in to wall-lockers. I also know that some of the wall-lockers in the “brown baggers” areas are not in good shape and some are not serviceable.

If you have one of these wall-lockers, here is the message for you: Don’t leave gear in them that you want to keep for an extended period of time!

If you find yourself saying, “But where am I supposed to put my gear?” the answer is simple ... somewhere else. Share a wall-locker, take it home, or find some other place to keep it secured.

Now, if you are one of those people taking or “borrowing” gear, grow up! Be the man or woman you want everyone to think you are because you wear a uniform with my eagle, globe and anchor on it.

## FROM THE PUBLIC

Dear General Krulak,

I write to commend two young Marines who have performed to the highest standards of the Marine Corps.

Last Saturday night my young daughter was returning to our home in Potomac when she had a flat tire. Even though she tried to change the tire, there was a part missing. After sitting on a dark street for several

hours, she found a phone and called me in the early morning hours of Sunday, February 7. By the time I arrived two young Marines had changed the tire using a jack from their car. Those young men were polite and professional. I served in the Navy years ago and [had] considerable time with the FMF when I was in PHIBLANT.

I commend to you as highly as I can Brian T. Wood and Thomas R.

Martin. I want to thank them on behalf of my daughter and my family and you for turning up such outstanding young men who measure up to the traditional high standards of the United States Marine Corps.

Respectfully,  
 David M. Barrett  
 Independent Counsel

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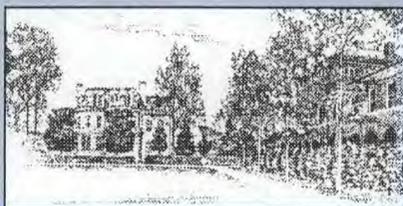
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**On the Cover**

*Cpl. Lonnie D. Buckner, MCI Co., hits the slopes on a snowboard during a recent MWR skiing trip to the Pocono Mountains. The trip allowed a group to get away from the city for the weekend. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Franklin)*

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## In the news...



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### Right on target

New Recreation Center offers service members here fun, rest and relaxation.

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## Features...



### Arizona or bust

The Battle Color Detachment packs its bags and heads for the sand and solitude of MCAS Yuma for spring training.

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### Marines head downhill for getaway

MWR ski trip gives Marines a chance to relax and escape the daily rigors of D.C.

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# Stirring up culinary competition for bronze win

by *Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick*  
Staff Writer

Four barracks' chefs pitted themselves against 400 service members in the 23rd Annual U.S. Army Culinary Competition Feb. 26 through March 10 at Fort Lee, Va., and came away winners.

Staff Sgt. Scott B. Wilde, Sgt. Raoul Pina, Cpl. Simon A. Reed, and LCpl. Nathaniel C. Erdahl, all assigned to the barracks' dining facility, collectively brought home a bronze medal for "Restaurant Platters." Erdahl and Reed each also took honorable mentions for "Junior Chef of The Year."

"I chose our four finest cooks for this competition," said Chief Warrant Officer-3 Felix M. Arnold, barracks dining facility officer. "These Marines have shown the desire to gain more knowledge in their Military Occupational Specialty and refine their cooking skills."

Unlike mom's kitchen back home, a board of experts, including a retired White House executive chef, judged the competition meals on presentation, dimension and the cook's skill in preparation and creativity.

According to Wilde, no detail was unexamined.

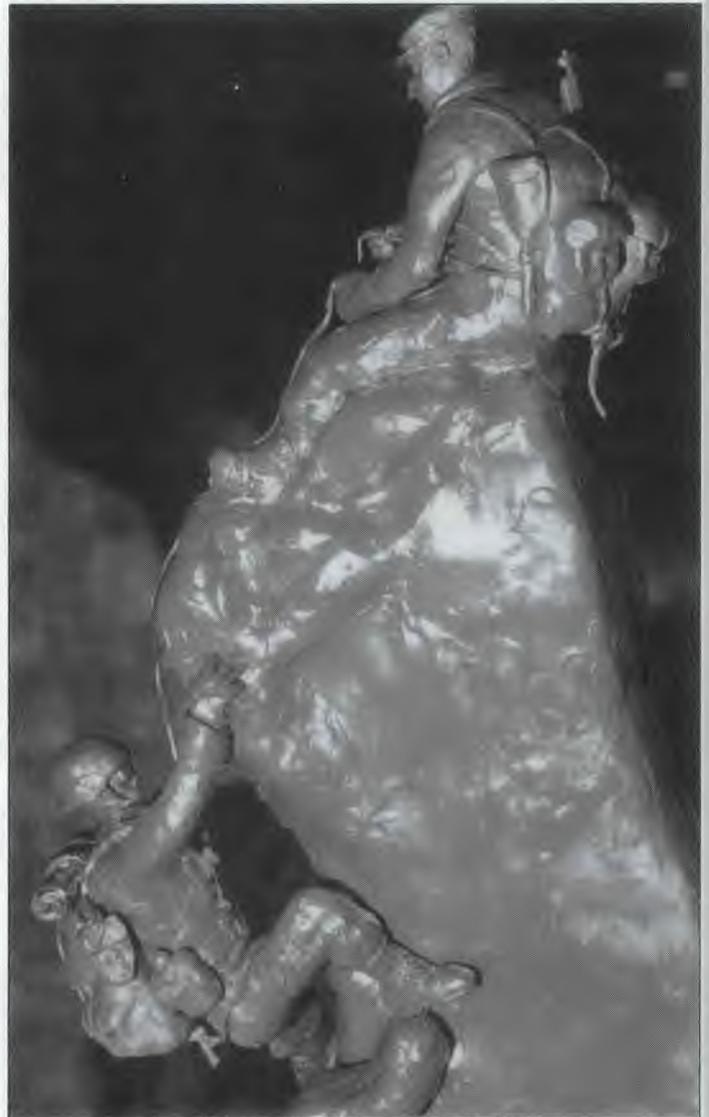
"It was like cooking for a five-star hotel, because that is how we were judged," said Wilde. "To cut too thin, to cut too thick ... they will notice and ... Bam! Lost points."

The judges made it clear from the beginning they looked favorably upon creativity and originality. So, to help the team, Pina crafted a bowl made of sugar, by zig-zagging spoonfuls of melted sugar over an upside-down bowl. He spent most of the afternoon stooped over a pot of boiling sugar surrounded by shards of delicate, broken bowls.

"It's getting frustrating trying to make a bowl out of raw sugar," said Pina. "I have been at this for three hours."

Frustration was only a small portion of what 8th & I's team experienced. Wilde explained the majority of the competition was exciting because the cooks' creative scope has limits in the barracks' mess hall. In categories like baking, however, the cooks had free reign over the meal.

"Cooks work off a 'T-Card' in the chow hall which tells us to add this, mix this, step-by-step exactly," said Lance Cpl. Simon A. Reed, food service specialist here. "We can show off [at the competition]. We can really show people what we can do. It is great because we can



**Marines conquer a mountain in a sweet sculpture of chocolate at the 23rd Annual Army Culinary Competition at Fort Lee recently. Entries like this show the skill and time involved in preparation for judging. (photo by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick)**

make food no mess hall would because of the costs involved. A chow hall cannot afford to put T-Bone steaks on the line every day, but here we get to use our own recipes."

The 8th & I team, and Marines over all, were at a disadvantage to the Army in several respects. According to Pina, the Army can hand pick their teams and practice

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## Barracks celebrates Easter with egg hunt, reception

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation Office is sponsoring an Easter egg hunt April 11 on the parade deck here.

Children 12-years-old and younger are welcome to participate in the hunt in their respective age groups, and the Easter Bunny will be making a special visit to help celebrate.

Each hidden egg will have candy inside, but a few will have vouchers for larger prizes such as toys and movie passes.

There will also be a reception with cookies and punch in the John Philip Sousa Band Hall.

"This post is very different because on most bases families live in base housing or just outside the gate," said Pamela S. Carroll, MWR financial manager. "Here, most people live at least 30 minutes away. This celebration will give families a chance to meet other barracks families, and the children will have a great time."

The times are still undetermined, however, festivities are tentatively scheduled to start at about 10 or 11 a.m.

For more information contact MWR's Special Service Information Office at 433-2353.

## National celebration thanks military spouses for support, barracks celebrates with parade

The 14th Annual Military Spouse Appreciation Day is scheduled April 17 on the parade deck here.

The ceremonies will be in conjunction with the Family Parade.

Former President Ronald Reagan created Military Spouse Appreciation Day as a time for service members to recognize their husbands' and wives' unique contributions and commitments.

The command here is encouraging all military spouses to attend the parade and be the barracks' "guests of honor," according to Lt. Kenneth D. Counts, Marine Barracks chaplain.

"The amount of time Marines put in at the barracks in order to accomplish 2,000 ceremonies a year can really take its toll on the family," Lt. Col. Michael B. Kessler, barracks executive officer explained. "I think the Corps just wants the family to know how appreciative they are of the sacrifices of spouses."

Contact the chaplain's office for more information at 433-2521.

## Central Texas offers college classes on post

by *Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick*  
Staff Writer

Barracks Marines now have an additional opportunity to pursue a secondary education in the convenience of their own home ... the barracks.

Central Texas College is offering classes here to make attaining an associates degree convenient for service members.

The college courses in the barracks are a direct result of the partnership between the Single Marine Program, Training and Operations (S-3), and Central Texas College, according to Staff Sgt. Jerry R. Hanson, barracks enlisted education services

representative.

"The Single Marine Program came up with the idea while we were deciding what would make the Marines in the barracks happier," said Cpl. Christina L. Wright, battalion awards clerk. "We sent out a questionnaire and the results showed a large interest in basic college courses and a willingness to participate. The classes give Marines something else to look forward to besides going out in town."

While the SMP conceptualized college classes in the barracks, the efforts of Hanson and Alethea K. Hamilton, Central Texas College site director, made the idea a reality.

"The command informed us of the need for a general studies associates degree program in the barracks," said Hamilton. "We presented what we had to offer and emphasized the Service Member Opportunity College Program, whereby Military Occupational Specialty training is converted into college credits."

Under this program, military members can transfer college credits to any college or university which participates in the program. Most state colleges and universities and a number of private institutions utilize the program, eliminating the problem of

*continued on pg. 12*

**Grand opening:**

**New Rec Center offers low-cost amenities to improve quality of li**



*(left to right) Colonel Dennis J. Hejlik, barracks commanding officer; Cpl. Christina L. Wright, Single Marine Program president; Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Lewis G. Lee; and Sgt. Maj. Dennis S. Frye, barracks sergeant major, cut the ribbon during the grand opening of the barracks' Rec Center. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Franklin)*

*by Cpl. Pauline L. Franklin  
Editor*

Marines filled the long-awaited barracks Recreation Center during a grand opening recently, taking full advantage of the free food and "inspecting" the facility.

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation office here spent more than \$250,000 and worked nearly six months to transform the former Enlisted Club into the Recreation Center.

"The Recreation Center was badly needed," said Master Sgt. Sheryl A. Hodges, MWR assistant treasurer. "The facility we had before was inadequate. The whole idea was to give the Marines at the barracks a great facility, and the new center is the best



*The new Recreation Center houses a computer room with eight computers, all of which have Internet access. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Franklin)*



*The center also offers noncommissioned Lounge. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Franklin)*

## entertainment, Life for Marines

I've seen in the Marine Corps."

Entering the new facility, one cannot help but be impressed by the amenities and handsome decor.

In addition to the new carpeting, woodwork and furniture throughout the facility, the center sports two pool tables; a series of large-screen televisions with Sony Playstations; a big-screen TV; a Ping-Pong table; and pinball, air-hockey and soccer game machines. It also houses a computer room with seven computers with Internet access and a Noncommissioned Officers Lounge.

While Marines and their guests are enjoying the games or working on the computers, they can also do their laundry in the center's new washers

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**PFC Bobby E. Jones, "A" Co., tries out one of the two new pool tables at the Recreation Center during grand opening festivities in February. Marines had the chance to see what the center had to offer and take advantage of the free food and drinks MWR provided to help celebrate. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Franklin)**



**Officers a place of their own in the new NCO**

## Chaplain of MC visits barracks for prayer breakfast inspiration

*The chaplain of the Marine Corps visited the barracks recently to inspire Marines during a Prayer Breakfast in the Staff Noncommissioned Officers Club.*

*Navy Capt. George W. Pucciarelli, who has spent seven tours with Marines, shared his experiences as a chaplain and emphasized the importance of faith.*

*Service members often become very religious in combat zones or when they are in dangerous situations, explained Pucciarelli. However, he emphasized the importance of faith each day instead of people turning to it only when they need it. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Franklin)*



## Marines share history with children at school



**Gunnery Sgt. Uhry T. Thomas, barracks procurement chief, shows his noncommissioned officer's sword to a young boy at Brent Elementary School during a visit recently. (photo by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer)**

*by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer  
Staff Writer*

The children around Southeast Washington, D.C., often observe Marines running in formation down the street like a cadence-driven machine, but they rarely have the opportunity to talk with a Marine about life in the Marine Corps.

Three Marines and the barracks chaplain added a new

perspective to this image March 9 when they visited a second grade class at Brent Elementary School located a few blocks northwest of the barracks.

As the Marines marched into the small classroom, the room became tense as about 30 heads snapped towards the front of the room to stare in amazement.

"A lot of these kids probably came from a bad part of town, and [they have witnessed a lot]," Gunnery Sgt. Uhry T. Thomas, procurement chief, explained. "I wanted them to get a closer look at the Marines. I also wanted to tell them that if they want to grow up to be Marines, they have to live their lives a certain way."

Thomas, whose son was a member of the audience, said second-grade teacher Steven L. Morina invited him to speak to the class. A few weeks later Lt. Kenneth D. Counts, barracks chaplain; Capt. Sunil B. Desai, Headquarters and Service Company's executive officer; and Lance Cpl. Nicholas M. Zegarra, a fiscal clerk here; went to the classroom to meet Morina's second grade class.

"The kids always see the Marines jogging in town and they really get a kick out of seeing it. They're always talking about it," Morina said. "When I told them the Marines were coming to their classroom, they couldn't stay in their seats."

From the beginning of the presentation to the end, the children asked question after question wanting to know

what made Marines tick. While Desai answered sensitive questions regarding war, other curious children asked about push-ups.

"It amazes me how, when you talk to kids about Marines, the first thing they ask about are guns," Thomas said with a laugh. "Next thing you know, they're asking you what Marines eat."

When the Marines were not answering questions, they allowed the children to get some hands-on experience wearing a gas mask and touching the noncommissioned officer's sword.

"I'm sure the kids will all write letters thanking the Marines for coming over," said Morina. "They were really excited about trying on the [Marines' covers and field gear]. Hands-on experiences like that are how they learn the best."

In the midst of the entertainment, Thomas and company managed to tell the children a thing or two about

discipline and life in general.

"Every kid in that room came out of there with something," Thomas said. "Especially how we focused on discipline."

As for the children, students like Anaia Peddie left the class wanting to one day become a Marine herself.

"I think that being a Marine would be great," Peddie explained. "I would give it my best and nothing less."

According to Thomas, this is not the first time Marines at 8th & I have worked with the local community, and it will not be the last.

The barracks is an active member of the community and works regularly with its citizens. Projects range from school or neighborhood clean-ups to working with children, with new community-related activities each month.

Contact Sgt. Patrick E. Franklin, Marine Barracks Public Affairs Office media chief, at 433-6682 for information pertaining to community relations activities.

## Career Opportunities

# Staff Degree Completion Program offers new future

by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer  
Staff Writer

The Marine Corps is a fast-paced environment which often requires working extra hours and making sacrifices, to include education, at times.

Once a Marine is promoted to the rank of staff sergeant, he or she assumes a new caliber of duties and different opportunities arise with the promotion. The Staff Noncommissioned Officers' Degree Completion Program is one such opportunity. The Staff Degree Completion Program allows staff NCOs to return to college as a full-time student to earn a bachelor's degree while they are still on active duty.

According to Staff Sgt. Jerry R. Hanson, staff noncommissioned officer in charge of education here, the Staff Degree Completion Program gives Marine staff NCOs 18 months to pursue a degree in fields which benefit the Marine Corps.



**Gunnery Sgt. Ronald P. LaPlante, United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps Co., stands by as members of his family and barracks Executive Officer Lt. Col. Michael B. Kessler (right) pin his gunnery sergeant chevrons on during a recent promotion. LaPlante is currently enrolled at the University of Maryland in the Staff Degree Completion Program. Once he graduates with a degree in finance later this year, he is scheduled to be transferred to Okinawa, Japan. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Franklin)**

"Any staff NCO with an associates degree or up to 60 accumulated credits towards his or her degree meets the requirements for this program,"

Hanson said. "Once a Marine completes the degree, that Marine has to serve a minimum of three years in

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## Congratulations

*The officers of the 1998 Company Officers' Ceremonial Drill School pose for a photograph with the barracks commanding and executive officers following their graduation ceremony. Pictured from left to right: 1st Lt. Jason W. Walker, 1st Lt. Ward A. Jones, Col. Dennis J. Hejlik, 1st Lt. Jason C. Drake, 1st Lt. Jon M. Lauder, 1st Lt. Christian M. Rankin, Lt. Col. Michael B. Kessler. (photo by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer)*

# NMCRS Fund Drive collects for Navy, MC family

*by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer  
Staff Writer*

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society commenced its 1998 Fund Drive March 1 to collect donations throughout the Navy and Marine Corps. The collections will be used for loans and aid for Sailors and Marines throughout the year.

According to Barbara Morris, director of the Washington, D.C., Navy-Marine Corps Relief Auxiliary, Navy Relief holds fund drives at each installation to raise money for sea service members in times of emergency.

"This is a command program we hold one month every year," Morris explained. "100 percent of those funds go to helping Marines and Sailors so we can provide interest free loans or grants.



"There are many things Sailors and Marines may need that may not be covered by government programs," Morris explained. "Sometimes they need money for emergency leave, and they need help paying their rent or buying plane tickets [in emergencies]. We can

do that."

"When someone loses a family member and they can't afford to pay for the plane tickets, you always know that Navy relief can help you pull through," added 1st Lt. Brandon A. Davis, fund drive representative for Headquarters and Service Company. "It really helps Marines when they need it most."

According to a release from Navy relief, the Navy Yard office handled 82 cases from Marines at 8th & I alone totaling \$43,600 in interest-free loans in 1997.

Although the fund drive ended March 31, Marines can still make lump-sum donations by calling Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society at (202) 433-3364 for an application.

Not every Marine will need to take out a loan from Navy relief, but the fund drive gives service members another way of looking out for each other when times get tough.

"It's not always a happy world we work in, but we're here for Sailors and Marines when they need it," Morris said.

May's issue of the *Pass In Review* will publish the results of the barracks' participation in the 1998 Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Fund Drive.

# Slovak Republic honors Marine in wreath ceremony

by *Cpl. Matt S. Schafer*  
Staff Writer

Representatives from the Slovak Republic and Headquarters Marine Corps honored a United States Marine March 10 in a wreath laying ceremony at the United States Marine Corps War Memorial.

The ceremony honored Sgt. Michael Strank, one of the Marines depicted on the memorial who assisted in raising the flag atop Mount Suribachi on Feb. 23, 1945 in the Battle of Iwo Jima. Strank, and two other Marines involved in the flag raising, died during the ensuing battle to capture Iwo Jima.

According to Miroslav Musil, a counselor at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic, Strank was of Slavic descent, and the embassy wanted to initiate a tradition to recognize his bravery and heritage.

"We wanted to inaugurate a tradition of a wreath laying ceremony every year," Musil explained. "I felt it was a great event to have to recognize that brave young man."

According to Musil, the Slovak Republic initially wanted to hold the ceremony on the anniversary of the battle, but they could not get the logistics arranged.

"The battle was fought Feb. 23, 1945 and we couldn't get that set up,"



**Barracks Marines support a wreath laying ceremony at the United States Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va. Representatives from the Slovak Republic laid the wreath to honor Marine Sgt. Michael Strank, who is depicted in the memorial. (photo by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer)**

Musil said. "But he did pass away a few weeks [later during] the fight and it's probably better if we recognize the sacrifice he made for America and the Slovak Republic."

As Strank, four other Marines and a corpsman struggled to post a flag in the thick sands of Iwo Jima, Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal took a photograph of them in action. That photograph went on to win the Pulitzer Prize and inspire the birth of a Marine Corps War Memorial where a myriad of ceremonies are held.

The ceremony included a Ceremonial Honor Guard detachment which consisted of an honor guard

commander, two platoons and Color Guard support from Company "A", a wreath bearer from Company "B", and a trumpeter from "The President's Own" United States Marine Band; all of whom are attached to Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C.

Brig. Gen. Theodore J. Hess, Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, hosted the ceremony, and the four guests were all delegates from the Slovak embassy.

"The ceremony was a great success and hopefully the first of many to come," Musil said.

## Culinary continued

six months prior to the competition. According to Wilde barracks Marines only had two weeks to prepare for the competition because the Marine Corps does not budget the capital or the personnel to prepare half a year in advance for a two week competition.

However, 8th & I did not let the preparation gap handicap their efforts.

"We came here and we didn't know what to expect,"

said Wilde, "but we learned a lot about competition, presentation and professionalism, because what a chef considers good is not always what a master chef considers good enough. Considering the caliber of the competition and the intensity of judging, the fact we medaled is a real achievement. We did very well."

## College continued

nontransferable military credits.

The convenience of holding college classes in the barracks and the promise of a better, more effective future was all the enticement one Marine needed to enroll.

"My situation in the office requires me to put in close to 60 hours a week and I do not live in the barracks," said Lance Cpl. Steven L. Isaak, S-3 training clerk. "I head out of the work area at about 5 p.m. and classes begin at 5:30 p.m. This means I don't have to bother with rush hour traffic like I would if I was taking courses at Bolling Air Force Base."

Isaak said he believes Marines take courses for something to do or to work for a degree. He took the entry-level English course here for more mission-oriented reasons.

"I took the course so when I speak I don't sound like an idiot," added Isaak. "Good communication gets things done and an education helps. My course instructor [a retired Army colonel] graduated from Duke University with an English major. He [submitted] 94 award citations during the Vietnam War — four of them were for the Medal of Honor. All 94 citations were approved, he said, because of his communication skills."

The college courses here offer an-

other comfort for barracks Marines. Many Marines who are new to college level courses can minimize their apprehension because they are practically at home.

"Many Marines have no college experience and have some apprehensions about entry level college courses," said Hanson. "These courses give them the opportunity to participate in certified college courses with other Marines and pursue a general education associates degree in a familiar environment."

In addition, Marines pursuing an education through the barracks classes may need tuition assistance. However, the government will change financial assistance to active duty military personnel Oct. 1, according to Hanson. The government will then pay no more than \$190 dollars per credit hour or 75 percent of the course cost, depending on which is less. Books are still the student's responsibility.

To apply for tuition assistance,



**Cpl. Christina L. Wright, president of the Single Marine Program, and her fellow SMP Marines conceived the idea to have college classes at the barracks. Making these classes readily available is helping Marines here work towards an associates degree. (photo by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick)**

service members should contact their company education representative for tuition forms. Once the commanding officer signs the request, the representative gives the approved request back to the Marine, and the Marine sends it to the school.

The barracks courses for the this quarter are State and Federal Government II and English Composition II. Both 10-week courses began March 28, and like all barracks courses, they required an enrollment of at least eight Marines.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Hanson at 433-6362.

## Recreation Center continued

and dryers or grab a snack from one of the vending machines. Patrons can also check out equipment to iron their clothes there or heat up a snack in the microwave.

"There is a lot for Marines to do there," said Hodges. "I hope they take advantage of it. They need to take pride in the facility and use it so we can keep it running for them."

The Recreation Center is attracting more and more patrons, as Marines get used to having a place to go to relax.

"I come here every night for a little while," said



**The Rec Center offers several amenities, including washers and dryers, to improve Marines' quality of life here. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Franklin)**

Lance Cpl. Jeremy S. Volgren, Body Bearer Platoon. "It is a great place to go — it gets you out of your room. You can come here with friends, spend a few dollars and have fun. It is a lot less expensive than going out in town."

In addition, Hodges said Marines can reserve areas in the center for parties and functions by calling the MWR office.

Although the construction is complete and the doors are open, Hodges said they still welcome suggestions to improve the center.

"We are keeping track of the patrons," she said, "to see what they are using most, but the big thing is to get Marines involved. They had a lot of input in the renovation through the Single Marine Program, and now they need to support us by using it."

The following is a list of the center's operating hours, however, they may be adjusted on Fridays as the barracks moves into parade season, according to Hodges.

Sunday	noon - 8 p.m.
Monday	closed
Tuesday-Thursday	11:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Friday	11:30 a.m. - midnight
Saturday	10 a.m. - midnight

*(shown at right) Lance Cpl. Tarek M. Taylor, Motor-T, moves in for the kill during a Ping-Pong game at the Rec Center's grand opening. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Franklin)*



## Staff degree continued

that field."

Hanson said applicants must submit their transcripts and three copies of the application found in Marine Corps Order 1560.21C, the Marine Corps order for the staff degree completion program, to Headquarters Marine Corps between Feb. 1 and April 1 for the annual evaluation.

"The application process is similar to most of the enlisted commissioning programs the Marine Corps offers," Hanson explained. "But usually the people who apply for [the Staff Degree Completion Program] are beyond the age of commission."

If HQMC selects a Marine for the program, that Marine receives orders to a college for up to 18 months to acquire the credits towards a bachelor's degree.

Gunnery Sgt. Ronald P. LaPlante, a musician with "The Commandant's Own," United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, applied for the Staff Degree Completion Program in 1996 and is currently working towards a degree in finance. Once he completes his degree May 30, LaPlante said the Marine Corps is sending him to the 1st Marine Air Wing in Okinawa to supervise the finances of the unit.

"I put in my package in April 1996, and I was selected in July," LaPlante said. "My tour at the barracks ended that November and I started school January 1997. I am still attached to 8th & I, but I'm stationed at the University of Maryland."

According to Hanson, the Staff Degree Completion Program benefits both Marines and the Marine Corps.

"This program allows the Marine Corps to have Marines manning positions they would normally have to hire a civilian for," Hanson said. "A certified accountant, for example, would cost the Marine Corps a lot more money than having a gunnery sergeant do it."

In addition, Hanson said the program allows Marines to build up their own resumes.

"This is a great program," LaPlante said. "It allows a student to concentrate fully on school, and it prepares me to serve in the field I have to serve."

Interested Marines can contact their education NCO for an application.

# What everyone should know about the Anthrax vaccine

by Kimberly Allen

Division of Public Affairs

**U.S. NAVY BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY, Washington (Mar 11) — WHAT EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE ANTHRAX VACCINE.**

- Anthrax is a biological weapon.
- Anthrax is highly lethal.
- Vaccination against anthrax is critical for your protection.

-This is a mandatory vaccination program to preserve the fighting force.

**WHAT IS THE THREAT?** Biological weapons are maintained by several countries around the world. Use of these weapons could cause widespread illness among unprotected military forces. Anthrax is the biological weapon most likely to be encountered because it is:

- Highly lethal
- Easy to produce in large quantities
- Relatively easy to develop as a weapon
- Easily spread in the air over a large area
- Easily stored and dangerous for a long time

**WHAT IS ANTHRAX?** Anthrax is a disease normally associated with plant-eating animals (sheep, goats, cattle, and, to a lesser degree, swine). It is caused by the bacteria *Bacillus Anthracis*. Anthrax has been recognized as an illness for centuries. Once common where livestock were raised, it is now controlled through animal vaccination programs. Anthrax still occurs in countries where animals are not vaccinated, mainly in Africa and Asia. It does occur infrequently in many countries, including the United States. Human infection with anthrax usually results from direct contact with infected animals, or animal products such as wool, meat or hides.

However, when anthrax is used as a biological weapon, people become infected by breathing anthrax spores that are released into the air.

Symptoms of inhalation anthrax can begin as early as 24 hours after breathing the spores. Initial symptoms include: fever, cough, and weakness and usually progress to

breathing problems, shock, and death.

**WHY VACCINATE?** Vaccines prevent illness by stimulating the body's natural disease-fighting abilities. They are among the most powerful tools developed by modern medicine for keeping people healthy. Vaccines are routinely used in the United States to protect against diseases such as mumps, measles, whooping cough, and polio. As part of force protection, military personnel are given additional vaccines to protect against naturally occurring diseases encountered when deploying overseas, such as typhoid, hepatitis, and yellow fever.

Vaccines also help protect against biological weapons.

**WHAT IS THE ANTHRAX VACCINE?** The anthrax vaccine is a formalin-inactivated vaccine used to protect people against anthrax. This vaccine contains no living organisms. The anthrax vaccine is not new. Human anthrax vaccines were developed in England and the United States in the 1950s and early 1960s. The vaccine that you will receive was licensed by the FDA in 1970. This vaccine has been safely and routinely administered in the United States to veterinarians, laboratory workers, and livestock handlers.

## COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

### QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**Q:** Why are we getting this vaccine?

**A:** Anthrax is a lethal weapon we may encounter. Vaccination before exposure is a critical part of our protection against this weapon.

**Q:** Is the vaccine all I need to protect against inhalation anthrax?

**A:** Being fully vaccinated greatly increases your chances of surviving an exposure to anthrax. Your chances are further improved by other measures, especially proper use of the protective mask.

**Q:** Is this an experimental vaccine?

**A:** No, the vaccine has been FDA approved since 1970 (License No. 99, 1970).

**Q:** Is this vaccine safe?

**A:** Yes, this vaccine has been safely and routinely administered in the U. S. to veterinarians, laboratory work-

*continued on pg. 18*



## Commandant's statement on equal employment opportunity

As the Marine Corps prepares to enter the 21st Century, I believe we can serve as a model of equal opportunity for all society to emulate.

Our challenge remains to be America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness. Our ability to meet this challenge depends on the efforts of every member of the Marine Corps Family.

People are our most precious asset and we protect them by fair, scrupulous, and unbiased treatment — caring for them, teaching them, leading them. I see this as my obligation. It is also the obligation of each member of the chain of command, from top to bottom. I expect commanders and civilian supervisors to take prompt and vigorous action where and when deviations from this obligation are discovered. Commanders must also create and sustain a positive command equal employment opportunity climate while ensuring that complainants have legal protection from any form of reprisal.

Our personnel process — recruiting, classification, assignment, promotion, education, and retirement — will support this sense of fairness. Our "Civilian Marines" must be confident that these processes work for them and the Marine Corps they serve so selflessly.

The Marine Corps Equal Employment Opportunity policy provides equal opportunity in employment of all persons; prohibits discrimination in employment because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, or physical or mental handicap; and promotes the full realization of equal employment opportunity through continuing affirmative efforts.

My guidance on this subject is clear. Discrimination is wrong. It is fundamentally inconsistent with our core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment and impedes our ability to perform our mission. Discrimination, in any form or at any level, is not acceptable.

C.C. Krulak

## Marine Mail:

### Commandant wants input on how Corps is doing, where we should be headed

The Commandant of the Marine Corps is interested in your ideas and solicits your input to the following questions:

- 1) What are we doing that we shouldn't be doing?
- 2) What aren't we doing that we should be doing?
- 3) What are we doing that we should do differently?
- 4) What new concept, idea, tactic, or piece of equipment should the Marine Corps investigate to improve its warfighting capability?

If you have thoughts on the above questions, make your thoughts known to the Commandant. Your suggestions will help us make the Marine Corps better.

Note: Marine Mail is not designed to bypass the chain of command.

Send in your electronic Marine Mail, or mail it to:  
Marine Mail

Commandant of the Marine Corps  
Headquarters Marine Corps  
2 Navy Annex  
Washington, D.C. 20380-1775



**General Charles C. Krulak,  
Commandant of the Marine Corps**

## Exhibit honors history, accomplishments of female Marines

by *Cpl. Shannon Olsen*  
*Division of Public Affairs*

**MCAS EL TORO, Calif. (Mar 12)** — “How far we’ve come,” said Brig. Gen. Robert Magnus, commander, Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area, at the opening ceremony for the History of Women in the Marine Corps exhibit. “We’re simply and eloquently just Marines.”

The exhibit, containing uniforms, photos, and memorabilia from all over the United States, was dedicated Feb. 13, commemorating the 55th anniversary of women in the Marine Corps at the Jay W. Hubbard Command Museum, here.

According to Col. Eleanor M. Wilson, USMCR, exhibit committee chairperson, the artifacts took more than six months to acquire. From the last star worn by Brig. Gen. Margaret Brewer, the first female Marine general, to the first flight suit worn by Capt. Sarah “Xena” Deal, the first female Marine pilot, the exhibit displays a progressive timeline of female Marines, from past to present and the future.

“This exhibit is one way for us to influence the future by sharing a bit of Marine Corps history and inspire children who visit the museum to follow in our footsteps,” said Wilson.

The ceremony’s guest speaker was Lt. Gen. Carol A. Mutter, the first female Marine to attain the rank of lieutenant general. Although Mutter remarked how special this day was for women — especially the World War II veterans who were discharged after the war, but “have the eagle, globe and anchor stamped on their hearts” — she said she is eager to see the day when women are so integrated that there are “no more firsts.”

Mutter said she was once told the term “WM” was little “w” and capital “M.” Today, that is true, but in the beginning, women were thought of more as women, not Marines first.

“(This exhibit) brings back a lot of good memories and makes me feel a part of the Marine Corps,” said Eunice Arlene Hall, a private first class who served at El Toro from June 1944 to March 1946 and was discharged because the war was over. “Every time I hear the Marines’ Hymn, I cry.”

For Barbara Dow, an accountant at the Crystal Cathed-



**Lt. Gen. Carol A. Mutter, Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, was the first female Marine to attain the rank of lieutenant general. (Official USMC photo)**

dral, the exhibit also brought back fond memories. “We had to have short hair, not touching our collar, back in those days. Only the Navy nurses were allowed to pull up their hair,” said Dow, who was a corporal at El Toro from 1956 to 1961.

Female veterans from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the times in between stood during the ceremony to be recognized for their contributions. The Women Marines Association peppered the audience in their green jackets, while their active-duty counterparts were represented at this memorable occasion by an array of different uniforms.

With the impending closure of the base, the museum staff is preparing the exhibits for movement to a new site at MCAS Miramar. The Miramar museum is scheduled to open in November.

# Maj. Gen. Day, Corps' latest legend

by GySgt. Bill Paro  
CPAO Camp Butler

**MCB CAMP S.D. BUTLER, Okinawa, Japan (Feb. 27)** — Dan Daly, Smedley Butler, Joe Foss and John Basilone are well-known Medal of Honor recipients in our Corps' history. Another name was recently added to the long list of our Marine Corps heroes — retired Maj. Gen. James L. Day.

President Bill Clinton called Day "one of the Corps' greatest heroes" as he placed the Medal of Honor around the general's neck Jan. 20 at the White House.

Day was here recently for an Iwo Jima and Okinawa battle sites tour. For the general, this was a homecoming of sorts. Day closed out his active-duty Marine Corps career here Dec. 1, 1986. During his final tour, he served as the Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp Smedley D. Butler/Deputy Commander, Marine Corps Bases, Pacific and the Okinawa Area Coordinator. However, that was not the only time the general had served on Okinawa.

During May 14-17, 1945, then-Cpl. Day found himself fighting in the Battle of Sugar Loaf Hill. This was Day's first of seven tours spent on Okinawa, and the one that would earn him the Medal of Honor 53 years later.

He was a squad leader with Co. "F," 2nd Battalion, 22nd Marines during the battle.

"Corporal was the best rank I ever had," remarked Day. "I think you are closer to your men as a squad leader than any other position in the unit."

As part of the battle tour, he visited the Battle of Okinawa Museum



*Maj. Gen. Day (right) and Lt. Gen. Frank Libutti, commanding general, III Marine Expeditionary Force/ commander, Marine Corps Bases Japan, share a quiet moment together. (photo by Cpl. Aaron Prater)*

on Camp Kinser. This allowed the general a chance to reminisce about the first time he landed here.

"I remember the good times I had with my good friends before I came here, and during the battle. Okinawa brings on a real feeling of warmth for me. Whenever I come back here it always brings back mostly good memories," said Day.

Day said he believes President Clinton was just being gratuitous when he compared him with some of the Corps' greatest heroes.

"I don't consider myself worthy to even carry their shoes. I do feel grateful that he would say those things about me as a Marine," said Day. "The

medal was not only recognizing my actions, but the actions of everybody in my rifle squad," he said.

During the visit, Day talked with Okinawa Marines and Sailors, not only sharing his Corps with them, but also learning about today's Marines.

"Today's Marines are just as well-trained, and may be better trained, then we were," said Day. "I think at that time we were the best-trained people in the world, so that says a lot for today's Corps."

Editor's note: Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., provided a Marine Corps Full Honors Arrival ceremony here for Day after the Medal of Honor presentation at the White House.

## Overview:

# Marine Corps' Key Volunteer Network

### by HQMC Public Affairs

The Marine Corps Key Volunteer Network is a network of spouses of active duty Marines. The structure of the Marine Corps Key Volunteer Network is outlined in MCO 1754.2A. Each unit maintains a copy of this order.

The order directs that each unit throughout the Marine Corps, from battalion/squadron level and above, appoint a Key Volunteer Coordinator and Key Volunteers to assist in implementing a Family Readiness Program. The Key Volunteer Coordinator and Key Volunteers work with the unit's Commanding Officer (CO) and Family Readiness Officer (FRO) to provide information, support and referral assistance as needed to Marines and Marine Corps family members.

To support the Key Volunteer Network, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps (HQMC) has developed a required training package, distributed program guides and training materials, and supplied start-up equipment. HQMC monitors volunteer programs through the Human Resources Division of the Manpower and Reserve Affairs Department.

At HQMC, a Key Volunteer Network Coordinator, who is appointed by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, represents the Network in policy considerations and coordinates information flow. As an experienced Key Volunteer Coordinator, this volunteer coordinator serves as a liaison between the Key Volunteer Networks in the field and HQMC.

The HQMC Coordinator also chairs the Key Volunteer Network

Advisory Council. This council is composed of experienced Key Volunteers who share their expertise with the Coordinator and Human Resources Division on issues relating to the sustainment of the Key Volunteer Network.

*Key Notes* is published quarterly by the Key Volunteer Network Advisory Council under the supervision of the Family Programs Branch, Division of Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Headquarters Marine Corps. It is designed to disseminate information which has a direct impact on the Key Volunteer Network. In addition, it provides an opportunity for Key Volunteers to share ideas and events with others in the Network.

Note: Opinions expressed are not to be considered official statements of the United States Marine Corps.

## Anthrax continued

ers, and livestock handlers since 1970. No reports of significant adverse effects have been received by the producer, the Michigan Biologic Products Institute.

Q: What if I am pregnant?

A: Pregnant women should not receive this vaccine. If you are or believe that you may be pregnant, you should inform your health care provider. The vaccination program will be deferred until the pregnancy is complete.

Q: What other medical conditions should I inform the medical staff about?

A: If you have an active infection or are taking a prescription medicine, inform your health care provider before taking this shot.

Q: The anthrax vaccine was administered to personnel deployed in the Gulf War. Has the anthrax vaccine been linked to illnesses among Gulf War veterans?

A: No. Several national scientific groups have addressed this issue and have found no evidence to link anthrax vaccine with illnesses among Gulf War veterans.

Q: How many shots will I have to take?

A: Six shots, three given two weeks apart followed by three additional injections given at 6, 12 and 18 months. An annual booster shot is required to maintain ongoing immunity.

Q: What are the side effects?

A: As with other vaccinations, pain may occur at the site of injection. Temporary side effects (sore arm, redness, and slight swelling) may occur. The vaccine has been in use since 1970 with no known long-term side effects.

Q: Am I required to take the vaccine?

A: Yes. This program will be treated like any other vaccine that is required to prepare you for deployment. You will be required to take it unless medically deferred.

Q: How can I get more information about anthrax vaccine?

A: Your commander. In addition, more information on the anthrax vaccine can be accessed at the website: [http://www.defenselink.mil/other\\_info/protection.html#Anthrax](http://www.defenselink.mil/other_info/protection.html#Anthrax)

# Marines concentrate on detail, perfection on West Coast

by Cpl. Chance D. Puma  
Community Relations

**MCAS Yuma, Ariz.** — The air station's long, flat airstrips and drill fields give way to an endless open sky, buttressed by a rim of dark gray mountains in the distance. The men and women of the Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment are far from home, and nothing dominates their landscape like the task at hand. Nothing rises higher from the desert than the National Ensign; the echo of horns and drum beats; and the spinning rifles that have almost taken on a life of their own.

The detachment's main party began training in Yuma Feb. 6, culminating with its first show for base personnel here Feb. 26; but the training evolution here is more than just a prelude to the annual West Coast Installation Tour, it demands the total concentration of every Marine involved.

The Silent Drill Platoon continues Silent Drill School and smoothes its new 1998 drill sequence, the Color Guard steps away from joint-unit drill and concentrates on Pa-



**Colonel Dennis J. Hejlik, barracks commanding officer, commends the Marines who were selected for the "marching 24" on the Silent Drill Platoon during a banquet when he visited the Battle Color Detachment in Yuma, Ariz. (photo by Cpl. Chance D. Puma)**



**A baritone bugler in the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps practices during an evening rehearsal session at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona. Members of the Battle Color Detachment worked many hours there to gear up for the month-long West Coast Tour, which ended recently. (photo by Cpl. Chance D. Puma)**

rade Four drill, and the Drum and Bugle Corps refines the newly-chosen arrangements they will play this year.

The austere environment of Yuma "provides a real distraction-free training platform where each individual unit of the BCD can sharpen its skills," according to Cpl. Steven M. Dowling, a contra bass bugler with the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps.

The isolated landscape here is the perfect place to polish every minute detail of the Battle Color Ceremony, according to Cpl. Bruce W. Rietheimer, Marine Corps Color Guard.

"We get away from the melee of the barracks and any extraneous commitments that might pop up and com-

*continued on pg. 22*

Looking for instructors

## Marines donate spare time, give back to community, lead young people

by Cpl. Sean Fitzpatrick  
Staff Writer

Two local Marines are devoting their spare time to children in the community, providing good role models by utilizing their Marine Corps experiences.

Sergeants Kelvin D. Paulk and Terence A. Griggs, barracks Young Marine Program commanding and executive officers, are offering children a staging area for personal and professional growth in the Young Marine Program. They are, however, the only instructors here and are actively looking for volunteers to expand the program.

"More instructors means we can spend more one-on-one time with the Young Marines," said Griggs, barracks ammunition technician. "This way we get to know each boy or girl and we can really fine-tune our attention. We also like to stay in close contact with the families, because the stronger we work together, the stronger the program becomes."

The purpose of the Young Marine Program is to promote overall personal development and instill in its members Marine Corps values like honor, courage and commitment to the country and its institutions, according to a National Headquarters Young Marines publication.

The program also advocates a drug-free lifestyle through a continual drug prevention education program.

"The D.C. area has its bad parts," said Paulk, a former barracks Marine and presently a reservist in Fredrick,

Md. "If we can pull the kids out of that, then we can show them the positive. If we can reach these kids, if we can hold them to the Marine Corps standard, then they will become the leaders in their neighborhood."

Paulk's statement echoes the reasons why the Marine Corps adopted the Young Marine Program in 1993: to help mold responsible and respectful young men and women by holding them to a higher moral standard — the Marine Corps' standard.

Griggs said he believes the program will yield its greatest impact in the future. He said Young Marines are a long-term investment.

"I feel the program was established to change society and the family environment," said Griggs. "The Marine Corps is still around because of our standards and morals. If the children grow up abiding by the Corps' standards of honor, courage, commitment, loyalty and honesty, the country will be a better place."

Parents are enthusiastic about the program's results, according to Rhonda L. Prather, mother of two Young Marines here. She said her boys refine their discipline, respect and manners in the program, and because of the close instructor/family relationship, she holds them to the standards set by the program.

"It is important to remember, discipline starts in the home," added Prather. "The program can build on the foundation, but it does not create it. It has gone a long way to giving my boys responsibility."

The Young Marine Program is not

a summer camp, residential program or military school, according to a National Headquarters Young Marines publication. It is a youth group which meets once or twice a week. Generally, the meetings begin with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by physical training, close order drill and drill for color guard.

While the class subjects are not limited, they do tend toward traditional Marine Corps curriculum, thus the importance of good Marine instructors.

"Rank and gender do not matter," said Griggs. "What does matter is a need or desire to help children and society get back on the good track. What we don't need are 'wannabe' drill instructors, because children are growing up with enough trouble as it is, and these kids are volunteers. It would be a slap in the face to turn around and yell at them when they came to us for help and guidance."

Both the sergeants and Prather emphasized the instructors' importance in expanding the program for a better future and the beneficiaries of that future — the children.

"If we give them the discipline now, it will follow them around forever," said Prather. "Then when they have problems in college, marriage or life in general, they won't just quit."

For more information on becoming a Young Marine instructor, call Sgt. Griggs at (202) 433-6362.

# Ski trip: Marines get away from work, city stress at mountain resort for R&R



**Novice skier Cpl. Nathaniel A. Root, Motor Transport, loses control skiing down a beginners' hill at a ski resort in the Pocono Mountains. He and a group of Marines went to an all-inclusive resort recently on a Morale, Welfare and Recreation trip with the Single Marine Program. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Franklin)**

**by Cpl. Pauline L. Franklin  
Editor**

When they boarded the charter bus on a chilly Friday evening, the District of Columbia was still bustling and the city noise echoed throughout the Southeast. The end of another busy week had finally arrived, and while others were still planning their social calendar for the weekend, one group of Marines was on its way to a weekend of

rest and relaxation.

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation office and the Single Marine Program teamed up recently to offer Marines here an all-inclusive, weekend ski trip. About 20 Marines and three family members took advantage of the excursion, staying at a small inn and resort in the Pocono Mountains.

"It was the best weekend I've had in a long time," said Cpl. Kenneth Perez, administration clerk. "It gave me a chance to get away from the barracks for a whole weekend and not worry about things for a while."

The package included free meals and access to the resort's fitness center, as well as the steam, sauna and tanning rooms. The inn also offered a night club, game room, an indoor pool and jacuzzi, and ice skating. For a small fee, some Marines also took advantage of the roller skating rink nearby.

At the same time, the brisk mountain air and white slopes of a nearby ski resort were calling.

"I've never skied before, but it was a lot of fun," said PFC Chris A. Jackson, 1st Platoon, Co. "B". "I picked up on it pretty quick. It was more of a workout than I thought it would be."

The group's skiing experience ranged from those who had never been on skis to veteran downhill thrillseekers,

*continued on pg. 24*



**The ground got a little retribution against PFC James D. Deuel, Grounds and Maintenance, on this trip down the slopes. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Franklin)**

**West Coast continued**

pletely immerse ourselves in the battle color sequence,” he said.

The Marines’ immersion in the ceremony’s detail is total — and completely necessary for just one reason.

“This is the stepping stone for the rest of the year,” says Sgt. Heath F. Kuhlmann, Color Sergeant of the Marine Corps. “It sets the tone for the Battle Color season and, in turn, sets the tone for Tuesday and Friday parades throughout the year. If we don’t get it locked on out here, it will directly reflect in the parades.”

But the drive for perfection has an immediacy that lies closer than the upcoming year, according to Dowling.

“Because the Corps demands such a high level of excellence from 8th & I Marines, a considerable amount of preparation is needed before the public eyes witness the ceremony and put us under scrutiny,” he said.

In fact, the West Coast Installation Tour presents a great challenge because a majority of the audiences are active duty Marines, retirees and Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets, according to Dowling.

“You go up in front of all these guys who hear all about 8th & I, and if you do a halfway job they will be disappointed. Marines are harder to impress than the general public, and when we perform in front of our fellow Marines, let’s face it, they’re scrutinizing everything we do to the letter and asking themselves, ‘could I have



*(above) Lance Cpl. Jerry A. Heim Jr. and the rest of the Silent Drill Platoon work on the “Meat Grinder” during a rehearsal on the West Coast. The platoon spent many hours working on a new drill sequence for the coming parade season. (pictured at left) The Drum and Bugle Corps works on their drill during rehearsals. (photos by Cpl. Chance D. Puma)*

represented the Corps better?" " said Dowling.

Representing the Corps is the driving motivation for the BCD Marines here, who perfect their drill during almost every daylight hour and often into the night, with little more than a day or half-day of rest and recuperation in a week.

"Going through SDS has been like a culture shock," said Lance Cpl. Ryan L. Blaine, who graduated from Silent Drill School with his classmates in Yuma Feb. 20 to earn a coveted position on the Silent Drill Platoon.

Drilling up to 12 hours a day, and sometimes more, takes a toll on the body and mind, he says. "You wake up in the morning and every joint in your hands is 'rock tight'" from constantly gripping, spinning and smartly slapping the weapon for a heavy, distinct cadence, according to Blaine. All the while, the platoon drill masters and senior Marines are critiquing.

The Marines adapt and internalize every drill movement, "because this is important to the Corps. This is the first impression a lot of people get of Marines at our shows and it is a lasting impression," said LCpl. Hermann B. Cuadros of the Silent Drill Platoon, "and the harder we work, the better the image."

And with these attitudes, the stage is set. The color guard, drill platoon and Drum and Bugle Corps train

*continued on pg. 24*



*Corporal Joe A. Almendez Jr. and Lance Cpl. Jose L. Marquez drill on the Silent Drill Platoon's Challenge Day in Yuma. The platoon selected its "marching 24" from these tryouts. (photo by Cpl. Chance D. Puma)*



*(left to right) Lance Cpl. Adam L. Dowell, Sgt. Heath F. Kuhlmann, Cpl. Ron R. Rawls, and Lance Cpl. James W. Anderson, members of the Parade Four Color Guard practice their drill in Yuma to prepare for the West Coast Tour recently. (photo by Cpl. Chance D. Puma)*



*(left to right) Corporal Jamie M. Bennett, Staff Sgt. John J. Cronin and the rest of the Drum and Bugle Corps perform during a special morning colors ceremony in Yuma during the West Coast Tour. (photo by Cpl. Chance D. Puma)*

## West Coast continued

separately at first, bringing themselves up to par for full-scale rehearsals with all units together.

“The schedule does a nice job of separating the units, but midway through the cycle it pulls the ropes in so we train as one detachment, not just separate units,” said Dowling. “So when our performances begin we are all at the same starting line.

“Honestly, being away from your spouse for six weeks can make it difficult, trying to keep concentration at such a high level without thoughts drifting back to home too often,” he said. “The kickbacks are we get fresh air and sun and get out of the metro area to see the west coast and pacific forces. In the end though, the BCD is a leaner, meaner Marine Corps team — ready for the grueling demands of another parade season.”



**Staff Sgt. William D. Bullock (front center) and the rest of the Drum and Bugle Corps' drum section works on their "Pass in Review" during one of many rehearsals on MCAS Yuma's football field. (photo by Cpl. Chance D. Puma)**

## Ski continued

and each found a slope to accommodate them.

“I wanted to see what it felt like going down the slopes,” said Perez, who worked his way up from the “bunny” slope to the advanced Black

Diamond runs. “It gave me a rush going down the more difficult slopes.”

As the weekend drew to a close early Sunday evening, the group boarded the bus with



**Marines suit up in their ski equipment at a ski resort during a weekend ski trip in the Pocono Mountains recently. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Franklin)**



**"A" Company's PFC Dan B. Smith (right) and PFC James D. Deuel, Grounds Section, get ready to try snowboarding for the first time. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Franklin)**



**Barracks dining facility's Staff Sgt. Tommy J. Jimmerson's son, 7-year-old Jerome Jr., and wife, Marietta, cut loose on the dance floor during a trip through MWR and the Single Marine Program. When they were not skiing, members of the group took advantage of the resort's night life. (photo provided by Lance Cpl. Corey S. Taylor)**

smiles, laughing and reliving highlights from the weekend. More than the activities and fun, however, members of the group said it was the time away from the city which made the trip great.

"Most trips are shorter — only one day," said Perez, "but weekend trips like this are better. You don't have to worry about formations and you can take your pack off."

"This was a way to get away from work and have fun with fellow Marines," added Jackson. "It was great

for morale — it brought Marines together and built a lot of unity and camaraderie."

Marines assigned here can look forward to more trips in the future. The Single Marine Program already has a White Water Rafting trip scheduled April 18.

For information on the cost of the trip or about the Single Marine Program, contact Cpl. Christina L. Wright at 433-4889.



**Administration clerk Cpl. Kenneth Perez (shown at left) takes an involuntary break on the slopes, while fellow administration clerk Lance Cpl. Corey S. Taylor (shown below) attacks his hill from a different direction. The two Marines said the trip was a great chance to get away and relax for the weekend. (photo at left by Cpl. Pauline L. Franklin, photo below provided by Taylor)**



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

**H&S Co.**

- Sgt. A.L. Brown
- Sgt. T.A. Griggs
- Sgt. P.A. Santos
- Cpl. L.B. Brennan
- Cpl. D.T. Cotton
- Cpl. K.B. Grant
- Cpl. M.A. Madigan
- Cpl. D.A. Messinger Jr.
- Cpl. S.A. Reed
- Lance Cpl. M.A. Addis
- Lance Cpl. I.R. Castilleja
- Lance Cpl. M.T. Gray
- Lance Cpl. R.M. Haley
- Lance Cpl. R.O. Hyson
- Lance Cpl. T.H. Herzog II
- Lance Cpl. D.J. Jehn
- Lance Cpl. S.C. Miguez
- Lance Cpl. C.W. Morgan
- Lance Cpl. C.J. Nesteby
- Lance Cpl. J.F. Patrick
- Lance Cpl. D.P. Reinking
- Lance Cpl. R.D. Scott
- Lance Cpl. A.G. Seals
- Lance Cpl. S.A. Williams
- Lance Cpl. K.A. Young

**USNA Co.**

- Cpl. A.B. Homan
- Cpl. J.V. Ross
- Cpl. C.J. Matthews
- Lance Cpl. Blaess
- Lance Cpl. K.E. Pierce Jr.

**WHCA**

- Sgt. S.B. Melenbacker
- Cpl. D.T. Farnos

**MCI Co.**

- Sgt. O.E. Dennis
- Sgt. V.H. Nguyen
- Cpl. S.G. Morris
- Cpl. D.J. Reynolds Jr.

**Company "A"**

- Sgt. T.M. Butner
- Cpl. C.A. Butler
- Cpl. J.P. Maggerine III
- Cpl. J. Padilla
- Cpl. W. Vasconcelos
- Lance Cpl. C.P. Ambrose
- Lance Cpl. E.E. Collins
- Lance Cpl. K.R. Jolly Jr.
- Lance Cpl. C.M. Karas
- Lance Cpl. J.A. Kelly
- Lance Cpl. J. D. Price
- Lance Cpl. R.M. Roe
- Lance Cpl. B.A. Tapp

**Company "B"**

- Cpl. T.M. Kibler
- Lance Cpl. E. Castellanos Jr.
- Lance Cpl. E.H. Gonzales
- Lance Cpl. B.T. Helbert
- Lance Cpl. J.M. Pendergrass
- Lance Cpl. S.S. Smail
- Lance Cpl. J.S. Volgren

**Security Co.**

- Sgt. M.S. Malinowski
- Cpl. N.D. Behrendt
- Lance Cpl. S.P. Fineran
- Cpl. W.L. Moore
- Cpl. A.M. Smith

**Drum and Bugle Corps Co.**

- Gunnery Sgt. O.A. Duff
  - Gunnery Sgt. R.P. LaPlante
  - Sgt. T.B. Allinger
- United States Marine Band**
- Cpl. B.M. Nelson

**C**ongratulations to the following Marines for the awards they recently received.

**Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal**

- Cpl. P.L. Franklin
- Cpl. F. Monroe
- Lance Cpl. D.C. Kolesar
- Lance Cpl. W.C. Tillotson

**Good Conduct Medal**

- Staff Sgt. J.A. Edmunson
- Sgt. P.E. Franklin
- Sgt. B.A. Lansdell
- Cpl. D.T. Drake
- Cpl. P.L. Franklin
- Cpl. M.J. Shaw

**C**ongratulations to Sgt. M.J. Bess, a first-term Marine who recently re-enlisted for a lateral move to 4341, Public Affairs.

**C**ongratulations to the following career Marines who re-enlisted recently.

- Gunnery Sgt. J.L. Oliver
- Staff Sgt. C.D. Hinson
- Staff Sgt. J.A. Stafford
- Sgt. R. Pina



# Praising Key Volunteers for efforts, support

by Lt. Kenneth D. Counts  
Barracks Chaplain

Those who serve as Key Volunteers were recently honored with an appreciation banquet. ALMAR 049/98 established the last week of February as an annual Key Volunteer Recognition Week. Col. Dennis J. Hejlik, commanding officer, Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., thus ordered the volunteers should be honored with a dinner.

On Saturday evening, Feb. 21, this first Appreciation Dinner was conducted at the Phillips Flagship Seafood Restaurant on the Washington Channel. Ten of the 18 volunteers who currently compose the Key Volunteer Network attended. They were joined by Col. and Mrs. Hejlik along with the company commanders from the Headquarters and Service Company, Marine Corps Institute, Company "B," and Naval Academy Security Company.

The presence of these officers demonstrates the importance they place on family readiness, as it enhances mission effectiveness.

Those present were entertained by music performed by a string trio from "The President's Own." Certificates of Appreciation were delivered to each volunteer, and the colonel spoke to the group of his gratitude for the services the volunteers rendered faithfully throughout the past year to the Marines and families of the "Oldest Post." These volunteers are indeed "Key" members of the barracks team.

Marines tend to equate Key Volunteers with deployments. Indeed, some barracks units deploy frequently. The wives who support the Drum and Bugle Corps can testify their work in the Key Volunteer Network

resembles that of a fleet Marine unit.

While D&B Marines are away on tours, these volunteers will normally handle several emergency and family related calls. On the recent West Coast tour these volunteers helped a wife obtain a replacement identification card, which proved to be no small feat.

The Key Volunteer Network also serves as a communications link between the command and the families of the barracks personnel. Key Volunteers strive to maintain accurate recall rosters and pass news of barracks events to the spouses with personal phone calls.

In October the network volunteers began to publish a newsletter, *The Key*, which highlights upcoming calendar events at 8th and I, and tells of new programs and points of contact for family related services and benefits of the metropolitan D.C. area. The network is currently working to enhance the welcome aboard process for newly assigned personnel.

Originating from informal telephone chains, Marine wives have been able to maintain contact with their spouses and parents while deployed overseas and in combat. These networks proved so helpful and enjoyed such success during the Gulf War that the Marine Corps moved to formally organize and fund this program in 1995.

Kudos to your Key Volunteers. They deserved a special night of recognition and thanks. So much of what they do goes unnoticed. If we could be more mindful of their availability, some of our lifestyle tensions could probably be resolved at earlier points and at lower stress

levels. Your Key Volunteers are information resources for the many military benefits and programs every Marine family rates. Always feel free to give them a call.

Volunteers Who Currently Serve in the barracks' Key Volunteer Network are...

**Key Volunteer Coordinator**

**Gwen Counts (703) 691-7468**

**Key Volunteer Advisor - Sandy Hejlik H&S**

Kim Kessler (703) 560-8184  
Marianne Killackey (202) 574-8489  
Sue Connors (703) 497-1383  
Maria Alvarado (202) 562-0850

**MCI**

Betty Jo Bowers (703) 451-7142

**D&B**

Teresa Harrison (703) 590-8665  
Sandy Rose (703) 490-3184  
Karen Waldschmidt (703) 912-6372  
Rita Caviness (410) 643-9392

**U.S. Marine Band**

Ameena Kelly (301) 416-0631

**Company "A"**

Angela Ledford (301) 893-2667  
Nancy Walker (301) 589-2125

**Company "B"**

Dawn Ellison (703) 465-0150  
Cheryl Hewitt (703) 278-8159

**Naval Academy Security Company**

Shawn Sutton (410) 604-1318

**Camp David**

Cindy Martin (301) 416-0631



**The Key Volunteers who attended the banquet pose for a picture. From top-left: Sandy Hejlik, Advisor, Kim Kessler, Gwen Counts, Coordinator, Cheryl Hewitt, Dawn Ellison, Marianne Killackey. Bottom, left: Angela Ledford, Teri Morris, Teresa Harrison, Sandy Rose.**

# Marine Barracks, Washington 1984



*Two Marines assigned to "The Oldest Post of the Corps" during the renovation of the parade deck post a sign warding off any "amphibians" who may want to return to their "native habitat."*

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