

MARINE BARRACKS
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WASHINGTON, D.C.

PASS IN REVIEW

Serving Marines, Sailors, and the families of "The Oldest Post of the Corps"

January 2004



Bringing in the New Year

The "President's Own" pays tribute to the CMC with a morning serenade

CO'S CORNER

*By Colonel Daniel P. O'Brien
Barracks Commanding Officer*

Happy New Year!!

Looking back at 2003 I think that we can claim great success in virtually every part of the Barracks family.

In Facilities, we can point to the completion of our Mess Hall renovation, the on-going roof project, new doors on the band Hall, the SNCO Club renovation, the completion of renovations to all the General Officer Quarters and great progress being made on the Annex construction. In 2004, we'll complete the Annex, bringing us a state of the art Band rehearsal facility and additional Bachelor Enlisted Quarters - with additional parking. The Annex will also include a new athletic field for sports, training and some organized community use. Soon, we will begin construction on a new Motor Transport facility at Anacostia. We're also finalizing the renovation plans for the existing Band Hall and Guard Office, and plan to start work on that project after the 2004 parade season.

The Marine Corps Institute had another successful year bringing all manner of distance learning products to Marines worldwide. A major upgrade to the MCI office spaces and logistics capabilities is nearing completion.

The Marines at Camp David had one of the busiest years in recent history, yet maintained their record of flawless security for that national treasure. The Marines at the Naval Academy distinguished themselves on several occasions, including their support to the Academy during tropical storm Isabelle. For 2004, they are off and running at their new location aboard the USNA grounds. Our White House Communications Agency Marines also performed superbly!

The United States Marine Band had a fabulous year in 2003. They performed flawlessly at countless parades, funerals, White House appearances, their annual fall tour and many local concerts. They also had a wonderful 205th Birthday Concert at the Kennedy Center that featured the music of John Williams conducted by John Williams himself.

The Battle Color Detachment had many highly successful performances throughout the United States, at Belleau Wood in France, and at Fort Henry in Canada. The BCD includes the Drum and Bugle Corps along with the Silent Drill Platoon and the "Parade 4" Color Guard. SDP also took advantage of several opportunities to perform at NFL games and other great venues. In addition, I am constantly amazed at how our Color Guard Marines adapt to any environment and tailor their presentation to the space in which they need to perform. All of these Marines are true professionals.

Both Company A and Company B have balanced the many demands of a vast array of ceremonies with preparing Marines for success in the operating forces and training for contingency missions. Many of the Marines who looked great on troop walk for the 2003 season will serve their county well in the coming months while forward-deployed in the operating forces.

Lastly, it's important to note that we could never do any of the above without a core of Marines, Sailors and Civilians who do a great job of making this place run. Headquarters and Service Company, MCCS, our food service contractors and many others combine to make Marine Barracks a great duty station and an excellent example to our nations capital of what the Marine Corps represents. I could not be more proud of the way the Oldest Post looks or operates. From grounds to protocol and all the staff sections in between, you have my sincere thanks for your great work!

Even with all of our successes over the past 12 months, experience tells me that there is always room for improvement: so I look forward to an even better 2004. And now, as we near the 2004 Parade Season, I ask that you keep safety in mind, look out for your fellow Marines, enjoy the Washington area and... PRESS THE MISSION!!!

*Semper Fidelis,
Daniel P. O'Brien*

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On The Cover: An image of the Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Michael W. Hagee and his guests, reflects off a polished sousaphone as they listen to the "President's Own" traditional New Year's Day serenade. (photo by Sgt. Branden P. O'Brien)

FRIEND IN "FIGHT"

Colombian CNO touted for leadership

► Commandant of the

Marine Corps, Gen. Michael W. Hagee, joined Colombian Navy Commander-in-Chief Vice Adm. Mauricio Soto Gomez for a full-honors parade Dec. 10 here in recognition of the Vice Admiral's admirable performance during his duties for the past few years.

After a concert by the Marine Band and 19-gun salute, Vice Adm. Soto, Gen. Hagee and Barracks Executive Officer Lt. Col. Greg L. Hauck "trooped the line" to inspect the Marines. Gen. Hagee then presented Vice Adm. Soto with the



"The President's Own" Marine Band Drum Major Master Sgt. Thomas D. Kohl salutes Dec. 10 at a full-honors parade in recognition of Colombian Navy Commander-in-Chief Vice Adm. Mauricio Soto Gomez.

Legion of Merit from Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

The citation noted Soto's "exceptional leadership and strategic vision" as being "critical in the transformation of the Colombian Marine Corps into the premier Colombian force in the war on terrorism and illicit drug production and trafficking."

Under his leadership, Colombian forces "captured and destroyed more than 200,000 tons of cocaine and 99,000 kilograms of heroin."

With friends like Vice Adm. Soto, we can rest easy in the fact that all over the world, Marines are doing their part to preserve justice in every clime and place.



Colombian Navy Commander-in-Chief Vice Adm. Mauricio Soto Gomez, Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Michael W. Hagee and Marine Barracks Executive Officer Lt. Col. Greg L. Hauck salute during the honors ceremony Dec. 10 at a parade honoring him for his example of leadership.

Marines lay former Barracks officer to rest



Sgt. Stephen L. Traynham

The Body Bearers fold the flag that was later presented to Col. Michael J. Godfrey's widow, Keiko.

► Colonel Michael J. Godfrey,

Commanding Officer of 3rd Transportation Support Battalion, 3rd Force Service Support Group returned home from Okinawa Tuesday to receive a full honors funeral and burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

Godfrey, who died Nov. 4, was in charge of Brigade Service Support Group 3 and was assigned as the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Forward) Commander in Chinhae, Republic of Korea, at the time of his death.

The Colonel, whom many describe as a Marine's Marine, was born in 1954 in Washington, D.C., and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1976 and graduated from the Basic School that September.

In July 1986 he was frocked to Major and assigned to Headquarters and Service Company, Marine Barracks, 8th and I, as company commander and was a White House social aide. During that time he was chosen to serve as Parade

Commander for the 1988-89 Parade Season. This is where he picked up his distinguishing "8th and I walk" described by several of the Marines close to him.

His other various assignments included duty with 2nd Amphibious Assault Battalion; 10th Marine Regiment; 2nd Marine Division; I&L, Headquarters Marine Corps; 3rd Supply Battalion; 3rd FSSG; 1st Marine Division G-4; Commanding Officer MSSG-13; G-4, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing; G-4, III Marine Expeditionary Force; and finally, Commanding Officer of both 3rd TSB and BSSG-3.

The 3rd FSSG representative, Capt. Kevin Collins, said that Col. Godfrey will be missed throughout III MEF and the 3rd FSSG. "He was an innovative logistician, whose vision resulted in the acquisition of the High Speed Vessel for III MEF, transforming the way III MEF units deploy and train throughout the Western Pacific

Region. As our commander, he taught us a great deal about the importance of maintaining a focus on readiness while balancing numerous other demands. As a leader, he was worthy of the respect and high regard he enjoyed from the Marines. Col. Godfrey had a leadership style that appealed to Marines at every level."

The Barracks Commanding Officer, Col. Daniel P. O'Brien, echoed the thoughts of Collins, also a former Barracks officer who served here from 1990 to 1993. "Mike was energetic, creative and a lot of fun. He was a great student of history and sought to make the Marine Corps better. His work with the High Speed Vessel in the Western Pacific will have a definitive impact upon the Marine Corps and how we fight."

He is survived by his wife, Keiko, and daughter, Victoria.

His personal decorations included Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

FBI visits Marine Barracks

Tun Tavern II

► For more than 228 years,

Marines have taken time to pause and reflect upon the heralded history of the Corps during birthday celebrations worldwide. Marines past and present take time to remember those who have gone before them recalling to mind acts of courage and kindness from the few and the proud.

“Once a Marine always a Marine.” These words hold true for the FBI agents taking part in the Tun Tavern II event here. The agents, all former Marines gathered at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., to celebrate the Corps’ 228th Birthday. Among those in attendance were active agents, retired agents and even a few who were still in training

Tun Tavern II took place inside the John Philip Sousa Band Hall, with a brief intermission on the parade deck for the Drum & Bugle Corps to serenade those in attendance. The Birthday Message and cake-cutting portion followed with Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. “Spyder” Nyland presenting the cake to the oldest and youngest Marine. The oldest Marine present was Jim Smith, born December 6, 1920, and the youngest was Lance Corporal Timothy Healy Jr. born April 5, 1982.

The mingling of FBI Marines and Barracks Marines has been going on for more than two decades—this marks the 21st year the FBI has held their birthday celebration here. In 1982, Special Agent John P. Wallace decided he wanted to do something for the agents who were former Marines to celebrate the Marine Corps’ Birthday. Wallace retired from the FBI after 25 years of service, after also having served for four and a half years as a Marine air traffic control officer.

“We had noticed that we had a lot of Marines in the shop and figured we should have a party to celebrate the birthday,” said Wallace. “I thought that since we were in D.C., we would try to have it at the Marine Barracks—the oldest post in the Corps.”

Wallace spoke with the security officer at the Barracks, who made arrangements with the commanding officer for the FBI agents to use Center House for their event. Throughout the years, the number of guests increased to the point that Center House could no longer harbor the affair.

“The name Tun Tavern II is what we came up with after the first birthday celebration we had at the



Marines and FBI agents toast during Tun Tavern II, their celebration of the Marine Corps birthday, at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C.

Barracks,” said Wallace.

The tradition continues. From the original Tun Tavern in Philadelphia, to Tun Tavern II here at the Barracks, Marines from all generations have a place to celebrate the birthday of the United States Marine Corps.



FBI agents show their appreciation to Marines of the Drum & Bugle Corps for their performance during their Marine Corps birthday celebration.

Plan of attack!

Story and photo by Cpl. Nathan A. Tiller

► While everyone

else was planning to go home on leave and spend time with their families, Marine Barracks' hoops-playing devil-dogs were preparing for the challenges of their upcoming season.

In a preseason game against the CMC team Dec. 16 at Henderson Hall, the Barracks Marines outperformed their rivals with a final score of 35-23.

After a mediocre season last year, members of the team are looking forward to putting the past behind them and performing better this year.

"This year we are more in-depth and experienced," said point guard John Ellerbee. "First place is all that counts... anything other than that is failure."

The 2004 basketball season started Jan. 5.



The Marine Barracks Basketball Team gets together after their victory over the CMC team for one last cheer.



Sergeant Rhian Jackson, sinks a foul shot during Marine Barracks' match-up against the CMC team.

Drill Team Silences “Philly” Fans

Marines Patrol NFL Stadium

Story and photos by Cpl. Nathan A. Tiller

The Silent Drill Platoon walks onto the Lincoln Financial Field during halftime as the crowd of sports fans anxiously wait for the Marines to begin.



► Marine Barracks’

own Silent Drill Platoon paid a visit to the city of Brotherly Love Dec. 21 to participate in the Philadelphia Eagles week 16 game against the San Francisco 49ers at Lincoln Financial Field.

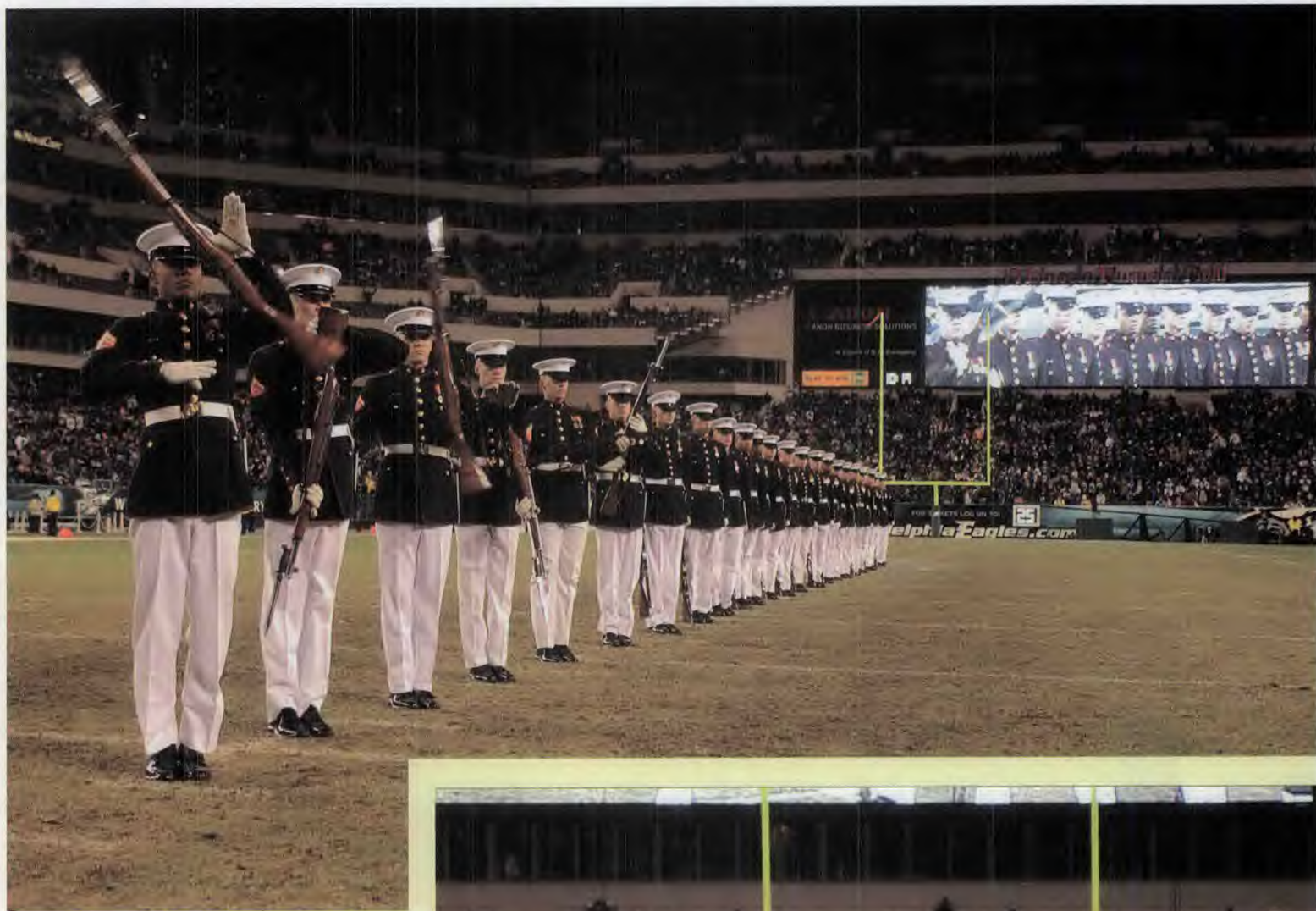
At the start of the game, a local reserve unit Color Guard marched onto the field and presented the colors during the National Anthem. When the horn sounded at the end of the second quarter, SDP geared up to do what they do best.

As soon as the wave of blue and white began to make its way across the sea of green, the crowd went wild, applauding, cheering and chanting -- “U-S-A!”

Marines are caught midstep during the first few movements of the Silent Drill Platoon’s exhibition.



Members of the United States Silent Drill Platoon begin their line sequence during halftime Dec. 21 at Linclon Financial Field.



As the last performance of the year, and, for some members of the platoon - their last performance period, the game had a much bigger meaning than just proudly presenting the Corps' Colors.

"I had a good time," said Cpl. Kevin Wilkins, Silent Drill Platoon Inspection Team. "The crowd was really into it, just like they always are."

The 49ers defeated the Eagles 31-28 with a field goal in overtime.

Rifle Inspector Sgt. Matt Britton catches the M-1 rifle as he walks the line during his inspection sequence.



A Barracks Ballad

Story by Lance Cpl. E. Ashley Thomas

“The President’s Own” continues Civil War tradition

► The holiday season is full of traditions, from trimming the tree and Christmas Carols, to the shopping rush and the occasional grinch.

As the grass loses its green luster, the crowds of tourists fade and Christmas carols replace the afternoon rehearsals of the Drum and Bugle Corps, the Marines of “8th & I” participate in their own holiday traditions.

One tradition that has been kept since the days of the civil war is the Marine Band’s New Year’s Day



Lance Cpl. E. A. Ashley Thomas



Sgt. Branden O'Brien

The Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Michael W. Hagee takes a moment to thank “The President’s Own” for their annual performance.

Serenade to the Commandant Of The Marine Corps.

As tradition dictates, the ceremony was held in the back yard of the Commandant’s house. This year, General Michael W. Hagee and his guests stood on the back steps of the house as the Band marched into the elegant garden setting before them.

The Drum Major of the Marine Corps Band, Master Sgt. Thomas D. Kohl marched the Marines into their positions and then handed the reigns over to Colonel Timothy W. Foley, Commanding Officer of the Marine Corps Band.

Drum Major Master Sgt. Thomas D. Kohl marches up to the Commandant’s house followed by the Marines of the United States Marine Corps Band.



Sgt. Branden O'Brien

The United States Marine Corps Band begins the New Year's Day serenade with the "Marine's Hymn" outside the Commandant of the Marine Corps' home.

As in previous years, the memorable concert opened with the "Marines' Hymn" followed by "The Stars and Stripes Forever." Staff Sgt. Kevin L. Benneer lent his operatic voice talents to "Bless This House." The serenade then closed with the Sousa march, "Semper Fidelis"

With the holiday rush gone, decorations stored for another year, and gifts a memory, the tradition established nearly 140 years ago remains a part of Barracks history and customs.



Lance Cpl. E. Ashley Thomas

Colonel Timothy W. Foley, Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Band, ends the New Year celebration with the well-known Sousa march, "Semper Fidelis."

FRONT SIGHT

Story and photos by Sgt. Stephen L. Traynham



► Amidst the snow and cold, a Marine takes aim on the 200-yard line in preparation for rifle requalifications.

Marines hit the winter range for annual qualifications.

It's 6:10 am. The sun has yet to rise. The snow on the ground hasn't begun to show signs of melting away. Weather conditions might play a significant role in the week's training evolution. A bus packed with Marines from Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., pulls into the shooters' parking lot on Marine Corps Base Quantico. Among these Marines are a few who are "somewhat strangers" to the rifle range — the Marines of "The Commandant's Own" Drum and Bugle Corps, getting ready for their annual rifle requalification with the M-16A2 service rifle.

As an annual training requirement, every Marine must qualify on the rifle range using a known distance, or KD range. Marines from all walks of the Corps show up early in the morning to participate in the range, leaving behind the comforts of their offices, warehouses, and for the Marines of D & B, the rehearsal hall and drum room.

KD-1 kicked off Dec. 3, which was a normal day for range personnel. A few marksmanship classes here, a little snapping in there and the day would be over. Sounds like a good day to range personnel, but some of the shooters had a different opinion.

"I was miserable the first week of the range," admitted Lance Cpl. Krystle A. Kilmer, soprano bugler, D & B Company. "The second week was a lot better. I went out and purchased some gear to help me cope with the cold weather."

All the Marines present dealt with the cold in their own way. Some

"In boot camp, I qualified expert with the rifle. Being that so much time has passed I thought I'd forgotten most of my marksmanship knowledge, but after the classes the first week, it all came back to me and I shot expert again."

Sgt. Leeland E. Jordan

wore layers while others used mind over matter to block out the cold. Marines were covered from head to toe with snuffle gear, which was acceptable by range personnel as long as the shooters weren't on the firing line and the gear didn't interfere with range safety procedures.

"The Marines out here on the range are authorized to wear any gear they are issued," said Sgt. David A. Marino, Line Noncommissioned Officer of Range Two. "Safety is the most important thing on the range; as long as the Marines don't come out with gear that is eccentric or impedes safety, they are fine."

All of the shooters on the range have shot before, but for the Marines of D & B, this was the first time many have shot since they attended boot camp. Due to the many ceremonial commitments of the D & B, the Marines seldom have a chance to go to the rifle range. For some it's only been a year since boot camp, but others have been waiting several years to go to the rifle range.

"In boot camp three years ago, I qualified expert with the rifle. Being that so much time has passed I thought I'd forgotten most of my marksmanship knowledge, but after the classes the first week it all came back to me and I shot expert again," said Sgt. Leeland E. Jordan, a contrabass bugler for D & B.

The shooters from D & B were motivated to be on the range and the change in atmosphere was also welcomed. Whether it was for the love of being a Marine, being on the range, the love of shooting, or simply to get rid of a pizza box - they showed the attitude of all Marines - a rifleman first.



► **Battling the cold on the rifle range is just one of the many factors that the shooters must push through to maintain their concentration while qualifying.**



► **With the eyes of a hawk, the Marine in charge of safety on the range must keep a look out for anything that could cause harm to the Marines on the firing line.**



► **"Coaches Time" is the one point before firing when the coaches and shooters can talk freely about any concerns the shooters may have.**

Infinite Obstacles

MARINES COMBAT MORE THAN JUST THE ENEMY

With the threat of harsh winter storms over the horizon, Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., sent the combined forces of "A" Company, and Headquarters and Service Company Marines to the training fields of Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., for the day.

The biggest question of the morning—Does anyone know why we are out here? The Commanding Officer of "A" Company, Capt. Peter Pace is surrounded by silence. After a few seconds, hands shot upward as the young devil dogs came up with their own answers, ranging from "Because we have to," to "If it isn't raining we aren't training." Little did the Marines know that the events that layed before them would show the answer loud and clear.

"I think this was a great opportunity," said Lance Cpl. Ailyn C. Anastacio, clerk, S-1. "I loved being able to get out there and feel like a real Marine. Even if it was really



Second Platoon, "A" Company Marines navigate the muddy terrain of MCB Quantico as they begin their live fire training evolution.



Capt. Ryan E. Debouchel, 1st Platoon Commander, "A" Company, lays out the course for Lance Cpl. James L. Manuel, second platoon, "A" Company, Lance Cpl. Jeremy E. Howard, second platoon, "A" Company, and Lance Cpl. Ryan W. Gardner, second platoon, "A" Company, as they prepare to advance onto the live fire range.

cold, it was fun."

The training evolution began with the Marines splitting up into 11 fire teams and tackling a three-mile run through freezing rain and snow with their flak jackets, Kevlar helmets and rifles. After making it to the firing line the fire teams crossed into the treeline, keeping an eye out for potential hostiles as they navigated the flooded underbrush.

"Despite the weather, the training was motivating," said Private First Class Juan A. Moreno, fiscal clerk, S-4, H&S Company. "Now I know that on the battlefield, the enemy isn't



"A" Company Marines approach the live fire range under the watchful eye of the safety NCO Sgt. Eric L. Mitchell.

the only force we have to overcome. Other obstacles include climate conditions and the terrain. It's important to focus on what we are doing because we could hurt a fellow Marine or even ourselves. And even though the weather was against us, I had fun running in the rain and getting a chance to shoot off some rounds."

As the morning progressed, the rain and snow pounded harder and harder, creating a range-wide mudslide effect as the fire teams approached the berm with their rifles locked and loaded.

"That first hill was a giant mudslide," said Lance Cpl. Thomas J. Burmeister, fire team leader, second platoon, "A" Company. "It

took some tricky footwork to keep from sliding down on my back. All in all, it was really good training and the whole situation gave great perspective on what we could face out in the fleet. This was the first time I had total control of the situation. Having that much responsibility really pointed out the concept of working as a team because if you don't, someone is going to get hurt."

By the end of the afternoon, soaked to the bone and frozen to the core, the Marines boarded the buses to head back to "8th & I" where hot chow and dry clothes awaited them.

"Training like this is always good for morale," said Lance Cpl. Christopher T. Mason, second platoon, "A" company. "Even though

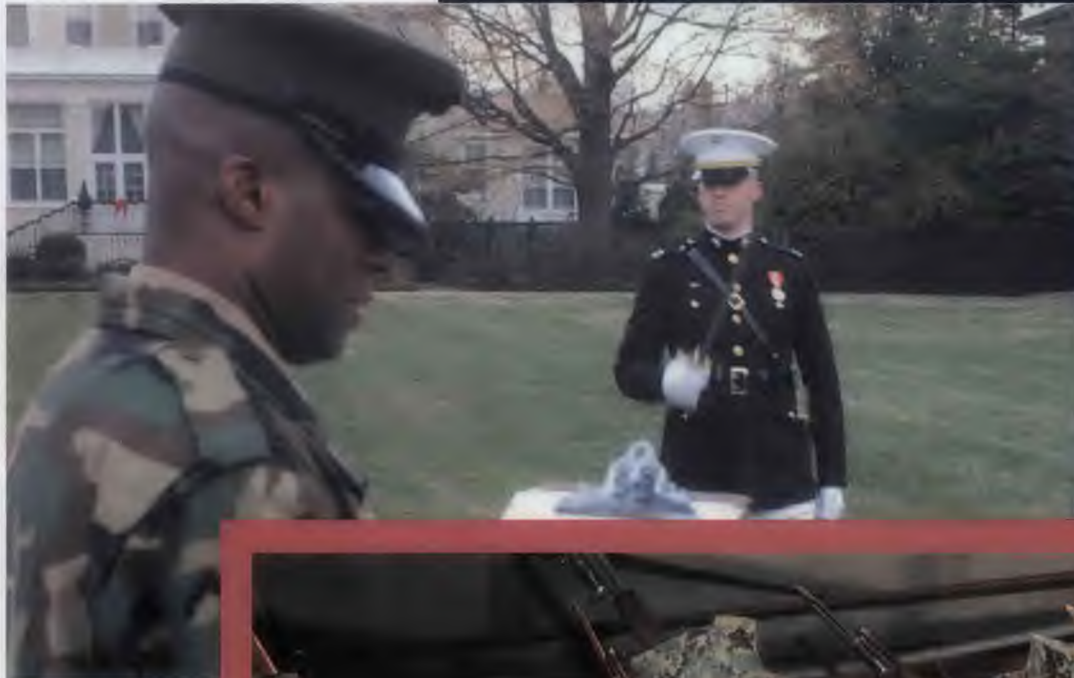
it was freezing out there, it just made us move faster to stay warm. This is what we do, this is our job, and I'm glad we got a chance to take on more responsibility and take charge of our groups. Personally the biggest challenge was overcoming the weather because I'm from the west coast. The training we get to take part in, only makes me more confident that I will be able to my job."

The long drive home gave the Marines some time to defrost and catch some shut-eye, but it also allowed them to reflect on what they had learned from their day in the field. Among the lessons learned — plan for the worst and hope for the best.



Lance Cpl. Thomas P. Hodges, honor graduate of Corporals Course 02-03, stands with Sgt. Maj. Bryan B. Battaglia, Sergeant Major, Marine Barracks, Gunnery Sgt. Gregg M. White, chief instructor, and Sgt. Maj. Herman Raybon, Sergeant Major, Marine Corps University, after receiving his award.

Sgt. Stephen L. Traynham



Master Sgt. Angelo Goodwyn, CDS instructor, inspects Capt. Shane A. Donahue's marching performance during Staff Ceremonial Drill School Graduation Dec. 13.

Cpl. Nathan A. Tiller

Private First Class Christopher A. Schoening from Livermore, Ca., sounds off as Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Angeloff, CDS instructor, A Company, teaches him ceremonial drill techniques.

Lance Cpl. E. Ashley Thomas



AROUND THE BARRACKS



Sergeant Bernadette H. Sholl, SRB chief, S-1, H&S Company assists Col. Daniel P. O'Brien, Commanding Officer, Marine Barracks, during the cutting of the cake at the Marine Corps Birthday Ball.

Sgt. Leah A. Cobble



Staff Sgt. Kevin A. Pickney and Cpl. Robert E. Giddens from Marine Corps Community Services, stopped by the MCCS Christmas Party as Santa and one of his helpers. Santa is seen here handing a gift to Lance Cpl. John M. Russell, body bearer, "B" Company.

Lance Cpl. E. Ashley Thomas



Colonel Daniel P. O'Brien, Commanding Officer, Marine Barracks, presents the Meritorious Service Medal to Sgt. Maj. William A. Winters, during his frocking ceremony here Dec. 19.

Sgt. Stephen L. Traynham



News **makers**

Promotions

Headquarters and Service Company

Gunnery Sgt. Johnathan H. Lacoste
Sgt. Christopher R. Borgerding
Sgt. Robert E. Giddens
Sgt. Christopher M. Parker
Sgt. Kharl E. Prophete
Sgt. Terry J. Steele
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Cpl. Adam J. Nyback
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Cpl. Milton F. Salazarmendez
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Lance Cpl. Cedric L. Brown
Lance Cpl. Shawn B. Dilworth
Lance Cpl. Johnson J. Floyd
Lance Cpl. David A. Kaplan
Lance Cpl. Juan A. Moreno
Lance Cpl. Derek R. Norris
Lance Cpl. Vincent S. Province
Lance Cpl. Lee E. Rabenstein
Lance Cpl. C. Toro
Lance Cpl. David A. Williams Jr.

A Company

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Cpl. James D. Leach
Lance Cpl. Jeremy R. Dean
Lance Cpl. Robert R. Mickey
Lance Cpl. David M. Neal
Lance Cpl. Urban D. Strachan

B Company

Sgt. Troy A. Knoblauch
Lance Cpl. Christopher J. Cotton
Lance Cpl. Darin K. McCammon
Lance Cpl. Sergio A. Delgado
Lance Cpl. Edward M. Pennington

Private First Class George C. Eberdt
Private First Class Joshua N. Harris
Private First Class Christopher J. Shelton

Security Company

Sgt. Christopher R. Pope
Cpl. Scott A. Anderson
Cpl. Jeffery E. Johnson
Cpl. Bret E. McCauley
Cpl. Henry J. Miller III
Cpl. Michael J. Pina

Drum and Bugle Corps

Sgt. Mark B. Cook
Cpl. Matthew A. Marlow
Lance Cpl. Richard C. Owens

ANHQ

Sgt. Charlie L. Galliard
Sgt. Anthony M. Giardino
Cpl. E. H. Dynneson
Lance Cpl. David W. Smith
Lance Cpl. Joseph M. Terpoilli
Lance Cpl. Patrick J. Visconti
Lance Cpl. Scott M. Walton

Marine Corps Institute

Cpl. Jeffery R. Deirling
Lance Cpl. Dale R. Vogel Jr.

WHCA

Sgt. Walter H. Paz

Tax Center Opening

The Barracks' Tax Center opens Jan. 21 in Room 215 of Tower 3, above the chow hall. Services include free tax preparation and e-filing by a fully-trained staff. The center will be open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., every week until Apr. 15. For more information, call 1-202-433-4305

228 Years

By LT. Ted L. Williams, Barracks Chaplain

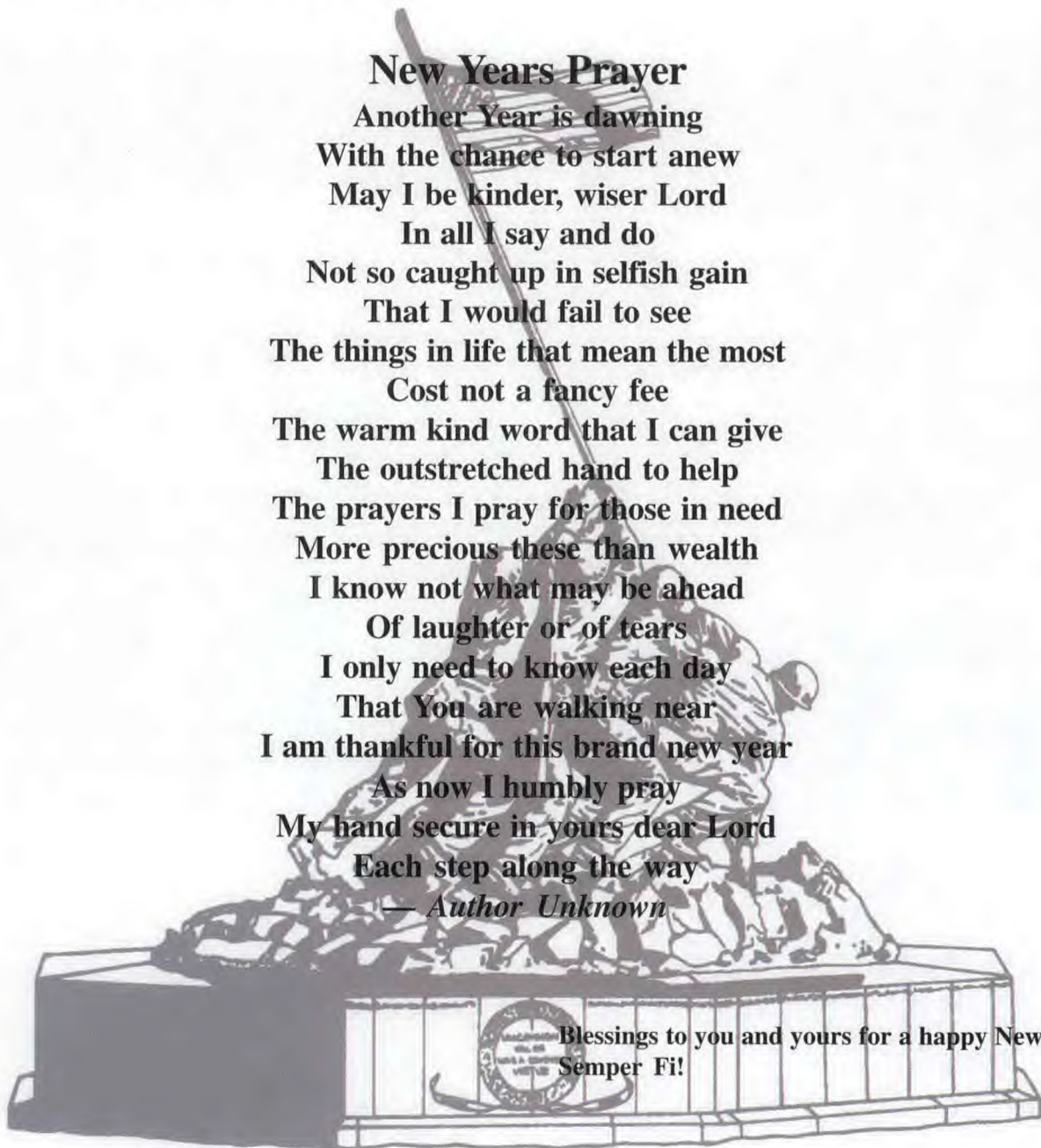
Marine Barracks
thankful for a year
of triumph

It is hard to believe that a New Year has arrived! It seems that 2003 was just getting started and now here we are staring another year with its many challenges, joys and another Parade Season! For many this is a time for a fresh start, beginning a new task or perhaps finally getting around to a project or goal that has been put off. For some the New Year brings excitement and hope and for others fear of the unknown. As we begin this New Year and plan our "resolutions" be encouraged that God is with us along the way.

New Years Prayer

Another Year is dawning
With the chance to start anew
May I be kinder, wiser Lord
In all I say and do
Not so caught up in selfish gain
That I would fail to see
The things in life that mean the most
Cost not a fancy fee
The warm kind word that I can give
The outstretched hand to help
The prayers I pray for those in need
More precious these than wealth
I know not what may be ahead
Of laughter or of tears
I only need to know each day
That You are walking near
I am thankful for this brand new year
As now I humbly pray
My hand secure in yours dear Lord
Each step along the way

— Author Unknown



Blessings to you and yours for a happy New Year!
Semper Fi!

"With Honor"



'B' Company Marines from Marine Barracks, Washington, D. C., follow behind the Color Guard during the procession for Col. Michael J. Godfrey. (Photo taken by Sgt. Stephen L. Traynham.)

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