



Col. Peter Pace, Barracks Commanding Officer, Inspects Marine Corps Institute (MCI) Co. Marines in preparation MCI Commanding Officer LtCol. R.A. Maloney accompanied Pace during the Inspection.

Once again the sounds of parade commands can be heard ringing throughout the Barracks from the parade deck. Yes, it's that time of year again when the swords flash through a sharp "Eyes, right" and rifle stocks shine under countless coats of

oil, all definite signs that parade season is approaching fast.

Another sign of the coming season is the many Blue/White uniform inspections that lead up to the Barracks commanding officer's inspection which took place March 17.



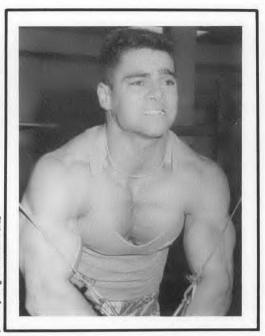
Pass In Review

April 1989

Volume 9, Number 4 Marine Barracks Washington, D.C.

On The Cover

A strict regimen of working out, dieting and posing bound together by his determination to win is what put SSgt. John Cousins above his competition in the "Mr. Armed Forces" body building contest. For more photos and the full story see page 10.



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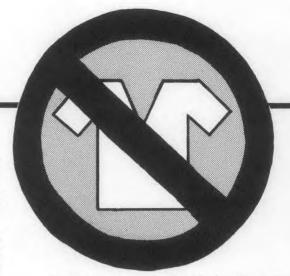
Command Brief

They say "Fashion is fleeting," and it seems no one knows this better than the Marine Corps. Who else could take such a innocent thing like a plain, old, white T-shirt and make it into a major military fashion statement?

For years crew neck T-shirts were "hip" and "groovy." Then the Corps' "GQ" wizards thought it was time for a new look; and so the V-neck T-shirt came into vogue. It was a more modern look; more 80's-ish. Some even say the change was influenced by the then extremely popular television show "Miami Vice."

Now it has also been said that fashion, like history, repeats itself. One has to only look at the young women wearing "peace" symbol earrings to see this is true. The Marine Corps is no different. After a few years of the bare-chested V-neck look, it has been decided that, well, maybe the crew neck T-shirts do look better after all.

Barracks Talk



And so, starting April 1, V-necks are "out" and crew necks are "in." Not only are they "in", but they're in the new uniform regulations. After April 1 the only T-shirt authorized for wear is the crew neck. V-neck T-shirts will be authorized for boot shining and car washing after that date.

Cpl. J.D. Moore Editor

Have a gripe or a suggestion? Write it down and drop it off at the Public Affairs Office and we'll print your comment and an answer from a command representative in this column. All submissions must be signed.

Which style of T-shirt do you think is more appropriate?



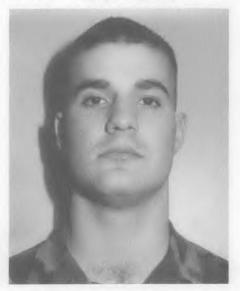
LCpl. Mark Meier, D&B Co.

"I don't mind the change. The crew neck looks better because you don't have chest hairs sticking out."



Cpl. Nelson Thompson, H&S Co.

"I think the V-neck T-shirt looked better than the crew neck. The V-neck looked manly."



Cpl. Thomas Sanders, A Co.

"They should pick one kind of T-shirt and stick with it instead of changing back and forth."

Abar, a star, and an Oreo cookie



Every second lieutenant acquires embarrassing memories when he wears his gold bars; it seems to come with the job. The first time the Air Force sent me on temporary duty by myself, I experienced probably the most embarrassing moment of my life, which I relate here in hopes that other butter bars out there won't make the same mistake.

I was travelling from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base to Vandenberg Air Force Base in the spring of 1985, and the flight scheduled me for a two-hour layover in the St. Louis airport.

I decided to hit the snack bar and bought a cup of coffee, a package of Oreos and a newspaper. After giving the cashier the nine bucks or so that the items cost, I scanned the crowded sitting area for a place to relax. The lounge was crowded, but there appeared to be a spot across from a fellow in a military uniform of some sort. "Great!" I thought, "another soldier. Maybe he can tell me about life in the forces."

My coffee was on the right side of the table, my newspaper on the left and my Oreos in the center before I took my first close look at the man He was a Marine Corps brigadier opposite me. general -- a mean-looking man with no hair, and honest-to-God scar on his forehead and about six rows of ribbons, including the Silver Star with a To me, the general had horns, fangs, a pitchfork and a long, pointed tail as well. I was already committed to using the table, but not wanting to bother the general, I meekly squeaked out, "Good morning, sir," before sitting down.

I had begun the paper's crossword puzzle and was making good progress when I heard a peculiar rustling sound, much like the crinkling of "Rotovue"

cellophane. I looked up out of the corner of my eve to discover that the general had reached across the center of the table, opened the package of Oreos, taken one out and was eating it. Now, not having attended the Air Force Academy, I was not familiar with how to deal with the fine points of military etiquette, such as what to do when a senior member of another service calmly rips off one of your cookies. Several responses came to mind, but none of them seemed entirely appropriate.

I realized that the honor of the Air Force was, in a small way, at stake here. I certainly couldn't let the general think I was a complete Besides at airport prices, one Oreo is a significant fraction of take home pay for a second lieutenant.

The only response I could make was to reach across the center of the table, open the opposite end of the package (trying not to notice that the other end had mysteriously come open somehow), extract an Oreo and eat it, very, very thoroughly. "There," I thought, "I've subtly shown the general that these are my Oreos, and he should go buy his own."

Marines are known for many qualities, but The general calmly subtlety is not among them. reached out for another Oreo and ate it. (By the way, the general was licking the middles out first before eating the cookies.) Not having said anything the first time, of course, I couldn't bring it up now. The only thing to do was to take another cookie for myself. We wound up alternating through the entire package. instant our eyes met, and there was a palpable tension in the air, but neither of us said a word.

After I had finished the last Oreo, they announced something over the PA system. general got up, put his papers back into his briefcase, picked up the now empty wrapper, threw it away, brushed the few crumbs neatly off the table and left. I sat there marveling at his gall and feeling very foolish. A few minutes later, they announced my flight. I felt a great deal more foolish when I finished my coffee, threw the cup away and lifted my newspaper to reveal...my Oreos!

Today, two of us are running around the Armed Forces telling the same story, but only one of us has the punch line. And general, if you are reading this, get in touch with me and I will be glad to send you a case of Oreos.

by W. Mitchell Clapp

It's bigger... BST/ES it's better... BST/ES Handbook

e quirements for individual combat skills training will change dramatically when the Essential Subjects Handbook is replaced by the new Battle Skills Training/Essential Subjects Handbook and accompanying test.

The new handbook (MCIO P1500.44B) replaces the Essential Subjects Handbook (MCIO P1500.44A) as the guidebook of basic knowledge and skills training for individual Marines. Produced by the Marine Corps Institute (MCI), it will be distributed to all units, regular and reserve, by July of this year. A copy will ultimately be issued to each individual Marine.

The annual Essential Subjects Test will also change as the new handbook is issued. The new Battle Skills Training/-Essential Subjects Test (BST/EST) will not include any written examination, but will be a performance-based practical examination.

The new BST/ES Handbook is part of the commandant's overall initiative on basic warrior training, according to Terry M. Franus, Chief, Special Programs Department at MCI.

"His initiative to have all Marines trained in combat skills," Franus said, "is what made the change to the new handbook come about."

The handbook was developed to, "enable all Marines (regardless of grade, MOS, billet or unit) to achieve and maintain proficiency in identified combat skills and essential subjects. It enables a Marine to sustain himself on the battlefield, to function effectively in garrison, and to practice those personal and professional traits characteristic of Marines."

The new handbook is divided into two parts. Part one provides Marines the general military subjects in such areas as the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Marine Corps history and courtesies and close order drill. Part two provides Marines specific training packages in individual combat skills.

"Part one is what we call the initial stage, general military subjects," Franus said. "That part follows the old Essential Subjects Handbook. We really didn't change it that much. Part two contains initial combat skills tasks, and that's really the heart of the new battle skills training."

The general military subjects only comprise 30 percent of the new handbook, according to Franus. The remaining 70 percent is practical application and is what most Marines will find new and challenging.

Extensive training on the

"[The commandant's] initiative to have all Marines trained in combat skills is what made the change to the new handbook come about."—Terry Franus



The new book is being released Corps-wide.

M-16 service rifle, tactical measures, water survival, nuclear, biological and chemical defensive training, communications, Soviet Military threat, crew served weapons (M-60, Mk-19, M-2), and military security are just a few of the 25 areas covered in the second half of the BST/ES Handbook, according to Franus.

"We're looking at 1060 pages," Franus said. The old Essential Subjects Handbook had only 322 pages.

Despite expanded girth, the two pounds and 11 ounces around new Handbook was designed to be 'with you, if you only need the

practical, according to Franus. The book is bound at the top by two screw-posts which can be removed. Marines will be able to physically add or delete material when changes are directed. In addition to making changes easier, carrying the entire book to the field is not necessary.

"You have a thousand page book," Franus said. "You can take it apart based on the needs of your mission and training requirements. Rather than carry two pounds and 11 ounces around with you, if you only need the

"We've gone from a handbook that cost 85 cents a copy to a handbook that's five dollars a copy. This is a million dollar project and people need to be aware that they need to take better care of these handbooks." --Terry Franus

continued on page 8...

tactical portion, you can take the screw-posts out, take out the tactical portion and put it back together."

With all this convenience and added information, there is one drawback -- price.

"We've gone from a handbook that cost 85 cents a copy to a handbook that's five dollars a copy," Franus said. "This is a million dollar project and people need to be aware that they need to take better care of these handbooks. The Marine Corps Institute can't afford to keep 100,000 copies in stock."

Inevitably, some Marines may lose the copy they were originally issued.

"We're looking at different options for the replacement of lost handbooks such as selling them through cash sales or even through the exchanges," Franus said.

Barracks Marines have received the new handbook, and Marines at other commands should receive it by July. Active duty and reserve Marines will receive a copy through their unit, while recruits will begin receiving them at boot camp.

"We started shipping them to units in March," said Franus. "Based on their on-board strength, each unit will receive enough copies for each Marine."

Of immediate interest to most Marines is the new BST/ES test. Like the Handbook itself, the philosophy behind the test is a practical one.

"There is no written test, it is 'performance oriented' only
-- that's for both general military subjects and the combat skills," Franus said. "In other words, can the Marine do it or can't he? 'Go' or 'no go."

The test will still be conducted annually, according to



Terry Franus takes a look at the finished product.

Franus, and will still be required of all Marines in the rank of gunnery sergeant and below. Because the test is a practical one, however, units will not be able to do everything in a classroom or complete all elements of the test in one or two days.

"Some of the events will require the physical action, such as firing weapons," Franus said. "In other areas, such as the Soviet Military threat or general military subjects, Marines will be asked questions and will have to respond orally with the answer. For those tasks, evaluators will determine, 'Did the Marine achieve the standard? Yes or no."

Franus recommends that units test a few sections each quarter, rather than trying to complete all of the book at one specific time during the year.

"One example is that on a quarterly basis you test at least 50 tasks or training standards," Franus said, "so that you're not obviously burdened [by 258 tasks] at the end of the year."

Marines will be graded based on the number of tasks attempted and the number of "go's" received. For instance, if a Marine attempts 72 tasks and receives a "go" on only 56, calculations give him a rough figure of .777. This is rounded up to .78 and converted to 78 percent by removing the decimal point.

That percentage corresponds with a score on a scale of one to five on a scoring matrix. Scanning the matrix, 78 percent is a score of 3.9. This is the Marine's final score.

Franus understands that the introduction of the new BST/ES system will cause some initial frustration, especially from non-Fleet Marine Force units administering a test that covers combat skills.

"People need to attune their observation skills," Franus said. "Marines are doing so many of these tasks already. If a Marine performs satisfactorily on the rifle range, he has to have performed all the tasks to standard on the M-16. Communications and drill are other examples. The idea is that a lot of tasks can be evaluated during the normal course of their jobs.

You don't have to re-test someone on something he's already accomplished."

Putting the handbook together was no easy job for the Marines and civilians at MCI. Their job was to take on the project once the plan for new battle skills training had been approved by the commandant.

" On ce preliminary guidelines were outlined by Headquarters, Marine Corps, we were tasked to

develop a handbook and a new test by the Standards Branch," Franus said. From that point, Franus and his counterparts began work on the project in May 1988 and completed it early this year.

The Standards Branch, Marine Air/Ground Training and Education Center at Marine Corps Combat Development Command in Quantico, Va. identified 258 training standards in both general military subjects and combat skills. This meant information in all these areas had to be the most accurate and up to date available before the handbook could be finalized.

To accomplish this, Franus tapped the expertise within the Specialized Skills Training Department (SSTD) at MCI to verify technical aspects of the new handbook. The seven officers and 32 staff NCOs are assigned to SSTD produce the hundreds of MCI correspondence courses available to Marines

"People are starting to realize that if we go to war, 'I'm not going to sit behind a desk, I've got to be prepared to survive on the battlefield...'
This BST/ES training gives
Marines an opportunity to learn those skills that are crucial to the Marine Corps succeeding on the battlefield." -- Terry Franus

everywhere.

Each one specializes in an area such as communications, NBC and other skills covered in the BST/ES Handbook. They were responsible for validating the information pertinent to their specialty.

The majority of the combat skills portion of the new BST/ES Handbook was taken from another MCI publication, the Battle Drill Guide, according to Franus.

"The Battle Drill Guide was designed for the infantry as part of the Individual Training Standards System for the 03 occupational field," Franus said. Battle Drill Guide was originally produced in January 1987 and a second edition was published in August 1988. Designed for use unit leaders within infantry battalion, it has been disseminated to all ground combat, air combat and combat service support elements as part of their infantry skills training.

"As you work through the

new BST/ES Handbook it gives groundwork to move on to the Battle Drill Guide." Franus said. "The Battle Drill Guide is designed for leaders within a unit. The BST/ES Handbook designed for every Marine."

Part of Franus' job after the handbook is distributed throughout the Marine Corps will be to work with the Standards Branch to evaluate units in the field to see if

any of the information needs to be changed or updated for future editions

"Our Commandant wants all Marines trained in these combat skills." Franus said. "Battle skills training programs ongoing at various bases. You're seeing a lot of non-infantry type units participating. People are starting to realize that if we go 'I'm not going to sit to war, behind a desk, I've got to be prepared to survive on the battlefield and protect my fellow Marines as well as myself.' This BST/ES training gives Marines an opportunity to learn those skills that are crucial to the Marine Corps succeeding on the battlefield."

story by

Capt. M.D. Visconage



Middle weight "Mr. Armed Forces" -- SSgt. John Cousins

MCI Marine named "Mr. Armed Forces"



The determination shows.

A pair of sweaty hands tightly grasp the cold steel bar above the Marine's head. His eyes are fixed on infinity, his concentration complete. Through clenched teeth a barely audible grunt escapes as he pushes the bar and its attached weights above his body. He lowers the bar to his chest with measured effort. Then, with an explosion of energy, the weights rise again. One repetition is complete; then another, and then another.

Thousands of repetitions have passed since SSgt. John Cousins first started body The results of his building. efforts can only be measured by his determination; determination above 36 to rise enough competitors to win the middle weight "Mr. Armed Forces" title February 11 in San Diego, Calif.

"The contest was open to all active duty and reserve members of the U.S. Armed Forces from all over the world," said Cousins, Student Operations section chief at the Marine Corps Institute (MCI).

Cousins took the title despite having to compete above the weight class he was training for.

"I planned on competing as a light weight which is 154 and a quarter pounds or less," he said. "But when I weighed in I was over the limit at 156 so I ended up competing against guys that were 15 to 17 pounds heavier than me."

Despite his significant weight disadvantage, Cousins still had the symmetry, definition, proportion and posing style to impress the judges.

Because the competition was governed by the National Physique Committee the top two finishers in each weight class for the national qualify competition October 14, the most prestigious amateur body building competition in this country. There he will be competing for the title "Mr. America".

Cousins never planned on competing at this level of competition, but now he'll have to raise his goals higher.

"My original goal when I started body building was just to win "Mr. New Hampshire," said Cousins, who is from Manchester, New Hampshire. "Then I set my sights on "Mr. Far East" when I was in Okinawa, Japan. I won those and then set my final goal as the Armed Forces competition. I thought maybe I could get in the top five, but I didn't think I'd make the nationals. But now, each level I reach I have to raise my goals higher and try to meet them."

Now that he's won a ticket to the nationals his goals are set even higher.

"There will be over 100 competitors there just in my

weight class. Of course my goal is to win, but just to make it in the top 15 would be a major milestone," said Cousins.

Although he doesn't plan on going professional, he doesn't completely rule it out of his future either.

"I enjoy the sport. I'm not in it to make money," he explained. "It's not a goal right now, but then again, it's not unrealistic. The top two finishers in the nationals will go to the world-wide "Mr. Universe" competition and that would open a lot of doors. From there a person could become a trainer or get paid to promote body building products."

"To be a Marine and a professional competitor would be impossible though. I'm a career Marine, so it's out of the question right now."

Cousins' devotion to the sport began innocently enough as a contest between two brothers five years ago.

"My brother Dennis won "Mr. Honolulu" in 1982 or 1983 so we both decided to compete against each other in the "Mr. New Hampshire" competition in 1984," he said. "As it turned out, my brother couldn't compete because of an injury, but I took first place."

Since that brotherly competition five years ago Cousins' list of body building titles has grown considerably.

After the New Hampshire title in 1984 he took the middle weight "Mr. OWAX" (Okinawa Wide Area Exchanges) competition and then the middle weight "Mr. Far East" title in 1985. He successfully defended that title the following year and was named "Mr. Far East" for 1986. In 1987 Cousins placed second in the "Mr. Greater D.C." contest and won the Marine Barracks Powerlifting

"My original goal when I started body building was just to win 'Mr. New Hampshire' ... but now, each level I reach I have to raise my goals higher and try to meet them."

competition. But all of those achievements are outshone by his 1989 "Mr. Armed Forces" title.

Those titles didn't come easy though. It took a lot of hard work and dieting to prepare for each one of them.

Cousins said he begins preparing for a competition six months prior. Those six months are broken down into three stages, with each stage roughly two months long.

In the first stage his goal is to bulk up and increase his amount of muscle. To do this he lifts two hours each day for five or six days a week. During this time he is concentrating on size with low numbers of repetitions with heavier weights.

The second stage is the intermediate stage. Half of the time he trains for power and the other half of the time he works on increasing repetitions. At this time he begins to watch what kind and amounts of the

food he eats.

The third and final stage is the cutting and dieting stage. During this stage he works out six days a week, two or three times a day, for one and a half hours each time. He works with a high amount of repetitions with minimal and. strict rest adherence to his diet to finish "sculpting" his body competition. As the contest draws near he practices his poses and routines at night.

The endless hours of working out and posing, and the discipline-testing dieting are bound together by one element; Cousins' determination to rise to the next level and be a winner- and then raise his goals again.

story by

Cpl. J.D. Moore

B Co. comes out on top after '89 basketball season



LCpl. Kevin Barr puts two points on the board for S-4 in the final tournament game on March 4. Despite the efforts of Barr and his teammates, B Co. won the game and became the Barracks' top intramural team.



Marine Barracks 8th & I 1989 Intramural Basketball Season Final Standings

Team	w	L	Total Games	Avg.
B Co.	10	3	13	77%
D&B Co.	10	5	15	67%
A Co.	9	5	14	64%
S-4	8	5	13	62%
H&S Co.	8	6	14	57%
Guard	5	8	13	38%
MCI Co.	5	9	14	36%

Source: Marine Barracks Special Services

LCpl. Kevin Barr gains control of the ball for S-4 during their tournament game versus B Co. B Co. controlled the game however, and became the number one intramural team in the Barracks.

CHAMPUS: Do You Know Your Benefits?

MCCDC QUANTICO, Va.--With many changes taking place at the Naval Medical Clinic here, servicemembers are becoming concerned that going off base for after hours medical care might leave them burdened with medical expenses.

But according to Health Benefits Advisor Gloria Golden, there shouldn't be many changes as long as they continue to seek medical attention at a military facility whenever possible and take the time to learn about the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services.

A federal program, CHAM-PUS assists active duty and retired servicemembers in paying for medical care obtained through a civilian doctor or hospital. It is important to realize CHAMPUS is not free, and does not cover all health care. The primary intention of the program is help in an emergency, or when military care is not available.

Basically, CHAMPUS will pay 80 percent of your medical bill for outpatient care and 100 percent (less \$25 for each admission or a small daily fee, whichever is greater) outpatient care. In addition, an annual deductible of \$50 for one person and \$100 per family must be paid by the sponsor. Rates retired personnel and different and can be obtained through the health benefits advisor.

Of course, nothing is that simple. There are a few exceptions and common misconceptions which sponsors should be aware of before seeking medical care outside the military.

One mistaken belief is that people on active duty are covered by CHAMPUS. However, only their dependents are eligible. Should someone on active duty need medical care off-base, the bills would be paid by the government, but not through CHAMPUS. Should this occur while on leave, Golden recommends putting your military address on the admission forms and forwarding the bill upon receipt.

Another common problem has been the assumption that the doctor or facility you have chosen will automatically submit your bill to CHAMPUS. It is the responsibility of the sponsor to ensure the claim has been filed correctly.

Be aware that in some cases, such as maternity care and special operations, a non-availability statement must be obtained before CHAMPUS will process the claim. It is a good idea to check with CHAMPUS before going to a civilian hospital.

"For those living on base and north of Quantico," said Golden, "a non-availability statement will be difficult to get, because most services are available."

It also makes a difference your whether physician medical establishment accepts CHAMPUS assignments. Any doctor participating in the program has agreed to bill only the "allowable charge" for a particular service. Should you choose to see a doctor who hasn't accepted assignments,

realize that you are required to pay any amount of the bill which exceeds the allowable charge.

Local civilian hospitals which do accept CHAMPUS assignment are Potomac Hospital in Woodbridge, Mary Washington Hospital in Fredericksburg and Prince William County Hospital in Manassas. According Golden, it is best to go to local military providers during the hours when the on-base primary clinic is closed (weekends and 10 p.m. weekdays). PRIMUS, in Woodbridge, is a military-sponsored clinic open 365 days a year, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays and 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekends.

In addition, services at DeWitt Army Community Hospital, Fort Belvoir are always available. There will be no charge for care at these facilities.

Questions about CHAMPUS should be directed through the health benefits advisor office here. Representatives will help you with your claim, but will not file for you. When filing for a dependent, be sure to have all information from their military identification card including I.D. card number.

For more information contact your health benefits advisor Petty Officer 2nd Class Luther at 433-6201.

story by

Sgt. Rosemarie Fitzsimmons MCCDC Quantico, Va.

Chaplain's Corner

The day had been a bummer. Everything that could have gone wrong, did. By midmorning my mind had become like several strands of tangled yarn and the problems continued to pile up. By noon I really needed to take a break; time to sort out the mess and untangle the yarn.

I changed into my P.T. gear and started jogging towards the Mall. There were many more people there than usual, and even my running seemed difficult. I decided to stop at one of the benches on the Mall and just try to relax.

As I was sitting there I began to think about the fact that there are over four billion people in the world and not one of them knew where I was at this moment, physically or spiritually, except God. What a comfortable thought! As I tried to turn all my problems and unrest over to God I didn't know

where to start.

I doubt that anyone there even noticed me but God saw within my very being, within my very heart and understood what I was going through.

I began to relax and silently pray to try and untangle my thoughts. Finally my mind quieted and I began to remember that some of the people in the Bible had days like this.

The writer of Psalms cried out in Psalm 42:5, "Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God."

The Psalmist also said in Psalm 38:6, "I am bowed down and brought very low; all day long I go about mourning."

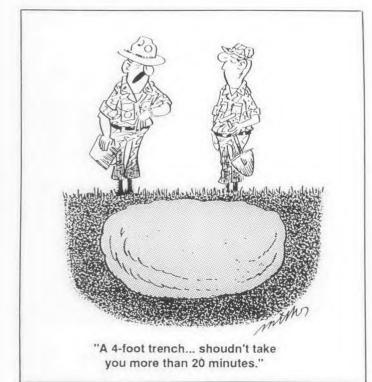
As I prayed, my problems seemed smaller and smaller. Things began to calm down in my spirit and I started to "get it

together." "I sought the Lord and he answered me."--- Psalm 34:4

I could not remain at the Mall any longer because I still had to run back to the Barracks before my lunch hour ended. As I ran I reflected on my few quiet moments sitting on the Mall. During those few moments of meditation I found the strength and the courage to face the rest of the day. My problems just didn't seem as large.

We all face the everyday stresses of life, therefore prayer and moments alone with God are important. Sometimes we need just a few minutes to escape to a quiet room, a backyard, a country road or even a bench on the Mall.

by Lt.Cmdr. Griffith USN Chaplain



Worth Repeating

"It is well, when one is judging a friend, to remember that he is judging you with the same godlike and superior impartiality."

—Arnold Bennett, English novelist

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Feature

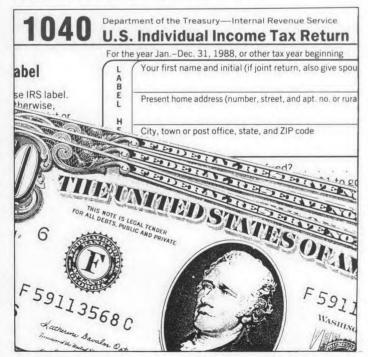
Ask the Gunny

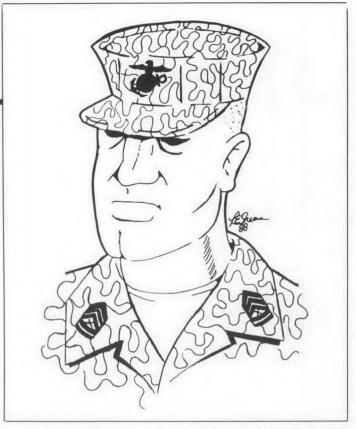
Have you ever stopped to think, where did our wonderful income tax originate?

Critics of the Internal Revenue Service are quick to note; graduated income tax is a basic level of Karl Marx's "Communist Manifesto". This is true. But in the United States the Communists don't take the brunt of the blame each April -- the Democrats do. Let me tell you how it came to be.

We were at war. Federal spending was twenty times what it had been in peacetime. Our president was desperate for more money.

What he did was push a bill through Congress calling for more taxes; taxes on estates, public utilities, banks, insurance companies, liquor, wine, tobacco, beef, railroads, and one additional tax, an unprecedented tax on personal income.





So at that time of year when you're digging in trouser pockets looking for ten-month-old receipts, trying to compute deductions from mortgage payments and home insulation, fumbling through the remnants of once well-organized records, confronted by endless, unintelligible forms, looking around wondering who to thank, you can thank a certain president. He started it.

Through every democratic administration since and including Franklin D. Roosevelt's those with the most to lose in income taxes just can't wait for "that Democrat" to get out of office. If the Democrats could just stay out of office, some have said, then the complicated systems for which the Democrats are believed responsible would be simplified.

Those critics recall one president in particular, the one who used a nation at war to justify the creation of a graduated personal income tax.

While they are straight on the facts, they have the wrong president.

The man who started it all, the president who watched federal spending climb twenty times, who sought increased revenue by the first-ever institution of income taxes -- did so during the Civil War.

President Abraham Lincoln -- Republican.

Semper Fidelis,

Smedley D. Smut GySgt USMC

