Marine Security Guard Bn. becomes Marine Embassy Security Command

By Kris Connor
Sentry Correspondent

The Marine Security Guard Battalion is no more. The battalion officially became Marine Corps Embassy Security Command April 20 during a small ceremony at Marshall Hall here.

“The mission is not changing for the name; the name is changing for the mission,” said Capt. Debra Gomez, unit information officer for MCESC.

The Marines within MCESC will still be known as Marine security guards, and MCESC will be responsible for the training, assign

See Security, Page A4

Base helps deploying Marines manage combat stress

By Cpl. Sha‘ahn Williams
Combat Correspondent

The Quantico chapter of the National Naval Officers Association, in conjunction with the Naval Medical Clinic Quantico, hosted a forum to raise awareness about the services offered by the Combat Operational Stress Control branch of the Personal and Family Readiness Division, Manpower and Reserve Affairs Department, Headquarters Marine Corps, at The Clubs At Quantico April 18.

The hourlong session’s key speaker, Navy Capt. William P. Nash, Combat Operational Stress Control coordinator, spoke about the importance of the COSC program and how it benefits Marines.

According to the COSC Web site, it was chartered November 2005 to be a single integrating agency for all matters pertaining to combat and operational stress control in the Marine Corps. The COSC branch establishes and oversees plans, policies, programs, training, research, and reporting procedures to promote the resiliency of Marines and families to operational stressors and their recovery from stress injuries, such as Post

See Stress, Page A4

Base theater reopens

By Cpl. Christiane M. Ripley
Combat Correspondent

The Quantico Theater in Little Hall reopened for its first Friday night movie after having closed in fall 2005 for renovations. Moviewgoers were treated to free admission and snacks to celebrate the event.

“The community is looking forward to getting back to the movies,” said Doug Rudy, head of facilities for Marine Corps Community Services. “It’s been a long project, it’s cost a lot of money and we’ve made a lot of changes. It wasn’t a nice atmosphere before. It was dark and dingy—run down.”

Since the building was built in 1940, there had been few changes to the theater. “We’ve had minor changes since then, but this is the first major renovation,” Rudy said.

Besides a new coat of paint and carpeting, Rudy says there’s a lot more that went into the renovations. The curtains on the stage were replaced, the seating was redone, and the lighting is all new. Acoustical mats have been installed to give the theater better sound.

“We fixed everything from the lobby to the stage,” Rudy said. “It’s very bright inside now.”

Besides its recreational functions, the theater is also used for command meetings and briefs. There is a new projection system for presentations and a new public announcing system.

For more theatrical amusements, stage lighting was installed for the theater, and the old stationary movie screen was replaced with one that can

See Theater, Page A4
Quantico Marines, squares away base at annual cleanup

By 2nd Lt. Patrick Boyce
Quantico Public Affairs

Earth Day came early April 25 for many Marines and sailors here, as about 116 service members participated in the annual base cleanup, removing unsightly trash and debris from the roadsides and adjacent wooded areas in order to improve the overall look and appearance of Quantico, by order of Col. Charles A. Dallachie, Quantico base commander.

"It’s that time where Marines come together for the common goal of making sure this base looks like a Marine base," said Gunnery Sgt. Mark Jerry, division chief of Facilities Division, which is responsible for base maintenance.

Various commands from around base, including Headquarters and Service Battalion and Training and Education Command, among others, met in the overflow parking lot behind Lejuaene Hall at 7 a.m. to be transported to areas around base that needed to be cleaned or otherwise improved.

“Trash accumulates very quickly here,” Jerry said.

The personnel requirements for the mission were based upon last year’s cleanup, Jerry added.

Jerry also helped identify how many Marines could be temporarily augmented from their parent commands for the cleanup without negatively affecting that command’s mission.

The spring day quickly grew hot, the April air smelling of freshly-cut grass, as white buses deposited Marines at designated spots around base, from the main gate to the western side of Interstate 95 near the rifle ranges.

Marines are certainly no strangers to the requirements of a police call, but police-calling the entire base was no small feat.

“We’ve got quite a day ahead of us,” chuckled Sgt. Jared Hasson, an engineer mechanic from Marine Helicopter Squadron One, one of the noncommissioned officers in charge of the many small groups of junior Marines who were tasked with tidying up different sections of base.

“I volunteered for it,” Hasson continued. "I figured what’s the worst that can happen to a sergeant in a working party, other than picking up trash?"

Hasson’s group was directed to clean up a long stretch of both Russell Rd. and Barnett Ave. from the McDonald’s to the Naval Health Clinic. Duly equipped with gloves and trash bags, their mission was to pick up any trash along the road or in the tree line that could be visible to motorists or pedestrians.

According to Jerry, more than simply candy-wrappers and cigarette butts were found in the weeks. Decr ipt water heaters, tires, car axles, washing machines, and other garbage more than two decades old were discovered and properly disposed of.

Hasson said that problem areas included the sections along Choppawamsic Creek that are prone to flooding and the area behind the Marine Corps Exchange here, which has been undergoing reconstruction for the past several months.

“We spent an hour behind the gas station alone,” Hasson said.

Despite the heat of the day, the Marines were ultimately successful in their dedicated efforts to improve the overall look of Quantico, according to Jerry.

“I’d say this was a huge success,” he said. “All Marines and sailors that participated took pride in the cleanup of their base.”

Sentry directory for May 3, 2007

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Looking to buy, sell or trade?
Range Management head named Civilian of the Year

By Cpl. Sha’ahn Williams
Combat Correspondent

Jose Pereira, a retired Marine turned Department of Defense civilian, was honored as the 2006 Civilian Employee of the Year for his dedication and hard work as the head of Quantico’s Range Management Branch April 25 in Lejeune Hall.

Described by his coworkers as a forward thinker who requires his staff to dedicate 20 percent of every workday to thinking about the future of range management, Pereira began working at the branch in September 2005 and made numerous positive changes, significantly improving the daily inner-workings of Range Control.

“There have been some radical changes since Pereira’s been here,” said Capt. Jesus Leon, deputy head, Range Management Branch. “In one year, the innovations and advances in policy and procedure, as well as the procurement of equipment and facilities, have made the time before he came onboard seem like day and night here,” Leon explained.

“He’s raised the level of our infrastructure and escalated the capabilities of everyone who works here,” Leon said.

The modernization Pereira has brought to the Marines and civilians who work and train at the ranges on Quantico is the main reason the former leatherneck was nominated for the award.

“We have a newly established range modernization plan that we took on in the last year, which focuses on getting new training devices, refurbished targetry and other range upgrades,” Pereira said. “We address everything from basic maintenance to virtual training.”

An asset to those who work and maintain the range, as well as those who use the range to train, Pereira has spearheaded several milestones in less than two years by developing a more inclusive partnership with range users and involving them early on in an effort to accommodate their training needs.

Pereira not only instituted changes that benefited those who use the ranges, but the Marines who staff Range Control benefit as well, as he reorganized the offices in the Range Control building and redefined the roles of his staff, creating a more clearly structured working environment.

“Before, everyone was kind of mixed up, doing a little bit of every job,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 James Woodfin, Range Control officer. “With the new changes, the Marines are able to better focus because they are dedicated to specific jobs now,” he explained.

Although Pereira’s peers attribute the range’s recent success to his innovations and ideas, the 26-year veteran gives the credit to those who use the range to train, explaining.

“The folks I work with are excellent,” Pereira said. “They understand our mission and do their job well.”

The modernization Pereira has taken on in the last year, which focused on getting new training devices, refurbished targetry and other range upgrades, provided the safest and most realistic training environment possible, and they work tirelessly to see it through.

Drivers advised to rectify base revocations

Base driving revocations continue to multiply without individuals coming to the Base Command Inspector General’s Office or Base Traffic Court to have their driving privileges reinstated. In the past two years, 406 drivers have been given base revocations. Sixty-seven drivers have had their base privileges reinstated, 11 are currently driving on temporary privileges, and another 11 were restricted but did not request their full driving privileges be reinstated and are now driving on a revocation. The Provost Marshal’s Office plans to scrape base decals from vehicles and tow vehicles. If your decal is scraped, your car is no longer authorized aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico per Marine Corps Base Order P5560.2D.

To continue driving aboard the base, you must schedule a visit with the Inspector General’s Office and request your privileges be reinstated. An endorsement from your chain of command is required with your request.

News Briefs

Change to gate hours

The Onville gate, located at The Basic School, hours of operation will be reduced to 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. May 15.

Child safety seat checks

The Drivers Training section will be conducting a free Child Safety Seat Check May 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The check will be conducted at Lejeune Hall overflow parking lot. For more information, contact Drivers Training section at (703) 432-1093.

MAGTF Fires conference

The MAGTF Fires Organization Advisory Group is scheduled to hold a conference at Quantico Monday through Wednesday to discuss MAGTF Fires in the 21st Century. Speakers will include all three MAGTF command generals. The conference kicks off at 8 a.m. Monday at The Clubs At Quantico and will be held at the Gen. Alfred Gray Research Center Tuesday and Wednesday.

Marines needed for recruiter assistance

Want an opportunity to earn promotion points and spend up to 30 days at home without taking leave? The Marine Corps Recruiting Station in Harrisburg, Pa is looking for motivated Marines to serve as recruiter assistants. RS Harrisburg covers the following counties in Pennsylvania: Fulton, Franklin, Perry, Cumberland, Adams, York, Dauphin, Lebanon, Lancaster, Chester, Berks, Schuylkill, Wyoming, Luzerne, Lackawanna, Wayne, Pike, Monroe, Northampton, Carbon, Lehigh, Bucks, Montgomery, Philadelphia and Delaware.

This is the perfect opportunity to earn those extra points you need to excel past your peers and gain your next promotion. Up to 100 points toward your promotion can be earned during time spent on recruiter assistance.

During your time at home you can expect to spend some time with your recruiters talking to young men and women around town, at the mall and even at your old high school. You will speak with people about joining the Marine Corps and what to expect once they’ve decided to join. You will also work with poolies on physical fitness, knowledge and more.

For more information about the recruiter assistance program in your hometown area, contact Staff Sgt. Christopher Cunningham at (717) 770-6637.
Deploying Marines briefed on managing combat stress

Stress from page A1

Traumatic Stress Disorder. PTSD affects the majority of Marines who have deployed in combat operations around the world, according to Nash.

“About 10 percent of Marines are diagnosed and discharged with PTSD, and 80 percent of Marines on active duty have been treated for PTSD symptoms,” Nash said.

Additionally, COSC provides resources for Marine leaders, chaplains, mental health professionals, medical providers, service members, veterans and family members.

“COSC is a leadership responsibility,” Nash said. “It’s our responsibility to protect Marines and help prevent stress injuries, and if they can’t be prevented, then we have to find ways to help them and their families heal.”

Nash, who is a psychiatrist, said COSC provides classroom training for Marine Corps leaders in Corpswide schoolhouses such as the Staff Noncommissioned Officers Academy and Marine Corps University here.

“Training is one part of what we do. Screening Marines and teaching them are other pieces of the program. We are a type of psychological first aid,” he explained.

COSC instructors conduct predeployment training, counseling during deployment and post-deployment training, as well as three- to six-month post-deployment health assessments.

“Marines know what to do when they have a bullet wound or even an ankle sprain, but they don’t know what to do with these types of (mental health) injuries,” Nash said.

Battalion’s name change reflects overall mission

Security from page A1

ment, administration, logistical support and discipline of the guards.

The Marine security guards’ primary mission is to provide internal security services at designated United States diplomatic and consular facilities to prevent the compromise of classified information and equipment vital to national security. Their secondary mission is to provide protection for U.S. citizens and U.S. government property located within designated U.S. diplomatic and consular premises during demanding circumstances that require immediate aid or action, according to the MCESC Web site.

“Many have asked, ‘Why the name change?’” said Col. David J. Head, commanding officer of MCESC. “For the same reason it was changed 40 years ago ... It was changed to accurately reflect the organizational structure and capabilities of the command.”

With 1,500 Marines and sailors, MCESC is at the large end of a battalion-sized unit. It differs, however, from every other battalion in the Marine Corps. With an annual budget of $61 million, MCESC funds resemble those of a division-sized unit.

With posts in 133 countries, MCESC is the first contact citizens of other countries have with Marines as they pass by U.S. embassies around the world.

After the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, the presence of MSGs has been stepped up to provide further security.

According to Head, the title of MCESC accurately reflects a command that has evolved in structure and capabilities over time to support the Department of State’s increased global presence as it executes its diplomatic mission.

Moviegoers line up to see remodeled theater

Theater from page A1

be raised, giving full use of the entire stage.

The theater opened its doors to the community with a free showing of “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles,” a PG movie so that families would be able to attend. As people stood in line, they were served free hot dogs, popcorn and snacks. But the main attraction was still the theater and its new makeover. As crowds packed the theater, they cheered and applauded the new appearance. Base Commander Col. Charles Dallachy even surprised the crowd with the announcement that movie admission would be free all weekend.

“I’m really glad it’s finally opening night. I’ve been waiting for the theater to open for a long time,” moviegoer Bryan Grimm said.

“It’s one more recreational thing during the summertime. Great for the kids,” Beth Kranz from MCCS Recreations said. “During the summer, it’s a nice way for kids to get out of the house and spend time with friends.”

The theater is open for movies Wednesdays through Sundays. A ticket for movie admission is $2 for adults and $1 for children 12 and under. To view movie listings, go to www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org. See page C-9 for the schedule.

Moviegoers receive free refreshments at the first viewing since the base theater closed for renovations in the fall of 2005.
Weblogs: How popular Internet sites can ruin your life, career

By Capt. Aniela K. Szymanski
Staff Judge Advocate Office

Internet posting Web sites, such as myspace.com, facebook.com, musicspace.com, and hi5.com, are increasing exponentially in popularity. They are an easy-to-use and convenient way for people to share personal information, photos, and more with friends and family around the world. A user creates a personal site and then uploads photos, videos, and text for others to view. These types of sites, however, also carry the potential for unforeseen consequences, some of which may ruin your career or life.

These weblogs are now being used by more people than just friends and family. High school and university administrators are now monitoring the sites of students to get a glimpse into what high school students are doing while not in the classroom. Many universities have made it known that before accepting a student to their institution, they check their weblog to see what they are really like, not just what their application reflects. Not surprisingly, administrators find out some interesting information about students and applicants, to include underage drinking, drug use, and other questionable behavior that the schools don’t want in their organization.

Employers, such as private corporations, also are monitoring the site postings of their employees. They look for “extracurricular activities” that may bring discredit to their companies. A school district recently discovered that a teacher in its employ had photographs of herself in questionable circumstances and that she was communicating with students in a more-than-casual manner.

Insurance companies may view weblogs to determine whether a person engages in risky behaviors, such as extreme sports, to determine whether he or she deserves to pay higher insurance rates than mine whether he or she deserves such as extreme sports, to deter- 

The military has also started monitoring Web postings of service members. The Army began the trend years ago, monitoring information posted by soldiers while they were in Iraq. To their chagrin, the Army discovered that soldiers were putting information out about troop movements, rotation schedules, targets and other information that compromised missions that were currently in progress.

NORTHCOM now admits that it monitors the Web postings of service members on a regular basis, as do various other units of the Army and Marine Corps. They do so without notifying the service members, and usually without leaving any trace of where they have been, given the nature of their Web sites. Some do it to see what their members are doing in their off-duty time, some to see whether they are disclosing sensitive information, some to see who is associating with whom, some to assess counterintelligence risks, and some to determine whether members are committing misconduct.

Why has this become such a popular way of gathering information? Simply due to the fact that people, military members included, are all to willing to reveal immense amounts of information about themselves over an open source such as the Internet, usually information they would not otherwise share with a stranger if they met him in a restaurant or on the street. Yet, a 15-year-old in China can see your vacation photos and read about your root canal. All too often, people post photographs of themselves in compromising situations and circumstances without realizing the consequences: photos depicting drug use, criminal acts, and even infidelity among married individuals.

There is no “cyber-immunity.” There is no “what happens on the Internet stays on the Internet” rule. What happens on the Internet is published to the entire world – no exceptions.

Some examples of how weblogs have led to dire consequences include the following. A well-known athlete’s girlfriend posted a photograph of the athlete smoking marijuana on her site. A high school senior who was applying to a university was first accepted based upon her records, then rejected because university admissions saw her weblog containing photos depicting her drinking from a beer bong at a party. The university said she did not fit her desired student profile after seeing her underage drinking behavior. A Naval Academ- 

yruining their chances for further pro-
motion. The teacher who posted “questionable” photographs and conversations with her students was fired from her job.

There are numerous examples of spouses and husbands discovering their spouses’ infidelity through Web postings, usually by photographs of the spouse with the other offending party in places they were not supposed to be. Taking it a step further, family law attor- neys use behavior depicted in photographs and videos on weblogs, as well as narratives written by the users, as evidence in divorce and custody proceedings to prove the other party is an unfit parent, has more assets than he or she is revealing to the court, or is at fault for the divorce.

Who is to blame for all of this cyber-snooping? None other than the individual users who are putting this information out about themselves. There is no privacy on the Internet. There are virtually no laws to protect against someone using the information you voluntarily put out about yourself against you (think “anything you say can and will be used against you”). Also, it is important to re-

mem ber that your boss, spouse, children, and almost everybody else in the world have the same access to the Internet as you do.

Before posting something on your site, or on someone else’s, think about how it will look to your boss (military or civilian), spouse, or a terrorist. Do you really want your boss to know how wasted you got over the weekend? Do you really want your wife to see those photos that were taken on that TAD trip? Do you really want your mom seeing you with your hand on that guy’s derrière with a huge grin on your face? Are you going to get your best buddy in trouble with his girlfriend if you post that photograph of him at the club? Do you really want enemies of the state knowing where you work, who else works there, and what you and they do?

Oh, and if you think a password or alias is the way to protect your- self against cyber-spies, think again. With the sophistication of intelligence gatherers in the modern technology age, that is as effec- tive as putting a screen door up to keep burglars out of your house. Some private corporations hire professional hackers to get past password protected sites, as do some civilian law enforcement agencies when they are investigat- ing crimes. Also, people who are your “friends” and have access to your site may very well put you on report or give your password to others you don’t know. A large portion of the offenses the military becomes aware of in “cyberspace” are reported by people who had access to the site and found the content offensive or criminal and forwarded it on to someone who could take action.

Be forewarned: what you put into electrons may come back to haunt you!
WW II Marine celebrates 90th birthday with friends

By Cpl. Jennifer Brown
Combat Correspondent

MARTINSVILLE, Va.—Marines from Quantico and more than 125 guests helped World War II veteran retired Col. Shelton Scales celebrate his 90th birthday Friday at the Museum of Natural History here.

Scales commanded the 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marines, 4th Marine Division, during the battle of Iwo Jima, and many of his guests were fellow World War II Marines.

The voices of friends and family filled the museum’s reception hall with echoes of memories and laughter as they greeted Scales and extended their birthday wishes.

A hush soon fell over the crowd, and many came to watch as a Marine color guard from the inspector-instructor station in Greensboro, N.C., presented the colors, announcing the start of the tribute.

Scales’ son, Joe Scales, acknowledged the guests and introduced 1st Lt. Brian Donnelly, a public affairs officer at Marine Corps Base Quantico, who gave a small presentation to Scales on behalf of the Marine Corps.

“We are honored to be able to attend this celebration,” Donnelly said. “Your service during World War II greatly impacted the Marine Corps and still affects Marines today.”

Donnelly presented Scales with several inspiring birthday gifts, including black sand taken from the beach of Iwo Jima, a recent photo of Mount Suribachi, and other Marine Corps and World War II mementos.

The gifts were handed to Scales by Lance Cpl. James Klingeman and Cpl. Leslie Acevedo, both who are with Quantico’s ceremonial platoon, and Lance Cpl. Matthew Conklin, an administrative clerk with the War College at Quantico.

Donnelly also read a letter written by Gen. James T. Conway, the commandant of the Marine Corps, wishing Scales a happy birthday.

James T. Conway, the commandant of the Marine Corps, thanking Scales for his service to the Corps.

Upon request from his son, Scales stood up and walked to a nearby table that held a special presentation for his children, listened intently to everyone’s kind words and gave pleading gestures and yelled out “Go easy on me!” to some of the familiar orators as they approached the microphone.

Upon request from his son, Scales stood up and walked to a nearby table that held a specially prepared birthday cake, decorated in two tiers. The bottom layer was large rectangular cake frosted in the likeness of a folded Dress Blue coat with gold buttons and all the trimmings. The top layer was constructed in the image of a white garrison cover with a black frosted bill, which sat lightly at an angle on top. The guests sang the traditional birthday song before he went back to his seat.

 relação de eventos Scales put in motion reached all the way to the assistant commandant of the Marine Corps and resulted in breaking up a criminal burglary ring within the Navy and Marine Corps.

Scales, who was seated at the head table with his children, listened intently to everyone’s kind words and gave pleading gestures and yelled out “Go easy on me!” to some of the familiar orators as they approached the microphone.

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Upon the conclusion of the event, the guests thanked Michelle Agee for helping coordinate the event, thanked Scales’ children for putting it into action, and said farewell to Scales.

“This was definitely one of the best events I ever attended,” Conklin said. “It was an honor to meet Col. Scales and other World War II veterans. I see them as heroes who made the way for ones like me.”

Scales said he really enjoyed his party and was a bit overwhelmed.

“I knew I was having a party, but I didn’t expect to have this many people attend,” he said. “This was the biggest and best birthday party I have ever had.”
When the Quantico Marine Corps Band is asked to support an event, they have several options of how to provide entertainment, one of which is their New Orleans-style party band. The party band consists of 11 members of the full band who play either the percussion or brass instruments required for the group’s Dixie Land sound.

“It’s a party band – the name says it all,” said Staff Sgt. Billy Turner, tuba player. “As long as we’re energetic, the crowd usually gets into the exciting jazz, funk and New Orleans dance music.”

Turner said the party band wins over the crowd by coming off the stage, playing among the people, and allowing the audience to participate.

“You have to do whatever it takes to put on a show,” Turner said. “It keeps them entertained and keeps us motivated to see them respond. That response is why it’s one of my favorite ensembles – that and I like jazz.”

According to Cpl. Robert Chance, trumpet player in the party band, participating in this ensemble is more relaxed for the Marines and creates a fun environment for the audience.

“It’s one of the most enjoyable groups we have,” Chance said. “We get to play at a lot of schools and outdoor events.”

Another attraction to the party band is its informal nature. The band spontaneously decides what songs to play. It also does not use sheet music – the members simply play the way they know songs should sound.

“The tunes are simple, so we can memorize them and improvise a lot,” said Sgt. Ken Ebo, trombone player and party band leader. “We may use some of the same songs, but they always sound different. We can customize the length of songs and have spontaneous solos or trade-offs.”

“People think the Marine Corps is about marching straight forward with a straight face,” Turner said. “They don’t usually see us putting out that kind of sound, so it makes them sit back and say, ‘Wow. They really see our versatility and another side of Marines.’

During the band’s recent trip to Norfolk for the Virginia International Tattoo, the party band made an appearance at Campostella Elementary School. To the surprise of faculty, the Marines held the attention of about 200 children, ranging in age from 5 to 7. Not only were the children attentive, but they were quiet when asked to be and were very willing to interact with the band when possible.

“It was wonderful,” said Lisa Walker, media specialist at the school. “The kids loved it, and we (faculty members) loved it, too. We were
Vets host first reunion at Quantico

By Cpl. Jennifer Brown
Combat Correspondent

Approximately 4,000 Marine veterans reunited at Quantico to celebrate the fifth reunion of the Marines of Long Ago organization April 23-28.

The group had the opportunity to see a weapons demonstration at one of the rifle ranges here, view the a helicopter from Marine Helicopter Squadron One, tour the National Museum of The Marine Corps, watch the United States Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon perform and attend a special dinner at The Clubs At Quantico, where members conversed with active duty Marines from the base.

The organization was started in 2002 when Joe Cullin, a former Marine who served during the 1950's, made contact to meet up with a long lost military buddy.

"While talking on the phone, my friend said he also knew a few people who he would like to meet up with as well," Cullin said. "We hosted our first reunion in Florida with a group of 17.

"Each year since, we have scheduled reunions at various places, and new members within our group started inviting more friends to join along the way, and now we are here at Quantico with a group of this size," he added.

Sam Kell, a Columbia, S.C., resident who joined the Corps in 1944, said he was glad he united with the Marines of Long Ago.

"I recently joined the organization as a former Marine and in honor of my deceased brother-in-law, who was also a former Marine and comrade of Mr. Cullins," Kell said. "I've really enjoyed the tour here tremendously. Every scheduled event was a new highlight every day, but everyone was really excited about the Marine Barracks 8th & 1 parade.

"Several of us from our group drew a name of a member of the drill team, spoke with them, and bought them lunch in the museum's mess hall."

Lance Cpl. Alexander Oxford, one of the drill team's members, said he was very grateful not only to have had the opportunity to perform for members of the group, but also to actually visit with them.

"This was a very interesting group," Oxford said. "They were older than the veterans we normally see, and it was really nice to be able to hear a lot of their stories and tell them how we operate today."

Throughout the course of their stay, the group was able to get acquainted with a lot of active duty Marines.

"I am so proud of these young Marines," Kell said. "I was glad to come out and find that it's the same as when I was in. The Marines have the same demeanor. The only thing different is the technology."

Cullins said the camaraderie with the Marines here was one of the highlights of the tour.
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Quantico Party Band gives students lesson in music

very lucky to have them come."

Between songs, the band explained how the group turns noise into music, described its style of music, and had band members introduce themselves and their instruments.

The band involved the students and faculty in the show by allowing them to sing, dance in their seats, come on stage, and ask questions about the Marine Corps and the group.

“A lot of what we do is with kids,” Ebo said. “So to hold their attention, we let them sing or clap. We also try to educate them and tie it into something they may be learning in their music class.”

With appearances from the small ensemble groups, such as the party band, the group hopes people will think twice and no longer expect a run-of-the-mill show when the Quantico Marine Corps Band is involved in an event.

“A lot of what we do is with kids,” Ebo said. “So to hold their attention, we let them sing or clap. We also try to educate them and tie it into something they may be learning in their music class.”

With appearances from the small ensemble groups, such as the party band, the group hopes people will think twice and no longer expect a run-of-the-mill show when the Quantico Marine Corps Band is involved in an event.

Trombone players Cpl. Erik Dewhirst, left, and Sgt. Ken Ebo of Quantico’s party band trade off measures while performing for Campostella Elementary School in Norfolk, Va., April 19.
Lady Warriors stomp Seton 12-6

By Lance Cpl. Travis J. Crewdson
Combat Correspondent

The Quantico Middle/High School softball team defeated Seton High School 12-6 at the Jennie Dean softball field in Manassas, Va., April 24.

An outstanding team performance in the sixth inning doubled Quantico’s score and brought the Lady Warriors from a close game that could have gone either way to a hands-down victory.

The Warriors secured themselves two runs right off the bat — literally — when pitcher Erin Myers hammered a long drive that brought home second baseman Cortney Thompson. Myers then slid across the plate herself just before the catcher received the ball.

Myers continued the exceptional performance in the bottom of the inning by pitching all three outs, only allowing Seton to score one run bringing the score to 2-1.

Seton scored only once more in the second inning, as Myers continued to demonstrate her pitching control, striking out another three opposing batters.

Continuing her strong effort, Myers batted in first baseman Jerrika Castleberry with a hard hit down the third baseline and then stole a run on a Seton error.

Quantico gave Castleberry a chance to shine in the bottom of the third, as she made all three outs at first base, leaving the score 4-2.

“We really wanted to win,” Wal-

See Lady Warriors, Page B3

HMX-1 slays ‘The Beast’ to claim base bowling crown

By Cpl. Jennifer Brown
Combat Correspondent

Marine Helicopter Squadron One’s bowling team, “Slip and Slide,” claimed the championship title after a close competition with Headquarters and Service Battalion’s team, “The Beast”, during the Marine Corps Combat Development Command Intramural bowling finals held at the Quantico Bowling Center Friday.

The finalists competed with select “gold” pins provided by the bowling center.

“These pins are a bit heavier than the regular white pins,” Gold said. “They produce the players with better accuracy.”

HMX-1 took the upper hand during the first two rounds but slid nine points during the final round. Still, despite this setback, they came out on top with a 79-point lead and 3,003 total points.

According to HMX-1’s team captain, Chris Walters, the team truly felt they earned the championship title.

“We really wanted to win,” Wal-

See Bowl, Page B7

Clubs to host Corps’ Sports Hall of Fame induction

Submitted by Marine Corps Community Services Headquarters

The Commandant of the Marine Corps will host the 2007 United States Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony here at The Clubs At Quantico Aug. 17 at 11 a.m.

General James T. Conway will induct former Marines Angelo Bertelli, Leo Nomellini, Gil Hodges, and Robert Wanzer at a luncheon ceremony that will celebrate their achievements.

Bertelli, a former Marine captain, was the 1943 Heisman Trophy winner and is a member of the National College Football Hall of Fame. Nomellini, a former Marine staff sergeant, was a six-time all-pro and a member of the college and pro football halls of fame. Hodges, a former Marine sergeant, was an eight-time all-star and a member of the National Basketball Hall of Fame. Wanzer, a former Marine corporal, is a five-time NBA all-star and a member of the National Basketball Hall of Fame.

Established in 2001, the United States Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame honors former Marines who have excelled both on and off the athletic playing field. Hall of fame inductees will be enshrined in the National Museum of the Marine Corps at the Heritage Center near Quantico.

Twenty-one former Marines have been selected for the hall of fame since it was founded in 2001. Past inductees include baseball legend Ted Williams, Olympian great Robert B. Mathias, International Boxing Hall of Fame member Ken Norton, and Pro Football Hall of Fame member Arthur Donovan Jr.

Also to be honored at the induction ceremony are numerous Marine champion athletes, to include the 2006 Marine Corps Male and Female Athletes of the Year.

For more information about the Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame or the Marine Corps athletes of the year, contact Steven Dinote of Headquarters Marine Corps Semper Fit at (703) 784-9542 or steven.dinote@usmc.mil.
Quantico offense overpowers Seton High

Lady Warriors from page B1

In the top of the fourth, right fielder Marybeth Karjain led off with a single, followed by catcher Haley Gates hitting a double. Another base-hit by shortstop Kelcey Gomez brought Karjain in for a fifth run for the Warriors.

Seton made a staggering comeback in the bottom of the inning as they brought four players across the plate, turning the tables on Quantico and bringing the score to 6-5, advantage Seton.

In an attempt to gain retribution in the fifth, Myers hit a double and was batted in with a base-hit each from center fielder Tara Gallagher and left fielder Amber Galaviz.

“We’ve got to play some really good defensenow,” said Coach Joshua Thom before the bottom of the inning. “It’s tied up again. This is where we hold them.”

After the Warriors successfully shut Seton down, Thom said it was “time to take over again.” The players and coaches shouted their “hit, run, score” mantra and the batters lined up to tip the scales of the 6-6 game.

Myers, known to be a clutch hitter, was set up to break the tie. With bases loaded and two outs, she hit another double down the third baseline. Gallagher stepped up next to hit a single, bringing Thompson home. Myers stole a run on the next pitch, and Gallagher made a dash to the plate after a subsequent error by Seton. After another error by Seton, Galaviz scored a final run for the Warriors before the third out was made.

Quantico shut the opposing team down again when they had a chance at bat and wrapped up the inning 12-6. With no scoring in the seventh, the Warriors went home with a reason to celebrate.

Thom attributed the win to the girls’ aggressive play and to the coaching they received from Robert Gomez, who volunteered to assist the team this year.

“They played a very nice ball game across the board,” Thom said. “It really has a lot to do with coach Gomez’s ability to help pull the game together for the girls and give them the motivation to win.”

The victory against Seton gave the team a 7-6 record. Their next game will be during the Delaney Athletic Conference playoffs May 8-11.
NFL Draft:
I am so glad I didn’t have to try to project all 255 National Football League draft picks this weekend. From JaMarcus Russell to Ramzee Robinson (the last pick in the draft, a.k.a. Mr. Irrelevant), some things were as predictable as the tides, while others hit you like a blindside tackle.

Who would have guessed Brady Quinn would drop to the 22nd pick in the draft when all the experts picked him to go in the top 10? Who would have guessed Ted Ginn Jr. would have been drafted in the top 10 when it was thought he would be drafted late in the first round, at best, if not in the second round?

It goes to show what the “experts” knew; Staff Sgt. Zimmerman and I both did as well as the “experts” this weekend. The expert mock drafts averaged from four to six correct picks for the first round. We each predicted four picks correctly, which is impressive since Zimmerman completely forgot to project JaMarcus Russell in his draft, and there is no way you can predict the trades and the results of those trades that take place during the draft.

In review, I would have to say the Cleveland Browns stole the show by selecting two top-10 caliber players in the first round (Joe Thomas and Brady Quinn) and getting a first-round-level cornerback in Eric Wright.

The New England Patriots and San Francisco 49ers combined numerous draft-day trades, to include each receiving a starting wide receiver, to improve their teams immeasurably. The Patriots are now the clear AFC favorite to make the Super Bowl.

I also liked what the Buffalo Bills did with their picks Saturday. They got a solid running back and a quality linebacker, and then picked up another running back with great potential to backup their first round pick.

Now I haven’t figured out yet what the Miami Dolphins were thinking by taking Ted Ginn Jr. in the first round when Brady Quinn was still available. The Trent Green trade they were hoping for was turned down, and then they drafted another quarterback in the second round (John Beck from BYU) when plenty of wide receivers better than Ginn were still available. I would comment about the Washington Redskins draft, but their selections were so random and gruesome, I can’t even begin to piece together any strain of logic.

I guess you can count on the Dolphins and Redskins picking in the top 10 of next year’s draft as well.

NASCAR:
I’ve always thought about writing a piece on how ugly Dale Earnhardt (junior and senior) fans are, but they won’t give me the entire sports section I would need in order to fit it all in. So I will do my best in the space I am given.

Facts are facts. Dale Earnhardt was not the greatest driver to ever live. He is undoubtedly the icon of modern racing, but he is not the greatest driver ever. Richard Petty holds that position right now, and Sunday, Jeff Gordon took one more step toward replacing Petty as the greatest of all time.

On Dale Earnhardt’s birthday, which was Sunday, Gordon surpassed Earnhardt on the all-time wins list with 77. Earnhardt had 76, but Petty sits on top of that list with 200, followed by David Pearson (105), Bobby Allison and Darrell Waltrip (84 each), Cale Yarborough (83) before Gordon and Earnhardt.

I can hear the No. 3 faithful grabbing their pitchforks and forming a mob outside Lejeune Hall as I write this, but the facts don’t lie.

Darrell Waltrip, who is much higher than Earnhardt on the all-time wins list and a NASCAR commentator for Fox Sports, said again Sunday, as he has several times this season already, that “Jeff Gordon will rewrite the history books. Before he’s done, he will be the greatest we’ve ever seen.”

Earnhardt, who would have turned 56 Sunday, won his 76 races over 676 career starts in the Winston Cup series (now the Nextel Cup series) in 25 years (1975-2001). That equates to one win every nine career races. That is an incredible stat. That is an average of four wins every year. How many drivers even get close to four wins in one year, much less every year?

Gordon, in 15 years, won his 77 races in 482 career races. That is one win for every six races, or an average of six races per year. That average is exactly the average
Semper Fit

What every woman should know

Submitted by the Semper Fit Center

From 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., May 10, the Semper Fit Center is scheduled to host the 10th Annual Women's Health Seminar at The Clubs At Quantico.

The purpose of the event is to increase overall awareness of women's health issues; to provide Quantico women with a hands-on forum for obtaining accurate, up-to-date information; and to encourage women to take responsibility for their own health.

Men also are strongly encouraged to attend. The seminar is free and open to active duty service members, retirees, family members, civilians and contractors.

Keynote Speaker

At noon, our keynote speaker will be Leslie J. Bonci, RD, MPH, LDN. Bonci is a nationally known nutritionist. She is the director of sports medicine nutrition for the Department of Orthopedic Surgery and the Center for Sports Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Bonci is also an adjunct assistant professor of nutrition at the University of Pittsburgh and has served for 11 years as nutritionist for the Pittsburgh Steelers. She will be speaking about "The Nutrition Prescription for Optimizing Performance," which covers how to balance a busy life and remain mentally and physically healthy.

Subject Area Experts

More than 30 booths will be available, with subject experts answering questions in their areas of expertise. Booths such as “Ask a Provider” and “Ask a Dietitian” will allow you to talk directly to the experts and find some answers to your concerns. Thirty information tables will provide information on topics such as women’s and men’s health, emotional health, and more.

Screenings

Screenings will include bone density, 3-minute step tests, flexibility, blood pressure, hearing, dental, vision, and chiropractic. Pre-registration is not required for any of these screenings. The Mary Washington Hospital mobile mammography van will be available by appointment only. Appointments can be made by calling (800) 283-3926.

Information Booths

The information will focus on health promotion and prevention of illness for women of all ages. Topics will include areas such as nutrition, breast cancer, injury prevention, children’s health, hypertension, cholesterol, menopause, diabetes, stress management, spirituality, tobacco cessation, substance abuse, sexual health, exercise and fitness, self-defense, and more.

In Addition...

Light refreshments will be provided, and there will be drawings for door prizes. Please join us for an interesting and informative day, and come to find answers to some of your health related concerns. Call the Semper Fit Center at (703) 784-3780 for more information.

Mobile Mammography

The Mary Washington Hospital mobile mammography unit will be at The Clubs At Quantico May 10 in the parking lot from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The mobile mammography unit will be at The Clubs At Quantico May 10 in the parking lot from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Mary Washington Hospital mobile mammography van will be available by appointment only. Appointments can be made by calling (800) 283-3926.

Choose to Lose class

The Choose to Lose class is scheduled for May 7-21 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Four week weight loss support group will use the first half hour to focus on nutrition, and the second half hour will focus on exercise, both tailored to individual needs. Please wear workout clothing.

Stress management class

A stress management class is scheduled for Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. At the class, participants will learn the causes of particular stresses, evaluate stressors, decide on positive changes that can be made, and discover healthy ways to cope with stress.

Dietitian on Fitness Deck

The Semper Fit dietitian will be on the fitness deck Wednesday from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Semper Fit dietitian will be available to answer nutrition questions. Stop by for answers to eating right.

Senior Chair Exercise class

Classes are every Friday at 10:30 a.m. Wear comfortable clothes and athletic shoes. The class teaches seniors how to condition and strengthen your weight by working in and out of chairs using free weights, tubing, and balls, focusing on improving independence and everyday activities.

Relax with Yoga classes

Classes are scheduled for every Tuesday and Thursday at 11:30 a.m. Yoga is beneficial for people of all ages and fitness levels. Come stretch, strengthen and relax. Remember to bring a towel, and wear comfortable workout clothes.

MicroFit Assessment

Personal trainers will provide you with a free, personalized fitness/lifestyle assessment, and will develop an individualized exercise program for you. For appointment, call (703) 784-2162 or (703) 452-0593.

E-mail nutrition questions to the Semper Fit Dietitian, Tracy Bowman at tbowman@usmc-mccs.org.
Quantico soccer team seeks players for pickup games

The Marine Corps Base Quantico Soccer team is hosting pickup soccer games every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Barnett Field, next to the car wash. All personnel stationed aboard the base are invited to come out and participate in these sessions.

For more information contact the coach, AJ Abojunrin at djabogunrin@yahoo.com, or (571) 259-9375, or the team captain, Kenneth Bansah at kenneth.bansah@usmc.mil or (703) 344-3921.

All-Marine Chess Team seeks players

Semper Fi is seeking resumes for the All-Marine Chess Team to represent the Marine Corps at the Interservice Chess Championship June 10-15 at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., and at the NATO Chess Championship in September in Ankara, Turkey. For more information, contact your local Marine Corps Community Services Semper Fit Athletic director or Seabreeze Mors. at the Headquarters Marine Corps Semper Fit office at (703) 784-9542.

E-mail Sportsline Events submissions to:
SentryQuantico@usmc.mil

Events run when space permits.

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2006 Marine Corps Athletes of the Year announced

Submitted by Marine Corps Community Service Headquarters

First Lieutenant Jessica Utter and Gunnery Sgt. Michael Green have been selected as the U.S. Marine Corps Female and Male Athletes of the Year for 2006.

The pair will be honored at the Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame Induction Luncheon Ceremony at The Clubs At Quantico Aug. 17 at 11 a.m.

Utter, an electronic countermeasures officer with Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 4, an EA-6B Prowler squadron at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., is a member of the 2006 All-Marine Triathlon and Ironman teams and was the eighth overall service member and first Marine finisher at the Armed Forces Triathlon Championship. Her strong finish earned her a spot on the U.S. Armed Forces Team that competed at the Conseil International du Sport Militaire World Triathlon Championship in Sate nas, Sweden, where she placed fifth among the Armed Forces women. She was also the second overall female finisher at the Marine Raider Triathlon; the sixth overall finisher (men and women) at the Elma, Wash., Mother’s Day Triathlon; and the first female to cross the line at the Race the Rock Triathlon in Langley, Wash. Finally, in October 2006, Utter completed the Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii, with a time of 12:02.07.

Green, an instructor within the Naval Aviation Technical Training Center, Marine Aviation Training Support Group 21 at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., is the current Submaster bench press world record holder in the 220-pound weight class. During 2006, Green displayed an incredible feat of strength at the World Association of Bench Pressers and Dead Lifters River Country Record Breakers Championships when he surpassed his own world record of 617.2 pounds on his opening lift, and finished with an impressive final lift of 678 pounds. In November 2006, Green captured his second consecutive WABDL World Championship while lifting 679 pounds in the 220 lb weight class. In addition, Green set the Florida State Record in the 242-pound division at the Alabama Classic and has lifted over 700 pounds as a guest lifter at sanctioned events.

For more information about the Athletes of the Year program or the Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame, contact Steven Dinote of HQMC Semper Fit at (703) 784-9542, or by e-mail to steven.dinote@usmc.mil.

HMX-1 wins intramural bowling title

During the finals between HMX-1 and H&S Bn., Weapons Training Bn. and Marine Corps Recruiting Command bowling teams competed for the third place trophy.

Besides the winners of the finals, the team who holds the highest score in the league gets five points awarded to their unit toward the Commander’s Cup Award, which is an award given to units who have the most combined points from different categories of sports.

According to Charles Gold, Quantico’s unit bowling team coordinator, each year Marine Corps Community Services sponsors a bowling league made up of teams from units aboard the base.

“Any are several units on base; however, only 12 of them formed teams and competed in the league this season,” Gold said. “It was a great season; everyone had fun and was very competitive.”

The bowling leagues are scheduled to start back up in October. For more information, contact Chris Luciano at (703) 432-9086.

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NFL, NASCAR look to future

Weekend from page B4

Petty maintained over his 35-year career (200 wins in 1,184 races). Gordon also broke Waltrip’s career record for pole positions Saturday by earning his 66th career pole for Sunday’s race.

Earnhardt does have seven championships to Gordon’s four. But Gordon is well on his way to possibly winning the 2007 championship and has 10 more years to win three championships to tie Earnhardt.

Unless Gordon pulls a Barry Sanders or Jim Brown and ends his career prematurely, he will rewrite the NASCAR history books.

He may not break every record, he may not even pass Petty on the wins list, but he will be considered, unquestionably, a better driver than Earnhardt.

And how do the Earnhardt fans handle Gordon’s victory Sunday? They handled it in their typical classless fashion.

Gordon was humbled by his recent victories and wanted to honor Earnhardt.

Junior congratulated Gordon on his victories and even pleaded with the fans to respect Gordon and respect his father by not throwing things on the track if Gordon won.

It didn’t happen.

NASCAR had to cut Gordon’s victory lap short because the fans were getting out of control. Nearly a dozen fans were arrested for their conduct at the track after the race Sunday.

Wouldn’t Earnhardt be proud? No. Earnhardt was a respectful competitor who would honor Gordon himself if he was still alive and Gordon passed him on the wins list. He loved NASCAR and would never wish anything to discredit the sport. Yet his fans, his legion of fanatical followers, disgrace and trample everything their hero honored and held dear. NASCAR officials, fans, Earnhardt Jr., and I’m sure even Earnhardt Sr. himself, were embarrassed by the post-race antics.

Good job Earnhardt fans. You can submit your questions, topics, comments and opinions to Brandon.Swenson@usmc.mil. All messages received are subject to publication and editorial review. Swenson is the Quantico Public Affairs Office’s press chief.

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Directory Ads Really Work!
After 14 weeks of gutter balls, strikes and turkeys, the Quantico Youth Bowling League ended its season with Glo-bowling and pizza at the Quantico Bowling Center where the young bowlers also received trophies and medals during the league’s award program Saturday.

Now in its second year, participation in the youth league rose from 15 bowlers last year to 44 this year.

“This year we had a really good turnout. We advertised from the beginning and got the word out,” said Sgt. Maj. Raynard Watkins, base sergeant major.

The bowling league is sanctioned by the United States Bowling Congress, said Patty Nailor, youth bowling league coordinator. She also added that the USBC trained several coaches to properly teach the children, and the USBC helped pay for the bowling fees for the games throughout the season. During the season, each child bowled three games every Saturday from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Initially Nailor separated the youngsters into groups by ages. As the season progressed, she separated them by experience, although she kept the younger kids together. The 8- to 16-year-olds bowled together. For scoring in the 8- to 16-year old group, handicaps were given to the young bowlers. The handicaps made sure there was a fair playing field when it came to awarding team winners, said Nailor.

According to Nailor, the league is competitive and the children have the opportunity to win scholarships. One of the Quantico bowlers received $100 in scholarship money. Some of the bowlers qualified for and will be competing in the 2007 Pepsi USBC Youth Championships, which is being held in Buffalo, N.Y., from July 16 to 18.

During the Quantico program, the inexperienced bowlers learned how to bowl, and all bowlers received pointers about how to improve their game, said Nailor. Not only did the children learn from the coaches, they also had the rare opportunity to receive pointers from bowling pros such as Larry Wallace and Greg Wilhelm, who bowled with the kids last weekend.

“(This bowling league) helped me improve my bowling skills,” said Christopher King, a 9-year-old bowler. “I’m getting much better than my brother. I give it thumbs up!”

The young bowler also added that everyone has good sportsmanship.

The next season starts in September and is open to all children. For more information about the Quantico Youth Bowling League, contact Patty Nailor at pnailor@hughes.net.

The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners pose with Patty Nailor, Quantico Youth Bowling League coordinator. Standing from left to right, Blake King, 12, Jonathan Taninecz, 11, Blaine Wasson, 11, Evan Wasson, 9, Matthew Nailor, 11, and Blake Lerner, 11; kneeling, Doneisha Hall, 9, Christopher King, 9, and Trevor Nailor, 8.

Semper Fi GO ABOVE AND BEYOND

Semper Fit Nonalcoholic Bar open for business

Christine Davidson, left, Semper Fit public health educator, serves Patricia Orsino a nonalcoholic beverage during the Semper Fit Nonalcoholic Bar at Barber Physical Activity Center April 25.

"It has been a true honor to serve alongside Sgt. Maj. John Estrada, and I look forward to serving alongside Sgt. Maj. Kent in the days to come," said Gen. James T. Conway, commandant of the Marine Corps.

Other guests included Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and retired Gen. Michael W. Hagee, who worked closely with Estrada as the Corps’ 33rd commandant.

After performances by the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon, an NCO sword was passed from Estrada to Kent to symbolize the transfer of responsibility.

Estrada’s career spanned more than 30 years, beginning September 1973 when he began recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C.

Estrada was transferred to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 451 at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., in March 1974.

During the next 10 years, Estrada rose through the enlisted ranks, filling different roles in the flight mechanic occupational specialty.

Estrada and Kent met early in their careers.

"Kent and I started our friendship as drill instructors at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego," said Estrada, who joked that he would send Kent the recruits he did not want in his own battalion.

Estrada saw extensive overseas duty in Japan, the Western Pacific, and the Arabian Gulf, and he deployed in support of operations Southern Watch and Iraqi Freedom.

Kent, originally a Memphis native, completed recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., a few years after his predecessor in 1976.

Kent’s long career includes service with Marine Security Guard Battalions, guarding embassies at such far-flung locales as Kinshasa, Zaire, and Panama.

In 1981 Kent transferred to Airborne School at Fort Benning, Ga., and later became the platoon commander for 2nd Air Delivery for Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

In 1983 Kent became a drill instructor at MCRD San Diego, where he met Estrada.

More recently, Kent was the sergeant major for 1 Marine Expeditionary Force during the Battle of Fallujah in 2004.

"I cannot wait to take over the position and follow on with the work that Sgt. Maj. Estrada and prior sergeants major that have served in the past," Kent said.

Kent officially took over the position Sunday.
The Quantico High School drama class performed Tim Kelly’s “Don’t Be Afraid of the Dark” for an open audience April 26 and 27. The production was the culminating project for the class and also served as its only source of funds to be used for shows next year.

According to Sharon Adinolfi, drama teacher and director, the cast of the play came from both of her drama classes, meaning they could not practice together during the day. Adinolfi further explained that after-school rehearsals never included the full cast, due to students having previously scheduled activities.

Adinolfi said the first time she had a full-cast rehearsal was April 25, and the first time she had lights and sounds along with a full cast was April 26, the night of the first show. While the drama students worked separately, students from shop, art and technical classes were also needed to create the sets and effects that accentuated each scene.

“The teachers and students are already so busy,” Adinolfi said. “Everyone worked so hard to collaborate such an effort, especially on our budget.”

Adinolfi joked that the play could be considered a “shoestring drama,” but her production was just “string,” because she couldn’t afford the shoe. Between royalties, costumes, sets and effects, the production cost rang up at about $800.

See Drama, Page C5

Top, the supposed butler, Skull (played by Alex McElroy), introduces a new twist in the plot of Quantico High School’s production of “Don’t Be Afraid of the Dark” April 26. Above, Velma Cringe (played by Grace Luhrsen) is comforted by other characters after she witnesses a murder.
DODEA Teacher of the Year visits

Russell Elementary

By Cpl. Christiane M. Ripley
Combat Correspondent

Department of Defense Education Activity Teacher of the Year Patricia Laney visited Quantico Friday to visit teachers and students at Russell Elementary School. A New York native, she says it was a long journey to gain the title.

Laney knew she wanted to be a teacher since she was in the second grade. Her teacher that year made such an impression on her that she knew she couldn’t do anything else, she said.

Neither of her parents attended college, and her father dissuaded her, as he didn’t believe women should attend college. Nevertheless, she graduated with a bachelor of science in elementary education from the State University of New York. She earned her master’s in elementary education from Fayetteville State University.

While her husband served in Vietnam with the United States Army, Laney began her teaching career in El Paso, Texas. Throughout her career, she has taught at Fort Carson and Germany, and she currently teaches 4th grade at Murray Elementary School at Fort Bragg, N.C.

After teaching for 24 years, she said that although the students change, one thing always remains the same.

“Kids are kids,” Laney said. They need a teacher to take an interest in them. You need to realize that when you walk down the hallways and look into classrooms, that’s your future.

She added that it is a special privilege to teach the children of military families.

“I teach them that their parents are America’s heroes. They do a really important job.”

Just as the parents of those students serve their country, she serves their children by investing herself in their education and lives.

“To me this is not a job,” Laney said. “Kids these days are coming to school with different issues than they were 20 years ago. We need to take care of them and their families.”

Since being named DODEA Teacher of the Year, Laney has taken it upon herself to visit different schools and meet with other teachers. She hopes to inspire them and give advice about becoming Teacher of the Year, and about teaching in general.

The day before her visit to Russell Elementary School here, she visited the White House with Teachers of the Year from each state. She met President Bush and the First Lady, and told them, “I am one of the teachers who teach the children of America’s heroes.”

Becoming Teacher of the Year has made Laney a leader in education. When asked about retiring, she said, “I’ll retire when it becomes a job. I can’t imagine it, though. I like to entertain. It’s just been phenomenal.”

After 24 years of teaching, 39 years of marriage to a soldier of 20 years, and children and grandchildren, Laney hasn’t lost her touch.

“To see that light go on over a student’s head, that’s what makes it worth it.”
Book Review

An epic account of Marine valor

Reviewed by Bruce Martin

“When you hear Marines singing ‘The Hymn’ in combat, they know they’re in trouble!”

Major Gen. Oliver P. Smith reportededly opined as his First Marine Division leathernecks sang “The Marines’ Hymn” one evening in 1950 at Korea’s Chosin Reservoir. They were surrounded by 100,000 Chinese communists.


The scene: Vietnam’s Hai Lang Forest, southwest of Quang Tri. In their brother of “Frozen Chosin” fame, the Marines — mostly very young men in 1967 — of Company C, 1st Battalion, First Marine Regiment, commanded by a very capable but at the moment harried Captain Bill Major, are being encircled by a well-honed North Vietnamese Army unit. Some NVA soldiers wear flop hats inscribed with “Born North, Die South” on them. In preventing the enemy encirclement, the Charlie Co. Marines make that very daring motto the last wish for many of the young enemy soldiers.

Meanwhile, daylight becomes an uncanny darkening, and incoming green tracers lace Charlie Co.’s tenuous position, which is flagged by a petrified tree. The beleaguered riflemen answer with red tracers and grenades into the surrounding lush forest. I had earlier expended my two fragmentation grenades, tossing them outside our perimeter, had my .45-caliber pistol drawn and cocked, looking for a target to step out from the tree line. I was lying atop a wounded Marine named Cpl. Betts, and as I literally thought of General Smith’s words—believe it or not—I tuned in that fierce, belowing rendition of “The Marines’ Hymn” sung by the quick and the wounded. Ruffer was directing it while charging. “Let’s go! Let’s go, Charlie!” he roared above the din of AK47s, M16s, M60s and grenades. “Let’s go, Charlie!”

Glass’ “Lions of Medina” intricately fills in the great chasms of my then-limited reportage for Leatherneck magazine nearly 40 years ago. I was a 27-year-old staff sergeant, a one-man photojournalism team for the famed “Magazine of the Marines” when I hooked up with Charlie Co. on a sandy landing zone for a chopper ride into what became one of the scariest thrills of my life.

In a plain, straightforward style unembellished with jingoism or theatrics, Glass intricately weaves all the horrific action of that week that I spent one night with Charlie Co. into a fine and inspiring chronicle to record many individual acts of now-sung heroism in “Lions of Medina.” An All-American Honor Roll prevails throughout “Lions of Medina.” Names like Bazuko, Thompson, Antal, Hammergren, LaValle, Cooley, Hutchings, Blessing and Bovill abound. Many other individual perspectives are tellingly recounted in a fast-moving epic.

While it’s definitely no wishy-washy schoolboy novel, “Lions of Medina” is a superb account of bravery and untiring action suitable even for classroom reading by high school juniors and seniors who want to learn about the Corps and about Vietnam. Make no mistake: It consistently holds its own as Glass’ extensive description and personal contacts with the now-graying participants of Operation Medina spin into a wholesome, yet gritty and gutsy account of what it is like to fight for your life and that of your fellow Marines.

Among the standouts is the ultimate lives-saving sacrifice of a young Marine combat photographer, which garners him the Medal of Honor. No sea tales here. Just the way it was scant days before that dawn of Friday, Oct. 13, 1967, and even shorter days after the haze burned off that tiny stamp of an LZ in Vietnam.

As I critically read “Lions of Medina,” I found myself actually gasping for breath, for I kept holding mine as the action unfolded before me all over again, nearly 40 years later. A purposeful and initially successful enemy ambush; a rapidly building and well-organized NVA attack; the U.S. Air Force’s “Puff, the Magic Dragon” sending streams of molotov lead from its Gatling just beyond our perimeter while lighting the hazy, bleak night with parachute flares; the Charlie Co. Marines launching their first counterattack; and all the heroism of Marines and corpsmen in between these events, right up until Ruffer leads a relieving column from Delta Co., 1/1 into our perimeter amidst whistle signals apparent withdrawal of the Reds. Who better to rescue Marines than Marines, brothers saving brothers?

Heart and soul of “Lions” is simply that complex hillside battle amongst a few petrified trees in an impenetrable forest, but also commendable are other virtues in this living history account: the making of Marines, officer and enlisted; an account of the summer of ’67 leading to the reason for Medina; and a very, very useful glossary. Authentic battle maps and an informative array of photos add a fine final touch to a most excellent document. Fortunately, Charlie Co. and I never have to redo Operation Medina. Doyle Glass has done it for us in his unmitigated, indelible style.

Editor’s note: Bruce Martin joined the staff of “Leatherneck” magazine in October 1966. He did four combat tours in Vietnam, was awarded the Bronze Star medal with “V” and retired as a master sergeant. Also a retired middle-school teacher, he lived in Pensacola, Fla., with Judy, his wife of 45 years. Master Sgt. Martin passed away right before this review went to press. This review originally ran in the “Leatherneck” magazine, and is used here by permission.
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Drama class takes center stage

“Don’t Be Afraid of the Dark” is a piece specifically written for high school students, Adinolfi said. She said it is challenging, but fun, and allows the students to be creative with the work.

The play takes place in the present in a house near an asylum in upstate New York. The 12-person cast consists of a variety of characters that, with few exceptions, are not what they seem. Several characters have comical tendencies that are traced back to them coming from the asylum, which leaves the “normal” characters quite confused and bewildered by their behavior.

The students said they enjoyed their roles on stage, whether it be a gun-toting hunter named Ralph (played by Matthew Adams), a sly criminal known only as the Creeper (Jesse Boyer), or the housekeeping pair Skull and Bones (Alex McElroy and Ashlie Springer, respectively). The students also interacted with the audience in a chase scene through the crowd, which the actors and spectators seemed to enjoy equally.

“For most of them, this was their first play, and I’m happy with what they’ve done,” Adinolfi said.

Adinolfi said she is already scheduling her productions for next year and will pick out pieces this summer. In September she will make her final decision about what to perform based on the number of drama students she has. Her first production will be Nov. 16 and 17, which she said will be a shorter, simpler, smaller-scale play to break in her students before giving them a bigger challenge.

The 12-character cast of Quantico High School’s production of “Don’t Be Afraid of the Dark” takes a bow after the conclusion of the show April 26.
Chaplain’s Corner

A proclamation by the president of the United States of America

By Lt. Cmdr. K.M. Donahue
Protestant Chapel Pastor

The following is the Presidential Proclamation regarding the National Day of Prayer:

A prayerful spirit has always been an important part of our national character, and it is a force that has guided the American people, given us strength, and sustained us in moments of joy and in times of challenge. On this National Day of Prayer, we acknowledge God’s grace and ask for His continued guidance in the life of our Nation.

Americans of many faiths and traditions share a common belief that God hears the prayers of His children and showers grace to those who seek Him. Following the tragedy at Virginia Tech, in towns all across America, in houses of worship from every faith, Americans have joined together to pray for the lives that were lost and for their families, friends, and loved ones. We hold the victims in our hearts and pray for those who suffer and grieve. There is a power in these prayers, and we can find comfort in the grace and guidance of a loving God.

At this important time in our history, we also pray for the brave members of our Armed Forces and their families. We pray for their safety, for the recovery of the wounded, and for the peace we all seek.

The Congress, by Public Law 100-307, as amended, has called on our Nation to reaffirm the role of prayer in our society and to respect the freedom of religion by recognizing each year a “National Day of Prayer.” Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2007, as a National Day of Prayer. I ask the citizens of our Nation to give thanks, each according to his or her own faith, for the freedoms and blessings we have received and for God’s continued guidance, comfort, and protection. I invite all Americans to join in observing this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

George W. Bush

Today is the 56th annual National Day of Prayer, and the 19th year since the signing of the decree that designated the first Thursday of May for collective observance of the day. Though non-governmental organizations have established guidance for groups to use that do focus on a unique aspect of the day each year, to my knowledge there is no official or governmentally designated focus attached to the day. I think it can safely be assumed that the focus was meant to be simple and follows another time of prayer set aside in 1775 by the Continental Congress: “a time for prayer for forming a new nation.” Following on those sentiments, prayer continues in all observances held for the nation, that we can actively live the principles established in the Constitution.

One of these Constitutional concerns is to uphold the nonestablishment of a state religion. This has been described by some as religious tolerance. A Web site from Canada, religioustolerance.org, clarifies what that phrase means for them. “On this site, religious tolerance means: to extend religious freedom to people of all religious traditions, even though you may well disagree with their beliefs and/or practices. Religious tolerance does not require you to accept all religions as true. Religious freedom means that you can; without oppression, believe, worship and witness (or practice freedom from belief, worship and witness) as you wish; change your beliefs or religion; associate with others to express your beliefs.”

The celebration observed at Marine Corps Base Quantico will be an expression of this deeply respected right of each individual set forth by the U.S. Constitution: to determine what will be the deepest belief upon which their life is based, and to freely grow and develop those beliefs without governmental influence. Our observance was over breakfast at The Clubs At Quantico where we participants experienced that religious freedom though the active participation of a variety of members who represent Jewish, Muslim, Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Evangelical Christian belief systems. That freedom was also experienced in other U.S. communities in a variety of ways. In some communities there are those who chose not to participate in prayer on this day, but instead have chosen to observe a “day of reason” by participating in sacrificial activities on behalf of others, such as donating blood. Some used the chance to renew their own personal and corporate beliefs.

I encourage you on this day, the day you are reading this article, whether it has been set aside for prayer or not, to reflect deeply. Evaluate how you would define your most deeply held beliefs. Do your actions reflect these beliefs? And ask for insight into the actions you need to take in order to insure the freedom of others to do the same searching.

After such reflection, look for a difference in the world around you. It may only be a difference in how you see the world. You may choose to attend communal prayer, designate your own special time and place for personal prayer, or experience a renewed challenge to sacrificial living for others. You may experience all three, or even none of the above. Either way, please join me in holding for a moment a grateful attitude for a country where none of us are afraid to be engaged in such personal and meaning filled activity.

If, in your reflections, you find you would be interested in meeting with others for an interfaith study group, please feel free to contact me. A new group is in the process of forming.

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MCJROTC cleans house, again

By Lance Cpl. Travis J. Crewdson
Combat Correspondent

The Quantic High School Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps swept another drill competition, this time at the Capt. Fred Blakeman Invitational held at Herndon High School in Fairfax County, Va., April 21.

The invitational, an interservice competition designed for first-year cadets, was named after the founder of the Navy JROTC unit at Herndon, who was also the Senior Naval Science Instructor there for 13 years.

Some of Quantic’s first-year cadets had been part of the drill team already, but in order to participate in the competition, eight were asked to volunteer to join the team. The Marine instructors of the young team expected them to perform well, but felt they had no hope of winning the overall competition.

“I told them we’d come home with something, but I didn’t know what,” said Marine instructor Sgt. Maj. Jose Diaz. “They peaked at just the right time, and their hard work paid off. Three or four days before (the competition) I didn’t think we’d win anything.”

“As soon as they formed for inspection, the drill hats were all over them,” said senior Marine instructor Lt. Col. Paul Roy. “They maintained their bearing, though, and I’m proud of them.”

The cadets were mostly overwhelmed, as many of them had little or no experience with drill competitions.

“It was nerve-racking and very scary,” said Cadet Lance Cpl. Marybeth Karjain. “It was fun to watch the other groups though. We only expected to get a third place at most, so I think we made (Diaz and Roy) proud.”

The invitational was broken into four events for the nine participating teams. Quantic took home a trophy in every event, including 1st place in drill without arms, inspection and color guard and 2nd place in drill with arms. They received the 1st place trophy overall and two medals from the individual Knock-Out Competition.

“It was sort of like ‘Simon Says’ but with weapons,” said Cadet Lance Cpl. Cortney Thompson.

Roy said more than 200 cadets took the floor for the KOC. The head drill master called out commands while others inspected the group and removed those who made mistakes. The final 10 cadets received medals, two of whom were Quantic Cadet Cpl. Jena Glavay and Cadet Lance Cpl. Landen Strange.

Cadet Pfc. Taylor Castleberry said she was told by other instructors that the Quantic team did not look like first-year cadets.

“It felt so good to be congratulated by all the other teams and stand out,” said Cadet Lance Cpl. Brendon Fraser.

“They carried themselves well in their uniforms,” Roy said proudly. “They stood out with their military bearing and discipline. They came to compete, and that’s what they did. If we keep winning like this, they might be the only ones showing up soon.”

“They might just stop inviting us altogether,” Diaz joked. “These cadets are veterans now, and they’re ready for the big-time meets. Next year we’ll need to do this all over again with another fresh batch of cadets.”
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Marine wife book signing
Friday

The Marine Corps Association is hosting a book signing event Friday at the MCA book store from 11:20 a.m. to 2 p.m. Michelle Keener will be signing a copy of her book, “Shared Courage,” and she will also give brief presentation on the book on the Key Volunteers Network at 11 a.m. prior to signing books.

Old Dominion University Military Career Transition Program
Monday

Old Dominion University at the Quantico Command Education Center is beginning registration for new students interested teaching as a profession. Qualified students with a bachelor’s degree can take courses immediately. The Old Dominion University Military Career Transition Program is a Masters Degree with licensure program for active and retired military. Military spouses and qualified civilians are also eligible. The certification program includes elementary education, middle school education and high school education.

Since courses are taught in the live, teletechnet, and on line modes, students who are transferred to different military bases can complete their programs and do student teaching at their new locations.

Interested personnel can call the Quantico ODU office at (703) 630-2226 to speak with the program advisor or set up an appointment. The summer session will begin May 7. The MCTP Web site is www.odu.edu/mctp.

Civilian Leadership Development Information Sessions
Tuesday, July 11

The Civilian Leadership Development program is sponsoring a Business Writing For Results class May 8 and a Making Change Work Class July 11 at the Education Center in room 3. Enrollment is limited to CLD participants only. Civilian employees should sign up for CLD before attending the class. For more information, contact Sephora Boone at (703) 784-2365.

Toastmaster’s meeting
Tuesday

Chopawamsic Toastmasters Club meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in the base Life Long Learning Center, Building 3089 in Classroom 5 of Wing B. Nonmembers are cordially invited to attend. Now is the time to start working on those critical communication skills.

For additional information or directions, call: Capt. Teresa Ovalle at (703) 784-3255, Linda Evette at (703) 490-7289, Sandy Frazier at (703) 640-0748.
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