

# Quantico Chapter Newsletter

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### Upcoming Events

- 04 July—Independence Day
- 08 July—Quarterly Church Visit
- 11 July—General Body Meeting @1700
- 11 Aug—3rd Annual Picnic
- 03 Sept—Labor Day
- 7—9 Sept—NASCAR Fundraiser

## Message from the President...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of the 'Mighty Quantico' Chapter for your continued support for the past two years. During the entire period and despite an increased operational/deployment tempo, we continued to set the standard for turning challenges into accomplishments.

As I have said previously, "We all bring a unique and special brand of exper-

tise and experience to the fight." I am encouraged at the number of junior officers that have joined our ranks. The synergy gained from our combined efforts defines the very essence of our success.

I congratulate Major David Everly, the newly elected Executive Board and committee heads for the upcoming year. I promise my full support, participation and respectfully request all members to pledge the same.

Finally, let us always prayerfully remember our forward deployed comrades as they continue to serve magnificently and globally "in the air, on land and sea". Keep Chargin'.

Semper Fidelis,

*LtCol R. C. Clements*  
President  
Quantico Chapter, NNOA

## "Mighty" Quantico Chapter Keeps The Streets Clean

The members of the Mighty Quantico chapter of NNOA take pride in knowing they have and will continue to help keep Virginia roads and the main entrance of the National Museum of the Marine Corps looking good by cleaning up unsightly litter off Route 1. The Mighty Quantico chapter has volunteered to be responsible for a two-mile section of highway as part of the Virginia Department of Transportation Adopt-A-Highway program. At least four times in the past year, members of the organization put on their yellow safety vest to pick-up trash on Route 1 starting from the front gate ending two miles later at the back gate. The chapter conducts Adopt-A-Highway clean-up on Saturday mornings once a quarter starting at 0800. Please contact the Membership Director for more information on this and other community programs.



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## Navy's First Black Captain Remembered as a 'Spiritual Giant'

By **DAVE FORSTER**, The Virginian-Pilot

© April 22, 2007



A color guard escorts the coffin of Capt. Thomas David Parham Jr. into the Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base chapel Saturday, where a service was held to celebrate the life of the Navy's first black captain.

U.S. NAVY

NORFOLK - History will remember Thomas David Parham Jr. as the Navy's first black captain, but anyone who heard him preach will remember why he was a chaplain.

another black man, J. Russell Brown, had already been commissioned to the position, according to Parham's biography.

Parham, who died Tuesday at the age of 87, was a legend by the time Capt. Robert L. Ford joined the service in 1979.

As his career progressed, Parham began recruiting other black preachers to become Navy chaplains, Ford said.

"Everybody told me, you have to go to one of his services," Ford recalled Saturday, after a memorial service for Parham at the Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base's chapel.

Parham was "one of the most ethically congruent people I have ever met," Black said. "He was a spiritual giant."

Parham, with his ram rod-straight posture and quiet confidence, looked like he came from central casting for a naval officer, said retired Rear Adm. Barry Black.

Parham's service cut across racial lines. His son, Thomas David Parham III, noted that several white chaplains had attended a family gathering Friday and said they counted Parham as a friend and mentor.

Black, now the U.S. Senate chaplain, recalled one of the first times he saw Parham in action, during a briefing to a four-star admiral. Parham, a reserved man away from the pulpit, fielded the admiral's questions so calmly and thoroughly he made it look easy.

Many will remember his sense of humor. Thomas Parham III said his father had a famous sermon in which he explained why he preferred his middle name over his first.

"He literally put on a clinic," Black said.

He gave three reasons: "Doubting Thomas, Peeping Tom and Uncle Tom."

Parham joined the Navy in 1944, but not without resistance. A recruiter accepted his application for chaplain only after Parham showed him a newspaper article proving that

Parham retired from the Navy in 1982, and later taught sociology at Norfolk State University. He left behind three children and his wife, E. Marion Cordice Parham of Norfolk.

## 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Professional Development Training Conference Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, California

The San Diego Chapter of NNOA in beautiful, sunny San Diego invites you to attend the 35<sup>th</sup> annual NNOA training conference. The conference chairman, CAPT Don Flowers, USN Retired, and the members of the San Diego Chapter have coordinated with Naval Amphibious Base Coronado to host the five-day conference. The conference dates are 16-20 July 2007.

More detailed information on conference cost, etc. will be located on the NNOA web page at <http://www.nnoa.org>

“National Naval Officers Association, Developing America’s Future Leaders.”

### Base Helps Deploying Marines Manage Combat Stress

By: Cpl. Shaahn Williams

MCB QUANTICO, Va., April 18 -- 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 hour-long 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 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 Corpwide 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 pre-deployment training, counseling during

Navy Capt. William P. Nash, Combat Operational Stress Control coordinator, presents a brief promoting awareness of the COSC program at The Clubs At Quantico April 18. The brief was sponsored by the National Naval Officers Association and Naval medical Clinic Quantico.



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.

# Gravely Elementary Ground Breaking

By: LtCol Dawn Harrison

Several members of the Prince William County community gathered on April 23, 2007 to break ground on Samuel L. Gravely Elementary School. The school will be named in honor of Vice Admiral Samuel L. Gravely who, among many other accomplishments, was the first African American to reach flag rank in the Navy. In attendance were Mrs. Alma Gravely, wife of the late Admiral Gravely and David Gravely, their son. Members from Mrs. Gravely’s church, who were instrumental in initiating the request to name to school after Gravely, were also in attendance.

A middle school in another area of the county had originally been considered to be named after Gravely. However, because the site for the elementary school was literally in the back yard of the Gravely’s Haymarket home and Gravely took a deep interest in elementary school education, the school board decided to make a rare decision to waive its policy regarding school naming.

When initially contacted about the idea of naming a school after her husband, Mrs. Gravely thought it would be more appropriate to name the school after someone who had resided in Prince William County longer than the Gravelys. Ms. Martha Henley, who contacted Mrs. Gravely, replied “but they are not admirals.” Mrs. Gravely gave her approval for community members to move forward with the request but she did not actively participate in the process. She wanted to know that the school board’s decision was based on what the county wanted and not her involvement.

Rear Admiral Victor Guillory was on hand to represent the

Navy. He first met Gravely when Gravely was a captain and Guillory was an enlisted sailor. He commented that Gravely “commanded a presence. He inspired me and gave me an opportunity to dream.” He hopes that Gravely Elementary will inspire the students who attend and that some will join the Navy. He also hopes that the students will do great things in the community and across the nation.

Also in attendance was the Gainesville district school board representative, Mr. Donald Richardson, who is a neighbor of the Gravelys. “This is important because Gravely was a role model” stated Richardson. “This is not just about education and textbooks. He was a man who broke barriers. We are honoring his legacy.”

*Construction on the 17.9 acre school site began in January 2007. The school will open in September 2008.*

*“...He inspired me and gave me an opportunity to dream.”*



Left to Right: Steve Walts, Superintendent, Prince William County Public Schools, Donald Richardson, Gainesville District School Board Representative, RDML Victor Guillory, Mrs. Gravely, Mrs. David Gravely, Mr. David Gravely, Mrs. Lucy Beauchamp, Chairman, Prince William County School Board



RDML Victor Guillory poses for a photo with the wife of the late Admiral Gravely, Mrs. Alma Gravely.

# NEW WOMEN MARINES

By: Capt Melinda K Schon

"Describe a woman in the Marine Corps."

Demand that of anyone in America, and no matter what their response, the answer will fall into the same category. Popular opinion of women in the armed forces can be summed up in one word: stereotypes.

Being the most venerated, scrutinized, and media-followed of the armed forces, the Marine Corps draws an abundance of expectations and characterizations of its members. But where men are expected to be strong, stoic, and incomparable leaders, Marine Corps women bear the lion's share of the "uncomplimentary" labels. Women are pigeonholed as "butch", "tomboys", or, my most recent personal favorite, "promiscuous strumpets," a unique title I overheard at the gym last week.

These descriptions have been accepted in the past as "just part of the deal" for women in the Corps. I must admit that when I joined, I wasn't expecting an easy road or perfect equality. Following a few years behind my brother who had attended the Naval Academy, I had heard a handful of slang expressions used to describe military women, and none of the terms were flattering. Perhaps I even believed the designations myself, as I would eye every female Marine I met with a wary outlook...just in case they were vying to ruin my reputation through association with me, of course.

My first personal experience with labels began before I could even call myself a Marine: in the summer of 2001, at Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia.

I could not tell you exactly which night it was, as each one blended together in a cacophony of singing the Marines Hymn and the yelling of drill instructors. It was an evening close to the end of our training when we were within grasping distance of our goal to graduate and yet far enough away not to consider graduation a foregone conclusion.

That evening, in the sweltering Quantico summer, as we lay in our bunks on top of wool blankets and perfectly made beds, our sergeant instructor took it upon herself to pass on a nugget of her wisdom. We were fifty young hopefuls, desperately trying to achieve the coveted Marine title and no doubt still reeling from the day of training and the weeks of sleepless nights. The word had been passed, the Hymn had been sung, and generally, this was our favorite part of the day: time to sleep. But that night, instead

of flipping off the lights, our most feared sergeant instructor flipped on a radio behind her as background music, and we literally had no choice but to be all ears to her diatribe and the R & B music that accompanied it.

"As a woman in the Marine Corps," she began, "you have one of three options." We waited for the list, half-expecting that this would be testable material later and more than half-hoping that she would keep the lecture short so that we could quit struggling to maintain consciousness and just fall into a deep slumber.

"You're one of three things," she continued. "You're a bitch, a dyke, or a ho."

Stifled giggles echoed throughout the squad bay. Girls' mouths hung open in shock. Anyone that hadn't been paying attention previously was certainly paying attention now. The sergeant instructor went on to expound upon the three self-explanatory titles and how we would indubitably fall into one of the categories eventually, no matter how much we tried to avoid it. She also added that our worst enemies would be each other, and that other women are the most critical judges there were in the Corps.

Although we were too tired at the time to either retort or even fully consider the weight of the sergeant instructor's words, that speech hit home with every woman in that squad bay.

We all quietly wondered, "Which one am I going to be?"

I sat there in the dark and pondered my choices. None of the nicknames seemed particularly appealing, and I was indignant that these were the only options I was given. However, a practical part of my nature knew that she spoke the truth: In respect to my reputation, I would be labeled as soon as I hit the fleet, and the labels given to women were vindictive, rumor-based, and often permanent throughout one's career.

That overture was how forty-nine other women and I were introduced to the rigid and irrevocable world of stereotyping as a female Marine officer. Our prologue was on that sweaty night at OCS, our first taste was during our six-month journey through the Basic School, and we finally established ourselves when we hit the fleet Marine force in various units around the globe a few months later.

We heard the rumors. We made mistakes. We found ourselves and lost ourselves again, and we were slapped with the cruelest terms that young Marines could conjure up.

And surprisingly, we found each other. Not as malicious dragons in sheep's clothing, but as colleagues and friends.

I have witnessed more impressive women in the Marine Corps than I have found in any other organization. Women Marines are more remarkable than the intelligentsia at my university, and they are more sisterly than the women in my Greek sorority. They are ground-breaking, fighting women. They're capable, intellectual, and many are impressively physically strong and beautiful as well.

Today, five years after the famed sergeant instructor's speech, a subset of girls from our OCS class still gathers together for dinner, as we have every month over the years. As I look around the room, I try and conceive of an iota of truth to the sergeant instructor's statement of the three categories. But I cannot find it.

What I do find is Teresa, a Communications officer and an MIT graduate in physics. She will attend Columbia for her PhD in material science in the fall. I see Charlotte and Kate: two gorgeous, athletic blondes. Both have been to Iraq twice during the past two years. Erin is an accomplished runner and logistician who was recently awarded for her leadership as one of the Military Women of the Year in San Diego County. Lauren comes from a long, proud family history of Marines from Texas. Although she could not be with us tonight, we all know that she is in Iraq, simultaneously planning the logistics for her next convoy while squeezing in the logistics for her August wedding in her downtime. And I, a mathematics graduate from Northwestern University, spend my free hours singing the national anthem for military events and, most recently, with the National Philharmonic Chorus.

These women, and not the nameless stereotypes, are the women whom I am proud to say are my friends and colleagues. These are the women that are serving our great country.

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## Education Center Could Save You Thousands



By: Lance Cpl. Justin P. Lago

MCB QUANTICO, Va. -- Thinking about shelling out big bucks for a college-level exam program out in town? Before you do, stop by the Lifelong Learning Center – they might offer the same program for free.

Quantico’s Lifelong Learning Center has saved Marines and sailors thousands of dollars by providing free College-Level Examination Programs and Defense Activity Non Traditional Educational Support exams for students wanting to earn college credits.

Some local education programs charge up to \$3,000 for the same information, according to the LLLC staff.

“The Education Center simply wants Marines to know they offer the same chances of completing CLEPs at no cost,” said Susan McIntosh, LLLC command education officer.

McIntosh also warns service members not to fall prey to education scammers.

“There have been Marines in the Norfolk, Virginia, area who have fallen into trap education swindles,” she said.

“Some of these ‘companies’ are requiring photocopies of driver’s licenses and social security information.”

Marines or sailors who are solicited by education recruiters in town should first bring any information about the classes or required examinations to the LLLC to see if there are any services the office here can provide.

McIntosh, who has worked at Quantico for 14 years, said Quantico’s overall success rate on CLEP exams has been in the 75th percentile.

Hundreds of study books have been donated to the Gen. Alfred M. Gray Research Center to help students study for the tests.

“Taking these exams through us can save our students an enormous amount of time and money,” said Jan Wilson, an educational service specialist. “We want to see them earn college credits relevant to a degree.”



## HOLOCAUST REMEMBERED

By: Lance Cpl. Justin P. Lago

An audience of service members attend the first day of observance for the Holocausts Days of Remembrance ceremony held Monday, April 16 at Lejeune Hall. The United States Congress established the Days of Remembrance as the nation’s annual commemoration of the victims who perished during the Second World War.

MCB QUANTICO, Va., April 16 -- Marines observed the Holocaust Remembrance Day with a morning colors ceremony held at Lejeune Hall Monday.

The ceremony recognized the eight days set aside by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to remember the Holocaust victims who were killed during World War II. The United States Congress established the Days of Remembrance as the nation’s annual commemoration of the

victims who perished during the WWII.

“While it is good and fitting that we pay tribute to the memories of those who were killed, it is far more valuable to contribute to the prevention of such terrible things in the future,” said Dr. Joseph J. Thomas, Director of Professional Development for the Marine Corps University. Thomas spoke during the ceremony to increase awareness of the men and women in uni-

form who have dedicated their service to the United States and to defend those who cannot defend themselves. He delivered his words in reflection of what people can do to prevent catastrophic events such as the Holocaust from ever again occurring.

“Those who have answered the call to serve understand man’s inhumanity to man, the cruelty of the dictator and the human propensity to kill on an industrial scale,” said Thomas as he addressed Marines and sailors in attendance. “In taking your oath to uphold and defend the consti-

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## Holocaust cont...

tution, you are in effect to defend the defenseless and protect the weak. For you have stood up and stated that you will do what is necessary to prevent this type of crime again."

After Thomas' speech, the ceremony continued with a traditional Jewish prayer called the Mourner's Kaddish, read by Mike Haas. The prayer acknowledges the meanings of love, loss, life and death and Jewish people believe to have been brought to earth from heaven by angels and possess sanctifying powers.

Following the Prayer, Ms. Tamar Cash, a musician, delivered a song titled Eili Eili (O God, My God) playing a guitar. Cash delivered the song in its native Hebrew language.

Small tea candles were passed out by Lt. Cmdr. Kim Donahue, Navy chaplain, to the audience to be lit in remembrance of the victims.

"It was a privilege to be asked to be a part of the ceremony," said Cash. "It is

hopeful, that people will never forget these victims. It is one thing to move on, but it is another to forget."

"It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness," quoted Donahue from a Chinese proverb. "These are dark times when you consider the war in Iraq, the wars in Israel and Palestine."

Donahue referred to the Holocaust in her speech and paid tribute to the current American forces that are fighting to prevent such atrocities from repeating themselves.

"These candles represent breaking down that darkness and never forgetting what happened," Donahue said. "Radical hope is grounded in the courage to care and to feel deep anguish and agony."

Not only does this week remember those whose families' were affected by WWII events, but all genocides, past and presents, such as Bosnia, Rwanda and Darfur and give all the courage to prevent them.

## New Cultural Program Assists Deploying Marines Overseas

By: Cpl. Shaahn Williams

MCB QUANTICO, Va. -- As Marines get ready to deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan, they must take various classes and training to prepare in order to operate safely in a foreign environment.

One of the mandatory training sessions has become available via the Marine Corps' Culture and Language Center of Excellence division of Training and Education Command.

The U.S. Marine Corps Center for Advanced Operational Culture Learning has produced a new Operational Cultural Study Program that is for Marines to use at all levels and ranks who are deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This program teaches Marines about culture and language, which will assist them in becoming knowledgeable of Iraqi customs and courtesies.

The OCSP provides in-depth guidance for interacting with Iraqis by combining joint and open-source materials from the Army and Marine Corps. The OCSP is a single

DVD-ROM program compatible with most PC-based systems equipped with DVD drives, including Navy-Marine Corps Intranet machines. The disk includes a simple interface that will allow Marines to navigate through various topic areas, including suggested reading, operational culture guidance, audio and video, and language training aids.

Marines can use the materials to obtain a general understanding of the conditions in Iraq or seek out specific guidance on a variety of topics relating to operational culture. An added benefit of using the material is that it can be used to develop in-unit training and classes.

"Each piece builds upon other pieces," said Maj. Paul Ewing, one of the course instructors. "But it's supplemental and cannot replace the live briefing."

Marines can view the DVD before or after the brief, which can range from one day to five days of training, depending on the need of the unit.

## CONGRATULATIONS To The New "Mighty" Quantico Chapter Executive Board Members

**President:** Maj David Everly  
**Vice President:** LtCol Patricia Johnson  
**Secretary:** Mrs. Pamela Wilson  
**Treasurer:** LtCol Michael Pitts  
**Membership:** Capt Melissa Chestnut  
**Public Affairs:** Capt NaTasha McEachin  
**Historian:** Major Jonathan Loney  
**Parliamentarian:** Maj Stacey Taylor  
**Master-at-Arms:** Maj Greg King  
**Scholarship Chair:** LtCol Dawn Harrison  
**Social Chair:** CW04 John Hawthorne  
**Chaplain:** LTC Lee Elmore

**\*\*\*The New Executive Board Members Will Assume Their Positions after the National Conference in July \*\*\***



"The culture is so different in Iraq that this is needed," Ewing said. "You have to know the nuances so that you lessen possible misunderstandings."

Ewing said the training saves lives, citing that even hand signals could be misconstrued.

"When we extended an arm palm outward in front of our body it means, 'stop' but for Iraqis it means 'come.' Imagine what would happen if a Marine is patrolling and he doesn't know the language and uses gestures Americans know, but Iraqis don't," he explained. "People can be shot over that confusion alone."

Ewing notes that Iraqi culture is constantly changing due to insurgent activity and American influence, so the training he and

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## Chaplain's Corner

### Amazing Grace! C.S. Cauble, LT Chaplain

17 May 2007

Established in 1868 to commemorate the fallen dead of the Civil War, Memorial Day is the only holiday that calls us to walk backwards into the future, reflecting on those many warriors who gave their "today" so that we might have a "tomorrow." My grandmother still refers to it as "Decoration Day" because in her earlier year's graves of fallen veterans were decorated and honored. Thankfully, a few places such as Arlington National Cemetery and Fredericksburg National Military Park still carry on this tradition by placing flags or luminaries at each grave. But, sadly, our insatiable selfish desire for leisure and entertainment along with a historical revisionism that has infected our thinking and casts into doubt everything we once held sacred prevents us from truly remembering and honoring our dead. I would like to submit to you that actively remembering our heroes is the right thing to do for the following reasons: 1) Remembering them reminds us of the high cost of freedom. 2) Remembering them reminds us of our own mortality. 3) Remembering them serves as a bridge to faith in the Lord.

First, have you ever stopped to consider the thousands of spouses, parents, and children that have received the horrible news that their loved one has been cut down in the defense of America? That picture is fresh in my mind, having had to deliver that message to a local family recently. It is the worst message I've ever delivered and can only imagine how it must feel to be the recipient. Consider these heroes and their families on Memorial Day. Pray for them in their grief. The Scriptures remind us that true religion, the kind that is pure and undefiled before God is this: "to visit orphans and widows in their affliction" (James 1:27).

Second, stopping to consider the brevity of the life of the fallen hero should remind us that we, too, "are dust." Throughout Scripture, God compares the brevity of life to a variety of things: a flower in the field, a sigh, a wisp of smoke and numerous other images that convey the idea of here today and gone tomorrow. Our calling to the military is both an exciting and dangerous one that should cause us to keep our focus not just on today's tasks, but also on eternity. Moses writes, "So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12).

Finally, remembering our heroes will often bring forth stories of their faith in Almighty God. I was reminded of this a few weeks ago while visiting the home at Guinea Station, VA where General "Stonewall" Jackson spent his final days on earth before succumbing to pneumonia. A devout Christian who was absolutely fearless in battle, Jackson believed that faith in God through Jesus Christ should render every man equally brave, never fearing death because of the certainty of the resurrection of the body and heaven. Upon the chair where his wife sat for several days before his death was a small Bible from which she read to him about heaven. In the moments before his death, he uttered "Let us cross over the river and rest under the shade of the trees." When I take the time to reflect on fallen heroes such as General Jackson, his courage in battle and faith in Christ, I am strengthened and encouraged to be a better man.



NNOA 3rd Quarter Church Visit to Agape Fellowship. (Left to Right): Maj Everly, Lt Cauble, Agape Fellowship Pastor, Capt McEachin, Capt Chestnut.

## New Cultural Program cont...

the 13 other instructors give is constantly updated.

Ewing said culture learning affects a Marine’s job and safety, and it is necessary to learn the culture of the region he or she will be operating in because customs differ from town to town.

“Everything you do over there has a consequence, but even a little of the most basic knowledge of the people in Iraq and Afghanistan is important,” Ewing said.

Cultural guidance and the OCSP can be obtained through the CAOCL Web site at [www.tecom.usmc.mil/caocl](http://www.tecom.usmc.mil/caocl).



MCB QUANTICO, Va., May 17 -- The Marine Corps Network Operations and Security Command named its newly constructed headquarters building Code Talkers Hall in a dedication ceremony here May 17.

In attendance were several World War II Navajo Code Talkers, who developed a system of coded communication based on their native language that was never broken by the Japanese.

“It is befitting that a building housing MCNOSC will be named after the Code Talkers,” said Brig. Gen. George J. Allen, director of Command, Control, Communications and Computers and Chief Information Officer of the Marine Corps. Allen praised the Code Talkers for developing a “much faster means of communication” during the World Wars.

It is estimated that more than 3,600 young Navajo men and women joined the armed forces and over 10,000 Navajos went to work in military factories during World War II, according to [www.codetalkers.info](http://www.codetalkers.info).

Code Talker Albert Smith offered a prayer, first in English and then in Navajo, in which he reflected on human progress and the current conflict in the Middle East.

## Base Honors Native American Code Talkers

By: [Sentry Staff](#)

*“It is befitting that a building housing MCNOSC will be named after Code Talkers.”*

“We are slowly changing,” he said. “But we still have some unchanged minds in the world.”

According to Col. Eric Rolaf, MCNOSC commander, naming the new facility after the Code Talkers gives life to the link between what MCNOSC does to guard the digital information the Corps uses now and the way Code Talkers protected communications in the past.

“I think every Marine will see the direct connection as they reflect upon our rich heritage and will understand that the name is truly a recognition of the continuity that exists between our past and the future,” Rolaf said.

“I am very happy to be here,” said Jerry Vanforth, WWII Code Talker. “It has been wonderful to see members from other tribes here together after so many years.”

Several other Native American tribes were also in attendance, reflecting their important contributions to America’s past and present military efforts.

The ceremony closed with the “Marines Hymn” sung in Navajo by several Code Talkers and their families.

## Enlistment of blacks declining

By: Tom Philpott

When Danny Edwards, 26, enlisted in the Army in April 2001, he expected to stay for a career. He changed his mind while serving in Iraq in 2003, a war fought for reasons he said he still doesn't understand.

Edwards, who is black, has since advised black youth in his neighborhood in Savannah, Ga., to avoid the Army and "the hell" of Iraq.

Black youth across the country appear to be heeding similar advice from parents, teachers, ministers, coaches and other black veterans.

Racial data on enlistees, compiled for Military Update by the Defense Manpower Data Center, show that in fiscal 2002, the year before the U.S. invasion of Iraq, the Army had 43,400 blacks among its first-term soldiers, representing 21 percent of the total. By 2006, the number of blacks on their first hitch had fallen to 30,000, down to 14.5 percent.

Over that same period, while the number of black first-term soldiers fell by 13,400, the Army's overall first-term enlisted population rose by 2,700. The number of white soldiers rose to close that gap while the proportion of Hispanics serving first enlistments didn't shift significantly.

The Marine Corps, another ground force under enormous strain from the war, likely has seen a decline in black enlistees proportional to the Army. Marine Corps data, however, is less useful for tracking changes in racial composition because a large number of Marines elect not to indicate race on their records.

DMDC data on the Marine Corps show there were 12,600 blacks serving first-term enlistments in 2002, which represented 11.8 percent of all Marines on their first hitch.

By 2006, the number of first-term black Marines had fallen below 8,000, or to 7.2 percent, a drop of more than a third.

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## QUANTICO CHAPTER PARTNERS WITH THE DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

By: LtCol Dawn Harrison

This year was the inaugural year of the Quantico Chapter's affiliation with the Dollars for Scholars program. We are the first Dollars for Scholars® Chapter in Virginia and are serving as the pilot for NNOA's partnership with Dollars for Scholars®, a part of Scholarship America®. Using the funds raised at this year's scholarship fund raiser banquet and the matching funds we received from Dollars for Scholars®, we were able to award seven \$1000 scholarships to deserving students in the local area after considering 23 applications. The 2007 Quantico Chapter scholarship recipients are listed below.

### CD Hylton High School:

Kyle Huggins

Karelia Daniel

Anita Kisiedu

### Chancellor High School:

Amanda McCormick

Joshua Shea

### Osborn High School:

Kristina Lese

Valery Vislobokov

In addition to awarding scholarships, as a Dollars for Scholars® Chapter, our goal is to have colleges and universities in the Commonwealth of Virginia to become part of Dollars for Scholars® Collegiate Partner Program. Schools that participate in the Collegiate Partner Program have the ability to give match funds to students who are awarded scholarships from Dollars for Scholars chapters. For more information about Dollars for Scholars® and Scholarship America® visit [www.scholarshipamerica.org](http://www.scholarshipamerica.org).



Maj Loney presents the Quantico Chapter NNOA scholarship to Kristina Lese from Osborn High School.



Maj Loney presents the Quantico Chapter NNOA scholarship to Valery Vislobokoy from Osborn High School.

## Quantico Observes National Day of Prayer

By: Cpl. Jennifer Brown



Lt. Gen. James Amos, commander of the Marine Corps Combat Development Command speaks to guests attending the prayer breakfast May 3 at The Clubs At Quantico in observance of the 56th annual National Day of Prayer.

MCB QUANTICO, Va., May 3 -- Marines and base personnel gathered bright and early for breakfast May 3 at The Clubs At Quantico to observe the 56th annual National Day of Prayer.

Members of the Quantico Marine Corps Band entertained the guests with several pieces of music before the event started.

The event opened with an invocation to bless the long buffet of food the attendees immediately lined up to pile onto their plates.

After everyone filled their plates with fruit, pastries, scrambled eggs, sausage links, potatoes, biscuits and gravy, the guests rose as members of Quantico's ceremonial platoon announced the start of the commencement with the presentation of the colors.

The attendees remained standing, many at the position of attention, as Master Sgt. Charissa Howard, administrative chief with Marine Corps Recruiting Command, graced the crowd with the National Anthem.

Navy Capt. Lawrence Greenslit, Ma-

rine Corps Base Quantico's chaplain, greeted the guests with welcoming remarks announcing the attendance of Maj. Gen. Cornell Wilson, director of Reserve Affairs here, retired Maj. Gen. Donald Gardner, director of Marine Corps University, and Lt. Gen. James Amos, commander of the Marine Corps Combat Development Command, before introducing a special performance of "America, the Beautiful" by the Quantico Marine Corps Band.

Retired Lt. Col. Michael Haas then commenced a prayer for the United States and the nation's leaders.

"Unite the nation under your hand," he prayed.

"Protect the men and women serving across the nation and overseas and bless their families," Haas concluded.

Before introducing Amos as the keynote speaker, Lt. Cmdr Abuhena Saifulislam stood at the podium and offered an observance.

"Attendance at a prayer breakfast is the evidence of a strong moral quality," he said. "It's a quality of humility.

Prayer is the act of humility and an acknowledgement that one needs help or strength from God, strength to endure challenging circumstances."

Amos took the floor and humored the attendees with his refusal to conform to a speech that was previously prepared for him.

"After being asked to speak at the prayer breakfast, I thought about it and decided I would tell about something in my life," he said. "I thought about something I had read – 'In a crisis, do others call you?' – and I thought about that."

Amos gave a somber speech about four traumatic times in his life when the Bible was where he turned in times of crisis.

"I don't know if people turn to you in crisis or me in crisis, but the Bible was home plate to me," he said. "It gave me peace and wisdom in all my crises."

After Amos returned to his seat, the commencement concluded with a benediction.

## New Women Marines cont...

When I relate our story, some people say that our monthly reunion of OCS graduates is an anomaly; they hold fast to the belief that Marine women are conclusively the same cast purported on that night long ago, and that our group just happens to miraculously contain all of the "interesting ones".

I see evidence of the contrary. I get invited to another "Ladies' Night" when I check into my new duty station. I have female lieutenant colonels taking me under their wing for a bit of guidance in the hallway before I brief the General. I notice staff sergeants instructing young lance corporals in the locker room how to dress so that they won't attract negative attention. I see women running together, training together, and fighting together. I see guidance, leadership, and love.

I see a sisterhood.

Looking back, I should have always known better: At OCS, I fell back on a hike once. Two women I hadn't met yet fell back with me, quietly urging me on. "Don't quit," they had whispered, so as not to draw attention from the sergeant instructor. "We're not going to leave you." In the end, we all caught

up. Together.

Five years later, surrounded by these same women and other new companions, I reflect on the classifications placed on women Marines. I am happy to say that the fear that was instilled in me of the "Stereotypical Woman Marine" has been put to rest. The sergeant instructor's speech is something that my sisters-in-arms and I reflect upon and laugh about openly now. We are satisfied to say that no female Marine that we proudly serve with fits into those categories.

We are not only surviving in the Marine Corps, but thriving: as women and as leaders. We have brought variation, strength, and flexibility to an organization that continues to be the most competent fighting force in the world. The United States Marine Corps and America are better institutions today because women have served our country honorably.

We will continue the proud tradition.

## Enlistment of blacks cont...

However, the number of first-term Marines who declined to identify their race on Marine Corps forms rose from 819 in fiscal 2000 to 4,600 in 2006.

All services saw declines in the proportion of blacks in their enlisted forces from 2002 through 2006. The overall proportion fell in the Army from 27.5 percent to 22.2 percent; in the Air Force from 18.1 percent to 16.6 percent; in the Marine Corps from 15.2 percent to 10.8 percent; and in the Navy from 21 percent to 18.6 percent.

Army and Marine Corps personnel chiefs, both African-American three-star officers, declined interview requests to discuss the DMDC data.

One officer who finds the data disturbing is retired Brig. Gen. Robert A. Cocroft, head of the National Association for Black Veterans Inc. Cocroft said blacks for decades have viewed the military as a path out of poverty and as a "meritocracy."

A downshift in enlistments "is a telling indication that something is amiss about the military experience" for African-Americans, he said. That difference, he said, appears to be the war in Iraq.

## Quantico Chapter Photo Gallery

### Chapter Farewells and Appreciation



Quantico Chapter Vice President, Maj Everly, presents going away gift to LtCol Clements, Chapter President



Chapter President presents farewell gift to Capt Armour (left).



Chapter President presents farewell gift to Capt Holmes (left).



Chapter President presents farewell gift to Maj Warner (left).

## Quantico Chapter Photo Gallery cont....



Quantico Chapter members during a Wednesday evening General Body Meeting



LtCol Clements and Capt Gill pose for photo with veterans and staff during the Chapter's visit to the Armed Forces Retirement Home



Maj Loney addresses Osbourne High School during their awards program.

# Quantico Chapter Photo Gallery cont....

## Adopt-A-Highway



Mentorship Breakfast at Cracker Barrel following the highway clean-up.



## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### *July Schedule of Events*

- 4—Independence Day
- 08—Quarterly Church Visit
- 11—General Body Meeting  
@1700
- 16-20 NNOA National Conference, Coronado, CA
- 25—Executive Board Meeting

### *July 2007*

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  |
| 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  |
| 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  |
| 29  | 30  |     |     |     |     |     |

### *August Schedule of Events*

- 8—General Body Meeting @1700
- 11—Annual NNOA Picnic
- 29—Executive Board Meeting  
@1700

### *August 2007*

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     |     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   |
| 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  |
| 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  |
| 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  |
| 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |     |

### *September Schedule of Events*

- 3—Labor Day
- 7-9 NASCAR Fundraiser
- 12—General Body Meeting  
@1700
- 26—Exec Board Meeting @1700

### *September 2007*

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |
| 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   |
| 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  |
| 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  |
| 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  |



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## About NNOA

National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) actively supports the Sea Services in the recruitment, retention, and career development of minority officers.

We are an essential element in maintaining operational readiness. We provide professional development and mentoring and support cultural diversity. We establish and maintain a positive image of the Sea Services in communities and educational institutions. National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) is the "Gateway to Success" in the Sea Services. We are innovative thinkers committed to a shared vision of leadership, professional exchange, and networking. We are dedicated to achieving a diversified workforce. We are the premier professional development organization in the Sea Services. Our members are empowered with the skills necessary to achieve their full potential. We are an invaluable partner of the Sea Services in the achievement of their recruitment, retention and readiness goals. We recognize our responsibility to our community as we promote and foster American ideals.

We are an inclusive organization that seeks diversity in our membership. We value all members and are committed to treating everyone with dignity, respecting individual differences, and affirming organizational and personal strengths. We are "TEAM NNOA" composed of active duty, reserve and retired officers and civilians. We achieve our mission and vision through enthusiastic support and dedicated service at the national and local levels. We are an organization of professionals whose accomplishments are attained through teamwork and accountability. We are dedicated to the professional development of our members. We promote an atmosphere conducive to self improvement and forward thinking. We promote honest, effective, and open communications. We communicate and process information using the best resources and technology available. We recognize achievements and maintain our valued reputation.

**General Body meetings are held at 1700 on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Officer's Club.**