

QUANTICO CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



Fall 2005

“Serving the Sea Services and the Community”

<http://www.quantico-nnoa.org/>



NNOA Mission: The National Naval Officers Association actively supports the sea services in the development of a diverse officer corps through recruitment, retention, and career development. NNOA is essential in maintaining operational readiness by providing professional development, mentoring and support of cultural awareness. NNOA establishes and maintains a positive image of the sea services in communities and educational institutions.

Message from the Chapter President: I am honored to be your Chapter President and pledge my personal commitment to the continued success and fine reputation the Quantico Chapter enjoys nationally. NNOA celebrated our 33rd Annual Professional Development & Training Conference. I was encouraged at the number of junior officers in attendance. It was definitely inspirational to listen to the Service Chiefs pledge their continued support to NNOA. Of particular note was the CNO's request for a lifetime membership. Equally inspiring was the key note address delivered by Major General (ret) Charles Bolden at the awards banquet. I departed the conference this past August energized to continue the attack in support of the NNOA mission. We have charted and embarked on an aggressive course for the Chapter to include a professional partnership with the new Montford Point Marine Association, Quantico Chapter. We must never forget the pioneers that laid the foundation from which we spring. I appreciate your continued support as we celebrate the past and press forward to set the stage for future success. *Warmest Regards,*

LtCol Robert Clements, USMC Quantico Chapter President

Commanding General Recruiting Command Becomes Senior Ranking Active Duty African

American Marine Story by Cpl. T. J. Kaemmerer
MARINE CORPS RECRUITING COMMAND, QUANTICO, Va. (Oct. 7, 2005) -- The Commanding General of Marine Corps Recruiting Command, Maj. Gen. Walter E. Gaskin, was frocked to his current rank Oct. 7 during a ceremony held here at Geiger Hall.



The Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Michael W. Hagee, oversaw the frocking and reaffirmed Gaskin's commitment as a leader of Marines.

"His current job is one of the most challenging jobs in the Marine Corps and Walt has done great things here," Hagee said. "I could not be more excited to promote Walt Gaskin to the rank of major general and see him continue to serve and lead in the Marine Corps for years to come."

Along with allowing him to continue leading from the front, Gaskin's promotion makes him the senior ranking active duty African American Marine. However, this isn't the first time his heritage has been an important landmark in life.

Dating back to his teenage years, Gaskin was part of the first integrated class of Savannah High School in Savannah, Ga. Despite the social challenges he faced, Gaskin established himself as a leader early on in life. He excelled academically, played sports and was a member of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. Upon graduation, he decided to enroll in the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Scholarship Program at Savannah State University where he majored in history.

GOT FOOD?

Quantico NNOA is giving food to families on Thanksgiving and Christmas. Donations Membership donations are the exclusive means to support this Adopt-a-Family Program. Money for Thanksgiving donations must be received no later than 16 Nov 2005. In December, we will accept toys, appropriate gifts and financial donations. To support the events, call Major McMillon at 703-784-1169!

~Story Continued on Page 2

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According to Gaskin, he then chose to join the Marine Corps because he sought to challenge himself to be the best, and that was the reputation the Marines had.

"My parents had mixed emotions when I decided to join the Marine Corps," he said. "Vietnam was raging on. There was definitely some apprehension, but at graduation they were extremely proud and they knew if I had to go to war, they wanted it to be with the Marines."

One of the things Gaskin looked forward to when he was commissioned in June of 1974 was the chance to lead Marines.

He still remembers a recruiting advertisement he'd read before joining the Corps, which likened a company of Marines to a Fortune 500 business.

"Own your own company by age 26," he remembered. "It was a play on words for becoming a company commander. I wanted to know if I could measure up, so I joined the very best, the Marine Corps."

Gaskin did 'measure up' and reached his goal, having led Marines in numerous commands since being commissioned.

"I've had some great commands, but the BLT (Battalion Landing Team) has been the most memorable," the 54-year-old leader said. "I had them in combat. We deployed into several hostile areas and I was closest to my Marines there."

Gaskin, while leading the Marines of MCRC, now plays an important role in molding the future of the Marine Corps by "giving the young men and women of America the opportunity to become Marines."

Gaskin explained how honored he is to be a part of the recruiting command, where he can see the transformation of those young men and women. Challenging as his job is, he said he would meet recruiting needs in developing the world's premier fighting force by "making sure recruiters have all the tools needed to deliver the Marine Corps message and continue recruiting the best the nation has to offer."

The Marine Corps successfully accomplished its recruiting goal for fiscal year 2005 by shipping 38,882 applicants to recruit training. In fiscal year 2006 the recruiting command's mission is to ship 38,980 applicants to recruit training.

*~This story was originally published on:
<http://www.marines.mil/marinelink/mcn2000.nsf/lookupstoryref/2005101381850>*

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	LtCol Robert Clements
Vice President	Major David Everly
Treasurer	1stLt Thomas Bellamy
Secretary	CWO5 Cassandra Giddings
Membership	Major Tamia Ashley
Public Affairs	Captain Paula McNair
Historian	Captain Ronella Taylor
Chaplain	Captain Michael Williams
Webmaster	Captain Robert Guice

SPOTLIGHT ON A TRAILBLAZER: Another "First" by Colonel Bailey

~by Captain Paula D. McNair

This fall, Colonel Ronald L. Bailey took the helm as the Director of the Expeditionary Warfare School. In doing so, he is the first African-American to direct the Marine Corps' Company Grade Career Level School. When asked about his perspective as the new director of EWS, he responded, "I am influencing a couple of generations in the Marine Corps, in other services in the United States and internationally. We have had several general officers who attended the school. Ultimately, we are refining Captains because it is at the Company level that execution of the mission is most critical."

This is not his first time leading the way among African-American Marine Officers. Colonel Bailey is believed to be the first and only African-American to command an infantry regiment in combat. From 2002 to 2004, Colonel Bailey commanded the 2d Marine Regiment. However, his history as a war-fighter started long before Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In 1977, after graduating from Austin Peay State University with a bachelor's degree in Biology, Colonel Bailey was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. He went on to attend the Infantry Officers Course and the Basic Communication Officers Course.

Colonel Bailey's command assignments have included: Rifle Platoon Commander and 81mm Mortar Platoon Commander with 2d Battalion, 4th Marines; Series Commander and Company Commander at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island; Commanding Officer of Company C and Weapons Company Commander with 1st Battalion, 6th Marines; Guard Company Commander for Security Forces Company in King's Bay, Georgia; Parade Commander at Marine Barracks, Washington; Executive Officer and Commanding Officer of 2d Light Armored Infantry Battalion (2d LAR).

Colonel Bailey's additional assignments include serving as: Department Chief, Professional Military Education at Marine Barracks, Washington; ground Lieutenant Colonels Monitor; Deputy for the Joint Contact Team Program and Plans Officer, J-5, Headquarters U.S. European Command, Stuttgart, Germany; and the CMC National Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

"...it is at the Company level that execution of the mission is most critical."

During his career, Colonel Bailey has earned a Master's Degree in Business Management and Administration from Webster University, graduated from Amphibious Warfare School and graduated from the Army's Command and General Staff College. In 1998, Colonel Bailey earned his second Master's Degree in National Security Strategy from the National War College.

Colonel Bailey's awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with combat "V," Meritorious Service with 2 gold stars, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star, the Navy, Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Although extremely experienced and highly decorated, Colonel Bailey's philosophy on leadership is simple, "Leadership is all about the influence you have and the relationships you establish that set the tone. I set the standard very high."

Quantico NNOA participates in the Marine Corps Marathon

~by Major Tamia Ashley

On Oct 30th, 30,000 runners were scheduled to run the Marine Corps Marathon in the National Capital Region. This marked the 30th



Major McMillon

Major Ashley

Capt McNair & LT Simpson

anniversary of the event during the 230th birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps. Of the many runners, several members of the Quantico Chapter of the National Naval Officers Association completed the 26.2 mile run. Participating members from the Quantico Chapter included Major Chester McMillon, Major Tamia Ashley, Captain Paula McNair, and LT Angela Simpson (Navy). These outstanding finishers were each awarded a finisher's medal upon completion of the marathon.

The Marine Corps Marathon enjoys the affectionate title "The People's Marathon" - for the Marines, Sailors, volunteers, staff and spectators know how to cater to first-time marathoners as well as the veterans of the road. Congratulations to all Marine Corps Marathon runners! Great job!

To accept the challenge of the 2006 Marine Corps Marathon, visit the website at:

<http://www.marinemarathon.com/>

What Can The NNOA Do For Me?

~An Editorial by Major Chester McMillon

The question above is probably the most popular response I get when approaching other officers about joining National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) or attending a chapter meeting. The NNOA was created in 1972 and is committed to the recruitment, professional development, and retention of a diverse officer corps while fostering a positive image of the services throughout communities. The Quantico Chapter, like most active chapters, allows for the professional development of all officers. This is accomplished through Professional Military Education, active mentoring, and numerous exciting opportunities to fellowship with officers of the seagoing services. The NNOA also serves the local community through various services and functions as youth mentoring and tutoring programs, scholarships, church visits, and adopt-a-highway events.

The selfless spirit of the NNOA is summarized a statement made by Major General Clifford L. Stanley, USMC (Ret.) while participating in the Flag and General Officer's Panel at the 1997 National Conference in Annapolis. A Navy Captain stood up and asked the panel why so many Flag and General officers remained on active duty, thereby slowing promotions for junior officers deserving of that rank. Major General Stanley simply stood up and rightfully turned the question back to the Captain. He told the Captain to ask himself the same question and then reminded the attendees that as we succeed as officers, we must always be committed to those behind us reaching success also. We all should share this perspective. While we must continue to do the things that keep us competitive for promotion, we cannot let it blind us to those that have helped us along the way or to those we must help along the way.

It was my saving grace as a Second Lieutenant that senior officers, including other

Lieutenants, took me under their wings, provided sound mentorship, and showed a genuine concern for increasing my understanding of military life. They also provided me with local contacts and invaluable information about upcoming duty stations and work assignments. Today, I still seek out counsel and receive advice concerning leadership strategies and career progression within my Military Occupational Specialty from valued peers and mentors I have met through my years of service and my affiliation with the NNOA. The majority of these individuals were members of NNOA. Without a doubt, they have all been positively influenced, motivated, and mentored at some point in their careers by others who have served in the NNOA. Therefore, we should have no difficulty in realizing that, as officers, we have been touched for the better by the NNOA, directly or indirectly, in our careers as military professionals.

We must look at ourselves to answer the question, "What can NNOA do for me?" Most of us know President's Kennedy's famous quote, "...ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." Whether we realize it or not, NNOA has done things for us since the day we pinned on our gold bars. As you consider your role in the NNOA, consider the following: What have we, as individuals, done for the local communities that support, love, and pray for us in times of war and in peace? What have we done for others that have served before us and paved a way for us in the sea services? What have we done to ensure we continue to develop as professionals in the sea services? What have we done to serve those future officers who will come after us? What have we done to help support NNOA?

The NNOA provides us a professional organization that allows us to answer these questions through action. Please contact the local chapter membership director or visit the chapter website (www.quantico-nnoa.org) for information.



Quantico Chapter supports the 2005 NNOA National Conference along with Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Hagee, CG, MCRC MajGen Gaskin and MajGen (Ret.) Bolden.



**New Montford Point Marines
Association Chapter
Chartered At Quantico!**

~by CWO3 James Averhart

Montford Point Marine Association Inc.
Quantico Chapter 15, a newly established
chapter aboard MCB Quantico, VA.

General body meetings are held the first Thursday of the month in the Marsh Center Conference room 254-256 at 18:30.

The Montford Point Marine Association is a nonprofit Veteran's organization, established to perpetuate the legacy of the first African Americans who entered the United States Marine Corps from 1942 to 1949, at Montford Point Camp, New River, North Carolina.

The purpose of the Association is to support educational assistance programs, veterans programs, and promotion of community services. The Association works to improve the social conditions of our veterans, local families, youth and the growing population of senior citizens.

Membership in the Association is open to veterans and active members of all branches of the U. S. Armed Forces regardless of race, creed, or national origin, however the following two criteria's must be met.

- Honorably served in the Armed forces of the United States at least 90 days on active duty.
- Received an honorable discharge upon separation.

There are two types of membership, a life member or an annual member. Lifetime membership fees are based on age. Local membership dues are \$20.00. For more information, contact the Chapters' President CWO3 James Averhart at 540-446-3377 or averhartjt@hqmc.usmc.mil.

2005/2006 CALENDAR

November

- 2nd Executive Board Meeting
- 10th **U.S. Marine Corps Birthday**
- 16th General Body Meeting
- 19th Adopt-A-Highway

December

- 7th Executive Board Meeting
- 14th General Body Meeting
- TBD Church Visit
- TBD Holiday Social

January 2006

- 4th Executive Board Meeting
- 11th General Body Meeting

February

- 1st Executive Board Meeting
- 8th General Body Meeting
- TBD Adopt-A-Highway

March

- 1st Executive Board Meeting
- 8th General Body Meeting
- TBD Church Visit

April

- 5th Executive Board Meeting
- 12th General Body Meeting

May

- 3rd Executive Board Meeting
- 10th General Body Meeting
- TBD Adopt-A-Highway
- TBD Scholarship/Sponsor Banquet

June

- 7th Executive Board Meeting
- 14th General Body Meeting

July

- 5th Executive Board Meeting
- 12th General Body Meeting

August

- 2nd Executive Board Meeting
- 4th **U.S. Coast Guard Birthday**
- 9th General Body Meeting
- 34th Annual National NNOA Conference**

Quantico Chapter meetings are generally held monthly on the second Wednesday in the Marsh Center, Conference Room 252 at 1600.

For more information on our chapter visit our website

www.quantico-nnoa.org

LtCol Clements (President) 703-784-2385
Maj Ashley (Membership) 703-784-9387
Capt McNair (Public Affairs) 703-784-4146

For more information on the National Chapter of the National Naval Officers Association, please visit

www.nnoa.org.

NNOA has been missing YOU! And YOU have been missing out!



In August, the Quantico NNOA Chapter served through our Quarterly Adopt-A-Highway event. We collected a chapter record of **50 bags!!!** Don't miss the next opportunity to support our community at the **19 November** 2005 Adopt-A-Highway. We meet at 0800 in the commuter parking lot outside of the main (North) gate!



Captain Williams, Captain Johnson, Major McMillon, Major Ashley, LT Simpson (USN), Major McNair (USA) and Captain McNair (right to left).



Captain McNair and Major Ashley meet and greet future Judge Advocates - Lieutenants Herrmann, Doell, Kannady and Braden (left to right) at the TBS Echo Company MOS Mixer.



Major McMillon offers career "SuppO" advice to 2ndLt Davis at the TBS Echo Company MOS Mixer.



QUANTICO CHAPTER VISION

The Quantico Chapter of the National Naval Officers' Association (NNOA) is the premier organization of its kind within the Department of Defense. An ethnically diverse organization, the NNOA is comprised of professionals; active, reserve, and retired officers and civilians affiliated with the Sea Service.

We are dedicated to the realization of the recruitment and retention goals of our Service Chiefs by providing information, education and understanding of minority issues. Located at the crossroads of the Marine Corps, the Quantico Chapter's leadership capitalizes on the latest technology and resources to lead the effort in achieving these goals.

Through our deeds and actions, we foster a positive image of faithful service and citizenship throughout Quantico and the community.

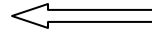
We transcend diverse backgrounds and provide mentorship for all members, producing the best and brightest service members.

We are an invaluable organization of dynamic leaders and innovative thinkers committed to a shared vision. This vision empowers all members with skills necessary to achieve their full potential. We are dedicated to the service of our country, the Naval service, our Core Values, and NNOA.

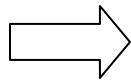




Colonel Bailey (see "Spotlight" on page 2) provides good counsel to 2ndLts at the Echo Company MOS Mixer.



On 10 September 2005, the Quantico chapter kicked off the Fall season with a barbeque at Lunga Park; Captain Nandram, Captain McNair, LT Simpson and Major Ashley have big smiles after enjoying the delicious food prepared by Captain Michael Williams!



1stLt Ferdinand, Captain McNair and Captain Martin celebrate the Marine Corps Birthday at the Marine Corps Recruiting Command Ball.

