

Quantico Chapter Newsletter



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Upcoming Events

- 15 Dec—Christmas Social
- 09 Jan—General Body meeting @1700
- 09 Jan—Scholarship Banquet ticket sales begin
- 11 Jan—Adopt a School
- 19 Jan—James Farmer Event
- 23 Feb—Montford Point Black History Month Banquet
- 09 Mar—Quarterly church visit

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Message from the President...

Season's Greetings to Quantico Chapter Members, Friends and Family,

Since the fall newsletter the Quantico NNOA family has been extremely busy in the military and local community. I am impressed and inspired by the dedication demonstrated during the last quarter by the chapter's membership. Majors Williams, Loney, Taylor and Walls continue to forge a phenomenally meaningful relationship with the James Farmer Scholars Program at the University of Mary Washington. Bravo Zulu to CWO4 Hawthorne, Capt McEachin and the members, friends and family who planned and participated in the Richmond NASCAR Clean-up Fundraiser; all those in attendance would agree that we truly “earned” every single dollar we collected for our efforts. The NASCAR event catapulted the chapter toward reaching two-thirds of its scholarship fund goal of 10k. CWO4 Hawthorne's fundraising committee also furthered our scholarship efforts by selling donated items at a flea market hosted by Blacks in Government.

This quarter marked the kick-off of our Adopt-A-School Program with Mary Williams Elementary School in Dumfries, VA. CAPT Lindo and other volunteers are truly making a difference at the school. In early October, several members of the chapter supported the

Annual Gathering hosted by the DC Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. The event was truly historical. Our Chapter Vice-president, LtCol Johnson, captured the event's significance with an article, later in this newsletter. Don't miss it.

As we enter the holiday season our Chaplain, LTC Elmore, has arranged for the chapter to sponsor a family for Christmas via the MCCA Adopt-A-Family Program. I'm certain the chapter's usual generosity will be overwhelming. Additionally, the chapter conducted its quarterly church visit at Mount Olive Baptist Church in South Riding, VA; it was our largest turn-out in over a year.

I look forward to seeing all of you at my home for the Chapter Holiday Social. In closing, as you reflect on the “reason for the season” amidst the myriad of holiday sales, college football games and gift exchanges, please pause a moment to remember those service members and their families who are separated this season allowing us to enjoy time with loved ones.

Semper Fidelis,

Maj David R. Everly
President
Quantico Chapter, NNOA

Quantico Chapter Visits Richmond Raceway for a Fundraiser Event

By: Tessa Kerns



Caution Flag pause during the Busch Series Race at the Richmond Raceway—Friday, 07 Sept 2007

One day I got a phone call from my friend NaTasha (also known as Captain McEachin) asking if I would volunteer some time to help her with a fundraising event that she had planned through an organization that she works with. Naturally my first question to her was what I would be doing during this time. "Either you can help or you can't, can I count on you?"

While a reasonable person may have found that exchange slightly suspicious, I did have to take into consideration that this was Natasha, one of the most motivating people that I know and someone that has definitely helped me on more than one occasion. As an editorial note, from a non-Marine to any other non-Marine that might be reading this, let me give you some advice: if you work out with a Marine, which I'd definitely recommend because they will demand all that you can give and then some, know that you won't beat them at anything. Chances are good that you'll never be able to match what they're able to do. Don't try. Just watch, learn, and try to keep up. I told Natasha that I'd be happy to help.

A couple days later she lets me know that we're pick-



ing up trash. Okay.

A couple days after that she tells me it's in Richmond and that the bus leaves at 0600. Okay.

The day of the event I find out that it's two sections of Richmond Raceway. Hmm.

So, on Sunday morning everyone gathered at the Quantico base and got on the bus to make our way down to Richmond. Once we got there, we went straight to work. It was two trips per aisle, picking up large trash (the amount of beer left behind at a NASCAR event is truly just a crying shame) and then sweeping out peanut shells and whatnot. Four hours later, we were finished. It could have been a little longer than four hours, I might be repressing the memory of an empty Pepsi can or fifty. We stopped at McDonald's for lunch on the way back and after all that work, nothing has EVER tasted so good.

It turns out this was a two-day event and the Sunday crew certainly had it better than the Friday crew - on the first day of the event the bus left Quantico at 2000 and that clean-up crew finished nine hours later... They couldn't get started until the race ended at 2300 and they cleaned a portion of the stadium as well as every parking lot.

My overall experience was great. Everyone that came worked very hard to get the job done and helped each other out whenever they were able. The time actually passed very quickly with everyone's jokes and good humor. And best of all, across two days we were collectively able to get almost half-way (\$4,200) to the Quantico Chapter's scholarship fund goal of \$10,000. I really don't know how the 10 or so Marines that volunteered both days did it! Maybe next time we could start a little later than o'dark hundred on Sunday Morning?



TF-National Capital Region Deploys By: Sgt Jennifer Brown

MCB QUANTICO, Va., Nov. 2 – Task Force National Capital Region deployed last week to Iraq for seven months. Made up of more than 200 Marines from various commands in the Washington, D.C. area, the task force will conduct security operations while overseas. The unit was formed in June and was assembled to give Marines a chance to deploy from nondeployable duty stations such as Quantico Marine Corps Base, said Lt. Col. Robert Clement, the commanding officer. “That falls in line with the commandant’s directive to give every Marine the opportunity to fight,” he said. “The Marines jumped on it.”

The majority of the Marines who make up the task force volunteered for the duty.



Marines from the Task Force National Capital Region train to enter and clear a room from which an insurgent fired and RPG.

Iraq-bound leathernecks from MCB Quantico and throughout the National Capital Region listen intently as Lt. Gen. James Amos, commanding general of the Marine Combat Development Command, imparts words of encouragement and wisdom during their sendoff Nov. 2 at Quantico's Barber Physical Activity Center.



New book shows legacy of first black Marines By Lance Cpl. Thomas J. Hermesman, MCB Camp Lejeune

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP JOHNSON, N.C. (Nov. 20, 2007) – Although the history of the Montford Point Marines is not very well known, these Marines played a significant role in shaping the Marine Corps of today, said Ronald K. Culp, author of the new book *The First Black Marines*.

“Before I began researching the history of Montford Point, I realized that everyone knew about the Tuskegee Airmen and the Buffalo Soldiers, but no one really knew about the Montford Marines,” said Culp.

Culp has spent more than four years researching the Montford Point Marines, who were the first black men to enlist into a then segregated Marine Corps.

This is only the tip of the iceberg regarding their story, said Culp.

The book covers the history, life and legacy of the Marines who went through the training at Montford Point from 1942-1946. Training at Montford point began on June 25, 1941, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802 establishing the

fair employment practice that began to erase discrimination in the armed forces.

Following its implementation in 1942, Montford Point opened its doors to the Marine Corps’s first black recruits at what is now Camp Johnson, a satellite facility of Camp Lejeune.

Even though the executive order allowed blacks to serve, America was still racially segregated. This separated the black recruits from training with everyone else.

More than 20,000 Marines graduated from Montford Point. Training continued there until July, 1948 when President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order 9981 ending segregation in the armed forces. September 1949, Montford Point was deactivated. According to the Montford Point Marine Association Web site located at www.montfordpointmarines.com <file://www.montfordpointmarines.com> .

Although the camp is a large piece of history, the Marines who passed through are what captures the story, he said.

“I enjoyed meeting these men

and hearing their stories,” Culp said. “I wanted to get their story out so everyone could know who they were.”

Culp presented the book to Maj. Gen. Robert C. Dickerson, Marine Corps Installation East commanding general and Finney Greggs, the director of the Montford Point Marines Museum on Camp Johnson.

“I believe that history is an intricate part of our lives, and I believe that those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it,” said Greggs. “This book will let everyone know about the amazing things these men did and the things they’ve endured. These men fought for the right to fight, and without them I might not have been able to wear the Eagle, Globe and Anchor.”

For more information contact the museum at 910-450-1340. The Montford Point Marines Museum is housed in the east wing of building M101 on Camp Johnson. Museum hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

“Member in the Spotlight”

Major Nadrian McGill



Major Nadrian McGill enlisted in the Marine Corps during the summer of 1993 before her senior year at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), where she attended on a track and field scholarship. PFC McGill graduated boot camp as a Molly Marine award recipient and later received her BS in Recording Industry and Management. LCpl McGill was commissioned a second lieutenant in January 1995 via the Platoon Leaders Course.

After TBS, she was ordered to MCAS EL Toro, CA which afforded her the opportunity to continue strengthening her faith through her love of singing and to exercise her knowledge of the music industry. Major McGill has always remained close to her faith and was given the opportunities to record and perform with gospel recording artists Brent Jones and TP Mobb from 1998-2001, and Gregory Jones and Ministry in 2004. She has to her credit a platinum award from the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for the WOW Gospel 2000 CD, that includes the song *Goodtime* in which she was a part of the recording with TP Mobb. She remained very active in her church performing arts ministries to include playwriting and sound recording. Throughout her career Major McGill has shared her love of singing in many venues in and out of uniform. She can recall being “ordered” to sing to her fellow platoon mates in boot camp and OCS. However, of all the places she has performed, she feels more at home in church.

Major McGill was recalled and deployed under the Presidential recall for Operation Enduring Freedom from 2001-2003. After completion of her recall orders she decided to return to active duty via the Active Reserve (AR). She recommitted to the NNOA after being away from the organization for awhile when she reported to Quantico in July of this year for her second tour in the AR program. She enjoys attending the quarterly church visits, participating on the scholarship fundraising committee, and the overall camaraderie of her peers and fellow naval officers.

Major McGill is currently working on her Masters of Art in Religion degree at Liberty University and is enrolled in the Marine Corps Command and Staff College seminar program.

MEMBERSHIP LOUNGE

By: Capt Melissa Chestnut

I would like to take this opportunity to wish my fellow NNOA members, your family, and our friends a very Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanza, Happy Hanukah, Happy Ramadan, Happy Holidays, whichever you prefer, and a glorious New Year. This time of year can be difficult if our loved ones are not here to celebrate the Holidays with us. We still have many members that will not be able to celebrate with their families due to the current operational tempo. So, I ask that when you are at home with your family please keep our deployed members in your hearts and minds.

Deployed Members:

LtCol Robert Clements, USMC
 Capt Melissa Ayers, USMC
 Capt Travis Reeves, USMC
 Capt Robert Chapell, USMC
 CWO2 Keith Washington, USMC

Newest Members:

Captain Jacklynn Borrego

Happy Holidays!

Marine Black Recruits Up 40 Percent By: Tom Philpott

The proportion of Marine Corps recruits who are African American jumped by 40 percent over the last 12 months, halting a seven-year slide that has worried service leaders.

In fiscal 2007, which ended Sept. 30, blacks were 10.9 percent of Marine recruits, up from 7.8 percent in 2006, the smallest proportion of black recruits for the Corps since the all-volunteer force began 33 years ago.

The increase is timely given a Marine Corps plan to expand its active force by 27,000 over the next five years in response to protracted wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and other worldwide commitments.

All active services met numerical recruiting goals for fiscal 2007. Only the Army missed a key quality benchmark. Twenty-one percent of its recruits in fiscal 2007 did not graduate from high school. The goal is that no service signs more than 10 percent non-graduates.

“If the Marine Corps wants to ensure that its senior enlisted ranks 20 years from now reflect America’s diversity, it must publicize the lifestyle...”

Douglas Smith, spokesman for Army Recruiting Command, said the proportion of blacks among Army recruits in fiscal 2007 held steady at about 15 percent. The Marine Corps, however, relied on a rebound in black recruiting, along with continued growth in Hispanics accessions, to meet a recruiting target that was raised by 2700, to 40,890, for fiscal 2007.

When numbers of recruits are compared, the increase in black recruits was 49 percent – a total of 4440 in '07 compared with 2980 in fiscal '06, said Maj. Wes Hayes, spokesman for Marine Corps Recruiting Command. He credited an expansion of the recruiting force in 2007 and a more effective marketing and advertising campaign.

Surveys show that parents, teachers, clergy and other “influencers” of black youth are advising against enlistment in the military, particularly U.S. ground forces. Part of the reason is wartime danger. But black communities also deeply opposed President Bush’s decision to invade Iraq.

The jump in black recruits over the last 12 months came to light as Corps leaders weigh a recommendation from the Center for Naval Analyses (CNA) to launch a public relations cam-

paign in black communities armed with the findings of new CNA report, “Black and Hispanic Marines: Their Accession, Representation, Success and Retention in the Corps.”

Through the 1980s, it says, blacks were about 18 percent of Marine recruits. That average fell after the first Persian Gulf War and stayed at between 12 to 14 percent through the 1990s. Black accessions then dropped steadily for the Corps from 1999 through 2006.

What CNA found is that blacks who do join the Marines go on to reenlist at “significantly higher rates” than Marines from other racial or ethnic backgrounds, a strong sign of job satisfaction. In fiscal 2006, first-term reenlistment rates were 40.4 percent for blacks, 27.6 for Hispanics and 23.8 percent for whites. Similar patterns held for second and third-term reenlistments across racial groups, though at higher percentages.

Blacks are less likely to serve in combat specialties, like rifleman, preferring to enter support occupational fields such as supply and personnel administration. But they also are more likely to stay for full careers. Blacks were 20 percent of Marine recruits more than two decades ago. That same generation of blacks is now 32 percent of Marine E-9s, its sergeant majors and master gunnery sergeants, CNA says.

The report describes quality of life for black men in the civilian sector as “uneven” while many blacks in the Corps thrive professionally.

“Although many black men succeed” in civilian life, CNA says, “extremely low marriage rates and relatively high unemployment rates characterize the civilian experience for some. In contrast, black male enlisted Marines have steady jobs and are just as likely to be married as their white counterparts.”

Black influencers need to know these facts, CNA says.

“If the Marine Corps wants to ensure that its senior enlisted ranks 20 years from now reflect Americans’ diversity, it must publicize the lifestyle, job satisfaction and financial well-being that black youth can achieve through careers in the Corps,” the report advises.

In an interview, Dr. Aline Quester, CNA’s top analyst on Marine

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Marine Black Recruits Up 40 Percent cont..

Corps manpower issues and co-author of the report, said getting the information out is important if service strength is to grow, as planned, by 4000 to 5000 a year. Also, continuing a steady decline in black accession would undermine the Corps' goal for a force that mirrors the racial mix of the country.

Gary Lee, who retired as sergeant major of the Marine Corps in 1999, also worked on the CNA report. He said it is "common knowledge" that black parents have "soured on the war" and are "more apt to implore their sons and daughters not to join."

Changing minds will take time, he said, but the CNA analysis should help to better inform communities about the rewards of Marine Corps service.

Black parents opposed to the war, Quester added, should know "that the marriage rate by age is the same basically for everybody in the Marine Corps. It doesn't matter if you're black, white or Hispanic." That reflects the facts, she said, "that these people have found careers, that they're compensated no hugely but certainly fairly, that there's a good retirement system, that there's health care for their children and support for families."

Chaplain's Corner

OH GIVE THANKS! LTC Hugh Elmore, USA

JOHN 3:16

"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON..."

As we enter into this Advent ("holiday") season, let us not forget the REAL reason for the season. Advent asks that we not only look back, but also look forward in hope. We look back to reflect on the goodness of God and look forward with a heart of expectancy. As we look back, all we can say is Wow look what GOD has done. Believe it or not, the same statement is true when we look forward. It is in looking forward that we are humbled at the promise of the Christ child. However, it doesn't stop there; the promise begins at the cradle but continues to the cross. It is knowing that the cross is our reality that reveals the mystery of the love that God has for us.

Now you are saying "Christmas" or the "holiday" season isn't about the death but the birth of Jesus. But not so fast: if it wasn't for the cradle, there would be no cross. And without a cross, there is no Salvation. So we need to give THANKS to GOD for the perfect gift, which is love. This love manifested itself through

the sacrificing of His only Son. It was Jesus' blood that bought our access to eternal life. If we truly believe in Him "we will not perish, but have everlasting life."

None of us truly deserves this gift, but GOD loved us so much that he has freely given it to us. All that He asks is that we share this gift of LOVE with others and live a life that is pleasing to Him. The Apostle Paul states it best, " I HAVE BEEN CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST; IT IS NO LONGER I WHO LIVE, BUT CHRIST LIVES IN ME; AND THE LIFE THAT I NOW LIVE IN THE FLESH I LIVE BY FAITH IN THE SON OF GOD, WHO LOVED ME AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME." Galatians 2:20 NKJV

So while you are out shopping or looking to find that "perfect gift"; remember John 3:16. Christ, the love of God, is already there for you. Jesus is standing there with HIS arms wide-open saying come unto me for a gift that never grows old.

My family and I would like to take this time to wish you and your family a Blessed Holiday Season. Remember to always give THANKS to God for his gift that lasts 365 ¼ days a year. It never goes out of style or season.

Yours in Christ,

Rev H. L. Elmore, Jr



Several chapter members and their families come together to worship with the congregation of Mount Olive Baptist Church during the chapter's quarterly church visit on December 3, 2007.

THE FALL GATHERING 2007

By: LtCol Patricia Johnson



From left to right: MajGen Gaskin, GEN Ward, and LtGen Coleman pose for a picture during this year's Fall Gathering.

The Fall Gathering is an event like no other. For the dozen or so junior officers who are lucky enough to be allowed to attend, it is an evening of work, meeting and greeting, and awe. For the general and flag officers who decide to attend, it is an evening of camaraderie, renewing friendships, and looking at the past, present, and future of the U.S. military general and flag officer corps with respect and admiration.

This year's theme was "Sharing Success for Future Generations."

It takes place in the Washington D.C. area annually on the first Sunday of October. It all started in 1991 at the yearly meeting of the Association of the United States Army. That particular fall, Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm had recently ended. It was on a Wednesday that 15 to 20 black general officers gathered at a small Italian restaurant on Connecticut Avenue.

That evening there was no formal speech, as it is now, but only a few

guided, spirited discussions. It was a very informal event, and everyone who was present was glad to be. Out of that meeting came the determination for the group to meet annually with the purposes of recognizing new general officers and beginning the mentoring process. A senior general officer became the host for each subsequent gathering.

In 1997, the host for the evening invited an Air Force general and a Navy admiral to join the group. The Fall Gathering then became a joint annual affair of minority flag and general officers – active, reserve and retired – and their spouses. In 2006, men and women of the Senior Executive Service were added to the list. The prestigious event has grown to an attendance of more than 100 general and flag officers, and SES'ers, plus their spouses.

For the three selected junior officer escorts from each service – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard – who work to ensure the evening comes off without a glitch, they meet and greet general and flag officers from their respective service and don them with the infamous Fall Gathering lapel pin. Never before or again will they be in the presence of history such as this.

This year's Marine Corps escorts were Lt. Col Patricia Johnson, Maj. Gerald Thomas, and Maj. David Everly – all mem-

bers of the National Naval Officers' Association. Not only did they get to meet and greet Marine Corps general officers, they were able to meet and work with peers from the sister services as well as meet and greet general and flag officers from the other services that they may have been only able to read about in the past. Everly, president of the Quantico Chapter of NNOA, had this to say about the Fall Gathering: "To say this event is historical would be an understatement. I am astonished by this inspirational assembly of true trail-blazers."

"I may never have reached that landmark in my life had it not been for Admiral Gravely leading the way..."

For the general and flag officers in attendance, they were able to spend at least a few hours with old mentors and new mentees, whom they do not often get to see in one place because of duty and assignments with various commands around the world, and because of those who have gone on to do great things out of the military eye now that they are retired. They praised and admired each other for the great things they have done.

This year's Marine Corps general officers present were Lt. Gen. and Mrs. Ronald Coleman, Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Walter Gaskin, Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Arnold Fields (ret.), Maj. Gen. Leo Williams (ret.), Brig. Gen. Ronald Bailey, and Brig. Gen. and Mrs. Johnny Thomas (ret.). Gaskin was recognized as the senior Marine general in Iraq. Although this was the second year that Bailey attended, he was recognized this year as a current Capstone

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THE FALL GATHERING 2007 cont...

student along with a fellow Capstone classmate, Rear Adm. Manson Brown, past national president of NNOA, who was also in attendance.

Bailey had this to say about the event, "The Fall Gathering is an awesome event and time for general officers across all branches of the military to meet annually. The occasion allows each participant the opportunity to make and renew friendships and talk with mentors of the past and present. Additionally, newly selected general officers from all the services are introduced, acknowledged and welcomed to the general officer rank. The experience is a unique and rare opportunity."

Vice Adm. Adam Robinson Jr., NNOA member and current Surgeon General, Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery for the U.S. Navy, was the guest speaker. He delivered a profound message entitled "Standing on the Shoulder of Giants." Robinson stated, "I may never have reached that landmark in my life had it not been for Admiral Gravely leading the way and showing us that we could turn obstacles into opportunities."

Gravely was the first in a line of firsts. He was the first black four-star admiral in

the U.S. Navy. "He was a man of exceptional integrity. He stood tall during turbulent times. He cared deeply for those in his charge, his Navy and his country," Robinson said of Gravely. "He is the shoulders on which all officers stand, upon which the Navy stands."

Robinson, who is the first Black surgeon general, also spoke of the Navy's health care and service to its customers. He also stated, "Another ceiling has been removed."

One of the best parts of the evening was the photograph of the general and flag officers who were promoted to such in a particular year group. The first group to be photographed was from the decade of the 1970s. This is the smallest group. The next larger group was that of the '80s. The photograph that brought smiles to the faces of many was the photograph of the largest group yet, that of the 2000s. There were so many general and flag officers that the group had to be



From left to right: MajGen and Mrs. Fields (Ret), and BGen Bailey smile for the camera at the 2007 Fall Gathering.

divided for the photographer to get the shot.

There are not many words that can express how it feels for one and all to be in the presence of such history, history makers, and role models. Living legends is one term that comes to mind though.

New \$3K Spouse Education Benefit

Week of November 19, 2007

The Departments of Defense and Labor have announced new program to help military spouses take their careers on the road with Career Advancement Accounts. The Military Spouse Career Advancement Initiative provides assistance to military spouses seeking to gain the skills and credentials necessary to begin or advance their career. Career Advancement Accounts (CAA) cover the costs of training and education, enabling participants to earn a degree or credential in portable in-demand career fields in almost any community across the country. [Read the full article](#) at Military.com.

To find more resources for military spouses, visit <http://spouse.military.com/>.

A Letter of Thanks

Dear National Naval Officers Association,

Thank you so much for awarding me the \$1,000 scholarship from the Dollars for Scholars program. It will be a great help towards my tuition. I greatly appreciate your program for assisting me in reaching my dreams of receiving a higher education.

Kristina Lese



Maj Loney presents a NNOA, Quantico Chapter 2007 scholarship to Kristina Lese from Osbourn High School.

Women Marines Association Spreads the Word About the Organization

By: LCpl Justin P. Lago, MCB Quantico



Paula Sarlls, president of WMA, speaks during the organizations social held at Lunga Park's Oak Pavilion Oct. 3.

MCB QUANTICO, Va., Oct 3 -- The Women Marines Association hosted an exclusive social event for local women Marines at Lunga Park's Oak Pavilion Oct. 3 as part of this year's annual Modern Day Marine Military Exposition.



Members of the Quantico Chapter WMA listen as Paula Sarlls, president of the National WMA, raffles off prizes.

This first-time event was coordinated to expand the membership of WMA and build camaraderie between the women of the "Old Corps" and the present-day female Marines, according to Paula Sarlls, president of WMA, who came here with other key members from Denver, Colo.

"We wanted to increase the awareness of our organization," Sarlls said. "We're getting older and we won't always be around to keep WMA running. We're looking for younger Marines to get involved in WMA managed positions."

WMA was established in 1960 and has 82 chapters located throughout the world and currently has 3,500 members.

More than 20 active, former and retired Marines attended the event to include retired Lt. Gen. Carol Mutter, who was the first woman Marine major general and a pioneer for today's women in the Marine Corps, according to Nancy Wilt, WMA's historian.

"We were the stepping stones of what you are accomplishing," she told the attendees. "We may have helped, but you have made the contribution."

The participants enjoyed wine and light refreshments as they interacted with each other and learned about WMA's history from Wilt and Sarll.

Door prizes and raffles were a highlight of the event, in which several books and mementos were given to participants.

One participant, 1st Lt. Geraldine Carey said she was happy to be able to interact with other female Marines to talk about challenges and rewards.

"I think (Women Marines) as a whole needs to disseminate information, especially to junior female Marines. More women Marines need to be more aware and to be involved," Carey said. "This was great because it was so nice to meet other female Marines who you don't feel their rank scares you."

For more information or to become a member visit WMA's Web site at www.womenmarines.org



LtGen Carol Mutter (ret.) and LtCol Dawn Harrison pose for a picture the end of the WMA social.

Commander in Chief addresses TBS officers about Iraq issues, “return on success”

By: Sgt Daniel M. Bacon, MCB Quantico



President Bush moves through the chow line in O'Bannon Hall with newly commissioned Marine officers during his visit to MCB Quantico on Sep. 14, 2007. Shown to President Bush's right is 2ndLt Steven Richardson.



President Bush returns the guards' salute as he prepares to board Marine One for his return flight to the White House following lunch with new Marine officers at MCB Quantico. Marine One is part of the HMX-1 squadron based aboard MCB Quantico.

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va.

(Sep. 14, 2007) – The day after he addressed the nation about the withdrawal of troops from Iraq, President George W. Bush ate with and talked to Marines at The Basic School at Marine Corps Base Quantico, to explain their role in bringing troops home and his acceptance of the Petraeus Plan.

The commander in chief also expressed his appreciation to the officers for volunteering their service in a time of war, and asked them to encourage and inspire their Marines to see the War on Terror to the end.

“It's my honor to come to Quantico to speak to our general officers and our officers and sergeants who train young

lieutenants. I had the chance to speak to some of the lieutenants. First of all, my first impression is, it's an amazing country where people volunteer in the face of danger,” Bush said. “These lieutenants – Marine lieutenants fully understand the nature of the world in which we live, and they're willing to serve; willing to serve to protect and defend this country, and they're willing to serve to help shape the conditions so that the world is more peaceful.”

As the president ate lunch with the Marines at O'Bannon Hall, he was able to explain his desires for the future leaders

of the Corps.

“He expressed his wish for us to continue to see that there is a purpose behind the mission. It definitely allowed the Marines to understand that as long as we are in the fight and there is a reason why we need to continue to fight, then we need to continue to motivate them to continue on,” said 2nd Lt. Steven Richardson, C Company, The Basic School. “He mentioned briefly about an e-mail he had received from a family who had lost a son in Iraq. He talked about that and how he had brought that up last night by actually calling the family and letting them know that he understands their loss and that the loss of a son is not something to over look. There still is a purpose to why we are still in Iraq.”

During the president's address to the nation last night, he outlined a troop reduction of 5,700 by late December, as well as reducing troop levels from 20 to 15 combat brigades by July of 2008.

“In Iraq, an Ally of the United States is fighting for its survival. Terrorists and extremists who are at war with us around the world are seeking to topple Iraq's government, dominate the region and attack us here at home,” Bush said.

If Iraq's young democracy can turn back these enemies, it will mean a more

hopeful Middle East and a more secure America, and this Ally has placed its trust in the U.S., he added.

Bush said our moral and strategic imperatives are one: We must help Iraq defeat those who threaten its future and also threaten ours.

“Eight months ago, we adopted a new strategy to meet that objective, to include a surge in U.S. forces that reached full strength in June. This week, Gen. David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker testified before Congress about how that strategy is progressing,” said

“He said he doesn't really worry about us as Marines; he worries about our families.....”

the president. “In their testimony, these men made clear that our challenge in Iraq is formidable. Yet, they concluded that conditions in Iraq are improving, that we are seizing the initiative from the enemy, and that the troop surge is working.”

The president told the Marines that it was important that he would listen to the

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Officer corps must catch up to enlisted ranks for true integration

By: Representative Kendrick B. Meek

Since the integration of our military 58 years ago, and particularly following the establishment of the all-volunteer force, the U.S. military remains the greatest equalizing institution in our country. The truest melting pot in our society exists aboard aircraft carriers, in barracks and on bases. Mess halls and exchange service stores, shooting ranges and training facilities are portraits of diversity. However, in the officers' clubs, a different picture emerges. The diversity reflected within the enlisted ranks is lacking in the officer corps — particularly the senior officer corps.

According to data provided by the Defense Department, minorities are overrepresented in the enlisted ranks and underrepresented in the officer ranks. Among the military's nearly 1.4 million active-duty personnel, roughly 38 percent are minorities and nearly 20 percent are African-Americans. In the officer corps, there are:

- Thirty-nine O-10s, only one of whom is African-American (Army Gen. William "Kip" Ward, chief of U.S. Africa Command).
- One hundred and thirty-eight O-9s, six of them African-Americans and three of them women.
- Two hundred and seventy-two O-8s, including 19 African-Americans, one Asian, three Hispanics and 12 women.
- Four hundred and forty-seven O-7s, including 20 African-Americans, three Asians, four Hispanics and 29 women.

Complete racial integration at all levels is a military necessity as a prerequisite for a cohesive and effective fighting force. The racial conflict within the ranks during the 1960s and 1970s was an effective lesson on the importance of inclusion and equal opportunity.

That point was driven home in a "friend of the court"

brief in a lawsuit heard by the Supreme Court in 2003 involving a challenge to the University of Michigan's policy of weighing race as a factor in admissions.

The brief was filed in support of the university's policy by a group of 29 retired military and civilian leaders. The brief noted the importance of racial diversity by pointing out that racial imbalance in the war in Vietnam — more than 10 percent of the service members but only 3 percent of the officers were African-American — caused "increased racial polarization, pervasive disciplinary problems, and racially motivated incidents" sometimes leading to "an inability to fight." It is possible to correct the imbalances in the senior officer ranks while maintaining the merit-based promotion system that has made our military the best in the world.

First, a need exists to increase preparation for minority and female officer candidates, particularly through the service academies, Reserve Officers' Training Corps and Junior ROTC programs.

Second, increasing awareness among young officer candidates of military career prospects is vital. Women and minority officers tend to be concentrated in administration and supply areas, and are underrepresented in tactical operations — the area that yields two-thirds of general and flag officers.

Third, there is a need for more mentoring of young officers by senior members, particularly in choice of assignments. Minority and female officers tend to find obstacles in gaining access to peer and mentor relationships simply because the number of potential peers and mentors of similar backgrounds is low.

Let us keep all options on the table in thinking of effective and creative strategies to rectify this imbalance — for if we fail, the disparity that exists today will persist long into the future.



Rep. Kendrick B. Meek, D-Fla., represents parts of Miami-Dade and Broward counties. He is a member of the House Armed Services Committee and chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation.

"Changing Hands"

Capt Kendrick Gaines, takes the Bravo Company guidon from Capt Kyle Aldrich in a change of command ceremony Oct 10, 2007 at Marine Barracks 8th & I. Capt Gaines, an Artillery Officer, is a member of the Quantico Chapter NNOA.

Officials to decide regs for running suits **By: John Hollewarth**

The new running suit is on its way, but it's still up in the air whether Marines will be allowed to wear it on leave and liberty, according to the commandant's spokesman.

"In reality, what is being considered is whether to authorize Marines to wear the jacket portion of the new [physical training] uniform as they would wear a windbreaker. But the regulations for wear have not been finalized," said Lt. Col. T.V. Johnson, spokesman for Commandant Gen. James Conway.

Johnson was responding to a story that appeared in Sept. 24 edition of Marine Corps Times, in which Mary Boyt, project manager for the Marine Corps Uniform Board, was quoted as telling senior enlisted leaders that Marines will be allowed to wear the running suit on liberty. Johnson said the issue was "pre-decisional."

After months of testing and evaluation, the Defense Department announced Sept. 24 that InSport, a subsidiary of Vital Performance in Huntington Sta-

tion, N.Y., was awarded a \$14 million contract to manufacture the running suit. The firm was chosen from among 50 companies involved in the selection process.

InSport also holds the \$2 million contract based on a congressional earmark to supply 200,000 "base layer T-shirts" with anti-microbial and moisture-removing properties to Marines operating in cold weather environments, according to a press release on the company's Web site.

Marine Corps Systems Command in Quantico, Va., also mandated anti-microbial and sweat-wicking properties for the running suit in the requirements submitted to industry at the start of the solicitation process.

SysCom officials based the suit's requirements on two Corps-wide surveys conducted earlier this year. The jacket and pant combo will be added to the green shirt and shorts already issued.

Those surveys showed that Marines wanted the running suit to be black

on green with the Corps' emblem on the front and the word "Marines" written on the back.

Though a contract has already been awarded, it is unclear whether the design is set in stone.

"We are still working on some details and are not ready to make an announcement yet," InSport spokesman Peter Soorenko wrote in an e-mail response to questions.

SysCom is also reserving comment on the contract award and the running suit's final design.

"We're going to wait until the commandant makes his intent clear before we elaborate on the specifics," said SysCom spokeswoman 1st Lt. Geraldine Carey.

The commandant's stated intent so far has been that he wants Marines to look more "squared away" in their physical training gear, which, if everything goes according to plan, could have a positive impact on recruiting when seen by civilians.

Commander in Chief addresses TBS officers about Iraq issues, "return on success" cont...

recommendations of the military, in particular Gen. Petraeus. He added we're making enough success in Iraq that we can begin bringing some troops home.

"I told the American people last night we've got what's called return on success," Bush said to the media after lunch. "I also told them that our commanders will have the flexibility and the troops needed to achieve the mission, which is an ally in this war on terror, and a stable country that can self govern a democracy in the heart of the Middle East."

The president's words of encouragement to the Marines hit home for the commanding officer of TBS as well.

"He stressed that this is going to be long term war on terror. It is not a short term situation that they are involved in as future leaders of Marines and he really tied it together from the big picture down to what their role is and the tactical level for that larger strategic picture," said Col. George Smith Jr.. "I just thought it was tremendous

that they would do that so it was just additional motivation to anything that was existing motivation."

He added that the visit served as additional motivation, because the commander in chief thought it is important enough to come down and talk to them about the strategic picture and how important they are within that and the service they are going to render to the nation.

During the president's address to the media, he emphasized his desire for the nation. He also made it clear that now's the chance for us to come together as a nation; that some of us who believe security was paramount were on opposite sides of the debate, where people said we just simply need to bring our troops home.

"Well, now we've got security in the right direction, and we are bringing our troops home. I call upon the U.S. Congress to listen very carefully to what Gen. Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker reported, and support the troop levels that these two

men think are necessary to achieve our objective," Bush said. "I also expect Congress to support our men and women in uniform and their families, and those who have worn the uniform."

At the lunch table, family was one concern for the commander in chief as well as the Marines. One Marine brought a concern to the president's attention.

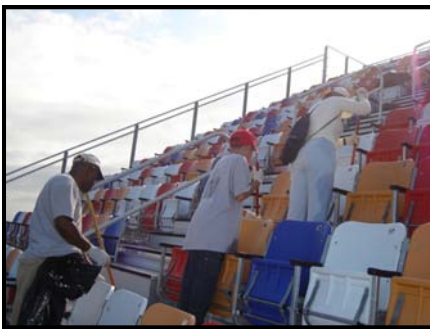
"He took out a piece of paper and pen and wrote it down. It was like, man, he is really going to go back and look at this and see what he can do. That was really important," said 2nd Lt. Kerrissa Torres, M Company, The Basic School. "He said he doesn't really worry about us as Marines; he worries about our families and whether our families are taken care of while we're gone. I thought that was really important. I mean, we volunteered and know what we are getting ourselves into, but he wants to ensure our families are taken care of and they understand, have the knowledge, and support not only him, but us in the military."

Quantico Chapter Photo Gallery cont....

NASCAR Clean-up Fundraiser



**Hard Work
Pays Off**



Quantico Chapter Photo Gallery cont....

Church Visit to Mount Olive Baptist



Above: Chapter members fellowship after the worship service.

Below: Members enjoy lunch and each other's company at Red lobster following the morning service.



James Farmer Scholars Program

Maj Everly listens as one of his students shares her essay with the rest of the class.



Maj Loney teaches the 11th and 12th grade class.

Quantico Chapter Photo Gallery

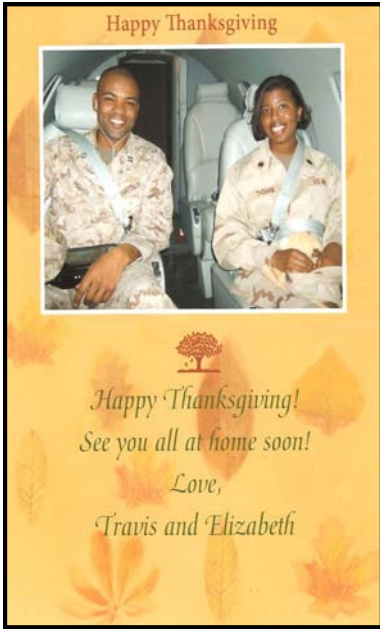
Adopt-A-School



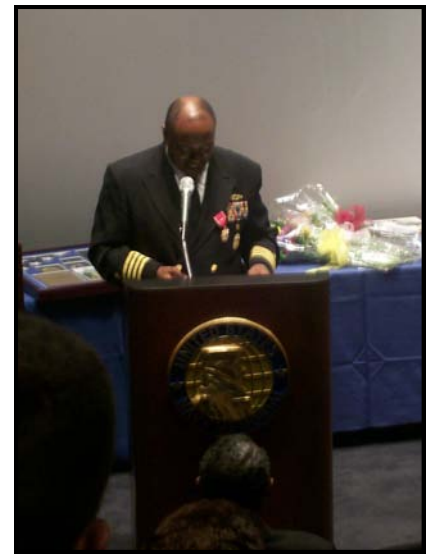
Mary Williams Elementary School



Quantico Chapter Photo Gallery cont....



Above: Capt Gyimah speaks with 2ndLt's about the responsibilities of a Communications Officer at a TBS MOS Mixer in October, 2007.



Above: CAPT Jackson, NNOA national president, speaks at his retirement ceremony.

Left: Capt Travis Reeves and LCDR Elizabeth Thomas are currently deployed in Kuwait.



Above: Moorehouse NROTC 20th anniversary celebration.

Below: CW04 Hawthorne provides the closing prayer at the October NNOA Quantico Chapter general body meeting.



Left: Captains Travis Reeves and Melissa Ayers send their smiles from Kuwait/Iraq where they are currently deployed.

Right: Maj Stacey Taylor speaks with a group of NJROTC students at a local high school during the Moorehouse NROTC 20th anniversary celebration.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

January Schedule of Events

- 9—General Body Meeting @1700
- 9—Scholarship Banquet Ticket Sales Begin
- 11—Adopt-A-School
- 12—James Farmer Event
- 21—MLK Day
- 30—Executive Board Meeting

January 2008

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		

February Schedule of Events

- 8—Adopt-A-School
- 13—General Body Meeting @1700
- 14—Valentine's Day
- 18—Presidents' Day
- 23—Black History Month Banquet
- 23—James Farmer Event
- 27—Executive Board Meeting

February 2008

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	

March Schedule of Events

- 9—Quarterly Church Visit
- 12—General Body Meeting @1700
- 14—Adopt-A-School
- 15—James Farmer Event
- 23—Easter Sunday
- 26—Executive Board Meeting
- 29—Adopt-A-Highway

March 2008

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
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29



National Naval Officers Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 812

Quantico, VA 22134

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



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.