

Part III

Marine Barracks Washington, D.C.

"Oldest Post of the Corps"

Story by Cheryl Adams North

Photos by Nancy Lee White

"The President's Own" United States Marine Band

he Marine Band has witnessed more of our history than any other ensemble. Whether serenading Adams and Jefferson, accompanying Lincoln to Getysburg, or performing here at the White House, the Marine Band has become a national institution and a national treasure."

-Ronald Reagan Former President of the United States

The United States Marine Band.

its-roots dating back to the drummers and fifers of the Revolutionary War, has been a part of the Presidential scene since its official activation in 1798.

In July 1800, when the U.S. government moved its headquarters from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C., the Marine Band went with it and found a temporary home, camped out on a hill overlooking the Potomac, in an area known as Georgetown. In August, the group gave its first public concert in D.C.

Six months later, on January 1, 1801, the Band made its White House debut, by Presidential invitation, when it performed for a New Year's celebration there. The Band was then asked to perform for Thomas Jefferson's inauguration in March, and it has played at every Presidential inauguration since.

Jefferson gave the Marine Band its title "The President's Own," thus starting a new tradition and mission for this elite group of Marines providing music for the President of the United States.

Also in 1801, the Band moved to its present home at 8th and "I", where it has become the longeststanding organization at the Barracks. The Marine Band is also the oldest continuously active unit in (OPPOSITE PAGE) The Marine Band was photographed with the Commandant's house in the background, during one of the many performances at 8th and "I".







the Corps and the oldest musical organization in the country.

Historical photos of the Band can be found throughout the Barracks, especially in the Marine Band complex. Hundreds of original photos are kept in the Band's personal library and archives.

However, one photo in particular stands out among the rest. It hangs in the office of Band Director Colonel John R. Bourgeois. The Marine Band is posed standing in front of the Commandant's house. The date is 1865.

"That man right there is John Philip Sousa's father. He was a trombonist with the Band," Col (LEFT) This portrait of John Philip Sousa, 17th director, hangs in the Marine Band's concert hall, which is named in his honor. Of all the marches he wrote, Sousa believed his best to be "Semper Fidelis," the Corps' official march.

Bourgeois said, pointing to a face in the crowd. Lowering his finger slightly, he pointed to a young boy standing next to Antonio Sousa. "That boy is thought to be John Philip Sousa. The youngest Band member, perhaps?" he said, chuckling, proudly.

Whether or not the boy is Sousa remains a mystery. But history records the facts, and that is, John Philip Sousa joined the Band two years later at age 13 as an apprentice musician. (Legend has it that Antonio enlisted the boy in the Band so that he would not run off and join the circus.) Sousa stayed with the Band until he was 20.

In 1880, at age 26, Sousa was offered leadership of the Band by the Commandant of the Marine Corps. He remained in the position for 12 years and, during that time, he began writing the many marches that would eventually earn him worldwide fame as the "March King." Sousa considered his finest march "Semper Fidelis," the Corps' official march.

Today, "The President's Own" plays the "Semper Fidelis" march and hundreds of other tunes, rang(LEFT) "The President's Own" posed for this publicity shot in front of the U.S. Capitol.

ing from traditional concert band and contemporary wind ensemble music, to marches, overtures and instrumental solos. The Band gives more than 600 performances each year, which include "patriotic openers" for national conventions, dedications, dinners and meetings in the D.C. area; military ceremonies, such as full-honors funerals at Arlington National Cemetery; Presidential inaugural parades; and the Barracks' Friday Evening parades.

The Band also holds regularly scheduled performances yearround. January through May, various concerts and recitals are held at the Barracks in the John Philip Sousa Band Hall. During the summer months, the Band plays at the Capitol on Wednesdays, and on Sundays at the Sylvan Theater near the Washington Monument. In the fall, the Band goes on tour.

Approximately one-third of the Band's yearly performances are given at the White House for events ranging from receptions, dinners and "garden parties" on the White House lawn, to full-scale arrival ceremonies for visiting dignitaries and Heads of State.

When British Prime Minister
Winston Churchill visited the United States in 1949, the Marine Band
was there to greet him. After giving
a speech at Massachusetts Institute
of Technology, Churchill asked the
musicians for a favor—he wanted
them to play "The Marines'
Hymn." The Band obliged, and
Churchill sang along, clearly knowing all the words.

"The President's Own" consists of 143 men and women, most of whom graduated from some of the best music schools and institutions in the country—Peabody Institute and Julliard School of music, for example. Almost every bandsman holds a bachelor's degree, many have their master's, and some even have Ph.D.s. All enlisted in the Corps to serve in "The President's Own" United States Marine Band.

Bandsmen do not attend Marine boot camp—their job is not to pro-

tect the country, but to provide music for the President. Upon enlisting they are appointed to the rank of staff sergeant. They do not have to participate in any type of Marine Corps training, but they must meet the Corps' requirements for height and weight, and are subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

Band members are easily distinguishable from other Marines by their rank insignia. Instead of chevrons bearing crossed rifles. there is a music lyre. The lyre is symbolic: It says, "I'm a musician." The uniform says, "I'm a Marine." Together, this unique chevron says, "I'm a member of the U.S. Marine Band.

So what does it mean to be a member of the Marine Band? Its director, Col Bourgeois, offered a few thoughts which he feels is representative of the entire group.

"As 'The President's Own,' we serve the First Family. We even refer to ourselves as the 'court musicians," he said. "But our real mission is to carry the torch of Marine tradition to the American public. Through our music, we represent the pride of the Marine Corps. We demand of ourselves to be the best musical unit-not only visually,

The Drum and Bugle Corps performs every Tuesday throughout the summer at the Marine Corps War Memorial, pictured below, and at the Barracks on Fridays, shown right.

but also in performance-because that is what is expected in the tradition of being a Marine. Seeing the effect we have on people, especially those who aren't really familiar with the Marine Corps or Marine Band, is one of the highlights of the job. We're passing on the pride and tradition of the Marine Corps to a lot of people who may otherwise know very little about Marines!

The colonel said there have been many highlights in his tenure as band director; however, there is one in particular that has always stood out.

"Even after thousands of concerts with the Band, every time I hear them play 'The Marines' Hymn, the hair on the back of my neck stands up. I get that tingling feeling . . cold chills. It's a thrill each and every time I hear it. After all, isn't it what we-the Marinesare all about?"

"The Commandant's Own" United States Marine Drum and Bugle Coros

The U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, referred to by its 70-plus. members as the "D&B," was officially formed in 1934 to augment the Marine Band. However, its history can be traced back to the birth of the Corps in 1775, when a small group of Marine drummers and buglers were called upon to serve in the Revolutionary War.

Drummers and buglers continued to serve the Corps in the 18th and 19th centuries by passing messages and commands to individual Marines in the field, using various drum beats and bugle calls that could be heard over the noise of battle. Until the mid-1930s, Marine posts were still authorized small groups of musicians to provide the traditional bugle calls and perform



other ceremonial or military functions.

When the Drum and Bugle Corps was officially formed in 1934, it began to grow in size and stature as the unit provided ceremonial support in and around Washington, D.C. After World War II, the D&B started performing various military and public ceremonies, and by the early 1950s, it was designated the official U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps.

The story goes that the title "The Commandant's Own" came about by accident one evening while President Eisenhower and the Commandant, General Randolph McCall Pate, were having dinner together. The President jokingly commented that the Marine Band belonged to him. In quick-witted response, the Commandant explained that he didn't mind. because the Drum and Bugle Corps belonged to him. The name stuck.

Until December of last year, two smaller Marine drum and bugle corps units were based at Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany, Ga., and Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif. However, they have been disbanded and absorbed into other musical units, and "The Commandant's Own" is the only Marine drum and bugle corps in existence

today. Musicians in "The Commandant's Own" are recruited from civilian drum and bugle corps and marching bands, as well as Marine Corps musical units. Civilian applicants must first pass a demanding audition to be considered for the Marine Drum and Bugle Corps MOS. If they pass the audition and are selected, they attend recruit training like any other Marine. After boot camp, they are sent to "the oldest post of the Corps" for duty with "The Commandant's Own." Providing they maintain a high level of musical proficiency, coupled with sound professional growth as a Marine, they could complete their Marine Corps career as a member of this prestigious unit.

Known as the Corps' musical ambassadors of good will, the D&B musicians travel more than 50,000 miles annually to cities across the nation, telling the Marine story in their music and march. The group performs approximately 400 shows per year, including its East and

The highlight of the Drum and Bugle Corps' performance is its "concert in motion," a marching presentation that depicts the style of music being played, using different types of formations, drill movements and instrument direction.



West Coast tour of Marine bases; exhibitions across the country; Marine Battle Color ceremonies (with the Silent Drill Team and Marine Color Guard); and various miscellaneous engagements, such as halftime activities at professional sporting events, state fairs, Boy Scout Jamborees, street parades, VA hospital visits, etc. D&B musicians are even occasionally asked to appear in TV specials, such as the one in 1988 when they performed with Barbara Mandrell in Opryland, Tenn.

Also in '88, the D&B spent a month "Down Under," as musical representatives of the United States, touring Australia during its bicentennial celebration.

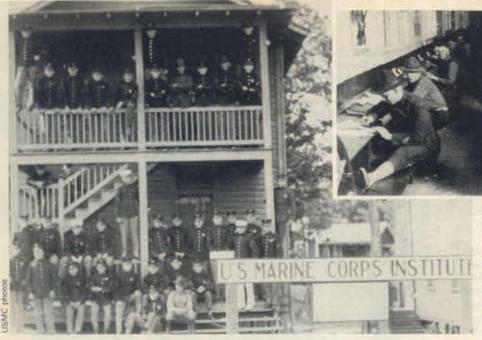
While the D&B tours extensively in the spring and fall, travel is limited to "quick trips" only during the summer months. (Limited, meaning time away from the Barracks, not distance—trips may include a weekend show in California.) This is due to the Barracks' primary ceremonial commitment: the Tuesday Sunset Parade at the Marine Corps War Memorial and the Friday Evening Parade at 8th and "I".

The highlight of the D&B's performances is its "concert in motion," a marching presentation that depicts the style of music being played, using different types of formations, drill movements and instrument direction.

"The Commandant's Own" is always on the road, promoting Marine Corps public relations wherever it goes. However, as Marines, these musicians must also remain proficient in their military skills.

"People tend to think that we're just musicians, but we are Marines, and we do get military training." said Gunnery Sergeant Michael Gardner, the D&B's drum major. "We have regular inspections, PFTs (physical fitness tests) and ESTs (essential subjects training) like everyone else. And we also have some type of military training at least once a month. For example, we've trained with the 12-gauge shotgun, pistol, M-60 machine gun, and hand grenades. Also, we go to Quantico (Va.) for field training like the Leadership Reaction Course.

Gardner explained the importance of maintaining this type of



(LEFT) MCI started out as a vocational school when it was established in 1919 by the 13th Commandant, Gen John A. Lejeune.

(ABOVE) In 1921, MCI had become so successful that it added a correspondence division. Here, a room full of Marines graded MCI courses.

training, "If a contingency arose and the Battalion (Barracks) was needed for civil disturbance and riot control in D.C., the D&B would be responsible for providing security for the Barracks."

The D&B is under the direction of Lieutenant Colonel Truman Crawford, a 10-year veteran with the Air Force Drum and Bugle Corps, who was selected by the Commandant in 1967 for special assignment with the Marine Drum and Bugle Corps. Crawford entered the Corps as a staff sergeant, rose through the enlisted ranks, and received a commission as warrant officer, before being awarded a Presidential appointment to the rank of captain in 1977. Last year, he received a third Presidential appointment to his present grade.

For more than half a century, musicians in "The Commandant's Own" have been carrying out the tradition of being Marine musical ambassadors of good will. And now, the tradition continues with the D&B being the only unit of its kind left in the Corps.

The Marine Corps Institute (MCI)

"Warfighting is an all-hands job; if 'first to fight' is to be more than just a slogan, you'd better know how to fight."

> —General A. M. Gray Commandant of the Marine Corps

This quote hangs on a wall in the entrance of the MCI complex. It is a reminder of just how important these Marines are in educating the Corps. And with the Commandant's new directive that all Marines—noncommissioned officer (NCO) and above—will either attend the required Professional Military Education (PME) course for their grade or be enrolled in the appropriate level correspondence course, MCI's role in educating Marines is now more significant than ever.

The Marine Corps Institute is responsible for developing, validating, publishing, promoting, issuing and grading Marine correspondence courses. This includes the six required courses in the Corps' PME Program: the NCO Course, SNCO Career Course, SNCO Advanced Course, Warfighting Skills Course, and the Amphibious Warfare School, and Command and Staff College programs.

In addition to the PME courses, MCI produces 185 MOS correspondence courses that range from baking to counter-terrorism, "Everything a Marine needs to perform in his/her MOS in the Marine Corps," said Colonel Peter Pace, commanding officer of the Barracks and director of MCI.

MCI also produces guides and manuals such as the new EST manual, which is now called the Battle Skills Training/Essential Subjects Handbook. (It's 2 inches thick!) "And there's the U.S. Marine Corps Battle Drill Guide, which was completed in 1988 and was delivered to all infantry units in the FMF (Fleet Marine Force)," Pace added.

Pace pulled out a copy of the manual and started flipping through the pages, occasionally stopping to show a few pages as he went. "This book is an excellent training tool; it tells a Marine everything he needs to know to develop and maintain essential battle skills. We made it specifically to be used in the field—that's why the pages are waterproof and tearproof."

The colonel explained that although MCI is physically and administratively run by the Marine Barracks, it is under the operational control of the Marine Air-Ground Training and Education Center (MAGTEC) at Quantico. Therefore, all MCI manuals are produced in conjunction with the MAGTEC Marines in order to establish standards for the guides.

"Constant imput from the FMF goes into every manual." before, during and after it's made," Pace said. "For example, once the manual is in printed form, it goes back to the FMF to be validated, to ensure it is covering what is needed in the FMF."

Specialty manuals are also made at MCI, such as the Forward Air Controller Handbook. Pace said a new manual, currently in the test stage, is the Infantry Officers' (BELOW) By the 1960s, MCI had evolved into a major operation that produced dozens of academic and MOS training courses. However, one thing hadn't changed over the years: Marines still graded courses by hand.





(RIGHT) Cpl Lewis Hagler, a postal clerk, prepared course exam results for mail-out. There are 185 MOS correspondence courses available to Marines.

Warfighting Training Guide. The guide, which is actually a series consisting of five volumes, will be available in two levels: company and battalion. The books are presently in use by officers in the First and Second Marine Divisions, who will later return them with comments and suggestions, for analysis.

"MCI is providing a tremendous service to Marines around the world, in both correspondence courses and training tools such as the Battle Drill Guide," Pace said.



(ABOVE) Today, MCI courses are graded by a multi-component computer with an optical scanner, at the rate of about 600 per hour.

(BELOW) LCpl Richard Southern and PFC Chris McLain inventoried NCO Course booklets.



(BELOW) Forklifts, such as this one run by Cpl Alex Ford, are used in the MCI warehouses to store course materials.

(BELOW RIGHT) LCpl Angela Dolph, assigned to the print shop, collated MCI correspondence course exams.





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"MCI has made, and continues to make, significant contributions to the Fleet Marine Force. I'm extremely proud of their accomplishments."

The Marine Corps Institute has come a long way since it was first established in 1919 by Major General John A. Lejeune, 13th Commandant. Lejeune believed that by raising the Marines' education and training levels, it would improve their morale.

Initially a vocational school, MCI was located at Quantico. Within a year, it had become so successful that a correspondence division was created to accommodate students who were transferred and wanted to continue studying

by mail.

On November 10, 1920, the Institute was relocated to Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C. More Marines were needed to support the Barracks' ceremonial and military missions, and MCI at nearby Quantico had the available personnel. Thus, the Institute was packed in entirety and moved by barge, up the Potomac to its new home at the Barracks. MCI became MCI Company, part of the Battalion at 8th and "I", which it remains today.

Former MCI directors include then-Maj Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr., who headed the Institute from 1934 to 1935 and who later became 20th Commandant. Also, then-Col Leonard F. Chapman Jr., 24th Commandant, was director of MCI

from 1956 to 1958.

The Marine Corps Institute has evolved over the years from a vocational school to a correspondence school to what it is today: "one of the finest training organizations of its kind in the world," said Major Bill Hoffman, former chief of MCI's Specialized Skill Training Department. "We have extremely knowledgeable and talented Marines who provide the professional military expertise, and top-notch educational specialists (32 civilians) who provide the educational expertise. The Marine instructors and civilian educators work together using some of the most modern instructional techniques and sophisticated educational technology available."

Hoffman explained that MCI has become highly automated, especially over the past few years. "We've updated our main frame computer system, that's one advancement, and we've installed PCs (personal computers) into all work stations, so that almost all MCI Marines are now working on PCs," he said. "This has particularly affected (helped) the instructors, who can now produce ready-to-print material completely on-line. Instructors are designing and writing all MCI training materials relying solely on the PC." (Most instructors are senior SNCOs and officers, who develop, revise and manage MCI courses.)

MCI's automation also includes a giant multi-component computer, which takes up most of an entire room. It has an optical scanner that grades exams and lessons at the rate of about 600 per hour. (A big difference from the handgraded tests of yesteryear, when a room was filled with Marines in-



stead of a computer, and each Marine could only grade a few exams

per hour.)

MCI also has a library, print shop, graphics shop, mailroom (which handles 2,000 to 3,000 pieces of mail per day) and four different warehouses. And these are just support sections—the actual mainstay of MCI is its six operational departments: Specialized Skill Training, Professional Military Education, Special Programs, Student Operations, Data Graphics Systems, and Logistics. (The MCI complex is actually located at the nearby Washington Navy Yard, where there is adequate space for this sizable organization to operate.) The following is a brief description of what each department does.

The Specialized Skill Training Department (SSTD) provides training courses that are designed to eliminate performance deficiencies within a certain MOS. Courses are written by SNCOs who are experts in their field. However, before writing/designing a course, the instructors are required to complete an extensive training program, wherein they must learn such things as job analysis, instructional design and course production.

Professional Military Education (PME) essentially provides nonresident versions of the Marine Corps career development schools, such as NCO School, the SNCO Academy, Amphibious Warfare School, etc. Because the Marine Corps' PME Program is always changing and being updated, the PME Department at MCI must maintain a close relationship with the various schools, in order to be updated on the many course changes and incorporate them into the correspondence courses.

Consisting of mostly civilians, the Special Programs Department provides a wide variety of specialized training material such as the EST/BST handbook, MOS Individual Training Standard packages and other diversified materials.

Student Operations provides the administrative function of enrolling MCI students, monitoring student progress, and assisting students and units with enrollment problems. The mailroom is also a part of Student Operations. Mailroom personnel have a postal MOS and are responsible for receiving and distributing all incoming and out-

going MCI courses.

The computerized grading of courses is the responsibility of the Data and Graphic Systems Department, which provides all of MCI's data processing support. The department's data processors and program specialists design and operate the systems needed to support both Student Operations and the logistical aspect of MCI. They operate the main frame computer, write programs, provide all types of PC support (both hardware and software), and they ensure that a record of the student's course completion is entered into his/her unit diary. The Data and Graphic Systems Department runs the arts and graphics shop, which supports instructors by providing the graphics used in MCI courses. The department also runs the print shop, which prints most of the MCI exams and some of the smaller quantity MCI publications.

Logistics is the sixth department at MCI. It operates much like the supply section of any unit, providing all of the internal support for MCI—everything from pencils to computers to automated data processing equipment. The biggest function of the Logistics Department is in managing the stock of MCI course materials, about \$2 million worth of printed material each year.

"The Marine Corps Institute provides a whole lot of 'BANG' for the buck," said Hoffman. "I don't know of anyone—from private to general officer—who has been here and hasn't been amazed at the quality of service, the quality of products and the amount of products that so few people produce."

The Dog, The Dungeon, Mrs. Doran, "Slide And Glide," And The Best E-Club In The Corps

Many units throughout the Corps have their own mascot, but the official Marine Corps mascot is assigned to Marine Barracks, 8th and "I".

The tradition of the Marine mascot began after World War I, when Gen John A, Lejeune, 13th Commandant, was presented with an English bulldog by the name of "Sergeant Major Jiggs," From that time on, the English bulldog has been the official mascot of the Corps, and has served at 8th and "I", participating in many of the ceremonies held there, particularly the Barracks' Friday Evening Parade.

Before World War II, the mascot was always named "Jiggs." However, in tribute to one of the Corps' most heroic Marines, Lieutenant General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller, the mascot's name was changed and remains "Chesty."

Chesty has an official "bio" which is kept at the Barracks' Public Affairs Office with other official bios, such as the Commandant's and Barracks CO. The current Chesty enlisted in the Corps in 1988 at the Barracks. His present rank is lance corporal. Chesty, who is currently on weight control, has three "regulation" uniforms: "Charlies," dress blues and, of course, the blue/whites, which he wears in the Friday Parades.

A graduate of the Canine Train-

ing Association Obedience Class for Dogs, Chesty lives with a Barracks Marine and reports to work every day like other Marines. His job consists mostly of lounging around the adjutant's office, but he gets a walk several times a day by one of the two official dog handlers at the Barracks. The position of dog handler is considered an official parade position, and Marines must try out for the "honor." Chesty doesn't always walk or sit when he is supposed to, and therefore, the dog handler must be able



"Chesty," the official Marine Corps mascot, is assigned to Marine Barracks, 8th and "I", where he participates in many of the ceremonies held there, including the Barracks' Friday Evening Parade.

to control and hopefully correct the dog's behavior, especially during his moment of glory at the parade.

By the way, Chesty loves two things: having his photo taken and kids.

(Some of the information about the Marine mascot was taken from the soon-to-be published book, "Roses and Thorns: A Handbook For Enlisted Marine Corps Wives," written by Yvette Sommers.)

The "dungeon"—as it is called by 8th and "I" Marines, especially those who are "sentenced" there is appropriately located in the underground parking lot beneath the Barracks BEQ (Bachelor Enlisted Quarters) complex. Much like the catacombs of an ancient castle or fort, hence its name, the dungeon. It is used for *unobserved* drill practice. This type of privacy is needed, in most cases, before a parade, where Marines can practice the tricks of their trade far from the prying eyes of some 4,000 guests.

However (this is where the name really takes on meaning), the dungeon is also used for individual, private practice, as in the case of a Marine who is making mistakes in drill. The Marine is sent (sentenced) to the dungeon for a specific amount of time, or a certain number of practice sessions, to improve (perfect) his drill.

Practice is done in front of a mirrored wall, which allows the Marine to see what he is doing wrong and how to correct it, by visually going through the proper drill movements. The dungeon may also be used at any time by an individual or group of Marines who, for whatever reason, want or need to watch themselves drill. This includes Marines in "A" and "B" Companies, the Silent Drill Team, Color Guard and Body Bearer Sections. Body bearers routinely train in the dungeon, as the casket they use for drill practice is kept there.

Amidst the many traditions at 8th and "I", there is one that is unlike all the others. This "tradition" is not something the Barracks does, rather, something someone does for the Barracks.

According to Captain Charlie Pangburn, 8th and "I" adjutant, Mrs. Mary Doran, the "unofficial mother" of the Barracks, has been an institution since the mid-1960s. Every Friday morning year-round, she delivers homemade cookies or a cake to the adjutant for distribution to Barracks Marines. For over two decades, she has attended nearly every Friday Evening Parade. In recognition of her undying loyalty and support, Mrs. Doran has permanently assigned seating in the parade stands complete with brass nameplate.

Marines are known for having their own unique vocabulary, for example, "O"-dark thirty, pogle bait, high and tight, etc. In like manner, 8th and "I" Marines have certain vocabulary words that are



peculiar to the Barracks. The following is but a sample:

tight squared away (Marine term meaning having it all together)

tighter more squared away

tightest totally squared away

bad good

baddest best

dog the marching Marines refer to themselves as dogs (pronounced "dawg"), after the legendary Marine devil dogs

deep-six the tunnel that goes under the Barracks and connects with the BEQ complex across the street

dungeon part of the underground parking lot where Marines are "sentenced" to practice drill

banging the intentional banging
butts of the butt of a rifle on
the deck during ceremonial drill, when going to
the movement "order
arms," so that when an

Before assuming their parade duties as hosts/hostesses, escorts, parking lot attendants, etc., Barracks Marines gathered for a little camaraderie inside Post 1.

entire company does this in unison, it sounds like a clap of thunder

slide and ceremonial way of moving across the parade deck without bouncing, so that a Marine appears to be gliding

Traditionally, E-Clubs (Enlisted Clubs) around the Corps are known for being the place where Marines gather for camaraderie, to have a few beers, swap a few sea stories, tell a few jokes. It is not the place to go for female companionship. basically because not many women go there (at least civilian women).

The term "slide and glide," often used by Barracks Marines, is depicted here in this photo taken at the Sunset Parade.

Supposedly, just the opposite is true of the E-Club at 8th and "I". Unlike some Marine bases that are isolated far from the bright lights (and fun) of a city or town, Marine Barracks, 8th and "I" is in downtown Washington, D.C., "conveniently" located to nearby colleges, business, trade and technical schools.

Not only do 8th and "I" Marines not have to go far to find women, but the Marines say that women actually come looking for them! And why not? After all, these Marines are known for their exceptional good looks, 6-foot-plus height and muscular build.

Now consider that there could be up to a few hundred of these fine young men in one place (the E-Club) at one time—Friday night after the parade.

It's no wonder that several Manines anxiously reported to this writer (who, by the way, checked out this story with a few senior SNCOs) that "8th and T has the best E-Club in the Corps!" Perhaps a fitting "reward" for all those hard-working Leathernecks at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C. the oldest post of the Corps.

(A feature story on the U.S. Marine Body Bearers from 8th and "I" will run next month.)

