

Teller

Marin
Iv



Teller

Vol. 42 No. 12
March 28, 1997

This Week

- Buildings Unveiled
Page 3
- MCT for Women
Page 6
- Top Cop
Page 11

Making history

First women graduate from Marine Combat Training

by Cpl. William M. Lisbon
Marine Corps Recruit Depot

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT, PARRIS ISLAND, S.C. — With camouflage painted faces and dirty utilities, 112 female Marines, clad in Kevlar helmets and war gear, stepped out of the field Jan. 15 and graduated as the first women to undergo Marine Combat Training (MCT) on Parris Island.

The class made history as the Marines took part in the first extensive, post-recruit training combat course for women in the Corps.

Class 1-97 checked in Dec. 30 and was the first of five classes that will train at the depot before MCT is moved permanently to Camp Geiger at Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C., the current site of MCT for East Coast Marines.

The need to begin MCT for women came as part of the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Charles C. Krulak's enhancements to recruit training. These enhancements included training that is equal in time and content for both sexes, Core Values training, and the Crucible. Female recruits used to receive an abbreviated seven day MCT training package during recruit training.

Marine Combat Training focuses on providing all Marines in non-infantry fields the basics in combat training because, as seen in recent operations such as Desert Storm, any area can be a combat zone and front lines are a thing of the past. Marine Combat Training gives Marines the knowledge to set up a defensive perimeter or use a heavy weapon.

"That can make a heck of a difference," said Sgt. Donald Nelson, MCT squad instructor.

"It helped me see a lot of reality on how combat can really be, because I never imagined that it could be anything like this - so drastic," explained Pvt. Stephanie Sweetman, MCT graduate from 2nd Plt.

Although the training contains virtually every subject formally taught in recruit training, MCT is more beneficial as a separate course, according to 1stLt. Wendy J. Goyette, MCT Co. commanding officer, who will follow MCT to Camp Geiger.

"With the separate class, I think they're actually going to be able to retain knowledge better than recruits," she explained.

"In the past, combat training was shorter and combined with other subjects taught in recruit training," said 1stLt. James M. Rich, MCT Co. executive officer.

"Recruits are still trying to learn how to conduct themselves as basically trained Marines, not as combat trained Marines. Now combat training is their main focus."

Marines are trained more extensively on heavy weapons, combat formations, land navigation, field survival and nuclear, biological and chemical weapon defense, according to GySgt. Daniel C. Orland, company gunnery sergeant.

What is taught early in the training schedule, is continually applied up until the final defensive exercise.

But perhaps the best thing gained at MCT is confidence.

"The Marines graduated with high levels of confidence in themselves and their fellow Marines," 1stLt. Goyette said. ¶

Marine Corps Manual and their own sense of Marine Corps custom and tradition, to guide their Marines in this difficult area.

Your suggestion that the current Basic Skills Training Manual should utilize detailed examples to educate young Marines on this complex subject bear additional scrutiny. Accordingly, I have forwarded your e-mail to the

director, Marine Corps Institute, for his review and appropriate action.

Thank you for sharing your concerns on this matter. I encourage you to continue to attack these types of issues which arise on your watch and to make every effort to respectfully communicate your well-reasoned recommendations to your commanders. /s/ LtCol. T.P. Cook

Corpsline

Marine enjoys clowning around

photo courtesy of SSgt. Michael L. Fetting

by Cpl. Victoria M. Kirtley
Fort Teller Staff

People learn valuable skills and lessons from their mentors, and the same is true for one fun-loving Marine stationed here.

Staff Sergeant Michael L. Fetting, MWSS-171 motor transport/light section staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, learned the joy and fun of "clowning" from a retired Marine lieutenant

colonel known as "Smiley."

"In 1984, I was part of a clown troop during a church homecoming for the pastor," said Fetting, recalling his first experience as a clown.

"I was a nervous wreck, but I really liked it." That's when Fetting got hooked on clown-

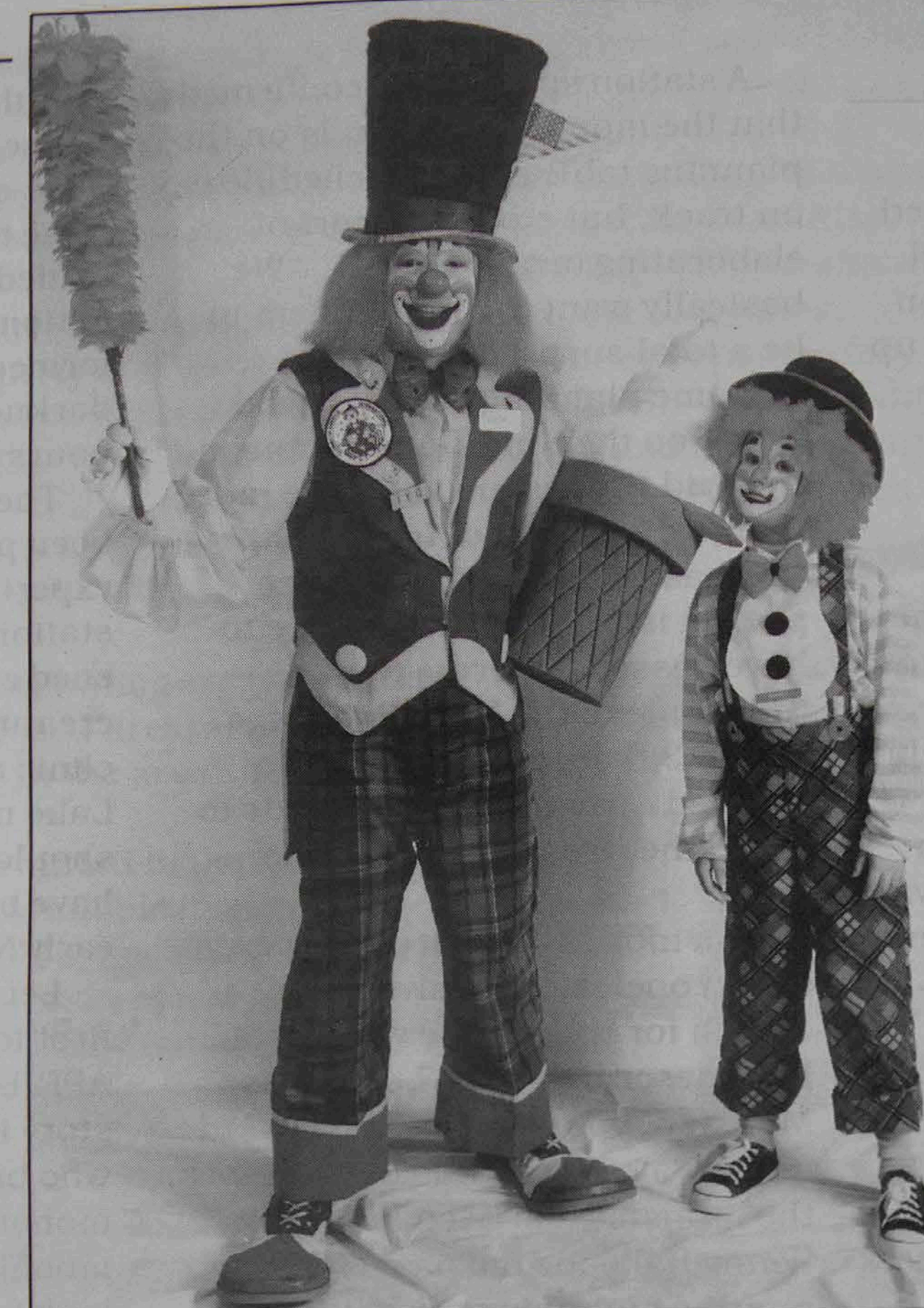
Fetting attended Smiley's clown school in 1987 when he was in Jacksonville N.C.

"All I learned, I learned from Smiley," said Fetting. "I think he believed in me. He showed me the right direc-

tion. He shared his time and knowledge with me, and started me off with props and clown shows."

Fetting does magic tricks, balloon sculpting, and face painting as "Bebo the Clown." He has done skits with other clowns and is working on ventriloquism with his own look-alike dummy.

According to Fetting, there are three types of clowns. The "white face" clown has color just around his eyes, nose and mouth. The "Auguste" clown, which like Fetting's, has a colored face and white around its eyes, nose and mouth.



'Bebo' and his sidekick 'Skeebo,' strike a pose decked out in their clown costumes.

The "tramp" or "hobo" clown which was born of the depression era, and carries a stick with its belongings in a bandana bundle, and has a black, stubby beard and white mouth.

"I really enjoy clowning. It helps me keep my sanity in some aspects," said Fetting. "It brings out the youth in adults and allows children to be children. There is a lot of seriousness going on and people forget to have fun."

Fetting remembers one time his mentor Smiley shaved his head and eyebrows for a show for a little girl

with leukemia. "To be a good clown, you have to be able to recognize the need of people and entertain to that need," he said.

"It doesn't matter who the audience is, I can always bring a smile to their faces and that's what I like to see," said Fetting. "You have a license to do almost anything, legally, as a clown. If I wasn't in a clown costume I would probably get punched when I dusted a bald guy's head."

"For the most part, work and clowning are separated," said Fetting. "When in uniform I expect to be respected as Staff Sergeant Fetting and when in a clown costume I expect to be respected as Bebo the Clown."

Fetting has spent about \$5,000 on his costume and props since he started clowning in 1987.

According to Fetting, he treats being a clown as a very professional business. He always finds out what and

for whom the show will be, before he shows up.

He said he's interested in seeing how the Japanese community will accept a clown.

"I am hoping to someday open up a clown school and teach children and adults how to be clowns," said Fetting. He has already started educating his 11-year-old son, Nathaniel, in clowning as his sidekick, "Skeebo."

"There is a clown in every person," said Fetting. "I think they just need to put the makeup and wig on and try it out." ¶

MAIL from Page 5

a determination can be made as to whether prejudice to good order and discipline exists. Marines must be encouraged to seek assistance from their NCO leaders to learn the bounds of proper relationships before they enter certain relationships. Leaders must be prepared to respond, using the

Marine powerlifter continues to beat odds

photo by Sgt. Michael Mink

by Sgt. Michael Mink
Recruiting Station San Diego

SAN DIEGO — Private First Class Patrick Russ beat the odds when he took first place in the 170-pound weight class for novices at the Natural Athlete Strength Association's (NASA) national competition in Stateline, Nev. recently. But Russ has been beating the odds for a long time.

The 4th Tank Battalion, motor transport Marine remembered his personal challenges at an early age. "When I was a kid, I was always hassled because I was so small," said Russ. "I wanted to change that."

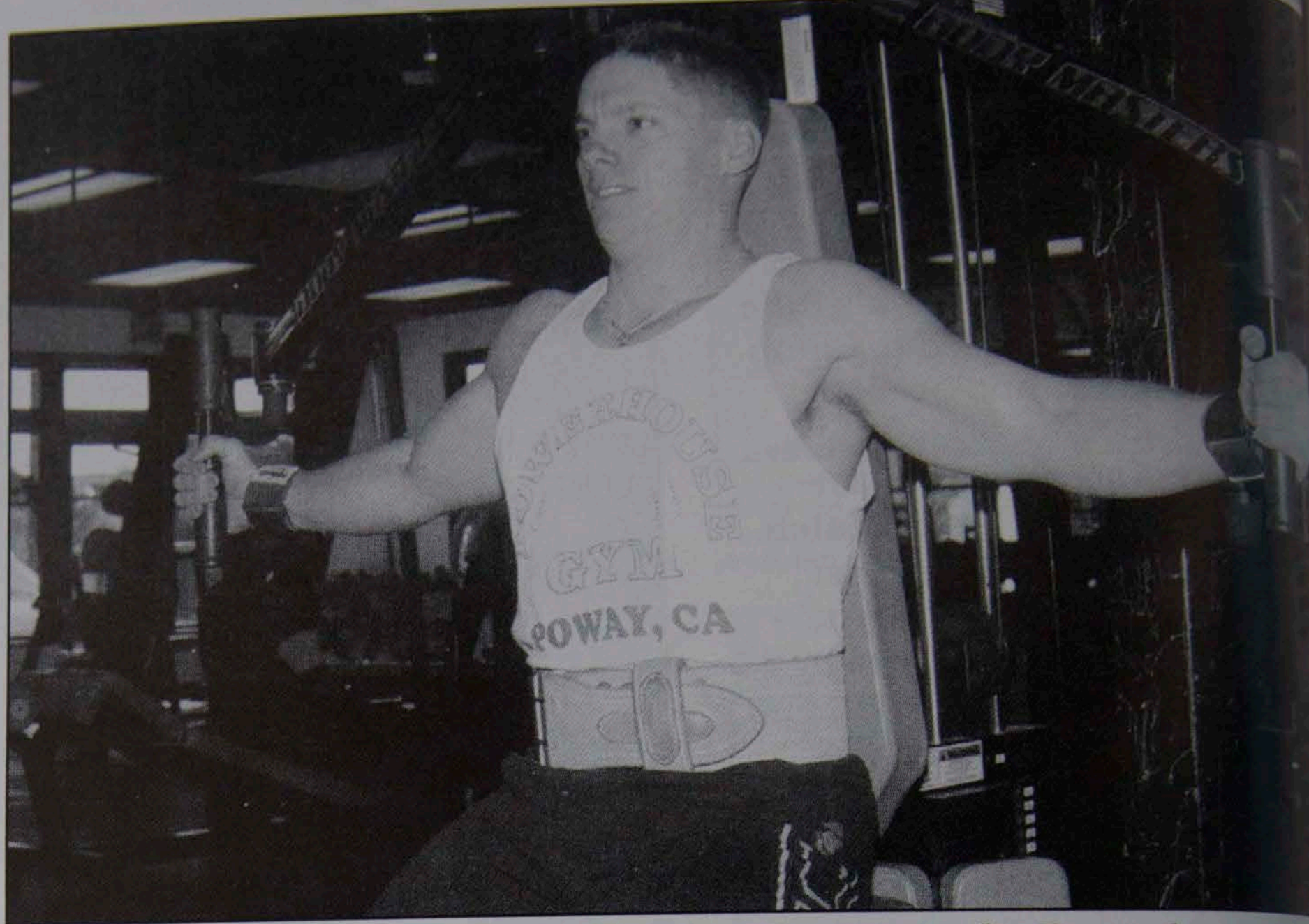
The change began with an exhaustive physical training program in the sixth grade. Russ began lifting weights in junior high school and remained active in weightlifting and football throughout high school.

When he graduated, Russ immediately looked to the Marine Corps. His father had served in the Corps from 1964 to 1968, and Russ wanted to keep the legacy going. However, he was discouraged because of one physical ailment.

"So many people told me there was no way that I could make it because I have asthma," said Russ. "That made me think that I couldn't do it."

Russ spent the next couple of years doing what he did best by becoming a personal trainer in various Escondido, Calif., gyms. He also trained to become a physical therapy technician, and began learning more about how the body worked.

Yet his dream of the Corps didn't go away. "I used to spend a lot of time in the recruiter's office, but I was hesitant to join," said



Private First Class Patrick Russ works out at the Powerhouse Gym in Poway, Calif., where he works as a program manager and personal trainer. The 4th Tank Battalion Motor Transport Marine reservist won first place for his weight class in the Natural Athlete Strength Association's competition in Stateline, Nev.

Russ. "I had a million questions. The recruiters were very patient with me."

He finally decided to apply only to face another setback. His asthma required a medical waiver from Washington, D.C. though Russ scored 283 points out of 300 on the Marine Corps Physical Fitness test by doing 38 pull-ups, 95 sit-ups in two minutes, and running three miles in 20:50, it took months for the Bureau of Medicine to allow him to go to boot camp.

Russ achieved his dream of becoming a Marine June 14, 1996. He returned to Escondido as a reservist to work as the service manager and certified personal trainer for a gymnasium located next to recruiting substation Poway, Calif.

His relationship to the active-duty Marine Corps goes beyond a normal reservist. He still works out with recruiters, and it was motivation from a former Marine powerlifter that helped Russ go to the NASA National Competition.

"I was approached by a large man who just looked me in the eye and said, 'get it done, devil dog,'" said Russ. "It's hard to explain. It was a weird feeling, but it made me so pumped."

On Dec. 14 Russ' powerlifting career began when he bench pressed 314 pounds to take first place in Nevada.

His life goals now have three elements: one, to keep lifting; he's looking forward to his next competition in April. The second, is to someday own a gymnasium. The third, is to stay Marine. ¶