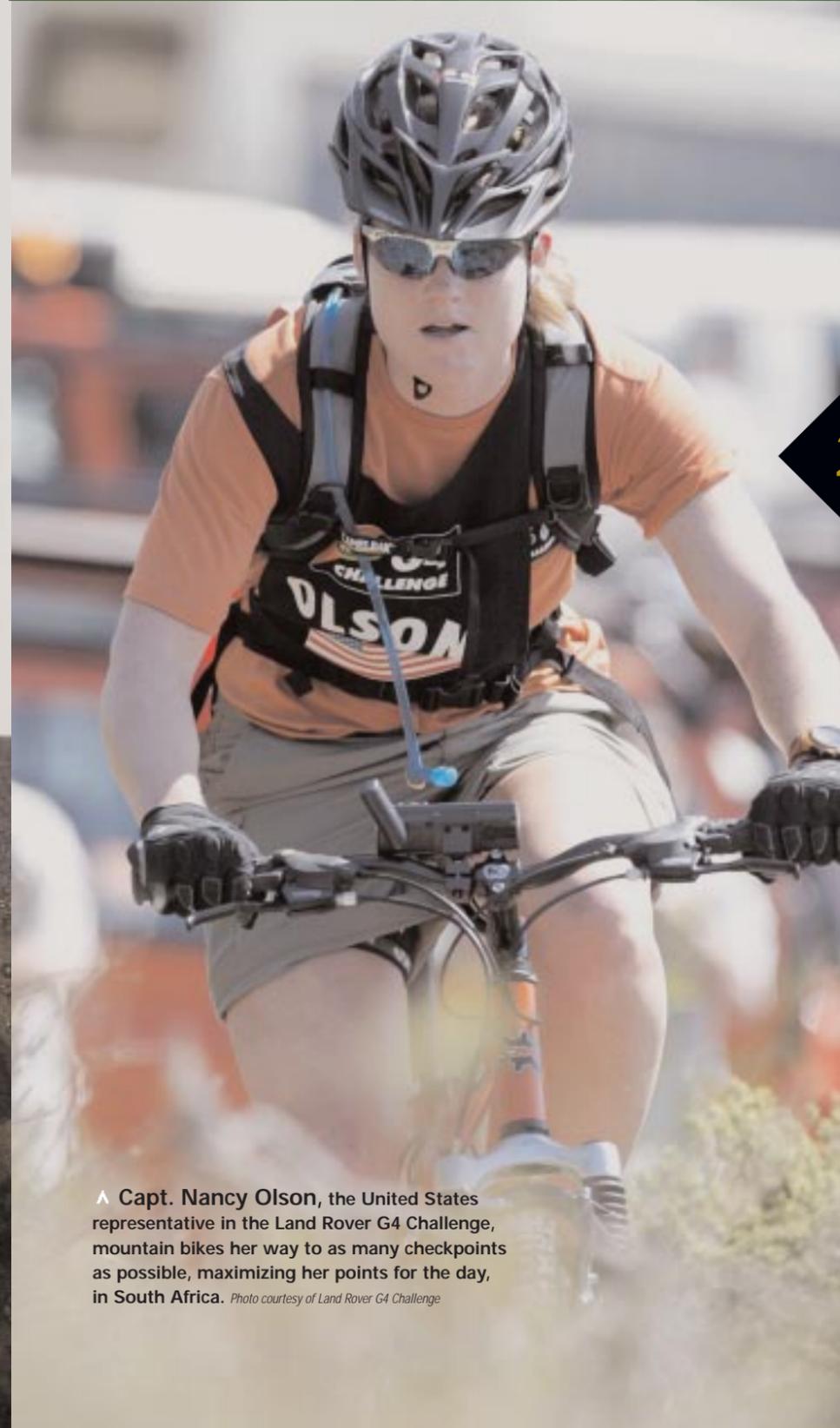




ON POINT >

CAMP COMMANDO, Kuwait —

Pfc. Evan M. Clark, an infantryman with 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, gets his eyes flushed with water after being sprayed in the face with mace during the nonlethal weapons course training at Camp Commando April 22. Photo by Cpl. Veronika R. Tuskowski



▲ Capt. Nancy Olson, the United States representative in the Land Rover G4 Challenge, mountain bikes her way to as many checkpoints as possible, maximizing her points for the day, in South Africa. Photo courtesy of Land Rover G4 Challenge.

FEATURES

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Deirdre Tennant proves Marine spouses are just as tough as their Marines. She is making a name for herself in the grueling world of triathlon competition.

14 | Update Iraq

Operation Iraqi Freedom has ended, but Marines remain in the country to provide humanitarian aid.

20 | Adventure Addict

If it's challenging and she can make it appear somewhat rational to attempt, this Marine is all for giving it a shot.

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33 | Postal Marines Push Mountain of Mail to Deployed Troops

34 | Okinawan Motocross Marines Foster Civic Responsibility on the Fast Track

35 | Boston Marathon – Marine Style

“They’re only flesh wounds. They had no courage to face us, so they hid. But it’s all right, because I’ll be back in the fight soon.”

Marines GOUGE

— Lance Cpl. Jorge Lopez, said of wounds received during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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The war in Iraq has drawn to a close, but Marines remain deployed around the world. Marines have turned their efforts to providing humanitarian assistance to those in need, and continue to train for any possible situation.



36 | On Liberty

Television Review, Book Review, Crossword Puzzle

This isn't the face only a mother could love. This gal, with the intimidating underbite, was invited to open Fox's dog version of "Miss America." Pfc. Molly, the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego mascot, jumped at the chance. "The Pepperdogs," written by Bing West, is a fictional account of Marines who refuse to leave a buddy behind. The theme for the crossword puzzle is "Marine Extremes."



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• Warfighting Lab Asks Can You Hear Me Now?

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• Corps' New Riverene Craft Jets Lejeune Waterways

• SAPI Plate Anything But Sappy

• Hueys Lose Tail Draggin' Blues

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Marines

April • June 2003
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Gen. Michael W. Hagee
Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps
Sgt. Maj. John L. Estrada

MARINE CORPS NEWS

Editor-in-Chief
Reserve Maj. Greg Reeder

Managing Editor
Gunnery Sgt. Glenn Holloway

Associate Editor
Staff Sgt. Cindy Fisher

Associate Editor
Staff Sgt. Kevin Dolloson

Combat Correspondent
Reserve Sgt. John R. Lawson

PUBLICATION DESIGN

Rabil + Bates Communications
Design Company

Creative Director
Debra Bates-Schrott

Senior Art Director
Roger O. Selvage Jr.

Graphic Designers
Mike Barkley
Marco Marchegiani
Seth H. Sirbaugh

Prepress Specialist
Lisa J. Smith

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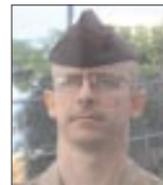
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FEATURED CONTRIBUTOR



Sgt. John Lawson, Headquarters, Marine Corps, Washinton

“Like many Marines, Sgt. John Lawson is a “Full Metal Jacket” devotee and can recite many of the movie’s lines by heart. So, the chance to be a combat correspondent, like the movie’s protagonist, Private Joker, is a lot of fun for Lawson.

Lawson became a Marine in 1998 at the age of 31.

The 36-year-old reserve Marine’s military occupational specialty is in communications, but he has been a combat correspondent since moving to the Washington area in 1999. This work allows him to draw from his experience as a reporter for the Tampa Tribune and Greensboro’s News & Record.

It also capitalizes on his education, which includes a bachelor’s degree in history and English from Washington and Lee University and a master’s degree in journalism from the University of Florida.

“Formal training is all well and good,” Lawson said, “but the most important thing for a writer to ask himself is: ‘Would I really want to read this, or is it just a bunch of regurgitated jargon and acronyms?’”

Lawson wrote nearly 1,000 stories for the Tribune between 1992 and 1996, and he interviewed people ranging from then Vice President Dan Quayle to a serial killer. As a reporter for the News & Record in 1999, Lawson wrote feature stories, including one on then Commandant Gen. Charles Krulak.

Since becoming a Marine, Lawson’s civilian life has become more closely connected with the military. He earned a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Maryland in 2002, and he now puts that degree to work as a military analyst for Data Research and Analysis Corporation in Alexandria, Va.

Lawson grew up in Tampa, Fla. He is married and now lives in Arlington, Va.

Tell it to the Marines!



Here’s your chance to write for **Marines**. Take a look at the photograph and tell us what you think is happening. Submit your funny caption to MCNews@hqmc.usmc.mil. Include your name, unit and base. **Marines** will pick the best one to run in next quarter’s issue.

On the Cover



NORTH DEJALAH RIVER BRIDGE, Iraq— A line charge explodes in Iraq April 6 near the North Dejalah River Bridge, clearing an anti-tank minefield in the path of Marines from 1st Marine Division’s lead elements. The charge was one of three shot that day to get to the bridge.

Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 2 B. Sean Fairburn

Marines SOUND OFF

The Few. The Proud. The Marines. This recruiting slogan, in use since 1976, embodies the Marine Corps ethos. We are the smallest, toughest branch of the U.S. military and we do the job—bringing the battle from ship to shore—better than anyone else out there.

To some, our dedication to our country, our ferociousness in battle, our adherence to the Corps’ principles are beyond the norm. “The Marines are extreme. Wherever you have extremists, you’ve got some risks of total disconnection with society. And that’s a little dangerous,” then Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Sara Lister said at a seminar in October 1997.

If being the best at what we do, always striving to excel, never quitting, and winning despite overwhelming odds is extreme, then

yes, we boldly claim the accusation, not as an insult, but as a mark of tribute to our skills. We have indeed shown our extreme nature, participating in every American war. We have conducted more than 300 landings on foreign shores fighting for our nation. We have fought and won battles in extreme situations against overwhelming odds.

We do more with less and everyone of us is a rifleman first. There are no ex-Marines, we are Marines until we die, then, as the hymn tells us, we stand duty at heaven’s gates. We proudly display our membership in the Corps’ brotherhood on everything from our car bumpers to our biceps. We hold dear our core principles—honor, courage, and commitment. At work, in training and at play, we push ourselves.

But is this extreme?

In response to Mrs. Lister’s comments, then Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Charles Krulak said, “Such a depiction would summarily dismiss 222 years of sacrifice and dedication to the nation. It would dishonor the hundreds of thousands of Marines whose blood has been shed in the name of freedom... honor, courage and commitment are not extreme.”

In this issue of **Marines**, we feature some of those “extreme” Marines, and family members, who have pushed themselves and set new standards for achievement—a Marine spouse who proves she’s just as tough as the Marines—Marines offering humanitarian aid in the still-hostile environment of Iraq—a Marine who seeks out challenging adventures. **M**



Marines SOUND OFF

Editor,

I just read your review of "Windtalkers" (*Marines* January - March 2003 issue) and I couldn't help but comment.

I couldn't disagree with you more on your claim that it "was good in theaters and even better in home." I think the only place this movie is any good at all is in the wastebasket. I first became aware of this disastrous film in spring of 2001 while attending the West Coast Media Training Symposium, run by Capt. Matt Morgan of Los Angeles PAO, who's name is in the credits as the USMC advisor. I took my dad to see it on Fathers' Day last year right after it came out, and was severely disappointed. It is by far the worst military movie I've ever seen, worse than "Heartbreak Ridge." Since then, I've told anyone who's asked me about it to avoid it like a jellyfish.

You write that it is "about the Navajo Indians who were recruited..." It's not about that but actually about Nicholas Cage's dysfunctional character. I think it did a disservice to the code talkers by not developing the story about their role in the war beyond the brief intro to set the stage. Also, I was disappointed that the

screenwriter managed to include the requisite Hollywood-style anti-Christian message with an irrelevant and misplaced gratuitous cheap shot at the Catholic Church. I also have grown weary of the typical Hollywood combat exaggeration—such as hand grenades that perform like MK-82 500lb bombs.

If you like Nicholas Cage in bad military movies be sure and check out "Firebirds," which is about attack helicopters and as a Cobra pilot, almost made me nauseous.

Anyway, thank you for a great magazine, and please tell your movie critics they need to "get out more."

Semper Fi,

Lt. Col. Bob Stephenson
Marine For Life-Hometown Link
Minneapolis

P.S. This year for Father's Day, Dad and I will likely be staying home and reviewing a classic, as I just found *The Great Santini* on DVD.



Photoinstruction by Marco Marchegiani / R+B Design Co.

If you have a comment or concern, please send a letter to the editor. Our address is:

Marine Corps News
Headquarters Marine Corps
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Washington DC 20380-1775

You can also send comments to us electronically at MCNews@hqmc.usmc.mil

More information on concert dates and community events can be found on the Community Relations Web site at <http://www.usmc.mil/commrel/t2003may.nsl/community>

If you have a calendar event of Marine Corpswide interest, submit it to MCNews@hqmc.usmc.mil.

Marines CALENDAR

July is Injury Prevention Month
JULY 2003

AUGUST 2003

Sept. is Hypertension Awareness and Prevention Month
SEPTEMBER 2003

01 TUES	01 FRI	01 MON
02 WED	02 SAT	02 TUES
03 THUR	03 SUN	03 WED
04 FRI	04 MON	04 THUR
05 SAT	05 TUES	05 FRI
06 SUN	06 WED	06 SAT
07 MON	07 THUR	07 SUN
08 TUES	08 FRI	08 MON
09 WED	09 SAT	09 TUES
10 THUR	10 SUN	10 WED
11 FRI	11 MON	11 THUR
12 SAT	12 TUES	12 FRI
13 SUN	13 WED	13 SAT
14 MON	14 THUR	14 SUN
15 TUES	15 FRI	15 MON
16 WED	16 SAT	16 TUES
17 THUR	17 SUN	17 WED
18 FRI	18 MON	18 THUR
19 SAT	19 TUES	19 FRI
20 SUN	20 WED	20 SAT
21 MON	21 THUR	21 SUN
22 TUES	22 FRI	22 MON
23 WED	23 SAT	23 TUES
24 THUR	24 SUN	24 WED
25 FRI	25 MON	25 THUR
26 SAT	26 TUES	26 FRI
27 SUN	27 WED	27 SAT
28 MON	28 THUR	28 SUN
29 TUES	29 FRI	29 MON
30 WED	30 SAT	30 TUES
31 THUR	31 SUN	

July 2 at 8 p.m. > Marine Combo will play at the U.S. Capitol, Lower West Terrace, Washington



July 9 at 8 p.m. > Marine Combo will play at the U.S. Capitol, Lower West Terrace, Washington

July 12 at 6 p.m. > Marine Jazz Orchestra will play at the Millennium Stage, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington

July 12 at 8 p.m. > The Marine Band, conducted by John Williams will play at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Concert Hall, Washington

July 19-20 > Fly-Over Harrier Demo at the 48th Annual Beaufort County Water Festival in Beaufort, S.C. POC: Mr. Les Brediger, 843-525-8307

July 19 at 7:30 p.m. > Marine Chamber Orchestra will play American band favorites at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria, Va.

July 28-Aug. 17 > Men's All Marine Softball Trials will be held at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.

July 30 at 8 p.m. > Marine Combo will play at the U.S. Capitol, Lower West Terrace, Washington

Aug. 3-24 > Women's All Marine Volleyball Trials will be held at MCRD San Diego

Aug 6 at 8 p.m. > Marine Combo will play at the U.S. Capitol, Lower West Terrace, Washington

Aug. 9 at 7:30 p.m. > Marine Chamber Orchestra will play Copland, Britten and Mozart at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria, Va.

July 13 at 8 p.m. > Marine Band will play at the Sylvan Theater, Washington

July 16 at 8 p.m. > Marine Combo will play at the U.S. Capitol, Lower West Terrace, Washington

July 20-26 > Men's Basketball East Coast Regional will be held at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Men's Basketball West Coast Regional will be held at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Aug. 25-31 > Men's All Marine Volleyball Trials will be held at MCAGCC 29 Palms, Calif.

Aug. 27 at 8 p.m. > Marine Combo will play at the U.S. Capitol, Lower West Terrace, Washington

Aug. 20 at 8 p.m. > Marine Combo will play at the U.S. Capitol, Lower West Terrace, Washington

Aug. 3-9 > Marine Corps will host the Armed Forces Chess Championship at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Aug. 7 1990 > President George H. W. Bush ordered U.S. military aircraft and troops to Saudi Arabia for Operation Desert Shield.

Aug. 13 at 8 p.m. > Marine Combo will play at the U.S. Capitol, Lower West Terrace, Washington

Aug. 17-Sept. 5 > Women's All Marine Softball Trials will be held at MCAS Miramar, Calif.

Aug. 20 1814 > Capt. Samuel Miller's 100-man detachment from Marine Barracks, Washington, fought in the battle of Bladensburg for the defense of the national capital.

Sept. 24 1873 > One hundred and ninety Marines and Sailors from the USS Pensacola and Benicia landed at the Bay of Panama, Columbia, to protect the railroad and American lives and property during the revolution.

Sept. 27 1944 > The American flag was raised over Peleliu, Palau Islands, at the 1st Marine Division Command Post.

Sept. 2 1945 > The Japanese officially surrendered to the Allies on board the battleship Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

Sept. 6 > Fly-Over and Harrier Demo in the Salute to Veterans II in Bridgeport, W.V. POC: Mr. Terry Moore, 304-842-9419

Sept. 13 > Marine Band, Drum & Bugle Corps, and Silent Drill Platoon will perform at the Battle of Plattsburgh Commemorative Parade in Plattsburgh, N.Y. POC: Mr. Arthur Norton, 518-566-6656

Sept. 13-23 > 3rd Military World Games will be held in Catania, Italy



SemperToons By Staff Sgt. Charles F. Wolf



Nowak By Paul Nowak

