



O-Course  
challenge  
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MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO

# CHEVRON

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION



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“WHERE MARINES ARE MADE”

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## Co. C takes next step in Marine Corps career

BY LANCE CPL. BRIDGET M. KEANE  
Chevron staff

As graduation drew near, the recruits of Company C, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, had some common goals embedded in their minds – earning their Eagle, Globe and Anchor and finally going home.

From the moment recruits step on the infamous yellow foot prints at Receiving Company aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, to those moments of sleepless nights lying in their racks, many recruits often wished for the comfort of their own beds and the familiar faces of their loved ones.

Wherever home may be, the Recruits of Co. C bought their tickets for their ten days of earned boot leave after graduation during Finals Week aboard MCRD San Diego, Oct. 31.

In their tenth week of training, known as Finals Week, recruits are required to pass comprehensive and practical application exams, an inspection, and their final physical fitness test.

During this time, they are given the opportunity to purchase bus or plane tickets home. They are also required to buy tickets to return to California so they can complete their training at the School of Infantry West for Marine Combat Training aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

MCT is a 29-day course where non-infantry Marines are taught basic combat skills needed in a combat environment. There, they are taught more advanced skills in weapons handling, combat marksmanship, land navigation, and patrolling.

see CAREER ▶ 2



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Pvt. Michael Ferrell, Platoon 1042, Company C, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, examines his plane ticket to Houston, his home town Oct. 31. Ferrell is in his last few weeks of recruit training and recruits are required to buy round trip plane or bus tickets if they are to continue to Marine Combat Training at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

Company D recruits push themselves during a log drill exercise Oct. 30. The log weighed approximately 250 pounds. Recruits were told to focus on teamwork while going through various exercises such as log push-ups and log squats.

## Log drills require teamwork

BY CPL. WALTER D. MARINO II  
Chevron staff

Prior to starting a log drill exercise drill instructors stressed to recruits in order to carry an approximately 250 pound log, between eight recruits, it would behoove them to work as a team.

However when the time came to put teamwork into practice it proved to be a challenge.

Recruits of Company D, 1st Recruit Training Battalion,

conducted log drill exercises wearing boots and camouflage utilities aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Oct. 30.

Recruit Jonathan B. Kim, Platoon 1069, Co. D., explained the difficulties laid in working together despite the differences in height and strength.

“For some, it was hard to get the teamwork down. But once they got it down the exercise was much easier,” said recruit

Jonathan B. Kim, Platoon 1069, Co. D. “Once they started working and walking together it was like all the cogs were working.”

During the exercise, recruits quickly caught on to the idea of organizing their shorter and taller recruits in order to carry the log more efficiently.

Kim pointed out that during the exercise, it is also important to have the right mentality.

see LOG ▶ 2

## Pride, honor runs deep within Marine uniforms

BY CPL. WALTER D. MARINO II  
Chevron staff

Many Marines will say they have the best looking uniform of all the services and while that is a matter of opinion, no other service has a uniform similar to Marine dress blues.

Recruits of Lima Company, 3rd recruit Training Battalion, were fitted and received their dress uniforms aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Oct. 31.

While collecting their uniforms many recruits agreed that the dress blues were their favorite. After graduating

from recruit training Recruit Anthony J. Kuchynka, squad leader, Co. L, says he plans to wear them to his sister’s wedding.

“It’s a privilege because you have to pass boot camp to wear them and it’s an honor because of all the great Marines that have worn them before,” said Kuchynka, a Billings, Mont., native.

Many recruits wore smiles and a look of accomplishment and pride as they wore their uniforms through the tailoring process.

“The uniforms fill us with

see UNIFORM ▶ 2



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

Lima Company recruits wait in line to have their uniforms inspected for any necessary tailoring Oct. 31. The recruits received all their Marine dress uniforms during this event.



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

The recruits of Company C, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, line up to purchase their tickets home aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Oct. 31. The recruits bought their tickets for going home and returning to complete their training aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif

## CAREER ◀ 1

Marines that are infantry go to a 59-day course.

Once the new Marines have completed their training at MCT, they will move on to the school designated for their Military Occupation Specialty.

As much as each recruit wanted to go home, there were mixed feelings about the vigorous training cycle of recruit training finally coming to an end.

Pfc. Anthony Petonic, Platoon 1043, Co. C, explained how surreal it felt that training was about to end.

"Time moved very fast," said the 18-year-old Sierrita Vista, Ariz., native. "It feels like recruit training just started like a week ago and here we are about to graduate."

Others felt a sense of accomplishment and relief that they were holding their ticket home in their hands.

"I feel like it's a great weight off my shoulders," said Pfc. Troy Redman, Platoon 1041, Co. C. "But I also feel that another one is coming."

Redman, an 18-year-old Sacramento, Calif., native, said that even though recruit training was coming to an end, he

knew that there was more training that he was going to experience before he arrived at his first duty station.

"This is just the beginning of my career in the Marine Corps," said Redman. "There is still more that I have to go through so I can be prepared for when I hit the fleet."

Co. C now holds the title Marine. They endured the Crucible, a 54-hour field training exercise and completed the 10-mile Reaper hike. They are ready for the well deserved time home with their family and friends, before embarking on the next chapter of their training.



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

Drill instructors with Company D, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, lead their recruits through log drill exercises aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Oct. 30. Prior to the exercise drill instructors demonstrated how to safely carry the logs and work as a team.

## LOG ◀ 1

"Everyone has to do their fair share," said Kim. "You have to have the mentality that it's hard for everybody, not just one person."

Each group of recruits worked through log exercises such as log push-ups, log squats and side benders.

"I push them to make sure they are giving 100 percent of themselves at all times. That log gets heavy by the third obstacle," said Sgt. Tyler J. Tellez, drill

instructor, Plt. 1075, Co. D.

Tellez explained that when the recruits get fatigued, that is when they start to argue and their communication skills get tested.

"I tell them to stop arguing and to work as a team," said Tellez.

Fellow drill instructor Sgt. Sean N. Ross, Plt. 1074, Co. D, also knew the difficulty recruits face if teamwork isn't involved.

"I tell the ones not pulling their weight that because you're not working you're making your fellow recruits work harder

and suffer," said Ross.

Kim explained this was their first exercise designed to test the recruit's ability to work as a team and he liked the results.

"After the exercise the morale went up because we knew we could trust each other a little better," said Kim.

Although the bickering and fatigue were a struggle for some recruits to push through, it appeared many recruits have taken the experience for what it was intended – a building block for team working skills.

## UNIFORM ◀ 1

more pride and make you look forward to becoming Marines and wearing the uniform proudly," said Recruit Jose L. Ramirez-Mena, Plt. 3251, Co. L.

Kuchynka's father is retired from the National Guard and his grandfather is former Air Force, but Kuchynka explained he believes the Marine uniform beats all the others he's seen.

"I think the Marines have the best uniforms. The dress blue uniform is (awesome)," said Kuchynka.

Ramirez-Mena agreed and said they look sharper, more aggressive and have a tight fit.

As recruits received marking on their uniforms for adjustment, their drill instructors looked on from the side knowing very much what affect receiving the uniforms have on their recruits.

"You can see their morale rise a little bit, especially when they get their (camouflage utilities) with their name tapes," said Staff Sgt. Patrick S. Baughman, drill instructor, Plt. 3251, Co. L. "We teach them the importance of making sure their uniforms are pristine and how much of an honor it is to wear

them. During the uniform issue they take it very seriously."

After boot camp Kuchynka says he is going to wear the uniform with discipline and not do anything "crazy" to disgrace the Marine Corps or the great Marines who made the Corps what it is today.

When it's time for these recruits to don their uniforms and leave MCRD San Diego, they take with them the building blocks of the next chapter and essentially the future of the Corps. It appears recruits like Kuchynka and Ramirez-Mena are aware of the responsibility that comes with the Marine uniform.

## BRIEFS

### Thanksgiving gate hours

Gate operations for Thanksgiving are as follows:

- Gate 2 - Closes 6 p.m., Nov. 21; reopens 6 a.m., Nov. 23; Closes 4 p.m., Nov. 23; re-opens 6 a.m., Nov. 25
- Gate 4 - Open
- Gate 5 - Close 6 p.m., Nov. 21; re-opens 6 a.m., Nov. 25 (subject to being open upon request over the holiday period for deliveries or large vehicles, by calling the Provost Marshall Desk Sergeant at (619) 524-4202).

### Open enrollment

The MCCS/MCRD San Diego Human Resources Office announces that Open Enrollment for medical, dental and flexible spending accounts is underway and will continue until Nov. 30.

This is the opportunity for civilian employees to adjust their enrollment in these programs to fit changing need.

Employees may enroll, cancel or make changes through PeopleSoft Self Service or at the local Human Resources Office.

Employees enrolled in a flexible spend account must reenroll for 2013. For information or alterations go to [www.opm.gov/insure/flexible/index.asp](http://www.opm.gov/insure/flexible/index.asp)

All open enrollment changes are effective Jan. 1, 2013.

For information go to [www.mccs-mcrd.com/HumanResources/Benefits/index.html](http://www.mccs-mcrd.com/HumanResources/Benefits/index.html).

### Electronic Funds Transfer

A treasury mandate requires the Department of Defense pay customers by Electronic Fund Transfer beginning March 1, 2013. This electronic payment includes regular scheduled payday, special payments, and allotments.

Allotment recipients, retirees, and civilian employees receiving paper checks must set up direct deposit accounts.

For more information, contact Tom Garcia at (619) 524-6102.

### Career opportunities

The Federal Protective Service has career opportunities available for qualified veterans, as physical security specialists, law enforcement security officers.

Vets interested in exploring the opportunities should come to the depot's Personal and Professional Development office, building 14, from 9 a.m., to 4 p.m. on Nov. 29.

Vets should bring a copy of their current resume, their DD-214 or Statement of Bring a copy of current resume, your DD-214 or Statement of Service, and Veterans Administration Compensation Letter for those vets claiming 30-percent or more disability.

For information contact the transition manager, Mina Threat, at (619) 524-1283 or 8440; or via e-mail at [mina.threat@usmc.mil](mailto:mina.threat@usmc.mil)

### Bowling lanes closed

The MCCS/MCRD San Diego Recreation Center has announced that the bowling lanes are closed for renovation until Dec. 1. For information call (619) 524-4446 or go to <http://www.mccsmcrd.com/SemperFit/Recreation-Center/index.html>

### Send briefs to:

[rdsd\\_pao@usmc.mil](mailto:rdsd_pao@usmc.mil). The Chevron staff reserves the right to publish only those briefs that comply with Department of Defense regulations and the standards of the U.S. Government.

## Around the depot

This week the Chevron asks: "Why is Veteran's Day important?"



"Because the veterans have set the example for us to follow." Pfc. Pilar J. Vasquez, property control office clerk, Service Battalion



"Honor them because the Marine Corps wouldn't be what it is today." Pfc. Ezequiel Madrid-Aviles, unit diary clerk, Recruit Administration Branch, Support Battalion



"Because I am grateful to live in a land of freedom and prosperity. Without the blood and sacrifices of the great men and women in the armed forces this country would not be what it is today." Staff Sgt. Jason Silva, personnel chief, consolidated personnel administration center, Headquarters Battalion

## Pageant of Honor



Cpl. Eric C. Quintanilla

Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego hosted its annual Marine Corps birthday pageant honoring Marines of the past by showcasing the uniforms they have worn throughout America's history. The event occurred during the Nov. 9 morning colors ceremony. The depot also held its annual Marine Corps birthday cake cutting ceremony symbolizing the passing of knowledge from experienced Marines to new Marines.

## SDSU Appreciates Military



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

Marines stationed aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego present the colors prior to the season's final San Diego State Aztecs football game at Qualcomm Stadium, Nov. 10. After the colors presentation the Aztecs faced the Air Force Falcons.



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# Marines celebrate 237 years of history and tradition with San Diego's wounded veterans

BY LANCE CPL. BRIDGET M. KEANE  
Chevron staff

November 11 is Veteran's Day.

Veteran's Day was originally a day set aside to commemorate the end of World War I. It is now observed as a holiday to honor all of America's military veterans, past and present.

Marines stationed aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego proudly shared the Cake Cutting Ceremony honoring the Marine Corps' 237th birthday with veterans at the Veterans Affairs Hospital San Diego Nov. 5.

"Having the ceremony here pays tribute to all the Marines that came before us," said Gunner Sgt. Steven Keller, ceremonial staff non-commissioned officer in charge. "It's an honor to

be here for the veterans and I think they're honored as well."

Marines have been celebrating the Marine Corps birthday for many years now, but the first ceremonial birthday was celebrated in 1925. The ceremony was formalized by Lemuel C. Shepherd, 20th Commandant of the Marine Corps, in 1952 by highlighting the cake cutting ceremony, which later entered the Marine Drill Manual in 1956.

"I have been celebrating the birthday since 1970 and I've never missed one since," said Cleaves Franklin, Marine Corps veteran. "It's a time of celebration and remembrance. I always remember all the Marines that gave their lives for us."

Veterans of all services and ages were invited to watch the ceremony. The cake

was slowly marched out to a slowed down rendition of the Marine Corps' Hymn. It was brought to host, Jeffery Gerring, director, Veterans Affairs San Diego Health Care System, and to his guest, Brig. Gen. Daniel D. Yoo, commanding general, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and Western Recruiting Region.

The tradition is to offer the first piece of cake to the guest of honor as a sign of respect and to recognize his contribution to the Marine Corps.

The second piece is given to the oldest and youngest Marine present at the ceremony. This symbolizes the experience and youthful spirit that is the trademark of the Corps. The oldest Marine present was Sgt. Lloyd Eiseley, born February 1925 in Omaha, Neb., and who served as an infantryman in

the Marine Corps from 1942 to 1945.

Eiseley tasted the cake and then passed it to the youngest Marine present, Cpl. Jeffery R Combs, born October 1989 in O'Fallon, Mo., also an infantryman. Combs has served in the Marine Corps since 2008.

The passing of the cake from the oldest to the youngest symbolizes the passing of tradition, knowledge and history to the next generation.

"It was an honor and surprise to be the youngest Marine at the ceremony," said Combs, 23. "This is my fourth birthday celebration, but it will be the most memorable."

Combs served overseas in 2008 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was later paralyzed in a motorcycle accident July 17.

"It's a time to celebrate," said Combs. "We honor the

lives of our fallen brothers. If they were here, they'd want us to celebrate their lives and not their deaths. They made the ultimate sacrifice that each of us is willing to make."

The cake was then slowly marched back, where it was cut into several pieces so that Yoo and Marines in the ceremony could pass them out to veterans who could not make it to the ceremony.

Marines of the past and present socialized with each other, sharing stories and talking about the Corps past and present.

With another year down, and many more to go, the Marine Corps will continue to honor its traditions and its veterans.

"There are three things that I hold close to my heart," said Franklin, 82. "God, country and the Corps. I'm all Marine until I die."



Brig. Gen. Daniel D. Yoo, commanding general, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and Western Recruiting Region, cuts a piece of cake for Jeffery Gerring, director, Veterans Affairs San Diego Health Care System. Marines have been celebrating the Marine Corps birthday for years, and the first ceremonial birthday was celebrated in 1925. The ceremony was formalized by Lemuel C. Shepherd, 20th Commandant of the Marine Corps, in 1952 by highlighting the cake cutting ceremony, which later entered the Marine Drill Manual in 1956. The cake cutting symbolizes the passing of tradition.



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

The cake escorts slowly march out the birthday cake to a slowed rendition of the Marines' Hymn during the Cake Cutting Ceremony honoring the Marine Corps' 237th birthday with veterans at the Veterans Affairs Hospital San Diego Nov. 5.



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Veterans were invited to watch the Cake Cutting Ceremony at Veterans Affairs Hospital San Diego Nov. 5. Marines stationed aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot volunteered their time to pass out cake to service members that couldn't make it to the ceremony.



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Marine Corps veterans salute the American flag as the depot's color guard marches it into the medical facility for the 237th Marine Corps birthday celebration. Veterans from all branches of America's Armed Forces attended the celebration at the Marine Corps' invitation.



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Cpl. Jeffery R. Combs, a Marine Corps infantryman born October 1989 in O'Fallon, Mo., was the youngest Marine at the San Diego Veterans Affairs cake cutting ceremony celebrating the Corps 237th birthday. Combs joined the Marine Corps in 2008 and served overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Lloyd Eiseley, born February 1925 in Omaha, Neb., and who served as an infantryman in the Marine Corps from 1942 to 1945, was the oldest Marine present at the cake cutting ceremony at the San Diego Veterans Affairs Hospital Nov. 5, celebrating the Corps 237th birthday



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Ceremonial Color Guard stationed aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, marches out the National Colors during the Cake Cutting Ceremony honoring the Marine Corps' 237th birthday with veterans at the Veterans Affairs Hospital San Diego Nov. 5.

# Drill Instructor a role model for recruits, fellow Marines

BY CPL. WALTER D. MARINO II  
Chevron staff

Sgt. Juan E. Duque, senior drill instructor, Platoon 1041, Company C, who was the first in his family to join the military, says he was a role model for two of his siblings. Since his enlistment both his younger brother and older sister have joined the service.

"My sister definitely joined because I pushed her," said Duque, a Medellin, Columbia native. "My brother played the same sports as me and looked up to me as well. He joined right after high school."

Now a drill instructor, Duque has transformed his position as family role model to a role model for a recruit platoon. Although the number of people is higher, it appears Duque is leaving a lasting positive impression on the recruits aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, as well.

Duque selected recruit Troy G. Redman, as his platoon guide. Since then Duque has pulled Redman aside numerous times to give him advice on leadership and how to be a role model to the other recruits.

Redman explained that because he is only 18 years old many of the other recruits are older than him and it is stressful to try and lead them.

"My senior (drill instructor) is a role model for me. He told

me that they all look at me and the recruits are going to do what I do," said Redman. "He told me that instead of doing things for myself it's more about working with and pushing the recruits."

During his drill instructing career Duque has had three honor platoons, received the Band of Brothers Award three times and has been awarded two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals. He was recently voted morale leader for his current cycle of recruits.

The respect doesn't end in the recruit's eyes. Fellow drill instructors also feel Duque is an excellent leader who always puts taking care of fellow Marines first.

"He takes care of his team," said Staff Sgt. Michael A. Garcia, chief drill instructor. "He sends them home to see their families as much as possible. He has Marines that want to work for him because of who he is and not just because they have to."

Garcia explained Duque regards honesty as a very important quality and sets the right example by his own actions, but also by giving honest opinion of his fellow drill instructors.

"He gives an honest assessment on what fellow drill instructors need to improve on," said Garcia. "A big part of being a senior drill instructor is training the Marines under you as well as the recruits. Recruits look up to him because he always sets the example of what



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

**Sgt. Juan E. Duque, senior drill instructor, Platoon 1041, Company C, stands in front of Recruit Troy G. Redman, guide, Platoon 1041, Company C, aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Nov. 10. Duque is the drill instructor who selected Redman as guide and has routinely guided Redman on how to be a leader.**

a Marine is."

Duque said making Marines has to do with his desire to leave his thumbprint in the Marine Corps. "I want to instill good morals that I feel I was taught by my leadership during my life in the Corps," said Duque.

Duque explained that after eight cycles of recruits, he has

learned just how much influence a drill instructor can have not only in his recruits but on fellow Marines as well.

"It's a huge responsibility," said Duque. "You see how recruits are inspired by your actions and how you treat your fellow drill instructors."

Duque said that's why he can't

have a negative attitude.

"If I had a negative attitude it would reflect on the recruits," said the 26-year-old Duque.

Although Duque says he joined the Corps to find purpose it appears after finding it, the tables have turned. He not only inspires Marines in the making but fellow Marines as well.

## Sgt. Maj. Michael F. Jones

### Parade Reviewing Officer

Sergeant Major Michael F. Jones is the Sergeant Major of U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command, Norfolk, Va.

Sgt. Maj. Michael F. Jones was born on Sept. 8, 1965 in Salemburg, N.C., to Robert and Lorie Jones. He graduated from Lakewood High School in Roseboro, N.C., on June 3, 1983, and reported for recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., on July 1, 1983.

Jones was meritoriously promoted to private first class upon graduation.

In December 1983, after completing the Marine Artillery Scout Observers Course at Fort Sill, Ok., and the Naval Gunfire Spotters Course at Little Creek, Va., Jones was assigned to Battery F and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, where he served as a scout observer, fire support man and liaison chief. While there Jones participated in many exercises, including Team Spirit, Bear Hunt, Cobra Gold, and a Western Pacific cruise.

Jones was promoted to lance corporal at regular time in grade, and was meritoriously promoted to corporal and sergeant during this tour.

In December 1985, Jones was transferred to Battery B, 1st Battalion, 10th Marines, 2nd Marine Division, where he served as a scout observer, forward observer and fire support coordination chief.

While there he participated in various exercises and deployments, including a

Mediterranean cruise.

In July 1987, Jones transferred to MCRD Parris Island where he served as a drill instructor and senior drill instructor with H and M Companies, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, as well as scheduling chief for the Recruit Training Regiment. He was meritoriously promoted to staff sergeant.

In December 1989, Jones transferred to Headquarters' Battery, 12th Regiment, 3rd Marine Division where he served as the assistant fire support coordination chief.

In August 1990, Jones deployed with 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, 2nd Marine Division to Kuwait where he participated in Operation Desert Shield.

In February 1991, he and his naval gunfire spotter teams were re-designated as artillery scouts/security teams and were reassigned to HQ Battery, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, where he participated in Operation Desert Storm. He served as a platoon sergeant, fire support man, local security chief and fire support coordination liaison chief during this tour.

In April 1991, Jones was transferred to HQ Battery, 1st Battalion, 10th Marines, 2nd Marine Division, where he served as the naval gunfire liaison chief and fire support coordination chief. While in this assignment, he participated in numerous exercises and deployments to include combined arms exercises at Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Base, Calif., Regimental Fire Exercises at Ft. Bragg, N.C., as well as cold weather training at Ft. McCoy, Wis., and in Norway.

Jones was selected from the below zone to gunnery sergeant during this tour.

In December 1992, Jones was transferred to the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Camp Geiger, N.C., where he served as a faculty advisor for the Sergeant's Course and the Career Course.

In January 1995, Jones was selected to serve as an enlisted career counselor at Headquarters Marine Corps. He was selected to first sergeant during this assignment, in July 1996, and was transferred to Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany, Ga., where he served as the first sergeant Company A and B, as well as the battalion sergeant major for Headquarters Battalion.

He was selected to sergeant major in July 2000, and was transferred to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division where he served as the battalion sergeant major.

During this assignment, Jones participated in Operation Wild Fire in Idaho, and in numerous field exercises at Camp Pendleton and Twentynine Palms.

In August 2001, Jones was transferred within the 1st Marine Division to serve with

2nd Battalion, 11th Marines as the battalion sergeant major. While in this assignment he participated in several exercises, including combined arms exercises at Twentynine Palms. He deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from February to July 2003.

In August 2003, Jones was transferred to the 3rd Marine Division where he served as the battalion sergeant major for Combat Assault Battalion. He participated in several field exercises off the coast of Okinawa during this tour and, in December 2003, he was transferred within the 3rd Marine Division to serve as the Headquarters Battalion and Camp Courtney, Okinawa, sergeant major for 3rd Marine Division.

In May 2004, Jones was transferred to Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, Okinawa, to serve as the director of the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy for the Far East region.

In August 2006, Jones transferred to the 2nd Marine Division where he served as the sergeant major of the 10th

Regiment.

Continuing as a member of the Carolina Marine Air-Ground Task Force, in March 2008, he posted as the sergeant major of the 2nd Marine Division. In September 2010, he was assigned as the sergeant major of the II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) where he deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in March 2011 as the sergeant major of Regional Command Southwest/II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward).

Upon returning to the United States in March 2012, Jones was subsequently assigned to his current post as sergeant major of Marine Forces Command in June 2012.

His personal awards include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars in lieu of third award, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with three gold stars in lieu of fourth award, the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service award and the Combat Action Ribbon with one gold star in lieu of second award.

**"Congratulations to the Marines of Charlie Company, First Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California. You have answered the call, met the challenges and are henceforth and forevermore United States Marines! Without further ceremony or rite of passage the title Marine is yours to carry forward until your exploits, like the Marines before you, are written into the annals of history. Your responsibility is, in the words of our 13th Commandant, Maj. Gen. John A. Lejeune, to be found 'worthy successors to the long line of illustrious men who have served as 'Soldiers of the Sea' since the founding of the Corps.' I welcome you and your families to our band of brothers and sisters. Fight for right and freedom, keep your honor clean and write your chapter well!"**





**Platoon 1042** COMPANY HONOR MAN Lance Cpl. M. J. Soltis Jr. Albion, Mich. Recruited by Sgt. J. Reed  
**Platoon 1046** SERIES HONOR MAN Pfc. M. Lopez Oklahoma City Recruited by Staff Sgt. W. Davis  
**Platoon 1041** PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. T. G. Redman Sacramento, Calif. Recruited by Sgt. X. Huynh  
**Platoon 1043** PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. A. L. Petonic Phoenix Recruited by Sgt. J. P. Foose  
**Platoon 1045** PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. A. J. De Waal Lansing, Mich. Recruited by Sgt. G. A. Tristan  
**Platoon 1047** PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. D. J. Zorich Kansas City, Mo. Recruited by Sgt. N. J. Goodwin  
**Platoon 1042** HIGH SHOOTER (339) Pfc. J. J. Bone Chicago Marksmanship Instructor Sgt. J. R. Furie  
**Platoon 1047** HIGH PFT (300) Pvt. B. Ungger Culver City, Calif. Recruited by Sgt. J. Barnes



# CHARLIE COMPANY

1st RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION

Commanding Officer  
Sergeant Major  
Battalion Drill Master

Lt. Col. D. R. Kazmier  
Sgt. Maj. J. N. Perry  
Gunnery Sgt. S. C. Chromy



<b>COMPANY K</b> Commanding Officer Capt. C. D. Ortiz Company First Sergeant 1st Sgt. M. D. Bass	<b>SERIES 1041</b> Series Commander Capt. F. J. Diaz Chief Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. M. A. Garcia	<b>PLATOON 1041</b> Senior Drill Instructor Sgt. J. E. Duque Drill Instructors Sgt. N. Desimone Sgt. E. L. Gantt Sgt. J. A. Sabater Sgt. A. Torres	<b>PLATOON 1042</b> Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. C. G. Blas Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. A. J. Curry Staff Sgt. S. P. Henryson	<b>PLATOON 1043</b> Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. J. E. Toro Drill Instructors Sgt. P. B. Dekker Sgt. B. R. Karnes
	<b>SERIES 1045</b> Series Commander Capt. J. M. Phelps Chief Drill Instructor Gunnery Sgt. M. A. Arzola	<b>PLATOON 1045</b> Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. M. D. Riggs Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. J. M. Romero Staff Sgt. K. J. Sanchez Sgt. T. B. Morris	<b>PLATOON 1046</b> Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. C. O. Morales Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. S. A. Dishar Sgt. E. A. Maldonado Sgt. M. Ramirez	<b>PLATOON 1047</b> Senior Drill Instructor Sgt. C. A. Thompson Drill Instructors Sgt. S. M. Donovan Sgt. D. F. Martin Sgt. M. D. Walker

\* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

**PLATOON 1041**  
 Pvt. J. P. Ales  
 Pvt. D. A. Ayala  
 Pvt. B. J. Baca  
 Pvt. T. J. Baker  
 Pvt. G. L. Bauer  
 Pvt. B. J. Bazzar  
 \*Pfc. R. L. Becerra  
 Pvt. A. P. Bek  
 Pvt. F. A. Beltran  
 Pvt. J. C. Berkey  
 Pvt. R. W. Bogardus  
 Pvt. M. K. Borges  
 Pfc. R. A. Brito  
 Pvt. B. F. Brown  
 Pvt. R. A. Bustos  
 Pvt. J. R. Caldwell  
 Pvt. D. E. Caley  
 Pfc. D. P. Camerino  
 \*Pfc. S. J. Campos  
 Pvt. J. M. Cardenas  
 Pvt. J. B. Carrigg  
 Pvt. E. Carrizales  
 Pvt. M. B. Carter  
 Pvt. O. A. Chaconcerna  
 Pvt. A. J. Chavez  
 Pfc. R. D. Clark  
 Pvt. C. R. Claunch  
 Pvt. Z. A. Collard  
 Pfc. A. J. Colon  
 Pfc. J. A. Constancio  
 Pvt. M. B. Crawford  
 \*Pfc. T. W. Curtis  
 Pfc. C. D. Dacanay-Rader  
 Pvt. J. A. Darrow  
 Pfc. D. L. Deloris  
 Pvt. S. S. Dempsey  
 Pvt. N. G. Doro  
 Pvt. D. D. Doster  
 Pvt. J. M. Eckols  
 Pfc. R. M. Encarnacion  
 \*Pfc. C. D. Esman  
 \*Pfc. J. A. Espinoza  
 Pfc. E. Estrada  
 Pvt. L. Felix  
 Pfc. D. R. Francis  
 Pfc. J. B. Frost  
 Pvt. V. Z. Galindo Jr.  
 Pfc. N. Gatica  
 Pvt. L. I. Gil  
 Pvt. A. Gonzalez-Vergara  
 Pvt. W. A. Korthals  
 Pfc. R. T. Larsen  
 Pfc. D. N. Latham  
 Pfc. D. Lew  
 Pfc. N. A. Lewis  
 Pvt. J. A. Little III  
 Pvt. S. R. Marks  
 Pvt. C. A. Martinets  
 Pfc. B. L. Martinez  
 Pvt. T. J. Mason  
 Pvt. W. C. Patterson  
 Pfc. J. C. Paxson  
 Pvt. B. E. Pellett  
 Pvt. T. R. Petersen  
 Pfc. J. M. Porras  
 Pvt. M. R. Puccinelli  
 Pfc. T. G. Redman  
 \*Pfc. J. H. Reynoso  
 Pvt. J. Ripoyla  
 Pfc. F. R. Ruiz Jr.  
 Pvt. J. L. Salazar Jr.  
 Pvt. J. N. Shands-Ballas  
 Pvt. J. A. Shear  
 Pfc. B. J. Siville  
 Pfc. T. L. Stark  
 Pfc. D. E. Starkey II  
 Pvt. A. T. Stigall

Pfc. R. O. Swift III  
 Pvt. R. L. Tapp  
 Pfc. J. A. Taylor  
 Pvt. P. O. Thompson  
 Pvt. H. L. Tollison  
 Pfc. N. A. Tom  
 Pvt. C. L. Tucker  
 Pvt. J. S. Van de Walle  
 Pvt. J. P. Vargas  
 Pvt. I. G. Weber  
 Pvt. N. N. Wells  
 Pvt. D. M. West  
 Pvt. J. T. West  
 Pvt. K. D. Whithaus  
 Pvt. P. N. Whitted  
 Pvt. Z. J. Wilford  
 Pfc. J. C. Zwolinski

**PLATOON 1042**  
 Pfc. C. Alvarez  
 Pvt. L. D. Alvarez  
 Pfc. K. J. Arthur  
 Pfc. J. D. Bates  
 Pvt. B. M. Bernier  
 Pvt. O. A. Chaconcerna  
 Pvt. A. J. Chavez  
 Pfc. R. D. Clark  
 Pvt. C. R. Claunch  
 Pvt. Z. A. Collard  
 Pfc. A. J. Colon  
 Pfc. J. A. Constancio  
 Pvt. M. B. Crawford  
 \*Pfc. T. W. Curtis  
 Pfc. C. D. Dacanay-Rader  
 Pvt. J. A. Darrow  
 Pfc. D. L. Deloris  
 Pvt. S. S. Dempsey  
 Pvt. N. G. Doro  
 Pvt. D. D. Doster  
 Pvt. J. M. Eckols  
 Pfc. R. M. Encarnacion  
 \*Pfc. C. D. Esman  
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 Pfc. E. Estrada  
 Pvt. L. Felix  
 Pfc. D. R. Francis  
 Pfc. J. B. Frost  
 Pvt. V. Z. Galindo Jr.  
 Pfc. N. Gatica  
 Pvt. L. I. Gil  
 Pvt. A. Gonzalez-Vergara  
 Pvt. W. A. Korthals  
 Pfc. R. T. Larsen  
 Pfc. D. N. Latham  
 Pfc. D. Lew  
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 Pvt. B. E. Pellett  
 Pvt. T. R. Petersen  
 Pfc. J. M. Porras  
 Pvt. M. R. Puccinelli  
 Pfc. T. G. Redman  
 \*Pfc. J. H. Reynoso  
 Pvt. J. Ripoyla  
 Pfc. F. R. Ruiz Jr.  
 Pvt. J. L. Salazar Jr.  
 Pvt. J. N. Shands-Ballas  
 Pvt. J. A. Shear  
 Pfc. B. J. Siville  
 Pfc. T. L. Stark  
 Pfc. D. E. Starkey II  
 Pvt. A. T. Stigall

Pvt. A. I. Martinez  
 Pvt. M. B. McCollum  
 Pvt. A. J. McKenney  
 Pvt. J. A. Medina  
 Pvt. H. B. Meece  
 Pvt. J. M. Meives  
 Pvt. S. C. Mendez  
 Pvt. R. D. Morales  
 Pvt. C. R. Nelson  
 Pfc. D. A. Ocampo  
 Pvt. O. Pantoja  
 \*Pfc. J. M. Parise  
 Pvt. R. C. Parker  
 Pvt. A. Ponsvega  
 Pfc. J. A. Powers  
 Pfc. J. T. Rindisbacher  
 \*Pfc. E. A. Ritschard  
 Pvt. E. Robles  
 Pvt. B. T. Schneider  
 Pfc. J. C. Serfas  
 Pvt. J. E. Silvester  
 Pvt. M. Smith  
 Pvt. T. M. Soares  
 \*Lance Cpl. M. J. Soltis Jr.  
 Pvt. S. E. Tamez  
 Pvt. R. L. West  
 Pvt. G. J. Wilson  
 Pvt. J. G. Windham  
 Pfc. L. R. Wirth  
 Pvt. T. N. Wolfe

**PLATOON 1043**  
 Pfc. H. F. Alvarado Jr.  
 Pfc. J. D. Amaya  
 Pfc. K. W. Anderson  
 Pfc. E. S. Arismendez  
 Pvt. M. E. Barton  
 Pvt. D. A. Bauder  
 Pfc. R. O. Benitez  
 Pfc. D. A. Bierman Jr.  
 Pfc. K. W. Bigspring  
 \*Pfc. J. R. Brockman  
 \*Pfc. A. J. Bunch  
 Pfc. C. A. K. Burgess  
 Pvt. T. J. Caniglia III  
 Pfc. F. C. Cantu IV  
 Pfc. A. J. Canto  
 Pvt. J. A. Cavaness  
 Pvt. A. N. Centeno  
 Pvt. A. A. Clemens  
 Pfc. D. C. Clemenson  
 Pvt. R. W. Clumpner  
 Pfc. R. R. Cochran Jr.  
 Pfc. N. W. Coleman  
 Pfc. M. A. Corlas  
 Pvt. D. E. DeWitt  
 Pvt. C. M. Downs  
 Pvt. R. M. Dressler  
 Pvt. E. Escobar  
 Pfc. T. S. Farnsworth  
 Pfc. M. A. Fliss  
 Pfc. J. K. Foster  
 Pvt. K. G. Franklin  
 Pvt. J. D. Franklin  
 Pvt. M. M. Gernhart  
 Pvt. M. W. Hammons  
 Pfc. A. R. Hardin  
 Pvt. C. R. Harnish  
 Pvt. A. W. Harvey Jr.  
 Pvt. T. B. Hayashi  
 Pvt. C. D. Herman  
 Pvt. J. A. Herrmann  
 Pvt. S. W. Isham  
 Pvt. J. S. Laurence  
 Pfc. D. M. Massey  
 Pvt. C. A. McKinster  
 Pvt. T. G. Morris  
 Pvt. S. P. Oltjenbruns

Pfc. W. Ortez  
 Pfc. J. Ortiguero  
 \*Pfc. J. F. Osteen  
 Pvt. M. W. Ostrowsky  
 Pfc. J. W. Partin  
 Pvt. E. L. Perez  
 Pfc. D. R. Petersen  
 Pfc. A. L. Petonic  
 Pvt. A. M. Presley  
 Pfc. J. A. Rapp  
 Pvt. J. E. Revilla Jr.  
 Pvt. G. G. Richardson  
 Pvt. J. L. Rients  
 Pfc. N. J. Ritacco  
 Pvt. J. A. Russo  
 Pvt. J. L. Salinas  
 Pfc. W. R. Seagraves  
 Pfc. B. M. Segelke  
 Pvt. E. B. Serrano  
 Pvt. K. B. Shores  
 Pvt. J. W. Snodgrass  
 Pvt. J. W. Sparks  
 Pvt. D. G. Stone  
 \*Pfc. M. M. Stone  
 Pfc. B. T. Stovall  
 Pvt. K. D. Sullivan  
 Pvt. P. J. Sullivan  
 Pfc. B. S. Swindell  
 Pvt. A. J. Szemraj  
 Pvt. T. J. Takeda  
 \*Pfc. C. R. Tapac  
 Pvt. R. A. Thompson  
 Pvt. N. E. Tomford  
 Pvt. S. V. Trumbo  
 Pvt. J. Turner  
 Pvt. T. Vanderzwaag  
 Pvt. D. Vargas-Vasquez  
 Pvt. E. M. Villalobos  
 Pvt. S. E. Vrchocticky  
 Pvt. M. D. Wittman  
 Pfc. C. S. Wyrick  
 \*Pfc. A. J. Young  
 Pvt. R. K. Zimmerman

**PLATOON 1045**  
 Pvt. B. Acuna  
 Pvt. E. Andreu  
 Pvt. S. R. Aranda III  
 Pvt. A. Arroyo Jr.  
 Pvt. J. D. Arroyo  
 Pvt. J. M. Bleything  
 Pvt. M. C. Block  
 Pvt. B. R. Bradshaw  
 Pvt. B. P. Brandt  
 Pvt. A. J. Brano  
 Pfc. C. E. Brasfield  
 Pvt. A. J. Burghaus Jr.  
 Pvt. J. J. Burley  
 Pfc. S. P. Cano-Martinez  
 Pvt. Z. W. Cox  
 Pvt. A. C. Crotts  
 Pvt. J. R. Cuevas  
 Pvt. C. D. Dawoudi  
 Pvt. R. W. Decker  
 Pfc. A. J. De Waal  
 Pvt. C. A. Foster  
 Pfc. L. Garcia Jr.  
 Pfc. J. J. Gomez  
 Pfc. A. Guerrero  
 Pvt. J. M. Guerrero  
 \*Pfc. C. D. Haiar  
 Pfc. M. Higuera  
 Pvt. B. C. Howard  
 Pfc. O. Huertas-Collazo  
 \*Pfc. B. M. James  
 Pvt. R. T. Kaufman  
 \*Pfc. J. Y. Keller  
 Pfc. W. K. Kiaaina

Pvt. B. E. Kinsey  
 Pvt. R. P. Mauer  
 Pvt. C. B. Maynard  
 \*Pfc. E. A. Mendez  
 Pvt. C. T. Miller  
 Pvt. Z. A. Miller  
 Pfc. A. Morales  
 Pvt. A. A. Moreno  
 Pfc. N. G. Morris  
 Pvt. J. B. Morse  
 Pvt. C. M. Mueller  
 Pvt. J. D. Mungle  
 Pfc. Q. T. Nardini  
 \*Pfc. V. J. Nemacheck  
 Pfc. R. Ochoa Jr.  
 Pfc. J. E. Pacey  
 Pfc. D. M. Pangburn  
 Pfc. C. K. Parker  
 \*Pfc. D. S. Parrott  
 Pfc. W. W. Parsons  
 Pvt. B. A. Pauly  
 Pvt. J. J. Pereda  
 Pvt. E. J. Rath  
 Pvt. C. E. Reyes-Ortiz  
 Pvt. E. A. Reyna  
 Pvt. T. D. Rich  
 Pvt. J. Rios Jr.  
 Pvt. T. R. Rosenbaum  
 Pvt. C. J. Ruvalcaba  
 Pvt. M. M. Sanchez  
 Pvt. K. A. Schiermeister  
 Pvt. T. J. Sharp  
 Pvt. J. Sigafoose  
 Pvt. D. M. Smith  
 Pvt. D. S. Spradling  
 Pvt. D. A. Sprott  
 Pfc. J. C. Stanely  
 Pvt. T. N. Templin  
 Pfc. A. S. Timbang  
 Pvt. S. A. Triplett  
 Pvt. B. R. Udink  
 Pfc. A. Vargas  
 Pvt. F. A. Welke  
 Pvt. T. A. Wandler  
 Pfc. H. L. Williams IV  
 Pvt. B. S. Winrow

**PLATOON 1046**  
 Pvt. J. G. Alvarez  
 \*Pfc. Q. T. Arciaga  
 Pfc. J. J. Arevalo  
 Pvt. R. D. Bang  
 Pfc. R. J. Beert  
 Pvt. H. T. Canning  
 Pvt. J. D. Cantrell  
 Pfc. J. Cho  
 Pvt. N. C. Clendening  
 Pvt. C. J. Creech  
 Pfc. A. P. Daly  
 Pfc. C. Estrada  
 Pvt. N. P. Fantetti  
 Pvt. K. E. Ferguson  
 Pfc. A. M. Foster  
 Pvt. S. T. Gallie  
 Pfc. A. Gaytan  
 Pvt. N. A. Gomez  
 Pvt. C. A. Gonzalez Jr.  
 Pvt. J. M. Gonzalez  
 Pvt. J. Gonzalez  
 Pvt. A. J. Gulzow  
 Pvt. J. D. Hamir  
 Pfc. A. Hernandez  
 Pvt. C. M. Jacobs  
 Pfc. N. G. Jacobs  
 Pvt. T. D. Jemison  
 Pvt. P. M. Jensen  
 Pfc. E. O. Jimenez  
 \*Pfc. S. H. Johnson

Pvt. J. A. Joseph  
 Pfc. L. D. Kasney III  
 Pvt. J. L. Kazemi  
 Pvt. C. M. Kealy  
 Pvt. S. M. Korfeh  
 Pvt. S. A. Krayneski  
 Pfc. A. L. Lancaster  
 Pvt. J. Y. Lee  
 Pfc. R. L. LeMay III  
 Pvt. S. Leon  
 Pvt. J. P. Limes  
 \*Pfc. G. A. Linville  
 \*Pfc. M. Lopez  
 Pvt. D. L. Lundgren  
 Pvt. J. L. Madera  
 Pvt. S. M. Madrigal  
 Pfc. J. S. Martin  
 \*Pfc. Z. A. Martin  
 \*Pfc. A. D. McCormick  
 Pvt. B. M. McNeil  
 Pvt. J. L. Medina  
 Pvt. T. A. Mehus  
 Pvt. D. R. Meinders  
 Pfc. M. J. Miller  
 Pvt. R. K. Molina  
 Pvt. T. R. Morning  
 Pvt. R. A. Munoz  
 Pvt. A. W. Nahale  
 Pfc. D. D. Nguyen  
 Pvt. D. B. Orellana  
 Pfc. Z. D. Ornelas  
 Pvt. M. B. Perez  
 Pvt. C. Rangel  
 Pvt. J. R. Rocha  
 Pfc. C. Sanchez  
 Pvt. M. L. Sando  
 Pvt. J. A. San Nicolas  
 Pfc. A. W. Shannon  
 Pfc. T. P. Sherman  
 Pvt. R. A. Silva  
 Pvt. C. R. Simmering  
 Pfc. J. T. Sonoda  
 Pfc. A. Sosa  
 Pvt. P. A. Sustaita Jr.  
 Pfc. B. F. Suttley  
 Pvt. E. M. Totten  
 Pvt. C. D. Tyrrell-Guthrie  
 Pvt. T. G. Valenzuela-Coronado  
 Pvt. A. J. Vanderleest  
 Pfc. J. D. Varela  
 Pvt. K. J. Vlieg  
 Pvt. J. C. Wagar  
 Pfc. J. P. Walla  
 Pvt. S. R. Watson  
 Pvt. J. A. Wetzel  
 Pfc. T. J. Wiedel  
 Pfc. S. M. Wiemken  
 Pvt. D. T. Williams  
 Pfc. G. M. Williams  
 Pvt. C. M. Zak

**PLATOON 1047**  
 Pvt. K. D. Atterberry Jr.  
 Pfc. F. E. Baker III  
 Pfc. J. C. Baltazar  
 Pfc. N. M. Belles  
 Pvt. S. D. Bertson  
 Pfc. J. C. Bowen  
 Pfc. D. M. Bracken  
 Pfc. C. R. Brumley  
 Pfc. A. A. Brundage  
 Pvt. C. M. Calvo  
 Pvt. P. P. Campos  
 Pvt. G. L. Clark  
 Pvt. B. T. Coffield  
 Pvt. P. F. Domingo-Lopez  
 Pfc. G. L. Emery

Pfc. J. K. Enkey  
 Pfc. A. E. Fawson  
 Pvt. N. Fields  
 Pfc. S. M. Filson  
 Pfc. M. A. Foster  
 Pvt. A. J. Fuentes  
 Pvt. K. A. Ghere  
 Pvt. B. G. Gonzalez  
 Pvt. H. W. Gordon  
 Pfc. C. S. Grey  
 Pvt. T. S. Griffith  
 Pfc. T. C. Guidish  
 Pfc. J. L. Hall III  
 Pfc. J. Harrison II  
 Pvt. E. A. Heidt  
 Pfc. J. A. Hendrix  
 Pfc. C. A. Holbert  
 Pvt. D. A. Hovis  
 Pvt. J. M. Hubbard  
 Pfc. T. D. Kielek  
 Pfc. M. A. Kuhn  
 Pvt. T. L. Lafranier  
 Pvt. B. C. Lane  
 Pvt. D. Lares  
 Pvt. N. A. Lemmer  
 \*Pfc. B. E. Lewis IV  
 Pvt. K. S. Londrigan  
 Pvt. D. A. Lopez  
 Pvt. M. A. Lopez  
 \*Pfc. M. Lopez  
 \*Pfc. S. A. Low  
 Pfc. T. A. Lucero  
 Pvt. D. V. Luong  
 Pvt. A. Luviano  
 Pfc. K. H. Maluia  
 Pfc. M. H. Mangan  
 Pvt. C. D. Marin  
 Pvt. T. E. Mayer  
 Pvt. B. A. McLaurin  
 Pfc. M. K. McNamara  
 Pvt. D. R. McNinch  
 Pvt. J. W. Means  
 Pvt. S. V. Medina  
 Pvt. R. Michel  
 Pvt. P. A. Miller  
 Pvt. P. J. Munoz  
 Pvt. S. A. Neafus  
 \*Pfc. G. C. Newton  
 Pfc. G. A. Orozco  
 Pvt. R. J. Ortiz  
 Pvt. K. L. Owen  
 Pvt. J. L. Poling  
 \*Pfc. R. L. Ponce Jr.  
 Pfc. Z. T. Richardson-Dailey  
 Pvt. K. J. Ring  
 Pvt. A. G. Robinson  
 Pfc. A. G. Rowse  
 Pvt. G. V. Sanchez  
 Pvt. U. Sanchez  
 Pvt. J. T. Suda  
 Pfc. G. W. Syfert  
 Pvt. N. E. Tauscher  
 Pvt. B. W. Unger  
 Pvt. S. Verfurth  
 Pfc. C. S. Villalpando  
 Pvt. D. R. Villatoro  
 Pvt. J. L. Williamson  
 Pvt. S. E. Willes  
 Pfc. Z. G. Wolff  
 Pfc. N. R. Wolters  
 Pfc. D. L. Young  
 \*Pfc. D. J. Zorich



Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez

Company H recruits climb over a set of bars while running the depot's obstacle course Nov. 1. This portion of the course required recruits to maneuver over the top bar, using the bottom bar as support.



Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez

A Company H recruit buddy-drags another recruit after completing the obstacle course. Recruits were shown how to properly perform a fireman's carry and a buddy-drag where it would simulate having to evacuate casualties in a combat situation.



Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez

A Company H recruit maneuvers down a set of inclined logs while running the depot's obstacle course Nov. 1.

## O-course gives a challenge

BY CPL. MATHEUS J. HERNANDEZ  
Chevron staff

**O**n training day nine, recruits of Company H, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, found themselves facing the obstacle course once again during recruit training aboard Marine Corps Recruit San Diego Nov. 1. However, this time was different. Recruits were challenged with facing the course back-to-back.

After recruits completed the obstacle course, also known as the "O-Course," for the first time during training, they are expected to leave with a better understanding of how to maneuver the course. Their first experience allowed them to focus more on the techniques they needed to know in order to overcome the challenge later on.

The course consists of recruits pulling themselves over bars and walls, climbing over logs and climbing a rope approximately 20 feet high. Although it may sound like a simple challenge, the course is stretched out over

approximately 50 meters, one obstacle after another.

"We knew what to expect this time around, so we were prepared," said Recruit Matthew G. Bollig, Platoon 2175, Co. H. "This was our second time running the course so it wasn't as tough."

As required, drill instructors gave a demonstration to recruits on the different methods to use when encountering different obstacles to refresh their memories. After the introduction, recruits were instructed to complete the course, not once, but twice before they climbed the rope.

For the introduction, recruits were only required to climb the rope half way and safely descend; however, recruits were expected to climb the rope to the top during their second time enduring the course.

Recruits are taught using proper technique is most helpful during the course, according to Bollig, an Enumclaw, Wash., native.

"The drill instructors want to make us better, so they taught us all these techniques

to make sure we do things (proficiently)," said Bollig.

Regardless if it's climbing over logs or jumping over walls, recruits are sure to find something challenging if not the entire course.

"The course was (somewhat simple) until I got up to the rope," said Recruit Paul Del Rosario, Plt. 2175. "I didn't get up the rope and for me the worst part about it is I felt like I had disappointed my drill instructors. For me, that is more than enough motivation to make sure I get up the rope next time."

After completing the obstacle, recruits left with a better understanding of the "method behind the madness" from their drill instructors as well as a little more motivation to keep pushing through recruit training.

"It was definitely the most motivating thing I have done in recruit training so far," said Del Rosario, a Long Beach, Calif., native. "I think we did well and it's because of our drill instructors. I think everything they have taught us so far prepared us well enough to face the obstacle course."



Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez

The guide on for follow series, Company H, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, marked the field for the series as recruits completed the depot's obstacle course twice on Nov. 1.