

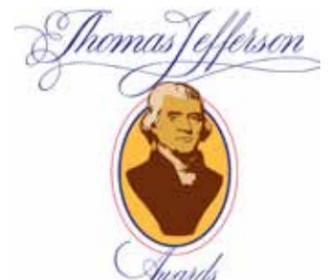


MCRD San Diego celebrates
its 91st birthday
Page 2

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO

CHEVRON

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION



Winner of the 2011
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“WHERE MARINES ARE MADE”

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2012

PFT scores follow recruits to first duty station



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Recruits of Company L, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, begin the timed three-mile run during their final physical fitness test aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Nov. 15. The PFT is designed to measure physical performance and can affect a Marine's chances of being promoted.

BY LANCE CPL. BRIDGET M. KEANE
Chevron staff

Recruits of Company L, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, ran their final physical fitness test aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Nov. 15.

In each phase of recruit training, recruits are tested through a PFT, which is designed to measure one's physical strength, agility, and endurance. A PFT consists of a maximum set of dead-hang pull-ups, a timed three-mile run, and a maximum set of crunches within two minutes.

Recruits are then given a score based on their performance, with 300 being the highest possible score.

Receiving a high score on a PFT will also reflect on a Marine's proficiency and conduct marks. This could be a deciding factor for promotions later on, explained Staff Sgt. Emmanuel Castillo, senior drill instructor, Platoon 3251, Co. L.

“These scores will follow them to their first duty station,” said Castillo. “They can benefit them on promotion boards and overall physical strength and stamina.”

The PFT began with dead-

see PFT ▶ 3

Recruits tests basic Marine knowledge

BY CPL. MATHEUS J. HERNANDEZ
Chevron staff

Recruits of Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, were tested on basic Marine knowledge in the practical performance test during recruit training aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Nov. 19.

The purpose of the practical performance evaluation is to ensure recruits comprehend the

basics such as rank structure, general orders, leadership principles, uniforms and basic combat first aid.

Recruits first took the comprehensive exam before performing the hands-on portion of the test. The written portion consisted of questions on history, weapons, land navigation and other knowledge recruits study over the course of the 12-week training schedule.

“They did pretty good overall,” said Sgt. Gabriel V. Gutierrez, academic instructor, Instructional Training Battalion, Support Battalion. “There's always room for improvement though. They can always try to become more confident in their training.”

Recruits formed an assembly line and moved from one section

see TESTS ▶ 2



Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez

Company B recruits reassemble M16-A4 service rifles as part of a practical performance test Nov. 19. Reassembling rifles and function checking them is basic Marine knowledge all recruits must master before graduating.



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

1st Sgt. Kevin L. Hutson, Company E first sergeant, teaches recruits about being a mentor aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Nov. 15. Hutson taught recruits what the Corps expects from a mentor and who possesses the ability to be a mentor

Corps mentor program passed down to recruits

BY CPL. WALTER D. MARINO II
Chevron staff

To assist the performance of future Marine mentors, recruits from Company E, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, were taught what being a mentor is about as well as who can be a mentor aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Nov. 15.

To open the class, 1st Sgt.

Kevin L. Hutson, company first sergeant, Co. E, asked recruits what they thought mentoring was.

“Someone passing knowledge they have learned in life and in the Marine Corps,” answered a recruit.

Hutson taught that typically a Marine mentor will be someone of equal or higher rank and someone with a good

see MENTOR ▶ 2

Depot celebrates 91st birthday

COMPILED BY CHEVRON STAFF

December 1 marks the 91st year Marines have occupied what is today known as Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

Although the primary focus of the depot has always been recruit training, it has been home to the 4th, 6th and 10th Marine Regiments, the Fleet Marine Force and the 2nd Marine Division.

The base came to be after Col. Joseph Pendleton expressed a need for a permanent Marine base in San Diego to relocate his men and staff working in unsatisfactory conditions at Camp Howard on San Diego's North Island. His request was ap-

proved Jan. 8, 1916.

From 1916-1926, the Navy occupied and began building on the land then called the Dutch Flats.

Brigadier General Pendleton, on Dec. 1, 1921, raised the first American flag over the base which was then commissioned as the Marine Advanced Expeditionary Base, San Diego.

In 1923, the West Coast Marine Recruit Depot relocated from Mare Island Navy Shipyards in Vallejo, Calif., to the San Diego base and on March 1, 1924, it was officially renamed Marine Corps Base, San Diego.

In 1948 the base was officially re-named

Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. The Recruit Training Regiment grew from three to eight battalions to meet the Marine Corps' and the nation's needs during the Korean War.

In the 1970s the depot also became the headquarters of the Western Recruiting Region.

Today, the depot consists of 388 acres with 25 of the depot's buildings on the National Register of Historic places.

Pendleton's vision is still alive at the depot today, where annually, more than 16,000 young men residing west of the Mississippi River are transformed into combat-ready, basically-trained Marines.



Photo courtesy of the Command Museum

Brig. Gen. Joseph Henry Pendleton raised the first American flag over Marine Advanced Expeditionary Base San Diego, Calif., now known as Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

TESTS ◀ 1

to the next. The first stop was rank structure, general orders and leadership traits. Several booths lined up next to each other with posters and magnets hung up in each one. Recruits had to match the magnets with the right information on the posters such as rank. The rank was written out along the magnet and recruits had to place the right magnet next to the image of the rank.

"It's important that we know rank structure and all the basic knowledge that we were taught here so it can help us when we get out into the fleet and throughout our Marine Corps careers," said Recruit Israel

Nicholas Garcia, Platoon 1029, Co. B.

After recruits passed the first portion of the assembly line, they were instructed to move on to the next portion where they would perform basic combat first-aid—what some recruits would say is the hardest part, according to Recruit Andrew T. Erickson, Plt. 1029.

"The combat care scenarios were the most difficult thing," said Erickson, a Bigfork, Mont., native. "Other than that, nothing else was really too difficult."

Recruits were instructed to move in front of a simulated casualty and demonstrate the proper combat care technique. If completed properly, recruits were allowed to move on. Scenarios included a chemical burn, suck-

ing chest wound and an open fracture.

"Basic combat first-aid sets a foundation for more advanced training in the fleet," said Gutierrez, a Ft. Worth, Texas native. "The drill instructors did a good job reiterating the information and grinding it into their brain."

With enough confidence built up from their drill instructors, recruits of company B completed the test and continued on with their last few weeks of training.

"Our drill instructors prepared us well enough for the comprehensive exam and practical performance," said Erickson. "While in the squad bay, we gathered in groups to practice scenarios and overall it prepared the platoon well enough."

MENTOR ◀ 1

amount of life experiences to pass on to the mentee. However, he also stressed mentors can come from all ranks and ages.

"Just because you're a private, private first class or a lance corporal, doesn't mean you don't have life experience," said Hutson.

Recruits were taught that mentors lead by example, demonstrate proper professional conduct and show a genuine concern for junior Marines.

Sgt. Jerald I. Davila, drill

instructor, Plt. 2114, Co. E, explained mentoring is important in the Corps because it helps Marines get to know one another more personally.

"You get to know your Marines on a more one-on-one personal level," said Davila. "You learn their attitude. If they're always happy and one day they come in upset, you know something is up."

Recruit Aaron A. Smith, guide, Plt. 2115, said he has two mentors, his father and his senior drill instructor.

"My father always taught me to be a man of my word,"

said Smith. "My senior drill instructor taught me to always work to the best of my ability and to be an example to everyone else around me."

Recruit Jacob T. Schmidt, guide, Plt. 2114, from Frederic, Wis., said his experience as a college football captain has given him mentoring experience and hopes it will help him as a mentor to others in the Corps.

As a team captain, Schmidt was responsible for making sure junior athletes knew what was expected in the weight room, class room and

how to conduct themselves on campus. Schmidt said although he is growing with his fellow recruits at the same pace, he hopes his life experiences can help his fellow recruits.

"I believe this can help me because maybe I have some life experiences that other recruits may not have," said Schmidt, the 23 year old.

For some recruits the additional knowledge just added to their mentorship capability, and for others it was in introduction to a method of helping future fellow Marines.

BRIEFS

Personal, Professional Development

The San Diego Community College District is accepting applications for Spring Semester 2013.

Classes are offered on campus at San Diego City College, Mesa College and Miramar College, as well as on base at Naval Base San Diego, Marine Corps Recruit Depot and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

Active duty military students stationed in California, and veterans who are discharged in California (within the past year), are exempt from paying non-resident fees and are assessed only an enrollment fee of \$46 per credit hour for all courses.

Eligible active duty military students may use Tuition Assistance to defray the enrollment course fees.

Spring Semester 2013 classes begin on Jan. 28.

Students may apply for admission online at <http://studentweb.sdccd.edu> <<http://studentweb.sdccd.edu>>.

Applicants may contact the City College Office on NBSD at (619) 233-5617, the City College Office on MCRD at (619) 295-9974, or the Miramar College Office on MCAS Miramar at (858) 536-4329 for additional information.

At the Library

More than 260 magazines may be streamed directly to your computer, tablet or smartphone at no cost.

Stop by the Depot Library for details and to sign up.

For more information call (619) 524-1849.

Semper Fit HITT

The newest Marine Corps fitness initiative is coming to MCRD. High Intensity Tactical Training (HITT) is a program designed by the Corps to take your fitness to a higher level.

Semper Fit is in the process of building a dedicated HITT Center with specialized equipment and an ongoing training program that will be administered by a trained staff.

Workouts will be starting at the Fitness Center. For more information contact MCRD trainer Willy Covington at (619) 524-4427 or at covingtonwe@usmc-mccs.org.

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.

Weekly Bible Study

A weekly Bible Study is held every Tuesday from 11:45 a.m., to 12:30 p.m., in the Headquarters Service Battalion Conference Room.

The conference room is located on the second floor of building 15. Everyone is invited.

For more information, contact Chaplain Cates at (619) 524-6928, or via e-mail at gregory.cates@usmc.mil.

Send briefs to:

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: "How do you strive to improve as a leader?"



"I make sure that Marines are taken care of and informed, I set the example." Lance Cpl. Josh Franco, administrative clerk, Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion

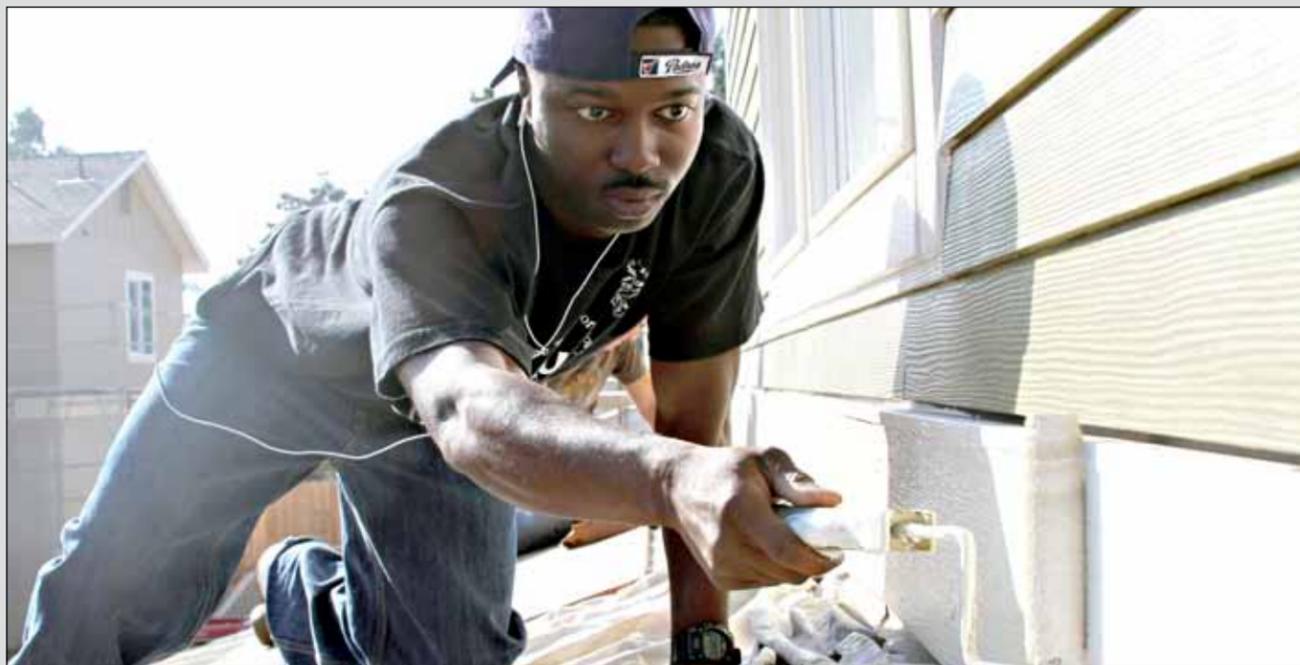


"I strive to be a better leader by watching motivational videos and reading inspirational books." Lance Cpl. Hakeem Shaffi, postal clerk, Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion



"You have to know your Marines." Gunnery Sgt. Jairo Fredonis, training chief, Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion

Showing Humanity



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Lance Cpl. D. J. Lewis, finance clerk, Service Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, and other members of the Single Marine Program aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego volunteered their time and services to the San Diego Habitat for Humanity Nov. 21. SDHFH is an organization that works in partnership with families by building new homes, rehabilitating existing homes and helping create affordable home ownership for people in the community.

Thanksgiving Feast



Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez

Officers and staff noncommissioned officers serve a Thanksgiving feast to Marines during the Headquarters and Service Battalion Single Marine Thanksgiving Luncheon aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Nov. 20. The luncheon was provided by battalion officers and staff noncommissioned officers to show their appreciation for their junior Marines, and to allow them to enjoy a home-cooked meal away from home during the holidays.

PFT ◀ 1

hang pull-ups as the recruits lined up at the pull-up bars and waited for further instructions. One by one, recruits mounted the bars and completed as many pull-ups as possible, with 20 being 100 points.

Once recruits completed their set of pull-ups, they quickly moved on to the next portion of the PFT, the three-mile run.

"This is where we see the most improvement from recruits," said Castillo. "Some recruits will take two to three minutes off their run time from when they ran their

initial PFT."

After the run, recruits then paired up and completed their set of crunches. Completing 100 crunches in two minutes is worth 100 points.

For some Marines, they believe getting a high score on the PFT shows the Marine Corps that they care about their physical ability and appearance, according to Pfc. Oscar Cruz, Platoon 3250, Co. L.

"I believe that you're looked at your physical side first when it comes to promotions," said Cruz, a Chatsworth, Calif., native. "Higher PFT scores can put you ahead of the competition."

Castillo also explained that he always

emphasized the importance of being physically fit to his recruits, not only because it helps with promotion scores, but it will keep a Marine within height and weight standards.

"Marines need to look good in their uniforms," said Castillo. "Being fit shows that you care about regulations and the way you look."

With their final PFT complete, Co. L moved on to Edson Range aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton to endure the Crucible, 54-hour field-training exercise. They now hold the title Marine and are ready to move on with their Marine Corps career.



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Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

Drill instructors with Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, lead their recruits Nov. 15, during a run aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Nov. 15. The run was only an introduction to a circuit course consisting of more than 14 different exercise stations.

Circuit training tests recruit cardio

BY CPL. WALTER D. MARINO II
Chevron staff

Marines train year round to maintain combat readiness. To help prepare recruits for the physical demands of the Fleet Marine Force, recruits are trained early in various ways to maintain their fitness.

Recruits of Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, went through a circuit course approximately one mile long with 15 various exercises aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Oct. 15.

For the run, recruits were broken down into three groups – with the fastest in front, the average in the middle and the slowest in the rear. Afterwards, recruits were broken down into even smaller groups, each led by a drill instructor who pushed them through various exercises.

Each exercise was only a few minutes long, but what gave it a kick was the intensity and pace at which the drill instructors pushed their recruits. Recruits did exercises such as curls, inclined push-ups, monkey bars and pull-ups.

“What motivates me to push them is the end result of the recruits,” said Staff Sgt. Giovanni Dominguez, drill instructor, Platoon 1014, Co. A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion.

With every daunting repetition of each exercise, the training seemed increasingly harder for the recruits. Many faces cringed with strain and pain.

“The training is intense and continuous; it forces endurance in the body,” said Recruit Hugo M. De La Rosa Flores, guide, Plt. 1013, Co. A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion. “The pull-ups were

the hardest because we routinely do pull-ups throughout the day. An average Joe would not be able to do this.”

Although some recruits come into recruit training with athletic backgrounds, some say that no sport can prepare you for what drill instructors have in store.

“Football has been the closest thing to it,” said Recruit Michael P. Douglas, squad leader, Plt. 1013, Co. A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion. “It’s very challenging and there is just no training like it. If you put 100 percent every time it gets easier and you get into shape.”

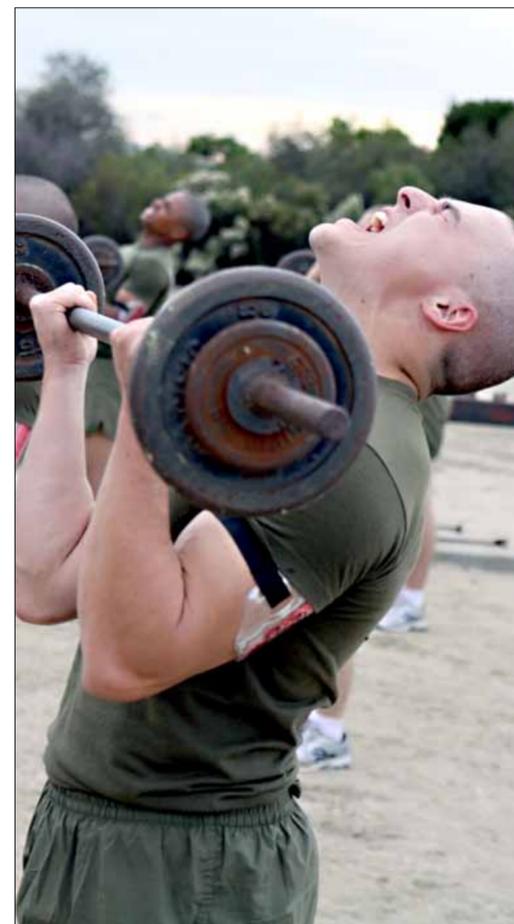
Many recruits believe that Marine recruit training is the hardest among all the military services. But it’s a challenge they embrace and in which they take pride.

“I know this is the most challenging branch,” said Recruit Talleon Tray Luna, squad leader, Plt. 1013, Co. A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion. “Not everybody can be a Marine, and it’s an honor that I am working for that title.”

As physically tough as their training is, recruits are still able to find a positive outlook through it all.

“The exercises are challenging, but kind of fun because they push me in a way I haven’t been (pushed) before,” said Luna. “It’s fun because I like the challenge and variation. You’re doing monkey bars, dips, jump rope; it’s good variation.”

With the amount of exercises being taught in recruit training, recruits become equipped with an arsenal of ways to maintain their fitness in the Fleet Marine Force.



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

Company A recruits do a set of curls with free weights Nov. 15. The training is intended to increase fitness to meet the physical demands of the Marine Corps.



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

Company A recruits work through a set of monkey bars. The recruits had to successfully complete more than 14 different exercises stations to complete the circuit course.



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

Company A goes through stretching exercises before running the depot’s exercise circuit course. The recruits started the event by running approximately one mile before reaching the first of the circuit course exercise stations.



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

Recruits push through their pain during a set of push-ups. The push-ups are part of a circuit course designed to increase the recruit’s overall strength and fitness.



Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez

Pfc. Christopher Lee Falls, left, the guide for Platoon 3249, Company L, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, stands tall among the recruits in his platoon during the Battalion Commanders Inspection aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Nov. 27. After enduring the 12 weeks of recruit training and completing the Crucible, Falls earned the title United States Marine.

Warrior ethos drives recruit to Corps

BY CPL. MATHEUS J. HERNANDEZ
Chevron staff

What lies within a man can be different from what lies within a warrior. A warrior holds a code of conduct within himself—a code that embodies a life where integrity, loyalty, honor, selflessness and courage guide. Many people believe they can follow this code, but others know the warrior ethos is the only way of life for them.

This was the attitude that drove one recruit to take a life-changing step, bringing him to recruit training aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

“I’ve always been sort of a history guy,” said Pfc. Christopher Lee Falls, guide, Platoon 3249, Company L, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion. “The more I looked into it the more I saw that history is based on battles that have been fought by warriors.”

“Growing up I felt the warrior in me, and honestly, the warrior ethos is what drew me to the Marine Corps.”

Falls, a Tempe, Ariz., native, believes he found his calling when he decided to enlist in the Marine Corps. Prior to his departure to recruit training, he was working an honest job, but it was not something he believed he was meant to do.

“I was working a dead-end job as a butcher,” said Falls. “No disrespect to butchers at all, but I knew I wanted more. As a man, I wanted more in life and I knew what that meant. Individuals that are motivated and seize opportunity are ones who shape this world today.”

Although the average age for individuals going into recruit training is 19, Falls’ situation was slightly different. Not only was he enlisting at 27, but he was also leaving behind his wife Heileigh, and their 4-year old daughter Lilly, for a short while.

“At first my wife didn’t understand why I wanted to enlist, but she eventually came around,”

said Falls. “She expressed how she felt about it, but still stood by my side and supported me. I also wanted to give my daughter a reason to be proud of me.”

Immediately after Falls succumbed to the demanding lifestyle of recruit training, he became the image of his platoon as the guide, a leader that stood out amongst them all, according to Gunnery Sgt. Marshall Rojas, senior drill instructor, Plt. 3249, Co. L.

“I’ve had 7 cycles as a drill instructor and he is the best guide I’ve had. He’s very dedicated and loyal to the platoon and his drill instructors,” said Rojas. “He’s a natural born

leader and you can see it. Recruits just gravitate toward him. He’s like the big brother of the platoon.”

Falls, who has been active in amateur sports, understood the team factor and led his platoon throughout recruit training. He took what he had learned as a sports leader and used those skills.

“I think he is going to make a great Marine,” said Rojas, an Aurora, Ill., native. “He has the moral strength to withstand any type of hardship that comes his way and, all around, he’s a good individual. I believe he will be a good addition to the Marine Corps.”

Brig. Gen. George W. Smith Jr.

Parade Reviewing Officer

Brig. Gen. George W. Smith Jr. is the commanding general of the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Marine Corps Base Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Smith was commissioned through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in May 1985.

Upon graduation from The Basic School and the Infantry Officer Course, Smith reported to 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines where he served as a rifle platoon commander and the 81mm mortar platoon commander. During this assignment he deployed to the Western Pacific with 13th Marine Amphibious Unit and 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable).

In 1989, Smith was transferred to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif., where he

served as a series and company commander and as aide de camp to the commanding general.

Smith next attended the U.S. Army Infantry Officers Advanced Course at Ft. Benning, Georgia, where he graduated as the Distinguished Honor Graduate for Class 2-92.

Transferred to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii in August 1992, Smith joined 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines serving initially as the battalion’s logistics officer followed by command of a rifle company.

From 1995-1998, Smith served as the inspector-instructor, 4th Force Reconnaissance Company.

Smith reported to Headquarters, I Marine Expeditionary Force in July 2000, where he served in the G-3, Future Operations Section and in the G-5, Plans Section, leading the MEF’s planning effort for Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2002-2003.

Smith commanded 1st Force Reconnaissance Company, I Marine Expeditionary Force from July 2004 to October 2006, deploying twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Reporting to the 1st Marine Division, he was assigned as the deputy G-3 operations officer until June 2007 when he was transferred to Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., where he served as the commanding officer, The Basic School from July 2007 to June 2010.

Upon relinquishing command, he reported to Headquarters, Marine Corps where he served consecutively as the director of the 35th Commandant’s

Transition Team and military secretary to the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Smith graduated with distinction from the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, the School of Advanced Warfighting where he was the recipient of the General Clifton B. Cates Award; and from the Marine Corps War College in Quantico.

Smith is also a graduate of the Joint Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Virginia.

Smith’s personal decorations include the Legion of Merit with gold star; Bronze Star with “V” (with gold star); Bronze Star; the Meritorious Service Medal; the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star; the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal; and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Smith is qualified as a military freefall parachutist, jump master and Marine combatant diver.

“Congratulations to our newest Marines - our Corps is stronger with you in its ranks! You should be justifiably proud of being part of the 1/10th of one percent of our Nation’s citizenry who wear the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor. As you venture forth for follow-on training and ultimately to operational units throughout the world, know that the expectations of you are high: honor, courage and commitment will serve you well as your guideposts in any clime and place. My special thanks to your families for their unique sacrifices in supporting your service as a United States Marine. You should always remember that when you deploy into harm’s way, a piece of your family goes with you. Once again, you have my heartiest congratulations - Semper Fidelis!”





Platoon 3253 COMPANY HONOR MAN Pfc. D. A. Bequette Sullivan, Mo. Recruited by Staff Sgt. C. Thorpe Jr.	Platoon 3251 SERIES HONOR MAN Pfc. J. L. Ramirez- Mena Harlingen, Texas Recruited by Sgt. J. Galvan	Platoon 3249 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. C. L. Falls Phoenix Recruited by Sgt. H. Orozco	Platoon 3250 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. N. Barraza Denver Recruited by Sgt. E. Martinez	Platoon 3254 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. J. T. Fite Weatherford, Texas Recruited by Staff Sgt. R. Valdez	Platoon 3255 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. J. D. Benson Mayville, Mo. Recruited by Staff Sgt. D. Connelly	Platoon 3253 HIGH SHOOTER (339) Pvt. Z. T. Jarvis St. Louis Marksmanship Instructor Cpl. C. Moreno	Platoon 3255 HIGH PFT (300) Pfc. M. R. Crisp Columbia, Mo. Recruited by Sgt. M. Hood
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LIMA COMPANY

3rd RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION

Commanding Officer
Sergeant Major
Battalion Drill Master

Lt. Col. M. A. Reiley
Sgt. Maj. E. Gonzalez
Staff Sgt. C. M. Battiest



COMPANY L Commanding Officer Capt. B. C. Palmer Company First Sergeant 1st Sgt. C. D. Thomas	SERIES 3249 Series Commander 1st Lt. D. T. Gilliard Chief Drill Instructor Gunnery Sgt. L. O. Arce	PLATOON 3249 Senior Drill Instructor Gunnery Sgt. M. Rojas Drill Instructors Gunnery Sgt. B. Castaneda Gunnery Sgt. G. F. Guerrero Staff Sgt. G. A. Diaz Sgt. R. V. Newberry	PLATOON 3250 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. L. C. Cardenas Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. A. Cordero Staff Sgt. C. D. Shranko Sgt. B. J. Cobb Sgt. B. G. Laca	PLATOON 3251 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. E.Y. Castillo Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. P. S. Baughman Staff Sgt. B. J. Coffey Staff Sgt. A.W. Arroyo Sgt. I. Alvarez
	SERIES 3253 Series Commander Capt. M. Deal Chief Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. L. Lazaro	PLATOON 3253 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. F. Velasquez Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. S. Dix Sgt. M. W. Davidson Sgt. M. A. Gonzalez Sgt. J. Moreno-Martinez	PLATOON 3254 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. D. R. Begaye Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. D. P. Commiato Staff Sgt. A. E. Caldwell	PLATOON 3255 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. J.M. Aguilera Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. D. B. Buenaventura Sgt. E.R. Jimenez Sgt. E. Montalvo Jr. Sgt. D. Mikulec

* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

PLATOON 3249
 Pvt. B. K. Alford
 Pvt. J. C. Alvarez
 Pvt. B. Avelar
 *Pfc. B. B. Bacon
 Pvt. R. Bahena
 Pfc. A. E. Balbuena
 Pvt. A. R. Barajas
 Pvt. S. L. Barks
 Pfc. J. A. Barkstrom
 Pvt. S. R. Barman
 Pfc. M. I. Bates
 Pvt. R. E. Bechtholdt
 Pfc. C. D. Benallie Jr.
 Pvt. T. A. Bercume
 *Pfc. M. T. Borzekofski
 Pvt. J. A. Brandau II
 Pfc. I. J. Campos
 Pvt. M. V. Cantu
 Pvt. Z. M. Carr
 Pvt. M. Carroll
 Pvt. S. M. Catlin
 *Pfc. A. E. Cech
 Pvt. J. A. Cruz
 Pfc. C. J. Culp
 Pvt. N. D. Davis
 Pvt. Z. A. Dearth
 Pvt. K. P. Digman
 Pfc. Z. E. Donelson
 Pvt. J. J. Drumming
 Pvt. N. A. Enqvist
 Pvt. R. P. Evans
 Pfc. C. L. Falls
 Pfc. N. J. Ferreira
 Pvt. A. D. Field
 Pvt. C. P. Fleming
 Pfc. A. R. Galvez
 Pvt. J. Garcia Jr.
 Pvt. S. A. George
 Pvt. J. E. Gonzalez-Duran
 Pfc. J. W. Good
 Pvt. C. J. Gordon
 Pvt. C. M. Hailstone
 Pvt. E. A. Halbert
 Pvt. M. Hernandez-Reyes
 Pvt. T. J. Hlubik II
 Pfc. C. Huang
 Pfc. T. M. Johnson
 *Pfc. S. C. Jordan
 Pvt. J. T. King
 Pvt. S. Pariyavanh
 Pvt. J. L. Paulsen
 Pvt. T. J. Powell
 Pvt. E. Rueda
 Pfc. M. A. Ruiz
 Pvt. M. A. Russell
 Pvt. J. A. Sadler
 Pfc. E. Santos
 Pvt. D. A. Sawatis
 Pvt. C. S. Smith
 Pvt. J. J. Smith
 Pvt. J. E. Stotler
 Pvt. J. A. Strasburg
 Pvt. D. W. Teakell
 Pfc. D. P. Teurn
 Pvt. S. R. Thomas
 *Pfc. B. T. Thornsberry
 Pfc. T. Tingey
 Pvt. B. C. Ulibarri
 Pfc. G. A. Uribe Jr.
 Pvt. A. C. Urea
 *Pfc. M. A. Vander-Putten
 Pvt. C. A. Van Krey
 Pvt. G. T. Van Ross
 Pvt. C. C. Vetch
 Pfc. T. Villasenor

Pfc. C. R. Waterkotte
 Pfc. A. L. Weaver
 Pvt. G. R. Wesley
 Pvt. N. R. White
 Pvt. T. R. Yanke
 Pfc. Y. Zhao

PLATOON 3250
 Pfc. E. Adams
 *Pfc. T. S. Adams
 Pvt. J. Aguilar-Valencia
 Pvt. B. Andreatta
 *Pfc. J. S. Andrews
 Pfc. A. Anguiano
 Pvt. A. Avina
 Pfc. N. Barraza
 Pvt. D. O. Barrett
 Pvt. T. F. Bell
 Pvt. A. L. Bello
 Pfc. J. M. Betancourt
 Pvt. P. S. Braun
 Pvt. S. M. Briggs
 Pfc. T. Cahoon
 Pfc. I. D. Campbell
 Pvt. C. A. Carreon
 Pvt. B. S. Ceballos
 Pvt. C. P. Cepeda
 Pvt. E. G. Chavez
 Pvt. D. M. Cochran
 Pvt. C. D. Collins
 Pfc. J. R. Cramer
 Pfc. O. Cruz
 Pvt. C. E. Diaz-Torres
 Pvt. S. L. Duong
 Pfc. K. L. Eddy
 Pvt. J. J. Foster
 Pvt. T. W. Fremgen
 Pvt. A. O. Fuerte
 Pvt. C. Garcia
 Pvt. S. C. Gommel-Smith
 Pvt. C. J. Hamilton
 *Pfc. B. S. Hansen
 Pfc. A. S. Heffernan
 Pvt. G. J. Herrera
 *Pfc. B. M. Hinojosa
 Pvt. J. A. Hug
 Pvt. A. C. Johnson
 Pvt. C. R. Keypley
 Pvt. D. J. Lind
 Pfc. B. B. Lindsey
 Pvt. O. L. Lloyd
 Pfc. D. Lopez
 Pvt. H. Lopez
 Pfc. M. A. Lopez
 Pvt. J. L. Macapagal
 Pvt. J. P. Maloney
 Pfc. S. A. Marr
 Pvt. D. A. Martinez
 Pvt. J. A. Martinez
 Pvt. A. G. Mata
 Pvt. R. J. McCarthy
 Pvt. R. A. McGill
 *Pfc. C. A. Mendoza
 Pvt. E. R. Rivera-Quiroz
 Pvt. P. A. Rodriguez
 *Pfc. J. Rodriguez
 Pvt. R. R. Romero
 Pvt. S. N. Rowley
 Pvt. J. A. Sanchez
 Pvt. C. P. Scott
 Pfc. K. R. Shelley
 Pfc. J. J. Simpson
 Pvt. E. J. Sims
 Pvt. R. D. Skinner
 Pvt. C. P. Sondgroth
 Pvt. I. A. Sotelo

Pvt. D. W. Spencer
 Pfc. A. S. Tagata
 Pfc. B. C. Templeton
 Pvt. N. R. Tibbitts
 Pvt. U. C. Ubalde
 Pvt. J. T. Upchurch
 Pvt. D. Van Zwol
 Pvt. J. V. Vazquez
 Pvt. M. N. Vazquez
 Pvt. S. Vogelsmier
 Pfc. C. D. Wetzel
 Pvt. C. J. Williams
 Pvt. K. A. Wyatt
 Pvt. K. J. Wynn
 Pvt. W. Yaworski
 Pvt. T. D. York
 Pvt. W. Zepeda

PLATOON 3251
 Pvt. D. C. Brassard
 Pvt. J. A. Briseno
 Pvt. M. S. Brown
 Pvt. M. J. Bumpus
 Pvt. J. M. Cady
 Pvt. T. J. Cantu
 Pfc. I. J. Chavez
 Pfc. A.N. Coca
 Pvt. N. A. Coleman
 Pvt. C. D. Collins
 Pvt. K. A. Colombel Jr.
 Pvt. A. L. Cortes
 Pvt. I. De La Rosa
 Pvt. J. D. De La Rosa
 Pvt. J. L. De Leon
 Pvt. A. D. Edwards
 Pfc. G. Estrada
 Pvt. A. R. Evans
 Pvt. M. A. Fleming
 Pvt. R. Fuentes Jr.
 Pvt. J. S. Galvan Jr.
 Pvt. J. Garcia
 Pvt. C. A. Gonzalez
 Pvt. Z. W. Graves
 Pvt. Z. R. Greene
 Pvt. M. E. Guerra
 Pvt. D. A. Kelly
 Pfc. A. D. Kinard
 Pfc. T. R. Kinyon
 *Pfc. A. J. Kuchynka
 Pfc. C. D. Lammey
 Pvt. R. N. Lane
 Pvt. P. N. Le
 Pfc. C. W. Linder
 Pvt. J. A. Locke
 Pvt. A. E. Lubbers
 Pvt. J. M. Madl
 Pvt. V. G. Maldonado
 Pvt. I. M. Mart
 Pvt. M. M. McManus
 Pfc. M. Mickey
 Pfc. K. I. Miller
 Pvt. K. Mohan
 Pvt. D. T. Moody
 Pfc. G. D. Morris
 *Pfc. M. P. Muellerleile
 Pvt. J. R. Narciso
 Pvt. A. J. Nitschke
 Pvt. C. M. Oelrich
 Pvt. S. S. Olomon
 *Pfc. M. M. Oreskey
 Pvt. S. Orozco-Zamora
 Pvt. M. A. Orrantia
 Pvt. M. A. Ortega
 Pvt. B. L. Packer
 Pvt. J. A. Paredes
 Pvt. N. J. Parker

Pvt. N. Parnell
 Pfc. L. V. Pham
 Pvt. T. S. Pierce
 Pvt. S. R. Pryhorocki
 Pvt. G. E. Quinn
 Pvt. A. Ramirez
 Pfc. J. L. Ramirez-Mena
 *Pfc. D. L. Reyes
 Pfc. A. J. Riley
 Pvt. E. Rocha
 Pvt. J. A. Rodriguez
 Pvt. M. A. Rubalcaba
 Pfc. A. F. Salinas Jr.
 Pvt. C. I. Sarabia Jr.
 *Pfc. A. W. Shaul
 *Pfc. B. D. Slabach
 Pfc. M. D. Smith
 Pfc. S. A. Smith
 Pvt. J. P. Stanley
 Pvt. R. E. Stanley
 Pvt. J. T. Starbard
 Pvt. S. W. Tennant
 Pfc. D. S. Theis
 Pvt. L. F. Travis
 Pfc. J. R. Trevino
 Pvt. J. M. Ward
 Pvt. E. B. Woodwick
 Pfc. A. A. Yribe

PLATOON 3253
 Pvt. B. E. Bean
 *Pfc. M. D. Beatty
 Pvt. E. E. Belton
 *Pfc. D. A. Bequette
 Pvt. T. W. Block
 Pvt. D. A. Borlaug
 Pvt. J. P. Casebolt
 Pfc. A. J. Caudillo Jr.
 Pvt. D. Corral-Perez
 Pvt. B. W. Cowles
 Pvt. J. A. Delgado
 Pvt. C. C. Duncan
 *Pfc. J. K. Frierson
 Pvt. J. Gonzalez
 Pfc. P. A. Grace
 Pfc. G. K. Graeser
 Pvt. N. A. Graham
 Pfc. S. S. Graham
 Pfc. C. E. Hamilton
 Pfc. M. A. Hamilton
 Pvt. C. S. Hedberg
 Pvt. O. Hernandez-Martinez
 Pvt. D. P. Higgins
 Pfc. S. T. Housley-Follis
 Pvt. M. D. Jacobs
 Pvt. Z. T. Jarvis
 Pvt. Z. S. Johnson
 Pvt. C. J. Jones
 Pvt. D. N. Kelley
 Pvt. T. C. Killen
 Pfc. E. P. Kramer
 Pfc. T. L. Le
 Pfc. S. E. Ledbetter
 Pvt. B. R. Levens
 Pfc. J. K. Lorentz
 Pvt. K. W. Loveday
 Pfc. R. L. MacDonald
 Pvt. D. Maldonado
 Pfc. P. S. Martinez
 Pvt. R. Martinez
 *Pfc. B. G. Mayhew
 *Pfc. L. A. Orman
 Pvt. R. I. Osborn III
 Pfc. C. D. Pena
 Pfc. P. J. Perez
 Pvt. M. A. Phipps

Pvt. E. D. Post
 Pvt. J. C. Powell
 *Pfc. D. C. Pringle
 Pvt. D. J. PUNCHES
 Pvt. D. M. Reynolds
 Pvt. B. M. Roberts
 Pvt. J. W. Roberts
 Pvt. N. J. Rosen
 Pfc. F. D. Rucker Jr.
 Pvt. T. M. Sage
 Pvt. L. M. Saldivar
 Pvt. D. W. Shelden-Aguilar
 Pfc. N. J. Shelton
 Pvt. J. L. Smith
 Pfc. J. Solis
 Pvt. D. M. Spiegelberg
 Pfc. Z. A. Sterkowicz
 Pvt. N. D. Stringer
 Pvt. J. S. Stylestine
 Pvt. M. J. Tell
 Pvt. M. M. Thao
 Pvt. E. J. Thomas
 Pvt. C. L. Thorpe
 Pvt. T. A. Turner
 Pvt. A. M. Valdez
 Pvt. R. Vasquez III
 Pvt. E. A. Velandia
 Pvt. M. A. Velasco
 Pvt. C. R. Vittone
 Pvt. D. L. Warren
 Pvt. B. S. Weddell
 Pvt. J. B. Weiland
 Pvt. T. S. Weinzatl
 Pvt. B. Williams
 Pvt. E. A. Williamson
 Pvt. G. C. Wilson
 Pfc. I. J. Wolf
 Pvt. D. D. Woodall
 Pvt. E. A. Wren-Nichols

PLATOON 3254
 Pvt. R. Arroyo
 *Pfc. J. P. Beverson
 Pfc. J. C. Brancato
 Pfc. J. R. Bridgers
 Pvt. R. B. Burrell
 Pvt. D. A. Chavez
 Pvt. A. P. Chojnacki
 Pfc. K. J. Conrad
 Pvt. T. M. Crouch
 Pvt. J. S. Dacquist
 Pvt. G. T. Darling
 Pvt. S. R. Delgado
 Pvt. D. A. Duarte
 Pvt. L. E. Fierro
 Pvt. B. W. Fincher
 Pfc. J. T. Fite
 Pvt. A. Garcia
 *Pfc. R. L. Gaton
 Pfc. J. Gonzalez-Sorio
 Pvt. K. P. Griesheimer
 Pvt. C. L. Hall-Carrillo
 Pvt. A. S. Hardesty
 Pvt. M. A. Harkins
 Pvt. B. M. Harris
 Pvt. A. C. Hernandez
 Pvt. L. O. Hernandez
 Pvt. C. P. Hieger
 Pfc. R. J. Hintz
 Pvt. G. M. Holman
 Pvt. K. C. Holmes
 Pvt. D. R. Howard
 Pvt. G. G. Huddleston
 Pvt. A. R. Hyde
 Pvt. J. A. Jankowicz
 Pvt. A. K. Jones-Rasmussen

Pvt. N. A. Junge
 Pvt. C. I. Kangiser
 Pvt. C. T. Kelly
 Pvt. S. A. Kopp
 Pvt. T. M. Ledoux
 Pvt. A. Lopez
 Pvt. B. D. Lord
 Pvt. E. A. Marin
 Pvt. E. Marroquin
 Pfc. T. W. Martin
 Pvt. O. Martinez
 Pvt. T. S. Maynard
 Pvt. J. X. Mechem
 Pvt. S. G. Medina
 Pfc. J. A. Medrano
 Pfc. L. J. Meiners
 Pvt. J. L. Mendoza-Limon
 *Pfc. W. J. Miller
 Pvt. D. Montes
 Pvt. K. L. Nez
 Pvt. J. M. Norman
 Pfc. G. J. Nuernberger
 Pvt. S. Nunez
 Pvt. C. N. Ongklungel
 Pvt. J. Pacheco
 Pfc. A. Palamos
 Pvt. K. S. Patrick
 Pvt. V. M. Payan
 *Pfc. T. J. Pena
 Pvt. L. M. Perez
 *Pfc. C. Pino
 Pvt. R. D. Porter
 Pvt. D. A. Precht
 Pfc. A. J. Pumpelly
 Pvt. R. C. Ragle
 Pvt. E. A. Ramirez
 Pvt. J. J. Reed
 Pvt. S. M. Reed
 Pvt. O. D. Rivera
 Pvt. M. L. Robinson
 Pvt. A. S. Roosa
 Pvt. A. M. Runyon
 Pfc. B. L. Scott
 Pvt. A. G. Scidoti
 Pvt. C. E. Smith Jr.
 Pvt. T. J. Sturmer
 Pvt. J. T. Turner
 Pfc. J. Villafanet
 Pfc. S. A. Williams
 *Pfc. A. J. Willis
 Pvt. D. A. Duarte

PLATOON 3255
 Pvt. A. R. Abell
 Pvt. C. J. Adkins
 Pvt. M. A. Aubuchon
 Pfc. E. J. Barnes
 Pfc. M. Barragan
 Pvt. J. K. Beck
 Pfc. T. C. Beltinck
 *Pfc. J. D. Benson
 Pvt. L. J. Bledsoe
 Pvt. N. G. Bosteder
 Pfc. C. L. Bowers
 Pfc. J. D. Caldwell
 Pfc. D. S. Carnes
 Pvt. K. G. Cook
 *Pfc. M. R. Crisp
 Pvt. Z. D. Denton
 Pvt. D. O. Doxie
 Pfc. A. Garcia
 Pvt. E. O. Garcia
 Pvt. J. A. Gentile
 Pvt. J. J. Grant
 Pfc. T. J. Hagan
 Pvt. C. R. Harris

Pvt. S. E. Harris
 Pvt. E. M. Harte
 Pvt. R. D. Hone
 Pfc. T. S. Jackson
 Pvt. J. W. Jarboe
 Pfc. J. W. Jameyson
 Pfc. T. D. Maynard
 Pvt. K. L. McCrane
 Pfc. J. J. McElroy
 Pfc. A. M. McGregor
 Pfc. S. M. McAughlin
 Pvt. A. A. Mesa
 Pvt. D. T. Mijailovic
 Pvt. C. A. Miller
 Pfc. T. C. Miller
 Pvt. M. A. Mintz
 Pfc. J. D. Mitchell
 Pvt. T. J. Moore
 Pvt. R. A. Murodiaz
 Pfc. C. W. Murphy
 Pfc. N. K. Murray
 Pvt. B. X. Nieves
 Pvt. J. I. Norris
 Pfc. C. L. Norton
 Pvt. M. D. Nubine
 Pvt. R. Nuez Jr.
 Pvt. F. A. Ojedarestani
 Pvt. D. J. Olson
 Pvt. C. D. Oren
 Pvt. C. J. Patterson
 Pvt. K. S. Paus
 Pfc. C. J. Petersen
 Pfc. R. R. Pirir
 Pvt. J. Ponce
 Pvt. B. Preciado
 Pfc. D. P. Raymond III
 Pvt. N.A. Read
 Pvt. K.A. Reum
 Pvt. W.R. Ritchie
 Pvt. T.C. Shaffer
 Pvt. J.S. Schorno
 Pfc. W.G. Scott
 Pvt. A.L. Smith
 Pvt. T.M. Smith-Simons
 Pfc. R.W. Stirling
 Pfc. D.E. Symons
 Pvt. K. J. Taylor
 Pvt. J.W. Thompson
 Pfc. J. E. Thornton
 Pvt. D. Torres
 Pvt. A. A. Uribe
 Pvt. D. S. Vandeventer
 Pvt. H. A. Verdusco
 Pvt. J. M. Villalobos
 Pfc. I. E. Villatoro
 Pvt. D. J. Vos
 Pvt. C. A. Wagner Jr.
 Pvt. G.D. Walker
 Pfc. D. L. Weatherwax
 Pfc. S. M. Wickert
 Pvt. R. M. Wisniewski
 Pvt. T. J. Zuniga



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Recruits of Platoon 1011, Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, perform “dress right, dress,” a drill movement that has recruits (except those on the extreme right) raise their left arms parallel to the ground and lock their heads to the far right in order to get the proper distance from each other.

Close order drill instills discipline, obedience



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

A drill instructor with Company A checks the alignment of each squad in his platoon. Cover and alignment is important because it allows the platoon to move as one in an orderly fashion.

BY LANCE CPL. BRIDGET M. KEANE
Chevron staff

A platoon marching to the cadence of a drill instructor is an expected sight aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. In the early weeks of recruit training, recruits learn the fundamentals of close order drill.

Throughout history, drill was used to maximize combat effectiveness during battles. As long as formations could be maintained, the troops could hold a significant advantage over less organized troops.

Close order drill has been relevant in the military since the 5th century, according to Gunnery Sgt. Jerry Palka, drill master, Recruit Training Regiment.

“Spartans not only used it for combat tactics, but also used it to instill discipline within their society,” said Palka. “The Roman Legions built upon those tactics and at the time became the most powerful and feared military in the world.”

Even though militaries no longer use close order drill for combat purposes as it was used during the Revolutionary War and the Civil War, it is used in training and ceremonies, explained Palka.

“It is still a foundation that we use today to instill discipline, confidence, and ‘esprit de corps.’ We instill those key elements early in training to ensure each recruit carries on the legacy of the warrior ethos,” said Palka.

When recruits arrive aboard the depot, they are instantly taught basic drill movements. This ensures each recruit obeys orders without hesitation and executes those orders correctly.

“Drill starts to instill instant obedience to orders and good discipline in recruits,” said Sgt. Joseph Sanchez, senior drill instructor, Platoon 1011, Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion. “It also allows individual weapons handling and that lets them become more comfortable with their weapons.”

Although it increases an

individual’s confidence with their own weapon, the biggest part about close order drill is the teamwork and camaraderie it builds.

Teamwork is key in recruit training and drill is one area where it is not about an individual recruit, but the platoon as a whole, according to Palka.

“The recruits understand this and take drill just as seriously as the drill instructors,” said Palka.

Sanchez, whose company is on its third week of training, also agreed that drill builds teamwork among the recruits and confidence in the platoon.

“Recruits that are better at drill will take time to practice drill movements with the ones that are struggling,” said Sanchez. “I think it really helps them see what a team can do.”

As platoons continue to move as one, drill will still be the foundation of discipline in recruit training. Habits of precision and confidence will be instilled in each recruit allowing them to maintain military bearing and appearance.



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Recruits of Platoon 1011, Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, march as one to the voice of their drill instructor. In history, drill was used to maximize combat effectiveness during battles. As long as formations could be maintained, the troops could hold a significant advantage over less organized troops.