



Co. A gains confidence

Page 4

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO

CHEVRON

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION



Winner of the 2011 Thomas Jefferson Award For Excellence in Print Journalism

Vol. 72 – Issue 37

“WHERE MARINES ARE MADE”

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2012

Recruits conquer Crucible, return as Marines



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Platoon 1035, Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, and six other platoons completed the final challenge of recruit training, the Crucible, Nov. 29. The new Marines are ready to take the next step in their Marine Corps career, Marine Combat Training at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

BY LANCE CPL. BRIDGET M. KEANE
Chevron staff

The men of Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, went to the Crucible as recruits.

They returned to the depot Dec. 1, after finishing the journey that began more than three months ago, wearing the title “Marine.”

They went from civilians standing with clenched fists on yellow footprints at Receiving Company to Marines proudly holding their Eagle, Globe and Anchors atop the Reaper at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

“It’s really a big relief. It’s been a lot of hard work and I’m happy that I get to go home and take a break,” said Pfc. Christopher Rench, Platoon 1035, Co. B. 1st RTBn.

The transformation from civilian to recruit and recruit to Marine is a challenge that many are not willing to accept. It takes a young man or woman of confi-

see MARINES ▶ 2

Corps’ anti-hazing policy explained

BY CPL. WALTER D. MARINO II
Chevron staff

The recruits of Company I, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, attended class Nov. 27, to learn about the Marine Corps’ strong stance against hazing.

Hazing is defined as any conduct whereby one or more military members, regardless of service or rank, causes another military member to suffer, or be exposed to, an activity which is cruel, abusive, humiliating,

oppressive, demeaning or harmful.

First Sergeant Damien R. Coan, Company I first sergeant, explained the Corps’ zero-tolerance policy on hazing, stating anyone who violates the policy will be punished.

“We’re supposed to take the high ground as military forces,” said Coan.

Recruits were shown situations in which hazing has been

see HAZING ▶ 2



Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez

Staff Sgt. Nicholas Casias, Platoon 2109 senior drill instructor, marches his platoon past the reviewing stand during the final drill competition Nov. 26. The final drill competition is judged by how well a platoon performs each movement, and on uniform appearance and bearing.

Co. E recruits exhibit drill skills

BY CPL. MATHEUS J. HERNANDEZ
Chevron staff

As recruits marched onto the parade deck with their rifles in hand, the senior drill instructor took position to lead his platoon through yet another challenging test in recruit training.

This was the recurring scene for all platoons with Company E, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, as they prepared for the final drill competition aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Nov. 26.

Final drill consists of a series of drill movements recruits learn. Its event is graded by judges known as drill masters,

who look for how well a platoon performs each drill movement. Several other things drill masters look for include appearance in uniform and bearing.

“Drill is the end-all, be all here at the depot,” said Staff Sgt. Nicholas Casias, senior drill instructor, Platoon 2109. “It’s a valuable tool because it builds discipline in recruits.”

When teaching drill, recruits are taught by drill instructors the importance of attention to detail, how to handle a rifle and that the final product is what matters the most.

Drill instructors believe their platoons are a direct reflection of themselves when drilling, which explains why

recruits have been constantly reminded of how important final drill is during the past 10 training-weeks.

“A good majority of recruit training is focused on drilling,” said Casias. “Everywhere they go, anytime there is an opening in the schedule, we’re drilling.”

From the moment they arrive for recruit training, recruits are taught the basic fundamentals of drill to instill discipline, teamwork and instant obedience to orders, according to Staff Sgt. Julian E. Orozco, chief drill instructor, lead series, Co. E.

“Drill is important because it is the foundation of recruit

see DRILL ▶ 2



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

Company I recruits are given the definition of hazing during training Nov. 27. The information was part of a class on the Marine Corps’ strong position against hazing.

Tun Tavern Tea



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

From left to right retired Sgt. Maj. Bill Paxton, Erika Kruger, Lil Larken, and Frank Hollingshead hold up Volunteer of the Year awards and tokens of appreciation during the Tun Tavern Tea at the depot's Command Museum Dec. 1. The Tun Tavern Tea is an annual event and a social gathering of the members and supporters of the MCRD Historical Society. The event recognizes the work volunteers and supporters have done for the museum and society. This year's Tun Tavern Tea marked the 25th anniversary of the society and museum. They celebrated by recognizing the founding fathers and had displays throughout the museum showing the history of the society and museum.

MARINES ◀ 1

dence and stamina to endure the three phases of recruit training and earn the title. Each phase focuses on different mental and physical aspects.

"The first phase is known as the 'break-down,'" said Sgt. Brandon Rogers, drill instructor, Plt. 1035, Co. B., 1st RTBn. "During this phase, recruits are taught the basic customs and courtesies of being a recruit.

"They're taken out of their comfort zone and put in an environment they've never experienced."

During this phase, recruits are introduced to close order drill, the M16-A4 service rifle, inspections and physically demanding training events.

The first few weeks of training are usually difficult for most recruits. They lose a sense of self-attachment and soon realize they are no longer individuals, said Rogers.

The second phase of training is spent at Edson Range aboard MCB Camp Pendleton. This phase begins to build up the recruits' confidence in the way they carry

themselves and in their ability to perform.

"The second phase of training is basically making them (the recruits) proficient," explained Rogers. "They are introduced to the fundamentals of marksmanship and field training, where they learn everything about having a combat mindset."

The recruits pushed themselves through grueling hikes in the hills of Edson Range and learned how to survive in a simulated combat environment during Field Week.

During the last phase of training the recruits are expected to start behaving like junior Marines.

"To me, third phase is where we mold them into basically trained Marines," said Rogers. "Although they're still recruits, we demand that their presence changes. They should be more confident and be able to hold themselves, as well as each other, accountable."

In the week before they step off to the Crucible, Company B recruits participated in activities to meet their final graduation requirements; activities such as the final physical fitness test, combat fitness test and the final drill competition.

"These events really show the recruits how far they've come from when they first arrived here," said Rogers.

The Company B recruits spent sixty training days preparing for the final test of recruit training, the Crucible; a 54-hour field-training exercise.

To succeed during the Crucible, the recruits had to complete missions and work as a team with very little food and sleep. The culminating event of the Crucible is the Reaper, a 10-mile hike that pushes exhausted recruits to their limits physically and mentally.

In the early hours of the morning, the hike was over. As the sun rose in the East, the recruits received their Eagle, Globe and Anchors emblems — and the title Marine.

Company B recruits arrived at the depot three months ago as young men with the desire to be part of the world's finest fighting force.

They succeeded.

"It was exhausting, but totally worth it," said Rench. "It's a one of a kind feeling and something that not a lot of people can accomplish."

HAZING ◀ 1

known to occur. Situations such as promotions and graduations.

"Depending on the situation, participants may think it's tradition. But hazing serves no purpose," said Sgt. Kenneth G. West, drill instructor, Platoon 3214.

"It is important for hazing to be explained," he said, "and for recruits to be given clear guidelines on what is and isn't acceptable. There is no honor in making someone feel like crap or demeaning them."

Some recruits encountered hazing before recruit training, and have either been hazing victims or have known people who became victims.

Recruit Alberto Espinoza, Plt. 3214, said he's seen fraternities haze individuals by putting sand bags on people's heads, putting

people naked in a tank full of ice and drinking excessive water.

"It's wrong," said Espinoza, 22 years old. "I've had a few friends die from hazing. It doesn't prove a point, it's morally and ethically wrong."

Although Espinoza said that although he has received several sessions of anti-hazing training in college, the class he attended in recruit training has made him more aware that hazing can happen anywhere.

"I learned different scenarios to watch out for in the military," said Espinoza. "The military can be like a fraternity, but it has aspects in it that are different."

During the class recruits were also taught how hazing can taint the image of the Marine Corps. An example was given of a hazing video that was displayed on the news.

"(Hazing) can cause the victim or the public to look down on the military," said Recruit Dwayne L. Scott, Plt. 3214.

DRILL ◀ 1

training," said Orozco. "It's the first step to unit cohesion and discipline."

Within the first weeks of training, platoons take part in initial drill with very little knowledge and practice, which is

also graded.

Final drill is one of the culminating events during recruit training and is where the company is able to see how much platoons have improved.

"Expectations are high for the platoons competing today," said Orozco. "We've

seen a huge improvement since initial drill."

After each platoon performed for all drill masters, the winner of final drill for Company E was announced as Platoon 2111, led by Sgt. Rigoberto Melendez, senior drill instructor.

BRIEFS

CG's Winter Concert and Christmas Tree Lighting

The Commanding General's Winter Concert and Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony takes place Saturday at 3:30.

The concert, featuring Marine Band San Diego, plays at Pendleton Hall (Building 31). The music will be followed by the annual tree lighting ceremony.

Winter Concert, Christmas Tree Lighting parking advisory

The parking lot between Pendleton Hall (Building 31) and Russell Ave., is blocked off for set up for Saturday's Winter Concert and Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.

The parking lot will re-open Monday at 7 a.m.

Gate closure

An LED marquee sign will be installed at the Gate 4 entrance next week.

The Gate 4 entrance will be closed from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. each day, Monday through Dec. 14. The gate will reopen each day after hours to allow overnight traffic.

Goodyear Blimp Ride

The depot's Single Marine Program has procured a limited number of spaces for a ride on the Goodyear Blimp.

If you want to ride now's your chance!

To be eligible for a space you must have volunteered with SMP sometime in the past two months.

Space is very limited.

For more information check out the event on Facebook at <http://on.fb.me/U7YCqx>.

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.

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: "What do you believe America learned from the attack on Pearl Harbor?"



"We learned to be more proactive than reactive, and that we must always be prepared for every situation." Cpl. Paris Milton, postal clerk, Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion



"We don't know our enemy's capabilities, so I think we learned that we have to remain vigilant because we never know when we could fall under attack." Staff Sgt. William Benningfield, career planner, Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion



"It was a big wake up call. It was the first major attack on our soil, so we basically learned to be always be prepared." Lance Cpl. Brian Locke, administrative clerk, Recruit Administrative Branch, Support Battalion

Sugar Plums Dance



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

A little girl waits to see Santa Claus during the Headquarters and Service Battalion Holiday Party aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Dec. 1. Marines of H&SBn., and their families were invited to enjoy the Christmas-themed party, while children had the opportunity receive gifts and meet Santa.

Family Tradition



Sgt. Jose E. Castellon

From left to right are Midshipman Colt Washa, Lance Cpl. Benjamin Washa, Capt. Quincy Washa, and Lance Cpl. Eric Washa. The Washas gathered on the depot for Eric's graduation from recruit training Nov. 2. He graduated as company honor man for Company K, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion. After graduating from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a bachelor's degree in business management, Eric enlisted in the Marine Corps, following in the footsteps of his older siblings, Quincy and Benjamin. Quincy is a Marine Officer Instructor for the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps unit at the University of Minnesota, and Benjamin is senior at the University of Nebraska-Kearney and is currently serving as a reservist. Colt is a freshman at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and is in the NROTC unit there.



ESTABLISHED 1942

COMMANDING GENERAL
BRIG. GEN. DANIEL D. YOO

SERGEANT MAJOR
SGT. MAJ. SYLVESTER D. DANIELS

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR
MAJ. MICHAEL W. ARMISTEAD

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
JANICE M. HAGAR

PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHIEF
MASTER SGT. ROBERT G. KNOLL

PRESS CHIEF
SGT. CRISTINA N. PORRAS

PRESS NCOIC
CPL. MATHEUS J. HERNANDEZ
COMBAT CORRESPONDENTS
CPL. WALTER D. MARINO II
CPL. LIZ GLEASON
LANCE CPL. BRIDGET M. KEANE

EDITOR
ROGER EDWARDS
CONTACT THE CHEVRON
RDSD_PAO@USMC.MIL

CHEVRON/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
1600 HENDERSON AVE. #120
SAN DIEGO, CA. 92140
(619) 524-8722

WWW.MCRDSD.MARINES.MIL

The Chevron, printed with appropriated funds in compliance with Marine Corps order P5600.31F, is published by Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego personnel. Opinions and views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Marine Corps or the Department of Defense. The Chevron is promulgated for informational purposes only and in no way should be considered directive in nature. All photos are official USMC property unless otherwise indicated.



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

Company A recruits swing through the depot's run-jump-swing obstacle Nov. 29. This obstacle is just one of many the recruits encountered on the confidence course, an exercise course designed to challenge recruits physically and mentally.

Recruits tackle new challenges, build self confidence

BY CPL. WALTER D. MARINO II
Chevron staff

While much of what's found in television advertising is loosely based on fact, some ads display absolute truth. Marine Corps ads, for example, try to give a real picture of the Corps and the obstacles that must be overcome during recruit training.

The recruits of Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, encountered that truth on the depot's confidence course Nov. 26.

The confidence course is a series of obstacles designed to challenge recruits physically and mentally, and build a sense of self-confidence when successfully completed.

The obstacles vary in difficulty but all require effort, attention and a willingness to take on new challenges.

Different obstacles call for a recruit to exercise different skills and abilities. The run-jump-swing requires the recruit to run toward a hanging rope, jump to reach it to swing across a gap. Other obstacles call on the recruit to use strength and agility to complete.

The wall climb involves recruits using a rope to climb over a 10-foot wall. For those who have led less active lives and lack sufficient upper body strength, the exercise proves difficult. Some recruits struggled to climb the wall, but each struggling recruit received intense encouragement

from a supervising drill instructor.

"Get up there!" Yelled a drill instructor at a recruit having trouble only inches from the top of the wall.

"I believe this instills confidence and courage, because most of these recruits haven't done things like the stairway to heaven," said Sgt. Christopher B. Ramsey, Platoon 1014 drill instructor. "Courage is one of the Marine Corps values' and extremely important because they will have to use it in combat."

Obstacles recruits encounter on the confidence course include the cargo net climb, the arm walk and the dirty name. While some obstacles are easy to figure from

their name, some need explaining.

The dirty name is an example. This is an obstacle in which recruits must jump from a log six-feet above the ground, to another 10-feet in the air – and then slide down.

"I think the log climb could be the hardest obstacle because the height might throw off some of the recruits' sense of balance," said Recruit Austin T. Shutz, Plt. 1013. "I've never done anything like this. I agree that this instills confidence because some recruits need to be pushed, and this will allow them to find their true ability."

For some recruits the confidence course is a challenge they had been anticipating for some time.

"It was something I looked forward to because my cousin was a Marine and he told me all about this," said Recruit Paul G. Smith, Plt. 1013, Co. A. 1st RTBn. "He said he loved the confidence course and it was one of his favorite parts of (recruit training). It looks difficult but not impossible."

Positivity surrounding the exercise was not hard to find. Many recruits were excited about the training and felt a sense of pride in their success over the demanding exercises.

"I know that not everyone can experience something like this. To know that this recruit can accomplish it with fellow recruits is an amazing feeling," said Smith.



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

In the hand walk obstacle, recruits must move across an inclined set of bars using only their hands, relying on upper body strength.



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

A recruit gets ready to jump to the next log, 4-feet above his six-foot high perch. The obstacle, called 'the dirty name,' helps recruits deal with fear.



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

Recruits are motivated by a supervising drill instructor while going over the top of a 10-foot wall. The wall climb is one of many obstacles on the depot's confidence course.



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

A recruit with Company A climbs his way over the 10-foot high cargo net obstacle on the depot's confidence course Nov. 29.

Competitive twins complete recruit training together

BY LANCE CPL. BRIDGET M. KEANE
Chevron staff

Born four minutes apart from each other, Shaun and Gabe Vanderwall, Platoon 1035, Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, grew up nearly inseparable.

The 21-year-old identical twins of Ludington, Mich., were always together and enrolled in the same activities since they were children.

"I guess it made it easier for our mother so she didn't have to be in two places at once," said Shaun. "That's where our competitiveness came from."

The twins would hold "friendly competitions" with each other during sporting events, trying to beat each other's times and scores. As they moved on to high school, they both joined track and swim and continued in their competitive nature.

Although the boys' friendly rivalry was taken light-heartedly, they still pushed each other to excel in any activity.

"We're brothers, we wouldn't want to see each other fail at anything," explained Shaun.

After graduating from Ludington High School in 2009 and receiving scholarships for their performance in track and swim, both soon realized how expensive college would be even with scholarships.

"Since we were good at swimming, we decided it would be a good idea to join the Coast Guard," explained Shaun. "We wanted to do something in search and rescue."

The two went to speak with a recruiter and were soon discouraged by the news they received.

"We were told that we'd have to wait two years before we could join," said Shaun. "We decided we were going to wait."

As time went on, the Vander-



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Privates Shaun and Gabe Vanderwall, Platoon 1035, Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, are identical twins who went through recruit training together aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. The twins held "friendly competitions" with each other during training events to keep each other motivated.

wall twins grew tired of their work at a local retirement home as servers and cooks. Gabe didn't want to wait any longer and went back to the recruiting center to look at a different branch of service.

He spoke with a Marine Corps recruiter and was pleased to hear that he and his brother would be able to leave sooner. He returned home with the good news to Shaun and the two enlisted in April.

"We both wanted to get on with our lives, and the Marine Corps gave us so many options with jobs and benefits," said Gabe.

The twins shipped off to recruit training aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego

Sept. 10 and were placed in the same platoon.

Like most recruits, the twins had a hard time adjusting to the first few weeks of recruit training, but the one thing they had was each other.

They motivated each other when times became tough and even kept up with their competitive games during training events such as the combat fitness test.

"We both received a 300 on our CFT's and our times were close," explained Gabe. "We both did 100 ammunition can lifts, our 880 was two minutes 29 seconds, but I beat Shaun by seven seconds on the maneuver under fire, I got a minute 50 seconds and he got 57 seconds."

Knowing that they could always rely on each other, they continued to push through training and were noticed individually in the platoon.

"Shaun was more of a natural leader when he arrived and Gabe was more reserved and quiet," said Sgt. Brandon Rogers, drill instructor, Plt. 1035, Co. B, 1st RTBn. "Gabe is actually the most improved recruit in our platoon."

Rogers, a 25-year-old Fairfield, Calif., native, explained that Gabe struggled in the beginning but soon started to volunteer more and take charge, but both developed into good leaders, morally and physically.

"They motivated the platoon through their actions, when

there was a task that needed to be done, they'd always get it taken care of," said Rogers.

The Vanderwall twins now hold the title Marine but their Marine Corps journey isn't over yet. They are scheduled to continue Marine Combat Training at the School of Infantry aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 8.

Once they finish training there, they will go separate ways for the first time in their lives. The two explained that it's going to be a big change in their lives, but they're ready to experience it.

"I think it will be a good experience for them," said Rogers. "I'm confident that they'll be fine on their own."

Sgt. Maj. J. K. Gilstrap

Parade Reviewing Officer

Sergeant Major John K. Gilstrap enlisted in the Marine Corps on Nov. 30, 1982 in the Delayed Entry Program. On Sept. 28 1983 he reported to Company D, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C.

After graduation, Gilstrap attended his initial military occupational school for H-1 Helicopter Mechanic at Naval Air Station Memphis, Tenn. Upon completion, he attended follow-on military occupational specialty training at Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Naval Aircrew Candidate School at Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla.

In June 1984, Gilstrap reported to Marine Attack Helicopter Squadron 369 for duty as a helicopter mechanic. From June 1984 to July 1987, he completed two unit deployments to Okinawa, Japan, was designated as a naval air crewman on the UH-1N Iquois helicopter, and was promoted to corporal.

In August 1987, Gilstrap reported to Marine Air Group 46, Detachment C, Naval Air

Station, Atlanta, Ga., for inspector and instructor duty. From August 1987 to October 1990, he completed the Noncommissioned Officers School and was promoted to sergeant.

In November 1990, Gilstrap reported to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169 at Camp Pendleton. From November 1990 to March 1996, he participated in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Operation Sea Angel, Operation Restore Hope and a unit deployment to Okinawa. During this period Gilstrap also attended the Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course, Survival Evasion, Resistance and Escape Basic and Advanced School, the Career Course and was promoted to staff sergeant.

From April 1996 to August 1998, Gilstrap served as a drill instructor and senior drill instructor with Company K, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, and as section staff non-commissioned officer in charge, Weapons and Field Training Battalion at Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton. During this time he was promoted to gunnery sergeant.

In August 1998, Gilstrap returned to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169. From

August 1998 to May 2001, he completed a unit deployment to Okinawa, attended the Advanced Course and held the billets of flightline staff non-commissioned officer in charge, Weapons and Tactics Instructor, Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization Instructor and was promoted to first sergeant.

In May 2001, Gilstrap reported to 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, MCB Camp Pendleton. From May 2001 to April 2005, he attended the First Sergeant's Course and participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He held the billets of battery first sergeant for Battery

A and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, and he was promoted to his current rank.

In April 2005, Gilstrap reported to Marine Air Support Squadron 3, MCB Camp Pendleton. From April 2005 to January 2007, he served as the squadron sergeant major and participated in two command visits to Al Anbar Province, Iraq.

From February 2007 to February 2009, he served as the Sergeant Major for Marine Corps Security Force Battalion, Naval Submarine Base, Kings Bay, Ga. From April 2009 to April 2011 he was the sergeant major for Marine Corps Helicopter Squadron 1.

Gilstrap assumed his current duty's as sergeant major, Marine and Family Programs Division, Headquarters Marine Corps in May 2011.

Gilstrap's personal awards include the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal with gold star in lieu of third award, the Air Medal with 1st Strike Flight Award, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star in lieu of fourth award and combat distinguishing device, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with gold star in lieu of third award and the Combat Action Ribbon.

"On behalf of Marines around the globe, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Marine Corps family. We need each of you to enforce our core values of honor, courage and commitment. Treat each and every Marine with fairness and dignity. Know that when we say that we never leave a Marine behind it is not a catch phrase. Marines do this regardless if we are in combat or in garrison. No matter how long you choose to wear this uniform, four years or thirty, active or reserve, you will always have the Eagle Globe and Anchor imprinted on your heart. Once a Marine- Always a Marine! Good luck and Semper Fidelis"





BRAVO COMPANY

1st RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION



Commanding Officer
Sergeant Major
Battalion Drill Master

Lt. Col. D. R. Kazmier
Sgt. Maj. M. S. Seamans
Gunnery Sgt. S. C. Chromy

COMPANY L Commanding Officer Capt. B. J. Addison Company First Sergeant 1st Sgt. W. A. Purnell	SERIES 1029 <i>Series Commander</i> Capt. J. P. Plancarte <i>Chief Drill Instructor</i> Staff Sgt. B. S. Rivas	PLATOON 1029 <i>Senior Drill Instructor</i> Staff Sgt. M. L. Harmon <i>Drill Instructors</i> Sgt. C. M. Bess Sgt. P. S. Haly	PLATOON 1030 <i>Senior Drill Instructor</i> Staff Sgt. R. Reyes <i>Drill Instructors</i> Staff Sgt. J. Andazola Staff Sgt. J. Rocha	PLATOON 1031 <i>Senior Drill Instructor</i> Staff Sgt. A. Griffith <i>Drill Instructors</i> Sgt. J. P. Gartland Sgt. P. J. Corillo Sgt. C. M. Prats
	SERIES 1033 <i>Series Commander</i> Capt. E. Dmohowski <i>Chief Drill Instructor</i> Staff Sgt. A. A. Librando	PLATOON 1033 <i>Senior Drill Instructor</i> Sgt. C. Flores <i>Drill Instructors</i> Sgt. F. Salas Sgt. B. R. Simmons	PLATOON 1034 <i>Senior Drill Instructor</i> Staff Sgt. W. A. Getts <i>Drill Instructors</i> Sgt. J. E. Barnes Sgt. J. Flores Sgt. R. E. Jojola	PLATOON 1035 <i>Senior Drill Instructor</i> Staff Sgt. B. M. Reza <i>Drill Instructors</i> Sgt. B. Rogers Sgt. A. Mendoza Jr. Sgt. D. I. Menendez

* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

PLATOON 1029
Pfc. A. A. Aragon
Pvt. A. Banda Jr.
Pvt. S. M. Davis
Pvt. T. M. DeBarris
Pvt. J. Delgado
Pfc. C. T. Dougherty
Pvt. D. A. Duke
Pvt. J. J. Dunn
Pvt. C. M. England
*Pfc. A. T. Erickson
Pvt. J. J. Fuhrmeister
Pfc. I. N. Garcia
*Pfc. P. B. Geisel
Pvt. T. J. Gomer
Pvt. M. Gomez
Pvt. J. C. Gonzalez
Pfc. A. Guzman-Huizar
Pvt. A. G. Hernandez
Pvt. B. J. Highfill
Pvt. R. M. Hirt V
Pvt. K. J. Hoff
Pvt. S. R. Hogue
Pfc. W. T. Holloway
Pvt. R. Huynh
Pvt. J. M. James
Pvt. E. C. Kessler
Pfc. A. A. Kirk
Pvt. D. D. Kuehnel
Pvt. D. L. Labeaf
Pvt. N. Z. Lamb
Pvt. T. P. Lara
Pfc. A. V. Licano
*Pfc. T. W. Logue
Pfc. B. Long Jr
Pvt. Z. T. Love
Pvt. J. T. Lundgren
Pfc. Z. A. Maramonte
*Pfc. J. H. Marden
Pfc. T. E. Martin
Pvt. A. M. Martinez
*Pfc. E. Martinez Jr.
Pvt. I. M. Martinez
Pvt. F. Meher
Pvt. T. W. Miller
Pvt. T. J. Morales
Pfc. C. R. Morgenthaler
Pvt. C. C. Nelson
Pvt. L. A. Nieto-Soto
Pvt. F. T. Ong
Pvt. I. Ortiz-Camarena
Pfc. P. L. Osterman IV
Pvt. D. E. Patino
Pfc. J. Perez
Pvt. Z. R. Phillips
Pvt. A. Phommachanh
Pfc. D. Phung
Pfc. T. M. Priest
Pfc. C. W. Ray
Pvt. G. G. Reyes
Pfc. M. L. Reynoso
Pvt. J. J. Roberts
Pvt. J. M. Rodriguez
Pfc. T. S. Rogers
Pvt. J. A. Sherman
Pvt. C. L. Slocum
Pvt. M. C. Small
Pfc. J. M. Srader
Pvt. S. T. Stewart
Pvt. A. B. Taylor
Pvt. R. J. Taylor
Pvt. C. T. Thomas
*Pfc. M. L. Tinsley
Pvt. D. M. Travers
Pfc. W. C. Tyler
Pvt. M. J. Van Engen
Pfc. B. A. Vanier
Pvt. A. L. Waldron
Pvt. J. A. Watts
Pfc. C. J. Westberry
Pvt. M. D. White-Hobbs

PLATOON 1030
Pvt. B. A. Acosta
Pvt. M. M. Gallier
Pvt. N. A. Garay
*Pfc. B. S. Gehring
Pvt. M. P. Glittenberg

Pvt. R. J. Gonzales
Pvt. M. J. Gonzalez
Pvt. Z. P. Heesaker
Pfc. W. M. Hilland
Pvt. A. J. Hoffman
Pvt. E. J. Holland
Pvt. E. A. Hughes
Pvt. M. S. Huish
Pvt. R. L. Johnson
Pvt. G. Kao Jr.
Pvt. J. W. Keightley
Pvt. D. C. Lajoie
Pvt. D. H. Lane
Pvt. D. A. Leach
Pvt. C. A. Lewis
Pfc. M. Q. Lewis
Pfc. B. R. Lozano
Pvt. T. S. Lucas
*Pfc. J. R. Luckey
Pfc. M. K. MacDougall
Pvt. A. U. Manriquez
Pvt. A. A. Martinez
Pvt. D. J. Martinez
Pfc. J. M. Martinez
Pvt. D. N. McAlister
Pvt. A. J. Medell
Pvt. J. K. Miranda
Pfc. K. A. Monroe
Pfc. E. J. Munoz
Pvt. A. S. Murphy-Patton
Pvt. J. Q. Nations
Pvt. C. R. Nicol
Pvt. M. A. Oros-Lucas
Pvt. O. V. Orozco
Pfc. D. Ortiz-Flores
Pvt. B. E. Ovalle
Pfc. J. A. Palmer-Kuhl
Pvt. K. R. Pippin
Pvt. N. D. Porras
Pfc. B. S. Prasad
Pvt. B. T. Prelesnik
Pvt. J. A. Quirazco
Pvt. S. A. Ragatz
Pvt. J. R. Ramos
Pvt. D. A. Rankin
Pvt. J. O. Rivera
Pvt. J. I. Rodriguez
Pvt. R. L. Rogers
Pvt. J. G. Romero-Garcia
Pvt. C. N. Ronan
Pvt. S. R. Routley
Pvt. S. D. Salisbury
Pfc. E. I. Sanchez
Pfc. J. A. Santiago
Pfc. A. D. Saucedo
Pvt. K. J. Shue
Pfc. J. D. Shupak
*Pfc. C. W. Sims
Pvt. D. T. Singleton
Pvt. N. R. Smalley
Pvt. V. L. Smejkal
Pfc. I. M. Smith
Pfc. W. C. Smith
Pvt. J. D. Sonato
Pvt. K. G. Spurlock
Pfc. G. Suttles
*Pfc. A. T. Tant
Pvt. J. E. Thor
Pvt. E. Tijerina
Pfc. R. C. Tolentino
Pvt. M. Torres
Pvt. C. L. Turner
Pfc. C. Velazquez
Pvt. T. T. Wagester
Pvt. A. B. Welborn
Pvt. C. R. Wertz
Pvt. N. A. Wiese
Pfc. B. A. Willes
*Pfc. D. L. Williams
Pvt. J. M. Williams
Pfc. B. Winter
Pvt. J. L. Woodard
*Pfc. D. B. Zapata

PLATOON 1031
*Pfc. R. Fernandez-Lopez
Pvt. A. Freyre Jr.

Pvt. S. A. Garcia
Pfc. J. P. Gardner
Pfc. T. S. Giguere
Pvt. A. D. Glenn
Pfc. F. S. Godwin
Pvt. J. M. Gomez
Pvt. G. Gonzalez-Saucedo
Pfc. H. I. Gonzalez
Pfc. J. Gonzalez
Pvt. D. J. Harris
Pvt. A. L. Hernandez
Pvt. A. F. Hernandez
Pvt. I. G. Hernandez
Pfc. M. E. Herrick
Pvt. R. R. Hines
Pvt. J. Ho
Pfc. C. W. Hugh
Pfc. S. A. Jones
Pvt. J. C. Jove Jr.
Pfc. B. P. Kelly
Pvt. S. W. Kirschner
*Pfc. D. J. Krase
Pvt. C. R. Krinker
Pvt. D. E. Lara
Pvt. R. Leija
Pfc. A. A. Leura
Pvt. A. Lopez
Pvt. A. G. Martinez
Pvt. C. M. Martinez
Pvt. T. P. Maslankowski
Pfc. J. T. Mazzetta
Pvt. S. W. McCarty
Pvt. R. Mendoza Jr.
Pvt. A. C. Mertes
Pvt. J. R. Mines
*Pfc. I. A. Montemayor
Pvt. J. A. Monzon
Pvt. C. J. Morey
Pvt. J. J. Morrison
Pvt. R. C. Munoz
Pfc. C. T. Nations
Pvt. D. C. Nguyen
Pfc. M. B. Nicholson
Pvt. R. M. Nombromo Jr.
Pvt. A. A. Oliver
Pvt. D. J. Pena
Pvt. D. W. Peterson
Pvt. I. L. Pratt
Pvt. S. O. Ramon
Pfc. A. Ramos
Pvt. B. D. Rawlins
Pvt. A. A. Resch Jr.
*Pfc. J. M. Reynoso Jr.
*Pfc. K. R. Richards
Pfc. A. L. Roberts
Pvt. B. B. Rodriguez
Pvt. C. P. Rodriguez
Pvt. J. A. Roldan
Pfc. J. P. Rushing
*Pfc. T. M. San Miguel
Pvt. S. V. Sapru
Pvt. G. Sarabia
Pvt. A. H. Sarkisyan
Pvt. C. R. Setere
Pvt. M. L. Shoop
Pvt. C. K. Wentz
Pvt. J. T. Whipple
Pvt. M. T. Whitaker
Pvt. E. R. White
Pvt. C. A. Whitehead
*Pfc. A. Wong
Pfc. K. E. Zastrow
Pfc. A. J. Zon
Pfc. B. T. Zurn
Pvt. J. T. Zyla

PLATOON 1033
Pvt. L. J. Dalton
Pfc. B. T. Davenport
Pvt. M. G. Demos
Pvt. J. R. Dennison
Pvt. B. R. Fleming
Pfc. M. A. Flores
Pfc. T. W. Folta
*Pfc. N. R. Frayer
Pvt. D. J. Fruhwirth
*Pfc. S. C. Garcia

Pvt. D. J. Grand
Pfc. C. E. Green
Pvt. A. R. Greider
Pfc. T. J. Grigsby
Pvt. M. A. Guerrero
Pvt. J. M. Guerrero-Barrientos
Pfc. S. P. Hammond
Pvt. E. T. Hansen
Pvt. D. R. Harris
Pvt. J. W. Hart
Pvt. B. M. Hatfield
*Pfc. W. L. Haynes
Pvt. R. C. Hendrickson
Pvt. D. R. Henricks
Pvt. I. C. Holguin
Pvt. L. J. Howarth
Pfc. T. A. Johnson
Pvt. P. M. King
Pvt. N. S. Konopka
Pvt. J. A. Koulogeorge
Pfc. N. E. Kowalczyk
Pvt. J. D. Kuczarski
Pvt. C. M. Lapoint
Pvt. D. M. Ledesma
Pvt. D. R. Love
Pvt. T. J. Love
Pfc. S. J. Mahoney
Pfc. M. Mandujano Jr.
Pvt. J. T. Martin
Pvt. A. Martinez
*Pfc. R. T. Mayer
Pfc. J. W. McCaslin
Pvt. N. W. McCool
Pvt. D. S. McKinney II
Pvt. B. A. McWane
Pvt. J. R. Mines
Pfc. C. E. Miller Jr.
Pvt. G. E. Miller
Pvt. J. S. Miller
Pvt. R. Z. Nelson
Pvt. C. N. Nooyen
Pvt. D. A. Olivo
Pvt. M. G. Olson
Pfc. J. K. Paap
Pvt. G. M. Perez Jr.
*Pfc. W. D. Pierce
Pvt. J. W. Plante
Pvt. M. M. Reef
*Pfc. K. J. Reitmaier
Pfc. D. J. Rivers
Pvt. J. C. Robinson
Pvt. A. Rodriguez
Pfc. J. C. Saalfeld
Pvt. Z. S. Schaefer
Pvt. L. M. Schlotfeldt
Pvt. S. T. Schmitt
Pvt. D. M. Shulteis
Pvt. D. M. Shriver
Pfc. T. J. Sims
Pvt. D. L. Smith
Pfc. T. O. Smith
Pvt. C. S. Spangle
Pvt. T. M. Steczkowski
Pfc. P. D. Stratton
Pvt. J. T. Szymanski
Pvt. J. R. Thompson
Pvt. M. F. Topping Jr.
Pfc. A. A. Torres
Pfc. G. S. Torres
Pvt. E. Trevino
Pfc. C. A. Tropp
Pvt. C. J. Varn
Pvt. R. G. Villarreal II
Pvt. D. T. Weil
Pfc. A. J. Wiedenbeck
Pvt. H. L. Williams
Pvt. R. M. Williamson

PLATOON 1034
Pvt. A. A. Aguilar
Pfc. R. M. Aguirre
Pvt. D. Alcala
Pvt. R. A. Allard
Pvt. T. A. Allgood
Pfc. A. Alvarez Jr.
Pfc. A. Alvarez
Pfc. J. R. Anderson
Pfc. A. Appel

Pvt. O. Arellano
Pvt. G. C. Bermio
Pvt. N. E. Best
Pvt. T. T. Bitanga
Pvt. T. J. Black
Pvt. N. A. Blanchette
Pvt. B. S. Brechler
Pvt. Z. W. Bressler
Pvt. K. L. Burmeister
Pfc. B. J. Byrd
Pvt. R. Cantu Jr.
Pvt. W. J. Carroll
Pvt. E. Castillo
Pvt. R. Castro
Pvt. W. B. Cathey
Pvt. E. H. Chavira
Pvt. J. J. Cleary
Pvt. D. E. Colvard Jr.
Pvt. U. R. Contreras
Pfc. G. Cortez
Pvt. H. Cortez-Santander
Pvt. T. R. Damato
Pvt. R. J. Dertz
Pvt. J. P. De Santiago
Pvt. D. J. Deyonge
Pvt. J. A. Diaz
Pvt. J. A. Dickerson
*Pfc. G. W. Dodd III
Pfc. A. S. Doyle
Pfc. D. R. Dunaway-Knight
Pvt. L. G. Eckiwaudah II
Pvt. L. R. Edwards
Pvt. J. C. Edwards
Pfc. L. E. Eche
Pfc. A. C. Eigenberg
Pvt. J. H. Esquivel Jr.
Pvt. V. G. Estrada
*Pfc. C. A. Forenpohar
Pvt. B. M. Fox
Pfc. A. Freire
Pvt. J. L. Fryer
*Pfc. G. J. Galvan
*Pfc. J. N. Hernandez
Pvt. J. A. Hicks
Pfc. T. E. Hunter
Pvt. A. J. Johnson
Pfc. A. J. King
Pfc. L. J. Kisla
*Pfc. D. G. Lanterman
Pvt. J. A. Larkin
Pvt. D. J. Lujan
Pvt. A. D. Lyons
Pvt. T. J. Meador
Pvt. A. A. Ostby
Pvt. H. J. Parra II
Pfc. S. J. Peck
Pvt. C. N. Peoples
Pvt. M. G. Perez
Pvt. L. E. Pinedo
Pvt. B. J. Quinones
Pvt. J. D. Randlett
Pvt. A. M. Reyes
*Pfc. J. M. Rhoads
Pvt. J. M. Schubich
Pvt. A. J. Schweisthal
Pvt. J. E. Serrato
Pvt. A. Servin
Pvt. M. A. Shaleen
Pvt. C. D. Shiotani
Pfc. B. A. Sorteberg
Pvt. Z. C. Tamayo
Pvt. D. R. Tollefson
Pfc. C. M. Viscomi
Pvt. T. M. Watje
Pvt. J. A. Wheeler
Pfc. T. R. Whittaker
Pfc. J. T. Williams
Pfc. B. A. Zacarias
Pvt. N. T. Zweifel

PLATOON 1035
Pvt. J. M. Arney
Pvt. A. A. Ayers
Pvt. J. J. Baker
Pfc. K. T. Baker
Pvt. A. H. Baladraf
Pvt. J. S. Balais
Pvt. Z. T. Barrett

Pvt. T. J. Biba
Pvt. J. L. Blevins
Pfc. M. T. Bloomer
Pvt. M. Boerma
Pfc. T. E. Brown
*Pfc. J. B. Brummet
Pvt. N. D. Buetow
Pvt. W. Bujak
Pfc. S. P. Burkett
Pfc. L. A. Bush
Pfc. N. M. Buys
Pfc. F. E. Caballero
Pfc. B. N. Canales
Pvt. D. Carrillo
Pvt. G. D. Chavez
Pvt. M. R. Childs
Pvt. R. W. Christensen
Pvt. C. D. Chudyk
Pvt. C. J. Clark
Pfc. B. L. Deal
Pfc. W. R. Dean
Pvt. J. R. De Ochoa
Pvt. C. R. Dildine
Pfc. S. K. Dollison
Pvt. J. A. Druml
Pvt. J. D. Ellis Jr.
*Pfc. R. A. Ewing
Pvt. B. S. Field
Pvt. J. Flores
Pvt. J. J. Funk
Pvt. O. R. Garcia
Pvt. R. Garcia
Pvt. J. J. Gerak
Pfc. T. T. Gnongbanthom
*Pfc. J. L. Guerrero
Pvt. D. C. Hallsten-Grey
Pvt. J. J. Harding
Pvt. D. W. Helms
Pvt. J. M. Henderson
Pvt. M. K. Hung
Pvt. M. C. Hunter
Pvt. A. A. Hurtado
Pfc. B. K. Kaseli
Pvt. S. B. Kim
Pvt. K. A. Kniffen
Pvt. D. Loveall
Pvt. R. W. Mackey
Pvt. O. D. Madera
Pvt. A. J. Manzanares
Pvt. E. Martinez
Pfc. P. R. Martinez III
Pfc. T. M. McGehee
Pvt. M. L. McNelly
Pfc. J. N. Moen
Pvt. T. S. Morales
Pvt. D. J. Mueller
Pvt. S. D. Nyabuto
Pfc. K. Parker
Pvt. T. T. Parker
*Pfc. J. Pedraza
*Pfc. C. M. Rench
Pvt. C. B. Rhinehart
Pfc. N. D. Robertson
Pvt. B. F. Scheafnocker
Pvt. J. C. Schultz
Pvt. P. Soelter
Pvt. F. Soto
Pvt. H. R. Spivey Jr.
Pvt. E. F. Tacto
Pvt. A. Thurman
Pvt. A. C. Tiller
Pvt. G. J. Vanderwall
Pvt. S. M. Vanderwall
Pvt. B. R. Vannoort
*Pfc. M. A. Villegas Jr.
Pfc. S. M. Walsh
Pvt. R. W. Wilbanks
Pvt. J. W. Wiley
Pfc. S. P. Willgohs
Pvt. E. J. Woolman
Pvt. F. Z. L. Wyckoff
Pvt. C. D. Wyrick

PLATOON 1036
Pfc. E. G. Abell
Pvt. C. J. Abshire
Pvt. C. G. Acosta Jr.
Pfc. A. J. Acosta

Pvt. J. A. Acuna
*Lance Cpl. J. P. Adams
Pvt. T. O. Adgate
Pvt. V. A. Aguirre
Pvt. C. K. Allen
Pfc. S. A. Allen
Pvt. J. B. Applegate
Pvt. R. S. Avila
Pvt. J. A. Bailey
Pfc. J. R. Baker
Pfc. F. C. Banks
Pfc. A. W. Baugh
Pfc. A. P. Bayless
Pvt. M. E. Bernal-Sawyer
Pvt. C. R. Black
Pfc. N. J. Black
Pfc. P. A. Black
Pvt. N. W. Boston
Pvt. Z. M. Bova
Pfc. R. T. Brandt
Pvt. C. A. Bremer
Pvt. C. X. Bright
Pvt. E. J. Brockway
*Pfc. G. Burgess IV
*Pfc. D. C. Burnett
Pfc. P. K. Burt
Pvt. A. N. Cabrera-Gonzalez
Pvt. J. C. Calzada
Pvt. J. E. Campos Jr.
Pvt. B. M. Carpenter
Pfc. A. Carriedo
Pvt. L. V. Carrillo
Pvt. D. Castro-Aguilar
Pvt. C. M. Chavez
Pfc. C. R. Chavez
Pfc. K. Chee
Pfc. L. S. Chevalier
Pfc. J. W. Cho
Pvt. R. A. Clark
Pfc. U. W. Clark
Pfc. J. M. Cloud
Pfc. G. A. Condie
Pvt. C. J. Coons
Pfc. N. M. Corbett
Pvt. B. A. Costello
Pvt. E. R. Cuellar
Pfc. C. C. Curley
Pvt. H. W. Darrow
Pvt. H. M. Davis
*Pfc. L. J. Davis
Pvt. R. Delacruz
Pvt. N. Duenas
Pvt. C. J. Eaton
Pfc. L. W. Edwards
Pvt. A. G. Evans
Pvt. J. G. Gourlay
Pvt. R. Hall Jr.
Pfc. I. D. Hanohano
Pvt. G. M. Jacobson
Pvt. B. K. Kamphuis
Pvt. J. T. Keyes
Pvt. J. M. Kopf
Pvt. D. J. Liguez
Pvt. N. D. Lott
Pvt. G. L. Martineau
Pfc. C. Martinez-Segundo
Pfc. C. R. Miller
Pvt. C. M. Mosbey
Pvt. N. J. Mulvihill
*Pfc. M. D. Nordlund
Pvt. R. J. Perez
Pvt. Q. R. Quiroga
*Pfc. J. E. Riley Jr.
Pvt. R. Rodriguez
Pfc. A. J. Rubio
Pvt. H. M. Sandoval
*Pfc. K. R. Satterfield
Pfc. C. A. Sepulveda-Benson
Pvt. B. T. Stoll
Pvt. L. R. Tafolla
Pvt. D. M. Thomas
Pvt. A. R. Young
Pvt. D. A. Zalokar

Where every Marine becomes a rifleman



Cpl. Liz Gleason

A Company H recruit listens as his range coach reviews his shots at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 27. Recruits learn and apply shooting fundamentals during grass week and firing week. They will qualify on the last day of firing week.



Cpl. Liz Gleason

A recruit preparing to shoot from the 300-yard-line of Edson Range, loads his magazine.

BY CPL. LIZ GLEASON
Chevron staff

While all Marines are riflemen, not all of them arrive at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego with the skills necessary to handle the M-16A4 service rifle.

Recruits spent three weeks at Edson Range on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., learning the fundamentals of marksmanship.

Company H recruits began their second week of marksmanship training, known as firing week, Nov. 27, by applying the knowledge and techniques learned during the first week.

During the course of the first week, grass week, they were taught their skills by primary marksmanship instructors. A PMI is a Marine who has proved his proficiency in Marine Corps marksmanship and has gone through special training to earn his title. They teach recruits a variety of marksmanship fundamentals such as safety procedures, weapon conditions and shooting positions.

"The range has been strenuous and challenging," said Recruit Malik Johnson, Platoon 2174, Co. H, 2nd RTBn. "Learning how to shoot is like learning how to drill—they break it down into different parts and motions. You have to keep practicing, but it all comes together in the end."

Johnson, who had never shot a weapon before enlisting, was surprised by his performance.

"I'm doing really well and

I'm proud of how good I'm shooting," said Johnson.

During firing week, PMI's and range coaches assist recruits in reminding them to exercise the fundamentals they learned.

"It's very important to listen to your PMI and range coach," said Johnson. "I've learned that to be a good shooter you have to be able to relax and control your breathing. You can't over think it; you just have to stay calm and collected."

Not only does marksmanship training help recruits become more efficient with their rifle, but it also helps with the motivation within the company, according to Sgt. George Rodriguez, drill instructor, Plt. 2174, Co. H, 2nd RTBn.

"Being at the range helps the recruits' motivation," said Rodriguez. "It also helps them gain more confidence as they learn and become better shooters."

During qualification day, recruits shoot 50 rounds from the 200, 300 and 500-yard-line in different shooting positions. In order to qualify and move forward in training they must shoot at least 190 points out of the 250 possible.

"So far they are doing really well," said Rodriguez. "They're working together and encouraging each other."

Once recruits qualify, they will continue on to field week where they will learn field tactics and combat shooting. If they qualify there, recruits of Co. H will be one step closer to earning the title United States Marine.



Cpl. Liz Gleason

A recruit sights in on his target at the 300-yard-line of Edson Range. During firing week, recruits apply the shooting fundamentals they learned during grass week.