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AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION

"WHERE MARINES ARE MADE"

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Sparring inspires confidence, adaptability

BY CPL. LIZ GLEASON
Chevron staff

After 60 training days, recruits of Company E finally made it to the culminating event of recruit training, the Crucible. During the 54-hour training event, recruits are tested both physically and mentally. They must rely on the knowledge they've accumulated throughout training as well as each other.

On a warm early afternoon, you could hear recruits of Co. E, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion marching their way through the hills of Edson Range aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., toward their next Crucible event, body sparring.

"This is their first time in the ring," said Sgt. Rigoberto Melendez, Plt. 2111, Co. E, 2nd RTBn. "They learned (Marine Corps Martial Arts Program) but haven't sparred yet."

After a safety brief given by

see SPAR ▶ 2



Cpl. Liz Gleason

Company E recruits face-off during the body sparring Crucible event on Edson Range aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 4. The event tests the recruits' Marine Corps Martial Arts Program skills and adaptability.



Cpl. Liz Gleason

Company L drill instructors look over each recruits appearance and test them on Marine Corps knowledge during the series commander's inspection aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Dec. 3. The series commander's inspection helps recruits prepare for the Battalion Commander Inspection.

Inspections prepare recruits for fleet

BY CPL LIZ GLEASON
Chevron staff

Tense recruits stood at parade rest in formation waiting for their turn to be inspected during their series commander's inspection aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Dec. 3.

"You can tell they're nervous through their lack of confidence and bearing. You can even see some of them shaking," said Sgt. Frank Cruz, drill instructor, Platoon 1070, Company D, 1st Recruit Training Battalion. "However this helps them build confidence and helps prepare them for the battalion commander's inspection. It also helps prepare them for when they get to the fleet."

Throughout training, recruits undergo four inspections: senior drill instructor, series commander, company commander and battalion commander's inspection. During each inspection, the recruits are graded individually on key attributes expected from Marines.

"Inspections are important because we're testing everything that is molding the recruit into a Marine," said Cruz. "We inspect everything from their cover, all the way to their boots, appearance, hygiene, weapon, knowledge, confidence, and bearing."

Inspections not only help show the progression through recruit training, they also help recruits learn the details and expectations of being a Marine,

and the meaning of the uniform they wear, according to Recruit Alex Kempf, Plt. 1070, Co. D, 2nd RTBn.

"Our uniform is very important," said Kempf. "There is a lot of pride that comes with the uniform and the thought of all those who wore it before us."

While some recruits struggled with different aspects of the inspection, others flourished.

"I did very well today," said Kempf. "I learned to pay better attention to detail, patience and the importance of cleanliness and our uniform."

see INSPECTION ▶ 2

DI awarded Bronze Star

BY CPL. LIZ GLEASON
Chevron staff

Staff Sgt. Christopher Shranko, drill instructor, Platoon 3250, Company L, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor in front of his peers and newly-minted Marines aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Nov. 29.

Shranko was nominated for the award for his actions while deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from April

to October 2011. He deployed as the platoon sergeant for 1st Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 8, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward).

"The deployment was devastating. We lost a lot of guys," said Shranko. "The enemy would catch on to our tactics and use them against us. We had to constantly adapt to the flexible environment."

see MEDAL ▶ 2



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Staff Sgt. Christopher Shranko, drill instructor, Company L, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, shakes hands with Col. Michael Lee, commanding officer, Recruit Training Regiment, during his award ceremony aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Nov. 29. Shranko was awarded a Bronze Star with Valor for his actions while deployed to Afghanistan from April through October 2011. Shranko has deployed to combat five times.



Cpl. Liz Gleason

Weapons and Field Training Battalion instructors mediate body sparring bouts between recruits of Platoon 2111, Company E, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, during the Crucible aboard Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 4. Body sparring helps recruits build confidence and adaptability.

SPAR ◀ 1

the instructors, recruits helped one another suit up with gloves, head protection and groin protection.

Although the recruits have not sparred before today, through MCMAP they have learned self-defense techniques such as proper stance, blocking and striking.

Recruits helped one another practice MCMAP during their free time by reviewing moves and giving constructive criticism, according to Hughes. All the time spent practicing is tested when they enter the ring.

"Today I had to spar my best friend and I beat him," said Hughes. "I felt good

knowing that I was better than him in this event. It helped me be more confident."

Sparring not only teaches recruits how to fight and defend themselves, it reinforces the importance of being prepared.

"It trains us to be able to fight in a close combat situation in case we run out of ammunition or anything like that," said Hughes. "I think it's really good because most of the training focuses on our weapon and if that fails you're going to need a secondary form of protection."

As their knowledge and skills were put to the test in the ring, recruits built on a trait important in those types of situations.

"They gain a lot of confidence because most of them have never been in a fight,"

said Melendez. "It helps expose them and teaches them what to expect. It's very important to build that self-confidence when fighting."

Another character trait that was reinforced through sparring was adaptability.

"It makes you think faster. You have to think on your feet," said Hughes. "You can't just stand there and think about what you're going to do next, you have to move quickly and react quickly just like you would have to in combat."

As they finished sparring, feeling more confident, recruits moved on to their next event motivated in knowing they were that much closer to earning the title "Marine."

MEDAL ◀ 1

Shranko led his Marines and partnered Afghan forces on more than 100 combat patrols, facing much adversity throughout the deployment. However, there were two separate events that set Shranko apart for his unselfish and heroic acts of valor.

On June 2, an enemy fire team engaged Shranko's over watch element with sustained bursts of small arms fire. Without hesitation, he boldly positioned himself in the open, exposed to heavy fire, to positively identify enemy positions and direct his Marines' fire. He established fire superiority and coordinated reinforcements as well as surveillance assets that defeated the attack and forced the remaining insurgents to break contact.

Ten days later, while on a dismounted patrol, his lead sweeper struck an Improvised Explosive Device. Shranko, less than 10 meters from the detonation, was blown off his feet and knocked unconscious. He quickly recovered, despite still suffering the effects of his own injuries, rushed to the blast site where he applied tourniquets to casualties' amputated limbs and coordinated for an air evacuation.

"I definitely feel honored to be getting this award," said Shranko.

"Every Marine that I was out there with deserves one. I was just put in a position to do something that rated the award, but I have no doubt in my mind that they would've done the same."

Now holding a different billet and title more than a year later, Shranko still shows the same humility as he did before receiving the award, according to Staff Sgt. Luis Cardenas, senior drill instructor, Plt. 3250, Co. L, 3rd RTBn.

"Shranko is the epitome of a brand new drill instructor," said Cardenas. "He's a very astute individual, he's very knowledgeable and very decorated but that doesn't deter him from being humble. You would never expect that he's a recipient of a second bronze star."

The same day Shranko was awarded marked the end of his first cycle as a drill instructor.

"He always goes above and beyond what he has to do. He's very dedicated to being a good drill instructor and making good Marines," said Cardenas. "To be present as one of my peers receives a Bronze Star in lieu of second award is an amazing experience. It's a great honor to be in the presence of an individual like him."



INSPECTION ◀ 1

Even though Kempf did well, he wasn't using the experience to boast but instead to help his fellow recruits.

"As a squad leader I plan on helping other recruits in my squad with the knowledge I have during free time," said Kempf.

Drill instructors also take note of those who excelled and those who didn't in order to help train the recruits.

"You work their knowledge; you help them learn it during

down times like when they're waiting for chow. The more they repeat it, the more knowledge they retain," said Cruz. "You also have the stronger recruits help the weaker ones; when recruits get together they understand each other better and can help each other more."

Although it was clear that there was still a lot of work to be done at the end of the inspection, the recruits of Co. L did well overall and are where they need to be at this point in training, according to Cruz.

BRIEFS

Christmas Service

There will be a Christmas Service Tuesday, from 11 a.m. until noon in the depot Chapel. The Christmas story will be told through Scripture readings and Christmas carols.

Everyone is invited. For more information, contact Chaplain Cates at (619) 524-6928.

Outdoor ice skating

The depot's MCCA/MCRD Single Marine Program is sponsoring an ice skating trip Tuesday from 5:30 until 8:30 p.m., at Horton Plaza.

After the skating there will be an opportunity to explore San Diego's Gaslamp Quarter.

Cost is \$5. Deadline for registration is Monday. For more information, check out the event on Facebook: <http://on.fb.me/Vr619f>.

Christmas gate hours

Gate 2

- Closed Dec. 21 at 6 p.m.
- Reopens Dec. 23 at 6 a.m.
- Closed Dec. 23 at 4 p.m.
- Reopens Dec. 25 at 6 a.m.

Gate 4

- Open 24/7

Gate 5

- Closed Dec. 21 at 6 p.m.
 - Reopens Dec. 25 at 6 a.m.
- (subject to being open upon request over holiday period for deliveries/ large vehicles by calling Desk Sergeant at (619) 524-4202).

Brown Bag Seminar

The MCCA/MCRDSD Personal and Professional Development Center is sponsoring a Financial Fitness Brown Bag Lunch Seminar Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

The seminar, "Tax Planning: How to Reduce Your Taxes and Increase Your Refunds (with notes on new tax law changes for tax year 2012)" will be held at Building 14.

Call the Center's reception desk at (619) 524-5728 to register. For more information, contact Michael McIsaac, PFM, MCRD San Diego at (619) 524-1204.

New Year Gate Hours

Gate 2

- Closed Dec. 28 at 6 p.m.
- Reopens Dec. 30 at 6 a.m.
- Closed Dec. 30 at 4 p.m.
- Reopens Jan 1 at 6 a.m.

Gate 4

- Open 24/7

Gate 5

- Close Dec. 28 at 6 p.m.
 - Reopens Jan 1 at 6 a.m.
- (subject to being open upon request over holiday period for deliveries/ large vehicles, by calling the Desk Sergeant at (619) 524-4202).

Barracks Christmas Barbecue

The Single Marine Program will hold a Potluck Barbecue in the barracks on Christmas Day.

Marines spending Christmas in San Diego are welcome to join the fun.

The time is TO BE DETERMINED.

Contact Cpl. Marissa Galindo at (619) 524-8737, or via e-mail at Marissa.lees@usmc.mil, and let her know what you'll be bringing to the feast. They're looking for hot dogs, hamburgers, beverages, chips and desserts.

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 are three things that you learned from recruit training?"



"Three things I took away from bootcamp (recruit training) were dedication, motivation, and the feeling of accomplishment for all the hard work I had done." Lance Cpl. Jose Alcantar, legal administrative clerk, Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion



"I took away the meaning of teamwork, discipline and being loud." Lance Cpl. Cora Mcleod, administrative clerk, Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion



"I learned to never give up, that anyone can do it, and don't walk on the parade deck." Lance Cpl. Keith Thayer, combat conditioning instructor, Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion

Unusual Flight



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Cpl. Brandon Frabrigas, finance clerk, Service Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, looks at the sunset from the gondola of the Goodyear blimp as it flies over Los Angeles County Dec. 10. Six members of the depot's Single Marine Program who had volunteered in community service activities during the last six months, were invited to enjoy an hour aloft in the blimp (see inset upper right), becoming rare members of the club of citizens who have enjoyed the opportunity to take a trip in the blimp. Each passenger also had the opportunity to operate the blimp.

Vikings Platoon



Cpl. Liz Gleason

Recruits of Platoon 1034, Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, gather together for a group photo two days before graduating recruit training aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Dec. 5. The Marines were part of a group of 24 Minnesota natives who took the enlistment oath in front of a stadium of fans, before the Minnesota Vikings game against the Jacksonville Jaguars at the Metrodome Sept. 9, before leaving for recruit training. The group continued a tradition set by the "Twins Platoon" 45 years ago in 1967, during Vietnam. That group consisted of 150 Minnesota natives who enlisted in a pre-game ceremony before a Minnesota Twins-Boston Red Sox game. The event was repeated last year by another group of 24 Minnesota citizens who recited the oath of enlistment in a ceremony on Sept. 5. The current group completed recruit training and graduated Dec. 7.



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Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez

Company A recruits stare each other down before a pugil sticks match in recruit training aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Dec. 6. Recruits mentally prepared themselves as they waited for the sound of the whistle to start the match.



Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez

A recruit of Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, forces his opponent off the bridge during a pugil sticks match in recruit training aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Dec. 6.



Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez

A Company A recruit waits to face his opponent before beginning his pugil sticks match Dec. 6.



Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez

Company A recruits strike one another during pugil sticks in recruit training aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Dec. 6. Recruits fought using bayonet and rifle techniques they learned earlier in recruit training.

Recruits go head-to-head

BY CPL. MATHEUS J. HERNANDEZ
Chevron staff

The assembly line shortened as recruits moved toward the bridge one by one. The majority seemed to be anxious and only a handful looked nervous while they threw helmets and flak jackets onto their bodies.

Recruits of Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, suited up and prepared to fight in pugil sticks for the second time during recruit training aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Dec. 6.

After receiving a quick class on several techniques, recruits then practiced with one another repeatedly to hone their skills. Techniques such as the butt stroke, vertical and horizontal slash, and high and low blocks were taught and demonstrated. These skills are part of bayonet and rifle techniques which derive from Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

"These techniques teach us how to subdue the enemy within close range and also for personal safety; for yours and others," said Recruit Erick Ramirez, Platoon 1014, Co. A, 1st RTBn. "We're taught these skills for hand-to-hand combat."

Although Marines may not typically be fighting in close combat on today's battlefield, it is vital that recruits learn and hone these skills in case they should have to, according to Recruit Manuel August, Plt. 1013, Co. A, 1st RTBn.

"It's important for Marines to know these skills regardless of their military occupational specialty," said August, a Longview, Texas native. "Every Marine is a rifleman and one day they could be in the fight."

Before each fight, recruits were inspected to ensure they wore a mouthpiece, gloves, helmet and groin protection for safety purposes. Each match was carefully monitored by drill instructors and lasted no more than approximately 30 seconds.

The matches took place on a three-foot-wide bridge surrounded by rubber mulch. Each recruit would start off at a white line facing an opponent five feet away until the whistle was blown.

As soon as they heard the whistle, recruits would strike one another until the first "killing blow" was delivered. A killing blow would be a fatal

strike to the opponent in combat. The drill instructors would identify a winner and call for the next set of recruits to face each other.

"I think pugil sticks give recruits a chance to prove something," said August. It lets some recruits show the drill instructors what they're made of. At the same time, we have to remember to apply the same techniques we were just practicing though."

Before recruit training, many recruits don't have prior training with the skills they learn throughout their training, according to Ramirez, a Costa Mesa, Calif., native.

As each match finished, recruits left the bridge with the experience of using the skills they learned. Some recruits left with the satisfaction of defeating their opponent and others with motivation to push themselves even more during their next match.



Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez

Recruits of Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, put their skills to use during a pugil sticks match in recruit training aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Dec. 6. Recruits were taught several techniques that derive from Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

Recruit sets training goals, named most improved

BY LANCE CPL. BRIDGET M. KEANE
Chevron staff

Determination is a firm and fixed intention to achieve a desired goal and is something that doesn't go unnoticed during recruit training. That was the case for Pfc. Elias Patten, Platoon 2111, Company E, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion.

His desire to improve himself and push through recruit training was recognized by his drill instructors which resulted in him earning a meritorious promotion to private first class.

The 18-year-old Soldonta, Ak., native always wanted to join the military. He was attracted to the way Marines carried themselves and the confidence they displayed on a daily basis.

"I did research on all the branches of the service and throughout history the Marines have always been known to stand out the most," said Patten. "I wanted to be the best."

During his sophomore year of high school, Patten made the decision to enlist in the Marine Corps. Although he earned scholarships for volunteering, he turned them down to pursue his dream.

He enlisted in November 2011, when he was 17. He shipped off for recruit training aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Sept. 17.

Although Patten wasn't physically fit when he arrived at the depot, he didn't let it slow him down.

"I was out of shape, I could barely pass the initial strength test," said Patten. "I didn't have the confidence to push myself. I always had to have someone there to push me."

Patten felt he had to prove himself to his drill instructors and platoon, so he set goals for himself and worked even harder to achieve them.

"He learned how far he can push himself," said Sgt. Carlos Rodriguez, drill instructor, Plt.

2111, Co. E, 2nd RTBn. "He struggled a lot physically, but I think once he came out of his shell he realized how much he could actually do."

Before Patten shipped off to recruit training, he ran a twenty-three minute, thirty-eight second three-mile for the physical fitness test. The PFT is an annual training event for Marines and also a graduation requirement for recruit training.

It consists of a max set of pull-ups, a timed three-mile run, and a max set of crunches in a time limit of two minutes.

"I wanted to be the best, so I pushed myself. For my initial PFT I ran a twenty-one minute, forty-six seconds, did seven pull-ups and 88 crunches," explained Patten. "For the final PFT, my run time was nineteen minutes, thirty seconds; I did 13 pull-ups and completed 200 crunches."

Patten even tried to beat the Recruit Training Regiment record of 260 crunches in two minutes. His actions and desire to physically change himself was noticed by his drill instructors and fellow recruits.

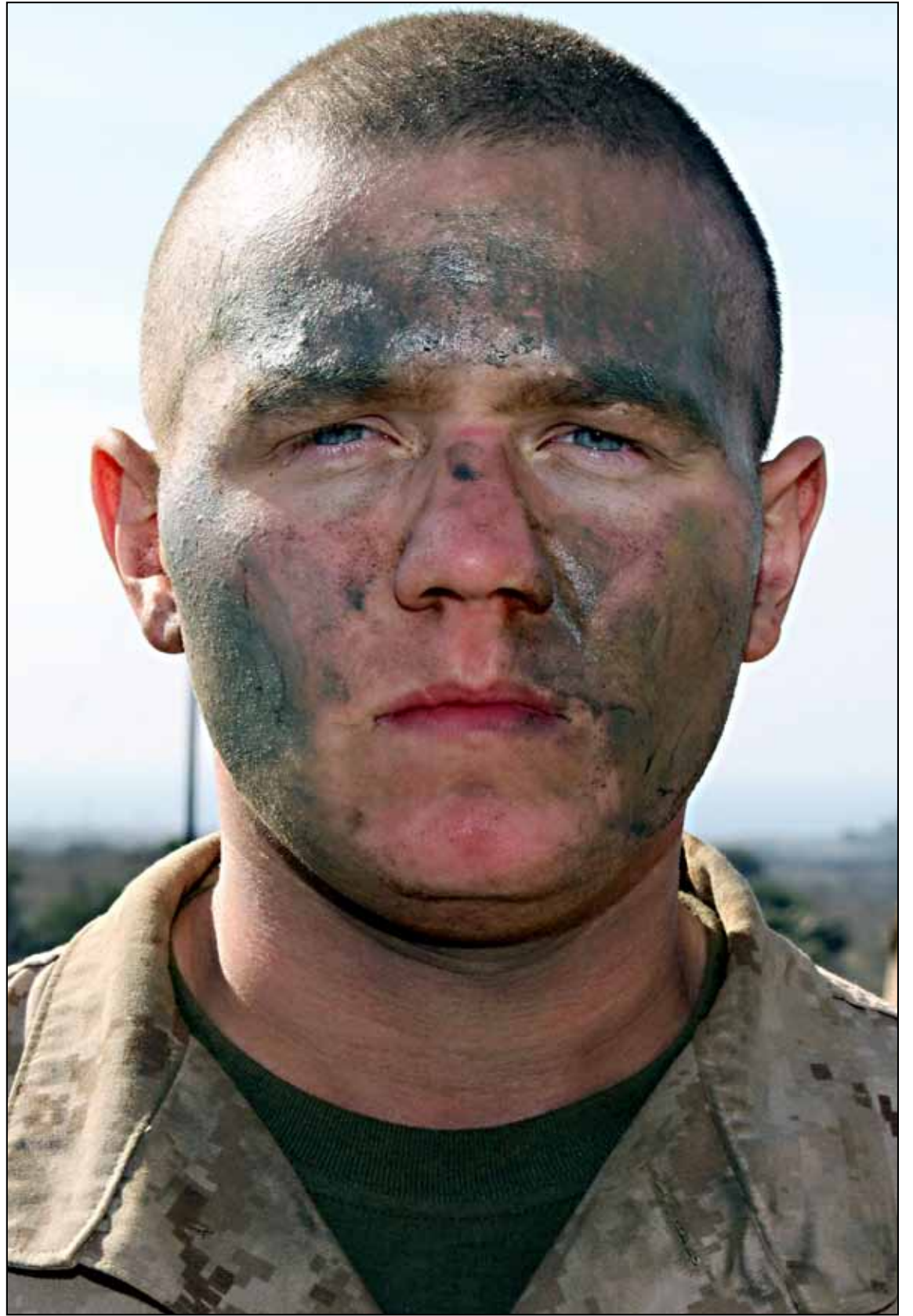
"He's been really enthusiastic about the everything he's accomplished," said Pvt. Michael Melendez, Plt. 2111, Co. E, 2nd RTBn.

Patten was also noticed as a team player. He always helped out others in the platoon, but he always made sure he kept pushing himself, said Melendez.

"He's reached his goals and met his expectations," said Melendez.

Patten now holds the title Marine, the goal he set more than two years ago. He has earned a meritorious promotion and is recognized as the "most improved recruit."

The confidence he gained in recruit training is a trait that will keep him setting goals and pushing himself, physically and mentally, to accomplish them.



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Pfc. Elias Patten, Platoon 2111, Company E, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, enlisted in the Marine Corps because he wanted to gain confidence in himself. When he first arrived at recruit training, he struggled in physical activities. Patten set personal goals and pushed himself to achieve them. His actions were noticed by his drill instructors, which got him a meritorious promotion to private first class and is considered the "most improved recruit."

Col. Gregory T. Breazile

Parade Reviewing Officer

Colonel Gregory T. Breazile is the commanding officer of Marine Corps Communication Electronics School at Marine Corps Base Twentynine Palms, Calif. He recently served on the Joint Staff J6 as the division chief, Combat Commander Support Division (J63). Prior to that assignment he served as the director of operations (CJ-3) and director of strategic communication/spokesman for NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan (NTM-A).

Breazile has had a full Marine Corps career serving in both the enlisted and officers ranks. He began his enlisted service as a Marine Corps Reserve Anti-Tank Assault Man (TOW Gunner). He had attained the rank of corporal when he was accepted to the Platoon Leaders Class commissioning program.

As a Marine Corps officer,

Breazile was trained in tactical communications and has served 24 years as a communications officer. He has commanded at the platoon, company, and battalion levels.

Breazile's previous command positions include commanding officer, 7th Communications Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force; company commander and executive officer, Bravo Company, 8th Communication Battalion, II MEF; executive officer, Marine Corps Recruiting Station Oklahoma City; platoon commander, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines, 3rd Marine Division; platoon commander, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, 3rd Marine Division.

Breazile's previous staff assignments include deputy division chief, Enterprise Services Division (J65B), Joint Staff; assistance chief of staff G-6, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing; division chief, Strategic Plans Division (CS), C4 Department, Headquarters Marine Corps; assistance chief of staff G-6, Marine Corps Forces Europe;

operations officer (S-3), 8th Communications Battalion; communications planner, U.S. European Command; operations officer, Recruiting Station Oklahoma City; communication officer (S-6), 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines, 3rd Marine Division; communication officer (S-6), 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, 3rd Marine Division.

Breazile has participated in Operation Enduring Freedom

(Afghanistan), Operation Unified Assistance (Thailand), Operation Joint Guardian (Bosnia/Kosovo), Operation Shining Hope (Albania), Operation Allied Force/Noble Anvil (Naples, Italy), Operation Joint Endeavor (Stuttgart, Germany), and Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm (Saudi Arabia/Kuwait).

The colonel has earned a Masters of Military Art and Sciences (MMAS) Degree

from the Army Command and General Staff College, as well as a Master of Arts (MA) Degree in Information Management from Webster University. He has also attained a Master of Science (MS) Degree in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF).

Breazile assumed command of Marine Corps Communication Electronics School on 22 July 2011.

"Marines, I want to congratulate you on taking the challenge of joining one of the most elite military forces in the history of the world. Today you are part of the legacy of our Marine Corps. From here you will go places, see things, and meet people you could have never previously imagined. As you carry out your Marine Corps missions you will positively provide support to those in need and will defeat those who use force to oppose us. You are now a part of our nation's worldwide crisis response force. As you depart today remember to take care of your fellow Marines and uphold our Corps values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment in all you do. Thank you for enlisting in our Corps! We are all proud and honored to serve with you. Once again, Congratulations on becoming a Marine! Semper Fidelis!"





Platoon 2114 COMPANY HONOR MAN Lance Cpl. J. T. Schmidt
Frederic, Wis.
Recruited by Sgt. P. E. Zachary

Platoon 2111 SERIES HONOR MAN Lance Cpl. J. J. Powers
Highland, Calif.
Recruited by Sgt. T. E. Welsh

Platoon Honor Man 2109 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. J. C. Marchio
San Francisco
Recruited by Staff Sgt. K. Pahona

Platoon Honor Man 2110 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. C. M. Malpasuto
Newberry Park, Calif.
Recruited by Staff Sgt. C. Morales

Platoon Honor Man 2113 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. B. M. Buhler
Indianapolis
Recruited by Staff Sgt. E. Porter

Platoon Honor Man 2115 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. A. A. Smith
Cucamonga, Calif.
Recruited by Sgt. M. A. Tan

Platoon 2114 HIGH SHOOTER (336) Pfc. L. D. Shoemaker
Fallbrook, Calif.
Marksmanship Instructor
Cpl. N. A. Alvarez

Platoon 2115 HIGH PFT (300) Pfc. L. A. Romo-Macias
Sacramento, Calif.
Recruited by Sgt. C. Santibanez



HONOR PLATOON

ECHO COMPANY

2nd RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION



Commanding Officer
Sergeant Major
Battalion Drill Master

Lt. Col. D. J. Erickson
Sgt. Maj. T. C. Whitcomb
Staff Sgt. A. Glenn

COMPANY E Commanding Officer Capt. D. D. Hooke Company First Sergeant 1st Sgt. K. L. Hutson	SERIES 2109 Series Commander Capt. P. M. Balawender Chief Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. J. E. Orozco-Colorado	PLATOON 2109 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. N. Casias Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. M. A. Brown Staff Sgt. E. Flores Staff Sgt. J. B. Mast Staff Sgt. M. H. Wampler	PLATOON 2110 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. J. A. McFaline Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. J. W. Cline Staff Sgt. S. M. Stallings Sgt. J. M. Mansfield	PLATOON 2111 Senior Drill Instructor Sgt. R. Melendez Drill Instructors Sgt S. P. McGinty Sgt C. O. Rodriguez Sgt I. R. Sanchez
	SERIES 2113 Series Commander Capt. E. J. Porter Chief Drill Instructor Gunnery Sgt. D. E. Farmer	PLATOON 2113 Senior Drill Instructor Sgt R. A. Jimenez Drill Instructors Sgt J. Bellil Sgt M. A. Cajina Sgt B. M. Shaughnessy	PLATOON 2114 Senior Drill Instructor Sgt. I. R. Castellanos Drill Instructors Sgt. D. M. Baldus Sgt. J. I. Davila Sgt. F. Garcia	PLATOON 2115 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. S. C. Jackman Drill Instructors Sgt. M. P. DiMauro Sgt. A. D. Ortiz Sgt. S. H. Reyes

* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

- | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| <p>PLATOON 2109
 Pvt. J. M. Abdo
 Pvt. C. N. Adams
 *Pfc. I. Alamillo
 Pfc. A. D. Albay
 Pvt. T. J. Arellano
 Pvt. S. Baltazar-Roman
 Pvt. J. S. Begley
 Pfc. W. P. Biagas
 Pvt. B. M. Bills
 Pvt. J. W. Blacklock
 Pvt. S. A. Boulter
 Pvt. J. T. Brejda
 Pvt. T. L. Brockhouse
 Pvt. T. L. Bullock
 Pvt. G. K. Burkholder
 Pvt. K. E. Cahill Jr.
 Pfc. D. A. Caldwell
 Pvt. D. T. Caraway
 Pvt. A. L. Castillo
 Pvt. B. P. Chin
 Pvt. C. G. Coppornoll
 Pvt. P. R. Corona
 Pfc. R. M. Cozart II
 Pvt. L. M. Crow
 Pfc. M. A. Crow
 Pvt. J. A. Dains
 Pfc. R. O. Deano
 Pvt. J. O. Del Angel
 *Pfc. E. H. Duncan
 Pfc. J. E. Edwards
 *Pfc. J. A. Eguia
 Pvt. L. D. Ellis
 Pvt. M. W. Erickson
 Pvt. T. H. Evans
 Pvt. L. H. Gomez-Olmos
 Pvt. A. M. Gonzalez
 Pvt. A. R. Gonzales
 Pvt. D. C. Gonzalez
 Pfc. G. M. Gray
 Pfc. M. L. Hall IV
 Pvt. R. R. Hall
 Pvt. A. J. Hart
 Pvt. M. C. Head
 Pvt. M. A. Hendricks
 Pvt. T. A. Hendrix
 Pfc. J. M. Henson
 Pfc. L. A. Jenkins
 Pvt. M. A. Johnson
 Pvt. D. J. Kahl
 Pfc. K. M. Kauffroath
 Pfc. D. A. King
 Pvt. A. D. Knox
 Pvt. R. E. Lopez
 *Pfc. A. S. Lucero
 Pfc. J. C. Marchio
 Pvt. M. P. Marroquin
 Pvt. O. Martinez
 *Pfc. J. A. Matta Jr.
 Pfc. T. M. May
 Pvt. R. W. McClure
 Pfc. A. D. Mena
 *Pfc. B. J. Miller
 Pvt. C. P. Moyer
 Pvt. M. Nambo-Cazares
 Pfc. J. Padron III
 Pvt. J. W. Patrick
 Pfc. M. A. Payan
 Pfc. G. K. Peltier
 Pvt. J. A. Perez
 Pfc. J. A. Pesola
 Pvt. C. M. Potter
 Pvt. L. B. Price
 Pfc. N. J. Pusateri Jr.
 Pfc. M. A. Ramos
 Pfc. C. S. Reid</p> | <p>Pvt. E. F. Reyesron
 Pvt. J. R. Roberts
 Pvt. R. Sanchez
 Pfc. J. P. Wood
 Pvt. W. Wright-Martinovich</p> <p>PLATOON 2110
 *Pfc. C. B. Adams
 Pvt. A. P. Aguilar
 Pvt. E. E. Arcos
 Pvt. J. Arellano
 Pvt. A. R. Arteaga
 Pvt. T. P. Bair
 Pvt. T. J. Baldwin
 Pvt. W. E. Barron-Hagarty
 Pvt. J. M. Bennett
 Pvt. N. T. Berg
 Pvt. M. W. Bland
 Pfc. R. L. Borgia
 Pvt. J. D. Brittle
 Pfc. T. J. Brown
 Pvt. M. W. Bullier
 Pvt. W. J. Burgos
 Pfc. S. A. Buttitta
 Pvt. J. J. Celio
 Pvt. R. E. Chavez
 Pvt. D. P. Cigrang
 Pvt. S. N. Clark
 *Pfc. J. W. Collier
 Pfc. C. A. Del Valle
 Pvt. T. E. Dewhirst
 Pvt. J. R. Dolfi
 Pvt. J. M. Dominguez
 Pvt. A. G. Duran
 Pvt. S. A. Earl
 Pvt. J. E. Earle
 Pfc. T. A. Egan
 Pvt. D. W. Feller
 Pvt. C. D. Fix
 Pvt. J. Flores
 *Pfc. J. T. Fortin
 Pvt. A. Fregoso-Aguiar
 Pfc. R. C. Fuentes
 Pfc. M. A. Gaitano
 Pfc. J. C. Garcia
 Pvt. J. J. Gibb
 Pvt. I. Godoy
 Pvt. B. D. Gregersen
 Pvt. J. Griess
 Pvt. L. J. Hamill
 Pvt. J. R. Hand
 Pvt. D. J. Hardin
 *Pfc. J. J. Harmon
 Pfc. E. W. Hatch
 Pvt. M. A. Higuera
 Pvt. R. R. Hoffman
 Pfc. B. A. Hughes
 Pvt. C. P. Huntelman
 Pvt. J. A. Jimenez
 Pvt. J. J. Johnson
 Pvt. M. M. Kamp
 Pvt. A. W. Kouns
 Pvt. D. R. Lenwandowski
 Pvt. J. F. Leyva Jr.
 Pvt. D. L. Llaneras
 Pfc. J. T. Locke
 Pvt. J. D. Lumaye
 Pvt. R. L. Luzada
 Pvt. R. J. Madrid
 *Pfc. C. M. Malpasuto
 Pvt. A. Mandujano
 Pvt. J. Martinez
 Pvt. K. P. McGinnis
 Pvt. E. Mercado
 Pvt. T. C. Minor-Garcia
 Pvt. C. L. Moore</p> | <p>Pvt. M. Munoz
 Pfc. J. C. Naras
 Pvt. J. F. Nava
 Pvt. C. B. Neill
 Pvt. N. G. Newman
 Pvt. J. M. Newsome
 *Pfc. H. D. Nguyen
 Pvt. J. M. Ocampo Jr.
 Pvt. P. Orzol
 Pvt. F. Padron
 Pvt. M. W. Page
 Pvt. E. Palma-Hernandez
 Pvt. C. A. Parham
 Pfc. K. A. Penton
 Pfc. M. A. Perez
 Pfc. M. S. Priest
 Pvt. Y. Saetern
 Pfc. M. C. Walker</p> <p>PLATOON 2111
 Pvt. K. Baten-Llinares
 Pvt. D. M. Fairbanks
 *Pfc. S. D. Ferrell Jr.
 Pvt. H. R. Galvan
 Pfc. T. A. Garcia
 *Pfc. E. W. Gemeinhardt
 Pfc. R. Gongora Jr.
 Pvt. E. Willmon
 Pvt. D. R. Harvey
 Pvt. P. J. Hatten
 Pvt. T. R. Herrington
 Pvt. M. D. Hewitt
 Pvt. N. M. Hidalgo
 Pfc. C. D. Hlavacek
 Pfc. T. C. Hughes
 Pvt. E. T. Jacobs
 Pfc. N. Johnson
 Pvt. K. A. Kellenberger
 Pvt. H. A. Koltes
 Pvt. H. D. Kraus
 Pfc. D. N. Lampkin
 Pfc. J. R. Latterner
 Pfc. J. A. Lopez
 Pfc. J. L. Lopez
 Pfc. M. R. Lopez
 Pvt. A. J. Lovik
 Pvt. S. L. Lynn Jr.
 Pvt. B. Marquez
 Pfc. D. J. Martinez
 Pvt. J. C. Mata
 Pvt. C. R. McCollum
 Pfc. M. E. McKenna
 Pvt. W. J. McManus
 Pvt. J. D. Meggers
 Pvt. M. A. Melendez
 Pfc. N. T. Over
 Pvt. H. Palenapa-Centers
 Pvt. R. D. Parks
 *Pfc. E. J. Patten
 Pvt. S. M. Peters
 *Lance Cpl. J. J. Powers
 Pfc. T. M. Preston
 Pfc. W. K. Reumund
 Pfc. R. R. Robinson
 Pvt. K. A. Rose-Rustman
 Pvt. C. A. Rubio
 Pfc. J. F. Ruiz
 Pvt. J. A. Ryan
 Pvt. S. P. Sahr
 Pfc. M. S. Salazar Jr.
 Pvt. C. A. Sanchez
 Pfc. R. E. Santos Jr.
 Pfc. S. A. Santelli
 Pvt. B. R. Schmitt
 Pfc. D. I. Schooley
 Pvt. J. D. Setzer</p> | <p>Pvt. P. D. Shabel
 Pvt. K. C. Shoop
 Pvt. A. Sicairos
 Pfc. B. J. Simms
 Pvt. J. E. Smith
 Pfc. K. J. Sorge
 Pvt. K. E. Steinsiek
 Pvt. C. A. Stenger
 Pfc. S. B. Stoermann
 Pvt. S. M. Thesing
 Pfc. A. R. Thomas
 Pfc. J. E. Thompson
 Pvt. L. H. Thompson
 Pvt. C. J. Turner
 Pvt. M. A. Tuttle
 Pfc. B. J. Vandriel
 Pvt. J. A. Vasquez
 Pvt. N. W. Vicente
 Pfc. F. T. Villalpando-Tejeda
 Pvt. C. L. Virgil
 Pvt. D. M. Walters
 *Pfc. N. H. Vo
 Pvt. T. J. Voight
 Pvt. D. M. Walters
 Pvt. C. M. Wert
 Pfc. S. M. Whorley
 *Pfc. J. A. Willmon
 Pvt. O. C. Wiswell
 Pvt. M. J. Wythes
 Pfc. P. S. Xiong
 Pvt. Z. A. Zimberg</p> <p>PLATOON 2113
 Pvt. K. A. Baumeister
 Pvt. B. A. Beesley
 Pfc. B. E. Benson
 *Pfc. A. Bentancourt
 Pvt. Z. C. Blocker
 Pfc. M. J. Bolanos
 Pvt. C. E. Bomar
 Pfc. J. W. Bridge
 *Pfc. D. J. Briggs
 *Pfc. H. L. Bryant III
 Pfc. B. M. Buhler
 Pfc. C. L. Camp
 Pvt. D. Carrillo Jr.
 Pvt. D. F. Casebeer
 Pvt. J. D. Chalmers
 Pvt. J. J. Cooley
 Pvt. B. D. Correll
 Pvt. J. J. Daniel
 Pfc. T. B. Davis
 Pvt. G. Q. Dean
 Pvt. S. Dobson
 Pvt. C. A. Dowell
 Pvt. P. W. Drake
 Pvt. D. Duran
 Pvt. N. R. Emanuele
 Pfc. D. M. Erickson
 *Pfc. J. M. Esquivel
 Pfc. M. D. Fee
 Pvt. J. G. Fenchel
 Pvt. Z. M. Flores
 Pvt. D. L. Franklin Jr.
 Pvt. R. Garcia-Abellan
 *Pfc. R. Gaytan Jr.
 Pvt. C. R. Gaytan
 Pvt. C. A. Gentile
 Pvt. D. L. Gordon
 Pvt. S. E. Graham
 Pfc. A. N. Gramaglia
 Pvt. B. A. Granado
 Pvt. I. G. Gutierrez Jr.
 Pvt. V. Guzman
 Pvt. R. S. Hendricks</p> | <p>Pvt. S. Hernandez
 Pvt. S. U. Herrera
 Pvt. D. I. Jauregui
 Pvt. M. C. Lohrey
 Pvt. R. E. Lumahan
 Pvt. J. M. Mansfield
 Pvt. K. T. Marrero
 Pvt. C. A. Martinez
 Pvt. H. Martinez
 Pvt. A. J. Massingale
 Pfc. Z. R. Morgan
 Pvt. D. L. Mote
 Pfc. J. R. Mulcahy
 Pvt. C. J. Olson
 Pvt. K. J. Olson
 Pvt. V. J. Padilla
 Pvt. K. D. Parish
 Pvt. C. G. Patey
 Pvt. J. Perez Jr.
 Pvt. L. Perez
 Pvt. B. W. Perry
 Pvt. T. A. Piercy
 Pvt. R. Pinon
 Pvt. B. M. Potts
 *Pfc. S. J. Pray
 Pvt. J. W. Prosser
 Pvt. J. B. Ramirez
 Pvt. J. T. Richardi
 Pvt. J. C. Robinson
 Pvt. J. R. Rodriguez
 Pvt. T. Santiago
 Pvt. M. A. Schmelzer
 Pvt. R. T. Schreiter
 Pvt. G. D. Searcy
 Pvt. N. P. Skurka
 Pvt. W. A. Slifer
 Pvt. T. C. Smith
 Pvt. K. J. Stambaugh
 Pvt. S. V. Tapia
 Pvt. M. J. Thatcher
 Pvt. D. Torres
 Pvt. R. T. Wallis
 Pvt. C. A. Whitlow
 *Pfc. T. D. Whittlesey
 Pvt. R. T. Williams</p> <p>PLATOON 2114
 Pfc. J. A. Abbey
 Pvt. C. A. Allred
 Pvt. S. A. Alvarez
 Pvt. B. Andres
 Pvt. C. D. Angell
 Pvt. S. A. Anguiano
 Pvt. K. Avila
 Pfc. A. A. Ayala
 Pvt. G. I. Barton
 Pvt. T. J. Becker
 Pvt. L. A. Benz
 Pvt. J. L. Bettis
 Pvt. R. M. Brooks
 Pvt. B. L. Burns
 *Pfc. T. L. Caines
 Pvt. A. M. Calvin
 Pvt. R. A. Camarillo
 Pvt. B. E. Camp
 Pvt. I. E. Cambell
 Pvt. J. A. Carranza
 Pfc. D. D. Carrier
 Pvt. L. W. Casner
 Pvt. C. Castillo
 Pvt. A. A. Cevalles
 Pvt. M. A. Christensen
 *Pfc. R. D. Cocklin
 Pvt. S. P. Cole
 *Pfc. K. D. Colvin Jr.
 Pfc. M. E. Conway</p> | <p>*Pfc. D. G. Corbello
 *Pfc. D. Q. Csendes
 Pfc. B. A. Davila
 Pvt. D. A. Davis
 Pvt. M. Deleon
 Pfc. C. J. Dillenger
 Pvt. S. M. Duffie-Woodfin
 Pvt. S. C. Dugstad
 Pvt. A. Duong
 Pvt. A. R. Ebnerbeck
 Pvt. D. Eckley
 Pvt. R. N. Esquivel
 Pvt. A. J. Estrada
 Pvt. A. D. Evans
 Pvt. B. R. Flores
 Pvt. J. D. Friesen
 Pvt. B. B. Fritz
 Pvt. J. C. Gage Jr.
 Pvt. L. Galvez-Valenzuela
 Pvt. L. T. Gaona
 Pfc. G. C. Garcia
 Pvt. J. H. Garcia
 Pfc. U. Garcia
 Pfc. O. J. Gathing
 Pfc. J. T. Hill
 *Pfc. M. W. Horton
 Pvt. D. S. Johnson Jr.
 Pvt. S. F. Johnson
 Pvt. D. D. Kaminski
 Pvt. K. T. Laanonh
 Pvt. B. J. Lam
 Pvt. E. C. Lee
 Pvt. I. E. Maganda
 Pfc. D. K. Main
 Pvt. R. W. Maynard
 Pvt. D. L. McDonnell
 Pvt. L. T. Mendoza Jr.
 Pvt. N. L. Munoz
 Pvt. D. T. Ouellette
 Pvt. K. A. Panko
 Pvt. W. T. Quigley
 *Lance Cpl. J. T. Schmidt
 Pfc. L. D. Shoemaker
 Pvt. J. A. Shryock
 Pvt. C. A. Smith
 Pvt. M. L. Smith
 Pfc. R. J. Sparrow
 Pfc. T. Srou
 Pvt. L. S. Swinehart III
 Pvt. Z. G. Taylor
 Pvt. C. T. Testolin
 Pvt. W. A. Tuttle Jr.
 Pfc. R. C. Vargas
 Pvt. J. A. Vaughan
 Pfc. M. L. Walraven
 Pvt. A. J. Webb
 Pvt. A. C. Wilson
 Pvt. L. P. Zetina</p> <p>PLATOON 2115
 Pvt. D. P. Atlas
 Pvt. C. E. Barker
 Pvt. J. K. Barta
 Pfc. R. J. Beaudin
 Pvt. D. P. Bissel
 Pvt. Z. T. Byerley
 Pvt. P. A. Dewhirst
 Pfc. C. L. Fisher
 Pvt. M. L. Gaul
 Pvt. M. L. Goff
 Pvt. I. A. Gonzalez
 Pvt. B. M. Hansen
 Pvt. J. E. Howell
 Pvt. T. A. Joersz
 Pvt. H. D. Kasmarek
 Pfc. A. D. Koffron</p> | <p>Pvt. B. L. Krasavage
 Pvt. W. E. Land Jr.
 Pvt. N. S. Lang
 Pvt. M. A. Lara
 Pfc. D. T. Lawrence
 Pvt. R. C. Lawrence
 Pvt. K. W. Longine
 Pvt. A. R. Macey
 Pvt. J. R. Maya
 Pvt. J. W. McConnell
 Pfc. E. G. McGee
 Pvt. H. S. Nyborg
 Pvt. C. Onoufriadis
 Pvt. M. C. Orth
 Pvt. S. S. Rael
 Pvt. T. C. Rahmlow
 *Pfc. K. E. Raymond Jr.
 Pfc. G. L. Rea
 Pvt. D. S. Rice
 Pvt. A. O. Rizo
 Pfc. S. M. Roach
 Pvt. J. H. Robles
 Pfc. D. F. Rodriguez
 *Pfc. L. A. Romo-Macias
 Pfc. J. T. Hill
 Pfc. S. J. Rowland
 Pfc. N. R. Salinas
 Pvt. J. E. Sanchez-Trejo
 Pvt. A. R. Sandoval
 Pvt. C. Sandoval
 Pvt. K. D. Sanford
 Pfc. K. A. Schoemer
 Pfc. A. D. Scott JR.
 Pvt. R. K. Shear
 Pvt. E. H. Silverman
 *Pfc. A. A. Smith
 Pvt. S. D. Snodgrass
 Pvt. T. W. Snow
 Pfc. M. D. Snyder
 *Pfc. D. A. Solano
 Pfc. C. S. Soldano
 *Pfc. J. K. Stephenson
 Pfc. B. R. Sullivan-Ramos
 Pvt. T. R. Suniga II
 Pvt. J. A. Tapia
 Pvt. C. W. Taulbee
 Pfc. D. D. Taylor
 Pvt. B. J. Terrill
 Pvt. J. S. Thompson
 Pvt. B. A. Tindol
 Pvt. P. Tine
 Pvt. E. R. Torres-Barrios
 Pvt. J. E. Townsend Jr.
 Pvt. T. R. Trigg
 Pvt. D. Tugaga Jr.
 Pvt. B. D. Tyler Jr.
 Pfc. M. A. Tyrakoski
 Pfc. L. W. Ullrich
 Pvt. E. Valencia Jr.
 Pvt. J. Vargas-Blanco
 Pvt. B. A. Vasa
 Pfc. J. Vasquez
 Pvt. G. A. Velazquez
 Pvt. C. Villaita
 *Pfc. G. M. Walck
 Pvt. B. A. Walls
 Pfc. J. A. Warren
 Pvt. J. W. Whitby
 Pvt. T. M. Wynn
 Pvt. B. J. Young
 Pvt. H. Zermeno-Sanroman</p> |
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Recruits gain confidence from rappel tower conquest

BY LANCE CPL. BRIDGET M. KEANE
Chevron staff

Recruits of Company I, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, overcame their fears at the rappel tower aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Dec. 7.

Rappelling is a controlled descent to the ground, using ropes and harnesses as a pulley system. Rappelling down a 60-foot tower is a requirement that all recruits must complete in order to graduate recruit training.

Not only did recruits learn the basics of rappelling, a useful skill for various Marines, they also gained confidence in themselves, explained Sgt. John Leiva, drill instructor, Platoon 3209, Co. I, 3rd RTBn.

"It builds their confidence in the ability to descend properly. They also learn that they are in control," said Leiva. "They control everything; how fast they go and when to stop."

The recruits' day began with a safety brief, classes on how to properly check and tie their own harness and a demonstration on how to fast-

rope, correctly descending from the top of the tower.

Instructors double-checked the recruits' harnesses to ensure they were properly tied before they were sent to the tower.

Next was the moment they were all anticipating; the descent. For some recruits, it was going to be an experience they would never forget. For others, fear and anxiety overwhelmed them as they stared up at the tower.

"I don't like heights at all," said Recruit Vu Nguyen, Plt. 3209, Co. I, 3rd RTBn. "I've always been afraid of heights, even more so after I fell off the rope at the obstacle course."

Although Nguyen completed events that require recruits to climb high obstacles such as the confidence course and the o-course, he explained that it didn't really help him overcome his fear of heights.

"I always feel better once it's over, but I'm still afraid," said Nguyen. "I feel that this (rappel tower) will boost my confidence though."

Nguyen explained that he had to go down the tower

three times before he did it correctly.

"Even though I was afraid every time, I began to listen to the instructors," said Nguyen. "They told me that if I really wanted it, then I'd be able to do it."

The encouragement from the instructors at the top of the tower reassured Nguyen that he was in control and allowed him to be confident when making his descent.

"I feel more comfortable and confident in my abilities now," said Nguyen.

Confidence is a feeling when one is aware of the control they have of a situation and that they will be able to act in an effective way. Nguyen and his fellow recruits gained that through their descent from tower.

Co. I moved on to the Crucible, a 54-hour field-training exercise, at Edson Range aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. They now hold the Eagle, Globe and Anchor and the title Marine and are scheduled to graduate Dec. 21.



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Drill instructors with Instructional Training Company, Support Battalion, demonstrate how to properly descend from the 60-foot rappel tower aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Dec. 7. Recruits learn how to rappel in recruit training so they can retain the useful skill and gain confidence in their ability to perform.



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Recruits of Company I, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, attentively watch as instructors demonstrate a proper descent from the rappel tower Dec. 7.



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

An instructor with Instructional Training Company, Support Battalion, explains to the recruits of Company I, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, that they are in control as they step off from the top of the tower Dec. 7.