



CHEVRON

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION



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Future Marine legends discover Corps’ rich history



Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez

Recruits of Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, view a display of historic rifles during their visit to the Command Museum aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego June 27. The Command Museum is dedicated to the preservation of the Marine Corps and offers tours to recruits during training.

by Cpl. MATHEUS J. HERNANDEZ
Chevron staff

For 236 years, Marines have taken pride in the history of their beloved Corps. From every battle and moment in history Marines have taken part in, there has been a strong sense of honor and tradition to go along with them.

Aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego is the Command Museum dedicated to the preservation of the illustrious history and time-honored traditions of the Marine Corps. There, recruits are taught where their long-line of honor, courage and commitment descended from.

“It’s definitely interesting coming to the command museum,” said Recruit Andres A. Reyes, Platoon 1013, Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion. “It’s motivating to see what Marines in history have gone through and what they’ve done to make the Corps what it is today.”

The museum is designed to teach Marine Corps history, tradition and values while portraying the legacy of the Corps.

It offers history of the Marine Corps from the late 19th century to the present day, a reference center which contains archives and a research library, and classes and tours for Marines, recruits, and groups within the civilian community.

“There are a lot of things many recruits don’t know before enlisting and what organization they’re becoming a part of,” said Reyes. “This place is definitely an eye opener.”

Recruits were split into groups by docents and were taken through every part of the museum, witnessing what the Corps started from to where it is today.

“The docents are outstanding,” said Recruit Kurtis K. Campbell, Plt. 1009, Co. A. “They do a great job presenting the history and basically telling the Marine Corps story. It makes the experience so much better.”

As the retired, knowledgeable docents guided recruits throughout the halls, they occasionally

see MUSEUM ▶ 2

Making Marines begins with history lesson

BY Cpl. WALTER D. MARINO II
Chevron staff

The value Marines have in their military history starts at recruit training aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Recruits are given multiple courses on Marine values and history and later tested on the material training day 55.

Recruits with Platoon 3202, India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion gathered inside a classroom to learn about Marine Corps history July 6th. Sgt. Luis A. Arteaga, academic instructor, Instruc-

tional Training Company, Support Battalion, stood in front of approximately 80 recruits and used a slide show to teach important dates and events in Marine history.

Arteaga has deployed four times to Iraq and once to Afghanistan. He often uses his deployment experiences as real life examples that are easier for recruits to relate to, he explained.

“I like to try and relate to them because they’re more interested in real life scenarios,” said Arteaga, a Los Angeles native. “It opens them up and makes them think, ‘if he can do it I can do it.’”

During Arteaga’s class, the recruits learned about Marine events from 1954 – 1975 such as the 1968 Battle of Khe Sanh, the Battle of Da Nang and the evolution of the Marine Sniper Program.

After each topic was reviewed, Arteaga would periodically ask recruits questions to make sure they were all on the same page.

Recruit Miguel A. Gonzalez, Plt. 3202, said, “I think it’s important to educate us on our Marine Corps History so that we can possibly become even better Marines than the ones before us, and also so that we keep the traditions of the Marine Corps going.”

At the back of the class, a Co. I drill instructor oversaw the recruits and kept an eye out for any recruits not attentive to the teacher. If a recruit didn’t look like he was paying attention, he was either told to wake up or stand up behind the class.

“They need to know our Marine traditions, they need to know who we are so that they can carry on our Marine traditions,” said Sgt. Javier Salguero, drill instructor, Platoon 3202.

The training day 55 test is given in order to ensure the recruits retained the majority of knowledge taught throughout training. Drill instructors explained, that if the any recruit should not pass the test they would not see training day 56 and advised recruits to use their free time to review their notes and historical dates.

Arteaga says, he enjoys teaching recruits because he too believes it helps keep the Marine Corps traditions alive.



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

Recruits with Platoon 3202, Company I, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, listen intently to a class on Marine history aboard Marine Corps Recruiting Depot San Diego, July 6.



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

Recruits of Company E, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion take turns swimming 25 meters wearing camouflage utilities and boots. Marine swimming instructors watched closely to identify weaker swimmers so that extra attention could be given to those who needed further instruction.

Recruits make a splash learning water survival

BY Cpl. WALTER D. MARINO II
Chevron staff

Marines are amphibious and as such they train themselves to survive in dangerous aquatic situations.

Company E, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion recruits, went through various swimming exercises as part of a July 9 water survival course.

Exercises included four minutes of treading water, a 10 foot dive and a timed removal of combat gear.

In order to weed out the strong and weak swimmers,

swimming instructors had the recruits swim 25 meters in shallow water. Recruits who showed signs of struggle were sectioned off to receive additional guidance on swimming form.

After the sorting was complete, recruits lined up to begin jumping from a 10 foot concrete pillar. One by one recruits crossed their arms, looked up, then down and plummeted into the pool.

Swimming instructors were stationed at multiple positions both inside and out

see SWIM ▶ 2



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

Company E recruits practice water survival techniques aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, July 9th. Recruits were taught how to use camouflage utilities as a floatation tool and put through tests to make sure they knew basic water survival skills. Exercises included a 10-foot dive followed by a 25-meter swim and four minutes of treading water.

SWIM ◀ 1

of the pool for safety reasons. When proper form wasn't utilized instructors made recruits repeat the exercise.

"This is good training; my favorite part was the jump," said Corey A. Kilsby, Platoon 2102, Company E, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion. "I didn't know what to expect. Some people said it was hard and some said it was easy. As long as you stay calm and control your breathing you can pass it."

Recruits were then asked to do other tasks such as swim 25 meters with a pack, treading water for four minutes

and shedding protective gear in under 10 seconds.

"Marines are amphibious by nature. We work with the Navy, when we go aboard ship and should something happen they should know how to save themselves. As they progress with their skills they will learn to save others as well," said Staff Sgt. Julian L. Russell, chief swim instructor, Instructional Training Company, Support Battalion.

Russell explained that exercises such as the timed taking off of gear in water could simulate real life scenarios Marines have faced in Afghanistan.

"Where ever we go to war we have our gear on. You have to know how to take that gear off," said Russell. "The basic level is knowing how to take it off and more advance is learning to swim with it on."

Although not yet Marines, the consensus among the recruits was the skills they learned here were necessary and important.

"I think as a Marine you're going to need to know how to conduct yourself in water. I thought the training was fun," said Recruit Douglas P. Kessinger, Plt. 2102. "I think all Marines should know basic water survival skills."



Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez

Arthur G. Barbosa, docent and retired Marine first sergeant, Command Museum, tells a story to recruits of Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, during their visit to the museum aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego June 27. Barbosa gave a detailed description to recruits of when he was deployed to South Korea.

MUSEUM ◀ 1

stopped to tell war stories from their earlier days, sharing memories of the "old Corps."

"It's truly inspiring," said Campbell. "They had a lot of courage to do what they did back in the day."

As eager as recruits are to learn more of the history, docents are just as excited to teach them, according to Bill Westmoreland, docent, MCRD Command Museum.

"It's a wonderful thing showing them around," said Westmoreland. "I hope they take from it as much as I do."

Westmoreland has been a docent for

15 years. He believes the history of the Marine Corps should be taught more and is motivated to enlighten recruits every cycle.

"It's a matter of pride," said Westmoreland. "These are the future legends of the Marine Corps. These are our future heroes."

BRIEFS

Free annual passes

The National Park Service is offering a free annual pass to all national parks for all active duty service members and their dependents.

Relax and unwind in any of our nation's 397 national parks at no cost.

Visit <http://www.nps.gov/find-apark/passes.htm> for more information.

New vehicle registration office operating hours

The current hours of operation of the depot vehicle registration office are 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday, until July 27.

Beginning July 30, the new vehicle registration office hours of operation will be 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

For more information, contact the PMO services officer, Police Captain Hudgins, at (619) 524-8105 or michael.hudgins@usmc.mil.

MCRD Titans football

The MCRD Titans football team is looking for players. Team slots are open only to MCRD active-duty personnel.

The season starts in August with games at Camp Pendleton. Tryouts and practices will begin soon.

For information on times and dates, contact Coach Charles White at (619) 524-8172 or (760) 550-7861 or charles.d.white@usmc.mil.

Car and motorcycle show

The MCCA Auto Skills Center hosts the depot Car and Motorcycle Show tomorrow, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the parking lot between the depot's recreation center and fitness center.

There will be music, awards and more! Awards will be presented to General's Choice, People's Choice, Top Three Motorcycles and Top Three Cars in each category.

101 Days of Summer Fitness Challenge

Earn 101 Days of Summer points for your Command and join the Fitness Center Staff for the Fitness Challenge Wednesday, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

In addition to the points earned for the percentage of personnel who participate in the Fitness Challenges, the individual male and female winner for each challenge earns an additional 50 points for his/her command.

The Fitness Challenge will be a 3-5-5 Speed Challenge.

Sign-up at the Fitness Center today!

College 101 brief

The date for this class has shifted from July 25 to 18 July.

Marines who want to learn about military voluntary education programs and tuition assistance benefits are advised to attend this College 101 brief from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at the Education Center (Bldg. 111, across from the gas station) July 18.

For Marines at remote locations, or who are unable to attend, the College 101 PowerPoint briefing may be downloaded at <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/education/college101.cfm?sid=ml&smid=2&ssmid=1>.

For information contact the Education Office San Diego at (619) 524-1275/8158.

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 plan to use your tuition assistance?"



"I've used mine, so far, to get my bachelor's degree in social psychology at Park University." Staff Sgt. Leon Parker, martial arts instructor, Instructional Training Company, Support Battalion



"I plan on getting as much education as I can during my enlistment for automotives and later become a mechanic."

Lance Cpl. Daniel Delgado, administrative clerk, Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion



"To take two to three classes a semester that are not online - that's just me though."

Sgt. Christian N. Perez, recruiting student, Recruiting School



Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez

From left to right, Richard D. Wright, James "Jim" Wright, Jerry Wright and William "Bill" Wright follow along as Bill Westmoreland, docent, reviews a map of the Asia-Pacific Region with them during their tour of the Command Museum aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Brothers Jim, Bill and Jerry are all former Marines who attended recruit training aboard the depot and were honorably discharged more than fifty years ago.

'Wright brothers' reunite at depot museum

BY CPL. MATHEUS J. HERNANDEZ
Chevron staff

After being drafted, Herbert O. Wright, prior Army enlisted soldier, was killed in action on the last day of the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium during World War II, 1945. He, much like many other service members that have gone before, left behind children to carry on his family name.

Four of those children are now college graduates and were successful in their professions, and for three of them, Jerry, James and William, it was because they chose to serve their country. They enlisted in the Marine Corps more than half a century ago.

Jerry, the oldest of the three, enlisted in August 1958 at the age of 19 after speaking with one of his friends who had mentioned joining the Marine Corps.

"At the time, I was attending Indiana University and not doing very well grade-wise," said Jerry. "(I knew) that I needed to do something with my life, so I decided to go in with him on the buddy program."

After completing technical training at United States Naval Ship, Treasure Island, Calif. and San Diego as a ground radio repairman, Jerry was then assigned to 3rd Marine Division on Okinawa later to be assigned to Twenty-Nine Palms, Calif.

"I liked my Okinawa duty. It gave me an opportunity to improve my technician skills and interact with the local citizens," said Jerry.

Shortly after Jerry enlisted in

the summer, James, also known as Jim, followed behind him in the following spring when he enlisted February 1959.

Jim completed training along the west coast where he endured recruit training, attended the Navy Electronics Technician course and Communications Electronics School at MCRD, San Diego for training as a Radio Relay Repairman.

After finishing his training, Jim boarded an attack transport and sailed to Iwakuni, Japan where he was assigned to 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Fleet Marine Forces Pacific. Jim was then transferred to Cherry Point, NC where he was assigned 2nd MAW, FMF Atlantic.

"During my tours with 1st and 2nd MAW, I was deployed several times on temporary duty to places like Thailand, prior to the full build-up of the Vietnam War and to Puerto Rico during the Cuban Missile Crisis," said Jim.

"All three of us were stationed in the Far East at one time or another. When I was in (Iwakuni), Jerry was stationed in Okinawa, and I believe Bill was stationed in Okinawa after I had been transferred to Cherry Point."

William, also known as Bill, the youngest of the three, later enlisted in 1961 and after completing training as a machine gunner, he was then assigned to 1st and 3rd Marine Division.

"I was motivated to enlist, because I didn't do well in my first year of college. So college was a shock to my system and I was overwhelmed," said Bill. "I was a lost 19-year-old boy. Since I knew Jerry and Jim had left

school as well and enlisted in the Corps, I decided it was the best place for me. At that time in my life the Marine Corps rescued me and truly did make a man of me."

Bill grew up feeling inferior because of his poor background when he was younger, but as he underwent recruit training his self-esteem was boosted significantly.

"In boot camp I realized that I was just as good as the others in the platoon when during an inspection my uniform, boots and rifle were so squared away that the drill instructor lit the smoking lamp for me while standing in front of the rest of the platoon," said Bill. "The Marine Corps shaped me into the man I am today."

The three brothers were discharged honorably after each serving four years active duty. Although their lives took them in different paths for many years, they managed to reconnect.

"Once we graduated from high school, we lost track of each other for the most part," said Bill. "There were times when we didn't see each other for many years, but we finally started connecting more frequently over the past eight to ten years, then annually over the past four."

The three brothers, along with their older brother Richard, who became Professor at San Diego State College, decided to connect this year at the Command Museum board Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

"I enjoyed the visit to the Museum very much," said Jerry. "Some of my first thoughts were about the young men who I

went through boot camp with. I recall us being a disorganized bunch of civilians and how over time our drill instructors were able to mold us into a platoon that we were proud to belong to."

Jim also enjoyed his experience coming back to the depot and recalled moments from long ago.

"Just being back at MCRD brought back a lot of memories of a young 18 year old boy who became a man," said Jim. "A man who had gained confidence in himself which helped carry him through life's ups and downs, making good decisions along the way."

For Bill, the experience was slightly different from the others, but it was just as enjoyable.

"Those volunteers that work at the Museum have done a great job with the displays and do a good job describing each," said Bill. "Part of the emotion for me was that one of the docents was my former sergeant that I had served with 49 years ago. He was my mentor."

Bill Westmoreland, a docent and retired first sergeant was Bill's leader many years ago and also enjoyed reminiscing old stories of when they were younger.

Returning to the depot gave the brothers a chance to remember their past and to rekindle their relationship with each other once again.

"We used to not visit very often because we are so spread out in the country," said Bill.

"But since we are all in our 70's we felt we need to see each other more often. We feel we'd better not wait around too long to visit each other."

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LANCE CPL. BRIDGET M. KEANE

EDITOR
ROGER EDWARDS
CONTACT THE CHEVRON
RDS_D_PAO@USMC.MIL

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

WWW.MCRDSD.MARINES.MIL

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Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

A recruit grabs hold of a rope before sliding down the "A" frame during Confidence Course II June 26 aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. The "A" frame is an obstacle that requires recruits to use physical and mental strength to climb up and overcome any fear of heights.



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

A drill instructor of Company L instructs recruits to change positions while they hold on to a cable above a pool during Confidence Course II June 26 aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. The slide for life is one of the most challenging obstacles of the course because recruits lose themselves in their fear.

Co. L recruits attack high obstacles at Confidence Course

BY LANCE CPL. BRIDGET M. KEANE
Chevron staff

It's a natural instinct to experience a level of fear when exposed to heights, especially if there is little or no protection.

Marines need to be conditioned to overcome their fears in a combat environment to complete the mission, even if that requires them to climb great heights.

Recruits of Company L, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion took on the higher obstacles of the Confidence Course during their fourth week of training, June 26 aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

The recruits ran the entire course which includes three high obstacles. Those are the stairway to heaven, the "A" frame, and the obstacle that recruits struggle with the most, the slide for life.

This is the second time the recruits have seen the

Confidence Course during their training cycle.

"The overall purpose of the confidence course is to give the recruits a challenge they can overcome," said Sgt. Laurent Lecointre, drill instructor, Platoon 3245, Co. L. "It builds confidence in them and Marines require confidence to complete tasks and missions. The higher obstacles add fear and the recruits must be able to face that."

During week three of their training, the recruits tackled the low-obstacle portion of the course as an introduction to the physical and mental confidence they'll need in order to overcome the higher obstacles.

Although the recruits are familiar with these obstacles, this time they must attempt to use more mental strength to face their fear of heights.

"It's a mental game for them," said LeCointre, a 28-year-old Salt Lake City native. "It's the biggest challenge for them; they'll think

down, recruits are instructed to change positions.

If the recruit lets go, they'll fall into the water below. Accomplishing these obstacles gives the recruits the mental strength to push through and allows them to build self-confidence.

"I feel that facing your fears builds character," said Recruit

Brandon Dimiceli, Plt. 3241, Co. L. "It proves that you have enough courage in yourself to accomplish the task at hand and it'll build you into a better Marine."

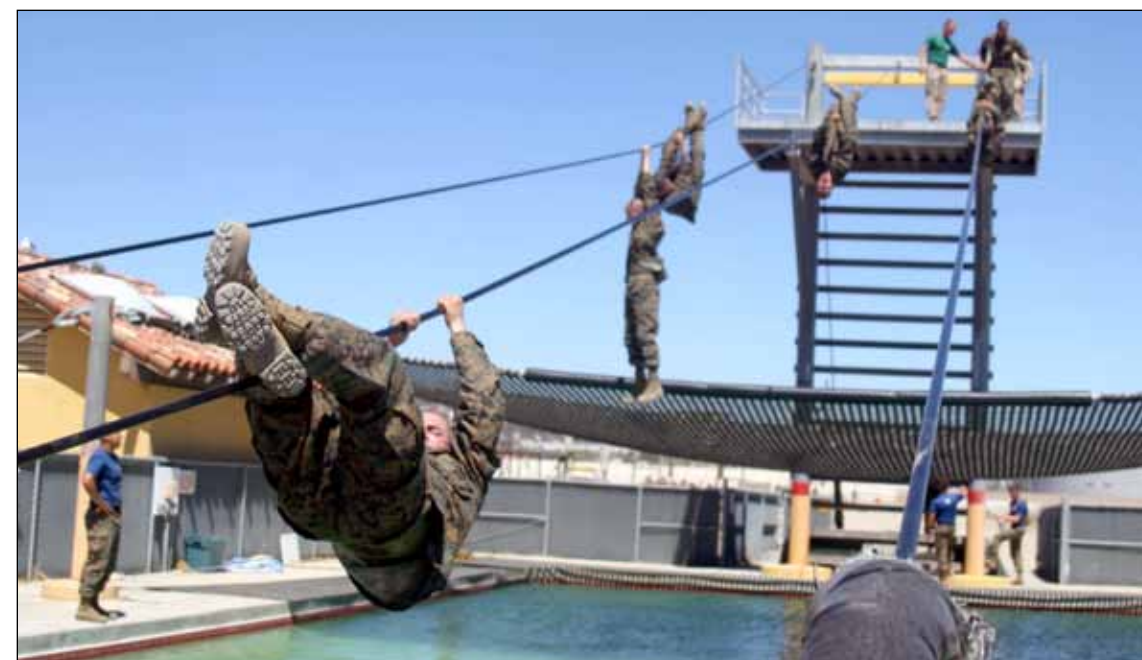
With new found confidence, the recruits of Company L will continue their training and are one step closer to earning the title of United States Marine.

"I feel that facing your fears builds character," said Recruit

The second high obstacle on the course is the "A" frame, a structure that makes recruits use upper-body strength to climb a 15-foot rope.

Once at the top of the "A" frame, recruits must walk across horizontal logs, to where they are required to climb up the "A" shaped ladder and slide down a 30-foot rope, hand-over-hand.

The very last obstacle the recruits must overcome is the slide for life, a 25-foot tower that requires recruits to climb across a descending 90-foot cable to the ground above a 4-foot deep pool. Halfway between the climb



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

The slide for life is an obstacle that requires recruits to climb a 25-foot tower, then climb across a descending 90-foot cable above a pool of water. Halfway through the climb, recruits are instructed to change positions while hanging above the pool.



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

The stairway to heaven is a 30-foot ladder-like obstacle aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Recruits must climb to the top, climb over the top log and then descend the other side.



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

The "A" frame is a 30-foot tall obstacle on the Confidence Course aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. The obstacle requires recruits to use upper-body strength, balance and confidence to overcome.

Recruit comes back to America, becomes a Marine

BY LANCE CPL. BRIDGET M. KEANE
Chevron staff

As a young boy, Pvt. Brian Walsh, Platoon 1015, Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, wrote a letter to his future-self, containing all his dreams and ambitions. The one dream that would be his main goal in life was to become a United States Marine.

The Royal Oak, Mich. native spent most of his childhood with the desire to earn the title, admiring the brotherhood and camaraderie that he saw in Marines.

"I always looked at Marines as being heroes and idols," said Walsh, 20. "I saw the commitment they made to serve their country as a sense of honor that they could only hold."

As time went on, Walsh later thought that he'd never be able to fulfill his dream when he learned his family would be moving to Ireland when he was 9-years-old.

"My parents needed to move back to help support our family, I didn't think I'd ever have the chance to come back and be a Marine," explained Walsh.

Walsh moved to Crosshaven, County Cork, Ireland, where he continued his education and helped his family with work for 10 years. But his desire to be a Marine was held above anything else in his life.

"My mother wanted me to join the Irish Defense Force so I could stay in Ireland," said Walsh. "But I was born here (in America), and I felt that I had a greater bond here than anywhere else."

Aware of the dream held so close to his heart, Walsh's family saw it as him taking an initiative in his life. They knew that the right thing for him was to move back to America so he could accomplish his goal.

Walsh's supportive mother had kept his passport throughout the years to help prove his American citizenship when it was time to enlist.



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Pvt. Brian Walsh, Platoon 1015, Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, moved to Ireland with his family when he was 9-years-old. Walsh had always dreamed of becoming a Marine and serving the country where he was born. In 2011, he moved back to the United States to fulfill that dream. He worked hard to prove himself throughout training so he could earn the title of United States Marine.

Walsh moved back to America in 2011, where he stayed with his aunt in Jackson, Mich.

When he walked into the local recruiting office to enlist, Walsh was discouraged by the amount of paper work that kept appearing with his name on it. His recruiter had difficulty finding a way to translate his school transcripts from Gaelic to English.

"Irish education is different from American and I was nervous that I was going to have to go through more schooling," explained Walsh.

Walsh's recruiters continued to encourage him as they went to great lengths to translate his transcripts. They went to sev-

eral different colleges to talk to experts in the language and finally called the Irish embassy to verify all his information.

In August 2011, Walsh took the oath to serve in the country where was born. He was shipped to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego for recruit training on April 16.

Culture shock is common for recruits aboard the depot as they go through the fast-paced, first phase of their training.

Walsh appeared to have a more difficult time than most, having coming from a completely different culture, explained Staff Sgt. Shawn Roberts, senior drill instructor, Plt. 1015.

"Like most recruits, he had a hard time adapting, but he worked really hard and put forth the effort to correct himself and make up for his deficiencies," said Roberts.

"When you see how hard a recruit works to better himself, you begin to notice how it motivates the rest of the platoon."

Walsh worked hard to grasp the terms of Marine Corps knowledge; drill and the other mental and physical aspects of recruit training. His fellow recruits observed his hard work and also noticed his happy-go-lucky attitude that highlighted him above other recruits.

"He was always a fun-loving

type of recruit," explained Pvt. Luke Oliver, his rack mate throughout the training cycle. "He knew when to have fun and when it was time to train"

With the effort Walsh put forth to better himself as a recruit, he proved to his drill instructor and peers he wanted to be there and become a Marine.

Walsh earned his Eagle, Globe and Anchor July 5. He plans on making the Marine Corps a career.

"I feel that the best way to serve your country is to serve in the armed forces," said Walsh. "I'm proud to be able to serve the country I was born in as a Marine."

Sgt. Maj. Vincent C. Santiago

Parade Reviewing Officer

Sergeant Major Vincent C. Santiago a native of Merizo, Guam, enlisted in the Marine Corps in September of 1989. He attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif.

The sergeant major was meritoriously promoted to Private First Class upon recruit graduation.

He completed Marine Combat Training and then the mortarman course at Infantry Training Battalion, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Santiago received orders to Marine Barracks, Guam in March of 1990. While there he held the billets of watch stander, corporal of the guard, sergeant of guard, and barracks training noncommissioned officer.

Santiago was meritoriously promoted to corporal in March 1991. He transferred to 3rd Bat-

talion, 5th Marines later that year, and deployed to Okinawa, Japan with the organization when it deployed under the Unit Deployment Program.

His unit deployed to Okinawa again in 1992 as the Battalion Landing Team for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. Later that year, Santiago transferred latterly, to become a maintenance management clerk. He was subsequently assigned to battalion supply.

In January 1995, Santiago reported to Drill Instructor School at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, and subsequently assigned to Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion.

In January 1997, Santiago was promoted to staff sergeant (meritoriously). He served as a drill instructor, senior drill instructor, and as a series gunnery sergeant, and completed eight cycles with Company A.

Santiago was transferred to 3rd Maintenance Battalion, Okinawa, Japan in August 1997, and assumed the duties as the Battalion Maintenance Manage-

ment Officer.

In 2000, Santiago was selected to the rank of gunnery sergeant and transferred to the United States Naval Academy as an Assistant Military Officer Instructor and was assigned as the senior enlisted leader for 19th Company.

In May 2001, Santiago assumed duty as drill master, United States Naval Academy. In 2004 he was selected to the rank of first sergeant and transferred to 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, where he served as company first sergeant for Company K.

Santiago deployed with the battalion in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, from November 2004 through June 2005, and in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (5-7) during 2006.

During March 2007, Santiago was transferred to Combat Service Support Group-3, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii for duty as first sergeant for Headquarters Company. In March 2008, he assumed duties as the first

sergeant of General Support Company, later redesignated as Combat Logistics Company 35.

Santiago was selected to sergeant major in October 2008, and transferred to the School of Infantry (West), Camp Pendleton, in January 2009. There he assumed duty as battalion sergeant major for Infantry Training Battalion.

In March 2011, Santiago received orders to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines where he currently serves as the battalion sergeant major.

In April 2011, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines became the Battalion Landing Team for the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit during its Western Pacific deployment.

"Marines - I join your fellow Marines and your families in congratulating you on a significant accomplishment. You have become part of our warrior culture by earning the title United States Marine. Make no mistake: on this day you have earned the title Marine. Take the pride that you have today and carry it with you throughout your life. There will be challenges during your career, so bring your 'A' game every day. Remember to keep your Honor clean and do what is right for our Nation, our Marine

Corps, and your family. Once again, congratulations and welcome to the rank and file of our beloved Marine Corps!"





Platoon 1014 COMPANY HONOR MAN Lance Cpl. M. A. Reel Longview, Texas Recruited by Sgt. J. Hulsey	Platoon 1010 SERIES HONOR MAN Pfc. J. M. Goessl Arbor Vitae, Wis. Recruited by Staff Sgt. J. Miller	Platoon 1009 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. C. D. Faybion Heltonville, Ind. Recruited by Sgt. A. Jacob	Platoon 1013 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. J. C. McKinney Tebbetts, Mo. Recruited by Sgt. M. Hood	Platoon 1015 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. V. R. Santiago Jr. Oceanside, Calif. Recruited by Sgt. B. McGrath	Platoon 1010 HIGH SHOOTER (334) Pfc. M. B. Abernathy Pierre, S.D. Marksmanship Instructor Sgt. J. Tatencocortes	Platoon 1010 HIGH PFT (300) Pfc. J. M. Goessl Arbor Vitae, Wis. Recruited by Staff Sgt. J. Miller
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ALPHA COMPANY

1st RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION

Commanding Officer
Sergeant Major
Battalion Drill Master

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



COMPANY A <i>Commanding Officer</i> Capt. K. E. Harris <i>Company First Sergeant</i> 1st Sgt. M. R. Hackett	SERIES 1009 <i>Series Commander</i> Capt. C. Urban <i>Chief Drill Instructor</i> Gunnery Sgt. M. S. Thorpe	PLATOON 1009 <i>Senior Drill Instructor</i> Staff Sgt. J. R. Duncan <i>Drill Instructors</i> Staff Sgt. O. M. Ramirez Staff Sgt. M. A. Rodriguez Sgt. F. Loza III	PLATOON 1010 <i>Senior Drill Instructor</i> Sgt. J. D. Weaver <i>Drill Instructors</i> Sgt. C. A. Gonzalez Sgt. C. G. Woidt
	SERIES 1013 <i>Series Commander</i> 1st Lt. E. B. Koselak <i>Chief Drill Instructor</i> Gunnery Sgt. F. Galvan	PLATOON 1013 <i>Senior Drill Instructor</i> Sgt. P. J. Aguirre <i>Drill Instructors</i> Staff Sgt. J. O. Downing Sgt. N. W. Payne	PLATOON 1014 <i>Senior Drill Instructor</i> Sgt. T. Tate <i>Drill Instructors</i> Sgt. W. L. Anderson Sgt. J. J. Sanchez Sgt. A. A. Ypina

* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

PLATOON 1009

- Pvt. L. F. Alfonzo
- Pvt. K. M. Baerresen
- Pvt. H. A. Besougloff
- Pvt. A. M. Blandford
- *Pfc. C. D. Box Jr.
- Pfc. M. A. Boyle
- Pvt. T. E. Bozarth
- Pvt. K. D. Burkhart
- Pvt. K. T. Burns
- Pvt. B. J. Calvin
- Pvt. K. K. Campbell
- *Pfc. S. A. Campbell
- Pvt. D. M. Campos
- Pvt. E. W. Cassady
- Pvt. J. K. Castillo
- Pvt. A. M. Daniels
- Pvt. M. A. Delossantos
- Pvt. D. D. Dottei
- Pvt. S. H. Duncan
- Pfc. U. W. Eckiss
- *Pfc. A. C. Ehlert
- *Pfc. J. R. Eldridge
- Pfc. C. D. Faubion
- Pvt. E. G. Gagnier
- Pfc. R. J. Gallagher
- Pvt. E. G. Garza Jr.
- Pfc. R. V. Gilbert
- Pvt. J. P. Gillis
- Pvt. L. E. Gilman
- Pvt. M. L. Graul
- Pvt. J. Gutierrez
- Pvt. J. R. Hallock
- Pvt. T. R. Hammerness
- Pvt. J. O. Haney
- Pvt. J. E. Hankins
- Pfc. K. L. Harmon
- Pvt. T. L. Harms
- Pvt. T. R. Harper
- Pvt. M. I. Hernandez
- Pvt. T. J. Hill
- Pfc. J. L. Hoepfner
- Pvt. B. S. Holbert
- Pfc. V. S. Holguin
- Pvt. C. J. Holscher
- Pfc. T. G. Holyfield
- Pfc. D. S. Hurst
- Pvt. A. M. Isguerra
- Pvt. I. S. Tuiiolemotu

PLATOON 1010

- Pfc. M. B. Abernathy
- Pfc. J. W. Adler
- Pvt. M. A. Altora IV
- Pvt. M. W. Anderson Jr.
- Pvt. J. M. Boyde
- Pvt. T. M. Breauchy
- Pvt. S. C. Brower
- Pvt. R. T. Burch
- Pfc. K. R. Butteweg
- Pvt. J. L. Carstensen
- Pfc. A. R. Chirco
- Pvt. M. D. Cobb
- Pvt. C. F. Contreras
- Pvt. A. M. Corallo
- Pfc. J. W. Dean Jr.
- Pfc. A. R. Ewton
- *Pfc. B. R. French
- Pvt. N. P. Garcia
- Pvt. C. D. Garofoli
- Pvt. W. T. Garrett
- Pvt. D. S. Goeyden
- Pfc. J. M. Goessl
- Pvt. K. M. Grow
- Pvt. C. F. Hamblin
- Pfc. S. N. Hamp
- Pvt. H. A. Hannah
- Pvt. G. Hinojosa
- *Pfc. M. J. Ijames
- Pfc. M. W. Johnson
- Pvt. A. G. Kalmer
- Pfc. J. K. Kinyanjui
- Pfc. J. R. Koogler
- Pvt. E. J. Krystynak
- Pfc. D. D. Kusler
- Pvt. J. A. Landmark
- *Pfc. S. T. Lenfestey
- Pvt. E. D. Leon-Estrada
- Pvt. J. M. Lourenco
- *Pfc. A. D. Martin
- Pvt. K. L. Martin
- Pfc. J. C. Mayer
- Pvt. J. A. McManus III
- Pfc. P. J. Milbocker
- Pvt. H. Miranda
- Pvt. H. D. Villareal
- Pfc. D. A. Williams

PLATOON 1013

- Pvt. L. X. Arellano Jr.
- Pfc. Z. C. Barber
- Pvt. M. A. Barnes
- *Pfc. R. M. Beckham
- Pfc. V. Cadiente
- Pvt. J. D. Cajimat
- Pfc. R. C. Chavez
- *Pfc. N. E. Craig
- Pvt. C. N. Diego
- Pvt. J. H. Dugger
- Pfc. E. Espana
- Pvt. R. O. Franz
- Pvt. S. W. Gonzalez
- Pvt. K. E. Grant
- Pvt. D. W. Jackson
- Pfc. T. J. Jennings
- Pvt. J. Jimenez-Bentley
- *Pfc. Z. J. Johnson
- Pvt. J. C. Jones Jr.
- Pvt. J. D. Jones
- Pvt. S. D. Jutkins
- Pvt. C. R. Kameran
- Pvt. W. J. Keller Jr.
- Pfc. J. T. Kight
- Pvt. G. J. Kinser
- Pvt. G. C. Landavazo
- Pfc. L. Lara III
- Pvt. A. J. Lavulo
- Pvt. N. N. Legault-Kanata
- Pfc. T. J. Mackey
- Pvt. S. R. Martin
- Pvt. J. N. McCowan-Penney
- Pfc. J. C. McKinney
- Pvt. A. Meda
- Pvt. C. F. Medina-Rivas
- Pvt. J. M. Montenegro Jr.
- Pvt. M. J. Moore
- Pfc. E. C. Morales
- Pvt. G. Morales
- Pvt. A. A. Reyes
- Pfc. I. Q. Rideout
- Pvt. K. A. Rodriguez
- Pvt. L. F. Sandoval
- Pfc. A. D. Sessions
- Pvt. J. W. Sims
- Pvt. E. M. Smith
- Pvt. K. L. Sprague
- Pvt. W. K. Thomas
- Pvt. C. R. Tipton
- Pvt. T. M. Wilson

PLATOON 1014

- Pvt. M. A. Flores
- Pfc. J. Galeana
- Pvt. E. N. Lenertz
- Pvt. M. R. Loving
- Pvt. D. Lozano
- Pvt. R. P. Maldonado Jr.
- Pvt. J. H. Martinez
- Pfc. M. Martinez
- Pvt. A. S. Mercado
- *Pfc. M. V. Merrick
- Pvt. S. J. Meyer
- *Pfc. C. J. Minor
- Pvt. S. Montesluna
- Pvt. A. S. Morales
- Pvt. B. D. Morris
- Pvt. M. A. Neuenkirchen
- Pvt. R. Nguyen
- Pvt. B. A. Obado
- Pvt. S. T. O'Brien
- Pvt. N. G. Pantelides
- Pvt. D. J. Peck
- Pfc. E. B. Perry
- *Pfc. C. A. Picetti
- Pvt. J. T. Reavis
- Pvt. J. K. Reed
- *Lance Cpl. M. A. Reel
- Pvt. G. Rodriguez II
- Pvt. R. Rodriguez Jr.
- Pvt. W. J. Rollins
- Pvt. J. E. Ruiz
- Pfc. C. W. Rushing
- Pfc. R. J. Saarheim
- Pvt. S. Saephanh
- Pvt. A. R. Salyards
- Pvt. J. P. Schmidt
- Pvt. C. A. Wallis
- Pvt. A. J. Smith
- Pvt. J. A. Sollars
- Pvt. J. Tom
- Pfc. M. T. Trujillo Jr.
- Pvt. M. Vega
- Pvt. M. L. Vu
- Pvt. C. A. Wallis
- Pfc. F. K. Wojtasiak
- Pvt. J. R. Wright
- Pvt. C. J. Young

PLATOON 1015

- Pfc. S. P. Jones
- Pvt. D. J. Montgomery
- Pvt. B. J. Moore
- Pvt. S. J. Morales
- Pfc. T. J. Morris
- Pfc. A. A. Munoz
- Pfc. E. M. Nickel
- Pvt. D. R. Nino
- Pvt. J. M. Oates
- Pvt. L. B. Oliver
- Pvt. R. A. Padilla Jr.
- Pvt. S. E. Parsons
- Pvt. C. Penaloza
- Pvt. X. Pha
- Pvt. G. L. Pickard V
- Pvt. M. B. Rainoshek
- Pfc. R. Ramirez III
- Pvt. L. C. Ramirez Jr.
- Pfc. F. D. Requesnes
- Pvt. K. L. Rice
- Pfc. J. P. Rodriguez Jr.
- Pvt. R. A. Rodriguez
- Pvt. S. Rodriguez
- Pvt. A. A. Rubino
- Pvt. A. D. Russell
- Pvt. N. M. Salazar
- Pvt. I. N. Salazar-Reyes
- Pfc. V. R. Santiago Jr.
- Pfc. D. Santos
- Pvt. A. A. Scaglione
- Pfc. T. C. Schaefer
- Pvt. A. R. Schuler
- Pvt. C. W. Schwanke
- Pfc. M. D. Sherland
- Pvt. R. D. Shotts
- Pfc. H. N. Slife
- Pvt. T. D. Smith
- Pvt. D. E. Spriggs
- Pvt. L. A. Sutherland
- Pfc. J. D. Tabor
- Pvt. E. Taupule
- Pvt. J. Taylor II
- Pvt. D. M. Tokar
- Pfc. J. B. Tozer
- Pvt. A. Uribe III
- *Pfc. B. J. Valdez
- Pfc. R. Valencia
- Pvt. J. M. Valerin
- Pfc. B. Villarreal
- *Pfc. Z. D. Waldron
- Pvt. B. J. Walsh
- Pfc. J. D. Washington
- Pvt. B. K. Weber
- *Pfc. K. Xiong

Combat Conditioning Exercise pushes recruits past known limits



Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez

A recruit of Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion strikes a padded bag with a roundhouse kick during the Combat Conditioning Exercise aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego June 27.

BY CPL. MATHEUS J. HERNANDEZ
Chevron staff

Recruits of Company B war cried as they moved from one obstacle to another during the Combat Conditioning Exercise aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego June 27.

The CCX incorporates Marine Corps Martial Arts techniques and is designed to test recruits on their ability to perform while fighting through exhaustion.

"The Combat Conditioning Exercise helps condition their body for combat," said Staff Sgt. Bryan S. Rivas, chief drill instructor, lead series, Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion. "It forces them to push themselves past known limits."

The course consists of 10 exercises, with 10 transitional exercises such as low crawling, fireman carries and buddy drags in between each one.

Recruits performed multiple standing and ground MCMAP techniques that tested their proficiency in the movements.

"It physically exhausts them and makes them tired," said Sgt. Joseph J. Fields, drill instructor, Instructional Training Company, Support Battalion. "We give them simple instructions while they're exhausted to see if they're capable of doing it. We want to see if they're going to be able to perform."

Drill instructors motivated recruits as they

completed one exercise after another, pushing them to their limits, and encouraging them to fight through fatigue, according to Rivas.

"It's motivating when the drill instructors are yelling at us... It gives us more incentive to push even harder," said Andrew M. Aguilar, guide, Plt. 1021. "When you hear them yell, it makes (recruits) want to be as loud as them if not louder. They make you give that 150 percent to work even harder."

The recruits enjoyed how team-oriented the course was and felt a sense of accomplishment when they completed it, according to Eli C. Gail, guide, Plt. 1022.

"We all enjoy working together as a team and building the brotherhood we have in our platoon," said Gail. "They get in that

mindset to move and act as one. If one recruit goes down, everyone else has to pick that recruit up to keep moving forward."

Although the CCX took place in the third week of training for recruits out of the twelve week training schedule, it proved to test them both mentally and physically, said Aguilar.

"The drill instructors have been through the same training we're going through," said Aguilar. "They were in our shoes once, so they know what it's like and how to push us."

Although Co. B is far from graduating, they completed the CCX with a sense of accomplishment. After testing their ability to fight past limitations and gaining tools they need to prepare for combat, recruits moved one step closer to earning the title United States Marine.



Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez

Recruits of Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, bury their elbows into padded bags as other recruits fight to lift their weight during the Combat Conditioning Exercise aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego June 27. Ground elbows was one of ten exercises recruits had to face that challenged them mentally and physically.



Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez

Staff Sgt. Brian Reza, drill instructor, Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, provides guidance and encouragement from one exercise to another during the Combat Conditioning Exercise aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego June 27. Drill instructors motivated recruits during the CCX, pushing them past their limitations, testing them both mentally and physically.