



Obstacles lead way to success

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MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO

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“WHERE MARINES ARE MADE”

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Co. H shows improvement in final PFT



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

BY LANCE CPL. BRIDGET M. KEANE
Chevron staff

Recruits of Company H, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, ran their final physical fitness test aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Dec. 27.

The PFT is an annual training event that Marines must complete once a year and is a graduation requirement for recruits.

“The PFT is designed to test physical fitness. It tests their agility, strength and endurance,” said Staff Sgt. David Jimenez, chief drill instructor, Co. H, 2nd RTBn. “Everything in recruit training prepares them for the fleet and (the PFT) is an important training event.”

A PFT is a combination of a timed three-mile run, a maximum set of timed crunches and a maximum set of pull-ups. Each recruit is expected to push themselves to receive a high score, explained Jimenez.

“(Drill instructors) try to express how important it is to get high scores on annual training requirements,” said Jimenez. “High PFTs can lead to promo-

Recruits of Company H, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, push themselves through the last stretch of their timed three-mile run during the final physical fitness test aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Dec. 27. The PFT tests recruit's strength and endurance and is a requirement for graduation.

see PFT ▶ 2

Fraternization class prepares recruits for future fleet duties

BY CPL. LIZ GLEASON
Chevron staff

Fraternization policies have existed in the military to maintain good order and discipline. However, not all recruits arrive at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego with an understanding of what that entails. Recruits of Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, attended a class on fraternization taught by their

series commander, during recruit training Jan. 4.

“I heard about fraternization but never really understood it,” said Recruit Samuel Rivera, Platoon 1010, Co. A, 1st RTBn. “Today we learned what fraternization is in depth, what it means in the Marine Corps and that it's not allowed.”

Fraternization is when Marines of different ranks or positions engage in an improper

personal, social or business relationship. Fraternization encompasses various mixed-grade activities to include: hanging out together off duty, dating or engaging in sexual activities, engaging in commercial transactions, except for one-time sales, betting or loaning money, showing favoritism or partiality in the work place, sending inappropriate emails and using one's authority over a subordinate for personal gain, according to Marine Corps Manual 1100.4.

During the class, recruits are not only taught from text but they hear examples of what constitutes fraternization to clarify the rules for a better understanding.

“Fraternization is bad because it undermines the chain of command,” said Recruit Christopher Hobleman, Plt. 1009, Co. A, 1st RTBn. “For example, if there is a higher-ranking Marine showing favoritism to a lower-ranking Marine, it affects the workplace and other Marines.”

When fraternization exists, it adversely impacts good order and discipline and can threaten to

see CLASSROOM ▶ 6



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

Recruits of Company C, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, practice tan belt Marine Corps Martial Arts techniques aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Jan. 7. Recruits were given a MCMAP class focused on lower body strikes.

Recruits learn MCMAP hand-to-hand combat

BY CPL. WALTER D. MARINO II
Chevron staff

Like a vehicle assembly line, Recruits of Company C, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, worked smoothly in unison for a common goal. In one fluid motion recruits repeatedly kicked and punched at the air practicing Marine Corps Martial Arts Program techniques to get the various movements into muscle memory.

Drill instructors watched with a keen eye for discrepancies in their form. On-the-spot corrections were continuously made until it appeared all recruits could perform the kicks and counters properly.

MCMAP trains Marines in unarmed combat, weapons of opportunity, and rifle and bayonet techniques. The program also stresses mental and character development.

see MCMAP ▶ 2



Cpl. Liz Gleason

Recruits of Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, listen attentively during a class on fraternization in recruit training aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Jan. 4.



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Sgt. Bryan J. Craddock, drill instructor, Company H, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, watches as recruits perform a maximum set of crunches in a time limit of two minutes during their final physical fitness test aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Dec. 27.

PFT ◀ 1

tions and put you ahead of your peers.”

In the first phase of recruit training, recruits run an initial PFT. Depending on their performance, recruits are able to recognize and focus on their weaknesses.

Co. H endured vigorous training that help build them mentally and physically and prepared them for other annual events such as the combat fitness test and PFT.

Before they ran their final PFT, recruits ran an inventory PFT, which allowed them to see where they stood physically, explained Jimenez.

“A lot of recruits noticed a difference in their performance from when they ran their first PFT,” said Jimenez. “This gives them a gauge to see how much more (effort) they need to put forth.”

The final PFT began with pull-ups. Each recruit mounted a bar and did as many pull-ups as they could. After each

recruit recorded the amount done, they lined up at the starting line for the timed three-mile run.

Each recruit’s run time was yelled out to them as they crossed the finish line. Once they cooled down, they performed as many crunches as they could for two minutes.

Throughout the PFT, drill instructors encouraged their recruits to give 100 percent.

As recruits finished and recorded their scores, most of them were surprised by their improvement.

“I barely passed my initial PFT,” explained Pfc. Derek Lamiroult, Platoon 2171, Co. H, 2nd RTBn. “I only completed five pull-ups, 50 crunches and ran 24 minute three-mile.”

Lamiroult’s motivation to improve was the desire to finish first and not be last in any event. He pushed himself through each event and began to see improvement in his physical abilities.

“I’m proud of my progress,” said Lamiroult. “I spent my time pushing myself and saw an improvement in all three categories, mainly my run time which was 21 minutes.”

The final PFT gives recruits a sense of their physical accomplishments as they reach the end of training.

“I’ve seen a big improvement in this series, from recruits doing less than seven pull-ups to them being able to complete 20. It really shows that they pushed themselves so they can improve,” said Jimenez.

With a new sense of accomplishment and confidence in their physical fitness, Co. H endured their final challenge: a 54-hour field training exercise, the Crucible. They received their Eagle, Globe and Anchor on top of the Reaper at Edson Range aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 3.

MCMAP ◀ 1

Over the course of recruit training, recruits are taught the basics of MCMAP and tested near the end of recruit training for certification of the MCMAP tan belt – the lowest belt attainable through the program.

Recruits of Co. C practiced lower body strikes Jan. 4, in order to work toward earning their tan belts. Approximately 27.5 hours of training and 47 moves are required to earn the tan belt. The hours and techniques are broken down into multiple sessions that focus on different categories.

There are similarities between MCMAP and other martial arts, but to think they are one and the same would be a mistake, according to Staff Sgt. Antonio J. Curry, drill instructor, Instructional Training Company, Support Bn.

“Everything we do in MCMAP is not for sport, it’s for combat-based scenarios,” said Curry, a brown belt MCMAP instructor. “A lot of people confuse MCMAP with sports fighting. Here we are learning to (kill) the enemy.”

Whether coming into recruit training never having been in a fight or as experienced as an amateur boxer, it appeared all recruits, no matter what level of fighting experience they had, grasped the value of hand-to-hand combat skills.

“I like being able to protect myself



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

Recruits of Company C, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, are given an example of Marine Corps Martial Arts techniques by their drill instructors aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Jan. 7. Recruits were then required to practice the various techniques displayed.

in any situation. I’ve seen fights where people didn’t know what they were doing and got beat up pretty bad,” said Recruit Michael R. Massaglia, Platoon 1051, Co. C, 1st RTBn. “I think knowing MCMAP in a combat zone can determine life or death. I think in a combat zone anything can happen and you have to be prepared for that.”

While most recruits only mentioned the immediate impact MCMAP would have in a combat scenario, some recruits realized different situations in which MCMAP would help, which hit closer to

home.

“There could be a situation in Afghanistan where I run out of ammunition,” said Recruit Jorge J. Perez, Plt. 3217, Co. C, 1st RTBn. “But MCMAP could also help if someone was trying to hurt my family.”

The recruits finished their session with another round of lower body strikes that included knee strikes and front kicks. While this was only a piece of tan belt training, it was a step in sharpening hand-to-hand combat skills.

BRIEFS

Parking lot closure

The following parking lots will be closed for stripping on the dates cited. All vehicles should be removed.

- Between buildings 13 and 14 - Jan. 9 (Family Service Center/ Phillips Hall Fitness Center)
- Bowling Alley - Jan. 14 (Building 590 Recreation Center/ Bowling/ Locker Room)
- Samoa street side of building 12 - Jan. 16 (Legal Services)

For information, call Robert Halvorson at (619) 524-5653.

Tickets and Tours

For all skiing enthusiast, the MCCS/MCRD San Diego Tickets and Tours Office on the Main Exchange Mall now has information and lift tickets available for Mammoth Mountain and Big Bear Mountain Ski Areas.

The Mammoth Mountain lift tickets are sold for weekday and weekend use, and are priced in accordance with the age of the skier. The tickets are valid from Monday until April 21 (with some blackout dates).

The Big Bear Mountain tickets are more restrictive but are available through Feb. 18.

For dates, prices, restrictions, etc., visit the Ticket and Tours Office, call (619) 725-6364, or see <http://www.mccsmcrd.com/ITT>.

Postal hours changed

The Military Post Office new hours of operation. Beginning immediately, the new hours of operation will be from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday. Wednesday hours are 7:30 a.m. until noon.

Civilian post office hours have not changed.

For more information, contact Postal at (619) 524-5775.

Lifelong Learning Education Center

Those interested in earning academic credit, getting a better job, making more money, military or career advancement and a more successful future should come to the Lifelong Learning Education Center, building 111, on Jan. 16, for a presentation by the representative of the United Services Military Apprenticeship Program.

The presentation from 8 to 9 a.m., is being held in Classroom Alpha. For additional information or to reserve a seat call (619) 524-8158 or 1275.

Information is also available at <http://www.mccsmcrd.com/>.

Golf outing

MCRD and Semper Fit is hosting a Golf Tournament Jan. 23 at 10:30 a.m.

The tourney is in a Scramble format with four-person teams. Cost is \$45 per person and includes 18 holes of golf, cart and food after tournament.

To register, stop by the Semper Fit Division, building 5w (2nd Deck) (Cash or check due upon sign-up).

For more information, check out the event on Facebook: <http://on.fb.me/YU9hq6> or at http://www.mccsmcrd.com/SemperFit/2013_golf_outing/index.

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 your thoughts regarding the recent changes to the female PFT?"



"With the changes that are about to be made, it will give females an opportunity to be seen as equal and as strong as males." Sgt. Jose Castellon, combat camera, Service Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion



"It will distinguish which female Marines are really qualified and bring more competition to the table." Cpl. Spshelle Mensah, administrative clerk, Service Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion



"I like it, it's equal opportunity. It'll be better for our fitness and it's a good way to challenge (females)." Lance Cpl. Evelyn Valdes, warehouse clerk, Service Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion



Cpl. Gabby Bustos

A drill instructor from Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego instructs players of the Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl East Coast Team of what he expects from them during the players' first practice on Dec. 31, 2012 at Fullerton College in Fullerton, Calif. The Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl is the second annual event of its kind and serves as a tool for Marines to pass on their core values to the nation's top high school football athletes. The Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl was nationally televised live on the NFL Network from the Home Depot Center in Carson, Calif.

East Defeats West in Semper Fi Bowl

BY LANCE CPL. DAVID BESSEY
MCRD Paris Island

More than 100 student athletes from across the United States can now call themselves Semper Fidelis All-Americans, and a few now claim the title of champions. The East defeated West in a 17 to 14 showdown of discipline, talent and teamwork at the second-annual Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl in Carson, Calif., Jan. 4.

The Marine Corps' annual football bowl game brought together some of the most talented high school student-athletes from across the United States who had demonstrated success on and off the field.

"It feels good that the nation's top 100 players are here. I like how it's not just about football but the classroom and character too. It's just an honor that I was chosen," said Corey Cooper, a wide receiver for the East Team and a student of Millbrook High School in Raleigh, N.C.

After a painstaking selection process and high intensity training, the players can look back with their heads held high with pride in the New Year.

The bowl is the culmination of a series of youth football camps and a nationwide All-American player selection tour that celebrates academic excellence, proven physical fitness and quality of character. The players -- among the most talented in the nation -- have achieved academic excellence and are leaders in their communities.

Players began to arrive in Anaheim, Calif., Dec. 29, and spent the next four days practicing with top college

and high school coaches from their respective coasts. Marines added a unique twist to practice by integrating Marine Corps drill instructors and officers as mentors.

Throughout bowl week, Marines and coaches engaged with players to develop skills and values important to both football and a successful life.

"As Marines, we are here to reinforce our core values of honor, courage and commitment," said Staff Sgt. Chris MacVarish, a drill instructor with Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. "We demonstrated our values' relevance to success both on and off the field."

In keeping with the Marine Corps' commitment to "return quality citizens," players volunteered their time with local youth in Carson and Long Beach, Calif. Marine drill instructors and players guided children aged seven to 13 through football and Marine inspired games and events like pass drills, tug-of-war and marching.

Each event was designed to better teach the players about the Marine Corps' core values and show that, while Marines are deployed around the world, home is where their commitment begins.

Heath Evans, honorary Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl coach and retired NFL Super Bowl winner, stressed to players the importance of a commitment beyond the field saying, "The true leaders are the ones who give back." He continued to mentor the players throughout the week.

"Your legacy will be determined by your success not only as a football player," he said, "but by your character as a role model in the community."

A commitment to leadership and community does not go without recognition. Major Gen. Joseph L. Osterman, former commanding general for Marine Corps Recruiting Command, presented two All-Americans with Excellence in Leadership awards during the Semper Fidelis Bowl banquet Jan. 3.

Coaches nominated players from each team who demonstrated leadership in their daily lives and embodied the Corps' values of honor, courage and commitment.

This year, Marine officials selected San Diego native Darren Carrington and Miami resident Ahmad Thomas.

"These two young men really stood out," said Osterman. "I'm proud to see this caliber of athlete out here."

Their journey to the bowl has been one of strenuous practices, community building and team bonding.

"Selflessness is the key ingredient and that's the one thing these kids have got thrown in their faces this week," said Evans. "Selflessness and the lack of the 'I focus'."

The bowl provided an opportunity for Marines to connect on a personal level with the players and their influencers. In doing so, they reinforced how the Marines' core values of honor, courage and commitment relate to success on and off the field.

"You're successful anytime you get in front of young men and teach them the Marine Corps' core values," said Evans. "The key ingredient on any team is a sound discipline structure. All those little details of discipline, if those kids take that out of this week, they're much better young men."

CHEVRON

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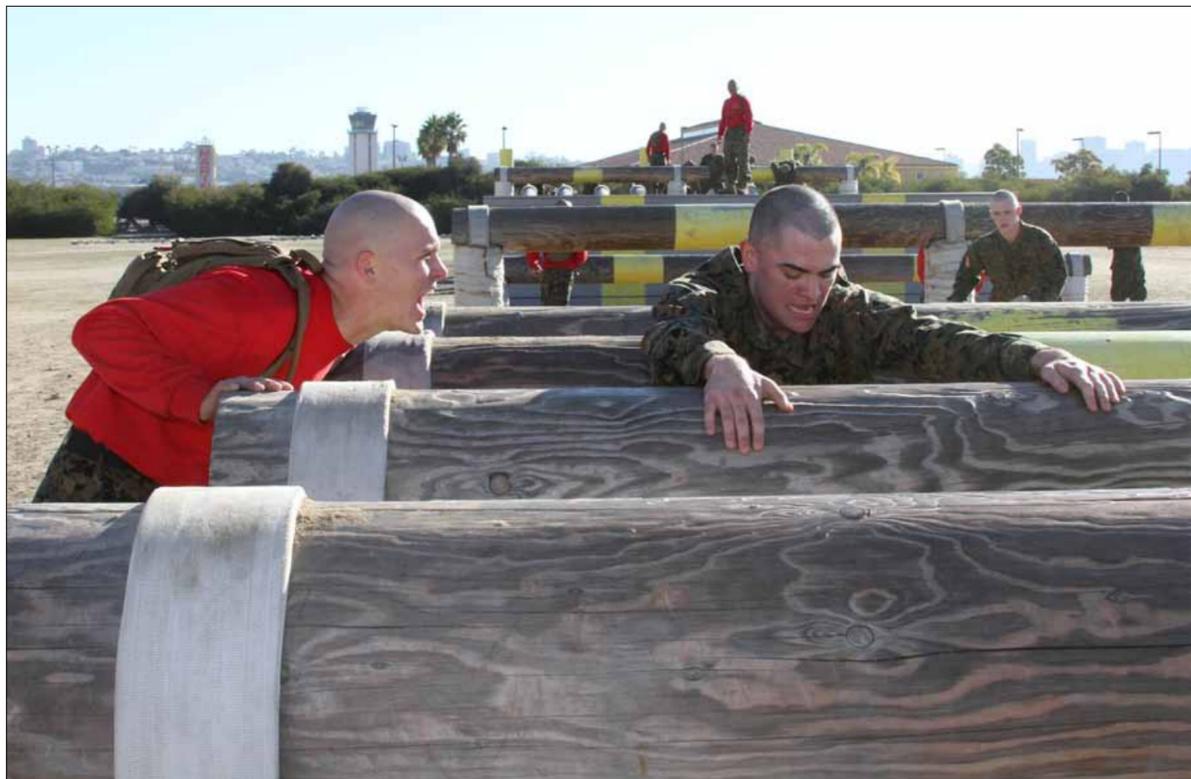
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Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Sgt. Shawn M. Donovan, drill instructor, Company C, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, encourages a recruit to push through to the end of the obstacle course aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Jan. 3. The o-course is designed to physically and mentally exhaust recruits while teaching them certain techniques to overcome each obstacle.



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

A recruit of Company C, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, struggles to climb over the first bar during the obstacle course aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Jan. 3. Recruits learn about their strengths and weaknesses as they push themselves through each obstacle.



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Company C recruits pull themselves up and over a bar near the end of the depot's obstacle course Jan. 3. The o-course tests recruits by mentally and physically pushing them to their limits.

Depot obstacle course challenges Company C

BY LANCE CPL. BRIDGET M. KEANE
Chevron staff

Recruit training is a place where recruits come to challenge themselves both mentally and physically, and the obstacle course aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego has put many of them to the test.

Recruits of Company C, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, went through the obstacle course for their second time aboard MCRD San Diego Jan. 3.

Recruits complete an obstacle course, known as the o-course, in each phase of recruit training. The course focuses on building upper-body strength and using different techniques to maneuver through it. Recruits climb over a series of elevated walls, logs and bars and are forced to use their last bit of strength to climb a rope at the end.

"Most recruits are excited about a new challenge when they are introduced to the o-course," said Sgt. Nicholas DeSimone, drill instructor, Platoon 1049, Co. C, 1st RTBn. "It might not be too intimidating to look at, but sometimes it's harder for some recruits than they think."

Through the o-course, recruits learn their physical strengths and weaknesses as well as how to push themselves mentally through exhaustion.

"They already know what to expect from the first time they went through. This time they should be able to know where to put forth more effort," explained DeSimone.

Recruits ran in place at the beginning, waiting their turn to challenge the course and watched as others attempted to overcome the first obstacle.

As recruits hurled themselves over logs and pulled themselves over bars, drill instructors made sure to tell recruits to keep a low profile as they climbed over obstacles.

"The training done on the o-course can be applied to certain combat situations," said Recruit Erik Joaquin, Plt. 1049, Co. C, 1st RTBn. "That is why (the drill instructors) keep telling us to move quick and keep a low profile when we're going over the walls."

Once the recruits have gone through the course twice, they are then instructed to climb the rope. They must dig deep and use whatever strength they have left to pull themselves to the top of the towering ropes.

"This is probably where recruits struggle the most. By this time, they're so worn out from the course it makes it difficult to climb the rope," said DeSimone.

"They use all their strength trying to finish as fast as they can; this is when they have to use their mental strength to continue."

As they reach the top of the rope, recruits yell out their name, platoon number and senior drill instructor's name before they slowly slide back down to the wood chip-covered surface.

Although they're exhausted, the recruits can feel satisfied that they learned a little more about their bodies and their limits.

"I feel that through the o-course, you can learn how to move flawlessly through obstacles," explained Joaquin. "If you don't focus, you'll end up rushing through, looking clumsy and probably end up falling."

While they learn certain techniques, each recruit also gains confidence as they overcome their own personal challenges throughout the course.

"Since I'm shorter, I had difficulty getting over the tallest log," said Joaquin. "But I kept telling myself to push through and finish."

Whatever obstacles Co. C faced and mastered on the o-course, they walked away with more knowledge and confidence in their abilities, which is an important trait instilled in as they get closer to becoming Marines.



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Recruits of Company C, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, pull themselves up the rope at the end of the obstacle course aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Jan. 3. The exhausted recruits are forced to climb a rope after going through the course twice, which focuses on building upper-body strength.



Lance Cpl. Pedro Cardenas

Sgt. Luckner L. Desma, drill instructor, Platoon 2169, Company H, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion looks on beside the Drill Instructor statue aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Dec. 27. Desma's tour as a drill instructor will end once recruits of Co. H graduate recruit training, making them his last cycle.

Drill Instructor fulfills purpose in Corps

BY LANCE CPL. PEDRO
CARDENAS
Chevron staff

Drill instructors have the responsibility to ensure recruits are physically and mentally trained to bear the title "Marine." This is a daily routine for drill instructors aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, from the early-morning dawn to late-night sunset. For drill instructors, this cycle lasts 12 weeks at a time.

One of the many Marines responsible for molding civilians into Marines is Sgt. Luckner L. Desma, drill instructor, Platoon 2169, Company H, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion.

Desma recalls his experience as a recruit when he first stood on the famous yellow foot prints eight years ago. His lifestyle changed when the barber shaved his head as is customary for all male recruits. He remembers marching to the sound of his own drill instructor's cadence from one place to another. For the Port-au-Prince, Haiti native, these memories aren't just moments he reminisces about, but are moments he re-lives daily—this time as a drill instructor.

"I hated drill in recruit training," said Desma. "Now I'm teaching it."

Desma's day starts quick and early from the moment reveille is

sounded.

"It's harder than teaching a baby how to walk," said Desma. "You can't teach them something once. Half of the platoon gets it and the other doesn't."

The secret to teaching recruits is repetition, according to Desma. His methods are paying off with dividends.

During his three years as a drill instructor, Desma's platoons have won several competitions including Final Drill, rifle range and the Combat Fitness Test. One of his teams also received the Band of Brothers Award which is given to the team of drill instructors who worked best collectively.

Working as a team allowed

Desma and other drill instructors within their platoons to win the Band of Brother award, said Sgt. Jeffrey R. Neely, drill instructor, Plt. 2169, Co. H, 2nd RTBn.

"All of us collectively working together with the recruits helped and made sure they performed when it was time to perform," said Neely.

Neely explained Desma is a perfectionist and that his push for perfection is another reason why his platoons are so successful.

"Sgt. Desma expects success from them and explains how to (achieve) that success," said Neely. "He constantly puts pressure on the recruits and

doesn't stop."

Neely explained Desma has taught his fellow drill instructors the importance of one very important skill for the job.

"I have learned more time management," said Neely. "We will pass on the knowledge from one drill instructor to another."

After completing six successful cycles as a drill instructor, Desma will be hanging up his campaign cover after Plt. 2169, his last cycle, graduates recruit training today.

"I would say becoming a drill instructor kind of gave me a purpose as a Marine," said Desma. "For me it's a major accomplishment. It's like the peak of a mountain."

CLASSROOM ◀ 1

degrade the status or positions the senior Marine holds. Fraternalism is not tolerated in the Marine Corps and there are clear consequences. Marines found guilty of fraternization can face dismissal, forfeiture of pay and confinement.

Marine Corps Manual 1100.4 sets rules for Marines in order to maintain good order, promote relationships of

mutual respect and confidence between juniors and senior Marines, and preserve the integrity of the chain of command. Recruits are taught guidelines to recognize, determine and deal with fraternization.

"If I were to see a Marine fraternizing, I would first approach the Marine, and if that didn't work I would take it up with my chain of command," said Hobleman, using his newly-gained knowledge.

Recruits arrive at the depot with a different understand-

ing of what to expect, but through the Marine recruit training curriculum they are given the tools to graduate, succeed and become good Marines, according to Hobleman.

"Before coming to recruit training I heard about the classes from other Marines, but I still thought it was going to be more physical than informative," said Hobleman. "Now I see that the Marine Corps is trying to make recruits into well-rounded Marines. It's important to be physically and mentally strong."

Maj. Gen. Steven W. Busby

Parade Reviewing Officer

Major General Steven W. Busby assumed the duties of Commanding General, Third Marine Aircraft Wing on August 10, 2012. Busby enlisted into the Marine Corps in 1979 and was commissioned through the Enlisted Commissioning Program in 1980.

Busby was designated a naval aviator in 1983. He was assigned to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University by the College Degree Program in 1985 and graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in

1987. Subsequent assignments include: quality assurance officer and assistant aircraft maintenance officer, H&HMS-32; operations officer and aircraft maintenance officer, Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron (VMGR)-152; executive officer, VMGR-252; assistant operations officer and air officer, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit; and assistant chief of staff operations, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

Busby commanded VMGR-352, Marine Aircraft Group 36 and Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force Unified Assistance in support of South Asia Tsunami Humanitarian Assistance Operations. He served as the senior advisor for Joint Experimentation

and Marine Corps matters in the office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Resources and Plans, as the Commandant's Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City, as the Executive Assistant for the Deputy Commandant for Aviation, and as the Director of the Joint Capabilities Assessment and Integration Division.

As a general officer, Busby has served as the deputy director, Force Management, Application and Support, Joint Staff J-8.

Busby is a graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He was presented the Alfred A. Cunningham Award as the Marine Corps' Aviator of the Year in 2001.

"Marines, I join all of your fellow Marines and families in offering my congratulations on earning the title, 'United States Marine.' You have tackled a challenge that few attempt and you have succeeded; and in the process you have already made a difference to your nation and to our Corps. I ask that you never forget the legacy of honor, courage and commitment left for you by your fellow Marines of years past and present, and that you attack each and every mission with the dedication and determination that is signified by the title 'Marine!' It is my great honor to serve

with each of you. Please take care of yourself and each other. Semper Fidelis and congratulations Marines!."





Platoon 2169 COMPANY HONOR MAN Lance Cpl. M. L. Barbosa Chino, Calif. Recruited by Staff Sgt. M. Tan
Platoon 2175 SERIES HONOR MAN Pfc. P. A. Del Rosa-Rio Cerritos, Calif. Recruited by Sgt. A. F. Cruz
Platoon 2170 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. A. O. Sandusky-Rios Dexter, Mo. Recruited by Staff Sgt. J. C. McLendon
Platoon 2171 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. J. F. Espinoza III Owasso, Ok. Recruited by Sgt. S. Lee Jr.
Platoon 2173 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. S. M. Max West Hanna, Ind. Recruited by Staff Sgt. M. Luna-Velasco
Platoon 2174 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. R. M. Kelly Houston Recruited by Staff Sgt. H. Nguyen
Platoon 2173 HIGH SHOOTER (334) Pvt. K. M. Martin Round Rock, Texas Marksmanship Instructor Cpl. R. E. Mersino
Platoon 2174 HIGH PFT (300) Pfc. H. F. Padilla Jr. Schertz, Texas. Recruited by Sgt. D. W. Collins Jr.



HONOR PLATOON

HOTEL COMPANY

2nd RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION



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COMPANY H
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Chief Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. D. J. Jimenez

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Senior Drill Instructor
Sgt. B. J. Craddock
Drill Instructors
Sgt. R. P. Bowen
Sgt. L. L. Desma
Sgt. J. R. Neely

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Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. L. L. Bernardo Jr.
Staff Sgt. F. D. Favors
Staff Sgt. M. Santamaria
Sgt. A. J. Kinney

PLATOON 2171
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Drill Instructors
Sgt. K. J. Bigness
Sgt. D. P. Farmer Jr.
Sgt. A. B. Lonchar
Sgt. Q. M. Steege

SERIES 2173
Series Commander
1st Lt. J. D. McLean
Chief Drill Instructor
Gunnery Sgt. T. A. D'Alesandro

PLATOON 2173
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. S. R. Blue
Drill Instructors
Sgt. G. I. Brown
Sgt. O. J. Garcia
Sgt. J. P. Ombao
Sgt. J. R. McIntosh

PLATOON 2174
Senior Drill Instructor
Sgt. L. Yuen
Drill Instructors
Sgt. N. C. Bohne
Sgt. J. Gomez
Sgt. G. A. Rodriguez

PLATOON 2175
Senior Drill Instructor
Gunnery Sgt. E. D. Jumawan
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. C. J. Gamez
Staff Sgt. N. Perez
Sgt. B. H. Kim

* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

PLATOON 2169
Pvt. J. B. Aguilar
Pfc. J. R. Anayagarcia
Pvt. J. L. Arroyo
Pvt. J. M. Barber
*Lance Cpl. M. L. Barbosa
Pvt. M. A. Barrios-Davila
Pvt. T. L. Bedwell
*Pfc. P. M. Bently
Pvt. B. M. Beza
Pvt. D. C. Bookout
Pfc. K. E. Bowen
Pvt. W. A. Bowman
Pfc. V. E. Bueno
Pfc. C. D. Caldwell
Pvt. S. A. Campbell
Pvt. B. A. Carmona
Pfc. C. W. Carpenter
Pvt. E. A. Castro
Pvt. R. P. Crouch
*Pfc. J. A. Davenport
*Pfc. C. Deanda
Pvt. E. D. Deedan
*Pfc. W. J. Delgado
Pvt. E. A. Doney
Pvt. J. A. Duran
Pvt. D. Estrada-Reyes
Pvt. A. P. Everhart
Pvt. D. L. Falk
Pvt. A. Garcia
Pfc. B. R. Gillming
Pvt. T. D. Garcia
Pvt. A. A. Gonzalez
Pvt. J. M. Herman
Pvt. S. A. Holter
Pvt. J. L. Hoy
Pfc. M. A. Jara
Pvt. J. A. Kolb
Pvt. G. Norment
Pfc. D. F. Peczuh
Pfc. E. Perez Jr.
Pvt. D. C. Perry
Pfc. F. A. Pitts
Pvt. J. M. Pohlbel
Pfc. M. T. Poulin
Pvt. A. A. Ramirez
Pvt. M. C. Ramirez
Pvt. G. Ramirez-Herrera
Pfc. M. A. Ramos
Pvt. M. J. Regan II
Pvt. C. A. Rhodes
Pvt. A. Rocha III
Pvt. J. A. Rodriguez
Pvt. D. S. Samonek
Pvt. D. A. Santoyo
Pvt. D. J. Seaman
Pvt. C. R. Shaw
Pfc. D. A. Smith II
Pfc. J. C. Smith
Pfc. J. A. Sowers
Pvt. D. A. Sparacino
Pfc. J. T. Stalcup
Pvt. B. B. Thom
Pvt. J. J. Valdillez
Pvt. J. Valladares
Pvt. C. P. Vancleave
Pvt. C. Vasquez
Pvt. A. B. Vin
*Pfc. M. A. Watson
Pfc. C. A. Weir

Pvt. R. J. Wheeler
Pvt. A. W. White
Pvt. B. A. Williams
*Pfc. J. J. Young

PLATOON 2170
Pvt. H. T. Anderson
Pvt. M. R. Arredondo
Pfc. A. L. Augustine
Pvt. M. R. Avanesyan
Pvt. I. Aviles
Pvt. G. Ayele
Pfc. A. Betancourt II
Pvt. J. B. Bridenbaugh
Pvt. D. J. Bruce
Pvt. M. J. Busby
Pvt. D. G. Campbell
Pvt. A. Cannizzaro
Pvt. J. K. Chapman
Pvt. J. I. Charley
Pvt. J. A. Chavez
Pvt. L. A. Cisneros
Pfc. J. A. Clifton
Pvt. C. M. Cochran
Pvt. E. Coria
Pvt. R. A. Deleon
Pvt. R. A. Droll
Pfc. J. Duong
Pvt. T. J. Edge
Pfc. B. L. Figures-Mormon
Pvt. J. M. Goodin
Pvt. J. P. Griffiths
*Pfc. J. T. Hammel
Pvt. C. D. Hancock
Pfc. M. L. Harkness
Pfc. R. G. Holdman
Pvt. D. T. Jenkins
Pvt. G. A. Jett Jr.
Pvt. C. L. Johnson
Pvt. J. M. Kaiser
Pvt. T. R. Leamon
Pfc. J. C. Martinez
Pvt. R. P. McCormick
Pfc. S. C. Nagel
Pfc. J. J. Nickerson
Pvt. K. M. O'Connor
Pvt. R. S. Oehler
Pvt. I. T. Ouellette
Pvt. R. N. Overton
Pvt. A. Pedraza-Castro
Pfc. S. M. Phork
Pvt. A. J. Pilskalns
*Pfc. F. O. Ramirez
*Pfc. J. R. Ramos
Pvt. J. R. Randel
Pvt. B. Rangel
Pvt. R. B. Rawls
Pvt. C. A. Reed
Pvt. S. E. Rendon
Pfc. D. W. Robb
Pfc. R. R. Rogers Jr.
Pvt. D. S. Rose
Pfc. D. A. Ruiz
*Pfc. V. A. Russell
*Pfc. A. O. Sandusky
*Pfc. B. J. Saunders
Pfc. C. A. Schriver
Pfc. M. A. Schulte
Pvt. G. P. Shoup
Pvt. M. A. Simmons
Pvt. M. A. Skatrud

Pvt. M. C. Sorenson
Pvt. B. E. Strother
Pvt. J. C. Summers
Pvt. J. S. Thongsamouth
Pvt. M. A. Valencia
Pvt. C. A. Watson
Pfc. J. M. Welsh
Pvt. C. J. Woodcock
Pfc. V. C. Xie
Pfc. R. M. Yoshimiya

PLATOON 2171
Pvt. M. Aguilar-Velazquez
Pvt. B. C. Ashton
Pvt. S. B. Banaay
Pfc. J. Bautista-Casas
Pfc. E. G. Bayless
Pvt. J. R. Biggs
Pvt. K. L. Bishop
Pvt. J. Bojado III
Pvt. C. B. Brockmann
Pfc. M. J. Brooms
Pvt. M. J. Brown
*Pfc. I. G. Buettner
Pfc. J. C. Burns
Pvt. C. L. Cantu
Pfc. M. L. Carbajal
Pvt. J. G. Castro
Pvt. A. A. Cervantes
*Pfc. N. E. Chamberlain
Pvt. R. G. Chavez
Pvt. K. J. Childers
Pfc. J. D. Clemens
Pvt. R. J. Click
Pvt. N. D. Closner
Pvt. J. M. Clutter
Pvt. B. E. Collins
Pfc. J. B. Constantino
Pvt. E. D. Cronkhite
Pfc. D. K. Davis-Franks
*Pfc. R. M. Davis-Tucker
Pfc. E. B. Delgado
Pvt. R. M. Derke
Pvt. R. A. Drake
Pvt. J. M. English
*Pfc. J. F. Espinoza III
Pvt. D. E. Farmilant
Pvt. K. K. Fitzpatrick
Pfc. D. M. Frost
Pvt. A. E. Gallardo
Pvt. A. D. Garboden
Pfc. S. C. Gerrard
Pvt. A. R. Gonzales
Pvt. J. L. Graham III
Pvt. R. A. Hallahan
Pfc. J. R. Hernandez
Pvt. D. L. Hladik
*Pfc. B. F. Hollins
Pfc. M. D. Hosley Jr.
Pfc. Z. Huang
Pvt. T. T. Huynh
Pvt. J. Isaac
*Pfc. Z. E. Kleindl
Pfc. D. C. Lamirout
Pvt. J. A. Lillis
Pvt. C. J. Lubrano
Pfc. M. D. MacKenzie
Pvt. I. M. Ratto
Pfc. G. J. Martinez-Ortiz
Pfc. E. J. McCafferty
Pvt. C. C. McNard

Pfc. C. L. Mitchell
Pfc. M. Q. Moench
Pfc. K. R. Newman
Pvt. M. A. Ostlund
Pfc. J. C. Parker
Pvt. D. J. Perez
Pvt. C. E. Ramirez
Pvt. S. M. Ruf Jr.
Pvt. G. M. Searcy
Pvt. J. J. Silva
Pvt. A. P. Smith
Pvt. J. A. Sparks
Pvt. C. T. Tate
Pfc. J. L. Tauanuu
Pvt. C. T. Taylor
Pfc. B. L. Thompson
Pvt. J. J. Timberson
Pfc. N. Tovar
Pvt. C. R. Trapp
Pvt. T. W. VanCamp
Pvt. P. V. Vielkind
Pvt. J. Villa

PLATOON 2173
Pvt. S. P. Budd
Pfc. A. Contreras
Pvt. R. L. Costales III
Pfc. L. D. Covey
Pvt. M. T. Crosby
*Pfc. A. De La Torre
Pvt. R. D. Doty
Pvt. I. J. Drawhorn
Pfc. A. B. Dutton
Pfc. J. W. Earwood
Pvt. B. W. English
Pvt. Z. C. Estrada
Pfc. J. K. Featherston
Pvt. G. J. Fennimore
Pfc. D. B. Gale
Pvt. D. A. Garcia
Pfc. R. Garcia
Pvt. M. L. Garrison
Pvt. A. D. Glasser
Pvt. W. K. Lo
Pfc. M. D. Lopez
*Pfc. J. M. Mapes
Pvt. J. W. Martin
Pvt. K. M. Martin
*Pfc. G. B. Mason
Pfc. S. M. Max
Pvt. D. R. McCrary
Pfc. J. W. McNair
Pvt. K. W. Mock Jr
Pvt. B. L. Moore
Pvt. E. M. Moreno
Pvt. C. T. Murphy
Pvt. D. S. Murphy
*Pfc. Z. D. Murphy
Pfc. M. S. Myers
Pvt. M. S. Nord
Pvt. T. J. Nutt
Pfc. A. K. Patgatan
Pvt. J. T. Pankala
Pvt. D. E. Payne
Pfc. A. M. Perez
Pvt. R. M. Prewitt
Pvt. M. A. Ramirez
Pfc. K. A. Rasmussen
Pvt. R. L. Ratto
Pvt. S. J. Reimann
Pvt. M. E. Reynolds
Pvt. R. Riojas

Pvt. P. M. Rios
Pfc. R. A. Rodriguez
Pvt. T. E. Rome II
*Pfc. L. P. Rouhselang
Pvt. M. A. Rubio
Pfc. V. Y. Salytkov
Pfc. N. K. Sardinha
Pvt. A. M. Sarvela
Pvt. B. S. Schmidt
Pvt. J. A. Schultz
Pvt. T. D. Schwenk
Pvt. A. S. Sherwood
Pvt. W. J. Shones
Pvt. A. Silva
Pfc. B. D. Simpson
Pfc. J. W. Slager
Pfc. M. S. Smart
Pvt. M. C. Sullivan
Pfc. C. D. Tallant
Pvt. J. S. Terry
Pvt. R. T. Thornton
Pvt. C. M. Tober
Pvt. J. M. Turner
Pvt. K. P. Vanflein
Pvt. P. M. Varwig
Pfc. A. J. Veches
*Pfc. R. I. Vega
Pvt. G. A. Veitch
Pvt. J. J. Weaver
Pvt. D. M. Williams
Pvt. C. A. Witkowski
Pvt. R. W. Wood Jr
Pvt. D. A. Woodson
Pfc. J. E. Wrenn
Pvt. A. R. Wyss

PLATOON 2174
Pvt. J. A. Benavidez
Pfc. B. Benitez-Castellanos
Pfc. R. Bernal Jr.
*Pfc. C. E. Bice
Pfc. D. Bolanos
Pvt. S. A. Brown
Pvt. J. Chang
Pvt. A. J. Clark
Pvt. T. D. Clotfelter
Pvt. K. A. Cutaia
Pvt. K. R. Delong
Pvt. A. G. Delphia
Pfc. E. E. Diaz
Pvt. R. J. Dick Jr.
Pvt. G. Dominguez
Pvt. D. E. Eaton
Pvt. M. A. Echavarria
Pvt. B. C. Eich
Pvt. J. R. Eldridge
Pvt. P. E. Ellingwood
Pvt. D. L. Epps
Pvt. A. K. Escajeda
*Pfc. B. L. Farris Jr.
Pvt. J. D. Fletcher
Pvt. A. Flores
Pvt. E. Gamez III
Pfc. D. T. Ghattas
Pfc. E. M. Gonzalez
Pfc. R. P. Govitz
Pvt. E. G. Gray
Pvt. L. C. Guerra II
Pvt. A. Gutierrez
Pvt. B. L. Haertling
*Pfc. C. W. Hanke

Pfc. Z. R. Haring
Pfc. J. P. Hernandez
Pvt. O. Hernandez
Pfc. M. J. Hewitt Jr.
Pvt. M. Z. Johnson
*Pfc. R. M. Kelly
Pvt. B. J. Kilgore
Pfc. H. K. Kim
Pvt. N. E. King
Pfc. J. W. Lee
Pfc. R. Longoria III
Pfc. J. A. Lopez
Pfc. S. E. Maack
Pvt. L. A. Maranon
Pfc. D. F. Martinez
Pvt. D. D. McKinney
Pvt. A. Menchaca Jr.
Pfc. J. J. Mendez
Pfc. J. L. Monk III
Pvt. D. M. Morris
Pfc. M. C. Mullett
Pvt. C. E. Neuenschwander
Pvt. T. S. Newland
Pvt. E. R. O'Brien
Pvt. L. P. O'Donnell
Pvt. J. M. Olson
*Pfc. H. F. Padilla Jr.
Pvt. M. R. Paredez
Pfc. D. R. Patterson
Pvt. C. P. Plevin
Pvt. M. D. Reed
Pvt. M. I. Rivero
Pfc. T. J. Russell
Pfc. M. A. Saavedra
*Pfc. E. R. Sanchez
Pvt. G. C. Seybold
Pvt. Z. T. Sigafus
Pfc. S. R. Starr
Pfc. L. D. Stevens
Pfc. J. Sweet
Pvt. D. A. Turner
Pvt. J. M. Vargas
Pvt. R. J. Vaughn
Pvt. N. C. Warren
Pfc. J. A. Webb
Pvt. W. E. Westhoff
Pvt. J. P. Wheeler
Pvt. L. K. Winchowky
Pfc. S. Yu
Pfc. D. A. Zemtsov

PLATOON 2175
Pvt. J. E. Acosta
Pfc. D. R. Ailey
Pvt. E. L. Albertson Jr.
Pfc. D. E. Altman
Pvt. Z. J. Ankenbauer
Pvt. J. A. Anthony
Pfc. D. I. Armon
*Pfc. A. Arnold
Pvt. A. Arredondo-Andrade
Pvt. J. A. Baird II
Pfc. B. J. Basler
Pvt. S. K. Bean
Pvt. M. G. Bollig
Pvt. D. T. Brock
Pvt. J. Calderon
Pfc. P. A. Delrosario
Pfc. L. E. Eggenberger
Pvt. P. W. Ekstrom

Pfc. D. A. Enns
Pvt. N. J. Favreau
Pvt. A. M. Fletcher
*Pfc. A. Flores III
Pvt. M. Fonseca
Pvt. A. J. Gallatin
Pvt. A. Galvez
Pfc. H. A. Garcia
Pvt. R. J. Garcia
Pvt. J. Garcia-Ramirez
Pvt. T. G. Gay
Pvt. D. Gaytan
Pfc. H. D. Glembin
Pvt. E. J. Glor
Pvt. Y. E. Gonzalez
Pvt. J. M. Gordon
Pvt. C. M. Griggs
Pvt. R. G. Hall
Pvt. A. Hernandez
Pvt. J. R. Hill
Pvt. D. J. Holt
Pfc. M. P. Jacobsen
Pfc. B. C. Jung
Pvt. W. G. Klinski
*Pfc. M. L. Knutson
Pfc. E. J. Koerner
Pvt. J. J. Lamore
Pvt. M. G. Lance
Pvt. M. I. Larios
Pvt. J. M. Ledesma
Pfc. B. S. Lee
Pvt. J. H. Lemeur
Pfc. N. J. Leonard-Starr
Pvt. B. O. Lopez
Pfc. B. L. Macy
Pvt. K. M. Mahler
Pvt. Y. Malyasin
Pvt. K. R. Marcus
Pfc. J. M. Mariani
Pvt. J. J. Martinez
Pfc. K. A. Maurer
Pfc. C. S. McLendon
Pfc. J. B. McCrory
Pvt. R. J. McKenna
*Pfc. D. T. McNary
Pvt. S. D. Medina III
Pfc. M. J. Mendillo
Pvt. A. Mendoza
Pfc. K. A. Miller
Pvt. A. B. Miranda
Pvt. C. Mitchell
Pvt. C. A. Montoya
Pvt. D. R. Moore
*Pfc. R. Morales III
Pfc. R. M. Moreno
Pvt. B. K. Morrow
Pfc. R. Munoz
*Pfc. C. A. Napanas
Pvt. G. D. Nelson
Pvt. M. S. Norman
Pfc. J. E. O'Hara
Pfc. J. P. Ortega
Pvt. D. Ortiz
Pvt. J. R. Parsons
Pvt. J. J. Patrick Jr.
Pfc. J. M. Redus
Pvt. J. D. Smith
Pvt. V. K. Solovyev
Pfc. M. A. Trevino
Pfc. J. S. Van Gundy
Pvt. K. J. Yeazle

Fear of heights not an option for recruits

BY CPL. WALTER D. MARINO II
Chevron staff

Sixty-feet may seem high to some recruits, but it's still 60 feet recruits are required to rappel and fast rope down from, regardless of their fears.

Recruits of Company M, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, learned how to rappel and fast rope down a 60-foot tower aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Jan. 7.

Rappelling is bounding off the side of a wall using a harness and fast roping is sliding straight down without one. Fast roping is a technique utilized in helicopters.

After recruits received a safety brief and were inspected for proper wear of equipment, recruits lined up the steps to the top of the Marine tower. Mixed faces showed the line, some recruits looked scared and some appeared excited.

"It's a bit scary to look at," said Recruit DeForrest B. Key, Platoon 3271, Co. M, 3rd RTBn. "I'm a little nervous; the

anticipation is hard. There's no coming back down though, you have to trust in yourself and each other."

Recruits wore helmets, gloves and were attached to a rope harness. The floor surrounding the tower is composed of shredded rubber and Marine drill instructors, who stood below and atop the tower to guide recruits and ensure their safety.

Still despite all the safety precautions and knowledge given to recruits, one thing remained the same, the wall was still 60-feet tall which appeared much taller for recruits afraid of heights.

There are always a few recruits who are terrified of the exercise but there is never a recruit who comes back down the stairs, explained Staff Sgt. Michael A. Miranda, drill instructor, Instructional Training Company, Support Bn.

"I've never had a recruit walk back down and not (rappel)," said Miranda, a static rope sustainment trainer. "It has to

do with walking them through the steps. No way, shape or form are we yelling on top of the tower. It's already stressful as is; we talk to them and let them know it's alright."

One by one recruits rappelled down and fast roped down the tower. Although some recruits struggled at times, no recruits quit the exercise.

The instructor's knowledge and guidance helped put recruits minds at ease, explained Recruit Wes Laughlin, Plt. 3271, Co. M, 3rd RTBn.

"I've done rock climbing, but it's nothing like rappelling," said Laughlin. "I'm still a little nervous though because I haven't done it before."

Approximately 217 recruits learned two different ways to scale down a 60-foot tower. Should the situation arise for either fast roping or rappelling, these recruits now have a foundation to work upon.



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

Recruits of Company M, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, rappel down a tower aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Jan. 4. Recruits wore helmets and gloves for their safety.



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

A recruit of Company M, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, begins to remove his equipment after fast roping down a tower aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Jan. 4. As part of their recruit training, recruits were required to fast rope and rappel down an approximately 60-foot tower.



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

Recruits of Company M, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, await their turn to rappel down a 60-foot tower aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Jan. 7. Recruits rappelled down the tower using the fast roping and rappelling technique.