



Recruits display obedience, discipline through drill

BY LANCE CPL. BRIDGET M. KEANE
Chevron staff

Recruits of Company F, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, eagerly waited for commands

from their unit leader during final drill aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego March 18.

Final drill is one of many events during recruit training that platoons participate in to

determine which will graduate honor platoon.

For recruits, competing in drill was an opportunity to prove to their drill instructors that the countless hours spent practicing on the parade deck was

worthwhile and that with every step they took in unity, they were closer to winning the trophy.

However, learning and performing drill means more than winning a trophy. It is used as a tool by drill instructors to

instill discipline, obedience and build camaraderie within the platoon.

From the moment recruits step foot aboard the depot, they are taught the fundamentals of drill. The basic drill movements let drill instructors move platoons from one place to another in a standard and organized manner, while teaching them to respond to orders without hesitation.

“Drill is a foundation of recruit training; it teaches discipline and instant willing obedience to orders,” said Sgt. Todd Talley, drill instructor, Platoon 2123, Co. F, 2nd RTBn. “It also builds camaraderie in the recruits by teaching them to work together.”

Camaraderie is the spirit of good-fellowship. Without it, units may fall apart because of the lack of cooperation.

According to Talley, a 25-year-old Baltimore native, the camaraderie instilled through drill teaches recruits how to work as a team and encourages them to police each other.

“They’ll not only correct each other when it comes to drill, but



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Sgt. Tyler D. Bartholomew, senior drill instructor, Platoon 2132, Company F, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, checks the alignment of his platoon during final drill aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego March 18. Drill is a tool used to instill discipline, obedience and to build camaraderie among the platoon.

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Drill Instructors introduce Co. M to self defense, hand-to-hand combat

BY CPL. WALTER D. MARINO II
Chevron staff

Early in training, recruits are taught the fundamentals of Marine Corps Martial Arts Program. That baseline of knowledge is added throughout recruit training and ultimately leads to recruits being tested on the skills and techniques they learned. If they pass, recruits then earn their tan belt.

On Training Day two, recruits of Company M, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, received their first lesson in MCMAP aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego March 13.

In their introduction, recruits

learned the importance of a proper stance, putting their weight behind strikes and how to throw various punches such as the lead hand punch.

After stretching, recruits spread out in formation and practiced throwing the lead hand punch until drill instructors felt everyone perfected the technique. Things such as their stance, hand position and bringing their hands back quickly to guard their face were all areas drill instructors looked at for proper form.

“At first they don’t grab (the movements), but when they do it gives (recruits) confidence,” said Staff Sgt. Luis P. Magana, drill

instructor, Plt. 3263, Co. M, 3rd RTBn.

Once recruits become Marines they will have the opportunity to increase their MCMAP level. Marines can advance their belts starting from gray, green, brown and then black belt; which is the highest belt to obtain. Each belt level includes additional techniques and knowledge. For example, gray belt introduces Marines to ground fighting.

Many drill instructors carry a deep passion for the program and continually increase their MCMAP knowledge in order to earn their black belt.

see MCMAP ▶ 2



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

Drill instructors of Company M, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, instruct recruits to use maximum effort and volume during their introduction to Marine Corps Martial Arts Program March 13.



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

Company E recruits receive information to better their decision making skills aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego March 25.

New resources available for Co. E

BY CPL. WALTER D. MARINO II
Chevron staff

When a Marine has a problem in the Corps, he has options. The two most prevalent resources are using the chain of command and requesting mast.

Recruits of Company E, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, were taught this during a problem solving class aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego March 25.

During the class, 1st Sgt. Patrick A. Botello, company first sergeant, Co. E, 2nd RTBn., described the purpose of both and how each scenario can be utilized.

A chain of command is a Marine’s leadership hierarchy. When dealing with a predicament, it is emphasized to ask for help starting with the

lower leadership first before speaking with higher authority. If a Marine feels their chain of command cannot assist with their situation, requesting mast is a means for Marines to communicate with their commanding officer. It provides Marines with an approved channel to air real or perceived grievances.

“The Marine Corps has more of an emphasis on problem solving at the lowest level because leadership exists on every level of the chain of command,” said Botello, a San Jose, Calif., native. “It’s crucial that they have a good working knowledge of this information. They (need to) understand they have a voice and their problem will be addressed and adjudicated.”

Botello also discussed

see SOLVE ▶ 2



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Staff Sgt. Michael J. Serritos, senior drill instructor, Platoon 2127, Company F, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, walks over to take his place near the front of the platoon while drill masters prepare to grade the next drill movement during final drill aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego March 18. Drill is a tool used by drill instructors to instill discipline and bearing.

DRILL ◀ 1

also for (uniform) inspections," said Talley.

Yet, like many challenges in recruit training, building camaraderie isn't easy. Recruits come from different walks of life and the tendency to butt heads is not uncommon.

"There is a lot of tension at first, but in the end, (drill) brings us together because we are working for a common cause," said Pfc. Brandon Blair, Plt. 2123, Co. F, 2nd

RTBn.

In drill, recruits are no longer individuals. They have to work together and move as one, explained Blair, a 19-year-old Casey, Ill., native.

"The change was dramatic; we went from not being able to stay in step to being able to close our eyes, listen to each other's heels and stay in step," said Blair.

The camaraderie built through hours spent drilling gave each recruit confidence, not only in themselves but in their fellow

recruits. They are able to comprehend every movement and trust that each recruit would be able to execute the move correctly, explained Talley.

"(Drill) is something that they've all been working hard for," said Talley. "They've been talking about it a lot."

Regardless of which platoon walked away with honor platoon, the recruits of Co. F displayed confidence and ability to work together as a team, traits that every Marine should possess.

SOLVE ◀ 1

the importance of behaving like a Marine. Recruits were given hypothetical scenarios and were able to discuss if the Marine in his scenario acted appropriate or inappropriate.

While most of the scenarios were clear cut and easily answered, it reminded recruits many problems can be avoided by simply acting professional.

"It was informative. I learned that there are formally laid out steps to problem solving in the Marine Corps and you don't have to figure them out on your own," said Recruit Joshua R. Holden, Plt. 2101, Co. E, 2nd RTBn. "Regardless of your rank, you have the right to talk to your commanding officer. I feel secure knowing there is a system in place for Marines who have issues."

While many recruits agreed that all of their problems in recruit training have been solved by their senior drill instructors, they

explained it is comfortable knowing that resources are available.

"My dad has health issues and should something happen I know my chain of command would take care of me," said Recruit Cole R. Bennick, Plt. 2101, Co. E, 2nd RTBn.

Whether recruit or Marine, it appears both have an appreciation and belief in the Marine Corps' problem solving methods.

"This system has been in place since I was a junior Marine and it's always worked to the benefit of the service member when encountering various personal and professional issues," said Botello. "This class is definitely in the top five of classes received (in recruit training). They're given a brief early on, but this class further explains so they can understand their rights as future Marines."



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

1st Sgt. Patrick A. Botello, company first sergeant, Company E, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, gives recruits a class on decision making March 25.

MCMAP ◀ 1

"The more knowledge we have, the more knowledge we can pass on," said Magana, a black belt instructor.

Magana explained it is also every Marine's responsibility to make themselves available to others who wish to learn.

Co. M recruits soaked up all the facts, techniques and instructions like sponges. Some recruits of smaller stature, however, had specific reasons why they were intently following the MCMAP lesson.

At approximately five feet two inches, Recruit Mitchell E. Parks, Plt. 3266, Co. M, is likely the smallest recruit in his company.

Prior to recruit training Parks said he was attacked by two men much bigger than himself.

"Some of what I've learned could have helped me defend myself," said Parks. "Especially the part about pivot-

ing your back foot to throw weight into your punches for more power. I didn't know about that."

Parks explained that prior to recruit training he had no experience in any form of martial arts.

At the end of his first MCMAP lesson, Parks and his fellow recruits learned the basic warrior stance, angles of movement, upper body strikes and other various valuable pieces of information such as the importance of not telegraphing your punches.

Violent situations are not limited to combat environments. Instances such as Parker's are everyday occurrences in the world. However with the recruits' new techniques in MCMAP, they now have skills applicable to a combat situation or self defense.



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

A Company M recruit practices his punches during a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program class March 13.

BRIEFS

Transportation Incentive Program changes

According to Cpl. Richard R. Aquila, MCRDSD Finance Office, regulations for the Transportation Incentive Program (the program subsidizes the purchase of passes for those using public transportation to and from work) have changed. New applicants, or those persons currently enrolled and seeking to make a change, must submit substantiating documents verifying transportation cost.

Applications without substantiation will be rejected.

For additional information call Cpl. Morgan, Sgt. Agyeman, or Cpl. Aquila at (619) 524-1721.

Tax service open

The tax service trailer is located between the Main Exchange (Building 11), and Starbucks (Building 10).

The service is open Tuesdays through Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Call (619) 725-6396 for an appointment, or stop by the trailer.

Padres Opening Day

Join members of the Single Marine Program for opening day at Petco Park April 9, to watch the Padres vs the Dodgers on Opening Day.

The group will depart the depot at noon to take the trolley downtown.

Lunch prior to the game (start time is 3:40 p.m.).

Cost is \$5 and includes trolley and park pass for game. Sign-up and pay by 8 April. Space is limited.

For more information contact Josh Davis at davisjp@usmc-mccs.org, or via telephone at (619) 524-8240.

April Dinner Dance

The Bayview Restaurant holds a Friday night dinner buffet and dance April 12.

Dine where breathtaking bay views, stunning sunsets, and an exquisitely prepared dinner meet the Tango, Swing, Fox Trot and other favorites provided by the Credit-Union Band. It's all set within the intimate atmosphere of the Bayview's large hardwood floor ballroom.

Dinner Buffet is served from 5 to 7 p.m. Dancing begins at 6 and continues to 9 p.m.

Cost is \$23.95 per person.

For more information, call Melanie DeCosta at (619) 725-6388

Financial Brown Bag Lunch Seminar

A seminar, "Raising a Money Smart Child - a Parent's Guide," will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., April 19 at the Personal and Professional Development Classroom, Building 14. Those wishing to attend must register at (619) 524-5728.

Light snacks and beverages will be provided free of charge, but those attending are welcome to bring their own lunch.

For more information contact Michael McIsaac at PFM at (619) 524-1204.

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: "Which two teams do you think will be in the NCAA finals?"



"I think Louisville and Michigan will end up in the final, and that Louisville will pull it out. It will probably be a really good game."

Craig Hunnewell, Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Protections Officer, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego



"Louisville and Florida. I have a gut instinct that Louisville wins it all." *Lance Cpl. Fernando E. Miranda, separations clerk, Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion*



"I want to see Syracuse and Ohio State. Syracuse is a fourth seed and they have that hunger, that motivation." *Cpl. Larente A. Hamlin, finance non-commissioned officer, Service Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion*

Unbroken bonds reunite aboard the depot

BY CPL. MATHEUS J. HERNANDEZ
Chevron staff

On March 11, 2011, Japan experienced one of the deadliest natural disasters in history. An earthquake and subsequent tsunami, now known as the Great East Japan Earthquake, struck the island of Honshu claiming tens of thousands of lives. Immediately following the horrific tragedy was the U.S. Marine Corps responding as the disaster relief in Operation Tomodachi.

More than two years later, Japanese high school students from Kesennuma High School from Oshima, Japan, visited Marines and sailors who participated in the operation for an opportunity to thank them aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego March 26.

"I regretted not being able to thank the (Marines) then, because I couldn't speak English really well," said Mami Onodera, the 17-year-old, Oshima, native. "I couldn't express my feelings how thankful I felt. When the school announced the program to send students here, I immediately thought this is the time when I can personally go and thank them."

The students were given a tour of the depot's Command Museum and provided lunch, accompanied by service members. Also joining the students was the Honorary Consul General of Japan in San Diego, and members of the Japan Society, the leading U.S. organization committed to deepening mutual understanding between the U.S. and Japan.

Onodera, who was one of

the many children greatly affected by the disaster, recalled her experience like many others including the Marines that helped with the recovery.

"It was just pure devastation," said Master Sgt. Howard J. Tait, operations chief, S-3, Recruit Training Regiment. "It's kind of hard to put a word on it. It was just total destruction and there didn't appear to be anything really salvageable."

During the visit aboard the depot, Tait, who was the operations chief for Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, had the opportunity to speak to the students. As he spoke about his experience in Oshima, he also showed ribbons that were given to him as they departed from their humanitarian mission.

"The last day we were there they brought out all kinds of media, children and people just to say thanks," said Tait, a Victorville, Calif., native. "They started pulling out all these ribbons and as we held one side, and they held the other, we stretched it across."

It is tradition in Oshima for locals to split a ribbon between themselves and visitors as they leave the island, creating a friendship bond.

"It signified an unbroken bond between us," said Tait. "No matter what seas or oceans that separated us, we would still remain friends for the help that we did there."

Even though it seemed like an insignificant amount of time we were there for the amount of destruction there was, it was just their way of saying thanks."

Many of the students were overwhelmed by the

memento Tait had kept and were truly touched by it. None of the visitors had ever seen someone keep the ribbon as an emotional token.

"It let them know that we cherished the smallest thing that they gave to us as a thank you," said Tait. "In the sheer face of utter destruction of everything that they own, they were still able to muster the energy and time to come out, stand on a cold dock, say thank you and wave goodbye."

Their visit aboard the depot is another display

of the endless amount of gratitude there is from both sides of the Pacific. Many believe the support service members provided created an everlasting impact on the citizens of Japan.

"The amount of gratitude from the people of Oshima is just huge," said Onodera. "I will forever remember the Marines and I will never forget what they have done for us. As far as the people of Oshima, they trust Americans and the people that came to help."



Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez

Each student from Kesennuma High School in Oshima, Japan, received gifts during their visit aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego March 26. The purpose of their visit was to show appreciation for service members who participated in Operation Tomodachi.



Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez

Students from Kesennuma High School in Oshima, Japan, look at a display of the Asia-Pacific region in the Command Museum during their visit to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego March 26. A handful of students visited Marines and sailors who participated in Operation Tomodachi for an opportunity to thank them. The operation was a humanitarian effort in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake which took place more than two years ago.

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EDITOR

ROGER EDWARDS

CONTACT THE CHEVRON
RDSD_PAO@USMC.MIL

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

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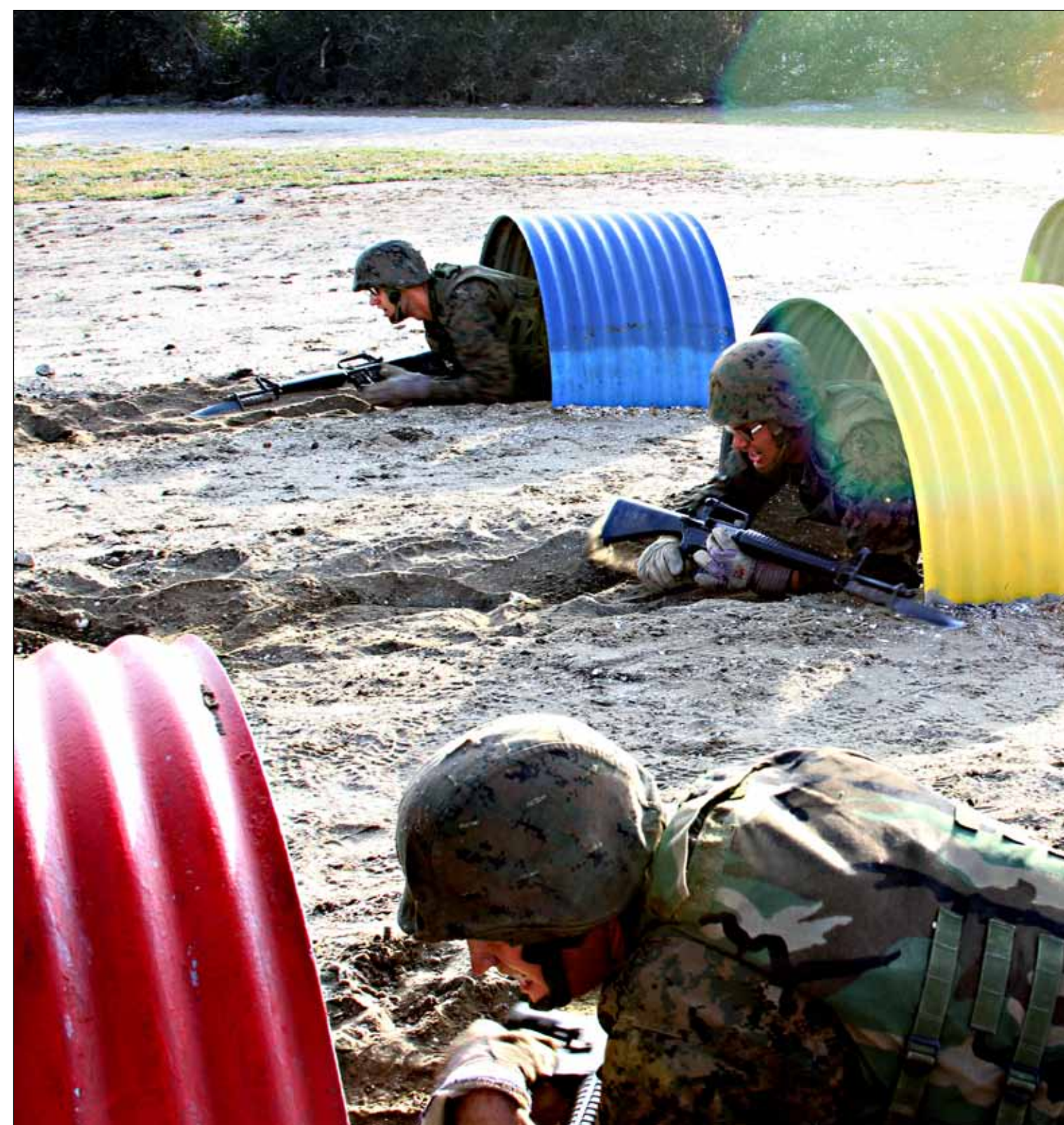
Lance Cpl. Pedro Cardenas

Recruits of Company L, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, engage in a pugil sticks match using Marine Corps Martial Arts Program techniques after the Bayonet Assault Course aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego March 19. Recruits must compete against each other simulating hand-to-hand combat.



Lance Cpl. Pedro Cardenas

A Company L recruit manages an obstacle during the Bayonet Assault Course aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego March 19. The BAC simulates an amphibious beach landing.



Lance Cpl. Pedro Cardenas

Recruits of Company L, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, low crawl to their next obstacle during the Bayonet Assault Course aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego March 19. Recruits must complete the course as a four-man team, also known as a fireteam.

Co. L improves teamwork on Bayonet Assault Course

BY LANCE CPL. PEDRO CARDENAS
Chevron staff

"Fire team, prepare to rush!" shouted the fire team leader. Immediately after running, recruits dove for cover behind a set of logs. The same command was shouted and moments later they progressed forward. Moving past one obstacle and on to the next, they came across a razor sharp barrier—barbed wire.

Recruits pressed their rifles up against the wire and low-crawled on their backs. Once recruits reached the other side they then fixed bayonets.

This was the scene as recruits attacked what is known as the Bayonet Assault Course. The course is used to simulate amphibious landings the Marine Corps has used in past campaigns. Recruits of Company L, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, used basic small-unit tactics to complete the BAC aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot March 19.

The purpose of the BAC is to allow recruits to work as a fire team and communicate under a high level of stress. These skills are necessary to learn during recruit training in order to become a Marine.

Recruits are taught to use

their M16-A4 service rifle as a close-combat weapon with a fixed bayonet. Throughout recruit training recruits are exposed to the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, where they learn basic hand-to-hand combat techniques.

MCMAP instructors teach recruits techniques and how to use a rifle as a weapon once ammunition is spent. It is important for recruits to learn these techniques should the need of hand-to-hand combat arise during combat operations.

"Recruits have to come together, overcome and accomplish their assigned mission as a

team. Mentally they have to push themselves and members of their teams," said Gunnery Sgt. Marshall Rojas, chief drill instructor, lead series, Co. L, 3rd RTBn. "Recruits need a basic understanding that during beach landings there will be obstacles in the way. More than anything, they have to work as a team."

Once the BAC is complete, recruits face each other in hand-to-hand during an event known as pugil sticks.

Recruits are paired off into different weight classes, ensuring fairness, each equipped with a pugil stick and protective gear. Once the fighting begins, a MCMAP instructor determines the winner depending on which recruit landed the first fatal blow.

Recruits are trained to give their best effort during the match until someone is declared victorious.

"It's practice for combat so we have to keep a combat mindset and give it our best effort," said Recruit Fineaeus S. Hunt, Plt. 3243, Co. L, 3rd RTBn. "It's incredibly physical but you have to keep pushing. It gives you a good idea of what combat is going to be like."

Throughout recruit training recruits build up their stamina, endurance, strength, communication and leadership skills in order to successfully complete recruit training. The BAC is one of many training events recruits go through in preparation for the ultimate goal—the title Marine.



Lance Cpl. Pedro Cardenas

A recruit of Company L, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, low crawls during the Bayonet Assault Course aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego March 19. Recruits attached bayonets to their rifles and simulated hand-to-hand combat with plastic dummies throughout the course.



Lance Cpl. Pedro Cardenas

Company L recruits crawl on their backs to get across barbed wire during the Bayonet Assault Course aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego March 19. Recruits are taught to use their rifles to lift the barbed wire as they crawl underneath.



Lance Cpl. Pedro Cardenas

Pvt. Joshua S. Swingle, Platoon 2126, Company F, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, stands at parade rest during Marine week aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego April 1. The wall display behind Swingle lists the names of battles and engagements the Marine Corps has participated in for more than two centuries.

Childhood experience inspires recruit to join the Corps

BY LANCE CPL. PEDRO
CARDENAS
Chevron staff

There are many paths people can take in life, and for the young men and women who enlist in the Marine Corps the decision to join sometimes comes from a hardship they have experienced. They come from different backgrounds; some faced much adversity in their upbringing. For Pvt. Joshua S. Swingle, his childhood experiences inspired him to become a U.S. Marine.

Swingle, now with Platoon 2126, Company F, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, had a hard time calling any place home. His family was always on the move after his father retired from the Navy. Financial problems took a toll on the family after his father's retirement, eventually leading to eviction. It was a hard time for the

family.

"We lived in the family car on a parking lot in front of a department store. After a month or so, my father asked my grandmother to help us out, so we moved in with her," said Swingle. "Moving was natural and it wasn't until high school I realized I was isolated."

Swingle was home-schooled most of his childhood. Constantly moving from home to home made it difficult to make friends, and even more difficult to keep in contact. However, he didn't let the constant change of scenery change his attitude.

"I can't blame anyone. We moved a lot and we didn't spend more than two years in the same place, but I enjoyed myself," said Swingle, from Temple, Texas. "The one thing I regret is not having the time to make friends. I made friends but then we would move so I lost contact with them."

Swingle always loved the military and wanted to be part of a team.

He found the motivation to join the Marine Corps from his father and a particular memory made his decision a lot easier.

"The best part of my life was when my father was in the Navy. We were always around Marines. I liked how they dressed. I liked how they looked," said Swingle. "I love the dress blue uniform. I couldn't get the picture out of my head."

There are several challenges Swingle must complete once he graduates recruit training, however, he doesn't plan to let them interfere with the goals he has set for himself.

"I want a college education and to own property. I want to be a proud homeowner," said Swingle. "I want to be a successful person so I can't be selfish."

Gunnery Sgt. Armonzo C. Pittman,

senior drill instructor, Plt. 2126, Co. F, 2nd RTBn, coincidentally had a childhood experience similar to Swingle's and sees a lot of potential for him to succeed in the Marine Corps.

"Where he came from, he is mentally, physically strong and can go a long way. His experience has made him mature and will make an impact on his future," said Pittman. "I had a rough childhood also and can relate with him. I could see he was a strong kid and it has made recruit training somewhat easier for him."

Having tough moments as a child to some would be discouraging, but for Swingle it was served as motivation. He is finally part of a team and has found a place where he feels at home.

"Not to sound cliché but 'Once a Marine, always a Marine,'" said Swingle. "My recruiter said, 'once you graduate you will be part of a brotherhood.' I like that idea."

Sgt. Maj. Ronald L. Green

Parade Reviewing Officer

Sgt. Maj. Ronald L. Green enlisted in the Marine Corps on Nov. 27, 1983 and attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C.

Upon completion of recruit training, Green was assigned to Battery H, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

While assigned to Battery H, Green was meritoriously promoted to lance corporal in August 1984.

In November 1985, Green was transferred to Battery D, 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines in Okinawa, Japan. He was meritoriously promoted to corporal in May 1985.

In November 1986, Green rotated back to Camp Pendleton, Battery D. He was meritoriously promoted to sergeant in September 1986 and worked with the Marine Corps Nuclear Artillery Battalion as a section chief.

Green was reassigned to Camp Pendleton in 1988 as a tower operator for Southern Impact Area Control (SIAC), also known as Long Rifle.

In January 1990, Green was ordered to Drill Instructor Duty at MCRD Parris Island, where he served as a drill instructor and senior drill instructor with Company C and as the drill master for 1st Recruit Training Battalion.

Green was meritoriously promoted to staff sergeant in July 1992, and returned to Camp Pendleton to serve with Battery E, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines. He was accelerated to gunnery sergeant in 1997, and promoted to first sergeant in December 2000.

Green was ordered to Inspector Instructor Duty in Bossier City, La., and deployed to South America on operation United Americas (UNITAS).

In December 2004, Green was selected for promotion to sergeant major. He was transferred to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron -169 in April 2005 and deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom from March to September 2006.

Green transferred to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-39 in February 2007 and in June 2008, he was transferred to Headquarters Battalion, Headquarters Marine Corps, Henderson Hall, Arlington, Va.

Green was ordered to Marine Corps Forces Europe and Marine Corps Forces Africa as the Force Sergeant Major from August 2010 until present.

Green's personal awards include the Legion of Merit (gold star in lieu of second award), the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with 4 Gold Stars in Lieu of Fifth Award, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with 2 Gold Stars in Lieu of Third Award, and the Good Conduct Medal with 1 silver and 3 gold bronze stars in lieu of his 9th

award and the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.





Platoon 2123
COMPANY HONOR MAN
 Lance Cpl. L. O. Crecelius
 Des Moines, Iowa
 Recruited by
 Sgt. J. W. Helgerson

Platoon 2125
SERIES HONOR MAN
 Lance Cpl. R. J. Russell
 San Diego
 Recruited by
 Sgt. J. Silva

Platoon 2121
PLATOON HONOR MAN
 Pfc. B. A. Freiberg
 Minneapolis, Minn.
 Recruited by
 Sgt. S. C. Vosak

Platoon 2122
PLATOON HONOR MAN
 Pfc. J. C. Potter
 San Francisco
 Recruited by
 Sgt. F. DeLaPuenta

Platoon 2126
PLATOON HONOR MAN
 Pfc. D. A. Schulte
 Salt Lake City
 Recruited by
 Sgt. L. Gibson

Platoon 2127
PLATOON HONOR MAN
 Pfc. F. I. Tupouta
 San Francisco
 Recruited by
 Sgt. M. E. Acosta

Platoon 2122
HIGH SHOOTER (340)
 Pfc. E. O. Onofre
 Phoenix
 Marksmanship Instructor
 Sgt. J. Brown

Platoon 2122
HIGH PFT (300)
 Pfc. E. O. Onofre
 Phoenix
 Recruited by
 Sgt. C. M. Bomer

FOX COMPANY

2nd RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION



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Lt. Col. D. J. Erickson
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 Staff Sgt. L. A. Hernandez



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	SERIES 2125 Series Commander Capt. J. R. Sherwood Chief Drill Instructor Gunnery Sgt. H. R. French	PLATOON 2125 Senior Drill Instructor Gunnery Sgt. A. N. Cardenas Sr. Drill Instructors Gunnery Sgt. B. E. Campbell Staff Sgt. B. M. Nascimento Sgt. D. C. Wald	PLATOON 2126 Senior Drill Instructor Gunnery Sgt. A. C. Pittman Drill Instructors Gunnery Sgt. J. Garcia Staff Sgt. J. C. Geidel Staff Sgt. J. K. Spangler Sgt. J. Y. Chambers	PLATOON 2127 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. M. J. Serritos Drill Instructors Sgt. G. E. Allen Jr. Sgt. K. A. Ford Sgt. B. W. Hayes Sgt. A. W. May Jr.

* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

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Pvt. L. Alvarez
Pvt. N. B. Anderson
*Pfc. T. A. Apodaca
Pvt. A. N. Araiza
Pvt. K. R. Auer
Pvt. D. J. Bates Jr.
Pfc. N. Baumbach
Pvt. J. A. Belisle
*Pfc. S. A. Bingham
Pfc. Z. M. Boling
Pfc. D. C. Boyer
Pvt. J. T. Boyles
Pvt. R. S. Caldwell
Pvt. G. Carrillo
*Pfc. L. E. Catrina
Pfc. J. L. Ceniceros
Pfc. A. E. Coats
Pvt. S. T. Cooley
Pvt. A. S. Coon
Pvt. B. E. Coplin
Pvt. D. D. Cornejo
*Pfc. J. G. Craiglow
Pvt. M. Darling-Gomez
Pfc. L. E. Dehnhoff
Pvt. A. Diab
Pfc. B. Diaz
Pvt. S. J. Dipiazza
Pvt. M. T. Donovan
Pvt. J. L. Espinosa
Pvt. T. Eteaki
Pfc. J. G. Fabay
Pvt. J. S. Felt
Pvt. S. W. Fillet
Pvt. L. B. Fleming
Pfc. B. A. Freiberg
Pvt. J. A. Gastelum
Pvt. V. W. George
Pfc. T. T. Gillach
Pvt. A. H. Godoy III
Pvt. K. D. Gordon
Pvt. B. Green
Pvt. C. I. Guerrero
Pvt. J. L. Gutierrez
*Pfc. J. A. Harper
Pfc. R. C. Harper III
Pfc. J. T. Henry
Pfc. J. A. Hildebrandt
Pvt. J. M. Hollowell
Pvt. L. A. Janz
Pvt. D. T. Keller
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Pvt. J. Kyung
Pvt. O. D. Lewellen
Pvt. W. J. Lingenfelder
Pfc. J. S. Lopez
Pfc. P. Lou
Pfc. I. Lucero
Pfc. L. Lucio Jr.
Pvt. C. E. Lujan
Pfc. A. A. Manriquez
Pvt. A. P. McCullough
Pvt. M. J. McGill
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Pvt. N. J. Mendoza
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Pfc. C. Menh
Pfc. K. A. Meyer
Pvt. D. R. Miranda Jr. | Pvt. P. J. Moody
Pvt. J. K. Mullins
Pvt. T. D. Nelson
Pvt. J. D. Owen
Pfc. J. H. Payne III
Pfc. O. Perez
Pvt. R. E. Perez
Pfc. B. W. St. Clair
Pfc. J. K. Whitbey

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Pvt. C. M. Arellano
Pfc. F. A. Armenta Jr.
Pvt. M. Avellaneda Jr.
Pfc. J. M. Baalman
Pfc. J. F. Baerwald
Pvt. C. A. Baker
Pvt. M. L. Baumgartner
Pfc. J. T. Bell
Pvt. J. J. Bellew
Pvt. V. J. Belmonte
Pvt. J. B. Benedict
Pfc. P. A. Blake
Pfc. W. A. Bomchill
Pfc. N. D. Brown
Pfc. P. S. Bullock
Pvt. J. B. Burke
Pfc. C. R. Case
Pfc. E. A. Cedarquist
Pvt. J. A. Chairez III
Pvt. L. S. Connon
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Pvt. I. J. Davis
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Pfc. W. O. Dicks
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Pvt. C. D. Estrada
Pfc. J. L. Favilah
*Pfc. S. J. Fisher
Pvt. I. Florestrejo
*Pfc. J. W. Frazier
Pvt. C. A. Gage
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Pvt. C. A. Garrison
Pfc. Z. W. Gifford
Pvt. E. Gonzalez-Baquera
Pvt. J. B. Graves
Pvt. D. P. Gregorio
Pvt. J. R. Haire
Pfc. S. C. Harris
Pvt. T. R. Hatfield
Pvt. F. K. Haynes
Pvt. K. A. Hedeman
Pfc. M. D. Herr
*Pfc. M. A. Hicks
Pvt. A. J. Jaye
Pfc. M. A. Johnston
Pfc. N. J. Jones
*Pfc. C. I. Juarez
Pvt. C. P. Knoepke
Pvt. P. S. Lawler
Pvt. R. D. Lee
Pvt. D. J. Lennert
Pvt. J. J. Limon
Pfc. A. L. Lindsey
Pvt. J. W. Lowrie
Pvt. D. J. Long
Pvt. G. Marentes
Pfc. Z. T. McClain | Pvt. S. M. McGraw
Pfc. G. R. McInnis
Pvt. A. H. Mei
Pvt. B. R. Meyers
Pvt. A. R. Moos
Pvt. E. Navarrete-Guzman
*Pfc. E. O. Onofre
Pvt. M. A. Ordaz
Pfc. J. A. Owens
Pvt. S. A. Parks
Pfc. A. C. Parra
Pfc. F. M. Phillips
Pvt. A. Pineda
Pfc. J. C. Potter
Pvt. C. G. Ramirez Jr.
Pvt. K. Ramos-Ramos
*Pfc. P. A. Randolph

PLATOON 2123
Pvt. J. A. Abbott
Pvt. J. G. Abdalla II
*Pfc. L. Aguilar
Pfc. J. L. Anderbery
Pvt. B. E. Anderson
Pvt. D. G. Angiolini
Pvt. J. M. Arnold
*Pfc. A. S. Artemenko
Pvt. J. A. Bates
Pvt. T. S. Benson II
Pvt. N. K. Bivens
Pvt. J. H. Black
Pfc. B. A. Blair
Pvt. J. M. Bravo Jr.
Pvt. K. R. Brewer
Pfc. J. A. Bruce
*Pfc. B. B. Brummel
Pfc. A. C. Buckingham
Pfc. W. G. Bujak
Pvt. C. L. Burgess
Pfc. R. S. Cage
Pfc. M. B. Caruthers
Pvt. A. T. Cervantes
Pvt. T. M. Cerwin
*Pfc. K. T. Corley
*Lance Cpl. L. O. Crecelius
Pvt. J. A. Crouch
Pvt. O. Delgado
*Pfc. J. H. Derksen Jr.
Pfc. C. J. Dienberg Jr.
Pvt. S. W. Dose
Pvt. B. A. Dupree
Pvt. T. J. Ehlers
Pfc. L. M. Espinoza
*Pfc. D. J. Estrada
Pvt. C. R. Feagans
Pvt. J. J. Fink
Pfc. D. A. Garcia
Pfc. B. R. Glaske
Pvt. P. L. Gober
Pvt. D. J. Gordon
Pfc. R. C. Grindley
Pvt. M. K. Grover
Pfc. L. W. Groves
Pfc. M. A. Gulotta Jr.
Pvt. J. D. Hendricks
Pvt. C. A. Herrera
Pfc. A. D. Hitt
Pvt. G. S. Janson | Pfc. J. A. Keck
Pvt. N. M. Kennedy
Pfc. N. P. Koellhoffer
Pvt. S. C. Krohn
Pvt. R. S. Lafrentz Jr.
Pvt. J. A. Leiti
Pvt. B. A. Leitru
Pvt. S. A. Lennon
Pfc. C. M. Leveridge
Pvt. C. D. Litfin
Pvt. R. Mancillas
Pvt. C. M. McCloughan
Pvt. D. L. McCorkel Jr.
Pvt. J. D. McCormick
Pvt. C. A. Menendez-Lozano
Pvt. C. A. Miles
Pvt. B. L. Miller
Pfc. J. A. Miller
Pvt. T. J. Miller
Pvt. C. P. Moler
Pvt. J. A. Mongar
Pfc. D. M. Moran
Pvt. J. A. Nguyen
Pfc. I. M. Omar
Pfc. D. M. Orozco
Pfc. I. A. Petersen
Pvt. J. K. Petree
Pfc. T. M. Pham
Pfc. D. A. Phillip

PLATOON 2125
Pfc. J. E. Abrego
Pvt. B. R. Alfaro Jr.
Pvt. H. G. Alvarado
Pvt. C. E. Anderson
Pvt. J. H. Anderson
Pvt. S. E. Arenas
Pvt. D. Ayala
Pvt. E. J. Ayala
Pvt. H. M. Baez-Urquiola
Pvt. W. A. Bartoo
Pfc. J. Bautista
Pfc. C. L. Belk
Pvt. S. D. Benavidez
Pvt. F. Bobadilla Jr.
Pfc. R. A. Cedillo
Pvt. B. H. Clark
Pvt. T. W. Contrerez
Pfc. C. A. Cordrey
*Lance Cpl. R. J. Courtney
Pvt. B. A. Curtis
Pvt. A. J. David
Pvt. M. D. Deleon
Pvt. K. T. Dent
Pvt. A. T. Desrosiers
Pvt. J. L. Diaz
Pvt. S. A. Drury Jr.
Pfc. A. D. Escalante Jr.
Pvt. D. E. Eslinger
Pvt. D. M. Euton
*Pfc. G. M. Finau
Pfc. D. M. Flores
*Pfc. J. E. Foster
Pvt. M. G. Foster
Pvt. J. K. Fujii
Pvt. M. Gaona Jr.
Pvt. E. S. Garcia
*Pfc. J. J. Garcia Jr.
Pvt. B. M. Gilmer | Pvt. A. Gonzalez
Pfc. D. Gonzalez
Pvt. J. O. Gonzalez
Pvt. F. J. Granados Jr.
Pvt. G. L. Greenspan
Pvt. F. E. Guzman
Pvt. B. A. Hays
Pfc. P. T. D. Healey
Pvt. S. I. Hernandez
Pvt. D. A. Holdcraft
Pfc. E. J. Horton
Pvt. A. A. Huerta
Pvt. W. F. Hunter
Pvt. C. E. Inman
Pvt. J. Z. Jagears
Pvt. M. R. Jaruzel
Pvt. D. L. Johnson
Pvt. R. L. Johnson
Pfc. T. N. Jones
Pvt. C. B. Jordan
Pfc. Z. R. Kaighin
Pvt. M. J. Kiefer
Pvt. L. F. Kim-Estrada
Pvt. M. L. Koch
*Pfc. M. Lazo Jr.
Pvt. I. I. Lee
Pvt. A. R. Lim
*Pfc. W. D. Lucero
Pvt. K. M. MacDonald
Pvt. E. J. Maldonado
Pfc. W. S. Mann
Pvt. P. L. Martin
Pfc. R. C. Martinez
Pfc. E. M. Morales
Pvt. B. A. Neal
Pvt. M. A. Ortega
Pfc. M. E. Ortega
Pvt. A. E. Ortiz
Pvt. C. E. Pastoral
Pvt. B. B. Rutherford

PLATOON 2126
Pvt. C. D. Fleming
Pvt. C. J. Foley
Pfc. J. T. Magdos
Pvt. R. M. Maxwell
Pvt. J. C. Nava
Pvt. B. A. Norris
Pfc. J. L. Perkins
Pvt. D. K. Pierce
Pvt. A. Pokhrel
Pvt. Z. D. Poyser
Pvt. C. Puga
Pfc. M. J. Pulliam III
Pvt. M. K. Ramos-Rivera
Pvt. T. J. Rarrat
Pvt. B. P. Ratterman
Pfc. A. J. Reker
Pvt. U. Reyes Jr
Pvt. P. D. Rickert
Pvt. A. S. Rittenhouse
Pvt. G. B. Rivera
*Pfc. J. E. Rivera
Pfc. J. R. Rivera
Pvt. A. M. Robles-Rodriguez
Pvt. F. R. Rodas
Pvt. H. G. Rodriguez
Pvt. V. Rodriguez
Pfc. G. L. Romero | Pvt. D. S. Rouhier
Pfc. E. G. Ruiz
Pfc. E. Ruiz-Nevarez
Pvt. H. J. Russell
Pvt. K. E. Ruth
Pvt. P. Salas Jr.
Pvt. A. Sanchez
Pvt. J. Sanchez
Pfc. C. K. Santy
Pfc. D. A. Schulte
Pvt. D. J. Schulz
Pvt. P. B. Seabolt
Pfc. B. J. Sheely
Pvt. D. S. Smith Jr.
Pfc. S. J. Solberg
Pvt. M. Solorio
Pvt. L. K. Spence
Pfc. A. J. Stallard
Pvt. B. J. Stansbury
*Pfc. A. B. Stevens
Pvt. T. M. Stulce
Pvt. J. S. Swingle
Pvt. A. J. Tartamella
Pvt. A. J. Test
Pfc. M. J. Thomas
Pfc. G. R. Trabucco
Pvt. J. M. Tryan
Pvt. K. E. Trygstad
*Pfc. G. R. Tucker
Pfc. N. B. Turnbow
Pfc. J. A. Turner
Pvt. B. H. Walker
Pfc. S. A. Wente
*Pfc. E. D. Whaley
Pvt. J. F. White
*Pfc. T. A. White
Pvt. C. D. Wildman
Pvt. D. D. Willcutt
Pvt. B. A. Wilson
Pfc. D. M. Wirtley
Pvt. R. M. Wolf
Pvt. J. P. Wolfenbarger
Pfc. M. D. Wuori
Pfc. P. Yau
Pvt. J. D. York
Pvt. L. A. Young Jr
Pvt. M. T. Young
Pvt. B. L. Zocher
Pfc. D. A. Schulte
Pvt. D. J. Schulz
Pvt. P. B. Seabolt

PLATOON 2127
Pfc. N. R. Alexander
Pvt. J. A. Alvarez
Pvt. J. A. Arriaza
Pfc. J. E. Bauer
Pfc. M. L. Clayton II
Pfc. A. L. Cruz
Pfc. G. C. Cunningham
Pvt. J. E. Curiel-Magana
Pfc. P. M. Damiani
Pfc. A. L. Esquivel
Pvt. W. E. Fox III
Pvt. A. Fuentes
Pfc. F. E. Garcia-Silva
Pvt. J. J. Gilder Jr.
Pvt. C. L. Goodboe
*Pfc. G. A. Hays
*Pfc. S. Hernandez | Pfc. D. D. Hodgson
Pvt. M. J. Kearns
*Pfc. A. A. Kick
Pfc. E. D. Lopez
Pfc. B. L. McDaniel
Pvt. V. P. Meredith
Pfc. E. Orozcolua
Pvt. K. R. Pennington
Pfc. K. E. Pierce
Pfc. J. G. Pierone
Pvt. A. L. Pralle
Pvt. M. A. Puentes
Pfc. M. J. Pula
Pvt. J. D. Redd
Pvt. M. J. Rivas
Pvt. L. J. Rogers
Pvt. S. A. Rogers
Pvt. A. Rojas
Pvt. L. J. Ronquillo
Pvt. J. L. Roy
Pvt. R. D. Ruthart
Pvt. M. A. Salas
Pvt. A. J. Sanchez
Pfc. B. P. Scheffer
Pvt. B. M. Schnirch
Pfc. A. P. Scott
Pvt. A. Serna Jr.
Pfc. R. O. Sherard Jr.
Pvt. M. A. Solis Jr.
Pvt. D. L. Sorlie
Pvt. G. T. Soules
Pvt. M. X. Stenka
Pfc. S. A. Wente
*Pfc. E. D. Whaley
Pvt. J. F. White
*Pfc. T. A. White
Pvt. C. D. Wildman
Pvt. D. D. Willcutt
Pvt. B. A. Wilson
Pfc. D. M. Wirtley
Pvt. R. M. Wolf
Pvt. J. P. Wolfenbarger
Pfc. M. D. Wuori
Pfc. P. Yau
Pvt. J. D. York
Pvt. L. A. Young Jr
Pvt. M. T. Young
Pvt. B. L. Zocher
Pfc. D. A. Schulte
Pvt. D. J. Schulz
Pvt. P. B. Seabolt

*Pfc. F. I. Tupoo
Pfc. Z. A. Tutupoly
Pvt. J. M. Urbon Jr.
Pvt. J. E. Urena
Pvt. J. J. Valeriolozza
Pvt. J. R. Vargas
Pvt. A. Villasenor
Pvt. Z. D. Waller
Pvt. B. D. Watkins
Pvt. B. M. Webster
Pfc. B. K. Wiedemen
Pvt. D. R. Wiegel
Pvt. J. A. Williams
Pvt. C. D. Wilson
Pvt. R. J. Witz
Pvt. J. J. Woods
Pvt. M. A. Wright
Pvt. P. S. Yanez
Pvt. M. R. Ybarra-Delgado
Pvt. S. M. Ybiernas
Pvt. C. R. Zenz |
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Recruits meet obstacle course challenges

by Lance Cpl. Benjamin E. Woodle
Chevron staff

Training to become a U.S. Marine is no easy task. During that time one must endure many physical and mental hardships. In some cases, one may face them simultaneously. The obstacle course, also known as the O-course, is one example of the challenges recruits must face and overcome in the long road of recruit training.

Recruits of Company H, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, ran through the obstacle course for their second time aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego March 14.

The obstacle course requires recruits to climb over high bars, logs, walls, and with their remaining energy finish with a rope climb. When recruits reach the top of the rope they must slap the wood beam, which the rope is attached to, and scream their name, platoon number and senior drill instructor's name which indicates the completion of the course.

Recruits' minds and bodies are tested throughout various exercises within the course. Drill instructors help recruits prepare themselves mentally and physically throughout training also right before they attempt the course.

"We have drill instructors go through the course first to show recruits how each obstacle is completed and the fact that it is possible," said Sgt. Nicholas C. Bohne, drill instructor, Platoon 2162, Co. H, 2nd RTBn. "Afterward, we have recruits run a lap around the course to make sure their bodies are warmed up before attempting the course."

Everyday training, up to when recruits attempt the course, has helped prepare them to complete it, according to Bohne.

"Drill instructors have helped preparation of the mind through drill and physical fitness activities," said Recruit Jacob D. Fouts, Plt. 2162, Co.

H, 2nd RTBn. "Drill instructors push you to go above the level that you're already at."

Recruits are then instructed to get into four lines and attack the obstacle course when it is their turn.

"The first time recruits go through the obstacle course, it is for them to master the obstacles," said Bohne. "On their second run through the course we make them then attempt the rope climb."

Some obstacles in the course give recruits more trouble than others. Drill instructors have seen recruits struggle on some of the same obstacles over the years.

"The high log and the rope are always killers for recruits," said Bohne. "A lot of the obstacles are high up which makes it very tough for the shorter Marines to accomplish."

Every challenge and obstacle recruits endure while in recruit training is designed with one goal in mind, to turn recruits into basic trained Marines.

"This is one of the few challenges that requires individual effort, and through that, recruits gain confidence in themselves," said Bohne.

For most recruits, this is one of the first times they have been pushed out of their comfort zone, according to Bohne.

"It's tough on the physical end as well mentally, where you just want to give up," said Fouts. "You can't just kick back and ice your wounds, you have to go on."

The obstacle course is just another example of the hardships recruits must face and overcome to earn the title and respect. Through blood and sweat recruits continue one day at a time to complete the biggest obstacle and challenge—becoming U.S. Marines.

"It shows you who the real (aspiring) Marine is to your left and right," said Fouts. "These are the people you'll be depending and relying on out in combat."



Lance Cpl. Benjamin E. Woodle

Recruits of Company H, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, climb the rope at the end of the obstacle course aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego March 14. After exhausting themselves going through the course twice, recruits try to summon up their last ounce of strength to make it to the top.



Lance Cpl. Benjamin E. Woodle

Recruits of Company H, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, attempt to complete the sliding bar portion of the obstacle course aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego March 14. Drill instructors teach recruits two methods to navigate across using either one or two bars.