



**Co. B discipline tested through final drill**  
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MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO

# CHEVRON

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION



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“WHERE MARINES ARE MADE”

FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2013

## Co. L learns Eagle, Globe and Anchor



Sgt. Sean A. Legaard, drill instructor, Company L, 3rd Recruit Training battalion, gives a new Marine an emblem, a hand shake and a few words of encouragement at Edson Range aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Calif. July 11.

STORY AND PHOTOS  
BY LANCE CPL. PEDRO  
CARDENAS  
Chevron staff

The Crucible, the culminating event of recruit training, is a 54-hour test of endurance in which recruits must conquer more than 30 different obstacles while they experience food and sleep deprivation.

Recruits of Company L, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, completed the Crucible at Edson Range aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Calif. July 11.

This final test ends with an approximate nine mile hike to a 700 foot hill know as the “Reaper.” The hike itself is a tough task—but adding physical fatigue, sleep deprivation, lack of food and stress—transforms it into an almost seemingly impossible mission.

“What makes the ‘Reaper’ so hard is that they are exhausted, they have had very little sleep and they are hungry,” said Sgt. Sean A. Legaard, drill instructor, Platoon 3249. “Some kids aren’t used to that kind of physical trauma to their body.”

see EGA ▶ 2

## Only the beginning

STORY AND PHOTO  
BY SGT. LIZ GLEASON  
Chevron staff

After spending four sleep deprived days in receiving, recruits of Company G, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, sat crisscross, quietly waiting to meet their drill instructors for the first time aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego June 12.

“Receiving was the hardest week, it felt like it was the longest, however, I feel accomplished after making it through those first days” said Recruit Jevon Hudson, Platoon 1034.

During Receiving, recruits are stripped of their belongings, issued gear and given haircuts. On the fourth day they face their first

challenge in recruit training—the Initial Strength Test.

During the IST, recruits must complete a max set of pull-ups, max set of crunches and a timed 1.5 mile run. The purpose of the IST is to gauge the new recruit’s physical fitness levels. Recruits must pass the test in order to commence the rigorous three month training regimen required to become a Marine, according to Staff Sgt. Ricky Broadway, senior drill instructor.

The recruits that pass their IST are divided into platoon’s and continue on to the next momentous event in recruit training, meeting the men that will be by their side during their entire stay

see PICK-UP ▶ 2



Recruits of Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, practice the leg stomp technique aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego July 12. The leg stomp was part of a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program class and was among many other techniques learned.

### MCMAP serves multiple purposes in recruit training

STORY AND PHOTOS  
BY CPL. WALTER D. MARINO II  
Chevron staff

Recruits lined together in a mass formation and punched, kicked and countered together as one. This wasn’t by chance but rather by design.

Recruits of Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, learned various techniques of the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, tan belt syllabus.

MCMAP is a five belt program, with tan being the lowest of the

five—tan, gray, green, brown, black.

Recruits are taught level one to give them a foundation to work upon in the Fleet Marine Force.

Some of the techniques practiced were the leg stomp and vertical knee strike, however, the focus of the class was learning to counter the rear hand punch and rear leg kick.

Drill instructors walked down the ranks ensuring proper form, as recruits practiced the leg stomp. The formation and synchronization made it easier for

drill instructors to spot discrepancies.

Moving to their next segment, recruits paired up and took turns being the attacker and defender. One would throw a punch and the other would block with his hands and counter with knee and elbow strikes. Each punch and counter was done at half speed for safety.

They practiced the moves over and over again, to try and induce muscle memory.

see MCMAP ▶ 2



The drill instructors of Company G, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, recite the Drill Instructors Creed during Pick Up aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego June 12. The oath is administered by the series commander during the recruit’s first introduction to their drill instructors.

**EGA ◀ 1**

Once at the top of the reaper, the drill instructors read a final Medal of Honor citation to their platoons. Just like in any other Crucible event, recruits learn the heroic actions of Marines in the past and the lesson behind the individual events.



**A new Marine of Company L, 3rd Recruit Training battalion, receives his Eagle, Globe and Anchor at Edson Range aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Calif., July 11. Receiving the Marine Corps emblem is the moment the transformation from civilian to Marine is completed.**

Afterward, drill instructors call the recruits to platoon formation and the Eagle, Globe and Anchor ceremony begins.

During the ceremony, the company commanding officer says, "award these recruits their eagle, globe and anchor and make them Marines."

Drill instructors go through and give the emblem, symbolizing a Marine, to every recruit one at a time. They stand in front of each recruit and place an EGA in their left hand, shake their right hand and give them a "Congratulations Marine" finalizing the transformation.

"Getting my EGA with all the work we've been putting in the last three months, it finally paid off," said Pvt. Mathew C. Evans, Plt. 3251. "I will never forget when I got my EGA."

To some recruits, hearing the words of their drill instructors, now fellow Marines, is such an emotional moment that they began to tear up.

"They will never forget this moment and you can tell to some it means a lot (getting their EGA) because they start crying, they know that they've earned it," said Legaard.

Just like some recruits will never forget this moment, neither will a proud parent. Master Sgt. Nelson J. Prince, Assistant Maintenance Chief, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, was able to see his son follow in his footsteps.

"He went through the same recruiting station as I did and wants to perform the same Military Occupational Specialty as me," said Prince. "I'm overwhelmed with pride and knowing what he went through, I wouldn't have missed it."

Once the ceremony concludes, the new Marines hike back to Edson Range and eat the Warrior's Breakfast. During this breakfast, they are allowed to eat whatever they would like and as much as they would like, including desserts, for the first time in months. Their time as recruits has come to an end. They now will continue on their journeys in the United States Marines.

**MCMAP ◀ 1**

Recruit Aaron J. Spring, Plt. 1010 said his martial arts knowledge was very limited prior to learning MCMAP. However, now he feels confident in his ability to counter an attack.

"Before this, if someone tried to punch me they'd probably hit me and it would be a brawl," said Spring. "But now I feel confident I could counter and subdue."

Drill instructors explained the recruits were not only learning moves that could save their lives in close quarters combat but could also be used stateside to defend one's self.

"It makes me happy to see these kids learn MCMAP because I know some of these kids were bullied in high school and now they know how to defend themselves," said Staff Sgt. John A. Delgado, drill instructor, Platoon 1010.

Although the moves are technical and can be tedious to learn, recruits expressed MCMAP is one of their favorite things to learn in recruit training.

"I think it's pretty cool," said Recruit Joseph G. Kangethe. "I'm learning something that I can use to defend myself in the Marines and civilian life."

Kangethe said he believes practicing the



**Recruits of Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, practice counters to the rear hand punch and rear leg kick aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, July 12. Recruits only used partial strength in their movements in order to prevent injuries to themselves and fellow recruits.**

techniques is very important to building their confidence.

"MCMAP is building my self-esteem," said Kangethe. "So that if I have contact with the enemy I will have courage from knowing I know techniques that can take him down."

As their class came to a close, recruits

were gathered in a school circle, giving them the opportunity to ask questions about anything they did not understand. Following this, recruits were given a class on honor, courage and commitment. When class concluded, it appeared all recruits had enjoyed learning hand to hand combat skills.

**PICK-UP ◀ 1**

aboard the Depot—their drill instructors.

"Knowing that the drill instructors are here for me and the other recruits fills me with pride," said Hudson. "Although I know it will be challenging, I'm ready to take it on. I think these next weeks will be the best weeks of our lives."

The formal introduction of the drill instructors to the recruits allows the senior drill instructor to lay out what is expected of the recruits throughout recruit training. It also gives the drill instructors the opportunity to set the house rules and tone for the upcoming months, according to Broadway.

"Right now I expect them to show their desire to want to be here. They need to move fast, be loud and use proper customs and courtesies," said Broadway. "They should show their willingness to be here through their actions. I want them to show they're striving to be better when they leave than when they arrived."

As part of the introduction, the series commander administers the oath of the Drill Instructors Creed. The senior and his drill instructors raise their right hand and recite the words they will uphold;

"These recruits are entrusted to my care. I will train them to the best of my ability. I will develop them into smartly disci-

plined, physically fit, basically-trained Marines, thoroughly indoctrinated in love of Corps and Country. I will demand of them, and demonstrate by my own example, the highest standards of personal conduct, morality and professional skill."

To Broadway, knowing the importance of his role in transforming recruits into Marines and the potential impact he can have on the recruits, who are the future of the Marine Corps, is indescribable.

Although the recruits are still at the very beginning of their journey, Broadway's goal is for every single one of them to graduate and become basically trained Marines.

**BRIEFS****Library Closures**

The depot library will close Sundays from July 14 until Sept. 30, due to the furlough.

Weekday and Saturday hours will remain 8:30 a.m., until 5 p.m.

For more information, contact Dan Cisco at 619-524-1850.

**Virtual Training and Trade Show**

The depot HA Department hosts an International Military Community Executives' Association free Virtual Training and Tradeshow July 22.

The event takes place at [www.imeca.org](http://www.imeca.org).

Register at <https://imcea.org/trade-show-online-registration>.

For the training agenda contact Joshua Collins at (619) 725-6228.

**Brown Bag Lunch Seminar**

The depot hosts a Financial Brown Bag Lunch Seminar July 24, from 11:30 a.m., until 1 p.m., in the Personal & Professional Development Classroom, building 14.

The seminar will explore "Investment Basics - Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds."

Light snacks and drinks will be provided.

Register at (619) 524-5728. For information call Michel McIsaac at (619) 524-1204 or check the web at <http://www.mccsmcrd.com/PersonalAndProfessionalDevelopment/PersonalFinancialManagement/index.html>

**Military Retiree Appreciation Seminar and Resource Fair**

The depot sponsors a Military Retiree Appreciation Seminar and Resource Fair on July 26. The event is scheduled for the McDougal Hall (the depot theater) from 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Learn about legislative updates on benefits, and exposure to community resources. For information call (619) 524-5301/5732/5728. Register at <http://smcrd2013rs-attendee.eventbrite.com>

**Car Show**

The annual MCRD 101 Days of Summer Car Show is July 27. The event will be on the parking lot between the Recreation and Fitness Centers from 10 a.m., until 1 p.m.

For information call (619) 524-5240.

**Kindergarten Readiness Transition Parent Work-shop**

The depot is hosting a free Workshop with Professional guest speakers providing the necessary tools and resources for parents with children transitioning from Preschool to Kindergarten.

Building 6E, 1800-2000, Thursday, August 8, 2013.

Space is limited RSVP by Phone: (619) 524-8032/8104.

Register Online: <http://readyssetgokrws.eventbrite.com>

Childcare not provided.

School Liaison Program Services: <http://mccsmcrd.com/FamilyCare/SchoolLiaison/index.html>

**Send briefs to:**

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## Around the depot

*This week the Chevron asks: "What is your biggest goal in the Marine Corps?"*



**"Working on getting a degree."**  
Lance Cpl. Jose J. Alcantar, Legal Clerk, Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion.



**"Success for me is to do everything to the best of my abilities and if my Marines are successful then, I'm successful. Help them achieve their goals whether on or off duty."** Staff Sgt. Arvin L. Manning, Operations Chief, Provost Marshall Office, Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion



**"Challenge myself physically and also get my masters degree in Business Administration or Economics."** Lance Cpl. Joshua C. Franco, Training noncommissioned officer, Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion.

## Sgt. Maj. Brookman retirement



Gunnery Sgt. Jefferson Edouasie

Sgt. Maj. Michael D. Brookman receives an American flag during his retirement from the retiring officer Col. Wayne A. Sinclair July 15. Brookman was Headquarters and Service Battalion sergeant major before his retirement and retired after 29 years of active duty service.

## Commanding General Motivational Run



Staff Sgt. Leonard Langston

Brigadier General Daniel D. Yoo, commanding general of Marine Corps Recruit Depot and the Western Recruiting Region (left) and Col. Michael J. Lee, Chief of Staff of MCRD and WRR, lead a motivational run aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego July 17. After the run, Yoo thanked the depot personnel for their hard work performed during his time as commanding general.



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Recruits with Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, begin the marching portion of the evaluation during Final Drill aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego July 15. The platoon who scores the highest receives a trophy.



Recruits with Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, stand at port arms before executing right shoulder arms during Final Drill aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego July 15.



Sgt. Nicholas Milner, senior drill instructor, Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, stands at attention waiting for his platoon to take their place in formation during Final Drill aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego July 15. The senior drill instructor is in charge of the platoon and calls the commands during Final Drill.

# One step closer to the dream

STORY AND PHOTOS  
BY SGT. LIZ GLEASON  
*Chevron staff*

The recruits of Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, spent the past ten weeks practicing and preparing for Final Drill, and on Training Day 54 they had the opportunity to showcase all their hard work.

Under the command of their senior drill instructor, the recruits displayed tight posture, performed sharp pivots and executed rifle manual with snap and pop aboard, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego July 15.

"As we waited for our turn I was ner-

vous but as soon as we stepped on the parade deck I got excited," said Recruit Steven Roberts, Platoon 1034. "I knew this was our last chance to really drill and I had the trophy on my mind."

Drill is a tradition that is taught throughout recruit training which instills some of the basic traits a Marine must have. Through drill, recruits learn discipline, endurance, and attention to detail among other traits that will help them as they go forth in their Marine Corps careers.

"Final drill represents the blood, sweat and tears they've put into drill for the last 3 months. It's their chance to show how much work they put in alongside their drill instructors," said Sgt.

Nicholas Milner, senior drill instructor. "It shows the amount of discipline and attentions to detail the recruits have gained throughout recruit training. It also allows them to come together as a team and improves unit cohesion as they're all work toward a common goal."

During the event, drill masters wander through the platoon meticulously inspecting and grading the performance of the senior drill instructors and his recruits.

Drill masters look at the execution and final product of movements to make sure it's all in accordance with the drill manual. Final drill requires great attention to detail. They observe the discipline and teamwork of the platoon

as well as their uniforms and hygiene, according to Milner.

"We worked really hard and when it was time for final drill we went out, put our hearts into it. We gave it our all and although we didn't win, we went out with a bang," said Roberts.

Now that Final Drill is complete, the recruits of Co. B can now put their focus into preparing for the Crucible. The Crucible is the 54-hour culminating event that challenges them physically and mentally, tests everything they've learned throughout recruit training, and gives them their chance to earn the title Marine.



A recruit with Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, performs a rifle salute during Final Drill aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego July 15. Recruits work hard throughout recruit training, drilling every day to prepare for this event.



A drill master scores the platoon during Final Drill aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego July 15. Drill masters observe the discipline and teamwork of the platoon as well as their uniforms and hygiene.



A drill master inspects a recruits uniform during Final Drill aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego July 15. Drill masters wander throughout the platoons grading them based on the drill manual.

# Co. L Marine creates new family legacy in Corps

STORY AND PHOTO BY LANCE  
CPL. BENJAMIN E. WOODLE  
*Chevron staff*

Becoming a United States Marine is an accomplishment that stays with one their entire life. The legacy it creates within one's family lasts generations. The challenges one must overcome to earn the title and create the legacy is a difficult path few choose to take.

Pvt. Jacob R. Wright, Platoon 3255, Company L, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion decided to take on this challenge to earn honor, respect, and family pride.

Growing up in Cape Girardeau, Miss., Wright endured a great hardship that would affect his life. At the age of six, Wright's father died from a disease he caught while hunting one weekend. At the time, the impact on Wright was immense, however, it wasn't until he got older that he realized how truly affected he was. Even though his mom remarried when he was ten, life still wasn't the same.

"I didn't have a male figure in my life until my step-dad came along," said Wright. "It didn't exactly fill that gap I had because at the time he was this new person in my life. A step-dad and dad are two different things, don't get me wrong, I like my step-dad, but it's just not the same."

As Wright got older, he saw himself taking over the 'man of the house' roll with his brothers even though his step-dad was there. Being the oldest of both his brother and step-brother, Wright had become their role model.

"I love my family dearly and was always trying to help out," said Wright. "My brothers look up to me because I'm older and I've already done things they are about to do."

During high school, Wright enjoyed participating in any sport that was played outside. He considered himself to be a big outdoors person. Toward the end of high school Wright saw himself going to college to pursue

the same career as his step-dad, computer analyst. In the back of his mind though, Wright had a desire to join the military just like many of his relatives before him had done.

"In high school, I had a feeling that I wanted to go into the military but I wanted to give college a try first and see if it was for me," said Wright.

With his decision made, Wright was now on the search for the right service to join.

"I wanted to join one that gave out the most respect, had the highest respect and was the hardest," said Wright. "I checked out all the military branches but since I had family members already in most I wanted to take a new path, make my own legacy, so I joined the Marine Corps."

At the age of 18, Wright made one of the biggest and proudest decisions of his life, to enlist in the Marine Corps. Since he was of age, Wright was able to sign the paperwork to enter the delayed entry program without his parent's consent. The next challenge in his life was to break the news to them.

"The first time I told my mom she said 'no way'," said Wright. "At the same time she was proud because she knew I was building a strong future, that instead of just dropping out of college and lay around the house, I was proactive with moving forward with my life."

Arriving at recruit training at the age of 19, Wright had a new set of challenges to overcome.

"It was definitely tough at first, even though I acted like a leader, I wasn't very disciplined when I first got here," said Wright. "Towards the end, you start to realize that even though drill instructors are in your face screaming at you, they're actually looking out for you and trying to do what's best for you."

Wright's drill instructor had the same observation of him while going through the phases of recruit training.

"He struggled a lot when he first came to recruit training. He was always the last one to finish



**Pvt. Jacob R. Wright, Platoon 3255, Company L, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, created his own family legacy by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps. Wright works hard to be the role model he is today, which leaves an impression on those around him.**

a task," said Sgt. Miguel A. Gonzalez, drill instructor. "After a while, he came around, he found that desire inside of him and started doing things that I never saw him do in first phase. He presses his uniform every night and he tries to make his cover look sharp like ours."

Wright went through great

difficulty growing up losing his father. He tried to go down a path in his life that didn't end up working out. He also struggled at first to be a great recruit while in recruit training. However, at the end of all of these obstacles, Wright found a way to come out on top. Wright worked hard to become the role model he is to-

day, which has left an impression on those around him.

"Although Wright had difficulty at first in boot camp, I can definitely see him going out into the Marine Corps and being a great leader," said Gonzalez. "If I were to deploy with him I would be proud to do it."

## Sgt. Maj. Drew Benson

### Parade Reviewing Officer

Sgt. Maj. Drew Benson enlisted in the Marine Corps in September of 1982, under the delayed entry program. He reported to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif. in July 1983. Upon completion of recruit training in September 1983, Pvt. Benson reported to Infantry Training School at Camp Pendleton, Calif. where he qualified as an infantryman. In November 1983, Pfc. Benson was reassigned to Enlisted Instructor Company in Quantico, Virginia, where he instructed new Marine Corps officers in the fundamentals of infantry tactics. In June 1984, he was promoted to the rank of lance corporal and continued his duties as an instructor until March 1985 when he volunteered and

was accepted for duty as a Marine Security Guard. After graduating from Marine Security School in May 1985, he then transferred to additional schooling in Cherry Point, N.C. From there he was ordered to the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 36, in Okinawa, Japan, serving as the Work Center 640 Supervisor from June 1990 until July 1992.

July 1992, he reported for duty as a Naval Aviation Maintenance Training Detachment instructor in Cherry Point, N.C. and was promoted to staff sergeant in Oct. 1993, changing his military occupation specialty. After teaching over 4,000 hours and several hundred students, as well as writing new courses, he was transferred to the Marine Aviation Logistics Support Element in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, June 1996, where he served as Work Center Supervisor for Work Centers 620, 640 and 990. September 1998, he was

assigned to the Base Realignment and Closure Team that was instrumental in transferring the Naval Intermediate Maintenance Detachment stationed at NAS Barbers Point, Hawaii, to MCAS Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii where upon the first joint Navy and Marine Corps Aviation Maintenance unit was formed.

He was promoted to gunnery sergeant January 1998 and left Hawaii June 1999, when he reported to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 39, in Camp Pendleton, Calif. where he was assigned to the Quality Assurance Division and served as the Avionics Quality Assurance Representative. In Oct. 2001, he took over the duties as the Quality Assurance Chief. In Jan. 2003, he deployed to the Persian Gulf as part of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom and served on the T-AVB 4. He was assigned as the Quality Assurance Officer for the ship. March 2003, he

was promoted to first sergeant. In June, he reported for duty with the Inspector-Instructor Staff, Military Police Company, Headquarters Battalion, Fourth Marine Division, in Twin Cities, Minnesota where he served as both the I-I first sergeant as well as the company first sergeant. Benson was selected to the rank of sergeant major in Dec. 2005 and promoted to his present rank on Sept. 1, 2006. On July 31, he transferred to Recruiting Station, Twin Cities, Minnesota, where he served as the Recruiting Station sergeant major until July 25, 2009. He was then transferred to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 and he served as the Squadron sergeant major there from Aug. 2009, until his transfer to Marine Aircraft Group 12, March 2011, where he served as the Group sergeant major until June 2012. Benson was posted as the First Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group sergeant

major July 2012 and served there until Feb. 2013. Benson's final billet was with the First Marine Expeditionary Force Inspector General's Office. Benson's personal military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, the Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal with two gold stars, the Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal with four gold stars, and the Combat Action Ribbon.





**Platoon 3253** COMPANY HONOR MAN Lance Cpl. J.R. Chaparro Granada Hills, Calif. Recruited by Staff Sgt. R. Duran  
**Platoon 3251** SERIES HONOR MAN Pfc. A. J. Appel Quincy, Ill. Recruited by Sgt. J. Schulte  
**Platoon 3249** PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. T. M. Brackett Oceanside, Calif. Recruited by Sgt. P. McGrath  
**Platoon 3250** PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. B. B. Campbell Milwaukee, Wis. Recruited by Staff Sgt. J. Tatro  
**Platoon 3254** PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. D. W. Parrish Bloomington, Ill. Recruited by Sgt. Z. Whitsitt  
**Platoon 3255** PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. A.D. Gates Three Rivers, Mich. Recruited by Sgt. N. Kitzrow  
**Platoon 3253** HIGH SHOOTER (343) Pvt. W.C. Gardner Columbia, Miss. Marksmanship Instructor Sgt. N. Spartz  
**Platoon 3253** HIGH PFT (300) Pvt. J. M. Crull Mountain Home, Ark. Recruited by Sgt. A. Getman



# LIMA COMPANY

3rd RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION

Commanding Officer  
Sergeant Major  
Battalion Drill Master

Lt. Col. T. Carlos  
1st Sgt. M. D. Wright  
GySgt. S. M. Battiest



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	<b>SERIES 3253</b> Series Commander Capt. C. M. O'Brien Chief Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. J. M. Aguilera	<b>PLATOON 3253</b> Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. D. B. Buena-Ventura Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. B. J. Coffey Staff Sgt. J. Lara Sgt. E. J. Benitou Sgt. H. Dalsen Sgt. M. P. McCellan	<b>PLATOON 3254</b> Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. R. Rangel Drill Instructors Sgt. B. G. Laca Sgt. E. R. Jimenez Sgt. C. H. Kratz Sgt. E. Martinez Sgt. A. Vazquez	<b>PLATOON 3255</b> Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. R. J. Rozane Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. A. E. Caldwell Staff Sgt. C. M. Thomas Sgt. M. Gonzalez Sgt. E. Gonzalez-Dawkins

\* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

<b>PLATOON 3249</b> Pvt. F. G. Anaya-Garcia Pvt. B. J. Blankenship Pvt. A. J. Bosby Pfc. T. M. Brackett Pvt. D. A. Burke Pfc. N. J. Chirafisi Pvt. N. A. Collins Pvt. A. O. Cruz Avalos Pvt. C. A. Dona Pvt. H. M. Flores Pfc. E. Garcia-Rodriguez Pvt. R. M. Gastelum Pfc. C. R. Graham Pvt. C. Gutierrez Pvt. C. R. Kent Pvt. C. L. Kibodeaux II Pfc. M. G. Lamb Pvt. R. A. Lane Pfc. A. T. Laney Pfc. Z. N. Lara Pvt. D. J. Loveland Pfc. H. A. Magana Jr. Pvt. J. M. Marroquin Pvt. A. R. Mason Pfc. C. W. McCleskey Pvt. N. A. McNally Pvt. J. B. Mejia *Pfc. O. A. Melendez Aguilar Pfc. A. F. Mendoza Pvt. J. M. Merges Pvt. M. T. Millan Pfc. K. D. Miller Pvt. E. Z. Montano Pvt. C. I. Montinola Pvt. Q. A. Moody Pvt. C. E. Mora Pvt. C. A. Morales Pvt. O. H. Morales-Hernandez Pvt. M. A. Morin Pfc. G. L. Moudy Pvt. K. R. Muhammad Pvt. A. M. Nimmo *Pfc. A. M. Nunan	Pvt. D. W. Orr *Pfc. J. A. Padilla Jr. Pvt. K. M. Palacio Pfc. N. C. Prince Pvt. C. C. Schubert Pfc. C. A. Stout  <b>PLATOON 3250</b> *Pfc. L. T. Ahing Pfc. J. E. Avila-Obregon Pvt. C. E. Balog Pvt. M. C. Bedard Pfc. J. C. Belisle Pfc. M. R. Bendorf Pfc. A. J. Benshoof Pfc. J. S. Burmeister Pfc. J. D. Burnett Pvt. P. M. Byrne Pvt. J. L. Calderon Jr. *Pfc. B. B. Campbell Pfc. B. R. Checchi Pfc. J. D. Chesser Pvt. I. Clifford III Pvt. J. B. Colon Pvt. C. W. Cornelison Pvt. S. J. Davis Pvt. W. K. Davis Pfc. P. H. Dingess Jr. Pvt. G. R. Dossett Pvt. A. F. Ernst Pvt. A. S. Fehrenbach Pvt. F. Ferrer Pvt. D. A. Fitzgerald Pvt. D. R. Fletcher Pfc. M. T. Flores Pvt. C. A. Ford Pvt. E. M. Forshee Pvt. C. R. Galyeon Pvt. A. E. Garza-Acosta Pvt. M. D. George *Pfc. F. A. Glass III Pvt. D. Gonzalez Pvt. C. M. Hairston Pfc. B. T. Hampton Pfc. T. E. Hendricks Pvt. M. W. Hill	Pfc. W. R. Hunnicutt Jr. Pvt. A. B. Johnson Pvt. J. M. Kearney Pvt. A. M. Keller Pvt. D. P. Kraft Pvt. A. S. Kuhl Pfc. J. W. Meyers Pfc. T. L. Simmons Pfc. K. L. Thompson Pvt. E. J. Zepeda Jr.  <b>PLATOON 3251</b> Pfc. T. J. Abila Pfc. A. C. Ackel Pfc. O. R. Acosta Pfc. D. P. Anderson Pfc. M. D. Anderson Pfc. C. C. Ansley Jr. *Pfc. A. J. Appel Pfc. U. Ariza Pfc. A. A. Aronstam Pfc. K. M. Blair Pfc. S. T. Borrowman Pfc. R. D. Boydston Pfc. K. M. Brandon Pfc. J. V. Campbell Pfc. Z. A. Campbell Pvt. T. C. Champ Pfc. B. Chao Pfc. Z. W. Chisholm Pfc. P. O. Clarke Pfc. G. M. Coronado Pfc. C. Cruz Pfc. G. D. Daggett Pfc. K. R. Davis Jr. Pfc. M. W. Deblasio Pfc. D. R. Denton Pfc. E. S. Edler Pfc. D. E. Encizo Pfc. N. S. Evanchuck Pfc. M. C. Evans Pfc. R. A. Fassl Pfc. D. L. Garcia Pfc. L. G. Garcia Pfc. J. L. Gaytan-Gaytan *Pfc. S. W. Gieger	Pfc. K. J. Gilpolanco Pfc. D. Gomez Jr. Pfc. C. P. Gonzalez Pfc. M. A. Gordon Pfc. C. E. Hammerberg III Pfc. A. D. Harper Pfc. M. G. Hayes Pfc. G. E. Henderson *Pfc. J. C. Hernandez III Pfc. F. J. Hernandez Pfc. G. R. Hernandez Pfc. D. R. Hyde Pfc. N. A. Jensen Pfc. M. A. Jones Jr. Pfc. C. R. Jordan Pfc. D. J. Keeslar  <b>PLATOON 3253</b> Pvt. A. J. Baker Pvt. E. G. Bermudez Pfc. M. D. Caballero Pvt. J. A. Caldwell Pvt. C. H. Carrazco *Lance Cpl. J. R. Chaparro Pvt. J. M. Crull Pfc. T. N. Cullen Pvt. C. H. Cunningham Pvt. A. I. Davidson Pvt. C. L. Eastman Pfc. B. A. Espiritu Pfc. J. A. Garcia Pvt. C. E. Garcia-Fombona Pvt. W. C. Gardner Pvt. J. Gomez Pvt. S. K. Gorham Pvt. J. P. Hafenstein Pfc. D. L. Hastings Pvt. D. J. Head Pvt. J. Hernandez Jr. Pvt. N. D. Heywood Pvt. J. R. Hiatt Pvt. J. R. Hinojosa Jr. Pvt. M. E. Jones Pfc. A. S. Kays Pvt. W. T. Kelly Pvt. E. M. Lewis	Pvt. C. A. Limon-Guerrero Pvt. D. R. Mangas Pfc. J. T. McPherson Pvt. K. T. Mello Pvt. G. Mena Pfc. K. T. Nabors Pvt. K. W. O'Connor Pvt. J. R. Ortega Pfc. E. Pablo Pvt. N. S. Parent *Pfc. S. R. Perry Pvt. R. D. Quiroga Pvt. R. W. Raleigh Pvt. W. A. Roach Pvt. Z. T. Rosslan Pfc. A. J. Sheaffer Pvt. J. J. Shedosky Pvt. T. V. Shue *Pfc. B. L. Simmons Pvt. B. A. Strohmeyer Pvt. L. H. Surber Pvt. M. A. Velazquez-beltran  <b>PLATOON 3254</b> Pfc. T. C. Joseph Pvt. J. D. Lewis Pvt. J. M. Lewkowitz Pvt. M. Lopez Pvt. O. F. Lopez Pvt. J. P. Mann Pfc. J. M. Manuel Pvt. B. B. Marr Pvt. F. Mendoza Pvt. C. J. Miller Pvt. J. R. Miller Pvt. S. A. Munch Pfc. E. K. Myers Pvt. J. F. Natho *Pfc. A. R. Nicolaysen Pvt. J. A. O'Campo-Barrera Pvt. A. Oregel Pvt. R. S. Packer *Pfc. D. W. Parrish Pvt. C. A. Perez Pfc. D. M. Peyton Pfc. F. L. Prevatt	Pfc. T. S. Proffitt Pfc. M. J. Rahi Pvt. D. J. Reddington Pvt. B. J. Roberts Pfc. A. B. Rodriguez *Pfc. J. M. Salaschacon Pvt. A. Sanchez-Chavez Pvt. B. A. Schroeder Pvt. J. Senda Pvt. J. L. Settles Pvt. J. L. Shelton Pfc. P. C. Shunk Pfc. T. L. Smith Pfc. T. K. Smith Pvt. K. R. Soeltner Pvt. G. D. Sosaloma Pvt. D. F. Sotelo Pvt. T. J. Soushekstevenson Pfc. G. J. Strelow Pfc. B. G. Taveirne Pfc. T. G. Tucker Pfc. L. H. Tyrell Pvt. M. A. Velazquez-Beltran Pfc. N. H. Waldroup Pfc. X. Wang Pfc. J. I. Warren Pvt. C. H. Weir  <b>PLATOON 3255</b> Pfc. J. F. Bedoya Pfc. J. A. Fish *Pfc. A. D. Gates Pfc. R. L. Higginbottom III Pvt. A. J. Lopez Pvt. M. T. Lopez Pvt. Z. H. Perkins Pvt. R. P. Ramirez Pvt. W. I. Reed IV Pvt. I. A. Reimers Pvt. F. Reyes Pvt. D. M. Rochin Pvt. H. Rodriguez Jr. Pvt. C. M. Rosa Jr. Pfc. C. M. Rose Pvt. J. L. Roth	Pvt. D. A. Russell Pvt. N. J. Scheckel Pvt. M. S. Schultz Pvt. M. D. Segovia Pfc. T. D. Simmons Pvt. A. E. Skinner Pvt. D. J. Stiles Pvt. C. T. Strak Pvt. K. J. Strickland *Pfc. V. P. Sweat *Pfc. T. E. Tackett Pvt. P. Taufouo Pfc. M. C. Tech Pvt. G. C. Tengler Pvt. C. A. Ternosky Pvt. T. L. Theroux Pvt. J. Thimot Pvt. C. W. Thornburg Pfc. B. T. Tomison Pvt. J. A. Vega Pfc. J. R. Velez Pfc. A. M. Villegas Pfc. B. S. Virus Pvt. L. R. Waller Pvt. D. M. Watkins Pvt. J. L. Wiens Pfc. G. W. Wilson III Pvt. J. N. Wilson Pvt. R. R. Wineland II Pvt. W. J. Wright Jr. Pvt. A. E. Wright Pvt. J. R. Wright Pvt. K. J. Wright Pvt. S. H. Yook Pvt. Z. D. Zuma
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Recruits of Company H, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, prepare to jump in the water to complete a 25-meter swim during Swim Week aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego July 8. Recruits must complete each event while wearing the camouflaged utilities uniform and combat boots.

## Co. H recruits gain confidence with water survival skills

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN E. WOODLE  
*Chevron staff*

Recruits of Company H, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, completed the Water Survival Basic Qualification during Swim Week aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego July 8.

The purpose of Swim Week is to introduce recruits to the Marine Corps combat water survival skills.

Since the Marine Corps is an amphibious force, it is important to train recruits in the basic fundamentals of combat water survival, develop amphibious confidence and to simulate situations recruits may run into while out in training or combat.

"During swim week we familiarize

the recruits with water survival to get them comfortable in the water," said Sgt. Scott L. Ruby, Marine Corps Instructor of Water Survival, Instructional Training Company, Support Battalion. "It's a crawl, walk, run mentality where we give them the basics and have them build off of that."

Swim Week introduces new challenges that recruits must overcome in order to graduate recruit training. The swim qualification consists of a 25-meter swim in the shallow and deep end of the pool, a 10-foot jump from a diving board, a four-minute water tread, a 25-meter swim using a waterproof-pack, and a 10-second gear strip while submerged.

Recruits are required to wear the camouflaged utilities uniform and combat boots. The extra items weigh down the

recruits, restricting swim movements recruits may be used to. These challenges can cause recruits to become stressed and panicked, which greatly affects their ability to complete swim qualifications.

"I struggled a lot at first during the water survival training, especially during the four-minute water tread," said Recruit Mason T. Chamberlain, guide, Platoon 2171. "I was panicked at first but once I listened to the instructors, slowed my breathing and calmed down, it became easier to do."

For some recruits, this is the first time they've ever been in the water. Educating recruits so they understand the techniques and are comfortable with performing the events is critical for instructors.

"Before we begin the swim qualification events, water survival instructors

give in depth classes and demonstrations of how to properly execute the events," said Ruby. "One-third of each company has never really been exposed to water so we need to teach them to stay calm and relax."

Although the majority of recruit training is focused on land-based training, combat water survival training is just as critical to learn. Marines can be deployed on ships around the globe, as it is one of the main components to the Corps long history and purpose.

"As Marines we're not just warfighters, but amphibious as well," said Ruby. "The basic water survival training here could end up saving their life out in combat."



Recruits of Company H, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, jump off a 10-foot diving board during Swim Week aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego July 8. This event simulates having to jump off and abandon ship while out at sea.



Recruits of Company H, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, perform a four-minute water tread during Swim Week aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego July 8. Instructors teach recruits to stay calm and relax to make it through this event as it helps maintain buoyancy and reduce exhaustion.