



Taking aim at marksmanship

Pg 8

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO

CHEVRON

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION



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“WHERE MARINES ARE MADE”

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Rappel training demands recruits face fear

STORY & PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. TYLER VIGLIONE
Chevron staff

One of the most common fears among people is fear of heights. Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, recruits took on the Rappel Tower aboard the depot to push past that fear, Sept. 6.

During training day 58, recruits go through the rappel tower during recruit training because it is considered a confidence builder, according to Staff Sgt. Giovanni Dominguez, senior drill instructor, Platoon 1010.

“A good amount of recruits who go through recruit training are afraid of heights in some way so when they are going up the stairs to the top of that tower, they have to push through the fear,” said Dominguez, a native of Bronx, N.Y.

The rappel tower is a 60-foot structure with three different sections: the rappelling wall, the hell-hole and the fast rope. All recruits must complete the fast rope but get a choice on which one out of the other two they would like to do.

The fast rope, which is the first event recruits learn at the



Recruit Julio J. Valdezsilva, a native of San Marcos, Calif, slides from the rappel tower from the simulated hell hole, Sept. 6. When rappelling, the hand holding the rope at the back is used to control speed.

rappel tower, is a rope hung vertically that recruits must mount and slide down. This section is meant to give the recruits an idea

on how they would exit a helicopter.

After all recruits went through the fast rope, they were taught by

an Instructional Training Company instructor on how to properly rappel or slide down the hell-hole. They were also taught how

to properly make a rope harness.

“After the recruits make their

see RAPPEL ▶ 2



Company I recruits learned the importance of customs and courtesies in the Marine Corps, Sept. 4.

Learning to be Marines

STORY & PHOTO BY
PFC. JERICHO W. CRUTCHER
Chevron staff

Before recruits earn the title Marine, they must develop knowledge and understanding on how Marines present themselves.

For recruits of Company I, 3rd Recruits Training Battalion, the first step was the introduction of Marine Corps customs and courtesies on training day two aboard the depot, Sept. 4.

All recruits go to several different classes such as: Marine Corps history, traditions, leadership traits and uniform regulations. Classes are used to teach recruits about all

areas of Marine Corps knowledge.

“This class helps build on the professionalism and gives the recruits a basic foundation on how to act as a Marine,” said Sgt. Enrique Uribe, drill instructor. “Taking pride in our customs and courtesies is what sets us apart from the other branches in our military.”

Customs and courtesies help drill instructors instill traditions into recruits as well as show acknowledgement and respect to fellow Marines.

Marine Corps traditions stood out the most to one recruit during the class.

see BASIC ▶ 2

O-Course training aids fitness

STORY & PHOTO BY
CPL. PEDRO CARDENAS
Chevron staff

Physical fitness and mental toughness of recruits are initially tested during weeks two and three of recruit training. The Obstacle Course is one of the early events (training day nine) used to build grit and strength.

Recruits of Company E, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, conquered the O-Course aboard the depot, Sept. 5.

“The purpose of the Obstacle

Course is to mentally condition recruits for combat and also get recruits over their mental and physical fears,” said Staff Sgt. Joshua W. Cline, drill instructor, Platoon 2107. “This is going to build their confidence for future events when training becomes more demanding. It’s going to be less stressful and they are going to be more conditioned.”

Recruits begin the course by pulling their body over a high bar, then, slide across metal tubes. Afterward, recruits have to balance across wood beams,

mount over a wall and then, after hurdling over a few wooden beams, they must climb a 20 foot rope.

Once at the top of the rope, recruits yell their platoon number and the name of their senior drill instructor, signifying they have completed the course.

After completing the course, recruits have one more physical push to make. They must buddy drag another recruit, of similar size, approximately 40-yards.

see O-COURSE ▶ 2



A recruit of Company E, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, hurdles over a wood beam during the Obstacle Course aboard the depot, Sept. 5. Recruits must perform the course while wearing combat utilities and boots.



Company A recruits use the fast rope on the depot's rappel tower Sept. 6. A fast rope simulates rapid egress from the side entrance of a helicopter in flight, using a rope to reach the ground.

RAPPEL ◀ 1

harnesses, they must be checked twice by instructors to ensure it is properly made and it fits the recruit like it should," said Dominguez.

There are two routes that the recruits can go, the rappel wall or the hell-hole. The rappel wall is the side of the tower where recruits are supported by the harness and wall and get down by walking backwards down the side. The hell-hole is another imitation of a

helicopter exit and how one would exit by rope.

After recruits have been checked and are cleared, they climbed to the top of the 60-foot tower and faced their fears.

"I was so nervous when I was climbing up those stairs going to the top of the tower," said Joseph G. Kangethe, platoon 1010. "It really didn't look that high from the ground."

According to Kangethe, a native of Nairobi, Kenya, he noticed himself overcome his fear of heights and was

proud of himself for doing so.

"After I came down from the tower, I didn't know why I wanted to, but I wanted to go back up," said Kangethe.

Although recruits have conquered the rappel tower, they still have to face the Crucible, a 54-hour test of endurance where recruits must go through more than 30 obstacles while they experience food and sleep deprivation. Only after conquering the Crucible will recruits be awarded the title United States Marine.



Company I recruits learned the importance of customs and courtesies in the Marine Corps, Sept. 4. The class also went over various Marine Corps traditions such as the Marine Corps Ball, Marines Hymn and the meaning of Semper Fidelis, always faithful.

BASIC ◀ 1

"Customs and courtesies have been around since the beginning of Marine Corps history, every year the Marine Corps birthday is celebrated," said Recruit Timothy B. Do, Platoon 3205, a Houston native.

The Marine Corps holds a tradition for cutting the cake. A piece of the cake is given to the oldest and youngest Marine present, symbolizing the

experience and youthful spirit that are hallmarks of the Corps. After the cake ceremony, the birthday is followed by the Marine Corps Ball.

Giving the proper greeting of the day is another form of courtesy. Enlisted Marines are required to salute all officers, which is a form of courtesy that shows respect.

The class is taught early in recruit training to build the mentality and mindset of a Marine, explained Uribe, a

Houston native.

Now that the recruits of Co. I have received the class, they will be expected to carry customs, courtesies and traditions throughout the rest of recruit training and their Marine Corps career.

"It's important for recruits to be handed down the knowledge from those who came before them, and be trained into well-rounded Marines to carry on our Corps legacy," said Uribe.

O-COURSE ◀ 1

Immediately prior to the O-Course, recruits spend a few hours learning moves from the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, in a process that is meant to induce fatigue for the event to follow, the O-course. Once recruits begin the O-Course, drill instructors create a stressful environment for recruits by yelling and demanding speed.

Mental toughness helps recruits perform beyond what they thought were their physical limitations.

"It helps you perform under stress and while you are physically exhausted," said Recruit Robert T. Foster.

The O-Course is designed to also build confidence because, "Just like anything, knowing how to overcome each obstacle individually and doing all this while exhausted and tired, is very difficult," said Cline a Mantua, Ohio native.

For some recruits, the O-Course is a new learning experi-

ence, which they can use during deployments or combat operations.

"It was challenging at parts, but it prepares you for combat because there isn't a playing field where you will be operating," said Foster a Vancouver, Wash. native. "It gives you a sense of pride knowing you can adapt and overcome."

As recruits continue to move further into training, the tasks get tougher. During training day 47 and the Crucible (training day 61-62), recruits will face the Obstacle Course again, and each time they will be required to perform under more difficult circumstances. When recruits reach the Crucible, they will be tasked to complete it while wearing full combat utilities uniform, a helmet and carrying an M16-A4 service rifle.

Recruits of Co. E have completed the Obstacle Course for the first time, however, they still have a long road ahead of them. Their confidence and physical fitness continues to grow, which will help them push ahead, earning the title "Marine."

BRIEFS

Are you prepared?

September is National Preparedness Month! Be the Hero! Make a difference for yourself, your community and our nation. Do one or all of the following:

- Learn your risk and responses
- Make a family communications plan
- Build an emergency supply kit
- Get involved in preparedness for your community.
- Register at: www.ready.gov/pledge.

For information contact G-3, Mission Assurance, at (619) 524-8432.

MMOA Monitor Team visit

The MMOA monitor team will visit the Depot Nov. 1 and 2.

There will be an all-officer brief and presentation from 8 to 10 a.m. Nov 1. Interviews will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. November 1, and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Nov. 2. The brief and interviews will be held in the Conference Center, Building 7W. All officers are required to attend the briefing. Monitor interviews will be scheduled via SharePoint.

For questions regarding individual appointments, officers should contact their unit Adjutant. The MCRDSD coordinator is Ms. Edwards at (619) 524-8733.

Wallyball tournament

The MCRD Racquetball Courts will be the site of the Semper Fit, CG Cup Wallyball tournament on Oct. 8.

The event is open to MCRD active duty personnel and DoD and NAFI employees only.

In addition, register your section for the 2013 CG Cup Wallyball League today. This is a six-week league consisting of regular season and playoffs.

Entry deadline is Sept. 30.

Earn CG Cup points for participating and extra points for female participation.

Information: Rachel Dickinson at dickinsonr@usmc-mccs.org or (619) 524-0548.

Catalina Island trip

The Single Marines Program will sponsor a two day trip to Two Harbors, Catalina Island on Oct. 4 to 6.

The trip is open to single service members and geographical bachelors.

Camp on a private beach, snorkel, hike the island. Transportation, ferry and food is included in the \$75 cost.

For information call Josh Davis at (619) 524-8240, or contact him via the net at davisjp@usmc-mccs.org.

Information may also be found at http://www.mccsmcrd.com/Downloads/SingleMarineProgram/13_SMP_Catalina_Island_Trip_Buccaneer_Days_Festival_flyer.pdf

Universal Class Online

A free Universal Class Online is available through the depot's library. This is available to everyone with active Marine Corps Library accounts.

Study more than 500 online continuing education courses on any computer.

For information, course listings and registration call (619) 524-1849 Monday through Saturday from 8:30 a.m., until 5 p.m., and from 1 until 5 p.m. on Sundays. Information is also available at <http://www.facebook.com/mccsmcrdspd> <http://www.mccsmcrd.com/PersonalAndProfessionalDevelopment/Library/index.html>

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: "If you could choose your duty station, where would you choose to be stationed?"



"I would pick Hawaii. It's really beautiful out there and would cherish the sights and experience." Lance Cpl. Chelsi B. Johnson, administrative specialist, Depot Adjutant Office, Headquarters and Service Battalion



"Hawaii. I've never been there and would like to experience it. I've heard great things about the area and how beautiful it is." Lance Cpl. Brooks A. Crittenton, postal clerk, Post Office, Headquarters and Service Battalion



"I would pick here actually. I feel it's a good starting duty station and environment that allows me the opportunity to learn my job better since it seems less hectic. It also has more volunteer opportunities to go out and do different things within the Marine Corps outside of your Military Occupational Specialty." Lance Cpl. Phil A. Shanner, separation clerk, Finance Department, Headquarters and Service Battalion

Gun salute practice



Cpl. Pedro Cardenas

Sgt. Carlos Chavez Jr., drill instructor, Company G, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, fires one of the depot's three caliber 40mm MK11 Modified Naval Saluting Guns during gun salute practice Sept. 17. Practice was held by the ceremonial detail in preparation for future ceremonies. Gun salutes are rendered to military and civilian leaders of the nation. The number of shots ranges from 21 for the President of the United States to 11 shots for one-star flag officers.

Music makers take aim



Cpl. Pedro Cardenas

Gunnery Sgt. Andy C. Padilla, company gunnery sergeant, Service Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, teaches Sgt. Gracia Mariana, musician, Marine Band San Diego, aiming positions during familiarization fire at the East Miramar pistol range aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Sept. 12. Marines were encouraged to test their marksmanship skills with the M9 service pistol and M1014 shotgun.



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Fitness training builds recruit endurance

STORY & PHOTOS BY
PFC. JERICHO W. CRUTCHER
Chevron staff

Recruits of Company I, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, performed interval sprints before starting their cross-fit workout with the Circuit Course aboard the depot, Sept. 5.

The purpose of the Circuit Course is to build endurance, strength and stamina. Performing interval sprints before the course will test the recruits when they're fatigued.

"This course builds all over body strength and increases the recruit's endurance while they're exhausted," said Sgt. Aloha Tupou, drill instructor, Platoon 3203. "It takes mental and physical toughness to be able to push through when your body is drained."

Recruits warmed-up for the course by running two half-mile interval sprints and then split into groups of 10 led by a drill instructor.

The Circuit Course is a series of stations with different exercises. Each station is designed to target a specific muscle group.

Before they begin, the drill instructors informed the recruits how to properly execute each exercise. Recruits performed each exercise by synchronizing with the drill instructor that led their group. Recruits must continuously execute each exercise until the designated time runs out.

Recruits performed each station for 60 seconds before moving to the next one.

Then, drill instructors took the recruits to the next station where they would immediately start the designated exercise.

Starting this course fatigued, after running half-mile sprints, is what makes this course uneasy. Each station demands a new physical challenge such as pull-ups, incline sit-ups and jump ropes. Recruits feel the exhaustion set in as their bodies build endurance, explained Tupou, a San Diego native.

"Each station builds endurance and puts your body in physical discomfort," said Recruit Dominic V. Bernharda, a San Diego native. "The drill instructors push us through it when it feels impossible to continue."

Marines train to reach the peak of their physical fitness as it is demanded of them by the Marine Corps.

Even though they have a long road ahead, interval sprints combined with the Circuit Course is a way to prepare the recruits of Co. I for recruit training and their future careers as United States Marines.

"The Marine Corps demands high physical aspects out of all Marines", said Tupou. "Marines must always be prepared, whether it's running an annual Physical Fitness Test and Combat Fitness Test, or preparing for bigger things such as deployments."



Company I recruits perform two half-mile sprints on the depot's Circuit Course, Sept. 5. After the sprints, recruits begin the many exercises of the Circuit Course while they are fatigued. The Circuit Course has stations dedicated to the exercise to be performed.



Company I recruits execute leg lifts while hanging from pull-up bars on the depot's Circuit Course, Sept. 5. After leg lifts, the recruits are led to the next exercise by their drill instructor. Once there they begin the next 60 seconds of their workout.



Recruits perform over-head presses with a weighted bar on the depot's Circuit Course, Sept. 5. Starting the course fatigued after running half-mile sprints is what makes this event challenging.



Doing incline sit-ups increases the difficulty of the exercise and its effectiveness. Depot recruits perform this style sit-ups while running Circuit Course. Before beginning, drill instructors teach recruits how to properly execute the exercise.

Marine gives back by joining Corps

STORY & PHOTO BY
LANCE CPL. TYLER VIGLIONE
Chevron staff

Marines join the Corps for all sorts of reasons. For one Marine, the Corps was his way of giving back to America.

Pfc. Joseph E. Kangethe, Platoon 1010, Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, was born in a different environment than his peers; Nairobi, Kenya.

"I moved to the United States last year on February 20. I compare my life back in Africa to my life here and it was so much different," said Kangethe, 18. "In February 2012, I was able to move to America. My father got his green card and put my family's name on his papers so we got green cards as well."

According to Kangethe, the Kenyan school system was almost nothing like in the U.S. He had to pay to go to school and bring his own food every day. Unlike most students here, Kangethe went to school from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"I used to go to school with no food, we didn't have any food at home that I could bring, so I usually wouldn't eat all day," said Kangethe. "The teachers are also very different back in Africa; you get hit if you mess up in school, unlike here where they talk to you."

Kangethe described life in Kenya as hard, not only at school but at home as well. His mother was a housewife where she maintained the family farm.

"I would wake up every morning and couldn't eat breakfast. We didn't have anything to eat," said Kangethe. "So every morning I would go out and work in the field. I would try and find food but it was hard to find food and bring it back to my home."

His mother worked on the family farm where they grew crops and raised cattle for their food and when they didn't have the resources to gather enough food, they would hunt. Poverty struck Kangethe's family, which is why they struggled to keep

food in their house.

Kangethe grew up in a close knit community. He knew everyone by name and where they lived. When he moved to the U.S. he didn't even know his neighbor in the apartment complex he resided in.

When Kangethe got settled in the U.S. he tried to decide what to do – how to seize all of the opportunities America had to offer, and how to take it further.

"America saved my life," said Kangethe. "I felt like I owed something to America so I joined the Marine Corps."

He didn't want to go to college. He said he knew deep down it wasn't the right path for him.

"I did this for myself and for all the other people that got the opportunity to come from Africa," said Kangethe. "Many people come up here (to America) and forget how their lives were where they came from, I didn't."

Through the duration of recruit training, Kangethe was described as inspirational by his peers and even his drill instructors.

"He had a strong presence with the platoon, which is why we made him a squad leader," said Staff Sgt. Giovanni Dominguez, senior drill instructor. "The other recruits respected him because he showed them to take nothing for granted."

Kangethe was always on top of what he needed to do while in recruit training. He scored high on his physical fitness test and qualified "expert" with the M16-A4 service rifle.

"Coming from his background, being able to do everything he has accomplished while in recruit training is unbelievable," said Dominguez, a native of Bronx, N.Y. "He was truly an outstanding recruit, one of the best I've had during my time as a drill instructor."

Dominguez believes that Kangethe will be very successful in his Marine Corps career because it's never about himself, he always puts others first.



Pfc. Joseph E. Kangethe joined the Marine Corps because he felt it was his way of paying back America for giving him the chance to live a better life.

"I was fortunate to have him in my platoon. I've learned a lot from him that I will be able to use later on in my career," said Dominguez.

Kangethe will move on from recruit training to Marine Combat Training. Then he will continue on to his

military occupational school as an Automotive Organizational Mechanic.

"My mother always told me don't complain when you have two pairs of shoes because there is always that person who only has one pair of shoes. That is how I guide

my life and I'm going to take any opportunity I get and make the best out of it," said Kangethe. "I tell people all the time to appreciate what they have because there are people that would wish to have what they have and be happy with it."

Col. Wayne A. Sinclair

Parade Reviewing Officer

Col. Wayne A. Sinclair was born and raised in South Africa and Zambia where his parents served as missionaries. In 1982, he moved to the United States to complete high school. He attended the Virginia Military Institute where he graduated in 1988 and was commissioned a second lieutenant.

Upon completion of The Basic School and the Combat Engineer Officer Course, Sinclair served with Company A, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii as a platoon commander and later company executive officer. In September 1990, his company joined 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division for the duration of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm where his platoon supported several different USMC infantry battalions and the King Abdul Aziz Brigade, Saudi Army National Guard, and Regimental Combat Team 5, Task

Force Ripper.

In late 1992, Sinclair left Hawaii and reported to Camp Lejeune, N.C., for instructor duty with Combat Engineer Instruction Company, Marine Corps Engineer School. In 1996, he reported to 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group at Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he served as the assistant operations officer and later as the Force Protection Engineer for Joint Task Force Southwest Asia in Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Sinclair returned from the Middle East to 7th Engineers and spent two years in command of Company B and Engineer Support Company respectively before departing Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton for recruiting duty.

From 1999 to 2002, Sinclair commanded Recruiting Station Phoenix in the 12th Marine Corps District. In 2002, he reported to Marine Corps Command and Staff College in Quantico, Va., as a student.

In March 2003, Sinclair was among a group of CSC students who were forward deployed as individual augmentees in support of Marine Corps forces in

Operation Iraqi Freedom. Following his return to Quantico in June, Sinclair attended the School of Advanced Warfighting.

In June 2004, Sinclair reported to I Marine Expeditionary Force where he served as deputy, future operations, operations, and deployed as such for Operation Iraqi Freedom II and OIF 2005-2007.

In August 2006, Sinclair assumed command of 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division which supported I MEF combat engineer operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2007, he deployed to Iraq to direct the counter Improvised Explosive Device section of operations, I MEF (FWD) in support of OIF 2008. He returned from Iraq to attend top level school and, in July 2009, Sinclair and his family relocated to Stuttgart, Germany where he served as the chief of plans, U.S. European Command.

Sinclair is a graduate of the Amphibious Warfare School, the U.S. Army Sapper Leader Course, the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, the School of Advanced Warfighting, and the National War College.

Sinclair's personal decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with gold star, Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars, Joint Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat "V" and two gold stars, and the Combat Action Ribbon.





Platoon 1013 COMPANY HONOR MAN Pfc. M. N. Devine Milwaukee, Wis. Recruited by Sgt. R. Webber
Platoon 1011 SERIES HONOR MAN Pfc. E. A. Alvarez Grand Rapids North, Mich. Recruited by Sgt. C. Jeffers
Platoon 1009 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. M. A. Chestnut Yucca Valley, Calif. Recruited by Sgt. R. Moreno
Platoon 1010 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. B. A. Langille Tempe, Ariz. Recruited by Sgt. B. Kidd
Platoon 1014 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. E. E. Larranga Jr. Laredo, Texas Recruited by Staff Sgt. D. Hernandez
Platoon 1015 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. J. B. Trammell Round Rock, Texas Recruited by Staff Sgt. C. Boone
Platoon 1010 HIGH SHOOTER (241) Pfc. B. M. Juhl New Prague, Minn. Marksman Instructor Cpl. M. Douglas
Platoon 1013 HIGH PFT (300) Pfc. J. Pereira Anaheim, Calif. Recruited by Sgt. A. Rodriguez



HONOR PLATOON

ALPHA COMPANY

1st RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION



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Sergeant Major
Battalion Drill Master

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Sgt. Maj. M. S. Seamans
Gunnery Sgt. R. Rangel

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Capt. P. A. Dinardo
Company First Sergeant
1st Sgt. J. A. Hoversten

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Series Commander
Capt. A. E. Moore
Chief Drill Instructor
Gunnery Sgt. D. J. Rodriguez

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Senior Drill Instructor
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Drill Instructors
Sgt. B. E. Aleman
Sgt. T. S. Bazua
Sgt. R. R. Crider
Sgt. C. L. Doyon
Sgt. H. A. Torres

PLATOON 1010
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Drill instructors
Staff Sgt. J. A. Delgado
Staff Sgt. J. J. Gutierrez
Staff Sgt. C. A. Kittle
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Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. J. J. Leopold
Staff Sgt. A. F. Thurlow
Sgt. I. P. Jones
Sgt. C. B. Ramsey
Sgt. K. A. Stewart

* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

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Pfc. C. H. Angeles
Pvt. A. Askew
Pfc. A. Aviles
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Pvt. B. R. Huber
Pfc. J. M. Hudson
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Pfc. J. R. Musso
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Pfc. Z. T. Phelps
Pfc. R. W. Piehl
Pvt. F. Quinonez-Perez Jr.
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Pvt. J. M. Robbins
Pvt. N. J. Santos
*Pfc. D. R. Shimoda
Pfc. C. R. Smith
*Pfc. J. R. Solis
Pvt. J. D. Sonntag
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Pfc. T. J. Thomas
Pvt. A. J. Trabert
Pvt. D. W. Udell
Pvt. J. J. Valdezsilva
Pfc. T. A. Wagner
Pfc. D. V. Walter
Pvt. S. J. Waychoff
Pfc. C. L. Wimberly

PLATOON 1010
Pfc. O. Alcocer
Pvt. F. Aliano-Herrera
Pvt. D. R. Alland
Pvt. M. A. Anderson
Pfc. D. A. Apakov
Pvt. I. A. Aragon
Pfc. F. Aziz
*Pfc. M. P. Barker
Pvt. N. I. Battle
Pvt. R. J. Becker
Pvt. N. K. Benson
Pvt. M. J. Biewer
Pfc. R. L. Bland
Pvt. J. A. Boldt
*Pfc. H. Cardenas-Jimenez
Pvt. N. J. Cascone
Pvt. A. J. Chapa
Pvt. N. T. Crowder
Pvt. A. J. Davis
Pfc. T. M. DeShazo
Pfc. T. W. Deuel
Pfc. M. W. Drum
Pfc. Z. D. Fisher
Pfc. S. M. Foster
Pvt. M. L. Fowler
Pvt. C. A. Fuentes Jr.
Pvt. J. D. Gillette
Pvt. A. R. Godeke
Pfc. I. R. Godinez

Pvt. A. Gomez
Pvt. J. E. Gonzalez Jr.
Pvt. T. R. Grooman
Pvt. S. K. Hadley Jr.
Pvt. Z. F. Hagan
Pvt. T. L. Hanson
Pvt. M. R. Harty
Pvt. T. J. Haycraft
Pfc. D. G. Hellwig-Tinoco
Pfc. B. M. Helstrom
*Pfc. R. M. Hladik Jr.
Pvt. I. A. Ireland
Pfc. N. C. Jimenez
Pvt. T. J. Johnson
Pfc. J. B. Jordan
*Pfc. B. M. Juhl
Pfc. J. G. Kangethe
Pvt. B. A. Kelley
Pfc. Z. A. King
Pvt. J. G. Kolovos
Pvt. R. A. Kurudza
Pfc. B. A. Langille
Pvt. L. M. Leist
Pvt. H. M. Leverett
Pvt. M. A. Lewis
Pfc. C. S. Loggins
Pfc. J. L. Lomeli
*Pfc. N. A. Longo
Pvt. A. A. Lopez
Pfc. D. E. Lucas
Pvt. R. A. Mendoza-Cota
Pfc. J. T. Mennen
Pvt. J. M. Michaelis
Pvt. A. R. Nagel
Pfc. S. B. Nassar
Pfc. D. Nazaria
Pvt. M. A. Newbury
Pvt. A. F. Ortizguzman
Pvt. D. E. Padilla
Pfc. M. A. Paszek
Pfc. D. M. Peterson
Pvt. J. D. Petrik
Pfc. J. D. Piggott
Pvt. A. Pulido
Pvt. E. V. Quintanilla
Pfc. M. T. Ramirez
Pvt. C. C. Reed
Pvt. M. A. Rodriguez
Pvt. J. L. Rohn
Pvt. J. H. Roquemore
Pvt. M. A. Salas
Pfc. J. M. Sanmiguel III
Pvt. B. G. Senn
Pfc. D. G. Spevak
Pfc. A. J. Spring

Pfc. K. N. Stapleton-Flannagan
Pvt. J. G. Tellosevilla
Pfc. C. J. Theis

PLATOON 1011
Pfc. J. Alcalá
Pfc. A. V. Alonzi
Pfc. E. A. Alvarez
Pfc. J. Anderson
Pvt. J. A. Arcivar
Pvt. E. J. Ashby
Pvt. E. B. Ashley
Pvt. W. B. Ayers
Pvt. C. R. Barry
Pfc. J. A. Batura
Pfc. J. J. Baffano IV
Pvt. J. D. Bennett
Pvt. C. J. Bowden
Pvt. A. T. Brandon
Pvt. D. D. Brost
Pvt. C. W. Bukenhagen
Pfc. J. L. Burth
*Pfc. G. Castaneda
Pvt. O. Castillo
Pvt. R. M. Castro
Pfc. T. M. Cochran
Pvt. S. E. Cooper
Pvt. R. Cruz
*Pfc. S. C. Daniel
Pfc. A. J. Davis
Pvt. J. Dietz
Pvt. K. R. Edwards
Pfc. B. Ellis
Pvt. D. F. Eubanks
Pvt. Z. L. Ferguson
Pvt. A. W. Fields
Pfc. F. T. Friesen
Pfc. E. L. Gann
Pvt. V. M. Garcia Jr.
Pfc. M. T. Gonzalez
Pvt. N. A. Graber Jr.
Pvt. B. T. Greunke
Pfc. J. M. Guzman
*Pfc. A. P. Hansen
Pvt. M. F. Harrison
Pfc. G. R. Hartley
Pvt. M. T. Hausman
Pvt. J. L. Herrara-Reyes
Pfc. I. R. House
Pvt. L. J. Hudoba
Pfc. H. Z. Huffaker
Pfc. R. P. Huynh
Pfc. Z. D. Jutkins
Pvt. A. C. Kauffman
Pvt. N. J. Kimball

Pvt. K. C. Lagares
Pfc. J. Lanzi
Pvt. M. Leavitt
Pvt. J. A. Leiner
Pvt. J. P. Lobue
*Pfc. M. C. Lopez
Pvt. J. J. Madrawski Jr.
Pfc. N. A. Martinez
Pvt. F. A. Melendez
Pfc. H. M. Mendoza Jr.
Pfc. I. Mirzaei-Nejad
Pvt. M. S. Mitchell
Pvt. D. M. Moon
Pvt. B. K. Morgan
Pfc. A. J. Morrison
Pvt. A. S. Nelson
Pvt. C. A. Oetken
Pvt. C. E. Oppus Jr.
Pvt. A. Orozco
Pfc. C. G. Palacios
Pfc. E. J. Panzer
Pfc. J. E. Pashkov
Pvt. D. A. Perez
*Pfc. W. E. Perkins
Pfc. M. A. Pundt
Pvt. P. V. Raffaely
Pvt. J. I. Renteria
Pfc. J. A. Rios
Pvt. K. J. Riss
Pfc. T. J. Rodgers
Pfc. J. C. Sanchez III
Pfc. J. M. Scheibmeir
Pfc. C. A. Schlosser
Pvt. K. P. Sneed
Pvt. S. P. Sullivan Jr.
Pfc. B. H. Sutton
Pfc. A. G. Tekie
Pfc. J. L. Trefz
Pfc. E. M. Trichel
Pvt. T. A. Trulson

PLATOON 1013
Pfc. P. Aguilar
Pfc. T. M. Ahlert
Pvt. R. J. Anderson Jr.
Pfc. K. J. Anderson
Pfc. J. M. Andress
Pvt. V. H. Arechiga Jr.
Pfc. K. M. Barnett
Pvt. J. R. Bellis
Pvt. K. R. Boyer
Pvt. B. D. Brinkley
Pfc. A. J. Buettner
Pfc. J. R. Bumstead
Pvt. J. Cahill
Pvt. B. B. Cain

Pvt. J. S. Capraro
Pfc. A. G. Carr
Pvt. J. Carrera
Pfc. A. Castaneda Jr.
Pvt. R. D. Ceballos-Batista
Pfc. M. W. Cedeno-Mantuano
Pfc. J. A. Cisneros
Pvt. J. E. Clem
Pfc. W. D. Coleman
Pfc. N. W. Collins
Pvt. F. A. Costa
Pfc. D. D. Cox
Pvt. A. Cruz
Pfc. V. J. Dandini
Pvt. A. C. Davis
Pfc. G. M. Delgadillo
Pfc. L. Delgado
*Pfc. M. N. Devine
Pvt. T. Diaz
Pfc. E. Duarte
Pvt. C. A. Dubon-Chavez
Pvt. C. T. Duvall
Pvt. J. R. Esparza
Pvt. J. Fraley
Pvt. J. Garcia-Perez
Pvt. J. R. Garza
Pvt. T. J. Goldsmith
Pvt. H. R. Gonzalez
Pfc. S. L. Gresham
Pvt. F. Guerra
Pfc. R. B. Harrell
Pvt. T. C. Harris
Pfc. S. C. Hartmann
Pvt. T. S. Henao
Pvt. L. G. Hernandez
Pfc. M. Hernandez
Pfc. M. J. Hewitt
Pvt. D. M. Horn
Pfc. A. J. Horton
Pfc. S. M. Jameson
Pvt. A. A. Jimenez
Pvt. J. J. Jimenez-Gomez
Pvt. C. R. Johnson
*Pfc. D. A. Johnson
Pvt. A. D. Kauffman
Pvt. M. J. Kent
Pvt. N. J. Kessler
*Pfc. K. A. Kintop Jr.
Pfc. A. Lagunas
Pfc. B. E. Lauderdale
Pfc. R. J. Leano
Pvt. M. Lopez
*Pfc. N. D. Luciani Jr.
Pfc. R. Martinez

Pvt. J. J. Mccord
Pvt. L. M. Misenhimer
Pvt. C. J. Monteith
Pfc. V. E. Morin
Pfc. D. J. Ochoa
Pfc. B. J. Ortiz
*Pfc. D. E. Ott
Pfc. J. A. Pereira
Pvt. S. N. Perez
Pfc. C. A. Rivera

PLATOON 1014
*Pfc. G. J. Alvarez
Pvt. W. L. Barnes
Pfc. J. A. Boykin
Pfc. D. B. Carlson
Pvt. M. C. Casiano
Pvt. A. D. Castro
Pvt. D. E. Chang
Pvt. B. F. Connell
*Pfc. M. G. Cooke
Pfc. C. H. Courtney
Pvt. J. I. Cruz
Pvt. J. J. Curry
Pfc. S. K. Dilwith
Pfc. H. L. Ertz
Pvt. R. M. Escobar
Pfc. W. N. Fox
Pvt. A. O. Galindo
Pfc. P. P. Goblirsch
Pfc. R. Q. Goldson
Pvt. R. R. Gonzales
Pvt. J. S. Grahl
Pfc. R. T. Guzman
Pvt. Q. A. Hendrix
Pvt. P. B. Hershey
Pvt. A. C. Hinojosa
*Pfc. T. D. Ho
Pvt. J. E. Jensen
Pvt. W. F. Johnson
Pvt. J. G. Hoy
Pvt. C. H. Kellogg
Pfc. J. I. Kileleman
*Pfc. C. J. Kramer
Pfc. E. E. Larranaga Jr.
Pvt. B. K. Long
Pvt. J. L. Lopez-Noriega
Pvt. M. M. Malsol
Pfc. J. J. Marquez
Pvt. A. J. Martinez
Pfc. R. J. Medina
Pfc. E. N. Menchaca
*Pfc. E. Mendoza
Pfc. M. O. Mendoza



Recruits Caleb A. Allen and Tayler J. McCann of Platoon 2122, Company F, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, practice their prone and sitting positions during Grass Week at Edson Rang aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 4. The different positions can create discomfort; therefore, snap-in time is used to get recruits accustomed to the position and help them feel more comfortable during firing week.

Corps' marksmanship begins in Grass Week

STORY & PHOTO
BY CPL. PEDRO CARDENAS
Chevron staff

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – The Marine Corps' marksmen and snipers are regarded by some to be part of the best in the world.

To become part of that group, recruits of Company F, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, have to start from the basic fundamentals of marksmanship during Grass Week at Edson Range aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 4. It is the Corps' marksmanship program that ensures every Marine is taught the basic fundamentals they can build on throughout their career.

The purpose of the fifth week of training, otherwise known as Grass Week, is for recruits to learn the basics of

how to operate the M16-A4 service rifle.

"We have to start with square one and teach recruits every aspect of a weapon from the nomenclature to the functions of the weapon," said Sgt. Anthony I. Juedes, drill instructor Platoon 2125. "You have to know how to fundamentally use your weapon regardless of rank or job."

During Grass Week, each platoon is assigned to a Primary Marksmanship Instructor or PMI. PMI's are the subject matter experts in the art of shooting and provide classes for recruits throughout the week. Recruits learn how to use an M16-A4 service rifle, as well as the mechanical functions that make it work. Some marksmanship fundamentals learned during the week include sight picture, sight alignment, trigger

control, breathing control and natural point of aim.

Once classroom instruction is over, recruits move on to the practical application. Recruits practice their sitting, kneeling and prone positions on a padded area that surrounds a barrel target. They spend countless hours during this week in a process called snapping-in, where they aim, with empty magazines loaded, at a barrel with targets painted on it. The targets are of different sizes to simulate the distance (200, 300 and 500 yards) at which recruits will be shooting live fire during firing week.

PMI's use snap-in time to adjust recruits' positions and ensure their deficiencies are corrected.

Other fundamental knowledge recruits learn regarding their weapon is the differ-

ence between a stoppage and a malfunction. A stoppage is a disruption in the cycle of operations from firing one round to the next. Marines are trained in how to fix the disruption to continue firing.

A malfunction is an irreparable damage to a piece of the weapon that only a trained armorer may fix.

"If you are deployed and are in a combat situation, you have to know how to fix the weapon in case of a stoppage," said Juedes, an Oshkosh, Wis. native. "You can be sure the person to your left and to your right have received the same training."

Eighteen-year-old recruit Alexander P. Morgan had previous experience with weapons, but, the knowledge he gained during Grass Week made him more confident in his shooting abilities.

"I fired a weapon before recruit training and I was terrible, I missed the target multiple times," said Morgan, a Whales, United Kingdom native. "Grass Week has greatly improved my understanding of marksmanship. As long as I follow the fundamentals taught here I feel I will do well on firing week."

During firing week, recruits of Co. F went to the firing range, where they shot live ammunition to qualify with their rifle. Qualification is a graduation requirement and thus another reason for the importance of Grass Week.

"Every Marine is a rifleman, and one day in combat your life might depend on it," said Morgan. "The weapon is an extension of your body and you must know how to use it to its full capabilities."

CON'T FROM ◀7

Pfc. B. P. Mills
Pvt. G. Moreno
Pvt. J. Morris
Pvt. M. Murphy
Pvt. A. A. Oberbroeckling
Pvt. J. E. Painter
Pvt. Y. I. Paredes
Pvt. C. O. Partida
Pvt. E. U. Paul
Pvt. A. A. Payne
Pfc. J. B. Perez
Pvt. M. B. Powers
Pfc. T. A. Proffitt
Pvt. T. C. Raioshek
Pvt. F. Recinos-Blanco
Pvt. M. A. Reetz
Pvt. R. J. Ringgold
Pvt. J. Robbins
Pfc. C. Robertson
Pvt. C. D. Roe
Pfc. Z. Rosiewicz
Pvt. B. Royer
Pfc. M. Sandoval
Pfc. J. Scales
Pfc. A. Schullerts

Pvt. T. Scott
Pvt. P. Sears
Pvt. W. Self
Pvt. T. Sexton
Pvt. A. Sinaovic
Pfc. J. Soderstrom
Pfc. J. Stainbrook
Pvt. D. Stewart
Pvt. S. Streets
Pfc. J. Swan
Pvt. G. J. Tacho
Pvt. D. Tellez
Pvt. B. Thomas
Pvt. U. Trujillo-Garcia
Pvt. A. Vanhook
Pfc. E. Vega

PLATOON 1015

Pvt. D. M. Branstad
Pvt. J. A. Castillo
Pvt. J. L. Castillo
Pfc. S. M. Cater
*Pfc. P. T. Comparan
Pfc. G. B. Cuadro
Pfc. K. K. Daoheuang
Pvt. C. J. Davis
Pfc. T. M. Eguia

Pfc. D. L. Farmer
Pfc. J. Flores-Barragan
Pvt. W. A. Folts
Pvt. G. A. Gallaway
Pfc. M. T. George
Pfc. M. K. Gibson
Pfc. A. J. Gordon
Pfc. I. C. Green
Pfc. R. E. Gregg
Pvt. C. A. Hall
Pvt. B. W. Halmon
Pvt. J. E. Hillier
Pvt. T. R. Holleman
Pvt. C. L. Hollern
Pvt. M. L. Hollwager II
Pvt. C. L. Horn
Pvt. J. T. Hunt
Pvt. N. J. Inman
*Pfc. N. A. Klocek
Pfc. I. R. Lamarr
Pvt. J. C. Lappin
Pfc. J. M. Lassak
Pvt. T. J. Loesch
Pfc. G. D. Mains
Pvt. C. M. Mattsson-Boze
Pfc. W. L. Meridith
Pfc. J. C. Montry

Pfc. A. F. Nunes
Pfc. T. A. Quick
Pvt. J. D. Rodriguez
Pfc. B. E. Ruhkman
Pvt. J. A. Russell
Pvt. J. D. Sacramento
Pfc. T. Sanchez-Solorzano
Pfc. M. B. Scheibe
Pfc. J. P. Scoggan
Pvt. M. A. Sexton
*Pfc. D. J. Stamp
Pvt. B. G. Stover
Pvt. S. C. Sturm
Pvt. T. A. Tegman
Pvt. J. A. Thorpe
Pvt. D. C. Todd
Pfc. J. B. Trammell
Pvt. B. P. Treff
Pfc. P. M. Tucker
Pvt. Z. R. Turner
Pfc. M. Valdez
Pfc. R. A. Valencia
Pfc. A. D. Verbrugge
Pvt. L. P. Vesco-Marrujo
Pfc. N. R. Vickers
Pvt. T. L. Vickrey
Pfc. S. A. Voll

Pvt. K. R. Walker
Pfc. Q. K. Wallace
Pfc. D. Y. Wang
*Pfc. M. J. Ward
Pvt. T. T. Watanabe
Pvt. D. T. Weiss
Pvt. C. J. Wells
Pvt. T. D. Whitmire
Pvt. A. L. Wigern
Pvt. E. R. Wilde
Pvt. J. A. Williams
Pvt. T. L. Williams
Pvt. J. E. Willis
Pvt. A. L. Wilson
Pvt. T. B. Wilson
Pfc. T. L. Wishon
Pfc. Z. C. Woitas
Pfc. A. D. Wosley
Pvt. K. D. Wormington
Pfc. T. J. Yang
Pvt. T. B. Yeatter
Pvt. S. J. Yopez
Pfc. A. Zepeda
*Pfc. J. M. Zimmerman
Pfc. B. Z. Zollars