

Co. H recruits survive water survival quals

Pg4



MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO

# CHEVRON

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION



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“WHERE MARINES ARE MADE”

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## Recruits push their limits during Final PFT

STORY & PHOTOS BY  
CPL. CRYSTAL J. DRUERY  
Chevron staff

With only a few weeks left before earning the title Marine, recruits from Company F, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, pushed themselves to their limits during their final Physical Fitness Test Oct. 10.

It is important for recruits to score as high as possible on their final PFT because this score follows them into the Fleet Marine Force, and helps them get promoted.

“They have to push themselves because this is the beginning of their career,” said Staff Sgt. Joshua Geidel, drill instructor, Platoon 2121.

“The training schedule pushes and tests them mentally and physically, making sure they get stronger each day,” said the Loveland, Colo., native.

Recruits start preparing for this PFT from day one of recruit training. For a perfect score, male recruits strive for 20 pull ups, 100 crunches in 2 minutes and a 3-mile run in 18 minutes.

When arriving to the depot, before recruits can start training with a company they must first pass an Initial Strength Test. This test is the same as a PFT except the run is cut in half.

“When I got here the IST was harder than I thought it would be,” said Recruit Eric Ramirez,



Company F recruits perform pull ups for their final Physical Fitness Test under the supervision of drill instructors Oct. 10 aboard the depot. Next the recruits perform timed crunches and a timed run.

guide, Plt. 2123. “It was much more competitive than I realized it would be.”

The purpose of the IST is to determine where each recruit is

at physically and to ensure they meet the physical requirements to start training.

Their first PFT is held during week four and they also take an

inventory PFT during week nine, a week prior to their final one. These allow the drill instructors and recruits a chance to see where each recruit is and what they can

improve on before their recorded PFT. It also lets them see how much they have improved since

see PFT ▶ 2

## Recruits apply hand-to-hand combat skills

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
LANCE CPL. JERICHO W. CRUTCHER  
Chevron staff

Geared up and ready to spar, Company L recruits prepared to battle each other during Pugil Sticks III, Oct. 8. This event allowed recruits to apply different Marine Corps Martial Arts tech-



Company L recruits engage each other in simulated hand-to-hand combat during Pugil Sticks III Training Oct. 8.

niques they have learned in recruit training.

Pugil Sticks III consist of recruits sparring with each other, simulating close-quarters-combat between two people.

Helped by fellow recruits, they donned protective gear while waiting their turn to charge into the fighting hole. Each recruit wore a helmet and padded protective gear on their body while they used a two-sided padded stick as their weapon. When it was their turn to fight, recruits yelled their name and weight to ensure all participants are within 10 pounds of their weight.

An instructor refereed each fight as he looked for a “kill blow” from one of the recruits to declare a match winner.

The recruits used the MCMAP training they have learned. This helped familiarize the recruits with the proper way to execute each move while in a hand-to-hand combat situation. In a combat situation where they run out of ammunition or their weapon jams, they can still continue to fight.

“The battlefield isn’t predictable, meaning anything can happen while you’re on a deployment so, we as Marines must train to be ready for the unpredictable,” said Sgt. Brandon J. Cobb, drill instructor, Platoon 3241. “Warfare is more than just having a fire fight; it can be close hand-to-hand combat like the recruits experienced today.”

Exhaustion also comes into play in a battlefield.

“During the (simulated) battle of hand-to-

see STICKS ▶ 2



Lance Cpl. Jericho Crutcher

Gary Sinise, right center, welcomes the coastguardsmen who attended the inaugural USO Feed the Troops barbecue Oct. 11.

## Gary Sinise visits San Diego, troops kicks off USO’s monthly barbecues

STORY COMPILED BY THE  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE STAFF

SAN DIEGO – Actor Gary Sinise, mingled, talked and shared laughter with San Diego-based troops during the inaugural barbecue for the Feed the Troops program held at the Airport United Services Organizations, Oct. 11.

This was the first Feed the Troops program inauguration the actor was able to attend due to his busy schedule, according to Katie F. Jones, spokesperson for the San Diego Airport Authority.

Approximately 200 servicemembers attended from local

military installations. The catered barbecue included food such as beef, green beans, macaroni and cheese, along with sodas and water.

“(Gary Sinise) met all of us and we were able to talk to him,” said Sgt. Justin Mcleod, from Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. “It was good food. It was a nice (event).”

For the troops, meeting him in person was the highlight of the event. While Sinise was at the USO, he made sure to thank each servicemember and take a photo with them.

see USO ▶ 2





**Company F recruits take off to begin the running portion of their final Physical Fitness Test Oct. 10. The running portion of the PFT is a timed event and totals a distance of 3 miles. Co. F also had to complete a maximum set of pull ups and timed crunches.**

#### PFT ◀ 1

they arrived.

"I feel pretty confident going into this," said Ramirez, a Houston, Texas native. "I'm trying to set the example for my fellow recruits and lead from the front. But it's still a competition."

Ramirez said he has improved in each part of the PFT, especially his pull ups. Each recruit is provided square-

away time most nights, where they can choose to work on their weaknesses.

For Recruit Alex Comte, Plt. 2123, his run time improved the most for him.

"I have almost a perfect PFT now," said Comte, a Houston, Texas native. "The drill instructors are the reason I push myself. I see how much work they put into themselves and the team, it makes me want to do the same."

As Co. F continues to get more men-

tally and physically fit, they are getting closer for the next test, the Crucible. This is a 54-hour food and sleep deprived field exercise with over 30 obstacles. Upon completion of this event recruits are given their Eagle, Globe and Anchor and considered Marines. The following week, Co. F will walk across the parade deck of the depot and graduate from the 12 week long recruit training.



**Co. L recruits use Marine Corps Martial Arts Program skills in a hand-to-hand combat bout during Pugil Sticks III Training Oct. 8.**

#### STICKS ◀ 1

hand combat I experienced a lot of fatigue, which is something you can face on a combat deployment," said Recruit Tyler J. Evans, an 18-year-old Aransas, Texas native. "When you get tired you have to push

through no matter how bad the pain, because even though this is just a simulated fight it can be the real thing on a combat deployment."

Everything that has been taught throughout recruit training has a purpose which recruits will take on with them

throughout their Marine Corps careers.

"We as Marines must train to be ready for anything that can and will occur," said Cobb, a 25-year-old Charlotte, N.C., native. "All Marines must go through the basics of training during their time in recruit training."

#### USO ◀ 1

"Watching him with each individual person that he was speaking with, he was completely focused on them the entire time," said Jones, a native of San Diego. "He was patient, giving and polite. It was really remarkable to see how much he genuinely cares."

The different servicemembers showed much appreciation for what Sinise has done and continues to do for them by shaking his hand and thanking him and posing for pic-

tures with a sign saying "Thank You."

"The Gary Sinise Foundation came here today to simply show their appreciation and to feed the troops," said Bobby B. Woods, USO director. "He (Sinise) wanted to make sure that the youngest service member in attendance ate first."

The Feed the Troops program is funded and run by the Gary Sinise Foundation in coordination with the USO to offer a barbeque to military personnel on the first Tuesday of each month.

"The USO decided on Tuesdays being

the day for the Feed the Troop Program because it is when the new Marines are all coming back to go up to Camp Pendleton," said Woods, referring to the Marines on their way to School of Infantry aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.

The Gary Sinise Foundation is credited with starting numerous programs that support the men and women of the armed forces. From benefit concerts to providing meals to service members, the foundation was created in Sinise's efforts to support the troops.

#### BRIEFS

##### Bayview Restaurant Fall Wine Dinner

The Bayview Restaurant hosts its annual Fall Wine Dinner tomorrow from 6:30 until 9:30 p.m. For information or reservations call Melanie Decosta at (619) 725-6388 or visit [http://www.mccsmcrd.com/Downloads/BayViewRestaurant/13\\_BV\\_Charles\\_Krug\\_Fall\\_Wine\\_Dinner\\_poster\\_flyer\\_PRINT.pdf](http://www.mccsmcrd.com/Downloads/BayViewRestaurant/13_BV_Charles_Krug_Fall_Wine_Dinner_poster_flyer_PRINT.pdf)

##### Gas lanes closure

The depot's MCRD gas lanes will be closed on Tuesday, and again on Nov. 6 from approximately 7:45 a.m., until 4 p.m., for mandatory annual vapor testing.

The Mini Mart will be open for regular business hours.

For information like us on Facebook @ [www.facebook.com/mccsmcrdsd.mcx](http://www.facebook.com/mccsmcrdsd.mcx), or visit our Website <http://www.mcx-mcrdsandiego.com/saleevents.htm>

##### MC Birthday Ball Uniform and Etiquette Training

The depot Single Marine Program sponsors a Marine Corps Birthday Ball and Etiquette Training course Oct. 29, from 9 a.m., until noon in the Rec. Center.

Single Marines and E-4 and below (regardless of marital status) are encouraged to attend. Marines E-5 and above will instruct junior Marines on proper etiquette and will have tips to prepare them for the Nov. 8 Birthday Ball.

The event also features prizes and a late lunch service.

For information call Josh Davis at (619) 524-8240.

##### Baby Boot Camp

The depot's new parent support program hosts Baby Boot Camp - Wednesday, from 8:30 a.m., until 4 p.m., in Building 6E.

This is a class for expectant parents to learn about labor and delivery, and newborn care.

For information or registration call (619)-524-0465 or visit [www.mccsmcrd.com/Downloads/NPSP/13\\_BHS\\_NPSP\\_Baby\\_Boot\\_Camp\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.mccsmcrd.com/Downloads/NPSP/13_BHS_NPSP_Baby_Boot_Camp_flyer.pdf)

##### Benefits information

MCRD San Diego hosts a Civilian Employee Benefits Informational Session from 2 until 4 p.m., Nov. 6, at the Bayview Restaurant. The session features vendors from various companies including the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program. Employees are encouraged to stop by and speak to these representatives as this is the perfect time to ask questions about current health insurance.

The Federal Health Benefits Open Season will commence from Nov. 11, and will continue through Dec. 9.

For additional information call Civil Service Human Resources at (619) 524-8460.

##### Universal Class Online

A free Universal Class Online, featuring more than 500 continuing education computer courses, is available through the depot's library, to everyone with active Library accounts.

For information, course listings and registration call (619) 524-1849.

##### Send briefs to:

[rdsd\\_pao@usmc.mil](mailto: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: "Are you dressing up for Halloween? As what?"*



**"I'm planning on dressing up as the girl from the movie Flashdance."** Staff Sgt. Theresa E. Seng, public affairs chief, 12th Marine Corps District



**"Yes, I'll be dressed up as a masquerade guest with the big long nose and everything."** Gunnery Sgt. Gary L. Robison, enlisted conductor, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Band, Headquarters and Service Battalion



**"Actually our whole shop is. Our section, separations, are going to be dressed up as zombies."** Lance Cpl. Hunter A. Wagner, separations clerk, Headquarters and Service Battalion

## HITT helps Marines to be fit



Cpl. Benjamin Woodle

Lance Cpl. Felipe Silva, Provost Marshal's Office, Headquarters and Service Battalion, performs a dead-lift as his fellow Marines watch during High Intensity Tactical Training aboard the depot, Oct. 23. HITT training runs from 11:30 a.m., to 12:30 p.m., on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Each day's training focuses on a different aspect of HITT: Warrior (explosive power and agility), Combat (functional strength and endurance), and Athletic (basic strength and speed). The program is run by Willie Covington, lead trainer, and is open to all active duty servicemembers.

## Learning to be wealthy



Cpl. Crystal J. Drury

Michael McIssac, financial planner, discusses budgets and financial risks of starting a business during an entrepreneur workshop Oct. 2. The workshop was provided to servicemembers and spouses aboard the depot by Marine Corps Community Services. The all day event covered everything from business planning to dressing for success, giving potential business owners the information they need to help them excel.



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# Recruits swim past another graduation requirement, water survival

STORY & PHOTOS BY  
LANCE CPL. TYLER VIGLIONE  
*Chevron staff*

**A**s he nervously looked down from the 10-foot platform, Recruit Eligah C. Sanchez crossed his arms, looked up, down and jumped into the water.

Sanchez and the recruits of Company H, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, tested their water survival skills during the Marine Corps Water Survival Training Program aboard the depot, Oct. 7.

"First thing they did was a 25-meter water assessment, which is pretty much seeing if they can swim," said Sgt. Jeffery R. Neely, Water Survival Instructor, Instructional Training Company.

According to Neely, about 75 percent of recruits who cycled through recruit training have little to no experience in the water. For the recruits, this was their first time swimming in combat utility uniform.

"With the combat utilities on I felt heavier and it took more strength to swim, which made it harder for me," said Sanchez, Platoon 2163. "As recruits, soon to be Marines, we had to learn fast to be comfortable in the water and be able to swim in any situation.

Recruits who successfully completed the 25-meter swim moved on to the abandon ship, self-rescue swim where recruits jumped off a 10-foot high platform into the water and swim 25 additional meters, explained Neely.

By this time recruits were getting tired and sore but had only fought half of the swim qualification battle.

Next, recruits were put through the four minute water tread and shallow water gear shed portion of the swim qualification.

"We teach them the gear shed because if you get submerged in water with your gear on, you need to be able to get it off," said Neely. "Also, when it comes to treading water their combat utility uniforms create a flotation device when air is blown into it"

These events go hand in hand because once the Marines shed their gear they will need to stay afloat until help arrives.

The last event of the swim qualification is the 25-meter pack travel where recruits used one arm to hold on to the pack and the other arm to swim.

Though most Co. H recruits have made it through the swim qualification, some have not.

"The recruits who do not make it through will get all week to retest," said Neely. "If they still cannot pass they will get dropped back in training."

For the recruits that have passed this portion of recruit training, they have completed the water survival training required to graduate recruit training. While in the Fleet Marine Force, they will be able to qualify at higher levels.

"The swim qualification taught me that it is hard not to give up when you feel like you want to pass out," said Sanchez. "You have to push yourself."



A recruit steps from the 10-foot platform with crossed arms during Marine Corps Water Survival Training Program qualifications Oct. 7.



Recruit Devin C. Brock, Platoon 2163, swims with a pack through the final event of the Marine Corps Water Survival Training Program qualification. Recruits must successfully pass all five events in order to move on in recruit training



Recruits get ready to kick off from the side of the pool to begin four minutes of treading water, a Water Survival Training Program requirement.



Recruits tread water during a portion of their Marine Corps Water Survival Training Program qualification. Recruits are expected to tread water for four minutes, using techniques that were taught to them in order to pass the event.



Recruits get ready to execute the underwater gear shed portion of the Water Survival Training Program qualification. During the exercise recruits have 10-seconds to drop their flak jacket, kevlar helmet and rifle.



Company H recruits step into the depot's Edward L. Parke Hall recruit training swimming facility to begin their initial 25-meter swim during their Marine Corps Water Survival Training Program qualification Oct. 7. Recruits must pass the MCWSTP in order to graduate recruit training.





Pvt. Mark C. Cook, Platoon 2121, Company F, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, provides security for his squad during the Crucible at Edson Range aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. Oct. 15. Recruits must complete more than 30 missions during the Crucible working together as a team.

# Marine achieves childhood dream

STORY & PHOTO BY  
CPL. PEDRO CARDENAS  
*Chevron staff*

Pvt. Mark C. Cook, Platoon 2121, Company F, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, left home for recruit training wishing to go back for his step father who is fighting against cancer to see him wearing the Eagle, Globe and Anchor.

From childhood, Cook dreamed of wearing the Marine uniform. Inspired by his ailing step father, a former Marine, earning the title Marine became a personal goal and a way to show gratitude.

Cook grew up in Colorado Springs, Colo. with his mother. As a child, Cook wanted to enlist and become an airman because his grandfather served in the Air Force. At the age of six, the self-described grandpa's boy completed a homework project about the four branches of the military. During his

presentation, the Marines dress blue uniform stood out to him.

"I remember telling myself that was me. When my friends asked me, I would say 'I want to be a Marine,'" said 18-year-old Cook. "Ever since that day, I've wanted to be a Marine."

As if the Corps was meant for him, Cook's mother remarried to a former Marine. Stanley Adam Rose raised Cook from the age of 12. Cook described his step father as a stern man but, regardless of the circumstances he could always make him see there was a lesson behind everything.

Rose, a former sergeant with multiple tours to Afghanistan, taught Cook lessons he did not understand at first; until he experienced them in recruit training.

During his childhood, Cook had to make his bed a certain way. Some of the requirements Rose had for a perfectly made bed were tightness in the sheets;

without wrinkles. Sheets at the bottom end had to be at 45 degree angles, similar to how recruits make their beds on a daily basis. Unknowingly, his father was training him for some of the demands of recruit training.

He grew fond listening to stories about his step father's time in the Marine Corps. As a result, Cook decided to enlist in the Marine Corps to his step father's delight.

"My dad had a big smile on his face when I told him," said Cook.

In 2010, his step father was diagnosed with stage-four cancer in the kidneys and liver. The doctors treating him also said Rose had 4-to-6 months to live. As described by Cook, Rose weighed roughly 260 pounds at the time of diagnosis, now a frail 120 pounds.

Rose had to fight the disease to see his step son become a Marine. He defied the odds and

has lived well past his original diagnosis.

"Since I decided to join, he has told me that the only reason he is still alive was to see me graduate recruit training," said Cook. "He wanted to see me walk off that parade deck."

Cook became more determined to become a Marine. Cook's motivation was to make his step father proud.

"You can tell he wants to be a Marine and has the self discipline to push through adversity," said 30-year-old Staff Sgt. Joshua C. Geidel, drill instructor. "This is a difficult time for him but he still jumps at the opportunity to be in leadership positions."

Cook's dream of becoming a Marine has come true. He graduates from recruit training today. Unfortunately, Rose was instructed by his doctors to stay at home due to his health conditions. He wouldn't be able to make the trip to see his step

son graduate.

"It kills me to know he won't be there," said Cook. "I wanted him there as much as he wanted to see me graduate."

Cook has to wait a few more hours to get home and see his step father. He said he is excited to see his father's eyes light up with pride.

"He wanted to see the improvement in me," said Cook. "He will still get a chance to see me as a Marine and that's the most important part."

Cook will be going to Marine Combat Training and then to Assault Amphibious Vehicle Crewman School, both located at Camp Pendleton Calif. From all the lessons Rose has taught Cook, one teaching sums up Cook's relationship with his step father, gratitude.

"During the entire time here, all I kept thinking about was what I would say to him," said Cook. "I just want to shake his hand and say thank you."

## Sgt. Maj. J. B. Edwards Jr.

### Parade Reviewing Officer

Sgt. Maj. J. B. Edwards Jr., is from Charleston, Miss. He graduated from Charleston High School and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on June 22, 1984.

Edwards attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. Upon graduation, he attended motor transport operator school at Camp Geiger, N.C.

When Edwards graduated from motor transport operator school, he was assigned to Headquarters and Service Company, 2nd Tank Battalion, 2nd Marine Division where he served as a motor vehicle operator.

In April 1986, Edwards was reassigned to 1st Bn., 12th Marines, Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, where he was meritoriously promoted to corporal. His tour of duty included positions as a motor vehicle operator, line noncommissioned officer and platoon sergeant.

In March 1988, Edwards was transferred to Marine Security Guard Battalion, Quantico, VA. While serving at the American Embassy in Libreville, Gabon, officially Gabonese Republic in

West Central Africa, he was promoted to sergeant. He was then assigned to the American Embassy in Yaoundé, Republic of Cameroon, north of Gabon; and the American Embassy in Lagos, Federal Republic of Nigeria, West Central Africa north of Gabon and Cameroon.

While in Nigeria, Edwards served as the assistant detachment commander.

In January 1992, Edwards was transferred to H&S Company, 2nd Bn., 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division. While at 2/2, he served as the platoon sergeant for the motor transport platoon and completed deployments to the Mediterranean, Okinawa, and to Haiti in support of Operation Up-Hold Democracy.

In February 1995, Edwards was promoted to staff sergeant.

Edwards was transferred to Recruiting Station New Orleans, La., Recruiting Sub-Station Hammond, La., in Sept. 1995. During this assignment he served as a recruiter and as staff noncommissioned officer in charge. During this tour he was meritoriously promoted to the rank of gunnery sergeant and was selected as the Rookie Recruiter of the Year in 1996, Professional Recruiter of the Year in 1997, and SNCOIC of the Year in 1998 for RS New Orleans.

Following his successful tour on recruiting duty, Edwards was reassigned to Marine Wing Communication Squadron

28, Marine Air Control Group 28, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, Cherry Point, N.C. From Oct. 1998 to March 2000, he served as the motor transport operations chief.

Edwards was reassigned to 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense, MACG - 28, in April 2000 where he served as the motor transport chief.

In July 2001, following his selection to first sergeant, Edwards was transferred to Echo Company, 2nd Battalion 4th Marines, 1st Marine Division. While with the "Magnificent Bastards," Edwards completed an 11 and half month unit deployment to Okinawa with the 31st MEU(SOC).

Edwards was reassigned to Truck Company, HQ Bn., 1st Marine Division, in Sept. 2003. While with HQ Bn., Edwards completed a deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

Edwards then received orders to Repairable Management Company, 1st Maintenance Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group, in Dec. 2004. While there Edwards was selected to sergeant major in Nov. 2005.

In Dec. 2005, Edwards was transferred to 1st Bn., 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division. There Edwards completed a deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

In June 2008, Edwards reported to RS Fort Worth, for duty as the RS Fort Worth

Sergeant Major.

In May 2010, Edwards reported to the 8th Marine Corps District to serve as the District Sergeant Major.

Edwards' personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with gold star in lieu of second award, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with two gold stars in lieu of third award.







<b>Platoon 2123</b> COMPANY HONOR MAN Lance Cpl. E. Ramirez Glendale, Ariz. Recruited by Sgt. L. Banks	<b>Platoon 2125</b> SERIES HONOR MAN Lance Cpl. M. C. Espanol Harbor City, Calif. Recruited by Staff Sgt. K. Thomas	<b>Platoon 2121</b> PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. L. G. Meath III Cottage Grove, Minn. Recruited by Sgt. J. C. Gonzalez	<b>Platoon 2122</b> PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. I. Diaz Las Vegas Recruited by Staff Sgt. B. C. Prettyman	<b>Platoon 2126</b> PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. D. Jerez Arleta, Calif. Recruited by Staff Sgt. R. Duran	<b>Platoon 2127</b> PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. N. P. Alfaro Castroville, Calif. Recruited by Sgt. R. M. Dusenberry	<b>Platoon 2126</b> HIGH SHOOTER (336) Pfc. E. Argote Los Angeles Marksman Instructor Cpl. J. A. Walke	<b>Platoon 2127</b> HIGH PFT (300) Pfc. D. Jerez Arleta, Calif. Recruited by Staff Sgt. R. Duran
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# FOX COMPANY

2nd RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION



Commanding Officer  
Sergeant Major  
Battalion Drill Master

Lt. Col. D. J. Erickson  
Sgt. Maj. T. C. Whitcomb  
Staff Sgt. B. D. Luna

**COMPANY F**  
Commanding Officer  
Capt. A. J. Rosenblatt  
Company First Sergeant  
1st Sgt. T. L. Hamilton

**SERIES 2121**  
Series Commander  
Capt. R. A. Hollenbeck  
Chief Drill Instructor  
Gunnery Sgt. A. C. Pittman

**PLATOON 2121**  
Senior Drill Instructor  
Staff Sgt. J. C. Geidel  
Drill Instructors  
Staff Sgt. T. W. Lunsford  
Staff Sgt. P. B. Jackson  
Staff Sgt. B. M. Nascimento  
Sgt. A. Malave Jr.

**PLATOON 2122**  
Senior Drill Instructor  
Staff Sgt. J. K. Spangler  
Drill instructors  
Staff Sgt. M. E. Brown  
Sgt. G. E. Allen Jr.  
Sgt. A. W. May Jr.

**PLATOON 2123**  
Senior Drill Instructor  
Gunnery Sgt. J. Garcia  
Drill instructors  
Gunnery Sgt. J. A. Pendley  
Staff Sgt. G. K. Belton  
Staff Sgt. C. A. Fuentes

**SERIES 2125**  
Series Commander  
Capt. D. L. Shivers  
Chief Drill Instructor  
Gunnery Sgt. B. E. Campbell

**PLATOON 2125**  
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Sgt. J. Y. Chambers  
Drill Instructors  
Sgt. A. B. Childree  
Sgt. A. J. Juedes  
Sgt. S. I. Pottinger  
Sgt. J. Soto

**PLATOON 2126**  
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Sgt. J. A. Sabater  
Drill Instructors  
Sgt. T. B. Morris  
Sgt. G. W. Pro  
Sgt. B. M. Rosati  
Sgt. J. K. Harkins

**PLATOON 2127**  
Senior Drill Instructor  
Sgt. B. W. Havenar  
Drill Instructors  
Sgt. K. A. Ford  
Sgt. A. S. Gomez  
Sgt. B. W. Hayes  
Sgt. D. D. Poldoski

\* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

**PLATOON 2121**  
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Pvt. A. D. Alfone  
Pfc. P. C. Allen  
Pvt. A. E. Alvarez  
Pvt. F. Aquino-Alonso  
Pfc. K. N. Arbas  
Pvt. J. J. Austin  
Pfc. C. C. Ayhens  
Pfc. J. L. Barnes  
Pvt. J. M. Belch  
Pvt. B. T. Bennett  
\*Pfc. J. L. Bruni  
Pvt. M. A. Burr  
Pfc. W. B. Burrow  
Pfc. T. J. Butterfield  
Pvt. A. Camacho  
Pvt. J. F. Campe  
Pfc. A. T. Carrillo  
Pvt. M. A. Castillo  
Pfc. I. Cisneros  
Pvt. H. S. Cluff  
Pfc. M. C. Cook  
Pvt. F. E. Cuzner-Lopez  
Pvt. D. R. Davis III  
Pvt. K. W. Davis  
Pfc. M. L. De La Cruz  
Pvt. R. Espinosa-Melgoza  
Pvt. S. Esreepersaud  
Pvt. C. T. Etsitty  
Pfc. S. G. Ezzell  
Pvt. Z. A. Fitch  
Pvt. A. L. Flores  
Pvt. C. E. Foley  
Pvt. G. A. Ford  
Pvt. M. M. Frani  
Pvt. B. J. French  
Pvt. R. A. Garcia  
Pfc. M. D. Garnett III  
\*Pfc. S. B. Gayoma  
Pfc. C. A. Gerst  
Pvt. Z. J. Gibson  
Pvt. J. T. Gieswein  
Pvt. G. M. Gomez  
Pvt. E. A. Gonzales  
Pvt. J. J. Gonzalez  
Pvt. M. A. Gonzalez  
Pvt. M. J. Gray  
\*Pfc. Z. S. Grulli  
Pvt. J. R. Hahn  
Pfc. C. A. Hargrove  
Pvt. W. A. Henry  
Pfc. L. R. Holmes  
Pvt. A. M. Huddleston  
Pvt. S. J. Jackson  
Pvt. G. P. Johnson  
Pvt. C. M. Kaminski  
Pvt. W. L. Khuu  
Pfc. J. T. Konkle  
Pvt. J. D. Lashmett  
Pvt. R. Li  
\*Pfc. B. I. Link  
Pfc. M. D. Lockett  
Pfc. A. V. Lopez  
Pvt. B. A. Luna-Salcido  
Pvt. M. L. Madison-

Savage  
Pvt. D. Marquez  
Pvt. C. G. Martin  
Pfc. M. Matviyuchuk  
\*Pfc. L. G. Meath III  
Pvt. Z. M. Menefee  
Pfc. J. A. Mickelson  
Pfc. S. J. Miller  
Pfc. A. X. Montano  
Pvt. C. J. Morales  
Pvt. J. E. Navarro-Ramos  
Pfc. H. V. Nguyen  
Pvt. M. W. O'Loughlin  
Pvt. R. C. Olson  
Pvt. R. L. Patterson III  
Pvt. D. R. Pyles III  
Pvt. N. A. Quinteros Jr.  
Pvt. K. A. Rakers  
Pvt. J. M. Stroehrer  
Pvt. C. D. Trevino

**PLATOON 2122**  
Pfc. J. L. Adams  
\*Pfc. C. D. Aden  
Pfc. J. J. Alfaro Jr.  
Pvt. C. A. Allen  
Pvt. A. W. Applegate  
Pfc. R. L. Arce  
\*Pfc. J. M. Balthrop  
Pvt. A. A. Banda  
Pvt. B. L. Baribeau  
Pvt. S. R. Baylash  
Pvt. A. J. Bechtel  
Pvt. G. M. Blanco II  
Pvt. F. Carrillo  
Pvt. G. Chaverri Jr.  
Pvt. M. B. Clemons  
Pvt. S. A. Congrove  
Pvt. M. L. Cook  
Pvt. T. B. Cooley  
Pvt. W. E. Coulombe  
Pvt. A. J. Degrenia  
\*Pfc. I. Diaz  
Pvt. B. A. Duenas-Ortiz  
Pvt. S. T. Forman  
Pvt. C. N. Galvis  
Pvt. A. C. Garcia  
Pfc. R. D. Gonzales  
Pvt. E. Gonzalez III  
\*Pfc. I. A. Gordziej  
Pvt. G. C. Hanson  
Pvt. S. T. Hendricks  
Pvt. D. M. Howard Jr.  
Pvt. Z. C. Hughes  
Pfc. A. J. Ickes  
Pfc. E. Iniguez  
Pvt. K. R. Jeffs  
Pfc. M. R. Jones  
Pvt. W. C. Jones  
Pfc. D. M. Jumper  
Pvt. T. D. Kempf  
Pvt. A. S. Kiefert  
Pfc. D. B. Korth  
Pvt. C. A. Lauben  
Pvt. B. C. Laube  
Pvt. J. H. MacArthur  
Pfc. A. G. Maneeraj

Pvt. T. M. Massey  
Pvt. J. T. McAmoil  
Pfc. T. J. McCann  
Pfc. C. J. McKinzie  
Pfc. J. L. Mendez  
Pfc. J. D. Middleton-Garces  
Pfc. L. H. Mikkelsen  
Pfc. R. Miramontes  
Pvt. J. R. Oedewaldt  
Pvt. S. A. Pereira  
Pfc. U. O. Perez-Perez  
\*Pfc. W. P. Price  
Pvt. F. M. Quiroz  
Pvt. B. R. Rivera  
Pfc. C. D. Robinson  
Pvt. N. N. Rodriguez Jr.  
Pvt. N. R. Roub  
Pvt. M. A. Santibanez  
Pvt. M. I. Saucedo  
Pvt. C. J. Schreck  
Pvt. A. D. Sempowski  
Pfc. M. Soto  
Pfc. M. K. Stanton  
Pvt. T. H. Swett  
Pvt. S. A. Tarantino  
Pfc. C. M. Taylor  
Pvt. D. R. Taylor  
Pfc. B. B. Tilden  
Pvt. J. D. Toney  
Pfc. J. T. Tran  
Pvt. J. E. Valencia  
Pfc. M. J. Vallejo  
Pvt. P. M. Vanslette  
Pvt. D. Vega  
Pfc. J. F. Vermillion  
Pvt. C. A. Vigil  
Pfc. A. Villarreal Jr.  
Pvt. C. L. Walkenford Jr.  
Pvt. K. A. West  
Pvt. A. A. Wilson

**PLATOON 2123**  
Pfc. M. T. Aleksy  
Pvt. A. M. Ali  
Pvt. J. S. Alvarez  
Pvt. T. S. Anderson-Stowell  
Pvt. J. R. Barkwill  
Pvt. M. A. Barnes  
Pvt. A. P. Beaverson  
Pvt. C. A. Becker  
Pvt. T. N. Beneker  
Pvt. T. A. Bingham  
Pfc. G. E. Botts Jr.  
Pvt. W. R. Burns  
Pvt. A. J. Busse  
Pvt. J. T. Cardwell  
Pfc. A. R. Carrasco  
Pfc. D. R. Castilleja  
Pvt. G. A. Cirka  
Pvt. N. A. Clark  
Pfc. T. W. Cochran  
Pvt. E. J. Colon  
Pvt. A. M. Comte  
\*Pfc. J. S. Cone  
Pvt. E. J. Contreras

Pvt. C. W. Cowdrey  
Pfc. T. W. Crowel  
\*Pfc. B. L. Day  
Pvt. S. T. Dees  
Pfc. R. K. DeLeon  
Pfc. N. B. Dover  
Pvt. T. L. Embry  
Pvt. A. Estes  
Pvt. J. H. Fela  
Pvt. K. J. Fenenbock  
Pvt. T. R. Flannery  
Pfc. J. M. Gilbreath  
Pvt. A. C. Goddard  
Pfc. A. R. Gomez III  
Pvt. K. E. Gomez-Valdez  
Pvt. K. A. Gonzalez  
Pfc. B. J. Goode  
Pvt. T. P. Gural  
Pvt. E. Guzman  
Pvt. E. A. Guzman  
Pfc. D. L. Hamilton  
Pfc. M. D. Harnage  
Pvt. C. D. Heikinen  
\*Pfc. H. Hobliik  
Pfc. T. C. Hoffarth  
\*Pfc. A. T. Janetske  
Pfc. R. M. Jones  
Pvt. B. T. Katschman  
Pvt. C. R. Ketselsen  
Pvt. D. J. Kope  
Pfc. D. N. Korn  
Pvt. D. T. Kroupa  
Pvt. D. A. Kubina  
Pvt. D. R. Larranaga  
Pvt. J. C. Lome  
Pvt. J. D. Mabey  
Pfc. L. T. McClung  
Pvt. S. A. Morris  
\*Pfc. J. W. Moss  
Pfc. H. R. Mounce  
Pvt. C. T. Murillo  
Pfc. J. C. Nations  
Pvt. J. L. Neethling  
Pfc. T. J. Nelson  
Pfc. J. A. Onesi  
Pfc. E. A. Orozco  
Pvt. Z. J. Osland  
Pvt. R. O. Palma  
Pfc. R. G. Palmer III  
Pvt. W. J. Payne  
Pvt. D. B. Perry  
\*Pfc. C. N. Peterson  
Pvt. K. A. Peterson  
Pvt. A. S. Poehman  
Pvt. J. O. Quinn  
Pfc. E. W. Rachell  
\*Lance Cpl. E. Ramirez  
Pvt. R. Z. Ramirez  
Pvt. O. C. Ruiz

**PLATOON 2125**  
Pfc. A. G. Abarca  
Pfc. R. B. Aguilar  
Pvt. E. Alvarez  
Pvt. J. D. Arias  
\*Pfc. M. Aros  
Pvt. J. T. Bording

Pfc. W. L. Bowling  
Pfc. D. T. Brown  
Pfc. R. L. Brown  
Pvt. T. R. Byers  
Pvt. L. M. Canez  
Pvt. Z. R. Caravan  
Pvt. J. D. Castillo Jr.  
Pfc. E. Cerda Jr.  
Pvt. K. C. Cerna-Chavez  
Pfc. A. S. Cerulle  
Pvt. M. A. Chiquete-Valdez  
Pvt. C. L. Cook  
\*Pfc. A. F. Cordero  
Pvt. N. M. Diego  
Pvt. B. R. Edwards  
Pfc. K. A. Ellis  
\*Lance Cpl. M. C. Espanol  
Pfc. A. E. Garcia  
Pvt. C. D. Gatterson  
Pvt. J. T. Gibson  
Pvt. C. K. Gipson  
Pfc. D. F. Gray  
Pvt. K. D. Gray  
Pvt. F. Guerrero-Arzola  
Pvt. D. R. Harris  
Pvt. R. J. Harris  
Pvt. A. C. Hebert  
Pvt. R. L. Hester  
Pfc. B. J. Hill  
Pvt. L. M. Howell  
Pfc. J. J. Humphrey  
Pvt. N. A. Ingram  
Pvt. G. D. Kupcak  
Pvt. C. A. Lake  
Pvt. A. Leday Jr.  
Pvt. T. C. Lightfoot  
\*Pfc. J. R. Lookingbill  
Pvt. M. T. Lundberg  
Pfc. J. Malo Jr.  
Pvt. B. L. Martinez  
Pfc. M. J. Martinez-Morales  
Pvt. M. J. Meehan  
\*Pfc. K. E. Meier  
Pvt. C. E. Menjivar  
Pfc. R. A. Menzel  
Pfc. M. P. Merhoff  
Pfc. C. L. Monholland  
\*Pfc. A. P. Morgan  
Pvt. R. B. Muhammaddi  
Pfc. S. P. O'Brien  
Pvt. A. M. Olivarez  
Pvt. N. J. O'Neill  
Pfc. T. D. Osnes  
Pvt. R. A. Paquin  
Pvt. M. K. Park  
Pvt. M. D. Pitman  
\*Pfc. E. E. Pizarro  
Pvt. D. A. Prado  
Pvt. N. D. Rand  
Pvt. R. Randall  
Pvt. H. S. Reed  
Pvt. C. K. Rizzo  
Pvt. X. B. Rocha  
Pfc. D. A. Romero  
Pvt. N. D. Rubida

Pfc. L. F. Sanches-Detagle  
Pfc. C. A. Sanchez-Pando  
Pvt. G. A. Scheer  
Pvt. J. Schilling  
Pvt. X. M. Schucker  
**PLATOON 2126**  
Pvt. B. J. Alferi  
Pvt. D. Anaya  
Pfc. E. Argote  
Pvt. B. D. Beaver  
Pvt. J. A. Billingsley  
Pvt. K. M. Blair  
Pfc. N. S. Bolka  
Pvt. D. Castro  
Pvt. E. Chavez  
Pvt. D. R. Chumley  
Pvt. P. J. Cooke  
Pvt. R. R. Dalut  
Pvt. P. C. Feigle  
Pvt. L. S. Gamez  
Pvt. A. P. Gomez  
Pvt. B. Gonzalez-Carretero  
Pvt. J. A. Guffey  
Pvt. O. A. Gutierrez Jr.  
Pvt. C. R. Hicksjr  
\*Pfc. D. Jerez  
Pvt. T. D. Karczewski  
Pfc. J. H. Leeper  
Pvt. D. I. Lopez  
Pvt. I. Lopez  
Pvt. J. Martinez  
Pvt. M. V. Martinez  
Pfc. L. B. Mattos  
Pvt. E. E. Medina  
Pvt. M. E. Merry  
Pfc. B. T. Mitchell  
Pvt. J. L. Mitchell  
Pvt. D. Morris  
Pvt. C. M. Morton  
Pvt. I. Mtsweni  
Pvt. C. A. Neuzil  
Pvt. K. L. Osborn  
Pfc. E. S. Puefua  
Pvt. T. Ramirez  
Pfc. G. B. Ramos  
Pfc. E. Rivas Jr.  
Pvt. V. M. Rodriguez  
Pvt. P. N. Russell  
Pvt. T. C. Ryan  
Pvt. T. C. Sakaida  
Pvt. N. A. Schlabaugh  
\*Pfc. C. J. Schultz  
Pvt. A. F. Scribner  
Pvt. S. J. Serratore  
Pfc. J. B. Sikel  
\*Pfc. A. R. Simpson  
Pfc. K. M. Skinner  
Pvt. K. C. Smith  
Pvt. K. J. Smith  
Pvt. L. S. Soun  
Pvt. B. A. Spencer  
Pfc. M. J. Spiller  
Pfc. J. S. Spratlen

Pvt. N. N. Steele  
Pfc. H. L. Stewart V  
Pvt. K. A. Tadlock  
Pfc. R. K. Tanno  
Pvt. J. M. Tellez  
Pfc. N. J. Templeton  
Pvt. C. J. Thomas  
Pvt. R. M. Torres  
Pvt. J. T. Valdez-Wages  
Pfc. J. D. Valintine  
Pvt. J. D. Vargas  
Pvt. C. E. Vaughn  
Pfc. D. T. Vigil  
Pvt. B. C. Vogel  
Pvt. E. Vogl  
Pvt. Z. A. Waggoner  
Pvt. D. W. Walters  
Pvt. D. T. Walton  
\*Pfc. R. M. Webbe Jr.  
\*Pfc. I. B. Weber  
Pvt. B. W. Whiteley-Easter  
Pfc. S. M. Wiersma  
Pvt. M. A. Williams  
Pvt. T. C. Wright  
Pvt. C. G. Yenney  
Pvt. I. D. Zauner  
**PLATOON 2127**  
\*Pfc. N. P. Alfaro  
Pfc. Z. A. Axelson  
Pvt. S. B. D. Beard  
Pfc. J. D. Benton  
Pfc. D. S. Brennan  
Pvt. T. D. Butler  
Pfc. J. W. Covey  
\*Pfc. C. E. DeLeon  
Pvt. D. S. Eberlein  
Pfc. J. K. Gibson  
Pfc. A. R. Gill  
Pvt. D. J. Guy  
Pvt. K. R. Harvey  
Pvt. R. F. Hernandez  
Pvt. R. V. Hernandez  
Pvt. T. B. Hodges  
Pvt. M. R. Janniche  
Pvt. C. E. Johnston  
Pfc. T. R. Keyser  
Pvt. T. I. Langohr  
Pvt. B. J. LeClair  
Pvt. L. T. May  
Pvt. N. R. Medellin  
Pfc. C. S. Nieves  
Pvt. L. T. Olsen III  
Pvt. K. S. Osborne  
Pfc. C. D. Plank  
Pfc. A. L. Prokop  
Pvt. A. L. Rabatine  
Pvt. D. R. Rauch-Bauer  
Pvt. V. R. Ricci  
Pvt. E. B. Rios  
Pfc. A. L. Robbins  
Pvt. J. Rodriguez Jr.  
Pvt. D. L. Runge  
Pfc. R. Saenz



# Co. I recruits send rounds down range

STORY & PHOTOS BY  
CPL. PEDRO CARDENAS  
*Chevron staff*

## MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.—

The Marine Corps is known for having one of the best marksmanship courses in the

world. “The deadliest weapon in the world is a Marine and his rifle,” said Army Gen. John J. Pershing, highlighting the in-depth marksmanship training every Marine receives.

Recruits of Company I, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion,

armed with marksmanship fundamentals sent rounds down range during Firing Week at Edson Range aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. Oct. 7.

Rifle qualification is a graduation requirement. That is one reason recruits must

be mentally prepared to focus on every shot and attempt to obtain the highest possible score. Relaxation is a key component not only in shooting fundamentals but also in keeping the mind focused on the target.

“If you are not relaxed you tend to revert back to your bad habits,” said Staff Sgt. Andre D. Henry, drill instructor, Platoon 3206. “If you are calm, collected and focused, you are going to think clearly; what the mind thinks it can do.”

Mental fortitude is essential as recruits must become resilient despite mistakes.

“When they miss the target, it’s hard to get them to focus on the next round,” said 29-year-old Henry, a Queens, N.Y. native. “Recruits get too caught up in those misses.”

Recruits spent the previous week dry-firing and applying the fundamentals of marksmanship. They practiced several hours a day adjusting and finding the proper firing position with the help of a Primary Marksmanship Instructor; a Marine who specializes in marksmanship. A full week was devoted to the process to help recruits get comfortable in their firing positions, allowing them to focus on the mental aspect of shooting live-fire and become proficient in every facet of marksmanship.

Some recruits have never fired a weapon before and experienced recoil for the first time. Getting accustomed to the recoil allowed them to stay focused for the most important shot they will take, the next one.

“After the first shot, there is no reason to be scared anymore,” said Recruit Timothy B. Do, Plt. 3205. “The shot is down range. It’s too late to think about it. Just revert back to your training and the next round will go where you want it to go.”

The recruits practiced firing at a known-distance course with ranges of 200, 300 and 500 yards. They also fired in different positions including the sitting, kneeling, standing and prone and at different rates such as rapid and slow fire.

At the end of Firing Week, the recruits of Co. I qualified for their first official scores. Their final scores are computed into a promotion formula. The more points obtained during qualification, the more points earned toward promotion. Staying relaxed and focused on every shot is key throughout qualification.

“Marines are riflemen first and recruits can’t be afraid of the weapon,” said Henry. “Recruits need to stay in a relaxed state of mind and know how to handle the weapon.”



A Company I recruit shoots from the sitting position while a marksmanship instructor checks his position. During training recruits shoot from various positions at distances of 200, 300, and 500 yards.



Recruit Mathew A. Jonston, Plt. 3205, Company I, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, shoots from the standing position from the 200-yard line during Firing Week at Edson Range aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Oct. 7. During qualification, recruits shoot from the 200-yard line a total of 15 rounds, five rounds each in the sitting, kneeling and standing positions.

## CON'T FROM ◀7

Pvt. M. D. Scalise  
Pvt. J. A. Scheid  
\*Pfc. A. M. Schow  
Pvt. C. C. Segraves  
Pvt. J. R. Shaw  
Pvt. J. T. Shearer

Pvt. J. D. Shellman  
Pfc. D. O. Sinvula  
Pvt. Z. K. Sliger  
Pfc. B. A. Smith  
Pvt. B. J. Solmon  
Pfc. C. R. Soto  
Pfc. A. J. Sowers  
Pfc. M. A. Sroufe  
Pvt. B. A. Stadler

Pfc. R. J. Stebner  
Pfc. M. A. Stehno  
Pvt. J. D. Stewart  
Pvt. T. J. Stoecker  
Pfc. K. A. Stoeklein  
Pfc. C. W. Strickland  
Pvt. A. L. Strockis  
Pvt. C. W. Sullinger  
Pvt. N. D. Sullivan-Helm

Pvt. M. W. Swan  
Pvt. T. A. Swihart  
Pfc. D. J. Taylor  
Pvt. T. W. Thomas  
Pvt. J. P. Thompson  
Pvt. B. A. Tlazalo  
Pvt. E. Torres  
Pvt. D. J. Unden  
\*Pfc. C. W. I. Vander-Bush

\*Pfc. S. D. Vander-Weide  
Pvt. P. Vang  
Pfc. P. J. Vaughn  
Pvt. J. R. Veenhuis  
Pvt. J. M. Voss  
Pfc. J. J. Walczynski  
Pfc. S. T. Ward  
Pfc. B. K. Watson  
Pvt. L. D. White Jr.

\*Pfc. B. J. Wilson  
Pvt. J. D. Wilson  
Pvt. J. D. Wisdom Jr.  
Pfc. K. G. York  
Pfc. A. T. Yoshimura  
Pvt. A. Zavala  
Pfc. W. Zeng  
Pvt. D. S. Zundel