

# CHEVRON

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION

"WHERE MARINES ARE MADE"

**Co. I**  
recruits  
measured  
for dress  
uniforms

Pg 8

**Co. H**  
recruits  
learn  
chokes  
and  
counters

Pg 4



Vol. 74 – Issue 6

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2014

## Depot mourns passing of one of its own

STORY BY CPL. PEDRO CARDENAS  
*Chevron staff*

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Marines mourn the death of one of their own from a highway crash while trying to help others.

"What we should remember as Marines, Lance Corporal Jones,

in his final living moments and without hesitation, he came to the aid of other individuals," said Maj. Matthew A. Treptow, commanding officer, Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion. "That action is something that we should be terribly proud of."

Those were the words used to

describe the loss of 20-year-old Lance Cpl. Richard D. Jones, a military policeman with the depot's Provost Marshall's Office, who died from injuries suffered in an accident, Feb. 22.

"We extend our condolences to the family and friends of Lance Corporal Jones," said Brig. Gen. James Bierman, commanding general of MCRD San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region. "Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this difficult period. We're proud that Lance Corporal Jones' final actions were focused on helping others in need – this shows the kind of young man he was."

For Jones aiding others was of second nature. He was a reserve fire fighter with the Frontier Volunteer Fire Company in Niagara County, N.Y., his hometown.

"While many details are still unclear, one thing that is true is that he lost his life in a courageous selfless manner," said Col. Mark M. Tull, commanding officer, Headquarters and Service Battalion. "He had first responder training and his instincts were to help those involved. He understood the dangers of entering an accident scene and has left a legacy that can inspire all of us."

Maj. Scott Newton, Provost Marshall, added, "I was devastated because he was an important part of my team and anything we asked

of him always got done. As difficult as the loss was, he died doing what he did best-- helping others. He went into harm's way and sacrificed his life to protect others; that is his legacy."

Jones and his friend were driving his pickup truck on their way back to the depot, when he was involved in a multi-vehicle accident. According to preliminary reports and witnesses, Jones got out of his car, at the scene of the accident, to help the passengers of the other vehicle involved. In his attempt to help victims of the multi-vehicle crash, Jones suffered fatal injuries.

"We were perfectly fine and I suggested we needed to stay in the vehicle," said Cpl. Matthew J. Petrovich. "But he insisted, we needed to go check to ensure people in the other car were ok."

Close friend and Marine Cpl. Petrovich, member of Marine Band San Diego, wanted everyone to remember Jones died in a selfless act of caring for people in need of help. According to Petrovich, Jones was always made fun of for his "cruddy" driving because he would sometimes back up awkwardly. Jones' response to the jokes was, "As long as my passengers are fine, I will take the responsibility and the pain and he did just that," said Petrovich.

People who he had never met before, he would make time to help

them out in any way he could, said Petrovich.

As a military policeman, his job entailed helping and protecting the public. When Jones first arrived to the base, he was very shy and asked Petrovich many questions. Petrovich took him under his wing as a mentor and a friend.

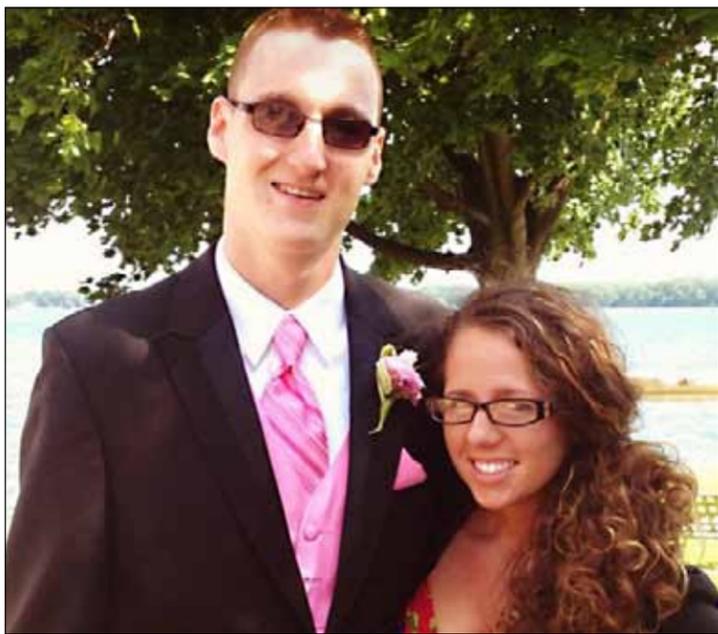
"He was afraid to put his blouse in the washer, afraid that it might ruin it," recalled Petrovich, with a smile. "He thought the blouse was sacred or something. I guess he needed my blessing to wash it."

Jones was an avid "car guy." According to Petrovich, Jones would drop anything to work on his car or to help anyone with their vehicle including helping one of his friends install a stereo system the night prior to the accident.

"We worked on his truck and my car a lot," said Petrovich.

Jones will be remembered for his good nature who put other's needs before his own. A guardian angel pin Jones carried with him reads, "Please protect me and my passengers, and all of who I pass by, with a steady hand and a watchful eye."

"It's always the good guys that expose themselves to dangers," said Tull. "I'm struck with profound sadness, and as his actions become more apparent, I feel pride to have served with such a good Marine."



*Courtesy Photo*

The depot's Lance Cpl. Ricky Jones was fatally injured in a traffic accident Feb. 22. Here he attends a family function with his sister Val.

### Circuit Course teaches recruits how to push through fatigue

STORY & PHOTO BY  
SGT. WALTER D.  
MARINO II  
*Chevron staff*

Recruits of Company M, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, were pushed to their physical limits during the Circuit Course aboard the depot, Feb. 11.

The Circuit Course was comprised of over 20 exercise stations, which included monkey bars, jump ropes and weight lifting.

After recruits performed dynamic warm ups, they were broken down into groups of approximately 15, with one to two drill instructors per group.

Once divided up, each group lined up at a work-out station and waited for the command to be-

gin. After a quick pause, a whistle blew to signal the start. Immediately, drill instructors began ordering recruits to move fast.

Each drill instructor kept a keen eye for any recruit slacking and when that happened, they made it known it would not be accepted.

"Obviously they are extremely tired, but what you put in is what you get out of it," said Sgt. Eric S. Briceland, drill instructor, Platoon 3275. "This is about pushing them past their breaking point and seeing what they are made of. Their high school gym class is nothing compared to this."

Although no more than

see **CIRCUIT** ▶ 2



Recruit Arkim R. Lewis, Platoon 3274, Company M, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, bursts as the first off the line during a sprints drill aboard the depot, Feb. 11. The sprints were just one of many exercises required during the Circuit Course.



Pfc. Brian J. Doyle, Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, applies a splint to a simulated casualty with an open fracture during the Practical Exam aboard the depot, Feb. 11. Marines were taught a series of common injuries in a combat environment, but only had to perform one for the exam.

### Recruits apply knowledge to Practical Exam

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

Marines of Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, tested their skills during the Practical Examination aboard the depot, Feb. 11.

The Practical Examination tested recruits on the proper handling of Marines situations during combat and the general knowledge that a basic Marine should know, according to Sgt. Robert H. Mobley, drill instructor, Platoon 1033.

The Marines began by taking the written exam, which consisted of Marine Corps history, knowledge

such as General Orders and labeling parts of the M16-A4 service rifle.

Once the Marines completed the written exam, they moved over to a recognition quiz where they had to match magnets with labels on them to their appropriate specified area. Uniforms, ranks and parts of the M16-A4 service rifle were some of the items that the recruits had to correctly match.

After recruits completed the recognition quiz, they moved to the combat first aid station where they were given a dummy with one of the more common injuries in a combat environment including chemical burn, open wound fracture and

sucking chest wound.

Lastly, recruits were expected to assemble and disassemble a service rifle and execute a functions check in order to ensure the weapon was functional after they put it back together.

"The thing that recruits struggle with the most on the exam is the pressure of being watched and the unawareness of how bad the situation may be," said Mobley, a native of Tacoma, Washington.

Everything that the recruits had been tested on was remediated every day since the beginning

see **EXAM** ▶ 2

## Recruits prepare for Crucible with sustainment hike

STORY & PHOTO BY  
LANCE CPL. JERICHO W. CRUTCHER  
Chevron staff

During recruit training, recruits learned to push their bodies to new limits on their way to earning the title Marine.

Recruits of Company E, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, endured a 5.7 mile sustainment hike with a combat load of 60 pounds in a pack, a helmet and their rifle aboard the depot, Feb. 15.

The purpose of the hike was to build recruits endurance, stamina and ability to carry a heavy load for long distances in order to prepare them for the Crucible; a 54-hour test of endurance in which recruits must conquer more than 30 different obstacles while they experience food and sleep deprivation.

"It's important that the recruits are mentally and physically prepared before going into the Crucible," said Staff Sgt. Alfredo M. Tuviano, drill instructor, Platoon 2115. "This hike gives them a feel for what it will be like carrying a full combat load everywhere they go."

Recruits received field training by personnel of Weapons and Field Training Battalion, at Edson Range aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., during the 2nd phase of recruit training. While in 2nd phase, recruits completed several 5 to 8 mile hikes, learned land navigation and marksmanship skills along with several other field training exercises.

"During deployments or in a combat situation we'll be carrying a combat load, so it's important for us to train as so," said



Recruits of Company E, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, sing cadence during a 5.7 mile sustainment hike around the depot Feb. 15, carrying a combat load in their backpacks.

Recruit Keadrick D. Trotter. "Marines are known for pushing through fatigue; it's how we train, to build endurance by pressing forward."

Once Co. E recruits started their third phase of training, they focused on drill more as they transitioned from recruit to Marine.

Recruits got used to drill and only carrying a weapon, but the sustainment hike built them back up to carrying heavier loads for long distances, explained 33-year-old Tuviano, a San Diego native.

During the hike, drill instructors called cadences and recruits repeated the commands. Cadence is a traditional call in the military that is used during running or marching formations to boost the moral of a unit. Some of the cadences used during the hike included the drill instructor giving the command "AT and

T" while recruits responded "reach out and touch somebody." This particular cadence was used to keep recruits tight together.

Cadence helped motivate us through the hike, explained 21-year-old Trotter, a Little Rock, Ark. native.

Approximately half-way through the hike, recruits were instructed to take a rest and hydrate. During the break, recruits were given the option to change socks to avoid blisters if needed.

Throughout the Crucible, recruits of Co. E will hike more than 40-miles going from event-to-event at Edson Range. The last portion of the Crucible will be a 9-mile hike up a steep hill called the Reaper. Once recruits reach the top, they will be ordered into a formation where they will receive their earned eagle, globe and anchor along with the title "Marine."

### EXAM ◀ 1

of recruit training, according to Recruit Michael J. Georges.

"We spent countless hours of repeating each combat first aid injury, screaming general knowledge such as ranks and the General Orders," said Georges, a native of Springfield, Mo.

"Once it was time to take the test, it wasn't that we didn't know it, it was just being watched and being afraid we were going to mess up."

Recruits were reviewed by Instructional Training Company Instructors who have taught them everything on the exam throughout recruit training. If a recruit made a mistake, instructors would write an "X" on the recruit's score sheet.

If a recruit failed the exam, they risked being dropped to the next training company, but would have another chance to remediate and pass.

Even though recruits passed the exam, they will continue to learn during their Marine Corps careers.

"After recruit training, Marines receive classes that Corpsman provide to continue the knowledge of combat first aid especially before combat deployments," said 26-year-old Mobley.

Although this exam was the last of Co. B's academic graduation requirements during the recruit training cycle, they still have the biggest test of recruit training, the Crucible, before they earn the title "Marine."

"I am going to take this training seriously," said Georges. "One day, who knows, it might help me save the life of another service member."



Company B Marines execute the assembly/disassembly portion of their Practical Exam aboard the depot, Feb. 11. This was the last academic requirement the recruits faced while in recruit training.

For some recruits who came into recruit training with little experience with physical fitness, the exercises were a little more difficult.

"Towards the end I got really tired," said Recruit Richard C. Wolters III, Plt. 3274. "But my motivation was getting to the next day of training and getting one day closer to becoming a Marine."

Wolters explained he had barely passed the Initial Strength Test, but since then had been putting in extra work every night to get stronger.

After the IST Recruit Arkim R. Lewis,

Plt. 3274, one of the stronger recruits, took it upon himself to help Wolters.

"I've helped him with pull-ups during our square away time—motivated him to get that last rep," said Lewis, a Belleville, Ill. native. "It's very important for him to get stronger because in the end we will be graded as a platoon. Plus no one wants to leave here the same way we came in."

When the last exercise was done, whether slightly or severely fatigued, all recruits were fatigued to some extent—the company had successfully pushed themselves through two hours of exercises.

### BRIEFS

#### A Force of Nature

The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service and the Federal Emergency Management Agency are teaming up for a third year to lead a public education effort aimed at improving the way people prepare for and respond to severe weather.

The theme is – Be a Force of Nature: Take the Next Step.

This means knowing your risk, being prepared and taking appropriate actions before, during and after extreme weather. The program asks public to take a single preparedness action during each day of National Severe Weather Preparedness Week, March 2-8, 2014. This can be as simple as preparing an emergency communications plan for your family. The sum of these actions will ensure that communities are better prepared for severe weather.

For information go to <http://www.ready.gov>.

#### Upcoming election dates

The following states have scheduled primary elections:

- Texas - Mar. 4
- Illinois - Mar. 18
- District of Columbia - Apr. 1

Help with registering to vote is available the unit Voting Assistance Officers. Voters may also register and request absentee ballots 24-hours a day, online at [www.FVAP.gov](http://www.FVAP.gov).

#### Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month. The theme this year is "Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment." The theme illustrates how the determination of women has influenced society during past decades.

Visit the Human Resources Office SharePoint to read the Women's History Month presentation with stories like that of Admiral Michelle Howard who became the highest ranking woman in the history of the U.S. Navy and the U.S. military.

Go to HRO SharePoint at <https://mcrdsintranet.mcdsus.mcds.usmc.mil/sites/g1/hro/EEO/Forms/AllItems.aspx>.

#### Ash Wednesday

March 5 is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.

Lent is a period of 40-days preparation for the celebration of Easter Sunday. It is a time of prayer, fasting and alms giving.

The depot's will hold an Ash Wednesday Mass for Catholics, with the distribution of ashes, in the chapel at 11:45 a.m.

For information call Father LaCombe at (619) 524-4187.

#### Veterans Affairs Office

The Department of Veteran Affairs Office is present on the depot at Personal & Professional Development, Building 14. The office is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m., until 4 p.m.

The office staff has answers to benefit questions on education, medical services, home loans, etc.

For information or an appointment call Robert Hill via telephone at (619) 524-8233, or via e-mail at [robert.hill6@va.gov](mailto:robert.hill6@va.gov) <http://mcc-smcrd.com/PersonalAndProfessionalDevelopment/index.html>

#### 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.

### CIRCUIT ◀ 1

five minutes were spent at each station, drill instructors made recruits keep up a fast tempo of repetitions.

The work-out continued until a whistle blew for the recruits to stop. Many recruits appeared to think the training was over; when in actuality there were still many exercises to come.

Recruits were ordered to pick up their rifles and move to the depot football field where they conducted exercises that included sit ups, cone drills, and sprints.



Lance Cpl. Tyler Viglione

## Post and Relief Ceremony

Sgt. Maj. Peter A. Siaw relinquishes the sword of office to Col. Jim G. Gruny, commanding officer, Recruit Training Regiment, to be passed to Sgt. Maj. Michael G. Olson during a Regimental Sergeant Major Post and Relief Ceremony for regimental sergeant major on Shepherd Field, Feb. 7. The ceremonial passing of the sword of office represents the passing of duties and accomplishments from one sergeant major to another. Siaw left the depot on high praise from Gruny. "If I had just a single Sgt. Maj. Siaw at every place I went in the Marine Corps, this would be pretty close to a perfect Marine Corps," said Gruny. "He's a rare and exceptional individual amongst a population of rare individuals."

## Marines endure trial by water during jungle training

STORY & PHOTO BY  
LANCE CPL. DAVID HERSEY  
III Marine Expeditionary Force  
Marine Corps Installations Pacific

**CAMP GONSALVES, Japan** - Boots pack the soft jungle mud as the battalion moves through the trees. Eyes scan the area in search of the next obstacle that stands in the way.

Marines with 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, completed endurance training Feb. 12 at the Jungle Warfare Training Center, Camp Gonsalves.

The Jungle Warfare Training Center was established in order to train military personnel how to maneuver and engage in combat while in a jungle environment, according to Staff Sgt. David L. Cole, chief instructor with

JWTC, Camp Gonsalves, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

"We have approximately 17,500 acres separated between four training areas," said Cole. "We use these areas to train personnel how to make use of skills such as engaging an enemy in combat, conducting reconnaissance, sharpening survival skills, communication, casu-

alty care, patrol and various other skills in a jungle environment."

During the endurance test, the Marines maneuvered through a four-mile trail. During their movement, the Marines encountered obstacles such as waist-deep water and mud, rope bridges, trenches, simulated enemy encounters, and a simulated casualty event, in which they were required to move a simulated victim with the help of a stretcher.

Through the hardships, the Marines built on their teamwork and camaraderie, according to Sgt. Shawn M. Gleason, a rifleman with Company I, 3rd Bn., 1st Marines, currently assigned to 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF, under the unit deployment program.

"This training made the Marines test their limits and help each other to achieve their goal," said Gleason. "When you begin to think you can't do something, you begin to be able to rely on the Marines to your left and right help you push through your limits and beyond."

The training ensures that the unit will improve unit cohesion, as well as efficiency by requiring the Marines to work together, according to 1st Lt. Scott D. Suess, a platoon commander with the unit.

"Everyone needs to (work) in order to reach the goal in this kind of training," said Suess. "The leaders are right there with their Marines, enduring the same obstacles with them and helping them to solve the problems and achieve the mission."

At the end of the training, the Marines cleaned themselves and their equipment and returned to their barracks, eagerly anticipating the next time they could participate in the training.

"I'd love to do this test again if we have the opportunity," said Suess. "If we do, we'll be trying to beat our time for getting it done from today."



Marines move through the water during a trench maneuver exercise Feb. 12 at the Jungle Warfare Training Center, Camp Gonsalves, Japan, during an endurance test. In the trench portion, the Marines were required to keep a low profile while moving through mud-filled trenches under several obstacles with simulated enemy fire. The Marines are with 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program.

**CHEVRON**

ESTABLISHED 1942

**COMMANDING GENERAL**  
BRIG. GEN. JAMES W. BIERMAN

**SERGEANT MAJOR**  
SGT. MAJ. JAMES K. PORTERFIELD

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR**  
MAJ. NEIL A. RUGGIERO

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPUTY**  
JANICE M. HAGAR

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHIEF**  
MASTER SGT. ARSENIO R. CORTEZ JR.

**PRESS CHIEF**  
CPL. BENJAMIN E. WOODLE

**PRESS NCOIC**  
CPL. PEDRO CARDENAS

**COMBAT CORRESPONDENTS**  
LANCE CPL. TYLER VIGLIONE  
LANCE CPL. JERICO CRUTCHER

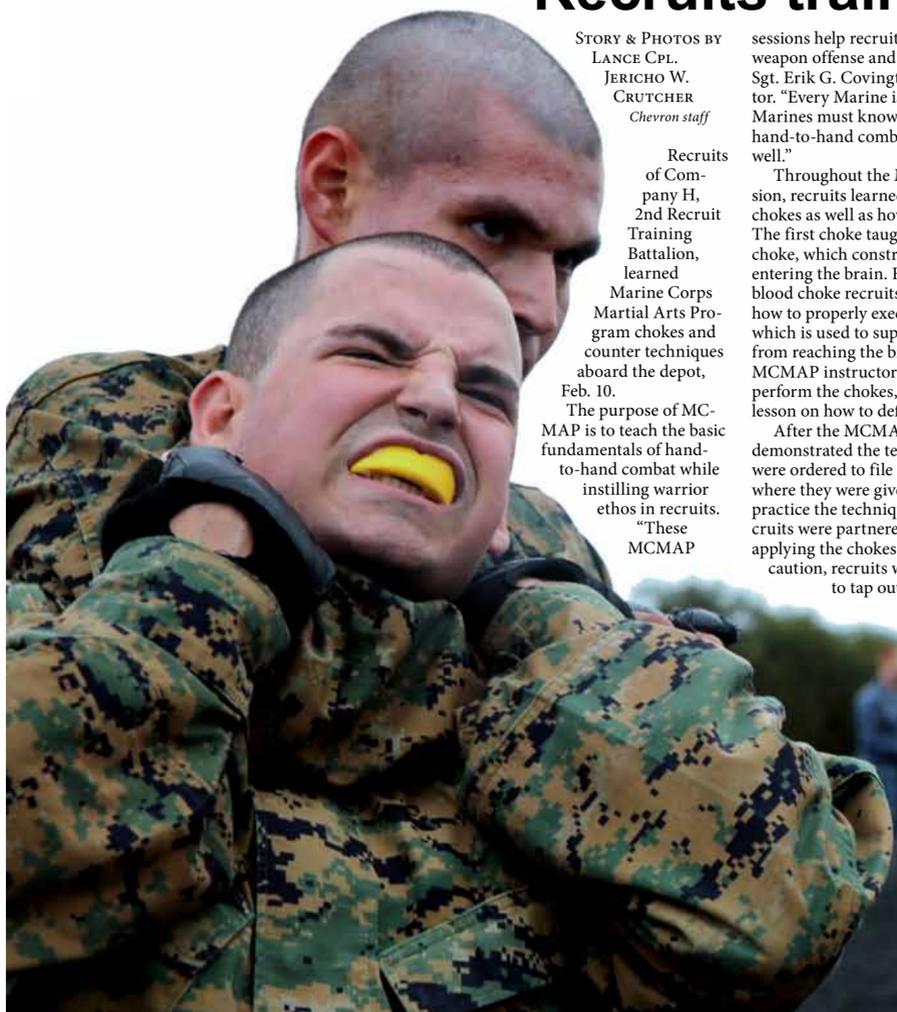
**EDITOR**  
ROGER EDWARDS

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

WWW.MCRDSD.MARINES.MIL

The Chevron is published on the internet at the above address by Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego personnel. Opinions and views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Marine Corps or the Department of Defense. The Chevron is promulgated for informational purposes only and in no way should be considered directive in nature. All photos are official USMC property unless otherwise indicated.

# Recruits train for hand-to-hand combat



STORY & PHOTOS BY  
LANCE CPL.  
JERICHO W.  
CRUTCHER  
*Chevron staff*

Recruits of Company H, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, learned Marine Corps Martial Arts Program chokes and counter techniques aboard the depot, Feb. 10. The purpose of MCMAP is to teach the basic fundamentals of hand-to-hand combat while instilling warrior ethos in recruits. "These MCMAP

sessions help recruits familiarize with weapon offense and defense," said Sgt. Erik G. Covington, drill instructor. "Every Marine is a rifleman, and Marines must know how to fight in hand-to-hand combat situations as well."

Throughout the MCMAP session, recruits learned two different chokes as well as how to defend them. The first choke taught was the blood choke, which constricts blood from entering the brain. Following the blood choke recruits were shown how to properly execute an air choke, which is used to suppress oxygen from reaching the brain. Once the MCMAP instructor felt recruits could perform the chokes, they were given a lesson on how to defend them.

After the MCMAP instructor demonstrated the techniques, recruits were ordered to file off in a formation where they were given a partner to practice the techniques with. Once recruits were partnered up, they started applying the chokes. As a safety precaution, recruits were instructed to tap out when they

felt the choke was being applied correctly from their partner.

As a training requirement, recruits must earn their tan belts in MCMAP in order to graduate. Once recruits have earned the title "Marine" and sent to the Fleet Marine Force they will be able to advance their belts to the next level. Belt levels include, tan, gray, green, brown and black.

To earn each belt, Marines are tested on different MCMAP moves that apply to that particular belt level. Marines will not only be tested for the belt they are attempting to obtain, but also they will be tested on their prior belts to assure they still know the techniques. Knowledge on warrior ethos is a part of the test along with showing confidence with every MCMAP move they perform.

"Marines are put in combat situations, so it is important for us to know the fundamentals of hand-to-hand combat," said Recruit Leon

R. Agosto, Platoon 3210. "If I have to be in this situation on a deployment during my time in the Marine Corps, I want to be well-round trained for it."

A Marine must always have an advantage over their enemies and MCMAP is something Marines are trained in to ensure they are ready to fight, explained 19-year-old Agosto, a Denver native.

Marines of Co. H walked away from their MCMAP session with a better understanding of warrior ethos and hand-to-hand combat.



Sgt. Milton D. Zavala, Platoon 2169 drill instructor, observes and loudly encourages Company H recruits to apply proper technique as they progress through choke holds during a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program training session. Recruits must learn to properly execute each exercise to earn tan belts in MCMAP; a graduation requirement.



Recruits practice a counter-to-the-choke on their partners during a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program session. Recruits practiced the techniques inside a rubber pit, allowing them to throw their partner or fall down without fear of being hurt.



Staff Sgt. Leopoldo L. Bernardo, drill instructor, Company H, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, shows recruits the proper form to execute a choke hold during a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program session. After the training, recruits had a better understanding of warrior ethos and hand-to-hand combat.



Company H recruits practice Marine Corps Martial Arts Program techniques, Feb. 10. Recruits not only learned how to perform an air and blood choke, but also the techniques to break out of those choke holds.

# Third generation Marine continues family tradition



Cpl. Pedro Cardenas

Pfc. Lucas M. Polk (center), Platoon 1035, Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, climbs a hill during the Basilone's Challenge event during the Crucible at Edson Range aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Feb. 19. Polk is a third generation Marine that has graduated recruit training from Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

STORY BY  
CPL. PEDRO CARDENAS  
*Chevron staff*

For most recruits, their arrival to recruit training is their first taste of the Marine Corps; for others, it is a way of life passed on from generation to generation.

Like his father before him, Pfc. Lucas M. Polk, Platoon 1035, Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, is following his family tradition of earning the title Marine.

Polk, a third generation Marine, is continuing his family legacy. But before he enlisted his future was heading in a completely different direction. Polk went to college briefly majoring in communications. While in college he decided to give the music world a try, he was part of two heavy metal bands; Damien Deadson and Surreal Spectrum. He toured the United States and released a CD with both bands.

The 22-year-old native of Tampa Bay, Fla., was a different person then. He had long hair sometimes dressed in dark clothes. Once the band cohesion broke off, the band split, leaving Polk looking for a new line of duty. He called his father, retired Maj. Morgan M. Polk, to seek advice.

His father told him that enlisting in the Marine Corps was one of the best decisions of his life.

At his brother's graduation in May of 2013, during the final dismissal from recruit training by their senior drill instructors, Marines yelled the traditional, "Ooh-rah." It was at that moment Polk solidified his decision to become a Marine.

"It was really inspiring," said Polk. "I knew then that I would be back."

Polk lived in several Marine Corps stations including Marine Corps Base Quantico and overseas to Panama. He always had a good

time being around Marines. Thus, becoming a Marine was of second nature to him.

"I always thought about the Marines because I was raised by Marines," said Polk. "I had discipline instilled in me and had a very structured childhood. I feel like I had an awesome childhood because of the Marine Corps."

According to Polk, he knew someday he would become a Marine because his grandfather, also a Marine, told him in his childhood he would become one. Polk's grandfather graduated recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego in 1948. Polk also had T-shirts with the slogan, "I'm not a kid; I am a future Marine."

"My father always had camouflage paint and when we were out in the woods he would teach us how to shoot," said Polk. "I knew the weapons safety rules since I was a kid. When I got here, I knew why my dad taught them to us."

According to Morgan, he did not expect his son to enlist in the Marine Corps, but was especially happy.

"I told him what my dad told me, 'you don't know what you are getting into. This will be an abrupt awakening,'" said Morgan, also a graduate of MCRD San Diego, Jan. 15, 1982. "I didn't influence him to become a Marine, but it fills me with a sense of pride."

For Polk, the next step in his training is to attend the School of Infantry at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., to become a rifleman and continue his family tradition as a U.S. Marine. Polk has the goal of continuing his education and possibly becoming a commissioned officer like his father.

"I feel privileged to be able to continue my family tradition," said Polk. "I feel proud to serve. I was supposed to do this; it's in my blood."



Courtesy Photo

Pfc. Lucas M. Polk (left), Platoon 1035, Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, stands next to his brother, William, during his brother's graduation in May 2013. Polk belonged to a heavy metal band before he joined the Marine Corps.

## Maj. Gen. Mark A. Brilakis

### Parade Reviewing Officer

Maj. Gen. Mark A. Brilakis is currently assigned as the commanding general, Marine Corps Recruiting Command.

Brilakis graduated from Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa., and was commissioned through the Platoon Leaders Class in May 1981.

His assignments in the operating forces include: battery officer, 1st Battalion,

10th Marines; battery commander, battalion fire direction officer, and operations, 5th Battalion, 10th Marines; naval gunfire control officer and assistant supporting arms coordinator, commander, Amphibious Group Two; future operations and Marine Air Ground Task Force planner, operations, II Marine Expeditionary Force; executive officer, 10th Marine Regiment; commanding officer 1st Battalion, 10th Marines.

He was commanding general, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, deputy commanding general, III MEF,

and commanding general, 3rd Marine Division, Camp Courtney, Okinawa, assistant deputy commandant (programs), programs and resources department, Headquarters Marine Corps.

Brilakis's assignments in the supporting establishment include: company officer and commanding officer, Company A, and course developer, Marine Corps Institute Company, Marine Barracks, District of Columbia; and commanding officer, Weapons Training Battalion.

His headquarters and staff assignments include: status of

forces officer, Plans, Policies, and Operations Department, HQMC; head, program development branch, Programs and Resources Department, HQMC; director, European Liaison Office, Headquarters, U.S. European Command, and deputy operations, United States European Command.

Brilakis's military education include: Amphibious Warfare School; Command and Staff College; School of Advanced Warfighting; and Commandant of the Marine Corps Fellow, Center for Strategic and International Studies. He earned a masters in

military studies from Marine Corps University.





**Platoon 1034**  
COMPANY HONOR MAN  
Lance Cpl. J. W. McKinnley  
Phoenix  
Recruited by Sgt. B. Gossett

**Platoon 1031**  
SERIES HONOR MAN  
Pfc. J. R. Diaz Jr.  
Tucson, Ariz.  
Recruited by Staff Sgt. V. L. Negrete

**Platoon 1029**  
PLATOON HONOR MAN  
Pfc. X. D. Marrero  
Houston  
Recruited by Sgt. F. Lara

**Platoon 1030**  
PLATOON HONOR MAN  
Pfc. K. J. Camarillo  
San Antonio  
Recruited by Sgt. J. Trevino

**Platoon 1033**  
PLATOON HONOR MAN  
Pfc. A. J. Watson  
Salinas, Ks.  
Recruited by Sgt. M. D. McKenzie

**Platoon 1035**  
PLATOON HONOR MAN  
Pfc. S. D. St. Clair  
St. Louis  
Recruited by Sgt. R. Branscum

**Platoon 1030**  
HIGH SHOOTER (337)  
Pvt. T. R. Green  
Caloma, Mich.  
Marksman Instructor  
Sgt. Peredeia

**Platoon 1031**  
HIGH PFT (300)  
Pfc. S. A. Crook  
LaGuina Hills, Calif.  
Recruited by Staff Sgt. F. E. Real Jr.



# BRAVO COMPANY

1st RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION



Commanding Officer  
Sergeant Major  
Battalion Drill Master

Lt. Col. L. M. Schotemeyer  
Sgt. Maj. M. S. Seamans  
Staff Sgt. C. A. Gonzalez

**COMPANY B**  
Commanding Officer  
Capt. J. M. Phelps  
Company First Sergeant  
1st Sgt W. A. Purnell

**SERIES 1029**  
Series Commander  
Capt. V. Sapeda  
Chief Drill Instructor  
Gunnery Sgt. Q. A. Truong

**PLATOON 1029**  
Senior Drill Instructor  
Staff Sgt. J. A. Andazola  
Drill Instructors  
Staff Sgt. C. F. Hudnall  
Staff Sgt. A. Mendoza Jr.  
Sgt. H. Y. Chae  
Sgt. R. Gonzalez

**PLATOON 1030**  
Senior Drill Instructor  
Sgt. B. T. Rogers  
Drill instructors  
Sgt. D. E. Elizarraraz  
Sgt. L. D. Rodriguez  
Sgt. F. Salas

**PLATOON 1031**  
Senior Drill Instructor  
Gunnery Sgt. R. S. Clagett  
Drill instructors  
Gunnery Sgt. B. W. Carsner  
Gunnery Sgt. K. D. Nelson  
Gunnery Sgt. G. A. Vargas  
Staff Sgt. K. J. Ochoa

**SERIES 1033**  
Series Commander  
Capt. C. J. Pimley  
Chief Drill Instructor  
Staff Sgt. P. S. Haly

**PLATOON 1033**  
Senior Drill Instructor  
Staff Sgt. P. J. Gartland  
Drill Instructors  
Sgt. J. J. Flores  
Sgt. D. A. Herrera  
Sgt. R. H. Mobley

**PLATOON 1034**  
Senior Drill Instructor  
Staff Sgt. J. E. Barnes  
Drill Instructors  
Sgt. J. G. Kinal  
Sgt. R. E. Merryman  
Sgt. J. W. Wooden

**PLATOON 1035**  
Senior Drill Instructor  
Staff Sgt. J. C. Hunt  
Drill Instructors  
Staff Sgt. A. D. Donaie  
Staff Sgt. K. A. Martin  
Sgt. J. M. Cardona  
Sgt. R. Jojola

\* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

**PLATOON 1029**  
Pvt. J. A. Abarca  
Pvt. A. B. Adame-Bonillas  
\*Pfc. A. Albaverauribe  
\*Pfc. O. H. Amezquita  
Pvt. J. M. Bryant  
Pvt. C. K. Clark  
Pvt. S. A. Cupa  
Pvt. F. R. Floyd  
Pvt. J. J. Koutros  
Pvt. M. A. Lujan-Monreal  
Pvt. J. A. Magdaleno  
Pvt. C. N. Marino  
Pvt. C. S. Marquez  
Pfc. X. D. Marrero  
Pfc. S. A. Martinez Jr.  
Pfc. F. Martinez  
Pvt. J. A. Martinez  
Pvt. S. A. Martinez  
Pvt. K. J. McDowell  
Pvt. F. M. McEue  
Pvt. D. E. McLoud  
Pvt. J. M. McPike  
Pvt. D. Medina  
Pvt. D. E. Merrill  
Pvt. L. K. Mobley  
Pvt. M. Munoz  
Pfc. K. L. Murphy  
Pfc. J. J. Nilo  
Pvt. A. C. Oliveira  
Pvt. S. C. Olson  
Pvt. C. T. Osgood  
Pvt. A. J. Pagan  
Pfc. I. J. Pak  
Pvt. B. D. Peace  
Pvt. J. M. Jacob  
Pvt. B. T. Perdue  
Pvt. O. Perez  
\*Pfc. J. Peterson  
Pfc. Z. W. Peterson  
Pvt. H. Pimienta Jr.  
Pfc. B. R. Prazeau  
Pvt. D. D. Pringle  
Pvt. J. R. Quintero  
Pfc. B. G. Ramirez  
Pvt. J. C. Ramont

Pvt. R. C. Rosas  
Pvt. A. N. Rudman  
Pvt. B. E. Ruiz  
Pfc. M. Schneider  
\*Pfc. A. T. Shann  
Pfc. T. Shmigel  
Pvt. A. C. Zaragoza

**PLATOON 1030**  
Pvt. J. R. Abeln  
Pfc. K. W. Bai  
Pfc. D. A. Ballinger  
Pfc. D. A. Bleiweiss  
Pvt. M. K. Boyd  
Pvt. J. S. Bradley Jr.  
\*Pfc. K. J. Camarillo  
Pvt. A. J. Carro  
Pfc. T. B. Carter  
Pvt. A. J. Cochran  
Pfc. K. K. Dang  
Pvt. E. Diaz  
Pvt. Z. J. Dick  
\*Pfc. B. J. Doyle  
Pvt. B. A. Duran  
Pfc. C. A. Eheler  
Pvt. K. W. Eklof  
Pvt. T. D. Eubanks  
Pfc. E. W. Fiscus  
\*Pfc. J. L. France  
Pvt. B. D. Glass  
Pvt. J. E. Gonzalez  
Pvt. M. A. Gordon  
Pvt. T. R. Green  
Pfc. J. W. Griseser  
Pvt. D. L. Gross  
Pvt. C. J. Gwyn  
Pvt. B. M. Hanson  
Pfc. D. J. Hattenbach  
Pvt. H. J. Hendrix  
Pvt. L. M. Hernandez  
Pfc. G. A. Herrera  
Pvt. K. L. Herron  
Pvt. L. H. Hill  
Pvt. K. D. Hoskins  
Pvt. C. J. Houle  
Pvt. D. A. Huacuja  
Pvt. A. T. Hughes  
Pvt. B. B. Johnson

Pvt. P. A. Johnson  
Pvt. D. Kilpatrick  
Pfc. K. T. Kinney  
Pvt. E. J. Kreplfle  
Pfc. K. A. Kuyath  
Pvt. B. Li  
Pvt. C. M. Ostrander  
Pvt. R. R. Slavich  
Pvt. J. J. Spore Li  
Pvt. S. G. Steele

**PLATOON 1031**  
Pvt. J. J. Bell  
Pvt. S. M. Benzchawel  
Pvt. C. R. Bills  
Pfc. M. M. Bolden  
Pfc. M. P. Borzynski Jr.  
Pvt. T. D. Botelho  
Pfc. M. A. Cenicerros Jr.  
Pvt. M. C. Cerise-Padron  
Pvt. W. P. Craddock  
Pvt. L. A. Crawford  
\*Pfc. S. A. Crook  
Pfc. C. J. De Castro  
\*Pfc. J. R. Diaz Jr.  
Pvt. Z. R. Dorothy  
Pvt. J. R. Dote  
Pvt. K. D. Dowdy  
Pvt. R. J. Dunlap  
Pvt. N. A. Ekern  
Pvt. J. M. Ellis  
Pfc. M. E. English  
Pvt. K. F. Esparza  
Pfc. D. V. Evert  
Pfc. D. L. Ferguson  
Pvt. L. T. Foy  
Pvt. E. P. Funk  
Pvt. O. Garcia  
Pfc. J. T. Gawronski  
Pfc. J. Gomez-Garcia  
Pfc. R. J. Gonzalez  
Pvt. A. M. Groenheim  
Pvt. T. M. Grummitt  
Pvt. J. H. Guzman-

Sierra  
Pvt. B. D. Hamblock  
Pvt. J. A. Hartenberger  
Pfc. S. R. Hartmann  
Pvt. N. M. Hausman  
Pfc. M. E. Head  
Pvt. D. Hernandez  
Pfc. I. H. Jeon  
Pfc. C. V. Johnson  
Pvt. J. A. Johnson  
Pvt. R. S. Johnson  
Pvt. D. B. Jordan  
Pvt. A. T. Jordan-Allen  
Pvt. J. M. Keys  
Pfc. A. Khachikian  
Pvt. B. A. Lofhus  
\*Pfc. A. B. Love  
Pvt. D. C. Lyons  
Pfc. A. J. Ortega

**PLATOON 1033**  
Pvt. L. C. Acosta-Valero  
Pfc. B. E. Alcon  
Pvt. L. D. Arellano  
Pfc. A. Arenas  
Pvt. C. D. Ares  
Pvt. P. A. Arias  
Pvt. S. P. Bain  
Pvt. W. C. Baker  
\*Pfc. D. L. Barker  
Pfc. C. M. Brown  
Pfc. W. W. Bucher  
Pvt. N. D. Burge  
Pvt. S. G. Carmichael  
Pfc. T. P. Charlson  
Pvt. M. J. Dederling  
Pvt. A. M. Dickson  
Pvt. K. L. Endres  
Pvt. D. E. Garcia  
\*Pfc. M. J. Georges  
Pvt. M. S. Golden  
\*Pfc. P. D. Gorish  
Pfc. H. C. Gort  
Pfc. D. M. Gould  
Pvt. T. B. Grudberg  
Pvt. M. C. Hammons

Pvt. K. A. Hellenbrand  
Pvt. C. Ibenhard  
Pvt. W. E. Ivey  
Pvt. D. J. Jagers  
Pvt. C. E. Janian  
Pvt. T. T. Joice  
Pvt. J. Juarez  
Pvt. B. Ma  
Pvt. N. B. Malott  
Pvt. S. A. Mendoza  
Pvt. O. D. Mora  
Pvt. M. B. Mallowney  
Pvt. R. D. Pandya  
Pvt. A. Phetsangham  
Pvt. C. L. Preasemyer  
Pvt. M. A. Rasmussen  
Pvt. M. Rosas  
Pvt. A. M. Sandoval  
Pvt. E. A. Sandoval  
Pfc. J. D. Stabe  
Pvt. J. J. Stukel  
Pvt. A. Urbina  
Pvt. A. M. Vesely  
Pfc. A. J. Watson  
Pvt. J. J. Wimpey

**PLATOON 1034**  
Pvt. J. R. Aguilar  
Pfc. J. J. Cermack  
Pvt. E. Galindo  
Pvt. J. I. Madrigal  
Pvt. R. P. Maillet  
Pfc. A. O. McDonald-Johnson  
Pvt. M. D. McElhannon  
\*Lance Cpl. J. W. McKinnley  
Pvt. K. J. Meisinger  
Pvt. G. Mejia  
Pfc. N. J. Melendez  
Pvt. S. M. Metcalf  
Pvt. E. Molina  
Pvt. D. E. Monzon  
Pvt. J. R. Moyle  
Pvt. C. M. Newell  
Pfc. N. B. Newton

Pvt. J. L. Olsen  
Pfc. D. J. Paquette  
Pfc. C. D. Parmenter  
Pfc. M. A. Perez  
Pvt. N. J. Phillips  
Pvt. Z. A. Pierobello  
Pfc. J. A. Puches  
\*Pfc. A. Rosales Jr.  
Pfc. C. D. Rose  
Pvt. J. Rubio-Tamayo  
Pvt. L. Saenz  
Pfc. R. D. Salas  
Pvt. L. F. Salazar  
Pvt. M. E. Samplawski  
\*Pfc. F. Sanches  
Pvt. G. E. Scarborough  
Pvt. T. L. Schaefer  
Pfc. C. A. Schmidt  
Pfc. J. A. Sease  
Pfc. I. Seo  
Pvt. B. J. Sitton  
Pvt. T. A. Smith  
Pvt. J. P. Sparcino  
Pvt. G. I. Stites  
Pvt. K. D. Tusman  
Pvt. C. L. Tyler  
Pvt. I. N. Valdez  
Pvt. J. A. Varges  
Pvt. S. G. Vierra  
Pvt. A. J. Viken  
Pvt. N. R. Wennen  
\*Pfc. N. R. Woods  
Pvt. M. J. Zavala

**PLATOON 1035**  
Pfc. D. J. Allen  
Pvt. C. J. Caldarella  
Pvt. H. W. Duffey  
Pvt. K. R. Evans  
Pvt. T. L. Fearon  
Pvt. E. C. Flournoy  
Pvt. J. J. Fudge  
Pvt. M. S. Giles  
Pvt. T. S. Gilworth  
Pvt. G. Gordillo  
Pfc. J. A. Gould  
Pvt. S. A. Hart

Pvt. C. A. Heger  
Pvt. D. P. Johnson  
Pvt. J. L. Johnson  
Pvt. R. A. King  
Pvt. B. R. Laroco  
Pvt. D. A. Leon-Herrera  
Pvt. M. K. Meyer  
Pvt. T. L. Mike  
Pvt. C. D. Morales  
\*Pfc. B. J. Moraveco  
Pfc. L. M. Polk  
Pvt. C. Ramirez  
Pvt. C. J. Sansone  
Pfc. P. Sherpa  
Pfc. P. Sherpa  
Pvt. M. F. Sleeting  
Pvt. B. J. Spaulding  
\*Pfc. S. D. St. Clair  
Pvt. A. M. Strobel  
Pvt. B. P. Sullivan  
Pvt. L. C. Tarr  
Pfc. D. W. Thayer  
Pvt. J. J. Thayer  
Pvt. J. J. Thomas  
Pvt. A. M. Throne  
Pvt. A. Torres  
\*Pfc. I. A. Torres  
Pvt. P. B. Townley  
\*Pfc. B. M. Trevino  
Pvt. G. Vargas  
Pfc. L. Vargas  
Pvt. J. Vasquez  
Pvt. B. J. Walker  
Pfc. D. Z. Waters  
Pfc. A. B. White  
Pfc. Z. E. White  
Pvt. T. R. Wieworka  
Pvt. M. Z. Wilson  
Pvt. R. L. Young



Company I recruits process through the depot's uniform issue facility to be fitted for their new uniform items during their first uniform fitting, Feb. 11. The recruits will return to the facility twice, to make sure uniform tailoring is correct and that the uniforms are ready to be worn at the end of recruit training.

## Co. I recruits get first fitting for dress uniforms

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

The Marine Corps is known for its professionalism and when it comes to professionalism, Marines are held to high expectations.

Recruits of Company I, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, received their first uniform fitting aboard the depot, Feb. 11.

"We want them looking as good as possible from the beginning," said Staff Sgt. Armando R. Hopkins, drill instructor, Platoon 3214. "These will be the uniforms that these recruits will wear once they become Marines; maybe their entire careers."

During their time at the recruit clothing facility, recruits turned in some of their camouflage combat utility uniforms to have their name tapes sewn on. Each recruit also received a set of dress uniforms that were tailored to their bodies.

Recruits were fitted for each item of the uniform such as the cover, blouse, trousers and jacket. Each recruit then individually stood in front of a professional tailor to ensure a proper fit.

Training day 43 was not only important for the recruits to receive the uniforms they will be wearing, but also was a stepping stone during their recruit training experience.

"They (recruits) can see the transition," said Hopkins, a native of El Paso, Texas. "The recruits getting fitted for their uniforms is one of the first steps in Phase III of recruit training."

According to Recruit Marcelo Clark, being able to put the uniform on and get it fit to his own body gave him a confidence and psychological boost to push on and complete the rest of recruit training.

"Not everybody gets to put on these uniforms," said Clark, a Houston native. "We have made it this far in training and just seeing these uniforms and getting the chance to put them on gives me the drive to graduate."

Marine Corps uniforms date back to the beginning of the service. Uniforms distinguish the Corps from the other branches of service. Some details in the uniforms reflect the proud legacy of Marines who have worn them for the more than two centuries.

"Anyone can wear a uniform," said 25-year-old Clark. "What makes it stand out is when it is crisp and neat; it just flat out looks good."

The recruits will return the following week to ensure the uniforms fit correctly and if needed any other alterations will be made.

Although recruits were fitted for their dress uniforms, they were not allowed to wear them until Family Day and Graduation after they have earned the title "Marine."

"I have been looking forward to this day since the beginning of recruit training," said Clark. "The way the Marines look is one of the reasons why I joined the Marine Corps."



Recruit Changwoo Lee, Platoon 3213, Company I, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, is measured for uniform fitting Feb. 11. Recruits received a set of each Marine Corps dress uniform to be tailored to properly fit them.