



**Co. I
recruits
strain to
meet
CFT
challenges**

Pg 4

CHEVRON

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION

**New
Co. E
Marine
reaches
goal after
six years**

Pg 6



Vol. 74 – Issue 7

“WHERE MARINES ARE MADE”

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2014

Marines receive insight on Corps history



Retired Capt. Joe Larkin, museum docent, teaches Marines about Marine Corps uniforms during a Command Museum visit aboard the depot, Feb. 19. Since 1775, the Marine Corps has left a trail of history and traditions ranging from different battles to the uniforms worn today.

STORY & PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. JERICO W.
CRUTCHER
Chevron staff

Since 1775, the Marine Corps has left a trail of history and traditions ranging from different battles to the uniforms worn today.

Marines of Company E, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, visited the Command Museum to gain knowledge on the Marine Corps history aboard the depot, Feb. 19.

The museum tour included the Vietnam Gallery, Korean War, World War II, Waterhouse Room, Modern Warfare and Medals and Decorations, which fill the Marines' minds full of history and knowledge.

“Our goal is to teach the Marines the Marine Corps' role in military history,” said retired Sgt. Bud T. Tate, museum docent. “The thing I love most about the Marine Corps is no matter where you go or what you do after; being a Marine is always the high

see HISTORY ▶ 2



Marines of 3rd Battalion, Recruit Training Regiment, prepare to ride to Carlsbad, Calif., during the battalion quarterly ride, Jan. 28. Before they took off, Marines' gear and bikes were inspected.

Depot riders enjoy first motorcycle ride

STORY & PHOTO BY
CPL. PEDRO CARDENAS
Chevron staff

Marines of 3rd Recruit Training Battalion took part in their quarterly ride to Carlsbad, Calif., which was part of the battalion's motorcycle club ride, Jan. 28.

The purpose of the motorcycle club is to improve unit morale, promote rider awareness and improve individual rider skills. The club is also tasked with establishing and maintaining camaraderie, esprit de corps that will enhance the prestige of all motorcycle riders, encourage on-going rider education and skills development, and reduce the potential of motorcycle mishaps.

The motorcycle club program seeks to improve rider skills through mentorship for new riders, and continuing education for

all riders to positively influence motorcycling on and off Marine Corps installations.

Another purpose of the club is to establish an effective means of communication with all members to exchange ideas and keep attuned to changes in attitudes and behaviors of riders in order to promote and support safety recognition programs.

“It lets you interact at a different level. You can share your experiences with new riders,” said Sgt. Maj. Jimmy D. Ferriss, battalion sergeant major. “This was our first ride and each unit should take time to get to know their Marines and this is a good way to do so.”

According to the Navy Safety Center, the popularity of sport bikes presented unique challenges. These bikes, designed and engineered for racing, are extremely powerful, maneuver-

able and affordable.

Prior to 2008 the only training available to riders was geared toward standard motorcycle riders, which failed to address the unique handling characteristics of sport bikes, risk management and other behavior modification tools.

In 2008 the Navy and Marine Corps attacked the problem with the development of the Military Sports Bike Riders Course and introduction of mentorship programs. All bike riders are subject to safety regulations, including proper riding gear and need to attend an initial training motorcycle rider safety course in order to ride. However, perhaps the most critical aspect of safety was the involvement of leadership at all levels.

Each unit commander is tasked with ensuring his or her unit has a

see MOTORCYCLE ▶ 2

Co. A learns Corps customs, courtesies

STORY & PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. JERICO W.
CRUTCHER
Chevron staff

Marines come from various places and different backgrounds, but all are held to the same standards of morals and principles.

Recruits of Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, received a class on the Marine Corps customs, courtesies and ethics aboard the depot, Feb. 19.

From the first time recruits arrive at Marine Corps Re-

cruit Depot San Diego to the day they graduate, they are inducted into the Marine Corps' lifestyle.

“Marines have a sense of pride for being held to a higher standard,” said Staff Sgt. Jeremy J. Leopold, drill instructor, Platoon 1009. “Upholding those standards is something we as Marines live up to as the Marines before us did.”

Marines show their courtesy through an act of respect for an individual's authority, such as saluting an officer. A

see CUSTOMS ▶ 2



Recruits of Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, hit the books during a customs and courtesies class aboard the depot, Feb. 19. Recruits followed along in their knowledge books issued to them.



Marines of Company E, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, tour the Command Museum aboard the depot, Feb. 19. The museum tour included the Vietnam Gallery, Korean War, World War II, Waterhouse Room, Modern Warfare and Medals and Decorations, which educated the Marines' on the history of the Corps.

HISTORY ◀ 1

light of your accomplishments.”

According to Tate, a 69-year-old Providence, R.I., native, he wanted to make sure the Marines truly understood each piece of history they talked about, which was easy because all of them listened eagerly.

“They showed great interest in all of the pieces of history that were displayed throughout the museum,” said Tate.

Every Marine is given the opportunity to explore the museum and of all its artifacts during Final Week. They were given approximately two hours with an instructor who guided them around the museum as they explained the history of the Marine Corps, such as the Battle of Belleau Wood.

The Battle of Belleau Wood took place

in June 1918 during World War I. On that battle, casualties were the highest in Marine Corps history. The Marine Corps was successful and won one of the most important battles in Marine Corps history: it came at the cost of 9,777 United States casualties and 1,811 fatalities. After the battle, General Pershing said, “The deadliest weapon in the world is a Marine and his rifle.”

“Each piece of artifact in the museum tells a story about the Marine Corps and shows us our Corps’ great accomplishments,” said Pvt. Turner Ray, Platoon 2114. “My grandfather fought in the Vietnam War and it gives me a sense of pride looking back on the history that he was a part of.”

It’s humbling looking at historical facts

past Marines went through protecting and fighting for our country, explained 21-year-old Ray, a Pryor, Okla., native.

“It’s motivating to get us focused for the Crucible,” said Ray.

The Crucible is a 54-hour test of endurance where recruits must conquer more than 30 obstacles while they experience food and sleep deprivation; this is the last test the recruits face before they earn the title “Marine.”

With the knowledge and motivation obtained from the museum, Co. E moves on to the Crucible. Once recruits hike up the mountain known as the Reaper, they will receive their eagle, globe and anchor along with the title “Marine.” From that moment on, they will be a part of Marine Corps history.

CUSTOMS ◀ 1

salute is traditionally used as a greeting to officers. While saluting an officer, a Marine will say the proper greeting of the day such as, “good morning, ma’am” or “good morning, sir.” When acknowledging an enlisted Marine, a Marine will give the proper greeting of the day followed by that individual’s respected rank such as, “good afternoon, sergeant.”

Respecting officers with a salute is a way of showing respect amongst one another in the Marine Corps, explained 34-year-old Leopold, an Argyle, Wisc. native.

Customs are a representation of some of the long standing traditions in the Marine Corps. One of the most famous customs in the Corps is the Marine Corps Ball. The birthday ball has been celebrated every year on November 10, since 1912. During the ball there is a reading of excerpt from the Marine Corps manual, a message from the commandant and a cutting of the cake ceremony.

Marines customarily use nautical terms. Floors are “decks,” walls are “bulkheads,” ceilings are “overheads,” and corridors are “passageways.” Marines say “square-away,” which means to correctly arrange articles or take in hand and direct an individual. “Aye, aye sir” is used when acknowledging a verbal and direct order and also considered a nauti-



Recruits of Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, study during a customs and courtesies class aboard the depot, Feb. 19. Customs are a representation of some of the long standing traditions in the Marine Corps.

cal term. “Yes sir” and “no sir” are used to answer a direct question.

“The class showed me a lot of customs about the Marine Corps along with the respect that is demanded from the Marine Corps such as giving the proper greeting of the day followed by the proper rank of the Marine,” said Recruit Alex W. Finnegan, Platoon 1015. “It’s very prideful to know that I will soon become a part of the code of honor in the Marine Corps.”

I wasn’t educated enough on procedures and gear,” said Staff Sgt. Marques C. Jackson, club president and chief drill instructor, Company M. “That’s why we have a mentoring program to ensure what you are doing is correct.”

According to Ferriss, he is one of the more experienced Marines with his current motorcycle having more than 60,000 miles; where as some of the riders in his battalion have just began to ride their motorcycles.

After recruits make it through recruit training, they’re a direct representation of the Marine Corps. Today’s class gave knowledge on how to apply themselves and to know what will be expected of them.

Customs and courtesies stay in a Marine’s entire career during their everyday activities; therefore it’s important it’s taught from the beginning during recruit training, according to 18-year-old Finnegan, a Dewey, Arz., native.

“You have to give them pointers. They teach you the basics at the rider safety course, but there are a lot more hazards on the road,” said Jackson. “We mentor so riders can enjoy their ride every day.”

For Marines of 3rd Battalion, the ride was the first of many to come. The battalion ride ended with food, beverages and sharing their prior experiences to promote safety and good driving skills for their fellow Marines.

BRIEFS

Mammoth ski/snowboard trip

The depot’s Single Marine Program organization has arranged a Mar. 13 to Mar. 16 ski/snowboard trip to Mammoth Mountain.

Tickets are on sale now. The cost for transportation, room and some food is \$125. Gear rental is an additional \$25.

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

St. Patrick’s Day 5K Fun Run

The depot’s St. Patrick’s Day 5K Fun Run will be held Mar. 14, beginning at 1 p.m., starting at the west end of the Recreation Center.

The event is free for MCRD San Diego Authorized Patrons, and \$10 for the guests of authorized patrons.

Free lunch will be available, along with post-race beverages, special event t-shirt, a raffle, music and entertainment.

Awards will be presented to the top three overall male and female finishers.

For information or registration go to <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/2014-mcrd-san-diego-st-patricks-day-run-tickets-10704335957>.

Battle Color Detachment

The Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment performs on the depot’s Shepherd Memorial Drill Field March 15 at 2:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The Detachment is a ceremonial unit from Marine Barracks Washington, featuring “The Commandant’s Own,” the United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps; the United States Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon; and the Official Color Guard of the Marine Corps. This highly skilled unit travels worldwide to demonstrate the discipline, professionalism, and “Esprit de Corps” of the United States Marines, appearing in hundreds of ceremonies annually.

Guests attending the performance must enter the depot through Gate 5 at the Washington Street entrance. No alcohol or pets are allowed except for service animals.

For more information on the Battle Color Detachment, please visit www.facebook.com/usmcdrumcorps, www.facebook.com/marinebarracks, www.twitter.com/usmcdrumcorps, or www.drumcorps.marines.mil.

Upcoming election dates

The following states have scheduled primary elections:

- 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.

Bayview Marina Cafe

The Bayview Marina Cafe is now open.

Formerly known as the Boathouse, the cafe will serve lunch from 11 a.m., until 2 p.m., daily.

The menu offers a selection of appetizers, soups, salads, sandwiches and beverages.

Inside and outside seating is available.

The facility also offers a convenience store operation and continues to offer boating and aquatic sports equipment rental.

For information call the Bayview Marina Cafe at (619) 718-3790.

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.

MOTORCYCLE ◀ 1

instated to promote bike rider safety.

Commanders are in charge of structuring the club and assigning a club president. Like any other organization, club members have duties and bylaws to abide by and it is their responsibility to uphold the basic core values and mentor each other through their experiences.

“The first time I rode my bike I crashed. When I purchased my first bike

Afghans see continued success in Sangin Valley

STORY & PHOTOS BY
CPL. JOSHUA YOUNG

1 Marine Expeditionary Force, 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade
Regional Command Southwest

FORWARD OPERATING BASE ROBINSON, Afghanistan - Marines with Security Force Assistance Advisor Team 2-215 visited Afghan National Army outposts near Forward Operating Base Robinson, Feb. 24.

Col. AbdulHai Neshat, the executive officer of 2nd Brigade, 215th Corps, ANA, invited Col. Christopher Douglas, the team leader of SFAAT 2-215, to visit the outposts and see the progress that was made in a recent operation, Oqab 144.

"It was pretty inspiring knowing what they had cleared and put in place as a result of Oqab 144, seeing that it's still there and the ANA are still providing security with the police," said Douglas, a Marine Corps reservist from Ballston Spa, N.Y. "It's really positive. The bottom line here in Sangin, the ANA are still standing."

The outposts overlook the Sangin Valley and Route 611, and are vital to mission success in the region, said Neshat. During the operation, several bridges were put in place over the Nahr-e Saraj Canal. The bridges will allow easier access for the ANA and Afghan police to cross the canal between outposts and are open for use by the local populace.

They serve as a literal and metaphorical bridge between the ANA and the people. Before the bridges were in place, people would have to walk several miles to cross a bridge put in place by coalition forces or risk going into the canal to cross.

"I showed them the areas where the operation went," Neshat said. "That was great. I think the enemy is no



Marines with Security Force Assistance Advisor Team 2-215 and soldiers with 2nd Brigade, 215th Corps, Afghan National Army visit an outpost near Forward Operating Base Robinson, Feb. 24. The outposts overlook the Sangin Valley and Route 611 and are vital to mission success in the region.

longer in those areas where they were influencing before. Right now, people are working. Sometimes the Taliban come to those areas, but have to escape back. They can't stay. They don't have their positions there now. The ANA is going to guard their position."

Oqab 144 was conducted to clear the Sangin Valley of hostile threats in preparation for to the upcoming Af-

ghan presidential elections. The desire of the brigade is to provide a safe voting environment for the citizens.

"We're looking forward to how we're going to support the elections and bring people to vote," Neshat said. "The concern is to facilitate the people coming to these polls. The enemy wants to hurt people and entrap the election. We are planning to do more operations before the elections and we have a security plan for it. Hopefully we succeed."

Douglas expressed his confidence in the ability of the 2nd Brigade to effectively support the election process.

"They've been planning, coordinating and reaching out to all the other

Afghan partners between the police and the governance," Douglas said. "I believe we're going to see success in that area."

Oqab 144 served as the first successful Afghan National Security Force operation in the Sangin Valley completed solely by Afghan forces with coalition forces in an advisory-only role.

"Afghans came up with their own solution and they're solving the problems that come up," said Maj. Scott Shadforth, the forward air controller for SFAAT 2-215. "They know what needs to get done here. They understand the geography, the culture, the ethnicity, and a lot better than we'll ever be able to."



Col. Christopher Douglas, a reservist from Ballston Spa, N.Y., and the team leader of Security Force Assistance Advisor Team 2-215, looks out over the Sangin Valley from an outpost located near Forward Operating Base Robinson, Feb. 24. Col. AbdulHai Neshat, the executive officer of 2nd Brigade, 215th Corps, Afghan National Army, invited Douglas to visit outposts and see the progress made during a recent operation.



Marines with Security Force Assistance Advisor Team 2-215 and soldiers with 2nd Brigade, 215th Corps, Afghan National Army visit an outpost near Forward Operating Base Robinson, Feb. 24. Col. AbdulHai Neshat, the executive officer of 2nd Brigade, invited Col. Christopher Douglas, the team leader of SFAAT 2-215, to visit the outposts and see the progress that was made in a recent operation.



ESTABLISHED 1942

COMMANDING GENERAL
BRIG. GEN. JAMES W. BIEMAN

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 now way should be considered directive in nature. All photos are official USMC property unless otherwise indicated.



Recruits of Company I, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, perform the 880-yard run portion of the CFT. Recruits were broken down into groups of 15 and lined up on the track. An Instructional Training Company instructor then blew a whistle to signal the start of the event for the first group.



Recruit Quinton G.W. Stage, Platoon 3209, Company I, performs a fireman's carry with his partner, Recruit Aiden F.V. Ward, during the CFT. After recruits put their partners down back at the beginning of the course, they had to pick up ammunition cans and run the course again, with different obstacles.



Recruit Luke A. Williams, Platoon 3209, Company I, buddy drags his partner, Recruit Martin L. Struzyk. The purpose of the CFT was to ensure recruits were ready for the arduous demands of combat operations.

Co. I recruits dig deep to overcome CFT

STORY & PHOTOS BY
CPL. BENJAMIN E. WOODLE
Chevron staff

Recruits of Company I, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, overcame challenges of the final Combat Fitness Test aboard the depot, Feb. 20.

The purpose of the CFT was to ensure recruits were ready for the arduous demands of combat operations.

"The Marine Corps implemented the CFT due to our combat focused orientation," said Sgt. Mark D. Reconsal, drill instructor, Platoon 3210. "This event will train their combat mindset and make them realize not everything is basic physical training type events of running and pull-ups; it's a dynamic obstacle."

The CFT events recruits went through were a timed 880-yard run, 30-pound ammunition can overhead lifts for two minutes and a maneuver-under-fire event, which consisted of sprints, low and high crawls, buddy drags, fireman's carry, dummy grenade toss and ammunition can carries. Recruits performed the event wearing boots and the camouflage utility uniform.

To begin the 880-yard run, recruits were broken into groups of 15 and lined up on the track. An Instructional Training Company instructor then blew a whistle to signal the start of the event for the first group. The time recruits received correlated to a score, which for males of the age of 26 and below, a perfect score of 100 was 2 minutes, 45 seconds.

After recruits completed the run they were taken over to the next event, which was the ammunition can lifts. Recruits were partnered up; one performed the lifts while the other counted the repetitions. ITC and drill instructors walked down the line to ensure recruits were utilizing proper form for the repetitions to count. Recruits received a perfect score of 100 in this event, age 26 and below, if they performed 91 lifts in the two minute time period.

Recruits moved on to the next and most challenging event – the maneuver-under-fire. By this time recruits were exhausted from the previous events, exactly the purpose of the CFT.

"We learn how much we can push ourselves even though we want to quit," said Recruit Nathan E. Houser. "We think we can't go on anymore but afterward can look back and realize we can actually push hard and do well."

Recruits started the event by sprinting out, followed by dropping to the ground to low crawl and then high crawl. Recruits had to navigate through a set of cones before they reached their partner to drag and carry back to the start point. As recruits progressed through the event, they were forced to look deep in themselves to keep going.

"After we ran out there to buddy drag and fireman carry our partner back, I set my partner down and looked at the ammunition cans and thought 'Oh man, I have to go back out there again,'" said Houser, a Sioux Falls, S.D., native. "I was absolutely exhausted, but knew I still had to push hard to get a good time."

Finishing strong was one area drill instructors noticed recruits struggled with during the event.

"There are multiple areas that challenge recruits during this

event," said Reconsal, a Honolulu, native. "They struggle with running with the fireman's carry and keeping the recruit on their back, but have trouble the most on pushing to the end. Some become so tired on the final stretch that they give up and walk the last little bit."

For this event, recruits, age 26 and below, received a perfect score of 100 if they finished the course in 2 minutes, 14 seconds. If recruits were able to throw a dummy grenade and land it inside a target area at the end of the course, five seconds was deducted from their time. If not, five seconds was added to their final time.

As they progressed through the test, recruits began to realize the significance and importance the CFT is for Marines.

"It shows how we react to strenuous activities and the stress of a drill instructor constantly beside us pushing us," said 24-year-old Houser. "In combat nothing is certain, in regards to what physical aspects you may encounter. This was a quick test of our mental courage, toughness and dedication to mission accomplishment. If you can't get through this then you signed up for the wrong job."

After they completed the CFT, Co. I recruits came away with a new perspective about themselves and their abilities. Building a recruit up, both physically and mentally, is one of the main goals during recruit training. It is something the Marine Corps has been very efficient in since its inception.

"I've done something I've never done before and excelled," said Houser. "I'm excited to keep pushing hard to grow and strengthen my body and mind to be the best."



Recruit Luke A. Williams, Platoon 3209, Company I, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, runs with ammunition cans during the Combat Fitness Test aboard the depot, Feb. 20. As the last challenge recruits endured on the CFT, many found it hard to find the energy to keep sprinting through the finish line due to being exhausted from the event.

New Marine finishes six year journey

STORY & PHOTO BY
CPL. PEDRO CARDENAS
Chevron staff

The quest to earn the title Marine usually starts at recruit training. But for Pfc. William N. Cunningham, it started when he attended the Platoon Leaders Course to become a commissioned officer.

Cunningham, Platoon 2111, Company E, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, battled adversity and waited almost six years for the opportunity to become a Marine.

Cunningham was studying Aero Space engineering at Texas A&M University and began attending a commissioning program known as Platoon Leaders Course. PLC is a six week course spread over two summers or an 11-week course over the duration of one summer. It was in 2010, during his second six week course, that Cunningham received a letter from his then wife. In the letter, she stated she was seeking a divorce.

"It was heartbreaking," said 27-year-old Cunningham. "It completely shattered my world."

Cunningham was denied full financial aid loans because his marital status had changed. As a result, he withdrew from school with only a few classes away from graduation. Cunningham was able to complete Officer Candidate School through PLC, however, because he was not able to complete his degree, he was not commissioned a second lieutenant.

But Cunningham was determined to become a Marine, officer or enlisted. His personal problems were not going to deter him from achieving one of his life goals.

"Before OCS, I only had a superficial idea of what the Marine Corps was," said Cunningham, a native of Abilene, Texas. "Being in OCS and around Marines bolstered my desire of wanting to be a Marine."

He decided to enlist in the



Pfc. William N. Cunningham, Platoon 2111, Company E, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, fireman carries another Marine in the course of a casualty evacuation drill during the Crucible at Edson Range aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Feb. 26.

Marine Corps. Cunningham's enlistment package took 23 months before it was approved. He had to obtain several waivers in order to go to recruit training because of his failure to complete his commissioning program. His quest to become a Marine would take longer, nevertheless, it made him more determined than ever.

At his local recruiting station, Cunningham met Gunnery Sgt. Robert K. Keller, who took him under his wing. Keller died in a car accident while he was transporting a potential recruit to a Military Entrance Processing Station. Keller died from injuries when the vehicle he was driving collided with an 18-wheeler on Jan. 9, 2013. Keller steered the

vehicle so the driver side would receive the blunt of the hit, saving his passenger.

"I became close to him; he was a good mentor to me during the entire enlistment process," said Cunningham. "Gunnery Sgt. Keller embodied the kind of Marine I wanted to be."

According to Cunningham, Keller's sacrifice meant that the sense of honor and duty, synonymous with Marines, is real. It was not just an advertisement, but something that is part of being a Marine.

"It makes me want to be in a position to make an impact on someone else's life," said Cunningham. "To provide someone else with a guiding compass to do what is right."

During recruit training, Cunningham was selected to be a platoon guide. According to his senior drill instructor, he has the natural skills to lead Marines.

"He has good leadership skills and a good work ethic," said Sgt. Brandon M. Shaughnessy, senior drill instructor. "He would always put other recruits ahead of himself; helping other recruits who were weaker in different areas and help them improve."

Cunningham hopes to continue his education, and eventually, have the opportunity to lead Marines as an officer.

"He is determined and do whatever it takes to accomplish his goals," said Shaughnessy, a native of Cincinnati. "He

is willing to make sacrifices, including his personal life, to accomplish what he wants in life whether it takes him 10 minutes or two years."

The next step in Cunningham's training is to attend Marine Combat Training at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. He then will head to the Marine Detachment Corry Station at Pensacola, Fla., to learn his Military Occupational Specialty and become a communications signals collection Marine.

"I'm very excited. It has been a long time coming," said Cunningham. "I have pursued the Marine Corps since 2008; it's kind of surreal because it has been so long and a deep seeded goal of mine."

Maj. Gen. Thomas M. Murray

Parade Reviewing Officer

A native of St. Paul, Minn., Maj. Gen. Thomas M. Murray graduated from the University of St. Thomas in 1980 with a Bachelor of Arts in Quantitative Methods. He was commissioned through the Platoon Leaders Course Program and went on to complete The Basic School and Naval Flight Training.

After completing the schools, he was designated a naval aviator in April 1982 and, following training in Marine Helicopter Training Squadron 301, he was also designated a Boeing Vertol CH-46 Sea Knight pilot.

In February 1983, Murray joined Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 165 in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii where he completed three Western Pacific deployments including operations in Beirut and Lebanon. His billet assignments included flightline

officer-in-charge, naval air training and operating procedures standardization officer, weapons and tactics instructor and assistant operations officer.

In August 1986, Murray attended the Amphibious Warfare School.

In August 1987, Murray reported to Marine Corps Air Station Tustin, Calif. where he served with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161. He completed two WESTPAC deployments and held positions as assistant operations officer, weapons and tactics instructor and aircraft maintenance officer. In August 1990, he reported to the 1st Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company at Camp Pendleton where he served as the operations officer and as a brigade platoon commander during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

In February 1992, Murray served as the operations officer at the Marine Corps air facility for five months and attended the Marine Corps Command and

Staff College. Upon graduation, he returned to HMM-161 in September 1993, completing two WESTPAC deployments including the withdrawal of United Nations forces from Somalia. During this tour, he served as the aircraft maintenance officer, operations officer and executive officer.

In August 1996, Murray reported to the Pentagon for assignment to the Navy Staff in Plans, Policies, and Operations. In August 1998, he reported to the Naval War College in Newport, R.I., earning a Master's Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies.

Following school, Murray transferred to Okinawa, Japan where he served as the executive officer and commanding officer of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 from August 1999 through December 2001. Reporting to the Pentagon, he next served on the Joint Staff, Force Structure, Resources, and Assessment Directorate, as the branch chief, combatant com-

mand liaison office.

In October 2003, Murray took command of Marine Aircraft Group 26 and deployed the reinforced MAG to Al Asad Air Base in Iraq. Following the change of command in August 2005, he remained at Al Asad as the deputy commander and chief of staff for 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing Forward.

In July 2006, Murray returned to the Joint Staff, Force Structure, Resources, and Assessment Directorate as the branch chief for the Joint Requirements Oversight Council Secretariat.

From May 2007 through August 2009, Murray served as the commanding general, Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory. On Dec. 20, 2010, he was assigned as the commanding general, Education Command and president, Marine Corps University.

Murray's most recent deployment was as the deputy commander, Regional Command South, Combined Joint Task Force-6, International Security

Assistance Force from October 2009 to November 2010. On June 27, 2012, he assumed command of Training and Education Command, Quantico, Virginia.

Murray's decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon.





Platoon 2115 COMPANY HONOR MAN Pfc. C. R. Rodriguez Yorkville, Ill. Recruited by Staff Sgt. M. P. White
Platoon 2109 SERIES HONOR MAN Pfc. A. M. Cimaglio Antioch, Ill. Recruited by Sgt. B. S. Stipic
Platoon 2110 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. J. D. Torres La Puente, Calif. Recruited by Sgt. E. Kim
Platoon 2111 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. W. N. Cunningham Abilene, Texas Recruited by Sgt. M. B. Foust
Platoon 2113 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. J. A. Ellsworth St. Paul, Minn. Recruited by Sgt. P. R. Sze
Platoon 2114 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. D. G. Wadleigh Costa Mesa, Calif. Recruited by Staff Sgt. M. Soto
Platoon 2111 HIGH SHOOTER (339) Pvt. J. T. Ellis Des Moines, Iowa Marksman Instructor Sgt. C. Noid
Platoon 2109 HIGH PFT (300) Pfc. R. J. Konyyn Eugene, Ore. Recruited by Sgt. M. Chavez



ECHO 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 E Commanding Officer Capt. J. R. Sherwood Company First Sergeant 1st Sgt. B. E. Campbell | SERIES 2109 Series Commander Capt. M. H. Manson Chief Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. J. D. Mast | PLATOON 2109 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. S. M. Stallings Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. R. M. Mammucari Staff Sgt. S. M. Perry Staff Sgt. L. S. Vickers Sgt. R. M Alvarado | PLATOON 2110 Senior Drill Instructor Sgt. C. O. Rodriguez Drill instructors Sgt. S. R. Addis Sgt. P. C. Mason Sgt. J. J. Rodriguez-Delgado Sgt. K. M. Solomita | PLATOON 2111 Senior Drill Instructor Sgt. B. M. Shaughnessy Drill instructors Sgt. A. Castillo Sgt. T. J. Jackson Sgt. J. A. Tatenco Sgt. R. O. Wilson |
| | SERIES 2113 Series Commander Capt. E. J. Porter Chief Drill Instructor Gunnery Sgt. P. D. Mason | PLATOON 2113 Senior Drill Instructor Gunnery Sgt. V. Leaños Drill Instructors Gunnery Sgt. C. B. Milam Staff Sgt. V. R. Ervin Staff Sgt. J. B. Foust Sgt. J. P. Bednarik | PLATOON 2114 Senior Drill Instructor Gunnery Sgt. C. A. Barton Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. C. P. Lewis Staff Sgt. E. Martinez-Gonzalez Sgt. C. A. Asencio Sgt. A. Luminare | PLATOON 2115 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. E. Flores Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. J. W. Cline Staff Sgt. J. R. Orduna Staff Sgt. R. E. Robertson Staff Sgt. A. M. Turiano Sgt. M. A. Cajina |

* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

PLATOON 2109
 Pfc. Q. L. Aldrich
 *Pfc. P. D. Ancheta
 Pfc. B. A. Arizmendi
 Pfc. H. J. Benitez-Garcia
 *Pfc. E. J. Birdsong
 Pfc. E. D. Boulton
 Pfc. J. T. Carter
 Pfc. D. C. Casey
 Pfc. E. D. Cerda
 Pfc. A. M. Cimaglio
 Pfc. G. S. Colin-Abarca
 Pfc. D. K. Coughlin III
 Pfc. W. J. Delano
 Pfc. D. J. Dieball
 Pfc. J. B. Elias-Bernal
 Pfc. D. A. Elsner
 *Pfc. J. F. Espinoza
 Pfc. M. G. Espinoza
 Pfc. E. W. Fenley
 Pfc. J. A. Flaishans
 Pfc. J. C. Garcia
 Pfc. J. E. Garcia
 Pfc. Z. R. Gardner
 *Pfc. C. Gross
 Pfc. C. Guzman
 Pfc. G. Hermosillo
 Pfc. A. Hernandez
 Pfc. M. A. Hernandez
 Pfc. O. Hernandez
 Pfc. M. A. Hoops
 Pfc. R. W. Humphrey
 Pfc. K. D. Hunt
 Pfc. C. R. Johnson
 Pfc. B. R. Keating
 Pfc. M. A. Klammer
 *Pfc. R. J. Konyyn
 Pfc. M. Lara
 Pfc. C. J. Lavender
 Pfc. J. I. Magadan
 Pfc. C. J. Potts
 Pfc. I. A. Rostro
 Pfc. R. K. Smith
 Pfc. D. J. Taylor
 Pfc. A. J. Travino-Vega
 Pfc. J. L. Wadiak

Pfc. T. L. Belew
 Pfc. L. M. Berg
 Pfc. M. R. Berger
 Pfc. T. S. Berry
 Pfc. G. J. Finch
 Pfc. Z. I. Lentz
 *Pfc. C. A. Long
 Pfc. T. A. McKeown
 Pfc. T. S. McWilliams
 Pfc. A. R. Mecalo
 *Pfc. T. J. Miller
 Pfc. G. S. Colin-Abarca
 Pfc. P. S. Monzon
 Pfc. W. O. Monzon
 Pfc. C. S. Morales
 Pfc. D. R. Moriarty
 Pfc. M. S. Pickler
 Pfc. A. C. Porter
 Pfc. I. J. Prater
 Pfc. T. D. Putman
 Pfc. C. T. Reeves
 Pfc. J. Reyes
 Pfc. D. A. Roberts
 Pfc. J. N. Ruvalcaba
 Pfc. M. Saenphonphakdee
 Pfc. K. L. Schuelke
 Pfc. S. R. Smith
 Pfc. S. A. Stucker
 Pfc. C. R. Teran
 Pfc. S. T. Todd
 Pfc. J. D. Torres
 Pfc. R. D. Trevino
 *Pfc. C. M. Willis
 Pfc. C. C. Willoughby
 Pfc. J. J. Winder
 Pfc. D. J. Wolf

PLATOON 2111
 Pvt. D. I. Booker
 Pvt. C. A. Braaten
 Pvt. P. L. Britt
 Pfc. M. C. Broadway
 Pfc. D. A. Brook
 Pvt. D. R. Brotherton
 *Pfc. J. T. Burlingame
 Pvt. T. R. Burns
 Pfc. J. Byrd
 Pvt. A. W. Carter
 Pvt. B. H. Castaneda-Escobar
 Pvt. D. E. Centeno
 Pvt. J. F. Chapman
 Pfc. M. L. Coker
 Pfc. F. Colazo-Lopez
 Pvt. T. A. Collins
 Pfc. G. K. Crowell
 Pfc. W. N. Cunningham
 Pvt. D. Dart
 Pfc. M. D. Day

Pvt. O. W. Deng
 Pvt. E. C. Diaz
 Pvt. G. J. Douglas-Bergmann
 Pfc. C. A. Doupis
 Pvt. G. Durades
 Pvt. M. A. Easterling
 Pvt. M. S. Eckleberg
 Pvt. J. T. Ellis
 Pvt. L. B. Estrada
 Pvt. W. R. Fagan
 Pvt. I. A. Flowers
 *Pfc. J. D. Fruin
 Pvt. V. A. Fulgencio
 Pvt. R. S. Fusaro
 Pvt. J. D. Garcia
 Pfc. J. M. Garcia-Cerda
 Pfc. D. L. Gilliland
 Pvt. A. B. Giron
 Pfc. J. L. Gosch
 Pvt. J. M. Guadron Jr.
 *Pfc. R. Hernandez Jr.
 Pvt. R. R. Hernandez
 Pvt. J. D. Hernandez-Montez
 Pvt. D. Hinojosa
 Pvt. J. J. Hocker Jr.
 Pfc. T. C. Hodges

PLATOON 2113
 Pfc. J. E. Acuna
 Pfc. S. D. Adam
 Pvt. B. S. Adkinbates
 Pvt. A. K. Alama
 Pvt. A. A. Alarcon-Figueroa
 Pfc. J. J. Alindada
 Pfc. D. K. Ano
 *Pfc. M. A. Baber
 Pvt. S. Barreno
 Pvt. B. D. Batton
 Pfc. R. J. Benavidez Jr.
 Pfc. T. Bernal Jr.
 Pvt. D. K. Bolinger
 Pvt. B. S. Buth
 Pfc. N. A. Cabutaje
 Pvt. B. C. Caples
 Pvt. A. Chang
 Pfc. J. T. Clymer
 Pfc. A. E. Cortez
 Pvt. B. J. Coutant
 Pfc. K. Deausen
 Pfc. L. A. Dehmer
 Pvt. A. M. Diedrich
 Pvt. T. J. Douglas
 Pvt. A. S. Drottz
 Pvt. J. C. Duncan
 *Pfc. J. A. Ellsworth
 Pfc. Z. T. Escamilla
 Pvt. V. H. Fisher
 Pfc. L. J. Flick

Pvt. J. H. Garcia
 Pvt. L. Gomez
 Pvt. B. M. Green
 Pfc. J. R. Green
 Pvt. E. D. Grigsby
 Pfc. K. Guerra
 Pvt. E. Guerrero-Valencia
 Pfc. C. L. Harris
 Pvt. J. R. Hill
 Pvt. A. L. Holt IV
 Pvt. E. A. Ismael
 Pvt. J. H. Jonasson
 *Pfc. J. K. Kiko Jr.
 Pvt. C. J. Lofing

PLATOON 2114
 Pfc. P. T. Blackmore
 Pfc. R. J. Jackson
 Pfc. C. A. Kingston
 Pfc. C. K. Kratky
 Pfc. J. E. Kulig
 Pfc. H. Q. Lam
 Pfc. Z. W. Lauritzen
 Pfc. J. M. Lee
 Pfc. D. C. Licea
 *Pfc. T. B. Loven
 Pfc. I. T. Martinez
 Pfc. R. Mendoz-Guerrero
 Pfc. R. Mezameza
 Pfc. C. N. Minnie
 Pfc. A. P. Molina
 Pfc. A. J. Montelongo
 Pfc. R. P. Moreau
 Pfc. N. F. Moroles
 Pfc. C. A. Mutina
 Pfc. L. W. Noyes
 Pfc. A. S. Payton
 Pfc. R. E. Pena
 Pfc. E. N. Perez
 Pfc. D. J. Price
 Pfc. A. Ramirez
 Pfc. T. J. Rasanen
 Pfc. T. N. Ray
 Pfc. N. A. Resendez
 Pfc. C. J. Riley
 Pfc. M. F. Roberto
 Pfc. J. Rubi
 *Pfc. K. M. Salazar
 Pfc. Z. L. Sanborn
 Pfc. J. H. Schrecongost
 Pfc. J. L. Senner
 Pfc. J. T. Showers
 Pfc. J. E. Silva
 Pfc. D. M. Duell
 Pfc. A. R. Summers
 Pfc. L. Testa-Parker
 *Pfc. D. G. Wadleigh
 Pfc. C. M. Waters

Pfc. T. M. Wedge
 Pfc. N. D. Wheeler
 Pfc. T. M. Wheelless-Robbins

PLATOON 2115
 Pvt. C. D. Dean
 Pfc. D. L. Dumanas
 Pfc. D. J. Hurst
 Pvt. A. C. Lohse
 Pvt. N. N. Lopez
 Pvt. D. J. Maier
 Pvt. R. D. McGinnis
 Pvt. H. G. Mellinger
 Pvt. E. B. Millican
 Pfc. R. Molina Jr.
 Pvt. F. Montanez Jr.
 Pvt. R. G. Munoz
 Pfc. C. R. Murdock IV
 Pfc. E. T. Neilson
 Pvt. D. Paniaguaharo
 Pfc. D. J. Parker
 Pfc. C. I. Perry
 Pvt. M. L. Pope
 Pfc. J. L. Ralph
 Pfc. B. P. Rasmussen-Ludwig
 *Pfc. J. E. Rios
 Pvt. B. R. Roberts
 Pvt. C. S. Rodrigues
 *Pfc. C. R. Rodriguez
 Pfc. M. A. Seiberling
 Pvt. Z. T. Sheehan
 Pvt. Shelton-Boyd
 Pvt. K. M. Simon
 Pvt. C. B. Stewart
 Pvt. H. E. Thomas
 Pvt. L. E. Torres
 Pvt. A. Torres-Perez
 Pfc. A. Tovar
 Pvt. K. D. Trotter
 Pfc. P. A. Tutor Jr.
 Pvt. R. Vasquez
 *Pfc. G. C. Wendleboe
 Pvt. K. D. White
 Pfc. M. R. Whitfield
 Pvt. A. E. Williams
 Pfc. L. H. Williams
 Pfc. A. J. Wilson
 Pvt. S. J. Wilson-Manson
 Pvt. C. F. Woodruff
 Pvt. D. J. Zuchowski

Iwo Jima vets have 69th reunion on the depot

STORY & PHOTOS BY
SGT. WALTER D. MARINO II
Chevron staff

Fifteen Marine Corps veterans received a tour of the depot as well as celebrated the Iwo Jima Veterans 69th Anniversary Reunion with their families, Feb. 21.

Their reunion aboard the base included a visit to the yellow footprints, a tour of the Command Museum and lunch at the base's dining facility.

For many it was a nostalgic event that filled the former Marines with esprit de corps.

"What I've seen from today's Marines amazes me and makes me proud," said retired Gunnery Sgt. Damaso Sutis. "They look so fit and seem to be very intelligent and I'm satisfied knowing they are going to continue our legacy. We started it, but they are going to carry it on. They have the attitude and there is no doubt in my mind. I'm 89 years old, but if I live to see 90 at least I'll remember I was in the Corps. The Corps is truly a family wherever you are at."

During their first stop, the veterans were shown where today's recruits are brought in for processing – the yellow footprints. Drill instructors then explained what the receiving process is like in today's Marine Corps.

Staff Sgt. Dennis Joy, chief drill instructor, Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, was one of the Marines assisting with any questions the veterans had as he escorted them around the depot.

"I'm absolutely honored to have them come here," said Joy. "To see the legacy of the Marine Corps and to hear their war stories about Iwo Jima—it's a privilege. Every generation of Marines has its own legacy. The Marines of World War II left a giant legacy. They are the giants that we try and live like today and it makes me happy to see the legacy continued."

After the yellow footprints, the veterans entered the depot's Command Museum and were able to see paintings, weapons and photographs from various battles and eras in Marine



Retired Gunnery Sgt. Damaso Sutis (left), is given background information on Marine photographs by Ray Lebron (right), museum docent, aboard the depot, Feb. 21. The Iwo Jima veterans and their families were given a tour of the base by Marines of the depot.

Corps history. Their time at the museum also provided a time for veterans to share their war stories with Marines.

Retired Master Sgt. William A. Behana was one such Marine who shared his experience of the battle of Iwo Jima.

"We got in the boats and started moving in for the shore. They were bombarding the beach at the time. We landed on the beach and I came busting out of the end of the boat and I saw nothing but dead Marines around us. I was on the beach and stuff was really hitting the fan. I didn't have anything to dig with so I tore the top off of an ammunition can and scooped a hole on the beach," said Behana.

Behana explained waves of Marines were supposed to come every five minutes, but no one got on the beach for two hours because they were being hit hard with artillery. By the following day, his unit had set up a regimental headquarters.

"I was there the morning the first flag went up, and I saw the second one also," said Behana, an El Cajon, Calif., native. "Then after we secured Suri-

bachi, we turned and started north and fought our way all the way up the island."

After seeing much of the depot, the Iwo Jima veterans concluded their visit with a meal at the depot's dining facil-

ity. There, they were able to get to know and have lunch with many of the Marines stationed aboard the depot.

From the smiles and chuckles it appeared it was a fitting way to end a reunion.

"I think today's Marines are highly trained, highly educated and they sure have better equipment than we had and I know darn well they have better chow than we had," said Behana with a laugh.



Staff Sgt. Dennis Joy, chief drill instructor, Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, responds to a question about recruit training from an Iwo Jima veteran aboard the depot, Feb. 21. Joy was one of many Marines who assisted the 15 Iwo Jima Marines to have an informative and enjoyable visit of the depot.



Iwo Jima veterans stand together at Receiving Company before getting a tour of the depot's Command Museum, Feb. 24. The veterans interacted with some of the Marines stationed on the depot and were able to discuss the Marine Corps changes and speak on how it's evolved from their time in the Corps.