



**Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment visits depot**

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AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION

**Single Marine Program sponsors ski trip to Mammoth Mountain**

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“WHERE MARINES ARE MADE”

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## Co. D finishes up PFT, prepares for Crucible

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

Fitness is an important asset to the Marine Corps readiness. During recruit training, recruits face difficult obstacles and challenges that better prepare them to meet Marine Corps standards.

Marines of Company D, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, ran a final Physical Fitness Test that consisted of pull-ups, abdominal crunches and a 3-mile run during phase three of training aboard the depot, March 20.

The PFT was designed to build high endurance, strong upper bodies and a strong core. The initial PFT was ran during phase one of training, which had given the Marines an idea of where their fitness level was and what they needed to improve on.

“Our mission is to produce well-rounded warriors,” said Sgt. Corey T. Pineda, drill instructor, Platoon 1071. “The recruits have shown big time improvements from the initial PFT to now in their physical endurance and confidence to take on the course.”

Marines began with exercises such as sprints, skips, high knees and several others to warm up for the PFT.

First, Marines lined up to the pull-up bar where they performed



**Pvt. Jesus A. Salcedoja, Platoon 1074, Company D, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, performs a max set of pull-ups during a final Physical Fitness Test aboard the depot, March 20.**

their pull-ups. Then they went to the start of a three mile route and waited for the whistle blast, which indicated the start of the

run. Lastly, they lined up with a partner after the run and executed abdominal crunches in a time period of two minutes.

“The final PFT helps us build individual strength and prepares us for the fleet as well because it’s a Marine Corps requirement,”

said Pfc. Michael G. Crook. “Confidence and self-motivation

**see PFT ▶ 2**



**Service members and students from Massachusetts Institute of Technology tour the Command Museum aboard the depot, March 24. The tour was part of their Security Studies Program that allowed the MIT members to tour the depot and observe recruit training.**

### MIT students tour depot, leave impressed

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

Service members and students from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology visited and toured the depot as part of their Security Studies Program, March 24.

According to the MIT website, the SSP is a graduate-level research and educational program based at the Center for International Studies at MIT.

Senior research and teaching staff includes social scientists and policy analysts.

A special feature of the program is the integration of technical and political analysis of national and international security problems.

Security Studies is a recognized field of study in the MIT Political Science Department. Courses emphasize grand strategy, the causes and prevention of conflict, military operations and technology, and defense policy.

“The purpose of the trip was to bring real world experience to their (MIT students) studies,” said Lt. Col. Phillip M. Bragg, national security fellow, Security Studies Program, MIT. “All our Doctor of Philosophy candidates have a technical military focus in national security. When they graduate they are going to work for the Department of Defense in the think tanks, the field or come back as a professor so this helps their development.”

**see MIT ▶ 2**

### Corps honors MP personnel

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

Current and former service members came together to recognize military police personnel throughout the Marine Corps during the Jim Kallstrom and Security and Emergency Services Awards Banquet aboard the depot, March 12.

The awards were presented in honor of Jim Kallstrom, a former Vietnam Marine, who distin-

guished himself during a career of more than 28 years with the Federal Bureau of Investigation culminating with his appointment as the assistant director of the FBI’s New York bureau.

Brig. Gen. James W. Bierman, commanding general, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and Western Recruiting Region, was the distinguished key note speaker for the event.

“I am honored to share this

**see MP ▶ 2**



**Award recipients (left to right) Police Lt. Jude J. Gronenthal, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Master Sgt. John A. Alen, Marine Special Operations Combat Support Battalion, Camp Lejeune, N.C., and Sgt. Miles F. Jones-France, Marine Special Operations Battalion, Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, Camp Lejeune, N.C., received the Jim Kallstrom and Security and Emergency Services Awards on the depot March 12.**





**Pvt. Noble F. Schermerhorn, Platoon 1073, Company D, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, performs a maximum set of abdominal crunches in two minutes during a final Physical Fitness Test aboard the depot, March 20. Each event was worth 100 points. To receive 100 points for each event and earn a perfect 300 score, Marines had to perform 20 pull-ups, run 3-miles in 18 minutes or less and do 100 crunches in 2 minutes.**

#### PFT ◀ 1

is something to have while doing the PFT.”

While at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, recruits received a lot of physical training to help prepare for the final PFT and to simply be in the Marine Corps’ standard of fitness, explained 20-year-old Crook, a Norman, Okla., native.

The PFT score will help towards their promotion to a higher rank by contributing to their overall composite score, which is used to

promote Marines until the rank of sergeant. Therefore, the Marines were motivated by their drill instructors to put their max effort towards getting a perfect score of 300.

Each of the events was worth 100 points. To receive 100 points per event, Marines had to perform 20 pull-ups, run 3-miles in 18 minutes or less and complete 100 abdominal crunches in 2 minutes.

“Our physical training throughout recruit training isn’t only to help us with the PFT but to develop us into what we came here to be,

Marines,” said Crook. “I can definitely tell a difference in myself from the start of this journey to become a Marine to now, and I’m looking forward to becoming a Marine and continuing my career.”

Pineda, a Denver native, explained the Marines learned how their bodies could perform and to what level, so they knew how hard they could push themselves to get a good score on the PFT.

Co. D has now graduated recruit training and earned the title “Marine.”

#### MIT ◀ 1

The annual trips to various Department of Defense installations around the country have critical and invaluable training behind them.

“They are the future decision makers,” said Bragg, a Fresno, Calif., native. “The issues they deal with will have an effect at the highest levels. They have to have some context of what goes on with policies they will be making.”

The MIT members started their depot tour with a brief of various statistical data and basic information that goes into creating a basically trained Marine. Then, they visited the famous spot where it all begins, the yellow footprints.

MIT members were walked through the basic routine that goes into a recruits’ introduction to the Marine Corps including the ‘amnesty room’, gear pickup and the phone call home.

The tour then continued to the various recruit training areas around the depot including the Confidence Course and the swim tank where they were able to see actual training take place. For some, seeing it in person was an experience they didn’t expect.

“I was really impressed,” said Cullen G. Nutt, a first year MIT

Ph. D student. “You see it in the movies but in person it’s so much more realistic; the training I see them go through is extremely remarkable.”

As with the purpose of the tour, the students were able to get a better understanding on why the training is executed the way it is.

“At first you think there is no purpose for some of the things they do,” said Nutt, a Cambridge, Mass., native. “After this tour I got the impression that there is a reason for everything they do, in fact, it’s really down to a science.”

The tour was concluded after a visit to the Sports Medicine Injury Prevention building and the depot Command Museum where the MIT members were able to see the Corps’ history on display.

After the SSP San Diego area tour came to an end, the students of MIT were still talking about their experience while at the depot.

“They found the depot to be the most interesting of the entire trip,” said Bragg. “They were fascinated on how we turn a person into a Marine. They gave back a lot of good feedback including their appreciation for how direct and forthright the Marines are and were overwhelmed and amazed by the enormous responsibility that a young Marine handles. They all thought that seeing it in person was an incredible and unforgettable experience.”

#### MP ◀ 1

evening with all of you in recognizing the award winners,” said Bierman. “I would like to thank everyone here for the professionalism and dedication each of you exhibit while protecting our bases, stations and forward operating bases to ensure mission accomplishment. More importantly the people – Marines in uniform, civilian Marines, our families, contractors and visitors.”

The Jim Kallstrom Award for leadership was presented to Master Sgt. John A. Alen, for performance of his duties while he was assigned to Marine Special Operations Combat Support Battalion, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Alen was recognized for his leadership as program manager for the Marine Special Operations Command Multi-purpose Canine Program. His leadership was an important part of making sure the program excelled and went beyond the demanding requirements in support of Marine Special Operations Command deployments around the world.

Alen’s command recognized that he played an important role in the program’s success and his contributions and leadership had a positive impact on the Marine Corps and the military police community on a daily basis.

The Jim Kallstrom Award for bravery was presented to Sgt. Miles F. Jones-France,

Marine Special Operations Battalion, Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

While in Afghanistan on Jan. 8, 2013, Jones-France was in combat, receiving fire from medium machine guns and small arms from three separate enemy positions. Jones-France coordinated and returned effective fire on the enemy positions, which enabled his team to maneuver under cover to defeat the enemy.

This was just one of Jones-France’s many selfless actions during his deployment.

There was also a Security and Emergency Services Civilian Award presented during the ceremony. Each year the assistant deputy commandant, security division, Raymond F. Geoffroy, recognizes civilian Marines who have distinguished themselves by making noteworthy contributions to the Security and Emergency Services community.

The SES civilian Marine of the year award was presented to Police Lt. Jude J. Gronenthal, from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

During 2013, Officer Gronenthal completely revamping the Provost Marshal’s Office officer scheduling process, which resulted in saving the air station over \$300,000 in annual overtime costs and enabling the PMO to establish a full-time Special Reaction Team.

His critical role in the PMO’s successful completion of the Marine Corps Law

Enforcement Accreditation Program was a result of his dedication and professionalism, which helped Marine Corps Air Station Miramar PMO receive recognition as the first PMO to achieve Headquarters Marine Corps Law Enforcement Accreditation.

The awards banquet is an annual event that is coordinated by Headquarters Marine Corps Law Enforcement Corrections Branch to recognize the outstanding leadership and bravery exhibited by the MPs. It took place during the annual United States Marine Corps Senior Leaders’ Security Conference Banquet from March 10-14.

The intent of the event was to discuss pertinent issues with senior leadership regarding current and future trends of security related topics within the Marine Corps. Representatives from mission assurance, Marine Corps law enforcement, critical infrastructure program, installation emergency management, physical security and defense support of civil authorities discussed and developed strategic guidance for synchronization of policy and program areas relating to security within the Marine Corps.

“As a participating member during the conference, I was impressed by the critical thinking and spirited discussion in framing the problem statement that affects our current environment,” said Bierman. “It’s great to know we have the best and brightest to tackle the challenges.”

## BRIEFS

### Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The SAAM theme is “Live Our Values: Step Up to Stop Sexual Assault.”

In order to prevent sexual assault, every member of the Department of Defense (DoD) Community must be committed to advancing an environment where sexist behaviors, sexual harassment, and sexual assault are not tolerated, condoned, or ignored. Sexual assault is not only inappropriate behavior, it is a criminal behavior.

Support services are available for sexual assault victims:

- The DoD Safe Helpline provides confidential, live, one-on-one crisis intervention as part of victim care. Available 24/7, users can click, call, or text to access Safe Helpline services anonymously.
- Logging onto [www.SafeHelpline.org](http://www.SafeHelpline.org), allows users to receive live, one-on-one, confidential help with a trained professional through a secure instant-messaging format. The website also provides vital information about recovering from and reporting sexual assault.
- Calling (877) 995-5247 allows users to speak with trained Safe Helpline staff for personalized advice and support.
- Texting a location or zip code to 55-247 in the U.S. and (202) 470-5546 outside the U.S., allows users to receive contact information for the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, as well as for medical, legal, spiritual and military police personnel.

### Nebraska Election

Nebraska holds its primary election May 13. A Nebraska voter living outside of Nebraska and wishing to place an absentee vote must register via mail on or before April 25 or in-person by May 2.

Register via mail by using the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) at [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov). Upon receipt of this form Nebraska will register the voter and send an absentee ballot for any elections this year. A voter already registered in Nebraska must request a ballot by May 7 to vote in the primary. A ballot may be requested with the FPCA.

Detailed information is available at [fvap.gov/nebraska](http://fvap.gov/nebraska), as is the FPCA.

A voter who is registered has not received an absentee ballot by April 13 should use the Federal Write-In Ballot to vote. The form is also available at [fvap.gov/nebraska](http://fvap.gov/nebraska).

For more information see your unit voting affairs officer.

### West Virginia Election

West Virginia holds its primary election May 13. A West Virginia voter living outside of the state and wishing to place an absentee vote, must register via mail by April 22.

Register via mail by using the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) at [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov). Upon receipt of this form West Virginia will register the voter and send an absentee ballot for all elections this year.

A voter already registered in West Virginia must request a ballot by May 7 to vote in the primary. A ballot may be requested with the FPCA.

Detailed information is available at [fvap.gov/west-virginia](http://fvap.gov/west-virginia), along with the FPCA.

A voter who is registered but who has not received an absentee ballot by April 13 should use the Federal Write-In Ballot to vote. The form is also available at [fvap.gov/west-virginia](http://fvap.gov/west-virginia).

For more information see your unit voting affairs officer.

### Send briefs to:

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Marines with Bridge Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, push an Improved Ribbon Bridge against the current of the Colorado River during a rafting exercise aboard Laughlin, Nev., March 17-21, 2014. More than 60 Marines trained in moving heavy equipment, to include 7-tons and Humvees, across a flowing body of water using BEBs and an Improved Ribbon Bridge. The IRB is a multi-piece floating bridge that can function as a raft. The BEBs were used to push the raft against the current. Despite being accustomed to training in a bay with little to no current, these Marines managed to transport two 7-tons up the river at the same time.

## 7th ESB Marines train in Colorado River

STORY & PHOTOS BY  
LANCE CPL. KEENAN ZELAZOSKI  
1st Marine Logistics Group

LAUGHLIN, Nev. – Metal scraped against dirt as a Rubber-Tired, Articulated-Steering, and Multipurpose Tractor [TRAM] broke down dirt barricades, granting more than 60 Marines with Bridge Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, access to the Colorado River after a 16-hour long convoy. This was just the beginning of a week-long training exercise to familiarize the Marines with crossing a flowing body of water while transporting heavy equipment.

The Marines traveled 300 miles to Laughlin, Nev., for the opportunity to face the challenging current of the river, and put their training to the test.

“If we get deployed some-

where, and we need to cross a river, the bridge has been taken out and the other side is impassible, we can put equipment on the raft, move it up-river to an area that is passible, and maintain movement forward in an expeditionary environment,” said Gunnery Sgt. Jeremy King, company first sergeant with Bridge Co., 7th ESB, 1st MLG.

Without this resource, moving equipment over rapid waters would be significantly more difficult. The ability to bridge equipment across water is a valuable asset for Marines as an amphibious fighting force.

“Part of our mission in Bridge Co. is to provide bridging capabilities for the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force,” said Capt. Jonathan Hudson, company commander, Bridge Co., 7th ESB, 1st MLG. “Part of that includes rafting. It wasn’t easy

to travel 300 miles to train out here, but we wanted a challenge ... so it was definitely worth the trip.”

As the Marines prepared to dive head first into the exercise, on rough waters, many had their doubts in how productive they would be in transporting gear up stream.

“We did the bridge reconnaissance right after we arrived, and I’ll admit I was a little skeptical,” said Cpl. Anderson Krieger, raft commander with Bridge Co., 7th ESB, 1st MLG. “I didn’t think we could ferry equipment against the current. We weren’t used to operating in a current at all.”

In the early stages of the exercise, the Marines driving the boats navigated the river, both with the current and against it, in order to get a feel for how they should be operating in the

new environment.

“It was definitely a crawl, walk, run approach to the exercise,” said King. “Safety is paramount when we are out here training on a public river.”

As the days went on, the improved ribbon bridge, a multi-piece bridge that functions as a raft, was inserted into the river. The Colorado River’s current moved at an average speed of five feet per second. This kind of momentum was a far cry from the relatively-calm conditions in the Del Mar boat basin where the Marines usually conduct this training.

“Marines have to move significantly faster than they had to in a boat basin,” said Krieger. “The current carries the equipment downstream until everyone is in position and pushing it upstream. When we work on a river with expensive civilian

houses on the other side, the last thing we want is to be too slow and ruin one of their boat ramps by crashing a very heavy piece of equipment into their property.”

The Marines went from not being sure what they could do against the current, to being confident that they could operate in even tougher conditions if they had to. Throughout the week, the Marines ferried a substantial amount of weight up the river. The Marines transported a Humvee, a TRAM, and two 7-tons, weighing approximately 60,000 pounds, in just three trips.

“I couldn’t ask for anything to go any better on the water, and that was the main challenge and focus of this training,” said Hudson, a native of Lima, Ohio. “My Marines moved fast, did what they practiced, and this has been a huge success.”



Marines with Bridge Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, march to their training site.



Marines with Bridge Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, operate Bridge Erection Boats as part of a rafting exercise.

**CHEVRON**

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Members of the Silent Drill Platoon mirror each other's drill movements, including a rifle toss, during the rifle inspection portion of the Battle Color Ceremony. The 24-man platoon delivered a high precision drill routine with their M1 Garand rifles with fixed bayonets in complete silence.



The Silent Drill Platoon execute 'eye's right' during the Pass in Review of the Battle Color Ceremony on Shepherd's Field.



The U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps stay tightly aligned in one of their many movements during the Battle Color Ceremony on Shepherd's Field. The 85 Marines showcased a red and white ceremonial uniform with white gauntlets that cover the wrists.



The U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps present their instruments at the conclusion of their performance during the Battle Color Ceremony on Shepherd's Field.

## Battle Color Detachment performs ceremony at depot

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

Each year friends, families and service members come together to enjoy a performance from the Marine Corps' professional and elite.

The Battle Color Detachment performed their Battle Color Ceremony on Shepherd's Field aboard the depot, March 15.

The Battle Color Ceremony features the U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps, the Silent Drill Platoon, and the Marine Corps Color Guard. All are attached to Marine Barracks Washington, also known as the "Oldest Post of the Corps." These Marines appear in hundreds of ceremonies annually across the country and abroad.

"The purpose of our tours is to go around the

country and the world to show people the Marine Corps," said Lance Cpl. Ryan J. Hasty, silent drill platoon.

"We go out to the people who have probably never seen a Marine before and put on a good impression of who we are and what we're about."

The show started when the Drum and Bugle Corps marched out from the depot flag pole and took their position center stage on Shepherd Field.

Known as "The Commandant's Own," the musicians played contemporary songs and traditional marching music with choreographed drill movements as part of their "Music in Motion" program. They are currently the only full-time active duty drum corps in the United States Armed Forces. The Drum and Bugle Corps travels more than 50,000 miles, performing in excess of 400 events across the United States and around the world.

The 85 Marines wore uniforms unlike the tradi-

tional Marine Corps dress uniform. They showcased a red and white ceremonial uniform with white gauntlets that cover the wrists.

After the Drum and Bugle Corps concluded their last song, the Silent Drill Platoon took center stage.

As the 24-man Silent Drill Platoon marched out, the audience could already see the discipline each Marine exemplified. Their performance was unique and unlike any other around the world. The platoon delivered a high precision drill routine with their M1 Garand rifles with fixed bayonets. During the performance, not a single verbal command was given, which is what earned them the name, Silent Drill Platoon.

Those watching on clenched as they saw live bayonets being swung around and rifles thrown mid-air, waiting and hoping nothing would go wrong. For those Marines in the Silent Drill Pla-

toon, it was just another day at the office.

"It's all just muscle memory now," said Hasty, a Villa Park, Ill., native. "When I first started, I was thinking about every single move and what was coming up, but now I just go with the flow."

The conclusion of their performance included a rifle inspection where a Marine threw his rifle to the rifle inspector who caught it, inspected and then tossed the weapon back to him after a series of elaborate spins.

After the performances, the Marine Corps Color Guard came out to present the colors for the National Anthem. The Color Guard carried the official Battle Colors of the Marine Corps, with 54 streamers and silver bands that commemorate the military

campaigns the Corps' participated in spanning the entire history of the nation from the American Revolution to the present.

The Battle Color Detachment performed two shows, one for the public and one for the recruits. Rarely do recruits get a chance to step out of their training and enjoy such an event.

"The recruits got a chance to see a prestigious show to see what hard work and dedication can do for you," said Staff Sgt. Paul E. Espindola, senior drill instructor, Platoon 2170, Company H, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion. "They looked really good and squared away. I want my recruits to emulate that."

With the ceremony concluded, the Battle Color Detachment packed up for their next show at Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Ga., and then wrap up their current tour with two more shows in South Carolina.



The Battle Color Detachment marches by the parade reviewing officer during the Pass in Review portion to conclude the ceremony. The detachment features the U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps, the Silent Drill Platoon, and the Marine Corps Color Guard.



The U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps strides in their performance by during the Battle Color Ceremony on Shepherd's Field aboard the depot, March 15. Known as "The Commandant's Own," the musicians played contemporary songs and traditional marching music with choreographed drill movements as part of their "Music in Motion" program.



# Marine sheds 85 pounds to join the Corps

STORY & PHOTOS BY  
LANCE CPL. TYLER VIGLIONE  
Chevron staff

"A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work," said Colin Powell, former secretary of state.

That's just what Pvt. Logan R. McEachern did to realize his dream of becoming a Marine.

McEachern, Platoon 1073, Company D, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, lost 85 pounds to join the Marine Corps and another 30 pounds during recruit training.

"I was 6 feet, 305 pounds," said McEachern. "One day I looked in the mirror and knew I had to change."

McEachern was an average student in high school. He received mediocre grades, just enough to be able to go on the field every week and play football.

"I have played football since I was five years old," said 23-year-old McEachern. "I have played on the offensive line and left and right tackles. That's the reason I had to be big."

After high school, he received a scholarship to play football at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. While attending SOSU, McEachern also played for the Enid Enforcers, a semi-professional team out of Enid, Okla. He ended up winning a championship with the Enforcers in 2012.

Going into his senior year of college, his scholarship had expired and was forced to attend another school.

"My scholarship wasn't going to get renewed because it was only valid for three years, so I went back to school without football," said McEachern. "I felt lost and didn't know what to do with myself and couldn't handle it"

He later left college to pursue a job in the oil field industry as a welder.

"I was making good money," said McEachern. "I had everything I wanted, a new bike and a new truck. I liked what I was doing."

As the time passed working as a welder, McEachern realized he had become complacent and wanted to pursue his dream to become a United States Marine.

"I honestly didn't think I had it in me," said McEachern. "I was so heavy; I didn't think there was any way possible for me to get down to the weight that the Marine Corps wanted me to."

He started going to the gym, eating right and working out.

"I wrote everything that I had done down to the T," said McEachern. "Every meal, every workout, everything I did to my body; even the hours I slept."



Pvt. Logan R. McEachern, Platoon 1073, Company D, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, back pedals down the rappel tower aboard the depot, March 21. McEachern is described by his drill instructors as one of the most hard working Marines in the platoon.

Not long after he began his regimen, McEachern quickly started noticing results.

"I weighed in every day," said McEachern. "I was surprised how fast the weight was dropping."

McEachern explained how he loves running and basically just shredded the weight. Every day he noticed two or more pounds of weight loss.

He was getting more determined that he could meet his goals but still wasn't sure if he was Marine Corps material.

"I went to the Army, Navy and Air Force recruiters as well," said McEachern. "They basically just wanted me to sign that day, no questions asked, and I knew that wasn't for me. I deep down really wanted to be a Marine but I still wasn't confident I could until I weighed myself again."

Weighing about 225 pounds, McEachern decided to go and talk to a Marine Corps recruiter.

"When I first went to the recruiter, I was told that I was able to enlist if I could drop about five more pounds," said McEachern. "At the rate I was going, that wasn't going to be a problem."

Following on his continual workout, running and powerlifting, McEachern got his body weight down to 220 pounds.

"When I looked at the scale I couldn't believe my eyes," said McEachern. "Less than a year ago I was looking in the mirror in disappointment and it just amazes me on what you can accomplish if you

set your mind to it."

McEachern decided to join with a friend through the buddy program. While going through his physical at the Military Entrancing Processing Station, McEachern was told that he had astigmatism, which is an eye condition for which he needed a waiver.

"I was supposed to leave for recruit training in November with my buddy but my waiver had still not gotten approved," said McEachern. "My buddy left without me and that was the least of my worries. I was just happy my dream was slowly becoming a reality."

McEachern came from a long line of service members. His father, grandfather, cousin and great uncle had all served in the military.

"They were my primary motivation," said McEachern. "I wanted to be like them and also make them proud, which led me to push myself every day."

After months of waiting, McEachern's medical waiver was approved and scheduled to ship out to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego to begin recruit training.

When McEachern arrived at recruit training, he lost more weight.

"I looked down at the scale,"

said McEachern. "It said 187."

He had lost 118 pounds in less than a year.

While in recruit training, his motivation, discipline and focus became apparent with his drill instructors. He was appointed a squad leader.

"He is one of the hardest working recruits I have," said Staff Sgt. Vince C. Mabalot, senior drill instructor. "He helps motivate recruits by always being vocal and really being a leader."

Now a private in the United States Marine Corps, McEachern continues his path by attending the Infantry Training Battalion at the School of Infantry to become a rifleman.

"What I have done has changed my life," said McEachern. "The mind is one powerful weapon and it can make you be able to accomplish things you wouldn't even think of being possible. If you ever have a dream, chase it, because you will never know how good the feeling will be when it becomes real."



Pvt. McEachern is given a safety check by an Instructional Training Company drill instructor, before beginning his descent of the depot's 60-foot high rappel tower. McEachern lost 85 pounds to join the Marine Corps.

## Brig. Gen. Mark R. Wise

### Parade Reviewing Officer

Brig. Gen. Mark R. Wise is assigned as the assistant wing commander, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. He was born in Amarillo, Texas, and is a graduate of the University of Washington in Seattle and the Naval War College in Newport, R.I.

Wise's command tours include Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 122 Crusaders from 2003 to 2004 participating in the Unit Deployment Program, Exercises Cobra Gold, Hawaii Combined

Arms Exercise and Clean Hunter; Marine Aircraft Group 12 from 2008 to 2009, participating in numerous exercises throughout the Western Pacific Region; and as commanding general of the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory from 2011 to 2013.

He also served with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 333 during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm; Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312 with Carrier Air Wing-8 and USS Theodore Roosevelt during Operations Deny Flight and Southern Watch; 58th Fighter Squadron during Operation Southern Watch; and Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251 with Carrier Air Wing One

and the USS George Washington during Operation Southern Watch.

Wise's staff tours include Marine Aircraft Group 31 and Marine Aircraft Group 12. In 1999, he was assigned to Headquarters Marine Corps as the F/A-18 requirements officer, tactical air budget officer and the aide-de-camp to the deputy commandant for Marine aviation. In 2009, he deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan, as the executive officer to the deputy chief of staff for operations at Headquarters, International Security Assistance Force. In 2010, Wise returned to Headquarters Marine Corps as the deputy branch head for

Aviation Plans, Policies, Budget and Joint Matters where he served until 2011. During his tour as the commanding general of the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory from 2011 to 2013, he also served as the vice chief of Naval research.

Wise's personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with gold star in lieu of second award, Air Medal - individual action with combat "V", Strike Flight Air Medal eighth award, Joint Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star in lieu of second award, and Air Force Commendation Medal.

He has more than 3,500 flight hours primarily in the F/A-18 and F-15C.







**Platoon 1069** COMPANY HONOR MAN Pfc. E. E. Duran-Espino Medford, Ore. Recruited by Staff Sgt. A. C. Hull  
**Platoon 1074** SERIES HONOR MAN Pfc. A. R. Roman Springfield, Ill. Recruited by Staff Sgt. N. L. Johnson  
**Platoon 1070** PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. I. D. Miner Wakefield, Neb. Recruited by Cpl. S. Styerwalt  
**Platoon 1071** PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. C. M. Caley La Mirada, Calif. Recruited by Staff Sgt. F. Castilblanco  
**Platoon 1073** PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. F. J. Sillas Bakersfield, Calif. Recruited by Sgt. A. Alvarado  
**Platoon 1075** PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. R. T. Nevearez Pleasanton, Calif. Recruited by Staff Sgt. K. D. Garber  
**Platoon 1069** HIGH SHOOTER (341) Pfc. C. R. Alexander Alex, Okla. Marksman Instructor Cpl. LaJuenesse  
**Platoon 1071** HIGH PFT (300) Pvt. A. L. Beckham Olalla, Wash. Recruited by Sgt. A. Alvarado



# DELTA 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. Gonzalez



**COMPANY D**  
Commanding Officer  
Capt. L. E. Mathurin  
Company First Sergeant  
1st Sgt. T. A. Bachman

**SERIES 1069**  
Series Commander  
Capt. D. R. Butters  
Chief Drill Instructor  
Gunnery Sgt. F. Estrada

**PLATOON 1069**  
Senior Drill Instructor  
Gunnery Sgt. A. N. Smith  
Drill Instructors  
Gunnery Sgt. D. G. Tutson  
Staff Sgt. M. M. Lee  
Staff Sgt. S. J. Ramirez  
Sgt. K. G. Martin

**PLATOON 1070**  
Senior Drill Instructor  
Sgt. T. J. Tellez  
Drill instructors  
Sgt. G. M. Martinez  
Sgt. B. J. Study  
Sgt. C. R. Rimka

**PLATOON 1071**  
Senior Drill Instructor  
Sgt. S. R. Green  
Drill instructors  
Sgt. K. N. Ealey  
Sgt. M. Moctezuma  
Sgt. K. N. Ealey

**SERIES 1073**  
Series Commander  
Capt. S. B. Conway  
Chief Drill Instructor  
Staff Sgt. J. Lopez

**PLATOON 1073**  
Senior Drill Instructor  
Staff Sgt. V. C. Mabalot  
Drill Instructors  
Sgt. R. A. Ertel  
Sgt. M. J. Redd  
Sgt. J. H. Sharpe  
Sgt. A. S. Torres

**PLATOON 1074**  
Senior Drill Instructor  
Sgt. A. C. Rundle  
Drill Instructors  
Sgt. K. E. Frystak  
Sgt. M. Pelaez  
Sgt. T. A. Titopace

**PLATOON 1075**  
Senior Drill Instructor  
Staff Sgt. C. R. MacVarish  
Drill Instructors  
Staff Sgt. L. R. Hernandez  
Staff Sgt. V. Ung  
Staff Sgt. M. D. West  
Sgt. E. D. Howard

\* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

**PLATOON 1069**  
Pvt. J. J. Acosta  
Pvt. G. Aguilera-Flores  
Pfc. C. R. Alexander  
Pvt. C. A. Andrade  
Pvt. C. E. Arevalo  
Pvt. M. R. Attaway-Hopson  
Pvt. V. A. Aviles-Gonzalez  
\*Pfc. A. J. Barrera Jr.  
Pvt. S. Barrientos  
Pfc. K. W. Bennett  
Pvt. T. T. Bishop  
Pvt. M. Brito  
Pvt. K. G. Bruner  
Pfc. M. T. Brzozowski  
Pfc. J. K. Burkhardt  
Pvt. J. A. Byrd  
Pvt. I. N. Casique  
Pvt. A. D. Castro  
Pvt. T. E. Dorman  
\*Pfc. E. E. Duran-Espino  
Pvt. R. D. Falck  
Pvt. L. A. Flores  
Pvt. G. E. Fordham  
Pvt. H. M. Freed  
Pvt. B. A. Galloway  
Pvt. O. Garcia Jr.  
Pvt. M. E. Garcia  
\*Pfc. L. C. Garza  
Pvt. J. L. Gentle  
Pvt. T. J. Genz Jr.  
Pfc. M. E. Goering  
Pvt. C. T. Grimm  
Pvt. B. R. Grisch  
Pvt. J. S. Gunnyon  
Pfc. R. M. Hermsen  
Pfc. P. R. Inglesby  
Pfc. T. D. Kirkland  
Pfc. M. Lee  
Pvt. P. Lee  
Pvt. B. A. Liu  
Pvt. E. Lopez-Romero  
Pfc. J. P. Mallory  
Pvt. G. Medina  
Pvt. F. Muro Jr.  
Pfc. S. C. Ouano  
Pvt. Z. A. Roberts  
Pvt. E. A. Rosel  
Pfc. C. B. Saavedras-Smith  
Pvt. E. I. Sahagun  
Pvt. J. J. Vered  
Pfc. D. Zandate

**PLATOON 1070**  
Pvt. M. D. Bruce  
Pfc. D. H. Campbell  
Pvt. C. D. Ice  
Pvt. T. D. Jennings  
Pfc. J. A. Jones  
Pvt. K. G. Kashner  
Pvt. A. E. Kinser  
\*Pfc. J. Leos

Pfc. T. C. Lewis  
Pvt. J. S. Martinez  
Pfc. J. H. Mayoral  
Pfc. T. J. McCulloch  
Pfc. N. A. McLean  
Pfc. J. D. Medearis Jr.  
\*Pfc. P. M. Merica  
Pfc. I. D. Miner  
Pvt. M. Molina-Machorro  
Pfc. A. S. Neri  
Pvt. J. R. Norris  
Pfc. D. A. Pearson  
Pfc. A. M. Philson  
Pfc. S. Pineda  
Pvt. H. Ponce  
Pvt. C. T. Poplin  
Pvt. A. I. Quezada-Reyna  
Pfc. C. P. Richard  
\*Pfc. J. J. Rincon  
Pfc. J. A. Rocha  
Pvt. P. J. Rodriguez-Castillo  
Pvt. J. M. Rollo  
Pvt. S. J. Ruiz-Harrison  
Pvt. G. Ruiz  
Pvt. D. G. Salazar  
Pvt. J. N. Salmeron  
Pfc. W. S. Schuller  
Pvt. A. T. Sennott  
Pvt. A. M. Soliz  
Pvt. R. L. Soto  
Pvt. T. A. Tamburelli  
Pvt. C. J. Terranova  
Pfc. C. A. Tillman  
Pfc. R. J. Twehous  
Pfc. A. T. Usrey  
Pfc. N. C. Vanmetre  
Pfc. R. K. Vartias  
Pvt. N. R. Walton  
Pvt. S. M. Warren  
Pfc. D. M. Wiebe  
Pvt. T. R. Wiley  
Pvt. B. J. Wilson

**PLATOON 1071**  
Pvt. T. L. Allen  
Pvt. A. D. Ash  
Pvt. M. A. Barajas  
Pvt. J. Z. Barriga  
Pvt. J. C. Barrow  
Pvt. A. L. Beckham  
Pvt. J. M. Belcher  
Pvt. J. M. Bengston  
Pfc. M. C. Blankenship  
Pfc. J. M. Blase  
\*Pfc. C. M. Caley  
Pvt. B. Campos  
Pfc. R. A. Cardin  
Pvt. A. J. Carr  
\*Pfc. C. J. Clay  
Pvt. S. M. Colosi  
Pfc. J. D. Condon  
Pfc. G. D. Conley

Pvt. R. N. Cordero  
Pvt. M. G. Crook  
Pvt. B. M. Crowder  
Pfc. J. R. Cruz  
Pvt. E. A. Davila  
Pvt. A. J. Davis  
Pfc. S. M. Davis  
Pvt. A. De La Mora  
Pvt. A. R. Denny  
Pvt. B. A. Diackite  
Pvt. C. Diaz-Ruiz  
Pvt. N. G. Dickson  
Pvt. E. D. Fernandez-Gonzalez  
Pfc. T. J. Ferryman  
Pvt. O. Francisco  
Pvt. D. Garcia Jr.  
Pfc. M. A. Garcia  
Pfc. R. V. Garcia Jr.  
\*Pfc. J. A. Garza  
Pfc. B. C. Gilmore  
Pvt. A. L. Giron  
Pfc. A. D. Golomb  
Pvt. D. T. Gonzales  
Pvt. B. J. Gonzalez  
Pvt. J. J. Gria  
Pfc. I. Guerra Jr.  
Pvt. A. Guillen  
Pvt. T. Y. Ha  
Pvt. C. J. Hanson  
Pvt. L. J. Nunez  
Pvt. A. T. Ramos

**PLATOON 1073**  
Pvt. A. Alvarado  
Pvt. V. A. Amezquita-Spinoza  
\*Pfc. M. R. Askeland  
Pvt. K. M. Burke  
Pvt. A. L. Castellanos  
Pvt. C. S. Chayaprasert  
\*Pfc. I. S. Combs  
Pvt. S. V. Dammer  
Pvt. K. D. Dickinson  
Pfc. A. R. Dollens  
Pfc. E. J. Feldt  
Pvt. J. M. Fogata  
Pfc. W. M. Fordon  
Pfc. C. M. Hayes  
Pfc. S. V. Hernandez  
Pvt. A. B. Knafila  
Pfc. D. J. Kehoe  
Pfc. D. S. Mahaffey  
Pfc. C. E. Maldonado  
\*Pfc. V. Martinez  
Pfc. S. H. McDonald  
Pfc. L. R. McEachern  
Pvt. E. G. Montalvo  
Pfc. C. Morejon-Rojas  
Pfc. W. M. Quiniones  
Pvt. S. Ramirez  
Pvt. N. A. Reiser  
Pvt. L. Richardson Jr.  
Pvt. S. A. Richardson

Pvt. C. E. Rios  
Pvt. J. R. Rivera  
Pvt. D. Rodriguez Jr.  
Pfc. J. M. Rodriguez Jr.  
Pfc. J. M. Russell  
Pvt. M. Sanchez  
Pfc. R. R. Sanchez  
Pfc. N. F. Shermerhorn  
Pvt. J. C. Scott  
Pfc. Y. M. Shafer  
Pvt. N. E. Shellito  
Pfc. F. J. Sillas  
Pvt. T. M. Smythe  
Pvt. J. Soto  
Pvt. M. A. Soto  
Pvt. A. A. Tapia  
Pvt. P. H. Terrafino  
Pvt. I. E. Travers  
Pvt. L. C. Turner  
Pvt. D. J. Villareal  
Pvt. L. Wickam

**PLATOON 1074**  
Pvt. T. T. Adams  
Pfc. B. N. Allen  
Pvt. V. Anaya  
Pfc. E. D. Anderson  
Pvt. C. Benjarano  
Pvt. J. D. Boisen  
Pfc. L. S. Crawford  
Pvt. L. M. Fernandez  
Pvt. M. R. Galiano  
Pfc. I. D. Gill  
Pfc. J. Gomez  
Pvt. J. R. Gonzalez  
Pvt. A. M. Grezenski  
Pvt. W. D. Johnson  
Pvt. T. E. Kleist  
Pvt. R. K. Knapstein  
Pvt. D. H. Koch  
Pvt. K. V. Nahlik  
Pvt. J. D. Quintal  
Pvt. B. J. Rodighiero  
Pfc. A. R. Roman  
Pvt. J. T. Ryan  
Pvt. L. Sainzambroci  
Pvt. B. C. Salas  
Pvt. J. A. Salcedo  
\*Pfc. J. S. Salm  
Pfc. S. E. Sandoval  
Pvt. B. A. Schult  
\*Pfc. D. S. Shanklin  
Pvt. A. M. Sheldon  
Pfc. Z. D. Shelton  
Pfc. D. L. Singleton  
Pvt. S. S. Sobolik  
Pfc. J. S. Solis  
Pfc. J. R. Stewart  
Pvt. G. E. Thompson  
Pvt. V. E. Torres  
Pvt. D. J. Van Hemert  
Pvt. B. G. Vansylalom

Pvt. L. A. Villalpando  
Pvt. J. B. Watkins  
Pvt. L. W. Whiteside  
Pvt. T. S. Wiley  
Pvt. Z. S. Williams  
Pvt. A. R. Willis  
Pvt. S. J. Wyatt  
\*Pfc. A. J. Yaeger  
Pfc. P. J. Yi  
Pfc. D. A. Zambrano

**PLATOON 1075**  
Pvt. C. A. Arreola  
Pvt. C. A. Arreola  
Pfc. C. B. Carreno  
Pvt. J. A. Fletcher  
Pvt. C. E. Girkins  
Pvt. J. P. Hanson  
Pfc. J. J. Johnson  
Pvt. R. G. Johnson  
\*Pfc. S. M. Jones  
Pfc. C. D. Jones  
\*Pfc. C. W. Karber  
Pvt. K. W. Keeton  
Pvt. N. C. Kim  
Pfc. J. L. Kingsford  
Pvt. S. J. Lackey  
Pfc. J. C. Lawson  
\*Pfc. C. E. Leath  
Pvt. F. Lopez Jr.  
Pvt. A. S. Lopez  
Pfc. M. B. Lora  
Pvt. J. A. Maisano Jr.  
Pvt. L. Maldonado  
Pfc. J. H. Maree  
Pfc. S. M. Maree  
Pvt. D. Martinez Jr.  
Pvt. J. L. Martinez-Gomez  
Pfc. A. J. Martinez-Maez  
Pfc. M. J. Martinez-Maez  
Pfc. A. G. Mercer  
Pfc. A. C. Monerez  
Pvt. C. A. Montano  
Pvt. M. J. Morgan  
Pvt. S. M. Morgan  
Pfc. T. A. Morgan  
Pvt. J. A. Mulhern  
\*Pfc. R. T. Nevearez  
Pvt. D. D. Nguyen  
Pfc. K. H. Nguyen  
Pfc. C. Nomez  
Pvt. J. M. Norship  
Pvt. J. P. Osborne  
Pvt. C. M. Owens  
Pfc. C. J. Ozorio  
Pfc. A. H. Parades  
Pfc. D. A. Persons  
Pvt. T. R. Peterson  
\*Pfc. B. L. Pike  
Pfc. M. R. Tochtermann  
Pfc. K. S. Dressler  
Pvt. J. N. Pospisil



# Marines take on Mammoth Mountain

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

MAMMOTH LAKES, Calif. – The Marine Corps Recruit Depot Single Marine Program helps Marines, sailors and coastguardsmen experience life and nature by planning recreational and social activities that offer service members the opportunity to participate and help their local communities.

Marines and sailors from San Diego ventured up to the Mammoth Mountain Resort during a SMP trip March 13 through 16.

The service members received three nights of lodging at the resort. The trip included a private cabin, meals, transportation, lift tickets, and gear rental, for \$150.

“The price for this trip was unbelievable,” said Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Dylan J. Thornburg, religious program specialist. “There was no way I wasn’t going to go on it.”

While lift tickets alone cost \$100 dollars per day, they were

only \$50 for the service members.

The resort offered the service members over 150 separate trails to ski or snowboard across 3500 acres of skiable terrain in central California, eastern part of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. Service members could test themselves to see which trails they could handle.

Mammoth Mountain’s trails are labeled in four categories: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, and Expert. Riders could ride any trail they wished, but it was at their own risk.

“I mostly rode the intermediate trails,” said Thornburg, a native of Fort Walton Beach, Fla. “I have been snowboarding for some time now, but I am still trying to get better.”

The service members spent two full days at the slopes. For some, this was an introduction to the sport.

“This weekend was the first time I had ever stepped on a snowboard,” said Cpl. Tyler Robinson, supply administration and operations clerk,

Weapons and Field Training Battalion. “It was hard at first, but I feel like I got the hang of it by the end of the second day.”

By the end of the trip, the service members all felt a little more confident in their abilities to snowboard.

“Snowboarding and skiing is a great chance for young Marines and veteran Marines to be able to get out and be active,” said Staff Sgt. Donnie Goodson, range staff non-commissioned officer in charge, Range Company, WFTBn.

SMP has a lot more to offer to Marines and sailors who want to get out and do fun events for reasonable prices.

“SMP does trips to Las Vegas, ski and snowboarding trips, volunteer opportunities such as feeding the homeless, habitat for humanity and beach clean-ups,” said Joshua Davis, SMP coordinator. “It’s a good chance for service members to be able to get out and do things they wouldn’t normally do.”

For more MCRD SMP information call, (619)-524-8240.



Lance Cpl. Zachary D. Selvig, fiscal clerk, Headquarters and Service Battalion, snowboards down an intermediate hill at Mammoth Mountain. The resort offered the Marines beginner, intermediate, advanced and expert slopes from which to choose.



Cpl. Joshua C. Franco, admin clerk, Headquarters and Service Battalion, poses on the summit of Mammoth Mountain during the Single Marine Programs trip, March 14. The resort offered the service members over 150 separate trails to ski or snowboard across 3,500 total acres.



Service members from the San Diego area pose at the summit of Mammoth Mountain during the SMP snowboarding trip, March 13 to 16. Mammoth Mountain is a part of the Eastern Sierra Nevada range and it is located in Mammoth Lakes, Calif.