Marines use small unit leadership during Crucible

Marines get annual training with a twist

Kiwanis Club recognizes depot Marine
Zeman. ‘I want to make the Marines since I was very young,’ said Antherton-Zeman. ‘I want to make the Marines entertain the military, legislators, conferences, churches and military installations around the country. ’I’ve done this play over 500 times,’ said Antherton-Zeman, a sexual assault activist. ‘I love doing it because it entertains people but also makes them aware of what’s going on with the mission at all times.’ Drill instructors, field instructors and the company commander watch from a platform to ensure recruits are applying the fundamentals of leadership for each mission and performing within safety regulations. After completing the Crucible, Marines of Co. A will continue their initial training by attending Marine Combat Training or the School of Infantry, depending on their Military Occupation Specialty. They will learn basic combat skills, then attend a school particular to their MOS.

Company A Marines, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, transport a barrel from one side of an obstacle to the other using only a rope in stall 11 at the Leadership Reaction Course during the Crucible at Edson Range, April 30. If Marines touched the red squares, they were considered a casualty and had to run 100 yards with 30-pound ammunition cans. Once they were finished with that, they returned to the stall to attempt the mission again.

In stall 2 of the course, recruits had to make their way across a rope using teamwork. Recruits had to come together with a plan to get a simulated injured Marine and barred across the rope along with the rest of the Marines and gear.

Camaderie is important for a unit wanting to achieve mission accomplishment, explained Pfc. Alexander C. Gaston, a Texas native. ‘Small unit leadership maintains people but also makes them aware of the unit,’ said 24-year-old Gaston, a Mercer, Pennsylvania native. ‘Small unit leadership keeps Marines aware that sexual assault happens every day and needs to stop. ’

‘Annual training is very important to the Marine Corps,’ said Lt. Col. John H. Sorenson, operations officer, Support Battalion, Recruiting Training Regiment. ‘We need to stop these problems before they get worse.’

Every Marine in the Corps must undergo annual training on sexual assault along with other subjects as a requirement in the Marine Corps. Other items such as posters and public service announcements keep Marines aware that sexual assault happens every day and needs to stop. ’

‘The main objective other than mission accomplishment is communication within the unit,’ said 24-year-old Gaston, a Mercer, Pennsylvania native. ‘Small unit leadership within fire teams will need to step up and give commands and communicate with everyone to keep the fire team aware of what’s going on with the mission at all times.’

Drill instructors, field instructors and the company commander watch from a platform to ensure recruits are applying the fundamentals of leadership for each mission and performing within safety regulations. After completing the Crucible, Marines of Co. A will continue their initial training by attending Marine Combat Training or the School of Infantry, depending on their Military Occupation Specialty. They will learn basic combat skills, then attend a school particular to their MOS.

Enjoy: Roscoe recognized and introduced Leonlandaeta before receiving the award. Leonlandaeta gave thanks to the Kiwanis Club after he was presented the award. After Leonlandaeta received the award, he returned to the shop and immediately went back to work. ‘He gets the work finished before he’s asked to do it, and it was a privilege to be able to send in Leonlandaeta’s name for an award,’ explained 28-year-old Roscoe, a Blairstown, New Jersey native.

The Kiwanis Club represents members of the military, local colleges, businesses and the government and community leaders of San Diego. Established in 1920, the Kiwanis Club was the first in San Diego County. It is also one of the largest clubs in San Diego. ‘I am honored that the club recognized me as a hard worker,’ said Leonlandaeta. ‘I am the type of guy who doesn’t really say much. I just prefer to get the job done. If I’m extremely busy and a fellow Marine needs my help, I’ll drop what I’m doing and help my fellow Marine, and I think that’s the way all Marines should be.’

The Kiwanis Club does a lot of great things for the San Diego community and for them to recognize a depot Marine is truly a privilege. The award will be a building block to continue doing the right things, Leonlandaeta explained.

Training 1

‘I have been doing voice impressions since I was very young,’ said Antherton-Zeman. ‘I want to make the Marines enjoy the play but also relay the importance of what I’m talking about to them.’

During the play, Marines learned about SAPR information and victim blaming. ‘I won’t stop doing what I do until victims of sexual assault don’t think it is their fault,’ said 47-year-old Antherton-Zeman. ‘It is one of my main goals to make the victims aware that it is never their fault.’

Antherton-Zeman has performed this play in middle schools, high schools, colleges, conferences, churches and military installations around the country. ‘I’ve done this play over 500 times,’ said Antherton-Zeman, a sexual assault activist. ‘I love doing it because it entertains people but also makes them aware of a subject that I feel really strongly about.’

Even though Marines experienced this play, their training does not stop here.

Upcoming state primary elections

South Dakota, New Jersey, New Mexico, Montana, Mississippi, Iowa, California and Alabama all have primary elections scheduled for June 3. Military voters wishing to cast votes in these elections must have completed registration, and must have requested absentee ballots before the election with deadlines ranging from May 6 to the day of the election.

For information on registration and on requesting a ballot, see your unit voting officer. Information may also be available at www.fvap.gov/south-dakota, /new-mexico, /montana, /mississippi, /iowa, /california or /alabama.

Send briefs to: rdcl@mcmscrd.com. 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. Gov- ernment.

Brown Bag Financial Seminar

The depot sponsors a Brown Bag Seminar for San Diego Marine and Navy installations has been extended until Wednesday. This is still time to make a contribution through your Active Duty Fund Drive Coordinator.

For more information, contact the MCRC Active Duty Fund Drive base coordinator, Capt. Joseph S. Mietzel, Bldg 31, Room 117, or call him at (619) 524-1284.

Health & Fitness Expo

The Expo is open to all authorized patrons. For information call Semper Fit at (619) 524-5565, or visit the website at mccsmcrd.com.
By Lance Cpl. Krista James
2nd Marine Division

2nd LAR Marines get smart on .50 M107

The purpose of training these Marines on the weapon system was to qualify designated Marines to safely, efficiently and effectively employ the SASR in accordance to the commander’s intent.

Before they were able to fire the weapon system, they were given a number of classes on ballistics, effects of weather on the weapon, range cards and shooting positions; all of which correlate to give the shooter the perfect shot.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Sam Mortimer, the battalion gunner, said that attending these classes prior to shooting the weapon proved to be an essential part of the training.

“You have to learn to use the scope, which is the scout sniper day scope, along with the scout sniper observation telescope. You have to know how to use it before coming out here to shoot live fire. This is just a confirmation of what they’ve learned over the last couple of days,” Mortimer said.

LAR Marines got a lot of information during these classes, but generally agreed that the most important class received was range and targets.

Corporal Ryan Tong, a squad leader with Company B, said that this specific class will better help the Marines measure how many meters they are shooting, and help the Marines measure how many meters they are shooting, and help with their aim as well.

After the second day of classes, it was finally time to show what the Marines learned. It was time to fire the weapon. The Marines needed to continue to concentrate, even outside of the classroom, on working well with their partners.

“The hardest part of firing the weapon is communication between the gunner and the spotter. You really have to be in sync with each other and know what the other person is talking about,” said Tong.

Mortimer and Tong both agreed that being able to appropriately employ the SASR within the battalion will make the unit more efficient.

“It gives the company commanders another tool they can use out there on the battlefield. We have scouts in the back of every vehicle so if they’re outside of them doing reconnaissance, it allows the scouts to hit what they see if they need to and then move forward,” said Mortimer.

Tong said that it’s almost like a second chance weapon that allows the scouts to engage the enemy and lightly armored enemy vehicles. It essentially gives the scouts their own protection when they’re away from their vehicles.

Upon completion of the training, the Marines can agree that along with empowering LAR with a great weapon system, the SASR is not only an essential weapon system to the unit, but to the Marine Corps as well.
The Marine Corps is considered the “world’s finest fighting force” and training the Marines who make that true starts early in recruit training. Recruits of Company L, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., climbed over their fears during the Confidence Course II aboard the depot, April 22.

The Confidence Course is designed to help recruits build confidence within themselves and to improve team work, said Sgt. Brandon J. Cobb, drill instructor, Platoon 3242. “A lot of recruits think too much about the obstacles,” said Cobb, a native of Charlotte, N. C. “They have already learned that we don’t let them quit and everybody has to complete the obstacles.”

Recruits began the event by receiving a demonstration from their drill instructors on the techniques they will be using to conquer each obstacle. “A lot of recruits think too much about the obstacles,” said Cobb, a native of Charlotte, N. C. “They have already learned that we don’t let them quit and everybody has to complete the obstacles.”

The Confidence Course included the Stairway to Heaven, Tough One, Slide for Life and the A-Frame. This was the first time the recruits had faced these obstacles.

The Confidence Course ends with the Slide for Life, which is a 25-foot tall tower that recruits climb up then slide down a 90-foot cable on their stomachs. When halfway down recruits are instructed to change directions while hanging over a pool. Recruits who fall, land in the pool underneath.

Company L has completed one more step in their journey to becoming Marines. More challenges await them, but they now have an experience under their belts from which to learn and grow.
Pvt. Bakari L. Khalis, Platoon 1015, Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, crawled under cantina wire during the Copland's Challenge event of the Crucible, at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, April 30. Lindsey-Khalis joined the Marine Corps in honor of his grandfather, a Montfort Point Marine, and in memory of his deceased friend.

He soon realized he did not want to be overweight anymore and used that motivation to get on the path of pursuing his dream of becoming a Marine. "I started running, eating healthily and lifting weights," said Lindsey-Khalis. "I needed to do this for myself, no matter how much I wanted to quit."

His drill instructors noticed his determination to get through recruit training despite the adversities that he had faced in the past. "Lindsey-Khalis showed himself during recruit training," said Staff Sgt. Alfred F. Thurlow, drill instructor. "He has a lot of heart, and I know he will do great things during his career."

In one year, Lindsey-Khalis dropped his weight down to 245 pounds and was allowed to enlist, and then during recruit training, he lost another 15 pounds. Upon graduation, Lindsey-Khalis will undergo Marine Combat Training and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., then will attend his marine occupational specialty school where he will learn the skills necessary to be a supply administration and operations specialist.

"If you were to ask me two years ago where I would be in two years, I never would have guessed a Marine," said Lindsey-Khalis. "I overcame my struggles and followed my dream. I did it, and I am a Marine."

**Sgt. Maj. Michael T. Mack**

**Parade Reviewing Officer**

Sergeant Maj. Michael T. Mack enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1986 and attended recruit training at 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, Parris Island, S.C. He graduated from recruit training and was meritori-ously promoted to the rank of private first class in September 1986, and reported to his basic school for training at Camp Johnson in Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Upon completion, he reported to Marine Corps Air Station, Alameda, Calif., for duty as a finance clerk. In August 1987, Lance Cpl. Mack was transferred to Casualty Company, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., and then to Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion MCRD, San Diego, in November 1987. Two years later, he was promoted to the rank of corporal and was an honor graduate from Combat Enhancement Training.

In December 1989, Mack was transferred to Quantico, Va., to be an auditor in the separations section of the finance office and also deployed to 3rd Force Service Support Group, Okinawa, Japan, to support Operation Cobra Gold. In May 1993, he was promoted to the rank of ser-geant and tasked with training and creating the standard operating procedures for the finance office for the separa-tion of Marines in Okinawa, Japan.

In January 1994, Mack reported to Marine Corps Base Hawaii and was selected as NCOIC of the Quarter and was assigned as the batta-tion career planner and color sergeant. In April 1997, he was promoted to staff sergeant and returned to HQ Co., 1stBS Bat-talion, MCRD San Diego, for duty as the pay SNOIC of the finance office. In June 1999, Mack reported to Drill Instructor School, and following gradua-tion, he was assigned to Bravo Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion MCRD, San Diego, Calif.

Mack held the billet of drill instructor, senior drill in-structor, chief drill instructor, operations chief and opera-tions officer. He was selected by his peers to be the recipient of the Dan Daly Leadership Award, Gunnery Sergeant Nicholas Award (best new drill instructor), Drill Instructor of the Quarter, and led 3 honor platoons, including Company Honor Man and Series Honor Man.

In August 2001, Mack was promoted to the rank of gunnery sergeant and was re-assigned to Marine Forces Atlantic.

In August 2002, Mack was interviewed as a man-power analyst representing the Marine Corps at Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Office of the Secretary of Defense. In August 2003, Mack was transferred to the position of Marine analyst for the Marine Corps at Marine Information Systems at M & R A Division. In May 2004, Mack was transferred to Officer Candi-dates’ School where he served as a platoon sergeant and re-ceived the Best Drill Instruc-tor of the Cycle Award. During August 2004 Mack attended the Staff Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, Advance course at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., where he distinguished himself through the course and was chosen by his peers as the recipient of the class Gung Ho Award for the student who best personified the traits and principles of Leadership of a SNCO.

In December of 2004, Mack was selected to rank of first sergeant and was flocked on February 2, 2005, where he assumed duties as Company first sergeant, Marine Corps Institute, Marine Barracks, 8th & I, Washington, D.C.

In October 2008, Mack was selected to the rank of sergeant major and preceded to Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, Marine Corps Air Station Mimar, Calif., in April 2009.

In May 2011, Mack reported for duty as the recruiting sta-tion sergeant major at Recruiting Station Orange, 12th Marine Corps District and in May 2013, he reported for duty as the sergeant major of the Wounded Warrior Regiment.

Mack’s personal awards include: Meritorious Service Medal in lieu of second award, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal in lieu of fifth award, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal in lieu of second award, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal in lieu of eighth award, National Defense Medal in lieu of second award, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon in lieu of third award, Iraq Cam-paign, Afghanistan Campaign, NATO ISAF Afghanistan, and the Drill Instructor ribbon.
The start of the journey to becoming a Marine begins with the union of a recruit and his rifle.

Recruits of Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, received M16-A4 service rifles during their rifle issue aboard the depot, April 21.

Rifle issue begins the familiarization of the weapon recruits will be using while undergoing recruit training and, most likely, their Marine Corps career.

“You want to start them off with a good foundation to set them up for success in the Marine Corps,” said Gunnery Sgt. George A. Vargas, drill instructor, Platoon 1023. “It’s important that every Marine become familiar with the weapon due to the fact that all Marines are deployable.”

Before recruits were given their weapon, they were first issued their rifle cleaning kit, which is a kit that contains various parts to clean and maintain the weapon over the course of recruit training. An armory Marine went through the kit and had each recruit verify and inspect each piece to ensure all were accounted for and not broken. Recruits were also issued their parade sling, which they use during drill only.

After everything was accounted for, recruits lined up to receive their rifle. While waiting in line, recruits came one step closer to the goal they came to achieve, earning the title Marine.

“We came (to recruit training) with nothing,” said Recruit Orlando Ruiz-Augustine, Plt. 1021. “Each day we get a little bit more, slowly earning the right to hold the title Marine.”

The reality of what they held in their hands and what the weapon was capable of, dawned on recruits and made them realize the responsibility being put on them.

“This is real and a big impact,” said Ruiz-Augustine, a Salem, Ore., native. “I’ve never held a weapon in my life. It’s awesome and scary at the same time. The reality of what we may one day use this weapon for started to kick in.”

Almost instantly, recruits began to accept and take on the role of a Marine.

“It matured me a lot,” said Ruiz-Augustine. “This takes lives, and I’m in control of it.”

Tremendous responsibility was given to the young men of Co. B at the moment of receiving their weapon. Now it is up to their drill instructors to ensure recruits carry out that responsibility.

“We highly emphasize the weapons safety rules the instant they get their weapon and then throughout each training day,” said Vargas, a New York, N.Y., native. “We take the weapons with us everywhere and use repetition to train them. When they do deploy, it’ll be second nature to them.”

Company B sets off on its journey to earning the title Marine. The training of learning about the M16-A4 service rifle and how to properly utilize it is one of the major critical aspects of the Marine Corps fundamentals. The recruits will train and carry out that tradition and legacy set forth by each Marine before them.

“From cooks to admin, everybody is in the fight,” said Vargas. “Every Marine a rifleman. ‘One day you’re behind the computer and the next you’re on post.’

Gunnery Sgt. George A. Vargas, drill instructor, Platoon 1023, gives a quick brief on basic weapons handling to recruits after they received their M16-A4 service rifle during rifle issue aboard the depot, April 21. Tremendous responsibility was given to the young men of Co. B the moment they received their weapons.