



Co. I recruits run Confidence Course II
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CHEVRON

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION

Co. B gets rifle issue

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Marines use small unit leadership during Crucible

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

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Marines of Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., used collaboration and teamwork to complete the Leadership Reaction course during the Crucible at Edson Range, April 30.

The Crucible is a 54-hour test of endurance in which recruits must conquer more than 30 different obstacles all while experiencing food and sleep deprivation. During the Crucible, recruits utilize small unit leadership skills they’ve acquired throughout training.

“The event builds camaraderie throughout the fire teams, which is important for mission accomplishment,” said Sgt. Richard C. Hernandez, Platoon 1010. “Communication will be the most important thing as well as keeping each other positive to get the challenge done.”

Before starting each event, Marines receive a set of tools and instructions to complete a specific mission. While under time restraints they must closely follow the rules, otherwise they will fail the event and restart.

“We make sure they’re doing each mission correctly,” said 28-year-old Hernandez, a San Bernardino, Calif., native. “If recruits failed the mission or did something incor-



Company A Marines, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, pull together as a unit to help one another across an obstacle in stall six at the Leadership Reaction Course during the Crucible at Edson Range, April 30. Each obstacle was set up inside wooden stalls which made 12 stalls with 12 obstacles. Before each starting each event, Marines were given a set of tools and instructions to complete each mission.

rectly, they were instructed to restart the mission from the beginning.”

Each stall has a specific set of instructions, but one rule that remains the same for all stalls is that no part of a recruit’s

body can touch red-colored parts of the obstacle. Touching any red meant the recruit was considered to be dead. If recruits were considered dead, they had to run 100 yards with 30 pound ammuni-

tion cans. Once they completed that, they returned to the stall to attempt the mission again with their team.

see STALL ▶ 2



Ben Antherton-Zeman, national speaker and actor, speaks to Marines about sexual assault, aboard the depot, April 15. Antherton-Zeman has performed his play over 500 times to schools, churches, conferences and military instillations.

Marines get annual training with a twist

STORY & PHOTO BY
LANCE CPL. TYLER VIGLIONE
Chevron staff

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response is a topic every Marine gets reminded about and educated on annually.

Marines of the depot learned about SAPR during a performance of “Voices of Men” aboard the depot, April 15.

The purpose of the play was to inform Marines about the different types of sexual assaults that happen every day.

“Every two minutes a man rapes a women,” said Ben Antherton-Zeman, national

speaker and actor. “It is not just a number; it’s a crime that doesn’t need to happen.”

Antherton-Zeman explained how he uses famous characters such as Rocky Balboa and Austin Powers along with voice impressions to entertain the crowd as well as teach them.

Antherton-Zeman used scenarios from movies that each character was in that were examples of sexual assault. He then asked Marines questions about what the characters may have been doing wrong and what he was doing that was sexual assault.

see TRAINING ▶ 2

Kiwanis Club recognizes depot Marine

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

Lance Cpl. Jesus R. Leonlandaeta, legal clerk, Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, received a Kiwanis Club military recognition award at the Doubletree Hotel in downtown San Diego, April 15.

The award represented the amount of hard work and ethics 23-year-old Leonlandaeta puts in everyday as well as being a well-rounded Marine.

“We have a small shop and a big workload, so it’s important for me to get the work done,” said Leonlandaeta, a Fort Lauderdale, Fla., native. “Apart from being an efficient worker, it is important to be well organized as well as keeping a good appearance, and Marines notice it.”

The Kiwanis Club contacted the depot’s Headquarters and Service Battalion in search of a Marine to recognize for outstanding accomplishments.

When Leonlandaeta found out he was nominated for the award, he was surprised, ex-

cited and honored to receive an award for being a stellar Marine.

“I’m incredibly pleased and happy because Leonlandaeta deserves the recognition,” said Capt. Eric G. Roscoe, deputy staff judge advocate, Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion. “We’re short staffed on Marines, and he steps up and gets the job done like a sergeant would.”

At the luncheon, the Kiwanis Club prepared meals and desserts for those in attendance to

see KIWANIS ▶ 2



Lance Cpl. Jesus R. Leonlandaeta, legal clerk, Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion thanks Kiwanis Club for the award he received at the Doubletree Hotel in downtown San Diego, April 15. The award represented the amount of hard work and ethics that Leonlandaeta puts toward being a United States Marine.



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.

STALL ◀ 1

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 barrel across the rope along with the rest of the Marines and gear.

Camaraderie is important for a unit wanting to achieve mission accomplishment, explained Pfc. Alexander C. Gaston,

Platoon 1010.

"The main objective other than mission accomplishment is communication within the unit," said 24-year-old Gaston, a Mesquite, Texas 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.

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.

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

KIWANIS ◀ 1

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, N.J. 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'm 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.

BRIEFS

Brown Bag Financial Seminar

The depot offers a Brown Bag Lunch Financial Seminar Wednesday, from 11:30 a.m., until 1 p.m., on the topic "Personal & Financial Goals: Are They Important?"

This is a topic that service members, retirees, DoD civilians and their families to seriously consider. The guest speaker is David Block, MA, MS, MSFS. He is a retired Army lieutenant colonel and a retired certified financial planner who specialized for many years in financial, retirement and estate planning in Ohio.

The seminar is in the Personal & Professional Development Center Classroom, Building 14. The seminar is open to everyone who wishes to attend, but limited to the first 50 people to call and register. Light snacks and drinks will be provided, but attendees are welcome to bring a Brown Bag Lunch.

To register call (619) 524-5732. For more information call Michael McIsaac at (619) 524-1204.

Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society fund drive extended

The Active Duty Fund Drive for San Diego Marine and Navy installations has been extended until Wednesday. There is still time to make a contribution through your Active Duty Fund Drive Command Coordinator.

For more information, contact the MCRD Active Duty Fund Drive base coordinator, Capt. Joseph S. Meisel, Bldg 31, Rm 117, or call him at (619) 524-8790.

Health & Fitness Expo

The depot sponsors a Health & Fitness Expo May 14, in the parking lot next to the Fitness Center functional fitness area.

The event features health & wellness organizations, interactive booths, healthy food samples and a farmer's market. There will also be both for profit and non-profit vendors affiliated with the health and fitness industry.

This is the kickoff event for the 101 Days of Summer (Drug-Free Challenge), a summer long command competition that discourages drug use, and encourages healthy behaviors and responsible drinking.

The Expo is open to all authorized patrons.

For information call Semper Fit at (619) 524-5655, or visit the website at mccsmcrd.com.

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 date 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/](http://www.fvap.gov/new-mexico/), [montana/](http://www.fvap.gov/montana/), [mississippi/](http://www.fvap.gov/mississippi/), [iowa/](http://www.fvap.gov/iowa/), [california/](http://www.fvap.gov/california/) or [alabama/](http://www.fvap.gov/alabama/).

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Corporal Zachary Spicher, a squad leader with Company A, 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division prepares to fire the M107 .50 Caliber Special Application Scoped Rifle at a designated target on a range at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., April 23. The weapon is close to 30 pounds and nearly 60 inches in total length.

2nd LAR Marines get smart on .50 M107

BY LANCE CPL KRISTA JAMES
2nd Marine Division

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – Marines with Alpha, Bravo and Delta Companies, 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division trained on the M107 .50 Caliber Special Application Scoped Rifle, or SASR, at a range on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., April 21-23.

The rifle, which weighs nearly 30 pounds and is nearly 60 inches long, is designed to give commanders the tactical option of taking out a strategic target from a set distance while minimizing collateral damage.

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 it's a very important class, especially for the Marines that don't know a lot about trying to get their distances. Tong claims that this specific class will better 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.



Marines with 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion train with the M107 .50 Caliber Special Application Scoped Rifle. The training lasted three days in which designated Marines learned to safely, efficiently and effectively employ the SASR. Along with practical application of the weapon, the Marines also received two days of classroom time to learn the basics on the weapon system.

CHEVRON

ESTABLISHED 1942

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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

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Co. L overcomes fears to conquer Confidence Course



Recruit Vince J. Todacheenie, Platoon 3247, Company L, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., climbs across the Monkey Bridge obstacle during the Confidence Course aboard the depot, April 22. The Confidence Course consists of obstacles such as the Stairway to Heaven, Tough One and Slide for Life that requires confidence to overcome.



Recruit Elijah Rowland, Platoon 3245, rolls himself over a log on the Weaver, an obstacle on the depot's Confidence Course that requires Marines go over one log and under the next. Recruits negotiate the confidence course three times while in recruit training.



Recruits Logan Tompkins (right) and Dillon Baker, both of Platoon 3247, climb over an obstacle while running the depot's Confidence Course. The course tests recruits on strength and endurance while teaching them to overcome their fears.

STORY & PHOTOS BY
CPL. TYLER VIGLIONE
Chevron staff

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.

"Most of the obstacles are hard and challenge the re-

cruits," 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 25-year-old Cobb. "Whether they are afraid of heights, they're tired, or think they do not have the strength, it's all about the technique."

Obstacles in 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.

After the demonstration, recruits were divided up into

groups and assigned a drill instructor who would take them through the course.

Drill instructors sprinted with the recruits to each obstacle and as the recruits were waiting for their turn, they had to perform techniques from the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

"They are still new to MC-MAP," said Cobb. "This is where the remediation comes in and they get the practice for their MCMAP test that comes up in Third Phase."

According to Recruit Matthew S. Johnston, Plt. 3243, the remediation and running was what made the course difficult.

"The obstacles were tough enough mentally," said Johnston, a native of Abilene, Texas. "The constant moving made my whole body even more tired."

One of the toughest obstacles for recruits was the Stairway to Heaven, according to Johnston. It was a 30-foot tall ladder-like structure, which recruits had to climb. As they went up each step, the gaps became wider making progress more difficult.

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 half way 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.



Recruit John Martinez, Platoon 3241, jumps through the rope swing obstacle. During the Confidence Course each platoon was split into groups to run through the course with an assigned drill instructor.



Company L recruits buddy drag each other across the depot's Confidence Course April 22. While waiting for their turn on the obstacles, recruits had to execute various Marine Corps Martial Arts techniques.

Grandfather, friend inspire Chicago native to join Corps

STORY & PHOTOS BY
CPL. TYLER VIGLIONE
Chevron staff

Private Bakari A. Lindsey-Khalis, Platoon 1015, Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, had a different type of motivation to join the Corps than most.

"My grandfather, James M. Lindsey, served in the Marine Corps, and I wanted to follow his footsteps," said Lindsey-Khalis. "He was a Montfort Point Marine."

In 1942, President Roosevelt established a presidential directive allowing African Americans to serve in the Marine Corps, although they were still not allowed to train with their white counterparts. While their brothers in arms participated in recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., or MCRD Parris Island, S.C., these new recruits took part in recruit training at Montfort Point, N.C.

"My grandfather was my biggest motivation," said Lindsey-Khalis. "He would always tell me stories, and I knew how big of a part of history he was."

Although he only spent a small amount of time with his grandfather prior to recruit training, the influence from him was pivotal in developing his admiration for the Corps.

"I learned to respect the Marine Corps from my grandfather," said Lindsey-Khalis, who wanted to join not only because of him, but other obstacles that laid in his path as well.

Lindsey-Khalis, a Chicago native, was under the care of his sister until his first year in high school.

Lindsey-Khalis explained his tough childhood contributed to his motivation to achieve his dream of becoming a Marine.

"My parents weren't really around much," said Lindsey-Khalis. "I have two siblings, my brother and my sister. They are both older than me, but my brother wasn't around much so



Pvt. Bakari Lindsey-Khalis, Platoon 1015, Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, crawls 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.

my sister filled that mother roll that I didn't have."

Lindsey-Khalis graduated from Chicago's Thornton Township High School in 2010, and shortly after he graduated, he suffered the loss of a close friend who wanted nothing more than to become a Marine.

"He always talked about the Marine Corps; he always wore clothes with something about the Corps on it," said 22-year-old Lindsey-Khalis. "I wanted to join not only in his honor, but also because it was my dream as well."

A year after his friends' death, Lindsey-Khalis decided to meet with a Marine Corps recruiter.

"I had gained a lot of weight

after the death of my friend," he said. "I was 6' 5" and weighed in at 315 pounds. The recruiter told me that I was too heavy for them even to work with me and told me to lose the weight before I came back."

At this point, Lindsey-Khalis opted to enroll at South Suburban College in Chicago.

After his first year, his mom suffered a heart attack and he was forced to drop out and work three jobs to provide financial support to his family.

"After my mother recovered from her heart attack, she became disabled," said Lindsey-Khalis. "Social security can only provide so much."

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, I pushed."

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 meritoriously 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 Yuma, Ariz., 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 later on 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 sergeant and tasked with training and creating the standard operating procedures for the finance office for the separation of Marines in Okinawa, Japan.

In January 1994, Mack reported to Marine Corps Base Hawaii and was selected as NCO of the Quarter and was assigned as the battalion career planner and color sergeant. In April 1997, he was promoted to staff sergeant and returned to HQ Co., H&S Battalion, MCRD San Diego, for duty as the pay SNCOIC of the finance office.

In June of 1999, Mack reported to Drill Instructor School, and following graduation, he was assigned to Bravo Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion MCRD, San Diego, Calif.

Mack held the billet of drill

instructor, senior drill instructor, chief drill instructor, operations chief and operations officer. He was selected by his peers to be the recipient of the Dan Daly Leadership Award, Gunnery Sergeant Nichols 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 manpower 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 & RA Division.

In May 2004, Mack was transferred to Officer Candidates' School where he served as a platoon sergeant and received the Best Drill Instructor of the Cycle Award. During August 2004 Mack attended

the Staff Non-Commissioned Officer Advanced 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 frocked 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 Miramar, Calif., in April 2009.

In May 2011, Mack reported for duty as the recruiting station 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, Iraqi Campaign, Afghanistan Campaign, NATO ISAF Afghanistan, and the Drill Instructor ribbon.





Platoon 1015
COMPANY HONOR MAN
Lance Cpl. J. D. Laughlin
Brentwood, Calif.
Recruited by
Sgt. J. Pinder

Platoon 1010
SERIES HONOR MAN
Pfc. A. C. Gaston
Mesquite, Texas
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. L. Celestino

Platoon 1009
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. R. F. Lusk
Oceanside, Calif.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. B. Griffin

Platoon 1011
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. R. A. Boardman
Wichita, Kansas
Recruited by
Sgt. H. Avila

Platoon 1013
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. B. W. Bella-Flores
Palmdale, Calif.
Recruited by
Sgt. R. Vandenburg

Platoon 1014
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. E. N. Lopez
San Antonio, Texas
Recruited by
Sgt. J. Garcia Jr.

Platoon 1010
HIGH SHOOTER (341)
Pfc. B. R. Duis
Sacramento, Calif.
Marksman Instructor
Sgt. S. Devon

Platoon 1015
HIGH PFT (300)
Pfc. V. E. McGinn
Norco, Calif.
Recruited by
Sgt. J. Pinder



ALPHA COMPANY

1st RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION



Commanding Officer
Sergeant Major
Battalion Drill Master

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

COMPANY A Commanding Officer Capt. E. S. Dmohowski Company First Sergeant 1st Sgt. J. A. Hoversten	SERIES 1009 Series Commander Capt. B. J. Rather Chief Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. F. Madrigal	PLATOON 1009 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. J. A. Delgado Jr. Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. C. L. Doyon Staff Sgt. J. J. Gutierrez Staff Sgt. J. J. Leopold Sgt. L. Andavazo	PLATOON 1010 Senior Drill Instructor Sgt. J. L. Walker Drill instructors Sgt. P. Alejo Sgt. M. A. Berryhill Sgt. R. C. Hernandez	PLATOON 1011 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. R. E. Martinez Drill instructors Sgt. B. E. Aleman Sgt. N.P. Chavez Sgt. G. A. Dolgner Sgt. D. Hanley
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* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

PLATOON 1009
 Pvt. A. Adame-Avila
 Pfc. C. J. Anderson
 Pfc. L. G. Bader
 Pvt. G. O. Castro
 Pfc. A. P. Coker
 Pfc. E. D. Davis
 Pfc. N. A. Emberland
 Pvt. A. P. Feige
 *Pfc. S. Flores
 Pfc. B. M. Goff
 Pvt. S. A. Herrera
 Pvt. W. J. Hoover
 Pfc. M. R. Krupa
 Pfc. R. F. Lusk
 Pfc. M. A. Mapes
 Pvt. M. C. Nahmensen
 Pvt. M. R. Nees
 Pfc. C. Nelson
 Pvt. S. Olea
 Pvt. E. E. Olivares
 Pfc. M. S. Reeves
 Pvt. K. A. Richardson
 *Pfc. J. J. Rios-Jimenez
 Pfc. A. Robinson
 Pvt. R. J. Rodriguez
 Pvt. A. Rodriguez-Maldonado
 Pfc. V. P. Rogers
 Pvt. D. R. Romero
 Pvt. A. S. Sage
 Pfc. T. D. Sanford
 Pfc. E. M. Sather
 Pvt. A. T. Schales
 Pvt. Y. Serrano
 *Pfc. J. D. Shalmy
 Pvt. P. G. Sidwell
 Pvt. J. T. Smith
 Pfc. D. J. Spohn
 Pvt. S. Suth
 Pfc. J. C. Tapia
 Pvt. F. J. Torres
 Pfc. M. A. Velasco
 Pvt. H. D. Velasquez
 Pvt. H. S. Velazquez
 Pfc. M. A. Victorino
 Pfc. J. K. Washington
 Pvt. Z. M. Wheeler
 Pvt. S. T. White
 Pvt. R. T. Williams
 Pvt. V. G. Wilson
 Pvt. A. L. Winkles
 Pvt. E. A. York

Pfc. C. L. Baca
 Pvt. S. Ballas
 Pfc. S. A. Barnes
 Pvt. B. Barrett
 Pfc. G. Z. Baumgartner
 Pfc. P. J. Breuer
 Pfc. C. D. Burton
 Pfc. D. W. Campbell
 Pvt. J. L. Carlson
 Pvt. W. S. Carter Jr.
 Pvt. F. J. Cassella
 Pfc. W. E. Castle
 Pvt. J. T. Chapman
 Pvt. T. D. Cheek
 *Pfc. D. W. Cockrell Jr.
 Pvt. M. L. Conner
 Pvt. A. Covarrubias
 *Pfc. J. R. DeLeon
 Pfc. C. Desangles
 Pfc. B. R. Duis
 Pvt. J. N. Edwards
 Pfc. G. A. Emery
 Pfc. E. V. Fajardo
 Pvt. G. P. Forrester
 Pvt. M. A. Garcia Jr.
 Pfc. M. P. Garcia
 Pfc. A. C. Gaston
 Pvt. R. C. Gonzalez
 Pvt. R. D. Green
 Pvt. W. P. Hale
 Pvt. J. T. Helle
 Pvt. D. A. Henley
 Pvt. E. Hernandez
 Pfc. D. M. Herschap
 Pvt. D. G. Humphrey
 Pvt. T. R. Hutchinson
 Pvt. T. P. Jackson
 Pfc. S. Khakurel
 *Pfc. Z. C. Klein
 Pvt. A. B. Krause
 Pvt. M. H. Kunsman
 Pfc. T. M. Kupper
 Pvt. K. R. Lafavers
 Pvt. A. P. Lejeune
 *Pfc. J. J. Lenzy
 Pvt. C. A. Logan
 Pfc. S. M. Lohndorf
 Pvt. A. Z. Safley

PLATOON 1011
 Pfc. C. R. Alford
 Pfc. G. A. Applewhite
 Pvt. M. A. Bailey
 Pvt. B. M. Baker
 Pvt. R. L. Baker
 Pfc. K. K. Baldwin
 Pvt. G. Banos
 Pvt. E. Barreno

Pvt. C. B. Bates
 Pvt. S. P. Baum
 Pfc. D. R. Beaman
 Pfc. H. T. Benaïd
 *Pfc. S. M. Bent
 Pfc. R. A. Boardman
 Pvt. M. W. Bogausch
 Pfc. J. S. Bowden
 Pfc. J. G. Bowles
 Pvt. T. N. Capoeman
 Pvt. D. K. Caraveo
 Pfc. D. A. Carmody
 Pvt. S. D. Castaneda
 Pfc. E. S. Choi
 Pfc. S. A. Cole
 Pvt. T. A. Collins
 Pvt. R. H. Corona-Alonso
 Pfc. D. K. Covington
 Pvt. J. T. Crosby
 *Pfc. J. M. Cruz
 Pvt. A. P. Curci
 Pvt. J. T. Custer
 Pvt. B. S. Deangelo
 Pvt. C. W. Dehining
 Pfc. R. S. Downs
 Pvt. C. D. Fitcher
 *Pfc. C. M. Frost
 Pfc. R. D. Funk
 Pvt. T. A. Galvan
 Pvt. M. L. Gamino
 Pfc. S. V. Garcia Jr.
 Pvt. M. L. Girodano
 Pvt. D. G. Gomez
 Pvt. A. A. Hefley
 Pvt. G. Hernandez Jr.
 Pvt. J. G. Hundley
 Pvt. L. E. Huston
 Pfc. J. D. Johnson
 Pvt. S. D. Johnson
 Pvt. K. T. Kelly
 Pvt. R. Maldonado Jr.
 Pvt. K. Thao

PLATOON 1013
 Pvt. B. Alvarado
 Pvt. R. L. Amburgy
 Pfc. M. D. Ball
 *Pfc. B. W. Bella-Flores
 Pvt. M. B. Briner
 Pvt. S. Cortes
 *Pfc. E. Diaz-Salazar
 Pvt. W. B. Ellis
 Pvt. J. A. Espinoza
 Pfc. V. L. Fratianne
 *Pfc. A. M. Gall
 Pvt. E. A. Graber
 Pfc. D. N. Granirer
 Pvt. T. S. Graves

Pvt. J. D. Green
 Pfc. D. T. Ha
 Pfc. C. Ham
 Pvt. S. Hang
 Pfc. M. C. Hendrickson
 Pvt. J. A. Hercules
 Pvt. J. A. Hilary
 Pvt. Z. T. Hunter
 Pvt. J. S. Johnson
 Pvt. M. J. Khan
 Pfc. B. H. Koo
 Pvt. B. T. Mates
 Pvt. I. A. Mendoza
 Pvt. T. D. Moran
 Pfc. N. J. Neale
 Pfc. C. E. Nelson
 Pvt. J. R. Nelson
 Pvt. E. D. Nicholson
 Pvt. S. G. O'Dell
 Pvt. K. Olmos
 Pvt. E. Orellana
 Pfc. C. J. Osborne
 Pfc. J. R. Oshima
 Pvt. C. K. Pena
 Pfc. M. J. Pestano
 Pfc. J. E. Pinnow
 Pvt. A. D. Popham
 Pfc. S. W. Pratt
 Pfc. J. J. Rath
 Pvt. R. Rodriguez
 Pvt. S. A. Rokes
 Pvt. A. A. Royse
 Pfc. J. Tenorio
 Pvt. M. Uribe
 Pvt. X. Vang
 Pvt. V. E. Vasquez

PLATOON 1014
 Pvt. D. E. Del Medico Jr.
 Pvt. A. R. Lopez
 Pvt. C. Lopez
 *Pfc. E. N. Lopez
 Pvt. O. E. Lopez
 Pvt. K. L. Lugo
 Pvt. C. L. Mahaffey
 Pvt. S. A. Maldonado
 Pvt. J. McCornell
 Pvt. A. M. Medina
 Pfc. R. Mendez
 Pvt. A. R. Miller
 Pfc. R. Montes-DeOca Jr.
 *Pfc. T. W. Moore
 Pvt. D. S. Morgan
 Pvt. F. D. Murray
 Pfc. D. L. Nabb
 Pvt. J. C. Nasworthy
 Pfc. Z. G. Nix
 Pvt. N. W. Nuebel

Pfc. E. R. Ojeda-Garcia
 Pvt. C. D. Olguin
 Pfc. J. Ortiz-Mercado
 Pfc. T. D. Parker
 Pvt. K. J. Parys
 Pvt. Z. J. Pawley
 Pvt. J. K. Philachanh
 Pvt. A. J. Plasky
 Pvt. J. D. Rahn
 Pvt. S. D. Randle Jr.
 Pvt. J. H. Reina
 Pfc. L. Reyes Jr.
 Pfc. I. Ruiz-Rodriguez
 Pvt. B. D. Samuel
 Pvt. J. R. Scarborough
 Pfc. S. L. Settle
 Pfc. T. M. Sharkus
 Pvt. I. A. Skeel
 *Pfc. J. D. Smith
 Pvt. R. J. Spena
 Pvt. T. D. Stewart
 Pfc. A. M. Stine
 Pfc. L. C. St. John
 Pvt. N. T. Trabucco
 Pvt. D. S. Vannette
 Pvt. D. J. Walters
 Pfc. J. D. Watkins
 Pfc. H. L. Weishahn
 Pfc. K. E. Wirth II
 Pvt. D. D. Witte

PLATOON 1015
 Pvt. B. C. Binder
 Pfc. P. A. Briones
 Pfc. G. A. Capapas
 Pvt. B. M. Carey
 *Pfc. A. J. Culbertson
 Pvt. A. W. Finnegan
 Pvt. M. Garciabustos Jr.
 Pfc. N. N. Hollinger
 Pvt. A. W. Kessler
 Pvt. K. R. Kilcrease
 Pvt. B. A. Klein
 Pvt. D. A. Lair
 *Lance Cpl. J. D. Laughlin
 Pvt. S. L. Leitheiser
 Pvt. R. A. Lewis
 Pvt. B. A. Lindseykhalis
 Pfc. E. A. Literati
 Pfc. R. A. Luna Jr.
 Pfc. J. R. Martin
 Pfc. M. P. Mattena
 Pvt. M. A. Maxwell
 Pfc. J. E. McBride
 Pvt. Z. P. McClanahan
 Pvt. J. K. McCray
 Pvt. C. J. McCullough
 Pfc. V. E. McGinn

Pvt. C. J. McLaughlin
 Pvt. J. J. Mendiola III
 Pvt. M. R. Mezzacapo
 Pvt. M. A. Miranda
 Pvt. M. D. Moon
 Pfc. E. Moreno
 Pvt. C. D. Moss
 Pvt. R. C. Moyer
 Pvt. B. T. Murdock
 Pvt. M. J. Musick
 Pfc. R. M. Naidu
 Pfc. J. E. Navarro
 Pvt. A. R. Nguyen
 Pfc. F. Z. Palmer
 *Pfc. C. A. Pilkington
 Pvt. R. G. Rienks III
 Pvt. C. J. Seaman
 Pvt. J. D. Smith
 Pvt. B. M. Sprunger
 Pvt. A. N. Wood
 Pvt. A. M. Woodridge Jr.
 Pvt. A. N. Yanez
 Pvt. K. Yang

“Every Marine a rifleman” begins here

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

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.”



Recruits of Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, MCRDSD, Calif., stand in line after receiving their M16-A4 service rifles during rifle issue aboard the depot, April 21. 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.



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 their rifle issue aboard the depot, April 21. Tremendous responsibility was given to the young men of Co. B the moment they received their weapons.