MCMAP training teaches hand-to-hand combat skills

Recruits of Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, practiced their way through a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program session aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, June 13. The MCMA program is given to build the recruits knowledge of the MCMA techniques and warrior ethos.

According to retired Col. Rodrick Smith, warrior ethos are based on the willingness to subordinate individual thoughts and concerns, including the concern to protect one’s own life, for the good of the group and the mission.

“It’s teamwork at its heart and teamwork in its most complex form. Each MCMA session the recruits receive at recruit training gives them better survival skills if they are ever put in a combat situation,” said Sgt. Mike C. Simonsen, drill instructor, Platoon 3267. “A Marine is a warrior and a gentleman. The recruits learn to be both through MCMA training as they learn warrior ethos.”

Company M learned upper body strikes throughout the MCMA class to prepare them for hand-to-hand combat. Because Marines find themselves in combat environments, it is important that recruits pay close attention to minor details now so they can execute each technique effectively later. As a training requirement, recruits are expected to learn the basics of MCMA during their 12 weeks of recruit training aboard.

Mike Company recruits, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, practice delivering horizontal hammer strikes into a pad held by a sparring partner during Marine Corps Martial Arts Program training aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, June 13. Recruits are expected to learn the basics of MCMA during their 12 weeks of recruit training aboard.

Two Delta Company recruits knock their opponent off the platform during a pugil sticks match June 12. Pugil Sticks are a requirement for recruit training that helps develop confidence.

The matches ended when either the single fighter was knocked off the fighting platform, they received a blow to the head or if he knocked both opponents off the platform.

Although the recruits donned protected equipment such as a helmet, mouth piece and groin protector, there was nothing to protect them from the gut wrenching feeling before a fight.

Even though recruits were paired by weight, occasionally a smaller recruit was matched against much larger recruits. As Recruit Horacio J. Sotelo, Platoon 1065, awaited his turn, he couldn’t help but notice his opponents were much taller than him.

“I have butterflies in my stomach because it worries me that they’re bigger. But it doesn’t bother me too much because I see it as just another challenge,” said Sotelo, a De Queen, Ark., native. “I might be able to catch them by surprise. They are taller and will recruit training, they will be able to work toward attaining a higher
Memory to ensure recruits can conduct each move proficiently.

"In combat, Marines don’t always have a lot of time to think about a situation so they have to be able to react within seconds. That is where countless repetitions from practice come in to place," said Recruit Zaine S. Wilcox, Platoon 3267. "The drill instructors make us keep pushing through each repetition even though we are exhausted because in a real life situation, it’s a matter of life or death."

Before leaving the class, Sgt. Joseph A. Kimmel, Marine Corps Martial Arts Program Instructor, made sure the recruits felt comfortable with the MCMA techniques and knew how it could effectively help them in a needed situation.

"If the situation occurred, I want to feel confident utilizing the MCMA techniques to save my life or save the life of a fellow Marine," said Wilcox, a Caldwell, Idaho, native.

Company M is currently on week two and has several weeks and MCMA sessions to go before earning their tan belts and earning the title Marine.

MCMA #1
belt with follow-on training in the Fleet Marine Force.

"We teach the basics here so they can build off of what they will already know in the fleet," said Simonsen, a Bozeman, Montana native. "This is their second session of MCMA training, and they will receive a lot more training toward earning their tan belts."

Executing numerous repetitions of each move not only worked on their combat conditioning, but built muscle

STICKS #1
probably attack high, I’ll attack low.”

Every time a trio of recruits attacked each other the clash could be heard like helmets at a football game. Each matched not only produced intensity and force, but it also developed a valuable confidence in each recruit.

Sgt. John D. Weltzin, drill instructor, Platoon 1065, explained he believes pugil sticks are a confidence builder for recruits because he remembers the event instilling confidence in himself as a recruit.

“When I did pugil sticks, I was a real timid person. But, I gained confidence from it, and the next time we did it I was ready," said Weltzin. "I won my next fight."

Weltzin explained one bout of pugil sticks doesn’t cure being timid or fix a lack of confidence, but in conjunction with the rest of recruit training, it helps build a stronger person.

"Some recruits are born fighters, they see an opponent and are ready," said Weltzin. "Some recruits are timid, we (drill instructors) focus a little more on the timid ones and try and get them there, too."

Soto agreed with Weltzin and said he’s glad recruits participate in pugil stick matches.

"It takes away a little fear and instills a little confidence, but I wouldn’t recommend it for the elderly," said Soto with a grin.

TAILORS #1
utility uniforms to have name tapes sewn on, something they are not allowed to have until week eight. Each recruit also received a set of dress uniforms that were tailored to fit them.

According to Swann, being able to put on the uniform and get it to fit gave him a confidence and psychological boost to push on and complete the rest of recruit training.

"Putting on the uniform makes me proudly that I have accomplished everything to make it to this point in training," said

Mike Company recruits execute the horizontal hammer strike during a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program session. Company M learned upper body strikes throughout the MCMA class, which prepares them for hand-to-hand combat.

Recruit Horacio J. Soto, Platoon 1065, dons his helmet in preparation for a pugil sticks match.

A trip to Vegas
The Single Marine Program is sponsoring a trip to Las Vegas July 2-5.

Participants will travel in two 12-passenger vans and stay at the Quad Hotel across the strip from Caesar’s Palace. Cost is $85 for travel and lodging. Each person will cover food and entertainment expenses out of pocket.

There are only 20 places available and participants must be 21 or older. Reservations are required on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information or to sign up, contact Kelley Sitar at (619) 524-5655, or via e-mail at attark@usmc-mccs.org.

MCRD chapel closure
The chapel is closed for renovations until July 25.

During the project Sunday Lutheran services will join the Protestant service in the Ross Theater auditorium at 8:30 a.m. Catholic Mass will be held in the Bride Room next to the Chapel on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 11:45 a.m.

For information contact Anna Torres, administrative assistant for Religious Ministries at (619) 524-8820.

Nate Smith Scholarship applications
The MCRD Museum Foundation is taking applications for the Colonel Nate Smith Memorial Scholarship program through July 8.

Three $1,000 scholarships will be awarded during July. Applicants must be enlisted Marines, sailors or their dependents, and assigned to MCRD/ WSR San Diego.

Application forms and eligibility details may be found at www.mcrd- mhs.org. The forms are also available at the Foundation’s office in Building 26, at the MCRD Command Museum. For more information, contact Lynn Stuart at (619) 524-4426.

Send briefs to:
rdsl_pao@usmc.mil. The Chevron staff reserves the right to publish only those briefs that comply with Department of Defense regulations and the standards of the U.S. Government.

Car Show on the Bay
The depot will sponsor a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program session. Company M learned upper body strikes throughout the MCMA class, which prepares them for hand-to-hand combat.

The depot will sponsor a Car Show on the Bay June 22, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m., at the new waterfront location on Bay View Street.

There will be live entertainment, door prizes, awards, food and activities.

For more information call (619) 725-6484. Or call (619) 524-5728/5738/5301, or contact Per- linha Rodrigues via e-mail at perlinha.rodriguez@usmc.mil, or visit www.mccsmdc.com.

Freedom Run
The depot will sponsor a 5K Freedom Run/Mile Walk on June 27, starting from the Bay View Marina at 1 p.m.

Depot Summer Concert
Marine Band San Diego will perform at the annual Depot Summer Concert June 6 at 4 p.m.

The concert will be held at Pendleton Hall on the Commanding General’s Honors Lawn.

Bring lawn chairs or blankets and spend a memorable afternoon filled with great music. The concert will feature selections from the band’s varied repertoire of traditional classics, patriotic marches and newer favorites.

The concert is free and open to the public.

BRIEFS

Mike Company recruits execute the horizontal hammer strike during a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program session. Company M learned upper body strikes throughout the MCMA class, which prepares them for hand-to-hand combat.

Recurring Horacio J. Soto, Platoon 1065, dons his helmet in preparation for a pugil sticks match.
Agile Spirit 14 is an annually-scheduled multilateral engagement hosted by Georgia that began in 2011 in order to strengthen the two countries by conducting brigade and battalion-level training engagements, to include small-unit interaction between the Marines and Georgians that demonstrates their commitments toward collective, global security.

Lance Cpl. Kyle McNicholas, an infantryman with Black Sea Rotational Force 14 from 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, fires an AT-4 light anti-armor weapon during exercise Agile Spirit aboard Vaziani Training Area, Georgia, June 11, 2014. Agile Spirit 14 is an annually-scheduled multilateral engagement hosted by Georgia that began in 2011 in order to strengthen the two countries by conducting brigade and battalion-level training engagements, to include small-unit interaction between the Marines and Georgians that demonstrates their commitments toward collective, global security.

Marines and sailors, Georgians conclude live-fire portion of Agile Spirit

Lance Cpl. Aaron Keene, Black Sea Rotational Force, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, fires an M-249 light machine gun during a course of fire that also included the M-4 service rifle and the M-2 .50 caliber heavy machine gun during exercise Agile Spirit 14.

Gunnery Sgt. Matthew J. Richey, Black Sea Rotational Force 14, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, explains the components and functionality of the AT-4 light anti-armor weapon to Georgian soldiers during a live-fire exercise. This fourth iteration of the Agile Spirit exercise will run until June 21.
Although no form of training can completely replicate the strains of combat, there are some exercises that can come close.

Recruits of Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, finished their first combat fitness test at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, June 11. The Combat Fitness Test includes a 880-yard run, ammunition-can lifts and a maneuver under fire.

The CFT is a 300-point physical fitness test with an emphasis on functional fitness related to operational demands such as combat. The 880-yard run kicks off the beginning of the CFT, the ammunition-can lifts are the second exercise and the maneuver-under-fire concludes the CFT. All stages of the CFT are conducted in boots and camouflage utilities.

“My calf is killing me, and I’m pretty sure I pulled it,” said Butler, Platoon 2163, a Show Low, Ariz., native. “But I just visualize my wife and son waiting for me at the end of the exercise, and it gets me to perform better.”

Recruit Hunter D. Buley, Platoon 2162, said his goal for the exercise was to get a perfect score. Each event is worth 100 points for a total of 300.

“To get a perfect score would give me a sense of pride because it takes a lot to accomplish that,” said Buley. “If you push yourself, it’s very difficult and even if you don’t, the CFT is still difficult.”

Although neither Butler nor Butler received a perfect score, they both explained it’s not a failure but rather a new goal to work toward.

“I’m going to continue work out and get stronger,” said Buley. “Every CFT after this my score will get better.”

Recruits complete first CFT:

Hotel Company recruits, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, begin their 880-yard run during the Combat Fitness Test at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, June 11. The recruits were told the requirements and techniques for each section of the CFT before they started the test.

Hotel Company recruit Hunter D. Buley, Platoon 2162, waits for the command to start the maneuver-under-fire portion of the Combat Fitness Test. Partners for the event must weigh within 10 pounds of each other. Butler comes from Show Low, Ariz.

Hotel Company recruit Josue Torres, Platoon 2167, conducts ammunition-can lifts during the Combat Fitness Test. Torres is a Santa Maria, Calif., native.

Hotel Company recruit Tristan B. Butler, Platoon 2163, conducts a fireman’s carry during the Combat Fitness Test. Partners for the event must weigh within 10 pounds of each other. Butler comes from Show Low, Ariz.

Hotel Company recruit Hunter D. Buley, Platoon 2162, waits for the command to start the maneuver-under-fire portion of the Combat Fitness Test. The maneuver-under-fire exercise in the last exercise conducted in the CFT. Buley is a Harrah, Okla., native.
Haiti native becomes a U.S. citizen and U.S. Marine

Story & Photo by Lance Cpl. Jericho W. Cameron
Chevron staff

For centuries the U.S. has been a melting pot for people of all races, colors and religions who are searching for better opportunities for themselves and their families. For one new Marine, America offered much more than the hope of opportunity. The Marine Corps gave him the brotherhood for which he’d been searching, and the country offered him citizenship.

Pvt. Jean G. Volcy, Platoon 3243, Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, participated in a ceremony yesterday, and was naturalized as a new citizen of the United States. Today he and his Lima Company brothers graduate from recruit training as U.S. Marines.

Volcy’s recruitment was born and raised in Haiti. While he enjoyed living there, Haiti suffers from deforestation, which causes frequent, massive flooding, leaving the country lacking in natural resources.

“It’s a tropical environment, and I like that, but resources are very limited there,” said Volcy. “Water would only come to us a few days out of the week, so we would store as much as we could in jugs or anything else that would hold water.”

He learned great discipline at an early age. He believes that is something that developed when he started catechism school.

“I’ve always been drawn to things that take great discipline to get through, and I knew by attending a catholic school I would have to stay very disciplined due to the strictness,” said the native of Port-au-Prince. “I think the discipline the Marine Corps displays is ultimately what sealed my decision to join.”

His discipline was reinforced by his parents, who he said are hard workers, who always made sure he and his siblings had everything they needed.

“My mother has always been disciplined, even when it comes to her job. She has worked at a bank for 30 years,” said 25-year-old Volcy. “My father is an accountant and received his education in New York City, while my mother attended school in Haiti.”

By the time Volcy turned 15, the political environment of Haiti was a hotbed of corruption and safety was a major concern for many families. His parents made the difficult decision to have him and his younger sister move to America to live with his older brother, a member of the United States Air Force.

“Haiti became politically unstable and kidnappings were starting to occur very often,” said Volcy. “My mother feared something would happen to me and my sister if we stayed in Haiti, which is why she sent us to live with my brother in America.”

The children began school in Fayetteville, N.C., where Volcy participated in sports such as soccer and track. He was interested in anything that took a great amount of discipline.

The three siblings lived in North Carolina for a year, and then moved to San Antonio, Texas when his brother became an Air Force instructor at Lackland Air Force Base.

“My brother took me to work with him a couple of times when he became an instructor, and it was cool to see how they trained their recruits to become airmen,” said Volcy.

The high school senior knew he wanted to join the military, but did not take the step right away, choosing to further his education instead.

At first I wanted to go to college. I couldn’t get the financial aid I needed to help pay for it, so I just got a job and went to work,” said Volcy. “After years, I decided I was tired of doing the same thing. I felt like it was my calling to join the Marine Corps, so I talked to the recruiter, and he told me about the amount of discipline it would take and the brotherhood the Marine Corps offers.”

Volcy explained he is a man who is committed to his family and the Marine Corps reinforces that trait.

“My recruiter told me if I was looking for brotherhood and discipline, then I was joining the right branch of military,” said Volcy. “Honor, courage and commitment are things I really cherish close to my heart.”

Now that Volcy has graduated recruit training, he will attend four weeks of Marine Combat Training at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., for further training. Once that is completed, he will continue to follow-on training to learn his marine occupational specialty as a motor transportation operator.

Volcy has his future goals set high. Upon completion of his four years as an enlisted Marine, he would like to attend the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., to become an officer and Marine Corps leader. He has aspirations of making the Corps a career.

Lt. Gen. Terry G. Robling

Parade Reviewing Officer


Robling entered the Marine Corps in 1976 after graduating from Central Washington University with a degree in business administration. Following graduation from the Basic School in April 1977, he began flight training and earned his wings in November 1978.

Upon completion of F-4 Phantom transition training at MCAS Yuma, Ariz., he reported to MCAS Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, and joined the “Lancers” at Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 212. As a “Lancer,” Robling attended the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., where he earned his B.S. in business administration in December 1990, and participated in two Western Pacific (WestPac) deployments before being reassigned to MCAS Kaneohe Bay for duty with VMFA-212. Although he held assignments as the assistant operations officer and aircraft maintenance officer, completed two more WestPac deployments and attended Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course.

In June 1987, Robling reported to Headquarters Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., where he served as aviation programs officer for the Deputy Chief of Staff for Aviation. During this tour, he was one of 24 officers selected for training on the F/A-18 Hornet in the first “Delta” transition board. In August 1989, he reported to Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron (VMAT) 101 at MCAS El Toro for F/A-18 Hornet transition training. When he completed training, Robling remained with the “Sharpshooters” as the aircraft maintenance officer as well as a pilot and weapons systems officer instructor.


In January 2003, Robling deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was one of 133 Marine Aircraft Group 11 officers and memorialized personnel of the group.

In July 2004, Robling reported to the National War College where he earned a Master of Science Degree in National Security Strategy. Following graduation, he reported to the chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, D.C. for duty as the assistant operations officer, Central Command Division of the Joint Operations Department.

In August 1998, Robling was selected for a foreign affairs fellowship, and attended Johns Hopkins University at the School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C. Upon completion of the fellowship, he was reassigned to the Director of Expeditionary Warfare, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, as the resource and requirements officer for unmanned aerial vehicles.


In January 2003, Robling deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was reassigned from USMC Miramar, Calif., to his previous command.

In July 2004, Robling assumed duty as chief of staff, Strike and Support Forces NATO, in Naples, Italy.

In July 2006, Robling was assigned to serve as the director, Strategy and Plans Division in Plans, Policy and Operations, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps.

In July 2007, Robling assumed command of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, where he served until August of 2009.

In September 2009, he assumed command of the III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Bases Japan until he transferred to Headquarters Marine Corps in January 2011, as Deputy Commandant for Aviation.

Robling took command of Marine Forces Pacific in August 2012.
**COMPANY L**

**Commanding Officer**
Capt. D. J. Eckerly
Company First Sergeant
Sgt. Maj. G. A. Cruz
Griffith, Ind.

**COMPANY HONOR MAN**
Pfc. D. C. Baker
SERIES HONOR MAN
Pvt. J. M. Atherly

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**PLATOON 3241**

**Series Commander**
Capt. K. D. Antonitis
Chief Drill Instructor

Staff Sgt. P. S. Baughman
Capt. M. A. Clark

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**PLATOON 3242**

**Series Commander**
Capt. D. J. Eckerly

Sgt. J. P. Efland
Sgt. W. A. Rudisill

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**PLATOON 3243**

**Series Commander**
Capt. M. A. Martinez
Chief Drill Instructor

Sgt. J. W. Schulte
Sgt. B. G. Laca

---

**PLATOON 3244**

**Series Commander**
Capt. M. J. Spence

Sgt. Maj. J. D. Ferriss
Sgt. B. J. Johnson

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**PLATOON 3245**

**Series Commander**
Capt. M. A. Martinez
Chief Drill Instructor

Sgt. J. W. Schulte
Sgt. B. G. Laca

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**PLATOON 3246**

**Series Commander**
Capt. D. J. Eckerly

Sgt. J. P. Efland
Sgt. W. A. Rudisill

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**PLATOON 3247**

**Series Commander**
Capt. M. J. Spence

Sgt. Maj. J. D. Ferriss
Sgt. B. J. Johnson

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*Indicates Markerless Promotion*
Nowadays vehicles are a necessity for most people in their daily lives, but repairing them can be very pricey. The Auto Hobby Shop on Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego is here to assist DOD employees and their dependents when it comes to repairing their vehicles at just a fraction of what they would pay a mechanic in town.

For those who have no experience with repairing their own vehicles, the Hobby Shop helps customers and teaches them everything they need to know about what needs to be done to make a repair correctly.

"We have two mechanics who work with us," said Jose O. Garcia, manager, Auto Hobby Shop. "We are all here to help supervise and give information to anybody with a valid military identification card."

The Auto Hobby Shop has four lifts specifically for oil changes, as well as an additional four lifts for repairs such as changing breaks, repairing engines or simply any small fix.

"The shop has a contract with Napa and O’Rilley Automotive Parts that enables us to order parts for the base price with no tax," said Garcia.

The price of parts alone can really add up quickly, but it’s the installation and labor that cost even more. Because everything at the Auto Hobby Shop is independent work, people save the extra labor cost by doing the repairs themselves.

According to Dan Plitt, production, Combat Camera, MCRD San Diego, he prefers it that way.

"I use auto hobby shops multiple times a year," said the 53-year-old Plitt. "I can do a repair that would cost $250 anywhere else for $30."

This was Plitt’s first experience at the depot’s hobby shop, but said he prefers it more than other shops he has been to in the past.

"The people are really helpful," said Plitt, a native of New York, N.Y. "I can take my time and do the work without feeling rushed like I have been in other shops."

While the shop can offer just about every tool or part one would need for motorcycle, car or truck, Garcia thought out of the box when he first took charge of the shop.

"I created a family play area," said the 62-year-old Garcia. "When someone’s wife, girlfriend or child comes in, it can be unsafe for them to be running around the shop. The play area has toys, a television, magazines and more to entertain the families."

The shop is open Wednesday through Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

For more information, contact the Auto Hobby Shop at (619) 524-5240 or visit them online at mccsmcrd.com.

The Auto Hobby Shop will be hosting their annual Car Show on the Bay Sunday. The event is open to the public. There will be door prizes, awards, activities and refreshments.

For more information call (619) 725-6484, or go online at mcrd-sd-carshow.eventbrite.com.