



**Co. G recruits issued M16-A4 service rifle for training**

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“WHERE MARINES ARE MADE”

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## Recruits overcome Crucible challenges

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

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** – After enduring 12 weeks of training, recruits of Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., were given the opportunity to take all of their knowledge and apply it in a small team, with minimal supervision from drill instructors, to overcome the challenges of the Crucible Confidence Course at Edson Range aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 30.

The event is part of the Crucible, a 54-hour endurance test, during which recruits must conquer more than 30 different obstacles while experiencing food and sleep deprivation.

The Crucible Confidence Course has similar challenges found in the depot's course, with some minor variations. Recruits went through the entire series of events wearing full personal protective equipment and carrying their M16-A4 Service Rifles. This greatly increased the difficulty of navigating the events, however the main challenge lied elsewhere.



**Recruits of Company F, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, navigate through the Weaver obstacle during the Crucible Confidence Course at Edson Range at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 30. The Crucible, a 54-hour endurance test in which recruits must conquer more than 30 different obstacles while they experience food and sleep deprivation.**

“This is the first time recruits are able to talk to each other and work as a team,” said Sgt. Brandon M. Whelan, senior drill in-

structor, Platoon 2129. “Their exhaustion and frustration with navigating the obstacles will strain their ability to work effec-

tively in a small unit leadership environment.”

The event proved to be more difficult this time around than

some may have anticipated.

“We're tired already and we

**see CRUCIBLE ▶ 2**

## Co. E fitted for uniforms

STORY & PHOTO BY  
CPL. TYLER VIGLIONE  
*Chevron staff*

Two notable aspects of the Marine Corps are professionalism and appearance. Once recruits graduate and become Marines, they are held to the highest expectations when it comes to how they look.

Recruits of Echo Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, took the first step in that direction when they conducted their first uniform fitting at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Oct. 1.

“This is the first fitting the

recruits get for their uniforms while in recruit training,” said Sgt. Adrian Luminare, senior drill instructor, Platoon 2110. “They will wear these uniforms until they outgrow them or wear them out.”

During their time at recruit training, recruits also turned in some of their Marine Corps Combat Utility uniforms to have name tapes applied. Additionally, each recruit also received a set of dress uniforms that were tailored to fit them.

Training day 43 was not only important for the recruits

**see UNIFORM ▶ 2**



**A Company E recruit is fitted for his new uniform by a depot tailor on Oct. 1.**



**Recruits of Company M, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, carry logs to their next exercise station during the Log Drill event at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Sept. 30. Each group of recruits worked through log exercises such as log push-ups, log squats and side benders.**

## Log drills teach recruits teamwork

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

“It would help if you worked as a team,” yelled a drill instructor circling the recruits. He knew they wanted to quit, but he would not let them.

Recruits of Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, reinforced the importance of teamwork when they conducted log drill exercises at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Sept. 30.

Recruit Nathan G. Polezoes,

Platoon 3270, explained how it was difficult because of the abilities of his teammates, or lack thereof.

“Once we began it was easy,” said Polezoes, a native of Crown Point, Ind. “As time went on, the weaker recruits started giving up, making it harder for the rest of us.”

During the exercise, recruits arranged themselves by height, but it still caused difficulties between them.

Polezoes explained how he tried to motivate his team and push them to keep moving on but

even he was exhausted himself.

Before the event, recruits were ran in full camouflage utilities around the training area. While the event continued, recruits had to walk more quickly between each exercise, which caused more exhaustion on their bodies.

Each group of recruits worked through log exercises such as log push-ups, log squats and side benders.

“I make sure they are doing the exercises correctly as well as giving 100 percent during this

**see LOGS ▶ 2**





Recruits of Company F, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, run with ammunition cans during the Crucible Confidence Course. Recruits who pushed the hardest and fastest were rewarded by being able to move on to the next obstacle. Those who didn't give the maximum effort had to perform the run again.

### CRUCIBLE ◀ 1

only just started," said Recruit Daniel J. Taylor, Plt. 2129. "The sleep and food deprivation makes it harder this time to focus and pay attention to the details."

Recruits were penalized for not paying attention to the details. If recruits did not stay together as a fire-team and execute the obstacles exactly as instructed they had to redo the entire obstacle from the beginning. To make it more difficult

one team member had to act as a simulated casualty, adding an extra layer of difficulty. Recruits who failed to pay attention to details or did not stay together as a fire-team were penalized by having to redo the entire event but with one of their team members as a simulated casualty.

"Struggling through the event together helped us develop teamwork and sense of brotherhood," said Taylor, who was recruited out of Recruiting Substation Fremont, Calif. "We also thought about

all of those who did these events before us and the legacy we're continuing."

With obstacles completed, Co. F stepped off for their next Crucible event. Though already exhausted, they had a plan to finish strong and earn the title.

"The only way we're going to make it is to motivate each other," said Taylor. "We're always going to be hungry or tired over the next couple of days, but if we push through it, soon enough we'll be United States Marines."



Company M recruits perform the side bender exercise during the Log Drill. Each group of recruits worked through log exercises such as log push-ups, log squats and side benders.

### LOGS ◀ 1

event," said Sgt. Alfredo O. Gutierrez, drill instructor, Platoon 3270.

Gutierrez explained how recruits began to argue as they became more tired.

"I tell them to stop arguing and to work as a team," said 31-year old Gutierrez.

Polezoos explained the squats were the

most difficult part of the event because of how tired his legs already were. They made them a lot worse.

Early on in recruit training, recruits are tested on their abilities. Whether it is physical strength, mental strength or their abilities to work with others, the Long Beach, Calif., native explains all three are a large part of being a Marine.

"The Marine Corps as a whole, is a team," said the drill instructor. "Events like this force the recruits to work together and let that one recruit take control and lead."

Although Mike Company has passed log drills, they still have many more team building events before they earn the title Marine and apply the skills they learn here to their careers in the Corps.

### UNIFORM ◀ 1

to receive nicely tailored uniforms, but it also gave them insight and motivation to feel what it's like to wear the uniform.

"They get an image of what they're going to look like in a few weeks," said Luminare, a native of Bucharest, Romania. "The recruits getting fitted for their uniforms is one of the first steps in Phase III of recruit training."

According to Recruit Victor J. Jenkins, Platoon 2111, being able have his uniform tailored gave him a confidence and psychological boost to push on and complete the rest of recruit training.

"We don't all get to wear this uniform," said Jenkins, a native of Cleveland, Texas. "It is motivating because of the pride of wearing the uniform and aspiring to be a Marine. I will push through training knowing that I will look like this if I succeed."

The Marine Corps uniforms date back to the birth of the Corps and distinguish the it from the other branches of service. Some details in the uniforms reflect the proud legacy of Marines who have worn them for the more than two centuries.

"When I first saw Marines, I noticed how well they looked, it was a big reason why I joined," said 18-year-old Jenkins. "I am going to do my best to uphold those traditions and standards for as long as I am in."

The recruits will return the following week to ensure the correct fit and that no additional alterations need to be made.

Although recruits were fitted for their dress uniforms, they are not allowed to wear them until family day and graduation, which isn't until they have earned the title Marine.

"We still have a lot to push through until graduation," said Jenkins. "I know me and my fellow recruits will use this to help us until the end."

## BRIEFS

### Fall Wine Dinner

The depot's Bayview Restaurant has scheduled its annual Fall Wine Dinner for Oct. 17, from 6 to 9 p.m.

The event features products of Napa Valley's Robert Mondavi Winery.

The dinner starts with hors d'oeuvres and a Mondavi Fume Blanc wine; a three-course meal that includes salad with Chardonnay or Pinot Noir wine, entree with Mondavi Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon, and dessert.

Cost for the event is \$55 each for active duty and \$65.00 each for civilians. Reservations and advanced payment is required. For reservations call (619) 725-6388.

For information go to <http://mccsmcrd.com/DiningAndCatering/BayViewRestaurant/BayViewSpecialEvents/index.html>

### Make a Difference Day Walk & Wellness Expo

The depot and Marine Corps Community Services sponsors the annual Make a Difference Day Walk & Wellness Expo Oct. 18.

The event, a day to honor those who have been affected by breast cancer and domestic violence, begins at the Marine Corps Exchange Mall at 9 a.m. Walkers will cover a mile.

There will be food, music, activities and information from community representatives.

For more information contact Kelley Sitar at (619) 524-5655, or via e-mail at [sitark@usmc-mccs.org](mailto:sitark@usmc-mccs.org).

### Fashion Show & Ballgown Giveaway

The annual depot Fashion Show and Ballgown Giveaway will be held Oct. 25 from 1 to 5 p.m. in Building 6E.

At the end of the show, spouses of active duty military are invited to choose one free gown and an accessory. Those wishing to participate must register at <http://mcrd-fashionshow2014.eventbrite.com>.

For those wishing to contribute, gently used ballgown donations are now being accepted at Building 6E.

### Personal financial fitness

The depot's Personal & Professional Development Center is hosting a Brown Bag Lunch Seminar Oct. 22, entitled "Financial Freedom – How to Develop a Roadmap to Financial Success."

Guest speaker at the event is Ms. Jennifer Rodriguez, education and outreach coordinator for Springboard, a nonprofit consumer credit management company.

The seminar will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Personal & Professional Development classroom, Building 14.

The seminar is open to everyone who is interested, but is limited to the first 50 people to register. To register call the reception desk at (619) 524-5728.

Light snacks and drinks will be provided free of charge, and attendees are welcome to bring their own lunch.

For more info contact Michael McIsaac, at (619) 524-1204.

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Lance Cpl. Tyler S. Giguere

Philippine and U.S. Marines launch an assault on their objective using U.S. Marine Amphibious Assault vehicles to provide simulated support and fire during a mechanized assault as part of Amphibious Landing Exercise 15 at Naval Education Training Command, Zambales, Luzon, Philippines, Oct. 5. PHIBLEX is an annual, bilateral training exercise conducted by members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines alongside U.S. Marine and Navy forces focused on strengthening the partnership and relationships between the two nations across a range of military operations including disaster relief and complex expeditionary operations. The U.S. Marines are with Company I, Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade. The Philippine Marines are with 4th Marine Company, Battalion Landing Team - 9.

## Philippine, U.S. Marines complete mechanized assault

STORY COMPILED BY THE  
31ST MARINE EXPEDITIONARY  
UNIT

**NAVAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND, ZAMBALES, LUZON, Philippines** – Philippine and U.S. Marines conducted an amphibious mechanized assault as part of Amphibious Landing Exercise 15 here, Oct. 5.

A section of U.S. Marine Amphibious Assault Vehicles departed from the USS Germantown (LSD-42) to storm the beach. Once on land, Philippine Marines disembarked the U.S. AAVs and maneuvered toward a simulated objective.

“Operating with the Philippine forces and these men, you gain an appreciation for what it takes to maintain peace and what it takes to fight,” said Capt. Braxton H. Mashburn, the company commander of Company I, Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade. “The Philippine Marines are nothing but the best of professionals.”

The exercise included two AV-8B Harrier jets from Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 542 that strafed the beach front with simulated fire. The Philippine and U.S. Marines then split into two integrated groups with U.S. Marine AAVs in support. One group provided supporting by fire while the other group encircled the objective. After the objective was seized, the Marines searched the surrounding area.

The amphibious land-

ing utilized several U.S. Marine AAVs, a company of Philippine Marines and a platoon of U.S. Marines.

“Thank you to the Philippine Marine Corps for executing this bilateral exercise with us and their unbelievable support for the mission,” said 1st Lt. William D. Comiskey, a platoon commander with Company I, BLT 3/5, 31st MEU, 3rd MEB.

U.S. and Philippine Marines had 12 hours to plan and complete the assault. The partner nations utilized the rapid response planning process to prepare for the amphibious operation.

“Overall the whole exercise has gone well,” said Lt. Col. Robert C. Rice, the commanding officer of BLT 3/5, 31st MEU, 3rd MEB. “We have had good integration with the Marines and (our) Philippine counterparts”

The objective was seized in a timely manner and the mission was a success. Approximately 200 Philippine naval recruits and officers, as well as about 30 members of the media witnessed the evolution.

“The Philippine Marines are highly proficient. This is a great team and a great bond we have created here,” said Mashburn. “It is an outstanding opportunity that we have had here working with the Philippine Marine forces and I look forward to doing this again.”

This is the 31st iteration of PHIBLEX, with the goal of building relationships and a stronger bond between American and Philippine militaries.



Staff Sgt. Joseph DiGirolamo

U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Robert C. Rice, commanding officer, Battalion Landing Team 3/5, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, checks communications with Philippine and U.S. Marines during a mechanized assault at Amphibious Landing Exercise 15.



Staff Sgt. Joseph DiGirolamo

Philippine and U.S. Marines loaded in U.S. Marine Amphibious Assault Vehicles hit the beach during a mechanized assault during an amphibious landing exercise at Naval Education and Training Command, Zambales, Luzon, Philippines,

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# Co. A endures O-course once again

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

In many combat situations, Marines face physical and mental fatigue as well as confusion or "fog of war." From the very early stages of recruit training, recruits are pushed through situations where they are uncomfortable, tired and drained, but it is only to prepare them for the future.

Recruits of Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, increased their mental and physical stamina when they completed the Obstacle Course twice at Marine Corps Recruit

Depot San Diego, Oct. 2. During recruit training, each recruit must complete the O-Course, a series of obstacles that includes hurdling over logs and climbing over bars and walls, saving their last bit of energy they had to climb a 24-foot rope at the end.

The course is designed to build confidence in recruit's strength and ability, explained Sgt. Greg A. Dolgner, senior drill instructor, Platoon 1011.

"It's not as easy as it looks," said Dolgner, a native of Mont Belvieu, Texas. "Many challenges that recruits face is their inability to climb the rope after they are tired from

the rest of the course." Since recruits already ran through the course once before, they used their memories to execute each obstacle.

When the event began, those waiting in line ran in place, yelled cadence and clapped their hands to keep themselves warmed up for the course.

"The rope climb at the end was really tough," said Recruit Nicholas A. Dietzler, Plt. 1011. "As much as I tried to use the techniques, my arms were still limp and numb."

This was the second iteration of the course, and the recruits were only expected to climb three quarters of the rope

because following the last obstacle they immediately sprinted to perform the fireman's carry and buddy drags.

"By far the hardest thing to do was the fireman carries and buddy drags at the end," said Dietzler, a native of Green Bay, Wis. "I could barely get up the rope let alone carry another recruit, but I knew what I had to do and why I was in recruit training in the first place. That is what kept me going."

At the end of the course, recruits were fatigued but learned how to push pass their limit.

"Every time they run the course, it will get

easier for them," said 34-year-old Dolgner. "They will be amazed when they see what they can do at the end of recruit training."

This will not be the last time recruits must face the O-Course. They will execute the course three more times during the training cycle, including one time during the Crucible where they will be wearing gear and carrying rifles while conquering each obstacle.

"This course will help us work better under stress," said 28-year-old Dietzler. "When we are in a situation where we are tired, we will know how to persevere and push through it."



Company A recruits climb ropes while running the depot's obstacle course Oct. 2. The rope obstacle is often the most difficult in the event because it is last and takes a lot of effort to complete.



A Company A recruit uses the fireman's carry to move a simulated casualty out of harm's way after completing the depot's obstacle course. After the recruits finished the eight obstacles in the course, they were required to perform the buddy drag and the carry to complete the event.



A Company A recruit performs the buddy drag on a fellow recruit.



A recruit with Company A hurdles over a log jump while running the obstacle course at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., Oct. 2. The hurdle is the first of eight obstacles in the course. Recruits run the course several times during recruit training.



A Company A recruit with 1st Recruit Training Battalion, swings up on an obstacle during the Obstacle Course at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Oct. 2. Recruits will run the course three more times while in recruit training.



Company A recruits climb over a six-foot wall while running the depot's obstacle course. The course has eight obstacles, and the recruits are required to complete each one.



Company A recruits climb down an obstacle while running the Obstacle Course at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Oct. 2.



# Marine conquers family hardship, joins Corps

STORY & PHOTO BY  
SGT. BENJAMIN E. WOODLE  
*Chevron staff*

Pvt. Sean L. Ontiveros, Platoon 2129, Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, overcame family hardships to become a part of the brotherhood in the United States Marine Corps.

Ontiveros was born, and spent the beginning part of his childhood, in El Paso, Texas. His father left when he was five, but he was lucky enough to have his grandfather there to spend a lot of time with him. Over the years Ontiveros grew very close to his grandfather and learned a lot from him.

"My grandfather loved watching the NASCAR and the Game Show Network," said Ontiveros, who was recruited out of Recruiting Sub-Station Tempe, Ariz. "He and I would watch it together for hours. He also loved to bake. We used to bake cookies all the time."

Ontiveros recalled that when he was around the age of 10 or 11, his grandfather passed away from lung cancer. He had lost his best friend and was lost in his emotions.

"It was hard to go back to school and try to concentrate," said Ontiveros. "All I could think about was my grandfather."

His grandfather's death had a huge impact on his life, but the impact also greatly affected his mother. She felt she needed to move to help get over her grief, so Ontiveros, his older sister and mother set off on a new journey.

"My mom didn't want to live in El Paso anymore because it reminded her so much of my grandfather," said Ontiveros. "We ended up moving to Phoenix, Arizona."

With El Paso behind him, Ontiveros moved forward and continued on through middle school and high school. Unfortunately, though, tragedy struck again.

"My sophomore year of high school my mom was injured in a car accident," said Ontiveros. "The accident worsened a previous back injury and caused extensive nerve damage, resulting in her becoming disabled. It was hard to watch

her because she was in pain all the time."

His mom was no longer able to work, and the difficulties became too much for her, which resulted in her decision to move back to El Paso to be with close relatives. Ontiveros, who was going into his senior year of high school, wanted to stay in Phoenix.

"I had been living in Phoenix for so long that it became my home, not El Paso," said Ontiveros. "I had already started talking to recruiters to join the military and just wanted to finish my senior year of school there."

With her mind made up, Ontiveros' mom sold all of her possessions to make the move as simple as possible, including his items as well, even though he decided to stay.

"My mom ended up just selling everything she could, including the majority of my possessions," said Ontiveros. "All I have left fits in a duffle bag and a laundry basket."

Ontiveros lived with an uncle in Phoenix, but halfway through his senior school year was forced to move out. With duffle bag and laundry basket in hand, he had no place to go.

"After I got kicked out I slept in a park," said Ontiveros. "My mom would put \$20 a week into my bank account, and I would use that to buy bus passes to get around town, to church and to recruiter events."

Ontiveros was dealing with his mother's injuries and homelessness, but he was constantly talking to recruiters about joining the military.

"It was all about just graduating high school," said Ontiveros. "Once I had that, I could walk into the recruiters office and say 'I have my diploma, I'm 18, what else do I need to do to join the military?'"

According to Ontiveros, his grandfather had served in the Army, and though he was retired, still maintained his military bearing and discipline. It was what motivated him at a young age to want to join.

"He was very instrumental in me being interested in joining the military," said Ontiveros. "I knew from a young age that I wanted to join; it was always something I was dead



**Pvt. Sean L. Ontiveros, Platoon 2129, Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, provides security during a Crucible event at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 30. Ontiveros endured family hardship and slept in a park before shipping out to recruit training to accomplish his goal of becoming a United States Marine.**

set on."

Ontiveros originally had no interest in joining the Marines, but always saw a recruiter at his school with the pull-up bar station or handing out free stickers, water bottles or lanyards. When he turned 17 years old, the Marine recruiter reached out to him.

"The (Marine) recruiter came over to me and said 'hey man, it's your senior year, what do you want to do,'" said Ontiveros. "Part of me wanted to join the Army because of my grandfather's service there, so I just blew him off."

Ontiveros ran into the recruiter again, but this time was given a unique proposition.

"One day the (Marine) recruiter came to talk to the band that I was in," said Ontiveros. "He said he had a deal for me, that he would go get the Army recruiter in there to talk to me, and then I could decide."

Ontiveros spoke to the Army recruiter and listened to everything he had to say, but something had grown inside of him that wanted to see what the Marine Corps had to offer. He ended up going back to the Marine recruiter to sit down

and talk, and unexpectedly became impressed.

"When I talked to the Marine recruiter he was on point," said Ontiveros. "He asked me 'what does the Marine Corps mean to you?' I thought of them as being the baddest, toughest people in the world. He said that I could do it, all I had to do was just try."

The Marine recruiter invited Ontiveros out to a poolee physical training session and was impressed by how exhausted it had made him.

"After the workout he told me I could do it and that I should," said Ontiveros. "From that point on, I knew I wanted to be a Marine."

Ontiveros had seen and experienced what Marines were like and was eager to become a part of the brotherhood.

"I've never seen a Marine who wasn't proud to be a Marine," said Ontiveros. "It was a cool thing, and they were proud of it. It made me think, 'I could have that, I could be part of something like that.' The way they worked and went about things was motivating. It showed that they knew what they were doing, and I wanted that."

Finally making it to recruit training, Ontiveros had his chance to prove he could be part of the brotherhood.

"Whatever the drill instructors said, we knew he was going to get done and there wasn't going to any pushback," said Sgt. Brandon M. Wheland, senior drill instructor, Plt. 2129. "He was a great recruit and really engaged because this was all he had."

During recruit training, Ontiveros was able to take his hardships and use them as a positive influence on his fellow recruits.

"Other recruits were having a hard time saying they wanted to go home," said Wheland. "He talked to them and motivated them to want to stay in training and push forward; that completing the training was the right thing to do."

Now, with his Eagle, Globe and Anchor in hand, Ontiveros will move on to Marine Combat Training at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. He will then attend his military occupational specialty training as a bulk fuel specialist and looks forward to being part of the brotherhood.

## Sgt. Maj. Mark J. O'Loughlin (Retired)

### Parade Reviewing Officer

Sergeant Major O'Loughlin was born in Independence, Iowa. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in March 1982 and reported for recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, that October.

Upon completion of recruit training, O'Loughlin reported to the School of Infantry, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

In March 1983, O'Loughlin reported for duty at the Marine Barracks, Naval Weapons Station, Fallbrook, Calif. In July 1983, he was transferred to 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines, Camp Pendleton, and deployed to the Western Pacific with Company I.

In May 1986, O'Loughlin reported to Drill Instructor School, MCRD San Diego, then served as a drill instructor

and senior drill instructor with Company D, 1st Recruit Training Battalion. In August 1988, he reported for duty with 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, at Camp Pendleton and deployed three times with Company L, taking part in Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Desert Saber.

In August 1993, O'Loughlin reported for duty with Infantry Training Battalion, School of Infantry, Camp Pendleton, where he served as a platoon sergeant, platoon commander and weapons and tactics instructor. In December 1996, he reported for duty with 1st Battalion, 1st Marine, Camp Pendleton and deployed with Company A to the Persian Gulf. Two years later he reported for duty with 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, Camp Pendleton and deployed with Company E, to the Persian Gulf a second time.

O'Loughlin reported to Drill Instructor School, MCRD San Diego in Oct. 1999, and served as a drill instructor and senior drill instructor with Com-

pany I, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion. He then served as an instructor at Drill Instructor School and, for seven months, as the drill instructor assigned to the 12th Marine Corps Recruiting District, Western Recruiting Region, and MCRD San Diego.

In February 2003, O'Loughlin reported for duty with 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, Camp Pendleton, and deployed with Headquarters and Service Company to the Persian Gulf and Iraq. In December 2004, he reported for duty with 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, Camp Pendleton and deployed to Iraq with Company L, and Weapons Company.

In February 2008, O'Loughlin received orders to MCRD San Diego, where he served as the company first sergeant for Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, as well as the sergeant major for 2nd Battalion. He assumed duty as the Wounded Warrior Battalion West sergeant major at Camp Pendleton in October 2010, and stayed there until his retirement in

November 2012.

O'Loughlin's personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with two gold stars, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and Combat Action Ribbon with one gold star.







**Platoon 2129** COMPANY HONOR MAN Lance Cpl. D. J. Taylor Alliance, Neb. Recruited by Sgt. T. Webb  
**Platoon 2133** PLATOON HONOR MAN Lance Cpl. R. Cervantes Fullerton, Calif. Recruited by Staff Sgt. F. Castilblanco  
**Platoon 2130** PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. P. A. Ford Oklahoma City Recruited by Staff Sgt. J. Harwood  
**Platoon 2131** PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. C. J. Damazio Spring, Texas Recruited by Staff Sgt. A. Petticrew  
**Platoon 2134** PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. G. K. Vierkant Dubuque, Iowa Recruited by Sgt. C. D. Moon  
**Platoon 2135** PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. M. J. Schwab Salina, Kan. Recruited by Sgt. B. Uhrich  
**Platoon 2134** HIGH SHOOTER (345) Pfc. A. T. Green Jr. Eagle Rock, Calif. Marksman Instructor Recruited by Sgt. C. J. Noid  
**Platoon 2130** HIGH PFT (300) Pfc. M. Nunez Merced, Calif. Recruited by Sgt. J. J. Coelho



# FOX COMPANY

2nd RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION



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Sergeant Major  
Battalion Drill Master

Lt. Col. W. Doctor  
1st Sgt. J. M. Melendez  
Staff Sgt. E. J. Estes

**COMPANY F**  
Commanding Officer  
Capt A. M. Laurita  
Company First Sergeant  
Gunnery Sgt. J. C. Geidel

**SERIES 2129**  
Series Commander  
1st Lt. D. Gonzalez  
Chief Drill Instructor  
Staff Sgt. R. L. Broadway

**PLATOON 2129**  
Senior Drill Instructor  
Sgt. B. M. Whelan  
Drill Instructors  
Sgt. A. J. Juedes  
Sgt. S. J. Kelly  
Sgt. J. F. Kenney  
Sgt. K. A. Porter

**PLATOON 2130**  
Senior Drill Instructor  
Staff Sgt. G. E. Allen  
Drill instructors  
Staff Sgt. K. C. Huang  
Staff Sgt. E. C. Lucio  
Staff Sgt. D. M. Maciel  
Staff Sgt. J. F. Orozco

**PLATOON 2131**  
Senior Drill Instructor  
Staff Sgt. P. B. Jackson  
Drill instructors  
Staff Sgt. B. J. Curry  
Sgt. J. Orea  
Sgt. M. A. Tooley

**SERIES 2133**  
Series Commander  
Capt. C. R. Belton  
Chief Drill Instructor  
Staff Sgt. C. A. Fuentes

**PLATOON 2133**  
Senior Drill Instructor  
Sgt. A. B. Lonchar  
Drill Instructors  
Sgt. J. J. Marler  
Sgt. J. Soto  
Sgt. S. I. Valdez

**PLATOON 2134**  
Senior Drill Instructor  
Staff Sgt. J. M. Hubbard  
Drill Instructors  
Staff Sgt. D. A. Matthews  
Sgt. J. R. McIntosh  
Sgt. A. Rodriguez

**PLATOON 2135**  
Senior Drill Instructor  
Sgt. A. W. May  
Drill Instructors  
Sgt. M. T. Ambrose  
Sgt. D. D. Poldoski  
Sgt. K. A. Villegas  
Sgt. T. L. Wilson

\* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

**PLATOON 2129**  
Pfc. C. M. Albin  
Pfc. C. I. Ayala  
Pvt. C. C. Baste  
Pvt. L. Bravo  
Pvt. A. Camacho  
Pfc. F. F. Dar  
\*Pfc. T. H. Elgart  
Pfc. E. L. Jett  
Pfc. A. H. Larrabee  
Pfc. F. Macias  
\*Pfc. M. J. Mason  
Pfc. A. J. Mesa  
Pfc. C. I. Molina  
Pfc. D. O. Nollet  
Pvt. M. J. O'Loughlin II  
Pvt. S. L. Ontiveros  
Pfc. E. R. Overton  
Pfc. A. R. Padilla  
Pvt. O. F. Perez  
Pvt. A. A. Quijadarios  
Pfc. A. A. Ramirez  
Pvt. E. Ramos-Delgado  
Pfc. R. Rivera  
Pfc. F. J. Rodriguez  
Pvt. I. Rojas  
Pvt. A. R. Romero  
Pfc. H. M. Rosales  
Pvt. B. G. Sainz  
Pvt. R. X. Sanchez-Young  
Pvt. L. T. Schultz  
Pvt. O. J. Shaw III  
Pfc. J. R. Sheik  
Pvt. L. O. Silva  
Pvt. I. M. Simmons  
Pvt. M. J. Simmons  
Pfc. S. M. Sowder  
Pfc. S. D. Stein  
Pvt. B. E. Stewart III  
Pvt. J. J. Stewart  
Pvt. J. P. Syverson  
\*Lance Cpl. D. J. Taylor  
Pvt. R. K. Thieman  
Pvt. R. G. Thomas  
Pvt. A. Z. Timson  
Pfc. T. J. Tolman  
Pvt. C. Topete-Soto  
Pvt. L. F. Torres  
Pvt. J. D. Turner  
Pvt. L. Uruga-Ramos  
Pvt. R. A. Valdez  
Pvt. G. Valenzuela  
Pvt. M. B. Vanderstelt  
Pvt. L. R. Vanliere  
Pvt. A. C. Vasquez  
Pvt. J. L. Vazquez  
Pfc. G. Verdugo  
Pvt. R. Venegas  
Pvt. T. J. Visoskas  
Pvt. B. H. Wacholtz  
\*Pfc. W. T. Whitesides  
Pvt. J. L. Williams  
Pvt. V. N. Williams  
Pfc. A. H. Willis  
\*Pfc. L. J. Wilson  
Pvt. J. B. Winebright  
Pvt. V. A. Witowski  
Pvt. T. B. Xayavong

Pvt. F. A. Yazzie-Nevarez  
Pfc. C. S. Ybarra  
Pfc. A. D. Yerena  
Pvt. R. N. Young  
Pvt. Z. V. Zamaroni  
Pvt. R. Zawiazalec

**PLATOON 2130**  
Pvt. B. A. Abram  
Pvt. G. G. Babcock  
Pfc. P. R. Barker II  
Pfc. H. P. Basnet  
\*Pfc. B. A. Bass  
Pfc. C. M. Bates-Wind  
Pfc. J. L. Beets  
Pfc. N. H. Bernik  
Pfc. M. J. Bicskei  
Pfc. L. J. Broiling  
\*Pfc. J. R. Cain  
Pvt. V. Canizales  
Pvt. N. E. Chambers  
Pfc. B. S. Coleman  
Pvt. M. R. Contrera  
Pfc. J. C. Cordell  
Pfc. L. R. Davis  
Pfc. C. G. Dodds  
Pfc. E. D. Duffet  
Pfc. I. M. Ewert  
Pfc. D. J. Faitak  
Pfc. I. Fiorina Jr.  
Pfc. B. M. Fletcher  
Pfc. P. A. Ford  
Pfc. M. A. Gaeta  
Pfc. A. Garza  
Pvt. C. S. Gates  
Pfc. D. K. Goodman  
Pvt. J. G. Granado  
Pvt. B. M. Gregory  
\*Pfc. C. D. Hendren  
Pvt. A. S. Henkel  
Pfc. S. J. Hotham  
Pvt. J. C. Huerta  
Pvt. K. R. Jackson  
Pvt. B. A. Jamison  
Pvt. L. S. Keadle  
Pvt. T. J. Kimbrel  
Pvt. C. A. Kuhlman  
Pvt. E. E. Lacedelli  
Pfc. T. J. Leheny  
Pfc. N. A. Leonard  
Pvt. J. J. Lopez  
Pvt. P. A. Lopez  
Pvt. J. L. Lowery  
Pvt. J. Luna  
Pvt. C. S. Madere  
Pvt. L. D. Malone  
Pvt. A. G. Marrufo-Castillo  
Pfc. K. M. Marshall  
Pvt. C. R. Martinez  
Pfc. R. R. Martinez  
Pfc. R. A. Martinez  
Pfc. A. J. Mata  
Pfc. M. J. May  
Pvt. L. D. Meyers  
Pvt. G. A. Millegan  
Pvt. P. J. Moher  
Pvt. Z. T. Monsive  
Pvt. J. L. Mueller

Pvt. R. J. Murphy  
Pvt. T. Z. Murton  
Pfc. T. J. Nimmo  
Pfc. M. Nunez  
Pvt. A. Pahumi  
Pvt. M. L. Parker  
Pvt. M. L. Phippen  
Pvt. L. A. Roberson  
Pfc. R. I. Rodriguez  
Pvt. J. W. Roe  
Pvt. Z. D. Rorison  
Pfc. M. E. Ruiz  
\*Pfc. A. A. Segovia  
\*Pfc. B. H. Sethman  
Pvt. T. J. Shannon

**PLATOON 2131**  
Pvt. A. M. Abramson  
Pfc. M. Aguilera  
Pvt. L. A. Aguirre-Pizana  
Pfc. J. D. Antoine  
Pfc. J. Arevalo  
\*Pfc. A. Arguello  
Pvt. B. C. Baker  
Pfc. G. Benavidez Jr.  
Pvt. J. P. Boomgaarden  
Pfc. S. Boyd  
Pvt. J. M. Brooks  
Pvt. J. P. Bunch  
Pvt. N. Q. Caldwell  
Pvt. R. T. Carlson  
Pfc. O. J. Chairez  
Pvt. Z. M. Chavez  
Pfc. J. A. Chavez-Davila  
\*Pfc. D. C. Chojnacky  
Pvt. J. M. Clouse  
Pvt. A. D. Cobian  
Pvt. N. J. Cotshott  
Pfc. R. W. Covert III  
Pfc. D. T. Cromer  
\*Pfc. K. J. Curtis  
\*Pfc. C. J. Damazio  
Pvt. D. J. Deal  
Pfc. D. DeJesus  
Pfc. I. G. Doskocil  
Pvt. J. H. Dressler  
Pfc. B. A. Eggeling  
Pfc. D. Q. Estabrook  
Pvt. L. K. Fennell  
Pvt. J. Fong  
Pvt. T. G. Francis  
Pfc. L. R. Gamez  
Pfc. I. U. Garcia  
Pvt. J. E. Garza  
Pfc. B. L. Glover  
Pvt. J. J. Gomez  
Pvt. E. D. Gonzalez-Alves  
Pvt. S. P. Gramkow Sr  
Pvt. C. R. Granata  
Pvt. M. J. Gregory  
Pvt. J. I. Guevara  
Pfc. Z. R. Guggenberger  
Pfc. E. A. Hanrahan  
Pvt. D. L. Hargett  
Pvt. J. K. Hesse  
Pfc. K. C. Hiebert  
Pfc. J. R. Horvath  
Pvt. J. W. Hotis

Pvt. B. A. Hunter  
Pfc. J. O. Ibarra  
Pfc. C. G. Jimenez-Very  
Pvt. J. G. Johnson  
Pvt. C. S. Kieper  
Pvt. B. S. King  
Pvt. G. J. Lopez Jr.  
Pfc. A. Lopez-Santoyo  
Pvt. J. B. Manning  
Pvt. R. W. McCallister  
Pfc. N. A. Medeiros  
Pvt. A. Medrano  
Pvt. N. W. Meyer  
Pvt. J. W. Morris  
Pvt. S. S. Muellner  
Pvt. P. Nawalu  
Pfc. R. A. Neal  
Pvt. A. S. Nelson  
Pvt. T. J. Norman  
Pvt. W. D. O'Bryant  
Pfc. M. W. Olle Jr.  
Pfc. A. Olvera-Ramos  
\*Pfc. J. I. Spath  
Pfc. I. J. Wright

**PLATOON 2133**  
Pfc. P. C. Adams  
Pfc. A. N. Alvarado-Turley  
Pvt. J. E. Anthony  
Pvt. T. A. Aparicio  
Pvt. J. J. Arnott  
Pfc. A. J. Baltodano-Flores  
Pfc. H. F. Baum  
Pvt. C. L. Bayless  
Pfc. C. E. Bayne  
Pfc. T. W. Bell  
Pvt. J. D. Benker  
Pvt. C. W. Bilski  
Pvt. M. R. Bista  
Pvt. A. D. Bossingham  
Pfc. J. C. Bowman  
Pfc. M. J. Boylan  
Pvt. K. A. Bruder  
Pfc. G. K. Byxbe  
Pfc. J. A. Carnahan  
\*Lance Cpl. R. Cervantes  
Pfc. Z. B. Champion  
Pvt. J. Contreras  
Pvt. G. A. Cureton  
Pvt. J. D. Curtis  
\*Pfc. D. W. Davis  
Pfc. C. G. DeWeirdt  
Pvt. A. Dimas  
\*Pfc. C. P. Dollar  
Pvt. S. P. Donoghue  
Pfc. G. M. Dorcas  
Pvt. T. M. Duenas  
Pvt. B. R. Dunn  
Pvt. J. Elizondo  
Pvt. J. D. Elliot  
Pvt. J. E. Galbraith Jr.  
Pvt. C. J. Gandara  
Pvt. M. Garcia  
Pfc. W. M. Gass  
Pvt. E. Giratas II  
Pvt. A. H. Gokhale  
Pvt. L. D. Gosling

Pvt. R. S. Gready II  
Pvt. E. R. Gums  
Pvt. K. J. Haridson  
Pvt. T. A. Heras  
Pvt. A. N. Hernandez  
Pvt. J. A. Hicks  
Pfc. J. M. Hockett  
\*Pfc. A. J. Horsch  
Pvt. J. R. Howard  
Pvt. M. E. Jacobsen  
Pvt. C. M. Jones  
Pvt. C. J. Kersey  
Pvt. A. H. Lane  
\*Pfc. E. D. Lara  
Pvt. A. J. Lemmon  
Pfc. J. T. Loftus  
Pvt. J. J. Lopez  
Pvt. J. Marquez Jr.  
Pfc. M. D. Martinez  
\*Pfc. A. W. McClenathan  
Pvt. N. C. Mendez  
Pvt. A. M. Mickelson  
Pvt. C. P. Miller  
Pfc. H. S. Mosbach  
Pvt. D. T. Narada  
Pvt. D. P. Navarro  
Pvt. D. L. Nelson  
Pvt. S. A. Nichols  
Pvt. A. L. Novotny  
Pfc. D. Ochoa  
Pvt. F. A. Onate  
Pvt. P. A. Snoozy

**PLATOON 2134**  
Pvt. G. Acosta  
Pvt. G. A. Aldrich  
Pvt. C. R. Anderson  
Pvt. V. R. Baggesgard  
Pvt. K. A. Banduk  
Pvt. R. K. Barboa Jr.  
Pfc. J. K. Barnes  
Pvt. N. Bautista-Contreras  
Pvt. C. Bernal  
Pvt. D. A. Bolano  
Pvt. M. B. Bowrin  
Pvt. I. C. Bush  
Pfc. L. D. Cabuto  
Pvt. T. R. Chapman  
Pvt. A. P. Cortez  
Pvt. A. B. Danes  
Pvt. E. Dorado  
Pfc. E. M. Edwards  
Pfc. J. B. Espino  
Pvt. N. Estrada  
Pvt. A. S. Fagg  
Pfc. C. J. Fiemate  
Pvt. F. A. Flores  
Pfc. E. N. Garbaro  
Pfc. E. S. Glosup  
Pvt. H. U. Gomez-Cuevas  
Pvt. N. R. Goodrum  
Pfc. A. T. Green Jr.  
Pvt. C. G. Hinton  
Pfc. A. S. Hoge  
Pvt. Q. J. Jackson  
Pfc. M. J. Jimenez Jr.  
Pfc. D. C. Jones

Pfc. C. H. Karakas-Cinader  
Pvt. K. M. Kramer  
\*Pfc. A. Limon  
Pvt. J. A. Lucatero  
Pfc. D. L. Mangler  
Pvt. K. W. Martinez  
Pvt. M. A. Martinez  
Pvt. T. J. Mason  
Pvt. B. S. Mays  
Pfc. A. P. McCollum  
Pvt. R. T. McCracken  
Pvt. D. A. Mienke  
Pvt. F. Munozluis Jr.  
Pfc. R. R. Myers  
Pfc. H. B. Navarro  
Pvt. H. H. Nguyen  
Pfc. M. D. O'Boyle  
Pfc. A. T. Olvera  
Pfc. L. J. Ottarson  
\*Pfc. C. Pantoja  
Pvt. J. D. Parrish  
Pfc. S. M. Pippel  
\*Pfc. L. N. Plantillas-Villanueva  
Pvt. B. J. Pollpeter  
Pvt. V. J. Pondexter Jr.  
Pvt. A. J. Ramos  
Pfc. C. F. Rodriguez  
Pvt. L. K. Rodriguez-Herring  
Pvt. D. J. Rosas  
Pvt. R. J. Ruschenberg  
Pvt. A. R. Sackett  
Pvt. A. Sandoval  
Pvt. J. J. Shocknesse  
Pfc. P. D. Smith  
Pvt. G. A. Sullins  
Pvt. B. M. Sullivan  
Pfc. J. R. Swingen  
Pvt. T. A. Tolleson  
Pvt. R. S. Torino  
\*Pfc. C. H. Tovar  
Pvt. D. Q. Turner  
Pvt. J. G. Vargas-Valencia  
Pfc. D. I. Veatch  
\*Pfc. G. K. Vierkant  
Pfc. E. W. Warnke

**PLATOON 2135**  
Pvt. A. A. Alcantar-Tovar  
Pfc. B. A. Amberson  
Pvt. Z. J. Becker  
Pvt. J. J. Boydston  
Pfc. D. J. Brower  
Pfc. R. D. Brown  
Pvt. C. L. Burns  
Pvt. J. E. Butler  
Pvt. R. J. Carcamo  
Pvt. C. E. Carter  
Pvt. G. A. Chavez  
Pfc. A. A. Crone  
Pvt. T. C. Drake  
Pvt. S. D. Eakes  
Pvt. A. M. Edger  
\*Pfc. C. R. Findley  
Pfc. J. G. Fiscus  
Pvt. C. Flores

Pfc. N. S. Havlick  
Pvt. L. R. Hicks  
Pvt. Z. L. Johnson  
Pvt. A. L. Jones  
Pfc. A. C. Lemon  
Pvt. E. A. Lenane  
Pvt. M. C. Lofton  
Pvt. B. C. Lovelady  
Pfc. J. A. Marin  
Pfc. D. A. Miller  
Pvt. C. N. Mireles-Guadarrama  
Pvt. J. N. Neri  
Pfc. B. S. Ortiz  
Pvt. C. D. Pace  
Pfc. C. A. Palma  
Pvt. J. W. Pasmore  
Pvt. R. M. Petrillo-Caico  
Pfc. B. C. Piel  
\*Pfc. G. Plessinger  
Pvt. E. G. Polgar  
Pfc. J. R. Prater  
\*Pfc. D. Q. Quach  
Pvt. H. M. Ramsey  
Pvt. T. Ratzlaff  
Pvt. J. N. Reynoso  
Pvt. R. J. Rhodes  
Pvt. M. R. Robau Jr.  
Pvt. T. R. Robinson Jr.  
Pvt. A. A. Rodriguez  
Pvt. N. S. Rymer  
Pvt. C. W. Sabo  
Pvt. R. A. Santana  
Pfc. T. R. Sanyasi  
\*Pfc. M. J. Schwab  
Pvt. A. L. Smith  
Pvt. T. R. Smith  
Pvt. Z. R. Stanton  
Pvt. Z. S. Stevens  
Pvt. O. L. Tabora  
Pfc. M. G. Tapia  
Pvt. S. M. Taylor  
Pfc. L. G. Torres  
Pvt. M. A. Torres  
Pfc. A. C. Trusty  
Pvt. J. L. Ulloa  
Pvt. J. Uribe  
\*Pfc. C. J. VanCampen  
Pfc. E. J. Velasquez  
Pvt. M. E. Vilimek  
Pvt. B. M. Whitney  
Pvt. I. J. Williams  
Pfc. K. J. Williams  
Pfc. G. C. Wilson  
Pvt. M. P. Winter  
Pvt. Z. J. Wood  
Pvt. K. W. Yancey  
Pvt. P. S. Zigla  
Pvt. C. T. McQuality





Cpl. Brendon M. Walsh, armorer, Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, delivers an M16-A4 Service Rifle into the hands of Recruit Robert M. Gibson, Platoon 2154, Co. G, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, during rifle issue aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Sept. 29. Gibson is a Frazier Park, Calif., native and was recruited out of Recruiting Substation Bakersfield, Calif.

## Co. G rifle issue commences recruit training

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

To some, Marines are known as efficient warriors who can deliver consistent and effective shots at any target. The Marine and his rifle are infamously known worldwide, but this reputation could not be achieved without a strong basic foundation.

Recruits of Golf Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, were issued their M16-A4 Service Rifle aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Sept. 29.

Recruits receive rifles in the beginning days of training and keep it with them, guarded as if it were their babies. They embrace the adage that without their rifles, they are nothing, and without them, their rifles are nothing. Regardless of their military occupation specialty, they

will become fluent, knowledgeable and blindfoldedly familiar with their weapon; realizing that regardless of MOS, their proficiency as a marksman is a key attribute to being a Marine.

"Whether you're a grunt or not, we're all riflemen," said Staff Sgt. Jarrell D. Williams, drill instructor, Platoon 2155. "Getting the M16-A4 Service Rifle issued, and then being trained on how to properly utilize it, is one of the most important parts of being a Marine."

Recruits received their weapon, which is light-weight, magazine feed, gas operated, air-cooled and shoulder fired, making it the ideal weapon of choice for the Corps in combat operations. When Company G arrived at the depot armory, some recruits already understood the importance of the rifle training they would undergo.

"It's important for us, as Marines, to be trained on all aspects

of our rifle," said Recruit Justin L. Freeberg, Plt. 2155. "When the time comes to use them, we need to be able to do it effectively and efficiently in any scenario."

As Freeberg received his weapon, his mind was already focused on what may be asked of him one day out in a combat situation. It was something that not all recruits might have thought about until they held the weapon in their hands.

"Some (recruits) didn't fully grasp it until they held a weapon that was used in combat and then realized they may have to do that as well," said Freeberg, who was recruited out of Recruiting Substation Mankato, Minn. "I knew before I joined what I was getting myself into and what I may one day be asked to do. I know that what I'll be doing will protect the people I love."

As each recruit received his rifle, drill instructors started to

get their own sense of pride.

"It motivates me to see new recruits get their weapons issued," said Williams, a Chesapeake, Va., native. "I take a lot of personal pride in my job and enjoy the challenge to make them the best marksman in the Corps."

Drill instructors and primary marksmanship instructors are tasked with instructing and training recruits to become a basically trained marksman. From past teaching experience, they already know the challenges ahead of them they will have to fight to overcome.

"Some of the recruits never held a weapon or think they know how to shoot but their fundamentals are messed up," said Williams, who is on his second cycle as a drill instructor. "What we'll do is break it down and retrain them to not only apply the correct fundamentals, but in a stressful environment as well."

Throughout recruit training, drill instructors and PMI's will instill in them the weapon proficiency and warrior ethos of those who went before them. The recruits quickly realized that they and their rifles will become inseparable and function as one for the remainder of recruit training.

Company G recruits will continue on through recruit training with their weapon at their side in an effort to earn the title Marine. They will test their drill capabilities during Initial and Final Drill as well as their marksmanship skills at Edson Range aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. Mastering their rifle will become one of the greatest achievements over their careers in the Corps. "You can't be a Marine without your rifle," said Williams. "You'll never know a Marine who didn't qualify and become the rifleman that we're known for."



Company G recruits are given directions while inspecting their rifle cleaning kits during rifle issue. Recruits and their rifles become inseparable and function as one throughout the remainder of recruit training.



Company G recruits pick up rifle cleaning kits and parade slings during rifle issue. Over the course of training, the recruits will learn and understand weapon safety and basic maintenance, and how to properly fire the weapon.