



Co. I recruits prove they are physically fit

Pg 4

CHEVRON



AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION

Near death experience gives drive to join USMC

STORY & PHOTO BY
SGT. WALTER D. MARINO II
Chevron staff

Near death experiences can come in a variety of forms because death is not particular to one cause. It can come by old age, it can come by disease and it can even come by freak accident.

For Recruit Kyle W. Bagley, Platoon 2109, Echo Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, it was the latter of the three that nearly took his life. He was a sophomore in high school when he was involved in a major automobile accident. While sitting passenger side in a friend's car, he felt the driver turn into a curve too fast and lose control of the vehicle.

Bagley said he could see the car headed for a tree, but he was unable to yell, “Brake!” before it was too late. He said he blacked out upon impact of the tree and recalls coming to after the vehicle stopped rolling over.

“I was awake in the ambulance and I remember thinking, ‘I hope it's not that bad,’” said the Camby, Ore., native. Of the teenagers involved, Bagley received the most life threatening injury, a blood clot in his brain.

Upon arrival to the hospital, he fell asleep and soon after doctors determined he needed emergency brain surgery and was rushed in for a craniotomy.

Miraculously, two hours after the operation he awoke without any problems. Four days later he left the hospital with no mental or physical wounds other than 38 staples in his head.

“The doctors told me that basically not many people survive the surgery, and those who do usually survive it with some sort of disability. They told me I was extremely fortunate to come away from the surgery the way I did.”

Although the accident did not leave



Recruit Kyle W. Bagley, Platoon 2109, Echo Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, cleans his M-16A4 Service Rifle in his squad bay Oct. 10. Bagley is a Camby, Ore., native and was recruited out of Recruiting Substation Camby, Ore.

any lasting injuries, Bagley said he felt differently about himself than he did prior to the accident.

“I felt like I hadn't challenged myself at all,” said Bagley. “I wanted a challenge, and the biggest one was the Marine Corps.”

However the road to military service, with his injury, was not easy. Upon talking to a recruiter he was told he needed to wait a minimum of one year from his accident before applying to the Corps. Also, during the required waiting time, he needed to sign a medical waiver, but even that couldn't guarantee he would be cleared and accepted for recruit training.

Bagley said that didn't deter him. Although the chances were slim, he said he kept faith that he would achieve his goal.

Approximately two and half years from his initial recruiter visit, Bagley was accepted for military duty.

“The whole time I just kept faith that everything would work out, and if it didn't, I made sure to have a backup

plan,” said Bagley.

Today he will graduate recruit training and has thus far excelled. His drill instructors were quick to heap praise on Bagley's growth and performance.

“He's a strong individual mentally and physically,” said Sgt. Donnel D. Bryant, drill instructor, Platoon 2109. “He's definitely in the top ten percent of the platoon. I believe he fits the mold of what the Marine Corps needs, strong-minded individuals who set themselves apart from average.”

After a long journey of recovery, waiting for admittance into training and hard work, Bagley is near his goal of conquering his biggest challenge. He explained he believes his near death experience was essential in giving him the drive to join the Marine Corps.

“The accident was a necessary experience. I wouldn't be the same man if it didn't happen. Life is too short to not take risks and challenge yourself, that's why I'm here.”

BRIEFS

Preparing for Disasters

When planning for emergencies, it is vital to account for the needs of everyone who may be impacted.

There are steps that individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs can take to stay safe and independent during a disaster.

They include, but are not limited to:

- Making a plan on how to contact family members or friends
- Making copies of medical prescriptions and medical history
- Stocking a basic disaster supply kit

These individuals should also include items in their disaster kits essential for their needs, such as:

- A TTY text telephone
- Hearing aids and batteries
- Written descriptions of service needs
- Supplies for a service animal

For more ideas on how to plan for disasters, watch the emergency preparedness instructional video at <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/videos/78827>.

MCCS announcements

- For information on Single Marine Program activities, call Single Marine Program coordinator Johanna Jones, at (619) 524-8240

- A Halloween party and costume contest will be held tonight starting at 5 p.m. at the recreation center. Judging for best costume is at 6.

Prizes and giveaways will be awarded.

- Comedy nights at the Recreation Center will begin Nov. 7 at 8:30 p.m. The event will be held the first Friday of each month.

This is for those 18 and older only.

- Fieldhouse resurfacing begins Nov. 3, and will continue for about three weeks.

Basketball courts will be closed during construction. Showers and restrooms will remain open.

- Free round trip shuttle bus service from MCRDSD to the Marine Corps Ball at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront will be provided Nov. 8.

The service is available to all Marines and their guests. Single Marines have priority on all buses.

The MCRDSD pick up point is Building 619 (20-minute loading zone in front of Duncan Hall)

For a complete schedule go to http://www.mccsmcrd.com/Downloads/CURRENT_EVENTS/14-MC-Ball-Trans-flye

Rec Center movie schedule

- Tonight at 6 p.m. - When the Game Stands Tall (PG13)
- Tonight at 9 p.m. - Let's be Cops (R)
- Tomorrow at 6 p.m. - Guardians of the Galaxy (PG13)
- Tomorrow at 9 p.m. - City: A Dame to Kill (R)
- Sunday at 1 p.m. - How to Train Your Dragon 2 (PG)

Admission is free.

Send briefs to:

rdsd_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.

Co. K kicks off Marine Corps Martial Arts Program training



Sgt. Benjamin E. Woodle

Sgt. Melvin Rodriguez, drill instructor, Platoon 3230, Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, motivates recruits to strike with intensity during their Introduction to the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program class Oct. 22. Drill instructors ensured recruits use the proper techniques and exert maximum effort.



Marines and sailors with Marine Expeditionary Brigade – Afghanistan load onto a KC-130 aircraft on the Camp Bastion flightline, Oct. 27. The Marine Corps ended its mission in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Oct. 26 and all Marines, sailors and service members from the United Kingdom withdrew from southwestern Afghanistan.

Marines end Afghan operations, depart Helmand province

STORY BY 1ST LT. SKYE MARTIN
PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. JOHN JACKSON
Regional Command Southwest

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan – The final United States Marine Corps command and service members from the United Kingdom departed Regional Command (Southwest) in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Oct. 27.

The lift-off followed an End of Operations ceremony held at the former command post of Marine Expeditionary Brigade – Afghanistan aboard Camp Leatherneck, signifying the transfer of Camp Bastion and Leatherneck to the control of the Afghan National Army's 215th Corps. Regional Command (Southwest) is the first of the International Security Assistance Force commands to transfer authority to the Afghan National Security

Forces as ISAF moves toward the Resolute Support Mission.

During the past year, six additional nations ended their operations in RC(SW), including Bosnia, Estonia, Denmark, Georgia, Jordan and Tonga.

"This transfer is a sign of progress. It's not about the coalition. It is really about the Afghans and what they have achieved over the last 13 years. What they have done here is truly significant," Marine Expeditionary Brigade – Afghanistan Commander Brigadier General Daniel D. Yoo said during the ceremony.

During his speech, Lt. Gen. Joseph Anderson, commander of ISAF Joint Command, stated, "We lift off confident in the Afghans' ability to secure the region. The mission has been complex, difficult and dangerous. Everyone has made tremendous sacrifices—but those sacrifices

have not been in vain."

International Security Assistance Force Commander General Joseph Campbell stated, "Helmand, as you know, has been a very, very tough area. We feel very confident with the Afghan security forces as they continue to grow in their capacity and they continue to work better between the police and the Army."

Following the completion of the tactical withdrawal from Camp Bastion and Leatherneck, the Marines, sailors and British service members flew to Kandahar Airfield where they will complete their deployment prior to returning to the United States and the United Kingdom during the coming weeks.

Photos can be found at: <http://www.dvidshub.net/image/1629674/marines-complete-operations-afghanistan-depart-helmand-province>.



A Marine with 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, prepares to load onto a KC-130 aircraft on the Camp Bastion flightline, Oct. 27. The battalion was the final Marine Corps infantry battalion to serve in Helmand province, Afghanistan, as the United States Marine Corps ended their operations.



Marine Corps and Royal Air Force helicopters fly in formation after departing Camp Bastion. The Marine Corps ended operations in Helmand province and transferred the base to the Afghan National Army.

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EDITOR
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CHEVRON/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
1600 HENDERSON AVE. #120
SAN DIEGO, CA. 92140
(619) 524-8722

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Platoon 2114 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. N. Vo Overland Park, Kan. Recruited by Sgt. J. P. McFarland
Platoon 2111 HIGH SHOOTER (33) Pfc. K. K. Reddy Mountain View, Calif. Marksman Instructor Sgt. R. Dominquez Jr.
Platoon 2110 HIGH PFT (300) Pfc. J. A. Kosmoski Fredricksberg, Va. Recruited by Staff Sgt. M. Baka



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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 E
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 Capt. D. L. Shivers
 Company First Sergeant
 1st Sgt. B. E. Campbell

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 Chief Drill Instructor
 Staff Sgt. A. Gonzales

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 Drill Instructors
 Staff Sgt. V. R. Ervin
 Sgt. D. D. Bryant

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 Drill instructors
 Sgt. A. C. Alvarado
 Sgt. A. D. Ortiz

PLATOON 2111
 Senior Drill Instructor
 Staff Sgt. S. M. Perry
 Drill instructors
 Sgt. A. Castillo
 Sgt. P. C. Mason

SERIES 2113
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 Gunnery Sgt. C. B. Milam

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 Gunnery Sgt. C. P. Lewis
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 Staff Sgt. E. Martinez
 Staff Sgt. R. E. Robertson

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 Drill Instructors
 Sgt. J. A. Meza
 Sgt. S. J. Wills
 Sgt. R. O. Wilson

PLATOON 2115
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 Drill Instructors
 Sgt. J. R. Galvan
 Sgt. J. A. George
 Sgt. N. B. McDonald

* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

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 Pvt. Z. M. Strickland
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 Pvt. B. A. Vigil-Martinez
 Pvt. R. D. Watkins
 Pvt. J. J. Weber
 Pfc. S. M. Wilkins
 *Pfc. L. W. Xiong
 Pvt. A. Zakaruskas
 Pvt. S. Zamudio-Solis
 Pvt. R. D. Zapata
 Pfc. N. Zavala
 Pvt. J. M. Zawacki



Company I recruits, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, take off on the three-mile run portion of their final Physical Fitness Test aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Oct. 23. Recruits needed to set a maintainable pace at the start or would tire quickly and struggle to finish.

India Company strides through PFT



A Company I recruit sprints to the finish line during his three-mile run. To achieve a perfect score on the run, recruits needed to finish in 18 minutes or less.

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

The separation between those who achieve a goal and those who don't isn't entirely due to the abilities one has over the other. The capability to continue on and push through when failure seems imminent is the crucial element used that few truly understand.

Recruits of India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, utilized their physical and mental strength during their final Physical Fitness Test aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Oct. 23.

"This is the final evaluation for the recruits to meet the Marine Corps' minimum physical standards," said Staff Sgt. Cristobal D. Osoria, senior drill instructor, Platoon 3215. "The event is also a preparation for what they'll be doing at least once a year for the rest of their Marine Corps career."

The PFT is comprised of three events; pull-ups, a three-mile run and crunches. To achieve a perfect score, recruits had to complete 20 dead hang pull-ups, run three miles in 18 minutes and perform 100 crunches in two minutes. Though the event

is made up of basic activities, some learned that it required strategic technique to complete.

"A lot of the recruits struggled during the three-mile run," said Recruit Jack P. Seward, Plt. 3215. "They run real fast at first but then run out of gas and can't finish strong."

At the start of the PFT, recruits lined up in front of pull-up bars where an Instructional Training Company drill instructor was standing by to monitor and count each proper pull-up performed. Next, recruits lined up at the start line for the three-mile run, using what little down time they had to stretch. After completing the run, the recruits partnered up to perform the crunches.

During the event, Seward had one goal on his mind that helped push him to perform his best.

"I was extremely nervous because I was trying to be the Ironman," said Seward, a Huntington Beach, Calif., native who was recruited out of Recruiting Substation Costa Mesa, Calif. "I ran cross country so the run was fine, but I spent it trying to catch the lead drill instructor."

The Ironman award is given to a recruit who performs the best overall in the entire company.

With the physical challenge behind them, recruits carried a new sense of pride and accomplishment.

"Recruits develop pride due to their new fitness level," said Osoria, a Cicero, Ill., native. "They see the improvement from when they first came here and realize that increased strength and speed is both obtainable and achievable."

Coming toward the end of the journey of becoming a Marine, drill instructors also start to feel a sense of achievement.

"Seeing them complete the final PFT gives me a sense of accomplishment," said Osoria. "Through physical and mental training, we've taught them unselfishness and the desire to want it. In the first phase of training they did things because they had to, but now they do it because they want to get better."

Marching back to the squad bay, recruits completed another physical challenge but also overcame an even bigger mental obstacle, themselves.

"This training helps push through mental boundaries of wanting to give up and quit," said Seward. "You learn to just push through it and see that you actually were able to successfully accomplish it."



Recruits perform pull-ups during their final Physical Fitness Test. To achieve a perfect score, they were required to perform 20 dead hang pull-ups.



Recruits perform crunches during their final Physical Fitness Test. They had two minutes to perform 100 crunches in order to get a perfect score.