

Marine aircraft team brings distance down to size

Pg 2



MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO

CHEVRON

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION



Vol. 74 – Issue 35

“WHERE MARINES ARE MADE”

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2014



Recruits of Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, execute an arm-bar take down during the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program test aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Nov. 12. Recruits perform MCMAP techniques in a rubber tire pit, which allows them to properly execute throws without fear of seriously hurting another recruit.

Mike Company passes MCMAP test

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

Modern combat still requires the use of hand-to-hand techniques. When the ammunition runs out, one needs to be prepared to fight an enemy combatant with any means necessary. The basic level of training takes place at recruit training, where recruits take the first step of expanding their warrior knowledge.

Recruits of Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, earned their tan belt during the Marine Corps Martial Arts

Program test aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Nov. 12.

“The purpose is to test recruits’ knowledge, understanding and proficiency in MCMAP,” said Sgt. Jason M. May, drill instructor, Platoon 3274. “It’s also a graduation requirement to ensure recruits obtain the minimum Marine Corps standards, which is the tan belt syllabus.”

During the event, recruits were broken down into groups of 20 and assigned a drill instructor from Instructional Training Company, who conducted the test. The ITC instructor called out techniques recruits needed to execute in order to ad-

vance, and Mike Company showed up ready for the challenge.

“Some recruits had some trouble with retention of some techniques, but overall we came prepared,” said Recruit Curtis M. Mickelson, Plt. 3274. “We received a lot of re mediation while up at Camp Pendleton, and a little over the past two days, so it helped keep things fresh in our minds.”

The MCMAP test rewards recruits with their first belt in the colored belt level system, the tan belt. Once they reach the Fleet Marine Force, Marines can continue

see MCMAP ▶4

Denver native becomes Marine

STORY & PHOTOS BY
CPL. JERICHO W. CRUTCHER
Chevron staff

Marines are known for being physical fit and being able to carry out the mission of the Marine Corps.

Private First Class Justice T. Appiah, Platoon 2175, Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, earned the title as the company ironman by completing an 18-minute three-mile run, 24 pull-ups and 167 crunches during a Physical Fitness Test at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif.

Appiah was born in Bronx, N.Y., and at the age of nine, he moved to Denver with his mother, father, brother and sister, but that’s not where his family started out.

While his parents and older sister were born in Ghana, Africa, he and his younger brother were born in the United States.

When Appiah was nine

months old, he and his family moved back to Ghana where they lived until Appiah was nine years old.

“The village we lived in had power, running water and was surrounded by forestry, however it wasn’t advanced with modern-day technology,” said Appiah. “It was a rural place to live, not urban.”

Appiah’s parents showed him the meaning of hard work and discipline, he explained.

“My parents weren’t very wealthy, but they’ve always worked hard, and it showed me through hard work and discipline you can achieve anything,” said Appiah. “My parents decided to move back to the states, so that’s when I was introduced to the cold weather of Denver, Colorado.”

Denve pleasant to grow up in, Appiah explained.

see MARINE ▶4



Private First Class Justice T. Appiah, Platoon 2175, Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, stands at parade rest in the squad bay that has been his home for the last three months of recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., Nov. 19. Appiah is a Denver native and was recruited out of Recruiting Station Denver.

BRIEFS

Thanksgiving celebration

The depot’s Single Marine Program will celebrate Thanksgiving from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Nov. 27, at the Boat-house and Marina.

There will be free food and beverages, and the free use of paddle boards, kayaks, pedal boats, etc.

For information contact Johanna at jonesjoa@usmc-mccs.org.

Thanksgiving buffet

The Bayview Restaurant offers a Thanksgiving Buffet Nov. 27, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The menu includes sirloin of beef Au’Ju, turkey, Cornish game hens, pasta, salads and all the trimmings; and a dessert station featuring cakes, pies, Bailey’s Irish Cream bread pudding with Bailey’s Cream glaze, assorted cookies, brownies, fruit-&-nut bars.

Cost is \$31.95 for adults, \$25.95 for active duty and seniors, \$15.95 for children five to 11 years of age. Children under five eat for free.

Call (619) 725-6388 for reservations.

2014 Turkey Trot 5K Fun Run

The depot is scheduled to hold its annual Turkey Trot Nov. 21 at the MCRD Fieldhouse Lawn. This is a Commanding General Cup event.

The run is free for all authorized patrons (active duty, dependents, reservist, civilian employees and retirees). A \$10 fee is required for all guests. Registration for authorized patrons may be accomplished via the net at mcrdturkeytrot.eventbrite.com. Online registration closes at 11:55 p.m., Nov. 18. Authorized patrons and all guests may register on the day of the race from 10:30 a.m. at the Fieldhouse.

The race begins at 1 p.m.

For information call (619) 524-5655.

Tun Tavern Tea

The MCRD Museum Foundation will host its annual Tun Tavern Tea at the depot’s Command Museum Visitor Reception Center Dec. 6, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

This holiday event includes hors d’oeuvres and holiday refreshments compliments of the Foundation.

The event will recognize Volunteers of the Year from the Command Museum, the Foundation and the Docent Program, as well as thank all Foundation volunteers and supporters of the past year.

Those attending the event are asked to bring at least one new, unwrapped toy for the Marine Corps’s Toys for Tots program.

Dress is civilian informal.

For information call the Foundation office at (619) 524-4426.

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.



An MV-22 "Osprey" from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 262 soars over the Pacific Ocean during a flight from the Philippines to Australia Nov. 8. Marines and aircraft from VMM-262, VMM-265 and Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 flew approximately 4,700 miles from Okinawa, Japan to Brisbane, Australia, to provide aerial support for President Barack Obama and Marine Helicopter Squadron One during the G20 Summit. When paired with the KC-130J, the Osprey is able to provide assault support to any location in the 105 million square miles that comprise the Marine Forces Pacific area of responsibility.

MV-22s, KC-130Js team up to overcome the Tyranny of Distance

STORY & PHOTOS BY
STAFF SGT. ZACHARY DYER
III Marine Expeditionary Force / Marine
Corps Installations Pacific

BRISBANE, Australia – Just more than 50 years ago, Kenneth E. Boulding created the concept of the Loss of Strength Gradient. Boulding posited that the amount of military power a nation can bring to bear in any part of the world depends heavily on the distance that power must travel to reach its objective. As the distance increases, the level of military strength projected decreases.

In the Marine Forces Pacific area of responsibility, which covers approximately 105 million square miles, distance is a hurdle confronting commanders on a daily basis. The AOR encompasses close to 50 percent of the world's surface area, and is home to 60 percent of the world's population. Getting Marines and equipment to the areas they are needed can present a unique challenge.

Enter the Marine Corps' newest team, the MV-22 "Osprey" and the KC-130J "Hercules."

"The Osprey/Hercules team provides the Marine Corps a long-range operational capability to deliver combat troops, humanitarian supplies, and equipment to austere locations that have traditionally been unattainable by helicopters, due to their lack of range, or traditional transport fixed wing aircraft because of a lack of an airfield," explained Col. Dave Krebs, the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing chief of staff. "This enhanced capability enables us to meet our regional security agreements, extended deterrence and decrease response times to our

multilateral partners within the Pacific AOR."

The strategic importance of the Osprey and Hercules was recently demonstrated by 1st MAW when Marines and aircraft from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265, VMM-262 and Marine Aerial Refueling Transport Squadron 152, flew approximately 4,700 miles from Okinawa, Japan, to Brisbane, Australia. The team flew aerial support missions with Marine Helicopter Squadron One in support of President Barack Obama's attendance at the G20 Summit.

"Just about any aircraft can take off from Okinawa and island hop down to Australia," said Lt. Col. Chris Murray, the commanding officer for Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265. "But only the Osprey can take off from (Marine Corps Air Station) Futenma, island hop down to Australia, and then land in a space the size of a football field."

Taken in three separate "legs," the journey required the Osprey to refuel in flight several times. Both the Ospreys and Hercules transported the parts and equipment they would need to be completely self-sustained during the mission along with the Marines to maintain the aircraft. It is that ability to self-deploy that enables the two aircraft to be as effective as they are.

"I've watched (the team) grow over the last few years, and it continues to sharpen," said Maj. Mitch Maury, the VMGR-152 executive officer. "We're getting better, getting to know each other better and learning what both platforms can do."

The mission to Brisbane is just the latest notch in the team's belt. Since the MV-22 first ar-

rived on Okinawa in late 2012, it has supported several high level missions, most notably providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief during Operation Damayan when Super Typhoon Haiyan devastated the Philippines in 2013. During Operation Damayan, Ospreys evacuated more than 1,200 people and

delivered more than 20 tons of supplies to remote areas where traditional aircraft could not reach.

"You need to understand the significance of that operational reach," said Krebs of the distance the Osprey and Hercules can attain together. "Mumbai, India, at the Western edge of the Pacific AOR, is only 3,452

miles from Okinawa; Anchorage, Alaska, is only 4,424 miles from Okinawa; Honolulu, Hawaii is 4,716 from Okinawa. 1st MAW can project power or respond to crisis anywhere in the Pacific AOR rapidly and completely self-contained with our KC-130J and MV-22s, ready to support or fight the moment we arrive."



Two Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 KC-130Js turn in preparation of landing at Royal Australian Air Force Base Darwin Nov. 8. Marines and aircraft from VMGR-152, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265 and VMM-262 flew approximately 4,700 miles from Okinawa, Japan, to Brisbane, Australia to provide aerial support for President Barack Obama and Marine Helicopter Squadron One during the G20 Summit.

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Platoon 2175 HIGH PFT (300) Pfc. J. T. Appiah Denver Recruited by Sgt. C. Fuller



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* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

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 *Pfc. J. T. Wright
 *Pfc. K. Zavala-Aviles</p> <p>PLATOON 2175
 Pvt. J. G. Aguilar-
 Vargas
 Pvt. W. J. Alexander
 *Pfc. J. T. Appiah
 Pvt. G. B. Arnold
 Pvt. J. T. Ayres
 Pfc. D. D. Baty
 Pvt. H. J. Bojorquez
 Pvt. W. W. Brutke
 Pvt. S. I. Carillo
 Pvt. T. M. Dunbar</p> | <p>Pvt. A. J. Duran
 Pvt. K. M. Egginton
 Pvt. P. K. Elderts
 Pvt. K. T. Fountain
 Pvt. R. G. Gallegos
 Pfc. J. H. Gnosca
 Pvt. R. P. Hanks
 Pvt. C. L. Horne
 Pvt. J. E. Jurecki
 Pfc. R. C. Kammeraad
 Pvt. A. J. Keiser
 Pfc. J. I. Leal
 Pfc. J. Leung
 Pvt. J. J. Liang
 Pvt. A. X. Lopez
 Pvt. A. I. Lozano
 Pfc. R. K. Martines
 Pvt. T. P. Monte
 Pvt. C. Murillo
 Pvt. E. P. Onnen
 Pfc. S. Parra
 Pvt. A. Perez
 Pfc. D. W. Ramaekers
 Pvt. C. R. Reyes
 Pfc. J. H. Roberson
 Pvt. C. A. Robles-
 Rodriguez
 Pvt. C. A. Rodriguez
 Pfc. G. Rodriguez-
 Fonseca
 Pvt. C. R. Romano
 Pvt. D. Romero
 Pvt. E. T. Roth
 *Pfc. E. E. Rustan
 Pvt. C. D. Salinas
 Pvt. C. S. Shurte
 Pvt. A. T. Silila
 Pvt. J. M. Sims
 Pfc. C. H. Skaggs
 Pfc. C. R. Skillman
 Pvt. C. M. Smiley
 Pvt. D. J. Smith
 Pfc. J. C. Smith
 Pvt. J. M. Sommers
 Pvt. J. A. Spires
 Pfc. T. L. Stanfill
 Pfc. J. C. Starks
 *Pfc. M. T. Stewart
 Pfc. V. D. Strelec
 Pfc. S. U. Taufa
 Pvt. K. E. Thibodeau
 Pvt. L. R. Tinajero
 Pvt. E. Torres
 Pvt. A. Trevino
 Pvt. S. J. Ulbricht
 Pvt. A. M. Vansky
 Pvt. C. D. Vaughter
 Pvt. S. N. Veasman
 *Pfc. G. Velazquez
 Pvt. G. K. Wagner
 Pvt. J. T. Wiles
 *Lance Cpl. M. A. Willis
 Pvt. C. M. Woodard
 Pvt. M. E. Wyngarden
 Pvt. C. Xiong</p> |
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Recruits learn what it means to be a Marine

STORY BY
CPL. JERICHO W. CRUTCHER
Chevron staff

As recruits go through recruit training, they learn to conduct themselves as Marines. They will develop in areas such as physical training, knowledge and teamwork. Customs and courtesies are topics taught in recruit training and these are the primary ways Marines show respect and acknowledge one another.

For recruits of Charlie Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, respect was up for discussion on Oct. 29 when they learned about the Marine Corps' customs and courtesies at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

Classes are used to teach recruits different areas of Marine Corps knowledge and are continuous throughout recruit training. Recruits learn about topics such as Marine Corps history, uniform regulations, traditions, leadership principles and the Uniform Code of Military Justice, among others.

Company C learned some of the basic Marine Corps customs and courtesies and the proper way for every Marine to conduct themselves. One recruit found the particular customary way Marines demonstrate their discipline all the time.

"When people think of a Marine, they think of a disciplined warrior who is smart and brute," said Recruit Casey G. Bardwell, Platoon 1054. "Marines take pride in being well-rounded human beings who are trained to fight our countries battles."

For some drill instructors, customs and courtesies are more than just tradition and proper behavior, but a way to show acknowledgement and respect to fellow Marines.

"Customs and courtesies define who we are and we treat our fellow Marines," said Sgt. Cameron D. Castaneda, Platoon 1054. "Customs and courtesies are what make us different than the other branches."

Customs and courtesies

are things Marines use in everyday endeavors and the learning should start sooner rather than later. The proper greeting of the day is a courtesy Marines practice everyday, according to Castaneda, a 25-year-old Midlothian, Texas, native.

"The importance of a proper greeting of the day is something I have learned while going through recruit training and is the foundation of customs and courtesies. It demonstrates the respect we have for each other," said Bardwell, a 23-year-old Kalispell, Mont., native. "Recruit training is where we learn the basics. Marines who came before us instilled this, and it is up to the future generation of Marines to continue our customs and courtesies."

Now that these recruits have learned customs and courtesies, graduation marks the day recruits of Company C begin their career as United States Marines and continue the legacy of those who came before them.



Recruits of Charlie Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, learn about the Marine Corps' customs and courtesies at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Oct. 29. Classes are used to teach recruits different areas of Marine Corps knowledge and are continuous throughout recruit training.

MCMAP ◀ 1

their training to earn the higher levels of gray, green, brown, and various degrees of the black belt. For Mike Company though, it was about teaching the basics.

"Without this test there would be no baseline to show that recruits retained the technique, and then end up going to the (Fleet Marine Force) without the proper skills to be a Marine," said Mickelson, a Sandpoint, Idaho, native who was recruited from Recruiting Substation Portland, Ore. "Whether they end up getting deployed or not, they need to be prepared. Successfully passing the event also helps build confidence in the recruits with their ability to

protect one's self."

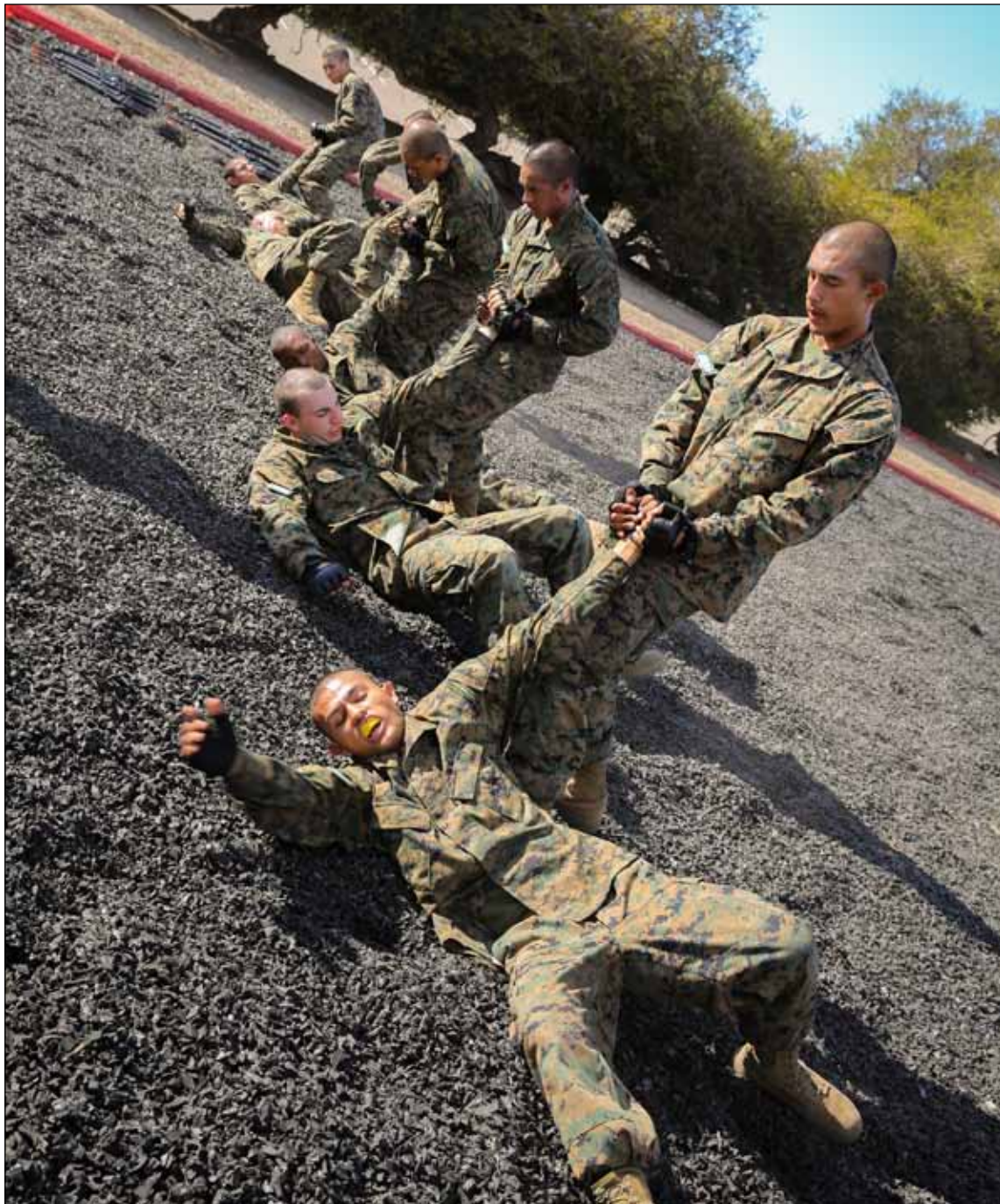
Mickelson explained that he had training in martial arts before joining the Corps and wasn't nervous this time around. However, he remembered his first test being very stressful, and knew a lot of the recruits going through the MCMAP test felt that same way.

Through the physical conditioning and warrior ethos mental training, MCMAP offers recruits a multitude of opportunities to learn and grow to become the Marine warrior they're striving to be.

"It's about building a foundation of what it takes to be a Marine," said May, a Bergenfield, N.J., native. "It's an important skill set for each Marine that you need to implement at the ground level."



Company M recruits practice a right side break fall. After successfully completing their Nov. 12 MCMAP test, the recruits earned their tan belt, the first skill level belt.



Company M recruits perform a basic wrist-lock take down during the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program test aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Nov. 12. The MCMAP test is a graduation requirement and it is critical for recruits to be successful on test day.

MARINE ◀ 1

"The neighborhood I grew up in was nice, and the city is full of generous people to be around," said Appiah. "Once I was in high school I started running track. I wasn't really into any other sports, I just enjoyed to run."

As Appiah's senior year of high school came to an end, he was offered scholarships to go to college, but turned them down.

"I know the importance of college, but I wanted to do something that would be a new challenge and full of obstacles to overcome every day," said

Appiah. "I knew the United States Marine Corps could offer me that, so I talked to a Marine Corps recruiter and never looked back on my decision to join."

From the moment Appiah stepped onto the yellow foot prints to the moment he earned

his eagle, globe and anchor, he has experienced mental and physical challenges and earned the right to call himself a United States Marine.

"I know I made the right decision by joining the Marine Corps, and I am eager to continue my career in the Corps,"

said Appiah.

Now that Appiah has earned his spot in the brotherhood, he will continue his training at the School of Infantry at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., to complete his military occupational specialty training in security forces.