



Lima Company runs Obstacle Course II

Pg 4

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO

CHEVRON



AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION

Vol. 74 – Issue 36

“WHERE MARINES ARE MADE”

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2014

Idaho native beats spinal tumor, joins Corps

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

When Esra D. Mullner was taken to a doctor for consistent back pain he had no idea doctors would find a tumor in his spine.

At the time, he was just 11 years old and doctors advised against the surgery because of the high risk and low success rate of the procedure.

“I remember my mom told me and at the time I didn’t understand what a tumor was,” said Mullner. “I just remember my mom was mad that the neurosurgeon was

going on vacation right after he told us that. That’s how I knew it was bad.”

Recruit Mullner, Platoon 3269, Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, said doctors told him that if they were able to remove 80 percent of the tumor he would have a 50 percent survival rate.

Unfortunately over the next few months the tumor grew larger causing periods of paralysis, leaving no choice for doctors but to perform the procedure. He was told due to the tumors rapid growth, the surgery was needed to save his life.

Mullner said he had three incidents where he became paralyzed from the waist down for 30 minutes to an hour and would awake in the night screaming and crying from the back pain.

Doctors told him the tumor had grown into his spinal nerves, which was why he was getting paralyzed and receiving intense pain.

“It felt like needles coming from inside my back pushing outward,” said Mullner,” a Boise, Idaho native.

A seven-hour surgery was for the most part a success. But a minor graze of a spinal nerve during the operation left him without feeling in three fingers in his right hand.

“It’s just a reminder of what I’ve been through,” said Mullner with a nonchalant shrug.

Prior to the diagnosed tumor, Mullner explained becoming a Marine had become a dream after being inspired by Marine



Recruit Esra D. Mullner, Platoon 3269, Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, graduates today from recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Mullner is a Boise, Idaho native.

see GRAD ▶4

Edson Range major wins world martial arts championship

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

The world title in the ancient martial art of Pankration didn’t come with ease for Maj. Jackson T. Doan, operations officer, Edson Range, Weapons

Field Training Battalion. The road to the achievement began with hard work at an early age.

Doan was five years old when his father began to teach him Philipino Martial Arts. By the time he was in the 6th grade, Doan had earned his first black belt, in karate.

Doan explained martial arts were a big part of his childhood.

“In my family, martial arts were a form of discipline and respect,” said Doan, an Oceanside, Calif., native.

Despite his early success in martial

see CHAMP ▶4



Major Jackson Doan, operation officer, Edson Range, Weapons Field Training Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, front, spars with a co-worker in the ancient Greek martial art of Pankration. Doan, an Oceanside, Calif., native, is the current Pankration World Champion in his weight class.

BRIEFS

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.

Winter Holiday Concert

Marine Band San Diego presents the annual Depot Winter Holiday Concert on Dec. 13 at 4 p.m., at McDougal Hall (the depot theater).

The concert is free and open to the public. Feel free to bring a new, unwrapped toy to drop off for the Toys for Tots program.

Semper Fi Bowl

The Marine Corps’ annual Semper Fi All-American Bowl Game will be held Jan. 4, at the Stubhub Center in Carson, Calif.

The Semper Fidelis Football Program brings together 90 student-athletes from across the country who have demonstrated success both on and off the gridiron.

Semper Fidelis All-American’s are selected for being among the top-rated high school football players in the nation, who will go on to play for top NCAA football teams around the country.

Attendance is free, and all military personnel, families and friends are encouraged to come out to enjoy this extraordinary 4th annual West vs. East game! Kickoff is at 6 p.m.

For information, go to <http://semperfidelisfootball.com/> or www.facebook.com/SemperFidelisFootball.

Legal Assistance Office open during construction

The legal services building is currently undergoing construction that will last into Spring 2015. The legal assistance office however, is open for business.

If you need to speak with a legal assistance attorney for the first time, come in during walk-in hours Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 to 10 a.m., on a first come, first served basis.

If you have met with an attorney at MCRD legal assistance before, then you can make a follow-up appointment by calling 619-524-4111.

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.

Sunday is a day to remember Pearl Harbor

STORY BY ROGER EDWARDS
Chevron staff

Sunday marks the 73rd anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, an event that then president Franklin D. Roosevelt called a "date that would live in infamy."

On the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, the Japanese launched a carrier-based surprise attack against U.S. military facilities on Oahu, Hawaii. The attack consisted of a wave of 183 Japanese aircraft, followed by a second wave of 167 aircraft. The attack lasted 110 minutes, from 7:55 until 9:45 a.m.

During that time 2,335 American military personnel and 68 civilians were killed, and 1,143 military and 35 civilians were wounded.

The attackers missed one of their main objectives because the three Pacific fleet aircraft carriers were at sea on the day of the attack. During the attack they focused on the eight battleships that were in port, but also attacked other vessels, aircraft

and military facilities on the island.

The battleship USS Nevada was the only one of the seven tied up on battleship row to get underway. She became a prime target and was damaged to the point that she was beached to keep from sinking.

The USS Arizona was sunk when attackers hit her magazine causing a massive explosion that killed approximately 1,100 of the crew.

The USS Tennessee was damaged by two bombs and oil fires, but she stayed afloat.

The USS West Virginia was hit by up to nine torpedoes and sank.

The USS Maryland was hit by two bombs, but was not heavily damaged.

The USS Oklahoma was hit by up to nine torpedoes, took on water and turned nearly upside-down. Only 32 of her crew were rescued.

The USS California was struck by two torpedoes and a bomb. The crew was unable to bring flooding under control

and she sank three days after the attack.

Also damaged or destroyed in the attack were three light cruisers, four destroyers, a mine layer,

a target ship and four auxiliary vessels. One-hundred and eighty-eight American aircraft were destroyed and 159 damaged.

Japanese losses were 65 men

killed and one captured, 29 aircraft and five midget submarines.

The attack brought America into World War II.



Official Navy Photograph

A Navy photographer snapped this photograph of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941, just as the USS Shaw exploded.

Marines, JGSDF shooters complete sniper training

STORY & PHOTO BY
CPL. DREW TECH
Marine Expeditionary Force/Marine
Corps Installations Pacific

YAMATO, KUMAMOTO PREFECTURE, Japan – U.S. Marine Corps scout snipers collaborated with Japan Ground Self-Defense Force snipers during a lesson in stalking Dec. 2 in the Oyanohara Training Area in Yamato, Kumamoto Prefecture, Japan.

The training is part of Forest Light 15-1, a semi-annual, bilateral exercise consisting of a command post exercise and field training events conducted by elements of III Marine Expeditionary Force and the JGSDF.

The Marines worked alongside the JGSDF scout snipers to improve their abilities in camouflage techniques, stalking when moving through open and wooded areas and the different movement techniques that can be used while stalking.

"These techniques are important to us as snipers because we need to be able to move undetected into different areas and be able to set up and engage selected targets," said U.S. Marine Sgt. Joseph Armistead. Armistead is a scout sniper with Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, currently attached to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF, under the unit deployment program.

"Showing the JGSDF how to do this and increasing their knowledge on it will make them better at their task as well," he said.

Forest Light demonstrates the continued commitment of the U.S.

and Japan to increase interoperability of our armed forces and maintain a strong partnership to protect Japan from external aggression.

"I believe that this bilateral training is important because it's building our friendship and communications with them ... bridging that gap between our culture and theirs," said Armistead, from Seymour, Tenn.

"Another importance is they have different methods on how to perform the same task we do. So

we share our ideas and at the end of it we both become better."

The language barrier gives the two sides an added challenge during the bilateral training, but in the end they both manage to get their messages across, according to U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Jonas G. Dewald, from Wilson, N.C.

"It has been more difficult than I thought it would be," said Dewald, a machine gunner with the company.

"Things tend to get lost in translation, especially when we

are trying to hit all the little details and really improve our stalking abilities. I think the main idea was conveyed in the end though."

The same group of Marines is scheduled to continue to work with the JGSDF snipers throughout the exercise.

"I've enjoyed working with the JGSDF," said Dewald. "They have been very professional, very humble and eager to learn, which is great. I'm looking forward to some of the stalk lanes later this week that we have planned. I'm

hoping to see them put some of the skills we taught them today into action."

The JGSDF snipers agreed learning from Marines with combat experience is a valuable addition to their training regimen.

"I think it's great that we share our experience with each other," said JGSDF Staff Sgt. Junichi Tachikawa, a scout sniper with 42nd Regiment, 8th Division, Western Army, JGSDF. "I hope to continue these types of exercises in the future."



A U.S. Marine, a machine gunner with Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, currently attached to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF, under the unit deployment program, demonstrates the effectiveness of a ghillie suit Dec. 2 in the Oyanohara Training Area in Yamato, Kumamoto Prefecture, Japan. The concealment training was part of Forest Light 15-1, a semi-annual, bilateral exercise consisting of a command post exercise and field training events conducted by elements of III Marine Expeditionary Force and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force to enhance the U.S. and Japan military partnership, solidify regional security agreements and improve individual and unit-level skills.

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PLATOON HONOR MAN
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 Sgt. T. L. Guy

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PLATOON HONOR MAN
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PLATOON HONOR MAN
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PLATOON HONOR MAN
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 Merced, Calif.
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Platoon 3274
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 Los Angeles
 Marksman Instructor
 Cpl. J. J. Adams

Platoon 3274
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 Pfc. D. J. Saldana
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3rd RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION

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Sergeant Major
Battalion Drill Master

Lt. Col. T. Carlos
 Sgt. Maj. J. D. Ferriss
 Gunnery Sgt. J. M. Pocaigue



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* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

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 Pfc. S. C. Homer
 Pvt. I. R. Howard
 Pvt. O. Jaramillo-Quintero
 Pvt. U. Javier-Lopez
 Pvt. C. W. Kerns
 Pfc. R. B. Kim
 Pvt. A. A. Kruse
 *Pfc. R. P. Lent
 Pvt. B. M. Lewis
 Pvt. T. A. Long
 Pvt. E. W. Meyers
 Pvt. J. A. Meza

Pvt. C. M. Mickelson
 Pfc. D. M. Miller
 Pvt. M. R. Morales
 Pvt. T. R. Murphy
 Pvt. R. C. Nunez
 Pvt. S. P. O'Connor
 Pvt. N. A. Ortega
 Pfc. S. E. Palacios
 Pvt. M. S. Peterson
 Pvt. P. G. Prina
 Pfc. J. Quinto
 Pfc. C. J. Rigler
 Pvt. C. A. Rincon
 Pvt. D. J. Robinson
 Pvt. J. A. Romero
 Pvt. A. Ronquillo
 Pvt. N. B. Rosales
 Pvt. D. S. Rosas
 *Pfc. D. J. Saldana
 Pvt. J. G. Salinas
 Pvt. M. M. Sasamoto
 *Pfc. C. J. Schrader
 Pfc. C. W. Schutte
 *Pfc. C. J. Shipley
 Pvt. R. S. Sirico
 Pfc. C. J. Smith
 Pfc. J. A. Snyder
 Pvt. C. Sollars
 Pvt. W. G. Stanley
 Pvt. N. M. Stouill
 Pvt. D. C. Stretcher
 Pvt. M. E. Stuart
 Pvt. G. X. Suviav
 Pvt. D. J. Thornley
 Pvt. C. S. Thurston
 Pvt. K. L. Tran
 Pfc. Z. S. Tucker
 Pvt. K. R. Turner II
 Pvt. I. S. Vander-Hyden
 *Pfc. G. M. Van Order
 Pvt. M. S. Venegas
 Pvt. J. D. Villalobos-Rocha
 Pvt. B. J. Vinyard
 Pfc. L. W. Watson
 Pvt. J. B. Weeden
 Pvt. T. R. Werchau
 Pvt. K. M. Williams
 Pfc. A. R. Wilson
 Pvt. J. B. Woeppl
 Pvt. T. T. Wood
 Pfc. D. P. Wooldridge
 Pvt. A. L. Wright
 Pfc. J. T. Yip
 Pvt. A. Zambrano
 Pvt. J. A. Zammuto-Pierce
 Pvt. D. L. Zuech
 Pvt. G. A. Zuehlke

PLATOON 3275
 Pfc. C. B. Alvarez
 Pfc. Z. T. Ayers
 Pvt. W. J. Brown
 Pvt. S. C. Clawson
 Pvt. C. Contreras
 Pfc. S. F. Diersing
 Pvt. A. J. Dunn
 Pvt. A. D. Dyer
 Pvt. J. D. Ellis
 Pvt. T. Elvadjian
 Pvt. M. A. Escareno
 Pvt. T. D. French
 Pfc. A. Gamez
 Pvt. Z. D. Gemmel
 Pfc. J. J. Hale
 Pfc. Z. H. Haney

Pfc. A. M. Harris
 Pvt. C. T. Henline
 Pfc. B. M. Henry
 Pfc. G. L. Hoskins
 Pvt. M. R. Hunt
 Pfc. A. Jimenez
 Pvt. J. A. Kretzman
 Pvt. C. B. Lail
 Pvt. J. W. Lawyer
 Pvt. T. A. Long
 Pfc. J. T. Lopez
 Pfc. B. R. Martinez
 Pfc. A. Q. McCracken
 Pvt. L. J. McDonald
 Pfc. A. M. Mentz
 Pvt. J. M. Moe
 Pvt. C. L. Montoya
 Pvt. B. S. Morrow
 Pvt. A. D. Newman
 Pvt. L. S. Orrison
 Pvt. B. A. Ramirez
 Pvt. P. M. Russell
 Pfc. J. J. Sanchez
 Pvt. R. T. Sandlin
 Pvt. A. J. Schiefer
 Pfc. A. L. Scholes
 Pfc. M. T. Segall
 Pvt. B. W. Shain
 Pfc. J. B. Silva
 Pvt. G. E. Smith
 Pfc. N. R. Sobocinski
 Pvt. S. R. Spitz
 Pvt. S. J. Stecker
 Pvt. D. L. Stephen
 *Pfc. J. L. Stevens
 Pfc. M. B. Stevens
 Pvt. E. K. Strathmann
 Pvt. M. G. Streit
 Pfc. J. A. Suarez
 Pvt. D. A. Tapia
 Pfc. W. L. Thompson
 Pfc. J. D. Torres
 Pvt. C. J. Tubbs
 *Pfc. A. M. Tucker
 Pfc. C. A. Ulloa
 Pvt. G. V. Vetter
 Pvt. A. Villagomez
 Pvt. K. D. VonRentzell
 *Pfc. K. M. Waasdorp
 Pfc. I. J. Wachholz
 Pvt. A. N. Wade
 Pvt. P. D. Wade
 Pvt. G. J. Walker
 Pvt. T. J. Watkins
 *Pfc. C. J. Weeks
 Pvt. D. J. Weigel
 Pvt. T. G. Weninger
 Pvt. A. A. Westby
 Pvt. E. J. Wheeler
 Pvt. E. M. White
 Pfc. J. R. Williams
 *Pfc. A. C. Wilson
 Pvt. J. M. Wing
 *Pfc. T. A. Woo
 Pvt. C. J. Wood
 Pvt. M. G. Worley
 Pvt. L. W. Yates
 Pvt. J. O. Zacarias



Recruits of Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, line up to begin the Obstacle Course II event aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Nov. 20. After recruits went through the course, they had to run back to the beginning to execute the course again.

Lima Company navigates through Obstacle Course

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

One of the greatest challenges of a combat situation is trying to prepare for the unknown. Recruit training begins the preparation to ensure recruits are both physically and mentally ready for almost any obstacle they may run into.

Recruits of Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, took on the Obstacle Course II event aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Nov. 20.

This was the second time recruits ran through the course. The first was to familiarize themselves with the obstacles and only climb halfway up a 20-foot rope at the end of the course. This time, they were expected to successfully navigate the entire course and climb the full length of the rope.

"The obstacle course helps recruits overcome adversity and heights while using the techniques we taught," said Sgt. David Alvarado, drill instructor, Platoon 3246. "Other physical training activities slowly develop them to overcome bigger obsta-

cles. This course helps prepare them for the Confidence Course they'll be doing next week. It's all to prepare for the next level of training."

Recruits began the event by performing warm-up exercises and a half-mile run before lining up at the start of the course. In four columns, recruits attempted the first obstacle, which required them to pull their body weight up and over a bar.

The remainder of the course required them to slide across a pole, balance across wood beams, hurdle logs and walls and then climb the rope. When recruits reached the top of the rope they had to slap the wood beam the rope is attached to, scream their name, platoon number and senior drill instructor's name, which indicated the completion of the course.

Though recruits had an idea of what to expect this time around, the course was still able to test their physical and mental strength.

"I struggled with the rope climb because we didn't do the full rope before, and I was already fatigued," said Recruit

Patrick E. Plunkett, Platoon 3246. "The technique for it is hard when you're tired physically and mentally."

Utilizing their mental strength was vital to successfully completing the event. Plunkett stated he had to focus and believe in his own abilities to overcome the obstacles that were ahead of him.

"Even though this is difficult, I can do it," said Plunkett, a

Woodland Hills, Calif., native who was recruited out of Recruiting Substation Granada Hills, Calif. "Even though I'm scared, I have the courage to do it. In time, I know that completing and overcoming the course will soon become second nature to me."

Lima Company endured and overcame one of recruit trainings' most challenging event. It is still, though, just another rung

on the ladder recruits are climbing to reach their goal of becoming a United States Marine and the challenges they will face ahead of them.

"This is how Marines are made; pushing limits and boundaries," said Plunkett. "This helps make you stronger mentally and physically, sharpening the body and mind, for any combat situation we may end up in."



Recruits of Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, make their way up the last obstacle, the 20-foot rope climb, during the Obstacle Course II event aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Nov. 20.

CHAMP ♦ 1

arts, Doan chose to wrestle throughout high school. He didn't return to martial arts until college when he watched a competition on television that inspired him to pick up where he left off.

"(At the Ultimate Fighting Championship) Royce Gracie was only about 165 pounds and just destroyed everyone that he went against. That inspired me because regardless of weight he won because of his superior technique. I wanted to challenge myself and make myself better."

Doan began training in

college but it wasn't until he joined the Marine Corps that he jumped to national and then global level competition.

In between deploying three times to Iraq and twice to Afghanistan, Doan made time to train and always ate healthy.

His training regimen included three two-hour sessions a day.

"Cardio in the morning, strength and conditioning in the afternoon and in the evening mixed martial arts training," said Doan.

Hard work paid off for Doan and after entering his first Pankration tournament in 2012, he won the 2014 U.S. Nationals.

Doan then went on to win the U.S. world team trials in 2014 and represented the U.S. for the Fila Pankration World Championship in the 145 pound weight class.

For the world tournament, Doan fought the best Pankration fighters from countries such as Japan, Romania and Ukraine and beat them all to become the Pankration World Champion.

Although Pankration is currently not an Olympic sport, Doan explained there is a good chance for Pankration to be in the 2016 Olympics. If that happens, Doan said he would relish the opportunity to repre-

sent the Marine Corps and his country.

Doan said he always fights for his supportive family and his fellow Marines.

"I challenge myself to do my best mentally and physically so that my children can see that example and find the path to challenge themselves," said the 41-year-old Doan.

"The other side of my inspiration is fighting for Marines, everything we stand for and, in particular, the Marines that have given their all. Because after five combat deployments I promised to every Marine I've known that has gotten hurt or has died that I would live my

life to the fullest for them.

Despite being the current Pankration world champion, Doan remains humble and says an Olympic competition would not be a guaranteed win.

"Anyone can win on any given day. But I always feel confident knowing I've prepared myself the best I could," said Doan.

Despite his modesty, Doan said he would be speechless if were able to achieve Olympic gold.

"It would be one of the highest points in my life. To represent the Corps and country on that level. I couldn't even put into words how that would feel."

GRAD ♦ 1

recruiting posters posted on walls near his wrestling gym.

"I saw those posters three days a week on my way to practice," said Mullner. "And one day I just knew I wanted to be like those men in the posters. From then on I knew it was what I wanted to do."

That dream didn't vanish because of his tumor, and post-surgery he spoke with a recruiter about his chances of enlisting.

"He told me I would have to be cleared for contact

sports," said Mullner. "But with part of the tumor still in my spine, I couldn't."

Mullner said he would routinely receive Magnetic Resonance Imaging to check the status of the tumor and while there, would ask to be cleared for contact sports every doctor's visit.

"One day in 10th grade, I went in and the doctors told me the tumor was gone. It had just disappeared! It was a miracle," said Mullner. "It was the happiest day of my life because it meant I could play sports and fulfill my dream of joining the Marine Corps."

Following high school Mullner waited numerous

months for medical waivers before finally being accepted into recruit training. His waiting and efforts have paid off. Mullner graduates recruit training today.

Fellow platoon member and rack mate declared he was inspired by Mullner's story of perseverance.

"It takes a person with determination, commitment and a strong mindset, knowing there was a possibility that his effort to join the Corps could have been in vain," said Recruit Miguel E. Ramirez. "I'm proud of him having the will to stick with his dream of joining despite people telling him he couldn't do it."