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MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO

CHEVRON

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION



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“WHERE MARINES ARE MADE”

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2014

Marine gains strength, confidence during training

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

Sitting on a bus, late at night aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, waiting to step onto the yellow footprints, Recruit Mark D. Crum could hear the footsteps of a drill instructor. He had only one thought on his mind.

“This is going to suck.”

Crum, Platoon 1015, Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, overcame personal and physical challenges to earn the title United States Marine.

He was born in Honolulu when his father was serving in the Marine Corps. After his father completed his four-year contract as an M60 Machine Gun infantryman, they moved back to Michigan to be closer to family.

As a child, he was interested in playing football. By 6th grade, he got his chance to play at the position of offensive tight end. He thought he was good at catching the ball and he was fast, but his coaches decided to move him to offensive tackle. Instead of catching the football, he necessary to catch defensive rushers. He realized a change was needed if he was going to play his new position successfully.

“In tenth-grade I realized I needed to start getting bigger,” said 19-year-old Crum. “I only weighed 175 pounds and was going up against guys over 200 pounds.”

He hit the gym and dinner table hard. Through any food source he could get, he managed to gain the weight he needed.

“I got bigger and was able to play my position better,” said Crum, who was re-

cruited out of Recruiting Substation Grand Rapids South, Mich. “A lot of those guys started getting easier to throw around.”

Toward the end of high school, Crum seriously considered the possibility of joining the military. He explained he always had a general interest in joining since he was a little kid, thinking it was cool, but wasn’t sure which branch. His father, however, didn’t want him to go into the military, but instead, go to college.

“I was good in school, I got all ‘As’ and ‘Bs’, but I thought it would be boring and wanted to do something else,” said Crum. “Online videos and television advertisements all helped play a role of influencing me on which service I should join.”

The history and legacy of the Marine Corps caught Crum’s interest, and ultimately solidified his decision.

“I looked around and picked the Marine Corps because I thought they were the best trained,” said Crum. “It looked like a challenge and wanted to see if I could do it.”

At his first poolee exercise function, Crum had a familiar realization another change was needed if he wanted to reach his goal of becoming a Marine.

“My heart was racing so fast during the first running exercise that I had to stop,” said Crum. “It made me re-evaluate my life because I was eating a lot of junk food at the time. I decided it was time to make a change.”

Crum weighed 213 pounds and got himself as low as 167 pounds. He battled with weight fluctuation, but overall lost 60 pounds after having to lose weight he regained. By the time he shipped to recruit training he was 197 pounds.

Crum was not only challenged with his weight, but by the fitness standards he needed to meet, which were drastically different than when he played football.

see MARINE ▶4



Private Mark D. Crum, Platoon 1015, Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, graduates from recruit training today.

BRIEFS

Winter Holiday Concert

Marine Band San Diego presents the annual Depot Winter Holiday Concert tomorrow 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.

Attendance is free, and all military personnel, families and friends are encouraged to attend. Kickoff is at 6 p.m.

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

Christmas Buffet

The depot’s Bayview Restaurant is serving a Christmas Day Buffet Dec. 25, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The buffet includes a carving station serving New York Stiploin with California wild mushroom and peppercorn sauce, and pork tenderloin with mango and passion fruit sauce; and a pasta station featuring Porcini Mushroom ravioli with garlic cream sauce, macaroni & cheese, and Gernelli pasta with shrimp & crab with pesto sauce.

Buffet serving line one will feature roast pepper chicken, boneless and skinless double chicken breasts stuffed with asparagus, smokehouse bacon and feta cheese, and Korean short ribs with Asian barbecue sauce.

Buffet serving line two will feature breakfast items.

There will also be a salad and cheese station and a dessert station.

Adults dine for \$29.95, active duty and seniors for \$25.95, children five to 11 for \$15.95 and children under five eat free.

Call (619) 725-6388 for reservations.

DoD allotment policy change

Effective Jan. 1, starting new allotments to purchase, lease or rent personal property is prohibited. Existing allotments of this type will be grandfathered. Examples of personal property include but are not limited to cars, motorcycles, boats, appliances, household goods, furniture, electronics and other consumer items that are tangible and movable.

Allotments may be used for, but are not limited to, savings accounts, support to dependents or other relatives, payments to a spouse or former spouse, premiums for insurance, mortgage or rent payments, investment in mutual funds or other financial assets or purchase of U.S. Savings bonds.

For information call Tom Garcia, IPAC, (619) 524-6113.

Send briefs to:

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Recruits learn marksmanship fundamentals

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

Once recruits have reached the second phase of training, they take on the challenge of becoming a rifleman at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Recruits of Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, were taught the basic fundamentals of firing the M16-A4 Service Rifle during Grass Week, while under constant supervision of Marines who specialize in marksmanship, better known as primary marksmanship instructors.

Primary marksman instructors teach recruits the fundamen-

tal techniques of shooting such as breathing and trigger control as well as shooting position stability.

“Recruits have to focus on the basic fundamentals. Natural point of aim and proper placement of the rifle in the prone, kneeling, sitting and standing positions will make the difference in just qualifying or shooting expert,” said Cpl. Tony Williams, range coach, Range Company, Weapons and Field Training Battalion. “Recruits practice the fundamentals of marksmanship during grass week and should feel comfortable with firing the weapon by the time they step foot on the range.”

Once PMIs complete the classroom instructions, recruits move to an area to “snap in.” This time allows them to practice the fundamentals they were taught. The semi-circular area surrounds a white barrel with different size targets painted on the sides. The targets are of different size simulating what they look like at distances of 200, 300 and 500 yards, the exact distances recruits will shoot from.

Recruits spend several hours “snapping in,” which allows them to gain confidence and build muscle memory in different shooting positions.

“During grass week, recruits have to stay disciplined and focused to retain all of the knowledge they will need for firing week,” said Williams. “Some of the recruits have never fired a weapon before, so attention to detail is key.”

Once Grass Week is over, recruits move on to Firing Week and apply the fundamental marksmanship principles they learned to qualify with their weapon TO be able to move forward with training. Some recruits prepare for Firing Week physically and mentally by going the extra mile.

“I’ve spent a lot of time practicing breathing control and trigger control,” said recruit Seth M. Schut, Platoon 3229.

Firing Week is the first time recruits are able to fire their weapons in recruit training. They are given several days to polish their skills before qualifying for an official score.

see MARKSMANSHIP ▶4



Recruit Blake S. Sunkle, Platoon 3229, Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, fires at a target on the 500-yard line from the prone position at Edson Range, Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 24.

Integrated Task Force Engineer Platoon blows away assault breaching exercise

STORY & PHOTOS BY
CPL. PAUL S. MARTINEZ
*Marine Corps Ground Combat Element
Integrated Task Force*

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – Marines with Engineer Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, conducted an assault breaching exercise at Engineer Training Area 2 at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Dec. 3.

The platoon began their exercise by hiking more than 10 kilometers to the training area, carrying demolitions equipment such as M1A2 Bangalore torpedoes, the Anti-personnel Obstacle Breaching System and C4 satchel charges.

The next day, the platoon constructed obstacles at various distances using concertina wire. After preparing the demolition equipment, they were ready to go to work. Their objective: to assault and reduce obstacles by means of controlled detonation.

“(This) training was based on assault breaching, an engineer task that is very similar to what we will be doing out in Twentynine Palms,” said 1st Lt. Stephanie Damren, platoon

commander, Engineer Platoon, H&S Company, GCEITF.

She referenced the coming Task Force deployment to Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California, where Marines will be assessed on their ability to perform tasks out of the individual Military Occupational Specialty Training and Readiness manuals.

“We wanted to focus on the basics of what assault breaching is, which consists of building charges, setting up security and proofing and marking the lane after we reduce the obstacle,” Damren said. “The Marines were intense. They got out there and applied what they knew and did great at it.”

The Marines worked in squads to determine what demolitions were appropriate and effective for their obstacles, utilizing M1A2 Bangalore torpedoes first before bringing out the expedient line charges of C4 and detonation cord. Marines maintained a security perimeter while teams of two set up the charges. After charges were confirmed by position safety officers, the Marines retreated to a safe distance before detonating the charges and with them, the obstacles.

GCEITF leaders, including Col. Matthew G. St. Clair, commanding officer, GCEITF, and Sgt. Maj. Robin C. Fortner, sergeant major, GCEITF, were present to observe the engineers’ training. The Marines also employed the Anti-personnel Obstacle Breaching System, which is an explosive line charge that utilizes a rocket and fragmentation grenades to clear obstacles. The platoon concluded their exercise once all obstacles were neutralized.

“The Marines gained (proficiency) on how to successfully conduct an assault breach,” said Sgt. Eric T. Johansen, squad leader, Engineer Platoon, GCEITF. “They did extremely well from what I saw, and understand (assault breaching) a lot better than they would in a classroom setting.”

From October 2014 to July 2015, the Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force will conduct individual and collective skills training in designated combat arms occupational specialties in order to facilitate the standards based assessment of the physical performance of Marines in a simulated operating environment performing specific ground combat arms tasks.



Lance Cpl. Amadu Kanu, combat engineer with Engineer Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, advances to an objective with an M1A2 Bangalore torpedo during an assault breaching exercise.



Position safety officers observe the detonation of an M1A2 Bangalore torpedo by Marines with Engineer Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, during an assault breaching exercise at Engineer Training Area 2 at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Dec. 3.

CHEVRON

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Platoon 1015 COMPANY HONOR MAN Lance Cpl. A. L. Terrazas Thousand Oaks, Calif. Recruited by Sgt. P. Gregory
Platoon 1009 SERIES HONOR MAN Pfc. J. B. DeFelice Gaylord, Mich. Recruited by Staff Sgt. R. Allen
Platoon 1010 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. C. A. Cobos III Albuquerque, N.M. Recruited by Sgt. H. Munoz
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Platoon 1014 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. J. D. Williams El Paso, Texas Recruited by Sgt. Y. Zuniga
Platoon 1013 HIGH SHOOTER (341) Pfc. C. R. Fuchs Firestone, Colo. Marksman Instructor Sgt. Sharpe
Platoon 1015 HIGH PFT (300) Lance Cpl. A. L. Terrazas Thousand Oaks, Calif. Recruited by Sgt. P. Gregory



ALPHA COMPANY

1st RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION

Commanding Officer
Sergeant Major
Battalion Drill Master

Lt. Col. L. M. Schotemeyer
Sgt. Maj. M. S. Seamans
Staff Sgt. J. Barnes



Table with columns for COMPANY A, SERIES 1009, PLATOON 1009, PLATOON 1010, PLATOON 1011, SERIES 1013, PLATOON 1013, PLATOON 1014, and PLATOON 1015, listing various roles and personnel names.

* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

- Extensive list of personnel names and ranks organized by platoon and series, including PLATOON 1009, PLATOON 1010, PLATOON 1011, PLATOON 1013, PLATOON 1014, and PLATOON 1015.



Recruits of Company L, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, maneuver through the Dirty Name exercise at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Nov. 28. The purpose of the Dirty Name is to get recruits over the fear of heights and to improve their physical fitness.

Recruits overcome obstacles, finish Confidence Course

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

Wide-eyed recruits looked upon their first obstacle with awe. Their first task required them to jump onto an approximately six foot log and from there jump onto and down from a log nearly 15 feet tall.

Despite the height and difficulty of the obstacle, recruits of Company L, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion completed the Confidence Course at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Nov. 28.

The Confidence Course is comprised of numerous exercises that require strength, endurance and the will to push through obstacles of great height such as monkey bars, rope swings and cargo net climbs.

Recruits were challenged to push through any doubts or fears

to complete their mission.

"You have to have heart to do this because if you don't you're going to give up," said Recruit Isaiah E. Bowden, Platoon 3242.

After completing each obstacle, recruits are required to perform various exercises while waiting for their fellow recruits to finish. Drill instructors kept the recruits in constant movement through the entire course.

"It's hard but I know it's going to pay off in the end when I receive that eagle, globe and anchor," said Bowden.

Bowden explained there were exercises that were fun such as the monkey bars, but there were also ones that tested his might.

"There was one exercise where we were up high, and that one was the hardest for me because I'm scared of heights," said the Madera, Calif., native.

However for some recruits, the Confidence Course was a tough as it gets. Recruits will be tested again because they are required to complete the Confidence Course twice during their training. The second attempt includes harder obstacles omitted in their first attempt.

The recruits are aware of this and many embrace the challenge.

Recruit Liam C. Dunne, Platoon 3243, explained the Confidence Course does what it says in its title in that it inspires confidence in recruits and that gives them what they need to complete it a second time.

"I'm scared of heights so that is a fear for me," said Dunne, a Walnut Creek, Calif., native. "But challenging yourself is fun. I'm looking forward to the next time and doing harder exercises."



Recruits of Charlie Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, maneuver over the monkey bars exercise at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Nov. 28. If recruits fell from the monkey bars exercise they had to start the exercise from the beginning.

MARKSMANSHIP ◀ 1

Qualifying is important for recruits. They must qualify to continue with training.

All Marines are required to qualify annually to ensure they are combat-ready because all Marines

are considered to be riflemen.

"Once I reach the fleet, I will be an infantryman, so it's critical that I start learning the basics and fundamentals now," said Schut, a Fennville, Mich., native. "Every Marine is a trained rifleman."

Lessons learned during grass week and firing

week of recruit training are used throughout a Marine's career. For that reason, it is important for recruits to retain all the knowledge PMIs teach. With the instruction and coaching, recruits are set up for success to move forward in becoming United States Marines.

MARINE ◀ 1

"My physical training when I shipped (to recruit training) wasn't that great," said Crum. "I could only do five pull-ups, 80 crunches and run 1.5 miles in 12 minutes 30 seconds, which was the absolute slowest time one could get in order to ship to recruit training."

Crum recalled being extremely nervous the first night at the depot.

"My heart was racing and adrenaline was pumping," said Crum. "I was one of the people who were holding everyone's pa-

pers, so when they told the people holding the papers to stand up, I stood up so fast that I hit my head on the ceiling. Overall though, I think I mentally made it worse than what it really was."

Over the course of recruit training, Crum lost another 30 pounds. He explained that he made sure he pushed himself and simply followed the advice the drill instructors gave them. His physical abilities also drastically improved as well. By graduation, Crum could do 20 pull-ups, more than 100 crunches and run three miles in less than 21 minutes.

Drill instructors of his platoon recognized the drastic transformation in Crum, naming him the platoon's 'Most Improved Recruit.' At the start of the training cycle though, drill instructors weren't sure he was ready for the challenge.

"When I first saw him, I thought he wasn't going to make it," said Staff Sgt. John L. Walker, senior drill instructor, Plt. 1015. "He had that look of defeat before he even started. I just think his mind wasn't here."

Walker stated that when they performed physical training, he saw Crum was giving it his all

and put forth 100 percent effort. He noticed Crum was struggling more during the second phase of training and decided to have a more in-depth talk with him and found out about personal issues.

"I realized his mind wasn't in recruit training anymore, so I helped him re-adjust," said Walker, a Kenbridge, Va., native. "(Crum) didn't quit and kept pushing forward. Around the third phase, we could really see how much he had improved both physically and mentally."

Now a private in the Marine Corps, Crum reflects on his

journey and the obstacles he overcame.

"I'm really proud of myself," said Crum. "Before I joined I wasn't happy, and thought there was no way I'd be able to complete the training. Just to have the physical evidence and knowing that I can do it; it's a real boost to my confidence and abilities."

Crum continues his journey to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he will take on Marine Combat Training before going to his military occupational specialty school as an avionics technician.