



**U. S. Marines,
Moldovan Army
hold anti-armor workshop**

Pg 2

CHEVRON

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION



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“WHERE MARINES ARE MADE”

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2014

College student follows dream to Corps

STORY & PHOTO BY
CPL. TYLER VIGLIONE
Chevron staff

Marines make the decision to join the Marine Corps for many different reasons. For one Marine, it was all about following a dream.

Lance Cpl. Zachary V. Maderak, Platoon 2151, Golf Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, tested different career options before realizing he wanted nothing more than to be a Marine. He worked hard to fulfill his dream and is graduating both Company Honorman and most physically fit out of his peers.

Maderak grew up in Chicago and attended high school at St. Rita of Cascia. He graduated in 2014, and maintained a 4.0 grade point average all while being a member of both the rugby and track teams.

During his senior year in high school, Maderak spoke to a Marine Corps recruiter regarding his plans after graduation. He explain he was still unsure of what he was going to do so the recruiter told him to come back when he had a better idea.

After he graduated, Maderak began college at Marquette University in Milwaukee but realized it was not what he truly wanted.

“I’ve always wanted to be a Marine,” said Maderak. “My grandfather was a Marine back in World War II, and he inspired me to earn the title.”



Lance Cpl. Zachary V. Maderak, Platoon 2151, Golf Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, completes a muscle-up after finishing the Confidence Chamber at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 8. Maderak tested different career options before realizing he wanted nothing more than to be a Marine. He worked hard to fulfill his dream and is graduating today as both company honorman and the most physically fit of his peers.

While in school, Maderak’s friend enlisted in the Army, which ultimately pushed him to follow his dream.

“College was all right,” said 19-year-old Maderak. “When my friend came back from basic training, I knew that I was just wasting my time going to school and had the need to go back to the recruiter.”

In February of 2014, he enlisted into the Marine Corps and left for recruit

training in September to be a part of Golf Company.

From the beginning of training, Maderak stood out to his drill instructors. He displayed confidence and leadership abilities, which is why he was appointed as the platoon guide in the second week of training.

“He adapted very quickly to what was

see **DREAM** ▶4

Recruits feel effects of Confidence Chamber

STORY & PHOTO BY
CPL. TYLER VIGLIONE
Chevron staff

“Gas! Gas! Gas!” is screamed by the instructors as recruits rush to put on their masks and file into the chamber, unsure about what is going to happen.



Recruit Devontae Viverette, Platoon 2150, Golf Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, feels the effects of chlorobenzylidene malonitrile, or CS gas, a non-lethal tear gas and riot control agent at Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Calif., Dec. 8. The chemicals in the gas cause a burning sensation to the skin and are particularly stringent to the eyes, ears and mouth. Most recruits experience effects such as tears streaming down their faces, coughing and runny noses.

Recruits of Golf Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, endured the effects of the Confidence Chamber at Edson Range at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 8.

The chamber event teaches recruits how to properly employ the equipment used during biological and chemical attacks. The chamber was filled with chlorobenzylidene malonitrile, or CS gas, a non-lethal tear gas and riot control agent.

Before recruits entered the chamber, they received classes on everything they were about to endure.

“We teach recruits the assembly of the M-50 Joint Service General Purpose Mask, have them check the serviceability of the masks, (conduct) immediate action drills and discuss the effects of CS gas,” said Sgt. Travis B. Armstrong, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense specialist, Weapons and Field Training Battalion. “Our number one goal is getting them confident with the equipment and making sure they know what to do when under pressure.”

Recruits didn’t fully understand what the gas’ full effects were until they actually entered the chamber.

“I was in the third group to go into the chamber,” said Recruit Zachary V. Maderak, Platoon 2151. “I heard all the other groups go, and all of the noises they were making made it more nerve racking.”

The chemicals in the gas cause a burning sensation to the skin and are particularly stringent to the eyes, ears and mouth. Most recruits wind up with tears streaming down their faces, coughing, runny noses and restricted breathing.

During the event, drill instructors yell to get recruits moving quickly in order to cause chaos and confusion, explained 19-year-old Maderak.

“We got in the chamber, it was kind of chaotic,” said Maderak, a native of Chicago. “We had to shake our heads, which made me dizzy for a few seconds.”

Recruits were required to perform three exercises while in the chamber. They shake their heads to demonstrate a correct seal of the mask, they conduct jumping jacks to elevate their heart rates,

see **GAS** ▶4

BRIEFS

Holiday gate closure

Christmas:
Gates 2 and 5 are scheduled to close at 6 p.m. on Dec. 24 and reopen at 6 a.m. on Dec. 29.

New Year:
Gates 2 and 5 are scheduled to close at 6 p.m. on Dec. 31 and reopen at 6 a.m. on Jan 5.

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.

Duncan Hall holiday closures

Duncan Hall will be closed Dec. 20 to Jan. 4. The recruit messhall will be open for use during regular meal hours (not brunch hours).

The following is a reminder of recruit messhall procedures:

- Proper civilian attire is required.
- Use Hatch 4 and the permanent personnel line only. (They may enter through the door facing BAS, which will have a sign posted for permanent personnel.)
- Use the most direct route into and out of the RTR restricted area.
- Don’t speak with recruits.

For information, contact Capt David Butters at (619) 524-8833.

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://semper-fidelisfootball.com/> or www.facebook.com/SemperFidelisFootball.

Send briefs to:

rdstd_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 FGM-148 Javelin man-portable anti-tank missile is fired during a coordinated simulated assault at the Anti-Armor Workshop in Balti, Moldova, Dec. 12. The anti-armor attack integrated U.S. Marines with Moldovan soldiers and various weapons. Within minutes armored targets scattered throughout a vast impact area were blown to pieces.

U.S. Marines, Moldovan Army attend anti-armor workshop

STORY & PHOTOS BY
MASTER SGT. CHAD McMEEN
U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe and
Africa

BALTI, Moldova – One week after the November 30th Moldovan elections, where pro-European parties maintained their majority in parliament, a military unit here hosted an anti-armor workshop with U.S. Marines.

“We had about 50 Moldovan soldiers from three or four different units around the country. We brought 15 Marines here; some assaultmen and anti-tank missilemen,” said 1st Lt. Ben Skarzynski, executive officer for Weapons Company, Black Sea Rotational Force 14.

The Marines from the Black Sea Rotational Force, located in Mihail Kogalniceanu, Romania, arrived Dec. 8, and began classroom instruction on advanced weapon systems to build a mutual understanding of both firing procedures and characteristics.

The military-to-military engagement was planned prior to the elections. The timing of the event in relation to the elections was coincidental however, the importance of the training can't be denied.

The country was annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940 and became an independent country in 1991; Moldova continues to work toward integrating into the European Union.

“We're here to work on anti-armor tactics and procedures; an exchange of how they do things and how we do things,” said Skarzynski.

Events like this show they are willing to build military capacity by working with the

United States and other nations to increase their knowledge of tactics and procedures.

“With our current mission set, [these events] greatly enables our capability to respond to contingencies in the region, which promotes greater stability,” said Skarzynski.

By Thursday, the 50 Moldovan soldiers, who mostly have an artillery background, were on the range live-firing shoulder-mounted weapons with deadly accuracy at distances up to 1,000 meters.

The Moldovan military ensured the week was mutually beneficial by providing instruction on their Rocket Propelled Grenade system and the 70mm Recoilless Rifle known as the SPG, with the opportunity for several to fire each one.

“We get the opportunity to work with a lot of [partner] nations and build relationships with units and nations around the region and with that comes capacity,” said Skarzynski.

The workshop culminated on Friday as the entire group conducted a full-on combined attack as distinguished visitors from both countries observed. The Moldovan Minister of Defense, BSRF leadership as well as military members from the USEUCOM Bilateral Affairs Office and the US Embassy Defense Attaché's office were all present.

“Interoperability' is our ability to work with and function with another nation, in thought and as well as in practical situations; we've culminated that here with a live-fire event with our Moldovan partners,” said Skarzynski.



Members of an anti-armor workshop in Balti, Moldova, examine the remains of an armored vehicle after it has been hit by anti-armor weapons on a simulated battlefield. The Marines and Moldovan soldiers built a mutual understanding of firing procedures and characteristics on advanced anti-armor weapons systems, including: Moldova's Rocket Propelled Grenade system and 70mm Recoilless Rifle (SPG), and America's FGM-148 Javelin man-portable anti-tank missile, AT-4 Anti-Tank Weapon and the Shoulder-launched Multi-purpose Assault Weapon.

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GOLF COMPANY

2nd RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION

Commanding Officer
Sergeant Major
Battalion Drill Master

Lt. Col. W. Doctor
Sgt. Maj. A. O. Osinowo
Staff Sgt. E. J. Estes



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* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

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Pvt. J. E. Talavera
Pfc. A. Tapia-Flores
Pvt. C. L. Thompson
Pvt. G. L. Thompson
Pvt. C. S. Tinoco
Pfc. J. D. Torrijos
Pvt. J. Trujillo
Pvt. C. B. Tucker
Pfc. A. B. Umphrey
Pvt. T. S. Uplinger
Pfc. J. T. Uyema
Pvt. P. J. Valdez
Pvt. M. A. Valencia-Hernandez
Pvt. T. P. Valley III
Pvt. C. A. Vaughn
Pvt. K. R. Veloz
Pvt. D. J. Villa Jr.
Pvt. J. M. Villegas-Amador
Pfc. C. L. Walker
Pvt. L. S. Walker III
Pfc. D. E. West
Pfc. D. Wiegand
Pvt. K. F. Williams II
Pvt. T. G. Wise
Pvt. M. N. Wolfe
Pvt. S. M. Woolsey
Pfc. J. Xiong
Pfc. B. J. Yambao
Pvt. J. O. Yandell
Pvt. M. R. Yanik
Pvt. E. Yoon
Pfc. C. A. Zeffaro
Pvt. G. H. Zinn IV
- PLATOON 2155**
Pvt. M. R. Bowman
Pvt. L. D. Cisneros
Pvt. J. Cornejo
Pvt. P. J. Covey
Pvt. H. A. De Paz
Pfc. M. H. De Shone
Pvt. J. A. Fowler
Pvt. J. L. Freeberg
Pvt. A. Garcia
Pvt. A. C. Harmon
Pvt. D. L. Helm
Pvt. B. J. Hubbard
Pvt. T. J. Kraynak
Pvt. T. W. Lich
Pfc. M. A. Lopez
Pvt. D. J. Maggart
Pfc. J. W. McConaughy
Pvt. M. E. Meroz
Pvt. C. P. Mulloy
Pfc. S. R. Ng
Pvt. A. R. Nieto
Pvt. A. J. Nordine
Pvt. A. J. Okelley
Pfc. E. D. Pauley
*Pfc. A. J. Reed

- Pvt. Z. B. Regnier
Pvt. J. L. Rhodes
Pvt. C. C. Roberts
Pvt. A. J. Rocha
Pvt. B. D. Rodieck
Pvt. M. A. Rodriguez
Pfc. N. A. Rodriguez
Pfc. C. M. Ruseell
Pvt. G. S. Salazar
Pvt. A. R. Sam
Pvt. T. M. Sanders
*Pfc. J. P. Sandoval
Pvt. E. Santibanez
Pvt. C. J. Sardalla
Pvt. M. A. Sawyer
Pvt. D. M. Scales
Pvt. G. J. Schneider
Pfc. T. A. Schott
Pfc. W. J. Schultz
Pvt. C. Segura
Pvt. J. Segura-Gutierrez
Pvt. J. M. Shannon
Pfc. N. G. Sharpmack
Pfc. E. X. Shaw
Pvt. R. A. Shea
Pfc. T. J. Shoulders
Pvt. R. M. Shrake
Pvt. W. G. Sigrist
Pvt. A. V. Solis
Pvt. N. J. Spruiel
Pvt. M. J. St. Clair
Pfc. C. L. Walker
Pvt. B. M. Stimson
Pvt. R. A. Syphax
Pvt. K. A. Tallington
Pvt. M. N. Tello
Pvt. L. A. Thiels
Pvt. R. Tieu
Pvt. J. L. Torres
Pvt. K. J. Ugarph
Pfc. E. O. Valadez
Pfc. C. V. Vang
*Pfc. T. K. Vash
Pvt. T. D. Villalobos
Pvt. J. E. Villarreal-Ferguson
Pfc. T. A. Villarreal-Ferguson
Pfc. R. C. Vilorio Jr.
Pvt. N. Viscarra
Pvt. T. L. Waldo
Pfc. D. S. Walker
Pfc. J. S. Walker
*Pfc. C. J. Wallace
Pvt. M. R. Watkins
Pvt. W. A. Weaver
Pvt. T. K. Wedman
Pfc. K. A. Williams
Pvt. D. M. Wise
Pvt. J. A. Yanez
Pvt. Y. M. Yoo
Pfc. J. Zamudio
Pvt. U. L. Zepeda



Recruits of Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, fight each other during a pugil stick bout at Marine Corps Recruit San Diego, Dec. 4. Before they begin the fighters were checked by a Marine Corps Martial Arts Instructor or a drill instructor to ensure their gear was properly worn.

Co. L recruits go toe-to-toe in Pugil Sticks II

STORY & PHOTOS BY
CPL. TYLER VIGLIONE
Chevron staff

Early in recruit training, recruits are taught to overcome and adapt to situations they may not be used to facing. Sometimes that means gaining the confidence to go toe-to-toe with one another to battle it out with fellow recruits.

Recruits of Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, battles each other using pugil sticks and newly learned bayonet techniques on training day 49 at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Dec. 4.

This pugil stick event was the company's second iteration, and it was unique in many different aspects. Recruits faced two opponents while fighting on a bridge and if they were to fall off the bridge or get hit, they would have lost the fight.

"We like recruits to practice as many scenarios as they can," said Sgt. Juan P. Cruz-Garcia, drill instructor, Platoon 3243. "There are many recruits here who have probably never been in a fight, and while they are here, we want them to gain that confidence. We want them to take the

mistakes so if it is ever for real, they'll have a better idea of what to do."

Prior to the Pugil Sticks event, recruits learned a second set of techniques they later were required to apply during each of their bouts.

"They were taught the armed manipulations portion of the bayonet techniques along with a demonstration of how it is supposed to be completed," said Cruz-Garcia, a native of Long Beach, Calif.

During the event, the recruits use pugil sticks, which are sticks with pads on each end that resemble a rifle with a bayonet attachment, according to 25-year-old Cruz-Garcia.

Recruits were split up by weight in order to make each bout fair.

Before the battles began, recruits donned their protective gear because once in the arena, they used full force. Helmets, groin protector, flak jackets, gloves and mouthpieces were given to each recruit.

Once in the arena, the fighters were checked by the Marine Corps Martial Arts Instructor or a drill instructor to ensure their gear was properly worn before their bout began.

While pugil sticks is one

of the more popular events in recruit training, it serves a purpose beyond the physical training.

"It definitely made me feel

more confident, said Recruit Joné Harris, Platoon 3243. "Getting the time to get in they aren't and practice the techniques definitely makes

me feel better about them."

Recruits of Lima Company will endure Pugil Sticks two more times before they earn the title of Marine.



Recruits of Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, perform a two-on-one pugil stick match during training. The recruits will use the pugil sticks against each other three times during recruit training.

GAS ◀ 1

and finally are required to break the seal of the mask to expose their faces to the gas, explained Maderak.

"It was awful," explained the recruit. "My whole body had a burning sensation, and I was violently coughing,

causing all of the mucus to come out of my face."

When each recruit's mask was off of his face, they were told to place the masks back on and breath normally again.

Several recruits felt panic as the effects of the CS gas took its toll on their

bodies, and just when the recruits thought they were finished, they were told to take the masks off once again.

"I could compose myself better the second time," said Maderak. "It was easier to breath, but it still didn't feel good."

Once Golf Company recruits passed

the Confidence Chamber, they had less than 24 hour before they began the Crucible, which is the last test the recruits face before earning the title Marine.

"It's good that we got this training early on in our careers," said Maderak. "You never know what kind of war we will be facing in the future."

DREAM ◀ 1

going on," said Staff Sgt. Gunnar K. Belton, senior drill instructor. "It was evident that he had the eagerness to learn and develop from the (beginning)."

Throughout training, Belton explained that Maderak had been ready for everything

and had taken his position as guide very humbly.

"He knows his place as a recruit, but also knows how to interact with the drill instructors the proper way," said Belton, a native of Blairsville, Ga.

Nearing the end of recruit training, Maderak was chosen to stand on a Company Honor man Board, which selects the

best recruit from the company throughout training.

Belton explained that Maderak easily won the board and will be representing his company as the honor graduate.

Not only is Maderak graduating as the honor graduate, but also the Marine with the highest Physical Fitness Test and Combat Fitness Test

scores in the company, earning him the title of "Ironman."

Following recruit training, Maderak, and the other new Marines, will get 10 days of leave to spend with family before reporting to their military occupational specialty schools. Maderak will be attending the School of Infantry West at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., to

pursue a career as an infantryman.

"I am proud and honored that I am graduating with both achievements, but my goal was to make my parents proud and let them know I made the right decision," said Maderak. "I am excited to start my career in the Corps and to see what it has in store for me."