



Recruit Titus L. Pannell, Platoon 2106, Echo Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, works on a motivational piece of art for Echo Company at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Jan. 31. Pannell is Washington, New Jersey, native and was recruited out of Recruiting Station San Francisco.

College grad chooses enlisted route

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

Six months before his 28th birthday, Recruit Titus L. Pannell, Platoon 2106, Echo Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, made the decision to join the Marine Corps. However, at the time he was 274 pounds, working full time and going to school. His recruiter explained he would need to lose 74 pounds in five months before reaching the Marine Corps' age limit of 28.

Despite his busy schedule, Pannell continued to work full time, go to school and work out every day. Though he was losing

weight, it wasn't coming off quickly enough. One month before his deadline, he started spending every minute of his spare time in the gym. At one point, Pannell said he was running 16 miles a day and watching what he ate.

"I hated eating that salad," said Pannell with a smile and a laugh. "But you know I just had to keep going, and it was worth it."

Pannell explained his desire to join the Marine Corps came from wanting to do something more with his life than what he had accomplished academically and in the work force.

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Recruits finding their way in the wild



Sgt. Benjamin E. Woodle

Recruit Chainey L. Ellis, Platoon 2105, Echo Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, uses his compass to confirm the direction to the next mark during the Land Navigation Course at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 22. Ellis is a Nevada, Mo., native who was recruited out of Recruiting Station Kansas City, Mo. See the land navigation story and pictures on page 4.

BRIEFS

Half-Marathon gate closures

The San Diego Half-Marathon is scheduled for March 8 from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Approximately 7,500 runners will pass miles 7 & 8 at MCRD between about 7:45 and 10:15 a.m.

The route runs northeast along Barnett Ave., turns southeast onto Pacific Coast Highway, travels down the cloverleaf onto northbound Witherby St., turns east onto Hancock St., then north onto Noell St.

The following traffic restrictions will be in place from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.

- Gate 1 (Barnett Ave): Closed. This is no change from everyday operations.
- Gate 2 (Barnett Ave): Closed from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. All traffic must enter through Gate 5.
- Gate 4 (Pacific Coast Highway/Witherby St.): Open to inbound traffic from I-5 (via the Old Town exit) and northbound PCH only 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Traffic will not be able to access Gate 4 from the southbound PCH. Southbound PCH traffic will be routed to Gate 5 by the San Diego Police Department.
- Gate 4 (Pacific Coast Highway/Witherby St.): Outbound traffic will be able to exit from Gate 4 onto Southbound PCH only from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Outbound access to I-5 will be closed by SDPD and all traffic routed onto southbound PCH.
- Gate 5 (Washington St): Normal operations; no traffic restrictions.

Gate closure test

There will be another Gate 4 closure test March 2 - 4.

Gate 4:

- Closes March 2 at 6 a.m.
- Reopens March 4 at 6 p.m.

Gate 2:

- Open on March 2 - 4 from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Returns to normal operating hours March 5

Gate 5:

- Opens on March 2 at 5 a.m. Will remain open 24 hours a day
- Resumes normal hours on March 4, closing at 6 p.m.

Golf tournament

The MCRD San Diego Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society will host a golf tournament benefit March 20.

The event begins at 8 a.m. at the Admiral Baker Golf Course, near the Mission Gorge area of San Diego.

There will be prizes for longest drive and closest to pin tickets.

Tickets are \$70, which covers greens fees, carts, range balls and lunch.

The tournament is open to all depot personnel but there are only 144 spots available. For information and to make reservations call (619) 437-3245.

Reservation fees must be paid to the above POCs by March 10.

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.



Company M recruits perform two sets of pull-ups followed up by sets of push-ups during a physical fitness session at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Feb. 19. The event included several exercises such as sprints, high knees and side shuffles.

Company M introduced to Corps physical fitness

STORY & PHOTOS BY
CPL. JERICHO CRUTCHER
Chevron staff

As the recruits of Mike Company entered week two of

recruit training, they spent the morning under the rising sun conducting a physical fitness session at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Feb. 19. The six platoons of Com-

pany M began the session by warming up with stretches then conducted stations of pull-ups, push-ups and sprints. Each station had two platoons of recruits ready to attack

the drill. The purpose of this physical fitness session was to show each recruit what areas of fitness he needs to improve upon before the initial physical fitness test.

demanding events.”

Recruits take on many vigorous challenges to prepare them for obstacles they may face as they progress through training.

Not only do recruits have to train for the PFT, but also the Crucible, which is one of the final challenges recruits must prepare for before graduating recruit training and earning the title Marine. Every physical fitness session should be taken seriously and recruits should get the maximum amount of training from it, explained Chenevert, a Baton Rouge, La., native.

Drill instructors observed the recruits closely during each station to ensure they executed the movements correctly and gave their best efforts.

“I believe one of the biggest challenges going through recruit training is staying motivated from start to finish,” said Chenevert. “Drill instructors do a good job of keeping us motivated. Marines have no choice but to keep pushing forward through any situation, and they do it efficiently. It’s why we have a Marine Corps.”



Company M recruits run sprints before starting the physical fitness session. The purpose of this physical fitness session was to show each recruit what areas of fitness he needs to improve on before the initial physical fitness test.

“Marines are required to be physically fit. It’s important we take every work out session seriously to improve to the next level of physical fitness,” said Recruit Matthew L. Patterson, Platoon 3266. “We are able to see what we need to improve on after every workout session.”

The initial PFT takes place on training day 22, and that is the first time recruits will be scored on their fitness level, explained Patterson, a Gilbert, Ariz., native.

Drenched in sweat from working in the San Diego heat, recruits pushed their limits at each station to build their cardiovascular stamina, endurance and strength.

“Physical strength and endurance is critical to have when it comes to the high demands of the PFT,” said Recruit Dallas S. Chenevert, Platoon 2366. “That’s not the only challenge we take on though. Recruit training is full of physically

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“I wanted to know that I could push myself physically,” said Pannell. “When I saw the Marines, their standards and how tough they are. I was like, ‘let me push myself to the limit’, and that’s why I came here.”

Pannell decided to join the Corps as an infantry man because he was angered by watching reports of terrorism taking place around the world. He felt those reports were signs telling him what military occupational specialty he should choose.

“The last month of working out I kept

seeing Islamic State of Iraq and Syria on TV and I heard we might be sent back over there to fight them. I felt, ‘this is the reason why God called me to be here, to fight this evil.’”

Because Pannell has three college degrees, he had the option to enter Officer Candidate School, but instead chose to enter through the enlisted route.

“I really wanted to earn the title Marine before I earned the title of Marine officer,” said Pannell. “I didn’t want to skip any steps. I wanted to see where (Marines) were coming from before I lead them.”

The Washington, New Jersey, native said he believed by becoming an enlisted Marine before a commissioned officer, he would be better suited to empathize with and lead enlisted Marines.

In his platoon, Pannell has contributed to recruit morale by being the platoon prayer leader and by using his skills learned from his Masters in Fine Arts to make motivational artwork for his platoon.

Pannell will graduate today, and his drill instructors have nothing but high praise and high expectations for him.

“He’s a leader for the younger recruits

and humble,” said Staff Sgt. Vicenti Ervin, senior drill instructor, Platoon 2106. “He’s an adult who really knows where he wants to go. I think he’s awesome and that he is going to make a good infantry officer.”

Ervin explained he respected Pannell’s decision to go through enlisted training before becoming an officer and believes that says a lot about his character.

Following graduation and infantry training, Pannell said he plans on immediately working his way toward becoming an infantry officer and will start working on a few long-term goals.

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Recruits Jacob R. Kottman and Chainey L. Ellis, (left to right) Platoon 2105, Echo Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, determine the direction to their next mark during the Land Navigation Course at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 22. Going through the course with minimal, or at times no supervision, recruits had a chance to get a sense of the critical factor of learning and properly executing the techniques they were taught.

Company E finds mark during land navigation training

STORY & PHOTOS BY
SGT. BENJAMIN E. WOODLE
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MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Out in the field, when navigational equipment fails, one must rely on the tools few thought they would ever need. Land navigation skills still hold great value on today's battlefield due to their ability to potentially save the lives of a Marine and his team.

Recruits of Echo Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, made their way through the Land Navigation Course at Edson Range, Jan. 22.

"This course helps develop a basic sense of land navigation skills," said Sgt. Cristian E. Rios, drill instructor, Platoon 2107. "Marines need to know these skills because at any point during an operation their gear may malfunction, but they will still need to find their way around."

In a modern day of electronics and global position satellite systems, some may argue the relevance of teaching these techniques to recruits. Out in the field environments, though, these systems have the tendency to fail, causing one to resort to the basic skills taught here.

"I've had some situations in my career where I've been dropped in a location, given a map and a compass and told to figure it out," said Rios, a Miami, native. "My junior Marines struggled in that situation, because beyond recruit training and the school of infantry, they didn't have as much experience using these tools."

Prior to starting the event, recruits received classes on land navigation techniques and how to properly use a map and compass while in the field. Recruits then set off to determine their pace count they would use while going from point to point. They were then paired up and given a set of coordinates that identified their required points along the route. Once in the course, they found out quickly that the techniques taught were vital to being successful in course navigation.

"It was difficult figuring out a back azimuth or different routes around obstacles, such as hills or thick brush," said Recruit Jacob R. Kottman, Platoon 2105. "These caused us to go off our path, so we had to figure out our adjusted pace count and get back on our original azimuth."

During training, most drill instructors have the ability to explain the usefulness and benefits of their basic training they applied in combat situations in Iraq or Afghanistan.

"It's all a part of the new Marine Corps and training smart," said Rios. "We have the chance to pass down all of our combat experience to these new Marines and better prepare them in the areas that, looking back, we could have improved on."

Going through the course with minimal, or at times no supervision, recruits had a chance to get a sense of the critical factor of learning and properly executing the techniques they were taught.

"This is something I could be actually applying soon that all Marines need to know," said Kottman, who was recruited out of Recruit Station Kansas City, Mo. "Being here also makes you work together with people you may not have been as close with and forces you to take the individualism out and work together."

With another new set of tools and knowledge in their vastly developing arsenal, Echo Company marched on with an increased confidence in their ability to navigate and conduct themselves in a combat environment.

"If our equipment ever goes down, we can fall back on this basic training," said Kottman. "It could help us or our brothers to our left and right to get out of a bad situation and safely get back."



Recruit Chainey L. Ellis, Company E, uses his compass to navigate to the next mark navigation mark. Recruits will use these skills when they continue their training at the School of Infantry.



Company E recruits track their pace count before they start the Land Navigation Course at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 22. After getting their pace count, the recruits were paired up, given a set of coordinates that identified where their ammunition cans were located and sent out to find them.