

Company H recruits complete twelve stall event during the Crucible

Pg 4



CHEVRON

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION



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“WHERE MARINES ARE MADE”

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Lance Cpl. Clayton M. Howard, Platoon 1062, Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, is promoted by his senior drill instructor Staff Sgt. Sergio Ramirez at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, March 26. Howard was meritoriously promoted to lance corporal prior to graduation and will represent the company as the honor graduate because all of his hard work and determination throughout recruit training. Howard is a native of San Antonio, and was recruited out of Recruiting Station San Antonio.

Texas recruit is successful leader

STORY & PHOTO BY
CPL. TYLER VIGLIONE
Chevron staff

Going through difficult life circumstances, such as being homeless, can be demotivating. However, one Marine chose to use that challenge to drive and motivate him to be the best Marine that he can be.

Lance Cpl. Clayton M. Howard, Platoon 1062, Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, was determined to become successful and strived to create a better life for himself and his family.

Howard grew up in San Antonio and faced many challenges at a young age. He didn't have a strong father figure and a stable home wasn't something he counted on.

“I have bounced around between living in our family car and staying with friends or at the homes of my people from my church,” said Howard. “My mom did the best that she could while raising us given we didn't have a lot of stuff.”

Although Howard was never really bullied for being homeless, he explained that while he was in middle school, he was not exactly liked. That began when he reached the 9th grade.

“When I reached high school, I started gaining a lot of respect from the people I went to school with,” said Howard.

Howard attended Winston Churchill High School where he joined the school's Army Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps and achieved the rank of cadet major, winning cadet of the year for his district. He was also the commander for the Blackwatch drill team that took part in local and national competitions.

While in high school, he attained straight As and maintained a greater than 4.0 grade point average. Even though he had exceeded the necessary prerequisites for most colleges, Howard still wanted to join the Marine Corps.

“I've always wanted to join the Marine Corps,” said Howard. “I wanted to live a better life.”

In June of 2014, he met a Marine recruiter who started him on the path of becoming an enlisted Marine.

“To me, the Marine Corps was the best, and that's all I wanted, to be the best,” said the lance corporal.

Howard shipped to recruit training on January 5 and became a part of Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion.

“The hardest part of recruit training is adapting to the lifestyle,” said Howard. “It was a lot different than what I was used to, and I wasn't really prepared for what was coming.”

Howard was quickly noticed by his drill instructors and was chosen to be

platoon guide, a position of leadership, within the first few days of training.

“I was appointed guide two days after pickup,” said Howard. “The drill instructors knew about my leadership experiences from high school, so they decided to give me the first shot.”

During the course of recruit training, Howard enjoyed being the guide, although it was difficult at times. However, he proved himself able and remained guide throughout recruit training.

“I loved helping my fellow recruits and being in a leadership position to begin my time as a Marine,” said Howard. “For anyone who aspires to be guide, just have patience and don't be harsh on your recruits.”

In recruit training, each platoon within a company has its own guide and at the end of the training cycle, the guides compete for company honorman. Howard won the competition and was meritoriously promoted to lance corporal prior to graduation.

After he graduates, Howard will move on to Marine Combat Training at the School of Infantry at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and then will travel to his military occupational specialty school to continue training in the field of communications. Eventually he plans on pursuing the path of becoming a Marine officer.

BRIEFS

Volunteer Tax Assistance

Tax season ends April 15, but the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance/MCRD Tax Center is still offering its services.

The center offers walk-in service from 8 to 11 a.m., and scheduled appointments from 1 to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Appointments outside of normal business hours are possible and will be considered on a case by case basis.

The Center is located at Legal Assistance (Building 12). The volunteers provide active duty service members, dependents and retirees with free federal and state income tax preparation with fast electronic filing.

Those who wish to use the service must have a photo ID, social security cards for self and dependents, a copy of 2013 tax return, and all applicable 2014 source documents (W-2s, 1099s, etc).

For appointments call (619) 524-8643. For faster service, fill out the form at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f13614c.pdf> and bring it to the center.

Spring Wine Dinner

The Bayview Restaurant holds its annual Spring Wine Dinner April 10 from 6 to 9 p.m., featuring wines from the Wild Horse Winery and Vinyards.

The menu starts with hors d'oeuvres followed by Seven Seas Chowder and a mixed micro green salad topped with tropical fruit and mango balsamic vinaigrette dressing.

The entree is grilled swordfish on a bed of leeks, spinach and kale, Chateau Potatoes, and baby carrots and baby spinach.

The meal finishes with triple berry rustic tart with Madagascar vanilla cream fraiche.

Reservations are required. Cost is \$55 for active duty and \$65 for civilians. There is a 10 percent discount for designated drivers. Advanced payment is required.

For reservations call (619) 725-6388.

Brown Bag Lunch Seminar

Personal and Professional development holds another Brown Bag Lunch Financial Seminar April 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Personal and Professional Development classroom, Building 14.

Subject of the seminar is “Raising a Money Smart Child: a Parent's Guide.”

Refreshments will be served and those attending are welcome to bring their lunch.

For information and to register, call Mike McIsaac at (619) 524-5728 or 1204.

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 G snaps into Grass Week

STORY & PHOTO BY
CPL. TYLER VIGLIONE
Chevron staff

Practice makes perfect, and through repetition and reiteration, actions soon become second nature.

Recruits of Golf Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, spent time learning the fundamentals of Marine

Corps marksmanship during Grass Week at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 18.

Grass Week is the part of recruit training when recruits learn the basics of marksmanship and functions of the rifle, such as how to load, unload and fire the M16-A4 Service Rifle.

Each platoon within the

company was assigned a primary marksmanship instructor and given classes on proper usage and operation of the weapon before the recruits qualify at Edson Range the following week.

There are recruits who come through training with some weapons experience, according to Staff Sgt. Christopher E. May, drill instructor,

Golf Company. They often have learned bad habits and must learn the fundamentals of marksmanship along with recruits who have never before touch a weapon.

May feels that this is why Grass Week is so important in recruit training. It strips the recruits of their bad habits.

Throughout Grass Week, PMIs teach recruits trigger control, sight picture, breathing control, sight alignment and natural point of aim. These basic fundamentals paved the way for recruits to become proficient and leave the range as either marksmen, sharpshooters or experts.

Each platoon had an outdoor classroom and area to conduct practical application. There are four primary positions recruits shoot in while at recruit training: standing, kneeling, sitting and prone.

The recruits are given time to snap in, or time to practice the different position and fundamentals they were taught.

Recruits spend hours aiming at barrels with targets painted on them that simulate what the targets look like from different yard lines.

"Marksmanship is the bread and butter of the Marine Corps and, in my opinion, it is one of the most important things recruits learn while they are in recruit training," said May, a native of Hardy, Ark. "The principles they learn from marksmanship, like looking down the scope and waiting for the perfect moment, tie into other aspects of being a Marine."

Recruits are issued weapons during the first week with their drill instructors, who teach them how to carry it, assemble and disassemble it for cleaning and maintenance purposes as well as instilling the four weapons safety rules.

Like any machine, there is a possibility that a weapon could malfunction while at the range. To correct those issues, PMIs also taught recruits remedial action, which is the method used to getting the rifle to fire properly.

With the basic marksmanship fundamentals in hand, recruits of Company G will move on to Firing Week when they will put what they learned to use and qualify with the Marine Corps' service rifle.



Recruits of Golf Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, snap in during Grass Week at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, March 18. Each platoon within the company was assigned a primary marksmanship instructor and given instruction on proper usage and operation of the weapon before the recruits qualify at Edson Range the following week.

Co. F kicks off recruit training with weapons issue

STORY & PHOTO BY
CPL. TYLER VIGLIONE
Chevron staff

The Marine Corps' motto, "Every Marine is a rifleman," is one that makes the Corps stand apart from the other services. In recruit training, rifles become an extension of a recruit's body as he is molded into the rifleman who will uphold that motto.

This motto was put into place because every Marine, regardless of gender, age or military occupational school is expected to be proficient in proper handling and employment of the rifle.

Recruits of Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, began their journey of becoming United States Marines recently and were issued their M16-A4 Service Rifles at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, March 23.

While the recruits have only been on the depot for a week, they are immediately given the responsibility of maintaining a service rifle. They will keep their weapons with them at all times and while many have never held a rifle before, it will become as normal to them as breathing by graduation day.

"The primary purpose of issuing recruits rifles in the very beginning of training is to get

them comfortable with holding the weapon," said Sgt. Daniel D. Poldoski, senior drill instructor, Fox Company.

During the first phase of training, recruits primarily focus on using rifles for close order drill. Drill instills discipline, instant obedience to orders and unit cohesion as recruits begin to learn how to work together as a team. They will learn more advanced drill techniques as they progress through training.

"Recruits take their weapons almost everywhere they go," said Poldoski, a native of Duluth, Minn. "We make sure we utilize any gaps in the training schedule to get the recruits out there to practice drill."

Drill instructors have 17 training days to prepare their platoons for Initial Drill, which is their first test of conducting precise and smooth drill movements. Toward the end of training, recruits will undergo Final Drill, which is the overall evaluation of how the platoon has progressed as a unit since their initial competition.

While the recruits concentrate efforts on drill during Phase I, it's during the second phase of training when recruits learn the techniques and fundamentals of firing the rifle and how to successfully qualify as a rifleman. At this point, the motto begins to come to life.

During Grass Week, recruits are taught the basics of handling the weapon, fundamentals of shooting and the shooting positions they will use the following week. They then put what they learn during the first week to the test during Firing Week when they are attacking the challenge of the qualification course.

"As drill instructors, we teach

them the basics of the weapon, such as handling procedures, weapons safety rules, assembly and disassembly, cleaning and regular maintenance," said 30-year-old Poldoski. "We get them ready so when they're in second phase they can focus on the fundamentals in order to do well when they fire."

From the beginning of

training, recruits familiarize themselves with their weapons. They will progressively learn more and more as they graduate recruit training and move on with their careers. The focus in recruit training is to make them as comfortable and familiar with the weapon as they can be so they can first and foremost be riflemen.



Recruits of Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, label their rifles during Rifle Issue at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, March 23. When recruits enter recruit training, they are immediately given the responsibility of maintaining a service rifle. These rifles become a part of them and the recruits will keep positive control of them at all times. A Marine Corps belief is that all Marines, regardless of gender, age or military occupational specialty are proficient in weapons handling and employment which makes every Marine a rifleman.

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1st RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION

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Sergeant Major
Battalion Drill Master

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Sgt. Maj. B. Clark III
Staff Sgt. J. E. Barnes



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* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

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 Pvt. E. E. Ruezga
 Pfc. M. J. Sample III
 Pvt. A. J. Scheler
 Pfc. A. R. Schnobrich
 Pvt. R. O. Sekyere
 Pvt. S. S. Sellers
 Pvt. A. C. Simon
 Pvt. C. A. Sloan
 Pvt. B. R. Smith
 Pfc. J. M. Soto
 Pvt. J. M. Stahl
 Pvt. J. R. Stifter
 Pvt. J. E. Teale
 Pvt. F. A. Truesdell
 Pvt. J. S. Vasquez
 Pvt. S. Vital
 Pfc. T. D. Wallis
 Pvt. B. D. Welcher
 Pfc. N. A. Whippo
 *Pfc. C. S. Wick
 Pvt. S. H. Younger
 Pfc. C. A. Zendejas

PLATOON 1067
 Pfc. J. D. Ballenger
 *Pfc. D. F. Blanchard
 Pfc. P. G. Cummings
 Pvt. A. A. Hamm
 Pvt. A. D. Harp
 Pvt. A. H. Krapf
 Pvt. A. R. Muniz
 Pfc. A. J. Murillo
 Pvt. L. O. Nash
 Pvt. B. D. Nations
 Pvt. J. W. Newman
 Pvt. T. Nguyen
 Pvt. J. D. Novinger
 Pfc. A. M. Nowak
 Pvt. G. Nunez
 Pfc. R. Nunez
 Pfc. J. D. Ontiveros Jr.
 Pvt. J. A. Owens II
 Pvt. N. J. Padia
 Pfc. A. X. Parris
 Pvt. M. A. Phoithirath
 Pvt. T. J. Pierce
 Pvt. E. J. Preuss

Pfc. C. C. Prout
 Pfc. J. J. Quartermane
 Pfc. M. C. Rampersad
 Pvt. J. R. Rivers
 Pvt. S. Rodriguez
 Pvt. L. A. Ruiz-Lopez
 *Pfc. S. Rungdit
 Pfc. J. E. Scarborough
 Pfc. Q. D. Schmitz
 Pvt. C. A. Seale
 Pfc. C. E. Seymore
 Pvt. A. M. Sharaf
 Pvt. J. D. Shippy
 Pvt. T. M. Shirley
 Pvt. R. A. Smart Jr.
 Pfc. P. W. Smith
 Pvt. K. D. Stamm
 Pfc. K. J. Stuart
 Pfc. A. E. Sturges
 Pfc. D. A. Summers
 Pvt. B. W. Swales
 Pfc. M. R. Tasetano
 Pvt. J. P. Tinney
 Pfc. H. D. Tran
 Pfc. H. H. Tran
 Pfc. H. N. Tran
 Pvt. F. X. Trillo II
 Pfc. C. R. Unger
 Pvt. J. E. Valencia
 *Pfc. A. Valles
 Pfc. M. D. Van Duren
 Pvt. R. N. Vara
 Pfc. R. Velasquez
 Pvt. C. D. Wagner
 Pvt. J. R. Walden III
 Pvt. B. E. Walker
 Pfc. J. M. Walker
 Pvt. D. A. Watkins
 Pfc. I. W. Wauer
 Pvt. J. M. Webb
 Pvt. J. S. Weiler
 Pvt. V. A. Wells
 Pvt. N. P. Wilkins Jr.
 Pvt. J. R. Winter
 Pfc. J. F. Womack
 Pfc. J. N. Yazdi
 Pfc. M. E. Young
 *Pfc. P. A. Zamora
 Pfc. D. J. Zuniga

Recruits train as fire team leaders during Crucible

STORY & PHOTOS BY
CPL. JERICHO CRUTCHER
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The Marine Corps stands out from the other service branches.

To attain this goal, recruits of Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, worked in fire teams to overcome the 12 Stalls event during the Crucible at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 31.

The stalls stand approximately 20 feet wide and 20 feet deep in three columns. The fire teams were given only a small set of tools and instructions and were on their way to complete each mission. The instructions described the task to be completed as well as any guidelines they must follow to successfully complete the challenge.

The stall exercise is one of 30 exercises the recruits must complete during the Crucible, the culminating, 54-hour test of endurance in which recruits experience food and sleep deprivation.

The purpose of the 12 Stalls exercise is to encourage one recruit to step up and provide leadership to his team. This gives the recruits an opportunity to develop a leader's mindset when his team is

looking up to him for the next set of orders.

"Marines are leaders and they train to work together as a team to make it possible to get through any challenge," said recruit Robert J. Jung, Platoon 2165. "The platoon breaks down into small fire team units to provide small unit leadership training to the recruits and that helps produce us into well-rounded Marines."

Each station held a very different challenge with different sets of rules the recruits were required to follow. However, one constant rule was that recruits could not touch anything on the obstacle that was painted red or it simulated a casualty, which triggered a restart of the obstacle for that recruit.

Before he could restart he was required to run approximately 100 yards with two ammunition cans and use the buddy drag technique to move a fellow recruit back to the start.

Although recruits of Company H were only on hour five of the Crucible, the exhaustion had already begun to set in on their faces as they made their way through the 12 Stalls.

While this event has focused on mental flexibility and teamwork, it's also a challenge physically.

For example, one obstacle required the recruits to crawl through two tunnels and then use two planks to maneuver across three wooden vertical posts of varying heights. Every recruit a part of the fire team was required to make it across with his gear to complete the mission.

Without the recruits working as a team and using leadership, none of the obstacles would be possible to accomplish, explained Recruit Joshua M. Prima, Platoon 2166.

"As we are working through each of the challenging obstacles, it's vital we communicate with each other," said 21-year-old Prima. "Communication keeps everyone on track of what is going on. Without communication, there is a high chance of failing the mission."

The event helps recruits grasp the concept of the varied combat scenarios they may encounter and reinforces the importance of mission accomplishment.

Once recruits have completed the Crucible and earned the title Marine, they will continue their Marine Corps careers by completing Marine Combat Training or Infantry Training Battalion, and then on to their military occupational specialty school.



A recruit of Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, balances himself on a chain bridge during the 12 Stalls event at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 31. The exercise is one of 30 the recruits must complete during the Crucible, the culminating, 54-hour test of endurance in which recruits experience food and sleep deprivation.



Recruits of Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, climb a rope from one side of an obstacle to the other during the 12 Stalls event at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, March 31. If recruits touched the red squares, they were considered a casualty and had to run 100 yards carrying 30-pound ammunition cans. Once finished, they returned to the stall to attempt the mission again. Company H is scheduled to graduate from recruit training, April 3.