



Marines, Dutch sailors land Osprey on Dutch vessel for first time

Pg 2

CHEVRON



AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION



Private Ryley K. Absher, Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, demonstrates his strength by using only his upper body to climb ropes at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, June 15. Absher, a Snoqualmie, Wash., native, is his company's "Iron Man."

Marine finds new level of physical, mental toughness

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

As the recruits of Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, prepare to graduate June 19, one has been named "Iron Man."

The Iron Man title is awarded to the recruit with the best physical performance of

the company. During training, recruits are given physical fitness tests that are comprised of a maximum set of pull-ups, a timed three-mile run and maximum set of crunches in two minutes. This PFT is not only a training requirement, but is also used to determine the company's most physically fit recruit.

Private Ryley K. Absher completed 32 dead-hang pull-ups, 156 crunches and com-

pleted the run in 17:30, which was more than enough to beat his peers.

Although Absher remained humble and attributed his accomplishment largely to his upbringing, his senior drill instructor noted the significance of the feat.

"I think it's an accomplishment that not

see **IRON MAN** ▶ 4

Drill instructor explains Corps during pick up



Sgt. Walter D. Marino II

Sgt. Carlose Tavernas, drill instructor, Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, instructs his recruits to move faster during pick up at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, June 12. Recruits were introduced to the fast-paced rigors and intensity they will endure over the next 12 weeks. Pick up is the first encounter the recruits have with the drill instructors who are charged with the responsibility of transforming them into trained Marines. The depot is responsible for training more than 16,000 recruits annually. Alpha Company is scheduled to graduate Sept. 4.

BRIEFS

Gate 4 closure

The start date for renovation of Gate 4 has been moved to Monday. The gate will be closed to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic until construction is completed in December.

During Gate 4 renovation, operating hours of Gates 2 and 5 will be as follows:

Gate 2:

Open 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week

Gate 5:

Open 24 hours

Auto skills workshop

There will be an auto skills workshop tomorrow in the Auto Skills Center, Building 142, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The topic for the workshop is brakes.

Those attending should dress comfortably for a hands-on garage classroom environment. No open-toed shoes will be permitted.

For information go to http://www.mccsmcrd.com/Downloads/CURRENT_EVENTS/15-Car-Classes.pdf

Father's Day Barbecue

The Bay View Restaurant is scheduled to host a Father's Day Barbecue Buffet Sunday, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The menu features barbecue chicken, baby back ribs and gourmet hot dogs.

Cost is \$15.95 for adults and \$8.95 for children 5 to 11. Children under 5 dine for free.

For reservations call (619) 725-6388.

Car Classic on the Bay

The depot's annual Car Classic on the Bay will be held June 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., on the Bay View lawn.

The event is open to the public. Spectator admission is free.

There will be more than 300 classic motor cars on display, along with entertainment, vendors, door prizes, food and beverages.

Winning vehicles will receive awards presented by Dave Stall, automotive expert and television segment host.

For information go to <http://mccsmcrd.com/car-classic/index.html>.

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.



Sergeant Major Jan Bult, a member of the Royal Netherlands Navy, directs the landing of an MV-22 Osprey with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 261 onto the Karel Doorman, a Dutch warship, during an interoperability test near Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., June 12, 2015. The units worked jointly to perform the first MV-22 Osprey carrier landing aboard a Dutch warship and strengthened the existing partnership between the two countries.

Marines, Dutch Navy perform first Dutch warship Osprey landing

STORY & PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. FATMEH SAAD
II Marine Expeditionary Force

Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C. – Spirits ran high aboard the Karel Doorman, a warship with the Royal Netherlands Navy, as U.S. Marines with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 261 made the first MV-22 Osprey landing aboard a Dutch ship during an interoperability test conducted near Marine Corps Air Station New River, North Carolina, June 12.

“What we normally do is support the forces ashore,” said Capt. Peter van den Berg, the commanding officer of the warship.

To better support ground forces, the amphibious unit recognizes it needs aircraft support, said van den Berg.

“That’s why the Netherlands Navy is very interested in cooperating and integrating with the U.S. Marine Corps and operating the Osprey from our decks,” said van den Berg. “The Osprey is capable of doing large airlifts at a time, instead of a smaller helicopter – an Osprey can take much more personnel back to shore.”

The landing was the first of its kind and tested the interoperability of the two military entities, as well as the Dutch’s ability to host the American aircraft aboard their ships through carrier landings.

“The majority of people live within 300 nautical miles of the ocean,” said Capt. Matthew Thompson, a Marine with VMM-261 and the pilot and operations officer for the exercise. “With that in mind, the

true Marine aspect of ‘from the sea to the shore,’ is increasingly important. Being able to land on a ship, or sea base from a ship, and move people and things to the shore is increasingly important.”

The test included five landings aboard the warship along with a refuel check to test the Osprey’s ability to receive fuel from the Dutch warship.

“This test supports the mission of the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing because when units from 2nd MAW move forward, they sometimes work in concert with coalition partners and that may include the Dutch one day,” said Thompson.

Thompson said building a stronger relationship and testing the units’ ability to integrate was the central focus of the carrier landings.

“The MV-22 Osprey provides commanders with unprecedented agility and operational reach,” said Thompson.

The U.S. military has a long-standing history working with their Dutch counterparts, a partnership both units expressed an interest in deepening.

“Having the knowledge that we learned today can help us when we move forward, if we ever work with the Dutch, which I think is a very real possibility ... especially when we saw the amount of compatibility that we have from a simple exercise like today,” said Thompson.



Marines with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 261 await the signal for takeoff from the Karel Doorman, June 12, 2015.



An MV-22 Osprey with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 261 prepares to land onto the Karel Doorman during an interoperability test. The unit worked jointly with the Royal Netherlands Navy to perform the first MV-22 Osprey carrier landing aboard a Dutch warship

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Platoon 3253 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. J. A. Reyes Redlands, Calif. Recruited by Sgt. J. Parris
Platoon 3255 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. C. J. Kauffman Saint Helens, Ore. Recruited by Staff Sgt. P. A. Charles
Platoon 3251 HIGH SHOOTER (339) Pvt. D. B. Lough Olney, Texas Marksman Instructor Cpl. J. Pearson
Platoon 3251 HIGH PFT (300) Pfc. R. K. Absher Snoqualmie, Wash. Recruited by Sgt. E. P. Fandalian



LIMA COMPANY

3rd RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION

Commanding Officer
Sergeant Major
Battalion Drill Master

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



COMPANY L Commanding Officer Capt. M. D. McElhenny Company First Sergeant 1st Sgt. J. A. Smith	SERIES 3249 Series Commander Capt. R. Feeny Chief Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. I. Alvarez	PLATOON 3249 Senior Drill Instructor Sgt. E. Gonzalez-Dawkins Drill Instructors Sgt. R. Burgess Sgt. H. Dalson Sgt. V. Gonzalez Sgt. M. Munoz	PLATOON 3250 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. D. Dail Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. V. Rodriguez Sgt. T. Haney Sgt. M. Madrigal	PLATOON 3251 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. E. Lathan Instructors Staff Sgt. E. Anciso Staff Sgt. R. Newberry Sgt. D. Alvarado Sgt. E. Benitou
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* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

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- Pvt. M. A. Valencia



Navy Lt. Diane Hampton, chaplain, Combat Logistics Battalion 15, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, comforts distressed mariners aboard the USS Rushmore (LSD 47) at sea in the Makassar Strait, June 10, 2015. Rushmore rendered assistance to the distressed mariners in the waters between the Indonesian islands of Kalimantan and Sulawesi. Once on board, the evacuees were provided food and medical attention by Marines and sailors of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit and Essex Amphibious Ready Group.

65 Indonesians saved by U.S. Marines, sailors

STORY & PHOTOS
BY SGT. EMMANUEL RAMOS
15th Marine Expeditionary Unit

USS Rushmore, At Sea – Marines and sailors with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit and the Essex Amphibious Ready Group aboard the USS Rushmore (LSD 47) saved 65 distressed Indonesian mariners from a sinking craft in the Makassar Strait, June 10, 2015.

The survivors were saved after four days of clinging to floating debris drifting with the current.

Sailors on lookout first noticed scattered debris, and after scouring the waters they noticed what appeared to be people massed together clinging to a makeshift raft.

“The call first came roughly after 1 p.m.,” said Capt. Tanner Cobb, communications officer, Combat Logistics Battalion 15, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. “The Rushmore crew then sent a water craft to assess the situation. They determined the [Indonesian] craft was un-sea worthy and that the people were pretty much standing in the water.”

After the decision was made, Marines and sailors burst into action and within 30 minutes of receiving the order they had set up an evacuee collection point, and had water, blankets, footwear and medical staff ready to receive them.

“The Marines and Sailors did a fantastic job of integrating between the ‘blue and green’ team to get ready without warning and pulling it off,” said Lt. Col. Wilfred Rivera, the commanding officer for

the CLB-15, 15th MEU. “We bring a unique capability that can only be found between the Navy and Marine landing force, and that’s being able to execute a mission like this on a moment’s notice. That’s what the MEU is all about, and these Marines and sailors proved that in their actions.”

Once evacuees were pulled from the water, they were transported by sailors in small craft to the USS Rushmore where they were received by Marines who were waiting with warm blankets and ready to rush them to medical care.

“They were all exhausted and dehydrated, with many of them too weak to walk on their own,” said Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Christopher Rovelli, corpsman, Company K, Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 15th MEU. “It’s heart wrenching to see it, and at that moment you know that timing is everything. We knew we had to make sure we gave everyone the help they needed, and fast. Luckily everything we do prepares us for moments like these.”

Within hours, the Navy and Marine Corps personnel safely brought the evacuees on board the USS Rushmore to provide shelter and medical attention.

“They were frail and weak, and when we saw them, all we wanted to do was make that pain go away,” said Sgt. Leclair Harris, combat engineer, CLB-15, 15th MEU. “We took care of them and made them feel safe.”

It was these feelings that gave Marines and sailors the

energy to push through the night to ensure everyone was cared for.

“It was extraordinary seeing everyone come together to help out,” said Cobb. “With so many moving parts things can get hectic and [friction] can occur, but we didn’t have that problem. Everyone had a job to do and they did it. We had Navy personnel saving [evacuees] and bringing them aboard and we had Marines and sailors getting them processed, nourished, and attending to any injuries they had.”

Even with a language barrier, it had no effect on the Marines and sailors ability to accomplish their mission of caring for evacuees. “When we saw them in the situation they were in it didn’t matter,” said Cobb. “Any human can understand and empathize. Our Marines and sailors provided the care these people needed and they understood we were there to help.”

Marines and sailors were able to get by mostly on basic hand signals, until a Marine who spoke Illocano, a Filipino dialect, was able to communicate with evacuees. Fresh from a liberty port in Manado, Indonesia, Lance Cpl. Arven Bunao, an amphibious assault crewman assigned to Co. K, BLT 3rd Bn., 1st Marines, 15th MEU, had learned that the Indonesian language was similar to Illocano.

“I was asked by my staff sergeant to see if I could communicate with them, so I gave it a shot,” said Bunao. “After speaking with a few of them I became comfortable com-

municating with them and was quickly able to pick up what they were saying.”

Bunao was able to translate their needs, where they came from, and how they had become stranded.

“I was just glad I was able to help out any way I could,” said Bunao.

There was no shortage of helping hands, even Marines and sailors who weren’t directly involved in assisting evacuees did their part by donating their personal clean dry clothes.

“I think that was the greatest part of all of this,” said Rivera. “This was a ‘blue and green’ team effort. For some of these Marines it was their first time experiencing a situation like this, and everyone was

touched by it.”

While evacuees were being tended to by the ship’s crew, Essex ARG officials made contact with Indonesian government representatives and organized a transfer of the evacuees for the following morning.

After a night of much needed rest, the mariners were transported to an Indonesian Coast Guard ship and on their way home.

The actions of the Marines and sailors reinforced the necessity of a U.S. presence on a global stage.

“Marines and sailors demonstrated a true example of our nation’s capabilities,” said Rivera. “Whether it’s humanitarian assistance or some other mission, we showed that we’ll be ready at a moment’s notice.”



A U.S. Navy corpsman assigned to the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit provides medical attention to a distressed mariner aboard the USS Rushmore (LSD 47) at sea in the Makassar Strait.

IRON MAN ◀ 1

many will achieve,” said Staff Sgt. Edward Lathan, senior drill instructor. “The hard work that he put in before boot camp and during is the pinnacle of leadership and an example (for others to follow).”

Absher explained he has continually improved his physical fitness throughout his life, and it was because of this he was able to perform at such a high level.

“I spent most of my time growing up

in the outdoors, either working on a farm or building my endurance for soccer,” said 18-year-old Absher. “If I wasn’t outside, then I was competing for wrestling. Wrestling physically and mentally built me to push my body further and harder than I ever thought was possible. When you think your body is about to shut down, you have to push through it. That’s what molds you into a mentally stronger person.”

Absher said he attributes his love of

athletics, team camaraderie and fitness that inspired him to join the Marine Corps.

“I wanted to be a part of the best fighting force in this brotherhood we call the Marine Corps,” said Absher.

It was not long after arriving at the depot that he found what he was looking for in recruit training when he was challenged with the PFT and found the camaraderie he was looking for with his fellow recruits.

“One stick is fairly easy to break,” said Absher. “When you put a bunch of sticks together, then it becomes a lot harder to break. That is what the Marine Corps is. We stand together, fight together and push each other to new levels of physical and mental strength.”

Absher explained he believes his accomplishment with physical fitness is important because Marines are frequently placed in physically demanding situations.