



AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION

"Where Marines Are Made" Vol. 75 – Issue 1

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2015

Nigerian comes to America, becomes Marine

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

Traditionally, the Marine Corps' brotherhood consists of Marines from many different backgrounds and cultures. For some it's trading one brotherhood for an-

Private First Class Kanayochukwu Onyejeli, Platoon 3235, Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, began his life in a small village in Kaduna, Nigeria, Africa. His family belonged to the Igbo tribe on the outskirts of the city.

Kaduna is known for its oil, and his mother worked in the industry.

"She would work for companies such as Shell, to ship out oil and kerosene," said 26-year-old Onyejeli. "We were not wealthy, but my mom took very good care of me and my sister growing up. We always had everything we needed.'

Onyejeli explains how the lifestyle and way of living is much different in Africa.

"At night we would use a generator for our power and a lot of times we would not have running water," said Onyejeli. "Those who lived in the village worked in farming to supply food, although the terrain could be rough and rutted out."

Kaduna became unstable and the instances of robberies and murders began to rise. That's when Onyejeli's mother decided to move them to America to live with

"The day before me and my mother were supposed to leave to America, eight armed robbers walked up to our car and took everything, including our passports," said Onyejeli. "We then had to postpone going to America until we could get the money and have new passports made."

Onyejeli adapted to the America's culture quickly, but it was not easy.

"The language is full of slang, so it was extremely difficult to learn. Once I graduated high school, I was in and out of college until I ended up in Savanna, Ga., where I met the love of my life," said Onyejeli. "Me and my wife both came from different states to Savanna for school. I went out one night with friends and that's when we met. Two years later we decided to get married."

After the wedding in Savanna, Ga., they decided to move to Dallas, where they would be closer to family. It wasn't long after that Onyejeli and his wife had a baby.

"Once we had a child. I knew I had to make a big decision on what to do to with my life," said Onyejeli. "I went down to the recruiting offices, passed the other branches and walked straight into the doors of the Marine Corps' recruiters office."

Onyejeli explains he is proud to be serving a country that gives him many opportunities in life, including taking care of his



Private First Class Kanayochukwu Onyejeli, Platoon 3235, Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, performs ammunition can lifts during the Combat Fitness Test at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Dec. 22. The CFT is conducted in the Marine Corps Combat Utility Uniform and boots to simulate combat environments. There are three events in the CFT, each worth 100 points, leading to a perfect score of 300.

BRIEFS

VITA MCRD Tax Center

The depot's VITA Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Center will open Jan. 23 and will operate from 8:30 a.m. to

The Center is located at Bldg. 12. It is free for service members, dependents and prior service.

Bring two forms of identification, personal and dependent social security cards and last year's tax returns.

Brown Bag Lunch Seminar

The Personal and Professional Development teams sponsors a Brown Bag Lunch Seminar from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m., Jan. 14.

The seminar is titled "Understanding Your Credit Reports and Credit Scores."

The event will take place at Personal and Professional Development, Building 14. There will be a light lunch served, but those attending may bring their own brown bag lunch.

For information or to register call Mike McIsaac at (619) 524-5728 or

Transition GPS workshop

Military members who are leaving the service, who are enrolled in the VA's Transition Goals, Plans, Success program and who wish to follow a technical career training track for future employment, are invited to a two-day workshop sponsored by the VA and the depot's Personal and Professional Development team.

The workshop will be held in the P&PD classroom in building 14 on Jan. 21 and 22, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The workshop will help participants define technical career goals, will help identify required credentials, and will help find training opportunities.

Participants must have completed the core GPS program, must bring military service transcripts, O*Net Self-Assessment/MOC Crosswalk results and individual transition plans and personal budget sheets.

For information or to register call Mina Threat 619-524-1283/8440.

Father-Daughter Dance

The depot's Marine Corps Community Services is sponsoring an "Under the Sea" Father-Daughter Dance Jan. 30, from 5 to 8 p.m., at the Field House, building 690.

The evening includes dancing and activities such as games and treasure hunts. Appetizers and a special cake will be served and a commercial photographer will be available.

Tickets are available at building 6 East, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. starting Monday. Tickets are \$15 per person. The dance is open to all active duty military, reservists, retirees and DoD eligible patrons. Mothers are not allowed.

For information contact Allison Santiago at (619) 718-3764, or via e-mail at allison.m.santiago@usmc-mccs.org.

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.

High schoolers meet for Marine Corps' 4th **Annual Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl**



U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Victor Rodriguez, a drill instructor from Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego stands with players of Team West Jan. 4, during the 4th Annual Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl, at The StubHub Center in Carson, Calif. The event, sponsored by the U. S. Marine Corps, brings together top high school football players for a week of training and competition between eastern and western sections of the country. Players are selected for their ability on the football field and their character, academic performance and leadership. Rodriguez and other Marines spent the week with Teams East and West preparing the players and teaching them about Marine Corps values.

Depot Marine deemed hero for saving woman's life in flood emergency

STORY & PHOTOS BY CPL. TYLER VIGLIONE Chevron staff

Heroes are often times everyday citizens who are in the right place at the right time who help others in need. In one such moment in time, a young Marine was in the right place at the right time to help a woman caught in quickly rising flood waters during a recent storm.

Cpl. Jason Martin, military police officer, Headquarters and Service Battalion, is being called a hero, but believes he was just doing his job.

"It was a crazy night to begin with," said Martin, a native of Chicago. "We had alarms going off all over base because of the rain we were getting."

Floods happen quickly in San Diego because the city doesn't get much rain throughout the year, so when heavy rain comes quickly it causes trouble on the roadways.

"I looked at the gate and noticed the area around the inbound gate was flooded," said 27-year-old Martin. "I did what I was supposed to do and called it in and went up to the guard shack to tell them what I saw."

Martin explained he went back out of the gate to assess the flooding on the connecting street to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot's main

"I had my flashlight out and saw the water level was pretty high," explained the Marine. "I looked down under the bridge and saw what appeared to be a van."

As Martin shined his flashlight on the van he saw a woman panicking in her vehicle, so he rushed to help her.

The door was locked," said Martin," I tried to calm her down and have her reach under the water to unlock one of the sliding doors to the van."

The water was up to the 6-foot 2-inch Marine's chest and was only getting deeper, putting more pressure on the vehicle's doors, making it increasingly harder to open.

"Anchoring my foot behind the wheel, I just pulled on the door," said Martin. "It took me a couple tries, but eventually I was able to muscle it and pull it open."

As he pulled the woman out of the vehicle she told him that she did not know how to swim, so he put her on his back and got them both

to safety.

Martin is very humbled about the situation and doesn't consider himself a hero for his actions. "It's what I am here to do," said Martin. "I am thankful that I was

there to help because there is no way she would have made it. It's just a part of my job."



Brigadier General James W. Bierman, commanding general, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego/ Western Recruiting Region, awards Cpl. Jason Martin, military police officer, Headquarters and Service Battalion, with the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Jan. 5. Martin received the award for his heroic actions in saving the life of a woman caught in quickly rising flood waters.



Brigadier General James W. Bierman, commanding general, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego/Western Recruiting Region, shakes hands with Cpl. Jason Martin, military police officer, Headquarters and Service Battalion, during his award ceremony.



Brigadier General James W. Bierman, commanding general, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego/Western Recruiting Region, talks to Marines about the great accomplishment of Cpl. Jason Martin, military police officer, Headquarters and Service Battalion.



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*Pfc. M. T. Williams

*Pfc. E. T. Wilson

Pfc. D. D. Young

The depot in pictures 2014

Making Marines



Cpl. Tyler Viglior

Recruit Brandon M. Hurd, Platoon 3223, provides cover while his fire team advances their position during the Bayonet Assault Course at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Sept. 10. The Crucible is a 54-hour event where recruits face food and sleep deprivation to simulate the kind of stresses they would face in combat situations. Hurd is a native of Blaine, Minn., and was recruited out of Recruiting Substation Coon Rapids, Minn.



Sgt. Walter D. Marino II

Recruit Samuel Aguilar, Platoon 1074, Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, waits for his turn at a pugil sticks match at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Oct. 21. This was the third and final pugil sticks exercise for the recruits of Company D.



Sgt. Benjamin E. Woodle

Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Oct. 21. This was the third and final pugil sticks exercise for the recruits of Company D.

Recruits of Bravo Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, use team work while performing a log carry drill during one of the Crucible events at Edson Range aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 15.

Recruits needed to utilize team work and coordination to move as one while performing the log carry.



Sgt. Benjamin E. Woodle

Marines of Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, stand strong during their Battalion Commander's Inspection aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Oct. 14. The purpose of the inspection was for the battalion commander to ensure the newly forged Marines have been properly trained and meet the basic requirement to continue on with their training at the School of Infantry.



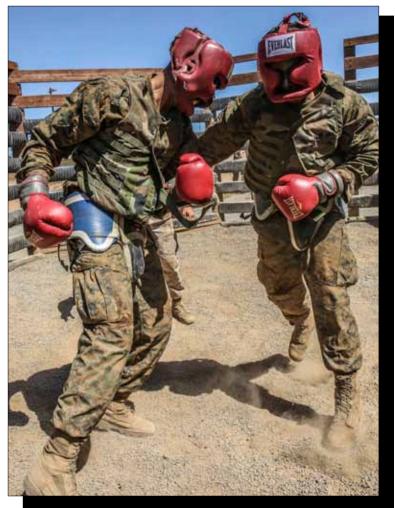
Sat Walter D. Marino II

Recruit Sam S. Trevisani, Bravo Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, practices his jab before getting in a boxing ring at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 1. The body sparring allowed the recruits to practice Marine Corps Martial Arts Program techniques learned during recruit training. Trevisani is a Dallas native and was recruited from Recruiting Substation Garland, Texas.



Sgt. Walter D. Marino I

Senior Drill Instructor, Sgt. Brandon M. Whelan, Platoon 2129, Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, introduces himself to the new recruits of Company F during platoon pick up at Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., July 21.



Cpl. Jericho Crutcher

Recruits of Charlie Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, exchange hits during a body sparring match as part of the Crucible at Edson Range, Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 24. Before conducting body sparring matches, drill instructors taught recruits the importance of hand-to-hand combat by reading a citation of a Marine who utilized his skills. Sgt. Ross Lindsey lams, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the attack on Fort Riviere, Haiti, November 17, 1915, engaged in hand-to-hand combat with the enemy that proved vital to winning the battle and completing the mission.



Sgt. Walter D. Marino II

Recruits of Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, perform a half-mile timed run as part of their first portion of the Combat Fitness Test at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., Nov. 24. The movement to contact is one of three exercises included in the CFT, and scores are kept on their military record for promotional purposes in the Fleet Marine Force.



Sgt. Walter D. Marino II

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



Cpl. Jericho Crutcher

Private First Class Smedley Butler, mascot, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, waits for Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, at the top of the Reaper during the Crucible at Edson Range, Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 11. Smedley earned the title Marine after receiving his eagle, globe and anchor with the new Marines of Company K.



Courtesy Photo Smedley Butler arrive on the depot as a fresh, new recruit on April 28, 2014.



Courtesy Photo

Smedley Butler is living up to his responsibilities as the depot's mascot, and is growing into the position.



Maj. Neil A. Ruggiero
Like many of his fellow Marines, Smedley Butler enjoys taking some of
his off time at the beach.



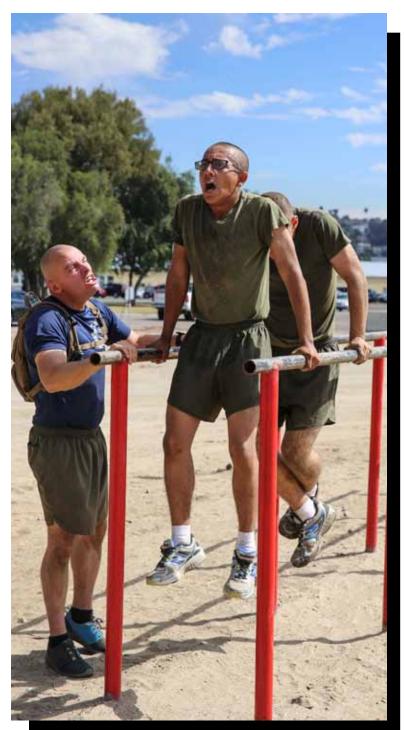
Cpl. Jericho Crutcher

Sergeant Kyle R. Caito, senior drill instructor, Receiving Company, Support Battalion, instructs a recruit to respond louder during receiving at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., Dec. 15. Recruits are expected to respond to every command drill instructors give them with loud volume.



Sgt. Benjamin E. Woodle

A Marine of Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, is inspected by Lt. Col. Tomas Carlos, commanding officer, 3rd RTBn, during the Battalion Commander's Inspection aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Oct. 14. The inspection helped the Marines become confident and comfortable when talking to their superiors.



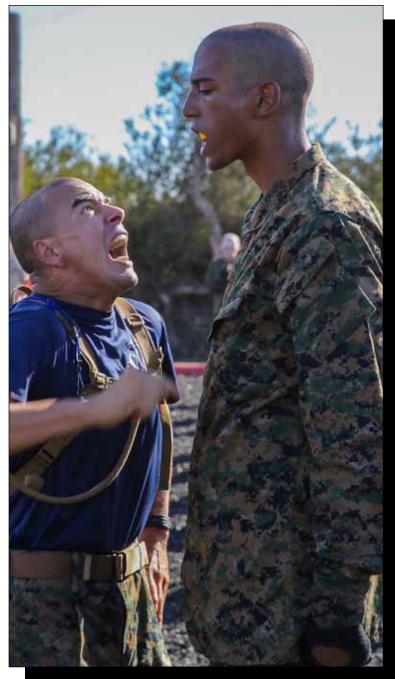
Sgt. Walter D. Marino II

Recruits of India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, are encouraged by their drill instructors to not give up during an exercise included in the Strength and Endurance Course at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Oct. 8. Recruits were required to continuously perform dips until their drill instructor gave the command to continue on with the course.



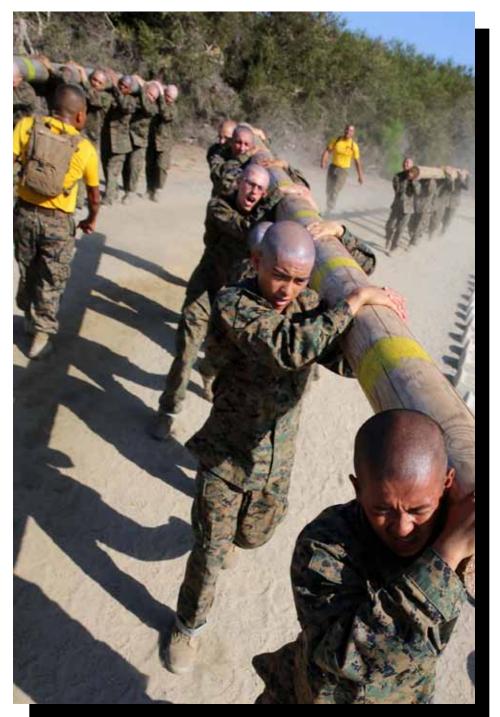
Sgt. Benjamin E. Woodle

Recruits of Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, make their way up the last obstacle, the 20-foot rope climb, during the Obstacle Course II event aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Nov. 20. When recruits reached the top of the rope they had to slap the wood beam, that the rope is attached to, and scream their name, platoon number and senior drill instructor's name, which indicated the completion of the course.



Sgt. Benjamin E. Woodle

Sgt. Francisco Rodriguez Jr., drill instructor, Platoon 3230, Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, corrects a recruit for not following directions during the introduction to the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program class aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Oct. 22. Drill instructors ensured recruits utilized proper technique and put forth maximum effort.



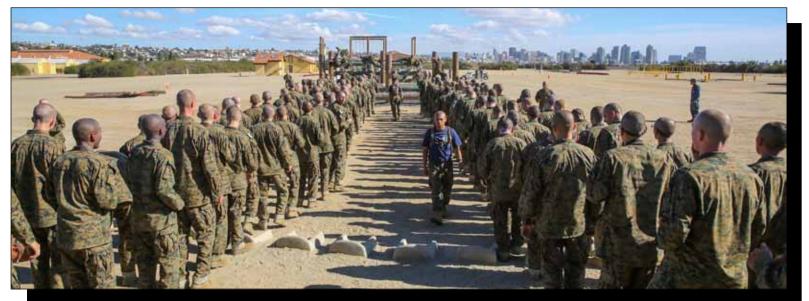
Sgt. Walter D. Marino II

Recruit Boonleua Lee, Platoon 2145, Golf Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, leads a group of seven recruits through a log drill exercise at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., July 8. Lee is a Yuba City, Calif., native, and was recruited out of Recruiting Substation Yuba City, Calif.



Sgt. Benjamin E. Woodle

Recruits of Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, make their way down the "Slide for Life" obstacle during the Confidence Course II event aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, July 22. The Slide for Life was one of the most physically demanding obstacles in the course where recruits were tested on their physical endurance and mental strength.



Sgt. Benjamin E. Woodle

Recruits of Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, line up to begin the Obstacle Course II event aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Nov. 20. After recruits went through the course, they had to run back to the beginning to execute the course again.



Sgt. Walter D. Marino II

Gunnery Sgt. Cornell S. Cornish, Platoon 3201, India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, tells recruits what he expects from them during pick up at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., Aug. 15. Recruits were introduced to the fast-paced rigors and intensity they will endure over the next 12 weeks. After spending the first week in-processing, recruits were marched over to their new squad bay where their drill instructors introduced themselves, recited the Drill Instructor Creed and began to carry out the mission of transforming civilians into United States Marines.



Sgt. Walter D. Marino II

Gunnery Sgt. Cornell S. Cornish, Platoon 3201, India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, tells recruits what he expects from them during pick up at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., Aug. 15. Recruits were introduced to the fast-paced rigors and intensity they will endure over the next 12 weeks. After spending the first week in-processing, recruits were marched over to their new squad bay where their drill instructors introduced themselves, recited the Drill Instructor Creed and began to carry out the mission of transforming civilians into United States Marines.



Cpl. Tyler Viglione

Sergeant Kyle R. Caito and Staff Sgt. Robert C. Weinhardt, drill instructors, Receiving Company, Support Battalion, encourage a recruit to move faster at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Dec. 1. Recruits are told to move with speed and intensity at all times during recruit training.



Sgt. Benjamin E. Woodle

A recruit of Bravo Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, tries to push an ammunition can across a board during one of the Crucible 12 Stalls obstacles at Edson Range aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 15. Prior to the start of the obstacles, recruits read a short instruction sheet that outlined the mission they were trying to achieve and what they were and weren't allowed to do to accomplish it.



Cpl. Jericho Crutcher

Marines from Bravo Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, march across the parade deck during graduation at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Oct. 24. After graduation, all Marines are given 10 days of leave before taking the next step in training.



Cpl. Jericho Crutcher

A Marine from Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, hugs his loved one after being released for liberty at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Dec. 4. This is the first time Marines have seen their families and friends since arriving at the depot 13 weeks ago.



Cpl. Jericho Crutcher

Marines from Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, march to meet families and friends prior to beginning liberty call at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Dec. 4. Family Day allows recruits to reunite with families for the first time since leaving for Marine Corps recruit training.



Cpl. Jericho Crutcher

A Marine from Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, walks his loved one after being released for liberty at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Dec. 4. This is the first time Marines have seen their families and friends since arriving at the depot 13 weeks ago.