



Co. I recruits experience their first Marine Corps inspection

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MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO



AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION

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“WHERE MARINES ARE MADE”

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2014

Rifle combat optic scope helps create Marine marksmen

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

The Marine Corps is not only taking advantage of advancing technology on big ticket equip-

ment such as tanks, aircraft and amphibious vehicles, but it is also taking advantage on personal equipment as well by transitioning the M16-A4 service rifle from iron sights to a rifle combat optic scope.

Traditionally, every Marine was trained using iron sights. These are the metal alignments used to assist shooters when they aim at their targets.

Successful marksman use proper rear and front sight align-

ment to ensure their rounds hit the target. The rear sight is mounted perpendicular to the line of the front sight and is used to adjust windage and elevation. During recruit training, recruits are taught how to maneuver these

sights to make an accurate shot. Using the new RCO increases the percentage that rounds hit their intended targets. Recruits at the depots are taking advantage of this new rifle combat optic, which magnifies the target during sighting in.

These scopes attach to the rifle where the rear sight aperture was located. Instead of using the front sight post to aim at the target, shooters learn to use a red chevron that appears in the RCO scope.

When deployed, every Marine is issued a service rifle with the new sights.

“Recruits learn the basics on how to operate the rifle while at recruit training,” said Sgt. Justin Riungel, primary marksman instructor, Edson Range, Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Every year Marines are required to qualify on the M16-A4 service rifle. While many recruits were able to shoot expert, the highest qualification, they are more likely to achieve it with the improved sights.

“Once the recruits reach the Fleet Marine Force, they are able



Recruit Daniel T. Bengtson, Platoon 3255, Lima Company, uses rifle combat optics on his M16-A4 service rifle while firing at Edson Range, Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 4. Traditionally recruits and Marines used iron sights to aim in on their targets, but are taking advantage of new technology using the scope.

see SIGHTS ▶ 2



Courtesy Photo

More than 3,000 San Diegans participated in the 2012 edition of the annual Boot Camp Challenge.

MCRD offers taste of recruit training

STORY BY
SGT. CRISTINA N. PORRAS
Chevron staff

Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego it scheduled to open its gates to the public Sept. 27, allowing people to get a small taste of recruit training during the 13th Annual Boot Camp Challenge as part of San Diego’s Fleet Week.

“The Boot Camp Challenge came along when we were looking for a way to feature the depot as part of Fleet Week,” said Kelly Sitar, deputy Semper Fit director and Boot Camp Challenge race director. “We decided to showcase what we do best – boot camp.”

The Boot Camp Challenge is a three-mile obstacle run, consisting of more than 50 obstacles used by recruits, including hay jumps, tunnel crawls, log hurdles, cargo net climbs and more. Drill instructors will be at each station, motivating participants through the course.

“A lot of people have said that they never realized how much they could push themselves until the Boot Camp Challenge,” said Sitar. “The drill instructors helped them and motivated them to keep going. The drill instructor experience is what people enjoy.”

According to Sitar, there were approximately 2,800 participants

last year. This year she is anticipating more than 3,000 participants for the race, which has a capacity for 4,000 participants.

“The race has evolved significantly over the years. Every year it gets bigger,” said Sitar. “This year we have more obstacles, and for the first time we are going to be using chip timing, due to feedback we have gotten in the past.”

Participants must be at least 15 years old and can choose to compete as an individual or create 3 or 5-person teams. The oldest participant in Boot Camp Challenge history, says Sitar, was an 88-year old, legally blind

see CHALLENGE ▶ 2

Charlie Company learns importance of mentorship

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

Charlie Company recruits learned the importance of mentorship in the Marine Corps and the assistance it gives toward a young Marine’s professional development in the Corps.

Recruits of Company C took advantage of such advice during a mentorship class at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., Sept. 1.

Prior to recruit training, many recruits relied on family members or coaches to act

as mentors, but in the class they learned in the Marine Corps it can be beneficial to have more than one mentor, specifically one that is of equal or higher rank.

First Sergeant Cristopher Demosthenous, the company first sergeant, Charlie Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, said he has three mentors, his father and two fellow first sergeants.

Demosthenous explained mentors play a crucial role for young Marines new to the Fleet Marine Force.

see MENTOR ▶ 2



First Sergeant Cristopher Demosthenous, company first sergeant, Charlie Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, engages recruits during a mentorship class at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., Sept. 1.



A Co. B recruit sights in using the rifle combat optic during grass week at Edson Range, Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 4. Using the new RCO increases the percentage of rounds that hit their intended targets.

SIGHTS ◀ 1

to enhance their skills with the rifle,” said Riungel, a 25-year-old Scio, Ohio, native. Although the target seems larger with the RCO, the fundamentals of shooting

remain the same and are paramount to effectively firing the weapon. “The fundamentals for shooting the rifle are the same with the RCO or without it,” said Riungel. “These recruits are the future of our Corps, and it’s vital that we

make sure they are properly trained with the rifle.” While most Marines have different military occupational specialties, which do not require firing the rifle, they are still expected as Marines to be a basic rifleman.



Courtesy Photo

The annual Boot Camp Challenge gives participants the opportunity to use the depot’s facilities and obstacles for a few hours to get an idea of what a Marine recruit does during the 13 weeks of recruit training.

CHALLENGE ◀ 1

woman who ran the race with her granddaughter. All participants will receive an official race t-shirt and are invited to participate in a post-race party, which will include music, food and beverages. Gen. James W. Bierman, MCRDSD commanding general, will present awards to the top three finishers in

each race category. “This is primarily for those people outside the gates looking in who don’t know what we do here,” explained Sitar. They get to experience firsthand what a drill instructor does, then after the race they can interact with the drill instructors and take pictures with them. Although the majority of participants are civilians, military participa-

tion, to include military spouses and family members, has increased over the years and there are award categories for military participants. Online registration is available at www.bootcampchallenge.com until midnight on Sept. 24. The price for individual participants is \$39, \$117 for a 3-person team and \$195 for a 5-person team. Race day registration is also available at a higher entrance fee.

MENTOR ◀ 1

While speaking to the recruits in the class, Demosthenous asked them what they thought was the first think young Marines do when they get to their first duty station. “Buy a car,” replied the recruits in unison. Demosthenous explained often times young Marines buy cars they cannot afford, and situations such as this can be avoided by good mentorship. The questions continued as Demosthenous asked the recruits to tell him who their mentors were and how they impacted their lives. One recruit immediately stood up and told a story of how his recruiter mentored him when he was having problems with his mother. Many recruits appeared to take the class to heart as they con-

tinued to respond with stories of their mentors. “My mentor was my martial arts instructor who led me by example,” said Recruit Benjamin P. Landers, Platoon 1045. “It wasn’t so much what he said, but what he did. He was really relaxed and modest even though his skills were dangerous.” Lander’s mentor was not just a martial arts instructor, but also a retired Marine who encouraged his decision to join the Corps. The Rolla, Mo., native, explained his desire to join the Marines was cemented by his admiration of his mentor. At the end of the class, it appeared all the recruits were inspired to either be or find a mentor after becoming Marines. “I want to find a Marine mentor who has good experience in my job field to help me learn fast and learn to do things the right way,” said Recruit Stanley D. Compton, Platoon 1045. “A good mentor can take you far.”

BRIEFS

Fall into volunteering

The depot’s Marine Corps Community Service is sponsoring a volunteer resource fair Sept. 23, on the Bayview lawn from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. If you want to volunteer to help your community, this is for you. There will be opportunities in family readiness, Marine and family programs, Semper Fit and multiple San Diego organizations. Children are welcome and activities will be provided. For information call Tracy Genica at (619) 718-3765 or contact her via e-mail at genicate@usmc-mccs.org.

Brown Bag Seminar

The depot’s MCCS sponsors a Personal Financial Brown Bag Lunch Seminar Sept. 19, on “Rental Property Ownership as an Investment.” The seminar will be held in the personal and professional development classroom in building 14, from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. Seminars are open to the first 50 individuals to call and register. The seminar is free and open to active duty, reserve, retired civil service, NAF and contract personnel and their family members. A free light lunch with water or juice will be available, but attendees are welcome to bring their own lunch. Call Personal and Professional Development at (619) 524-5728 to register.

Boot Camp Challenge

The depot will host the annual Boot Camp Challenge, a 3-mile obstacle run Sept. 27 starting at 9 a.m. Participants must register. Advanced registration is available at BootCamp-Challenge.com for \$39 per person, \$117 for 3 people and \$195 for 5 people. Registration is also available on race day for \$45 per person.

Child, youth & teen flag football & cheerleading registration

Marine Corps Community Services has scheduled registration for the Fall child, youth & teen flag football and cheerleading programs. Registration started Sept. 1 and will continue through Oct. 3. Participants may sign up Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Bldg. 6E. Flag Football participants will be divided into age groups 5-7, 8-10 and 11-13. The cheerleading program is for participants aged 5-13. For more information call (619) 524-0916, or contact Marry Young via telephone at (619) 208-1107, or via e-mail at youngma@usmcmccs.org.

Vanpool openings

There are two openings for active duty or civilians living between Long Beach and San Diego who are interested in joining a vanpool. In the past, the van has made stops in Mission Viejo, Camp Pendleton and Oceanside areas. If you live in these areas or anywhere in between the starting and finish point and are interested, call Derrick Womack at (619) 524-4239 or email derrick.womack@usmc.mil.

Notary public service ended

Notary Public service is no longer available at the depot library. Those in need of this service should contact the legal office for assistance. Call (619) 524-4110 or 4111. 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.



U.S. Marines with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, reach their first destination during Mountain Exercise 2014 at Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif., Sept. 3, 2014. These Marines will become the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit's ground combat element in October. Mountain Exercise 2014 develops critical skills the battalion will need during deployment.

Marines learn land navigation in the mountains

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

BRIDGEPORT, Calif. – When Marines deploy to a combat zone knowing how to read a map, use a compass and navigate through unfamiliar terrain can be the difference between life and death.

Marines with 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment continued Mountain Exercise 2014 by conducting land navigation training aboard Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif., Sept. 3, 2014.

Marines with 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment will become the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit's ground combat element in October. Mountain Exercise 2014 develops critical skills the battalion will need during deployment.

Specifically, the training ensures the Marines are prepared for mountainous terrain if the need arises while deployed with

the 15th MEU next year. Some Marines also noted that the training can apply at home too.

"This training doesn't only apply to our military operations," said Lance Cpl. Anthony P. Kaigler, motor transportation mechanic, Communications Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment. "A lot of Marines go camping with their families. If they ever get lost, they can fall back on this training to help them find their way. These are skills everyone should learn."

Marines started their training with a refresher course on the basics of map and compass reading, as well as terrain association.

Marines were given five hours to locate four grid locations in the densely wooded mountains.

"The trees and the steep hills definitely made it a lot harder," said Lance Cpl. Philip Cammock, team leader, 81s Platoon, Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment.

"You're on your path and all of a sudden there's this huge boulder in your way. You have to go around it and then reshoot your azimuth. It takes a lot of time."

Many of the squad leaders used this opportunity to test their Marines' ability to read the terrain.

"This is a new environment for these Marines," said Sgt. Muhamad A. Naseer, squad leader, 81s Platoon, Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment. "Because of all the obstacles like trees and boulders, I wanted them to focus on terrain association. If they plot their [locations] wrong, then you can be doing everything else wrong and end up in the wrong location. With terrain association you look at distinguished features and use them to your advantage to get you where you need to be."

In addition to exercising their land navigation skills, Marines are learning these techniques knowing they benefit not only

them, but also partner nations.

"A lot of the stuff we learn here we share with different countries we train with," said Naseer, 21, from Overland Park, Kansas. "On my last deployment with the 11th MEU, we were teaching this training to a lot of the different armies we were training with. It benefits them, which ultimately helps us out in our mission."

Overcoming the physically demanding terrain, Marines suc-

ceeded in traversing their new environment and finding their locations.

"They all did very well," said Capt. Christopher O'Melia, company commander, weapons company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment. "It's amazing. We haven't fired a single round throughout the training here, yet we've received a wealth of training and knowledge, that will ultimately help us out when we head out with the MEU."



Lance Cpl. Anthony P. Kaigler plots his locations on a map. Kaigler is a field radio operator with Communications Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment.



Marines navigate their way through the wilderness during Mountain Exercise 2014. The exercise develops critical land navigation skills their battalion will need during deployment next year.



Marines re-plot their destination during Mountain Exercise 2014.

CHEVRON

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Recruits push past their limits during O-Course

Story & Photos by
Cpl. Tyler Viglione
Chevron staff

A common philosophy of the Marine Corps is that the title Marine is “earned, never given.” That is because many events in recruit training require recruits to push past personal limitations and do things they never thought possible.

Recruits of Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, used strength and determination to conquer the Obstacle Course while learning their bodies physical and mental limits at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Sept. 5.

The obstacle course consists of exercises such as conducting log and wall jumps, maneuvering over bars and climbing a rope. Although recruits conduct the course four times, this was the first time Company H tackled the event.

“This event is designed to test the recruits’ upper body strength as well as their confidence in obstacles,” said Staff Sgt. Miguel Cortes Jr., senior drill instructor, Platoon 2169.

Recruits had to complete each obstacle before moving on to the next. If a recruit could not complete an obstacle, he was sent to the beginning to start again until he completed it.

“This is their first time doing the course,” said Cortes, a native of Port Isabel, Texas. “They struggle now, but they will do it with ease by the end of Third Phase.”

Before recruits began the course, their senior drill instructor demonstrated the techniques of climbing a rope that minimizes the strength it takes to reach the top. The rope is often the hardest obstacle because it requires strength to complete it and it’s the last obstacle, so they are very fatigued when they reach it.

“The drill instructors made it look really easy,” said Recruit Zephaniah S. Lay, Platoon 2170. “It was a whole different ball game when it was our turn.”

The course is designed to increase arm and back strength.

“Because the course is primarily upper body, once they reach the rope climb, they will be tired,” said 30-year-old Cortes. “The techniques we teach them helps them use their legs to hold them in place to give their arms a short break.”

The difficulty of each obstacle varied between recruits because everyone has different strengths and weaknesses. Obstacles such as the single bar or the high log were easier for the recruits who were taller.

“I am lucky that I am average height,” said Lay, a native of Lake Geneva, Wis. “I was able to get over it my first or second try, but I saw some recruits really struggling with it.”

After the rope climb, the recruits were required to conduct a fireman’s carry and buddy drag. This was most difficult part of the course, according to 18-year old Lay.

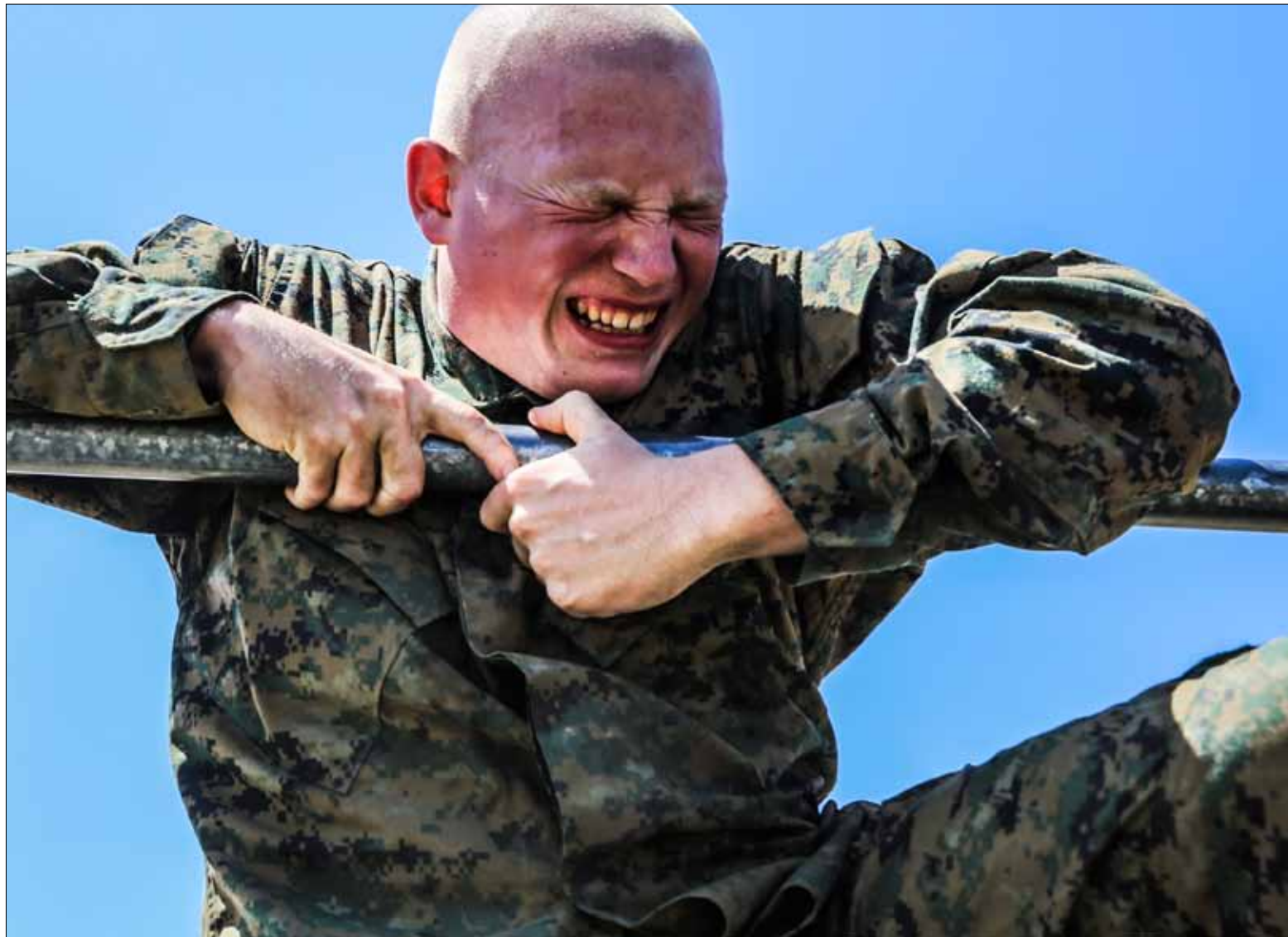
“When I got off of the rope, I thought I was done,” said Lay. “When the drill instructors pointed me to the buddy drags and fireman carries, I didn’t know if I had it in me to complete it.”

The course is ultimately designed for recruits to push through fatigue because it will be similar to the stress they might encounter while in a combat environment, explained Cortes.

“This is just the beginning of their Marine Corps careers,” said Cortes. “This is where they begin dealing with stress and pushing past their limits because it doesn’t stop after recruit training.”

Now that the recruits of Hotel Company have completed their introduction to the Obstacle Course, they will have a baseline on the improvement they make over the next three evolutions of the event.

“If the recruits learn to prevail and work hard through practice, they will get through anything that comes their way in recruit training,” said Cortes. “If they can learn how to get over obstacles like this, it can pave the way for them to apply that to anything in life.”



A Company H recruit pushes himself to get over a high bar. The difficulty of each obstacle varied between recruits because everyone has different strengths and weaknesses. Obstacles such as the single bar or the high log were easier for the recruits who were taller.



Company H recruits climb ropes on the depot’s Obstacle Course Sept. 5. Before recruits began the course, their senior drill instructor demonstrated the techniques of rope climbing that minimizes the strength it takes to reach the top. The rope is often the hardest obstacle because it requires strength to complete it, and it is the last obstacle. Recruits are very fatigued when they reach it.



A Company H recruit slides down a metal bar on the Obstacle Course Sept. 5. The course consists of exercises such as conducting log and wall jumps, maneuvering over bars and climbing a rope.



Company H recruits maneuver over the double-bar obstacle. They had to complete each obstacle on the course before proceeding to the next.



Recruits of Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, run a mile before starting the Obstacle Course at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Sept. 5. The course is ultimately designed for recruits to push through fatigue because it will be similar to the stress they might interact with while in a combat environment.

Marine once homeless, applies ethics to Marine Corps

STORY & PHOTO BY
CPL. TYLER VIGLIONE
Chevron staff

Life regularly offers us lessons, but it is up to the individuals whether or not to learn from them and apply it to their life. One Marine has learned many of these lessons, to not only help himself, but others as well.

Lance Corporal Isaiah K. Kaluhiwa, Platoon 2146, Golf Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, grew up under some of the harshest conditions and used those experiences to motivate him and his platoon throughout recruit training.

“When I was really young, my mother owned a day care and my father worked for the city,” said Kaluhiwa. “Something happened that made my father have to stop going back to work. Since my father and mother both supported the day care, without my father’s help, they could not afford it.”

Kaluhiwa grew up in Hauula, Hawaii, and explains that before he knew it, his parents lost their business and they were boarding up windows to their house and leaving.

“We moved in with my uncle for a short amount of time,” said Kaluhiwa. “The landlord didn’t like the fact that we looked Hawaiian, so they made us leave.”

After leaving his uncle’s house, three years passed that Kaluhiwa and his family lived out of a car and a pick-up truck.

“My mother and father found jobs that were good enough to keep us afloat, and we managed to find a program called Family Promise,” said Kaluhiwa. “The program helps out homeless families and gave us a home for about six months until we could get back on our feet.”

At that time, Kaluhiwa was in school at the Benjamin Parker Elementary, but because of his family’s situation, he ended up moving schools three times until he finished in Kaaawa Elementary School.

“It made it tougher on all of us that my brother and I were in school while being homeless,” said Kaluhiwa. “It was just another thing we had to worry about.”

His parents found an apartment that suited their needs and they moved in, but having a home wasn’t their biggest problem, Kaluhiwa explained.

“My family had been through so much ridicule, harassment and constant deprivation,” said

Kaluhiwa. “We were miserable, we could barely afford food. My mother applied for food stamps to try and get some assistance, along with looking for small jobs my parents could do just for some extra money.”

At one point, Kaluhiwa and his family were searching for bottles, cans and different types of metals to recycle and sell to help pay for food.

“When we were living in the apartment, we thought we had it well,” said Kaluhiwa. “But once again [the landlords] didn’t like how we looked and harassed us until finally they evicted us from the complex.”

In 2007, Kaluhiwa and his family had nowhere to go. Luckily, a friend had spare acres of land that he offered to them until they found another place.

“There were no houses. This area was basically a junk yard,” said Kaluhiwa. “The only thing that we had available to us were two broken down busses, and we had no other choice but to it call our home.”

Kaluhiwa describes the land as disgusting and vile. Things such as garbage, sewage and machinery parts were scattered throughout. His family cleaned out the busses just to get rid of the insects and creatures that lived inside.

They slowly began to make it their home. Once everything was cleaned, they purchased things such as generators and other basic necessities to make it a little more comfortable for them.

“We were able to cook outside when it rained,” said Kaluhiwa. “It made it a little easier to live.”

As his family started getting situated, Kaluhiwa’s father started his own contracting business and also found jobs landscaping and selling coconuts, which he himself had picked off trees.

“Things started to turn around,” said Kaluhiwa. “Consistency had never been a real thing in my life, so I wasn’t getting too excited.”

After a while, the land owners realized the family was making improvements to the property and let them live there rent-free.

The children enrolled in Kahuku Intermediate and High School, where after everything they had been through, they endured endless bullying.

“My intermediate years sucked really badly,” said Kaluhiwa. “We had long hair, we wore the same clothes and we smelled awful.”

Kaluhiwa explained that he and

his brother were the only homeless children at the school, and others would follow them home and make fun of where they lived.

“We only had a few things we could wear and we couldn’t really control it,” said Kaluhiwa. “Somehow kids at school thought that it was a good reason to make fun of us.”

It was during Kaluhiwa’s freshman year in high school when things started to turn around for his family. His father was able to save up enough money for a down payment for a house.

The family started a farm and began receiving steady income, making the family more stable. Slowly, Kaluhiwa and his brother felt better about themselves.

“We got new clothes and backpacks,” said Kaluhiwa. “We were starting to look normal, and we were being socially accepted.”

During high school, Kaluhiwa played football and track. He graduated in 2014, living only a few streets away from the busses, which used to be his home.

“Looking back at how it was when I was young to now, it’s like night and day,” said Kaluhiwa. “Walking down the street and seeing those busses from time to time reminds me of how much I have learned.”

Kaluhiwa knew he wanted to join the military after high school, but with little knowledge of what the different branches were about, he didn’t know where to start.

“Getting knowledge about each branch made it easier, and right away I knew I wanted to join the Marine Corps,” said Kaluhiwa. “[I liked] the way the recruiters described the Corps as being a family, a group of people who stick together when they know things will get rough.”

Kaluhiwa explained that it reminded him of his family and how they were through their struggles.

In July of 2014, Kaluhiwa arrived at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and became a part of Golf Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion.

From the beginning of recruit training he proved to his peers, and his drill instructors, that he was capable of being their platoon guide, a recruit who is a leader and someone to emulate.

“I think it was my attitude that got me to be put as guide,” said Kaluhiwa. “I looked at my life now compared to what it had been. I was clothed, fed three times a day, had a roof over my head, had supervision and all I kept thinking



Private First Class Isaiah K. Kaluhiwa, Platoon 2146, Golf Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, has been designated the company honorman and meritoriously promoted to lance corporal at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 4. Kaluhiwa was homeless for most of his childhood and used what he had learned from his experiences to motivate himself and other recruits.

to myself was that this was not bad at all.”

Kaluhiwa shared his story with other recruits in his platoon, changing their attitudes and mindsets enough to push through recruit training.

He is graduating as Golf Company’s honor man, symbolizing a recruit who has surpassed every other recruit in testing, qualification scores and as well as his ability

to be a leader. He was meritoriously promoted to lance corporal before graduation.

“My family is still has scars from the things we went through,” said Kaluhiwa. “In the end, it made all of us stronger, and that is something no one can take away. I am going to apply everything I have learned in life to my time in the Marine Corps and see where it takes me.”

Col. John “Jay” Harris Jr.

Parade Reviewing Officer

Col. John “Jay” Harris Jr. is the Deputy Commander of Expeditionary Strike Group THREE, a Navy unit with the mission of providing amphibious expertise and a deployable staff for combat and contingency operations in support of the nation’s interests and maritime strategy.

Harris enlisted in the United States Navy Reserve in 1985, and was subsequently commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps through Officer’s Candidate School in Quantico, Va. in April 1991.

Harris possesses both infantry and artillery combat arms military occupational specialties.

After commissioning and initial training, Harris’ first assignment was with 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division, where he served as a platoon commander, forward observer, artillery liaison officer and assistant battalion logistics officer.

In December 1992, Harris deployed as a rifle platoon commander to Mogadishu, Somalia, in support of Operation Restore Hope.

From 1995 to 2000, Harris served in 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marines. During this tenure he temporarily served as a staff officer for Marine Forces Pacific. In January 2001, he was appointed executive officer of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marines, where he also served as a liaison officer to eight European countries during Exercise Rescuer 02 in Lithuania.

Harris assumed command of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marines in


September 2002. He and his company deployed to Iraq from September 2002 to October 2003 for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Following company command, Harris has served at Headquarters Marine Forces Reserve, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, Joint Staff Information Operations Warfare Center, and I Marine Expeditionary Force. While at these commands he served in plans and operations, as well executive officer and acting commanding officer for the 4th Reconnaissance Battalion.

Harris holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Texas, San Antonio. He is authorized to wear the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat “V,” Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon with gold star, and Presidential Unit Citation. He has

also been awarded the Order of Saint Barbara for his innovative integration of 105mm firing unit capabilities into Light Armored Vehicle operating procedures.





Platoon 2146
COMPANY HONOR MAN
Lance Cpl. I. K. Kaluhiwa
Hauula, Hawaii
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. R. Filrang



Platoon 2141
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. B. J. Agbayani
Las Vegas
Recruited by
Sgt. W. H. Carroll



Platoon 2142
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. I. L. Comfort
Wausau, Wis.
Recruited by
Sgt. J. R. Willard




Platoon 2143
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. D. P. Pflughaupt
Laport, Ind.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. M. Luna-Velasco



Platoon 2145
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. C. D. Giuliani
Sacramento, Calif.
Recruited by
Sgt. A. Peloreyes



Platoon 2147
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. J. P. Vanduch
Schaumburg, Ill.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. R. Markman



Platoon 2146
HIGH SHOOTER (340)
Pfc. B. W. Thornburg
Papillion, Neb.
Marksman Instructor
Sgt. C. D. Reynolds III



Platoon 2141
HIGH PFT (300)
Pvt. I. Castillo
Laredo, Texas
Recruited by
Sgt. J. Tavizon



GOLF COMPANY

2nd RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION

Commanding Officer
Sergeant Major
Battalion Drill Master

Lt. Col. W. Doctor
1st Sgt. J. M. Melendez
Staff Sgt. E. J. Estes



COMPANY G Commanding Officer Capt. E. Elizondo Company First Sergeant 1st Sgt. B. A. Price	SERIES 2141 Series Commander Capt. B. J. Waymel Chief Drill Instructor Gunnery Sgt. C. D. Campbell	PLATOON 2141 Senior Drill Instructor Gunnery Sgt. K. L. Simmons Drill Instructors Gunnery Sgt. N. Murillo Staff Sgt. V. F. Aguilar Sgt. G. Maldonado	PLATOON 2142 Senior Drill Instructor Gunnery Sgt. J. O. Angulo Drill instructors Staff Sgt. S. E. Molina Sgt. S. Huerta Jr. Sgt. M. D. Triplett	PLATOON 2143 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. G. K. Belton Drill instructors Staff Sgt. C. E. May Staff Sgt. M. R. Melendez Staff Sgt. R. A. Stoddard Sgt. P. Arellano
	SERIES 2145 Series Commander Capt. J. Y. King Chief Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. A. Gonzalez	PLATOON 2145 Senior Drill Instructor Sgt. S. R. Dee Drill Instructors Sgt. J. Gillette Sgt. A. J. Reeder Sgt. J. C. Sicz	PLATOON 2146 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. J. W. Flesher Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. J. A. Barrera Staff Sgt. J. D. Williams Sgt. C. Gillette Sgt. C. Hernandez Sgt. J. D. Mazurik	PLATOON 2147 Senior Drill Instructor Sgt. J. M. Calkins Drill Instructors Sgt. G. Cervantes-Diaz Sgt. B. S. Flores Sgt. R. O. Hinojosa Sgt. A. Jarosz

* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

PLATOON 2141 Pfc. B. J. Agbayani Pfc. M. A. Alger Pvt. J. L. Belcher Pvt. T. E. Bennett Pfc. C. F. Bormann *Pfc. I. Castillo Pfc. A. Curiel Jr. Pfc. P. J. Dirks Pfc. N. D. Finnegan Pfc. A. A. Forbes Pfc. A. L. French-Moses Pvt. A. T. Funken Pfc. C. Garcia Jr. Pvt. A. Garcia *Pfc. S. P. Garrison Pvt. K. F. Gentile Pfc. B. C. Gill Pvt. B. M. Gitz Pvt. J. Guerrero Pfc. M. A. Gutierrez Pvt. N. J. Hanephin Pvt. L. Z. Hartman-Agnew Pvt. A. S. Hawkey Pvt. N. M. Hawkins Pfc. I. M. Hedeman Pvt. J. D. Helton Jr. Pfc. J. M. Hollenbeak Pvt. I. C. Ilardi Pvt. K. G. Kane Pfc. M. C. Kennamer Pfc. M. Labra Pfc. J. E. Loza-Garcia Pvt. K. Luna Pfc. S. A. Markland Pvt. J. C. Marquez Pfc. K. E. Martin Pfc. P. L. McDaniel *Pfc. J. M. Morales Pvt. J. D. Mueller Pfc. A. M. Noza Pvt. R. J. Panek Pfc. R. R. Ratzlaff Pvt. E. M. River- Amontero Pvt. K. B. Robbins Pvt. S. J. Roberts Pfc. M. J. Robidou Pfc. B. N. Rodman Pvt. D. A. Rodriguez Pfc. F. Rodriguez Pfc. J. G. Rojas Pfc. J. L. Sainz Jr. Pvt. N. R. Sanchez Pfc. A. C. Schaffer Pvt. N. B. Schellenger Pvt. M. M. Schmidt Pvt. A. R. Schwend Pfc. S. R. Sessoms Pvt. T. A. Severson Pvt. C. K. Seyler Pfc. G. B. Shelton Pfc. S. M. Shepard Pfc. J. D. Shinkle Pfc. J. B. Siehlmann Pfc. J. A. Silva Pfc. A. J. Sladky	Pvt. A. M. Smith Pvt. H. G. Smith Pvt. J. A. Stokes Pfc. C. A. Swearingen Pvt. R. G. Vega *Pfc. T. Wagner Pfc. B. M. West PLATOON 2142 Pvt. L. F. Acosta Pvt. B. K. Alvey Pfc. K. S. Anderson Pvt. E. G. Arceo- Villanueva Pvt. L. A. Ash Pvt. J. R. Baker Pfc. R. K. Baser Pvt. F. T. Bearkheimer Pvt. N. D. Bellefeuille Pvt. B. J. Blommel Pfc. C. M. Bolen Jr. Pfc. H. L. Bollinger *Pfc. D. J. Bonds Pvt. J. A. Bosquez Pfc. J. W. Bradford Pfc. P. A. Brown Pvt. T. J. Busskohl Pvt. M. E. Calderon Pvt. J. A. Carrillo Pvt. C. D. Cauthon Pfc. J. R. Cherie Pvt. C. S. Cole Pfc. I. L. Comfort Pvt. I. J. Corson Pfc. J. C. Diaz Pvt. R. J. Eberts Pvt. C. J. Edwards Pvt. Z. D. Garza Pfc. I. Gomez Pvt. R. M. Gonzales Pfc. P. J. Gottsch Pfc. J. L. Gruizinga Pfc. B. R. Guevara Pfc. T. R. Hagen Pvt. J. J. Hagen-Bucher Pvt. J. R. Hall Pfc. T. F. Hannath Pvt. C. T. Hayden Pvt. J. A. Hernandez Pvt. B. R. Holt-Schlag Pvt. B. J. Isaac Pvt. B. B. Jones Pvt. J. J. Karker Pvt. R. O. Keith III Pfc. B. J. Kenyon Pfc. B. D. Koteras *Pfc. C. J. Kramer Pfc. K. R. Kirschner Pfc. L. S. Lemire Pvt. B. A. Lippold Pfc. V. Lopitakwong Pvt. C. S. Lykins Pvt. J. A. Magana Pfc. M. A. Martinez Jr. Pvt. J. J. Massimo *Pfc. D. A. McCann Pvt. S. M. Mecone	Pfc. W. W. Meng Pfc. A. J. Metler Pvt. B. M. Minski Pfc. A. L. Molinar Pfc. M. A. Monarez- Ronquillo Pvt. D. Moua Pvt. A. D. Nguyen Pfc. D. R. O'Connell Pfc. K. M. O'Connor Pfc. J. F. Padilla Pvt. G. W. Patterson Pvt. E. M. Perez Pfc. J. A. Petters Pfc. M. J. Pikunas *Pfc. K. W. Pogue II Pfc. M. J. Poullard Pvt. B. L. Scott PLATOON 2143 Pfc. R. R. Alvarado Pvt. S. A. Alvarado Pfc. M. W. Amen Pvt. J. K. Balsley Pvt. I. Bangura Pvt. C. N. Bartholomew Pfc. M. D. Berberich Pvt. J. B. Blanco Pfc. S. M. Bond Pvt. L. A. Borden Pfc. A. T. Bostwick Pvt. T. T. Brown Pfc. G. B. Brynston IV Pfc. J. A. Burton Pfc. V.F. Cenicerros Pvt. A. M. Christiansen Pfc. M. M. Clark Pfc. D. C. Clemons Pvt. A. M. Collins Pvt. T. M. Daws Pfc. L. J. Day Pvt. M. A. Deegan Pvt. Z. K. DeLong Pvt. M. A. Del Valle Pfc. J. B. Devine Pvt. J. Dixon Pfc. A. T. Douglas Pfc. P. S. Drouin Pfc. J.R. Duarte-Lopez Pvt. M. Duran Pvt. R. M. Dykes Pvt. P. A. Faulkner Pvt. A. J. Flores Pvt. J. A. Frederick Pfc. M. A. Fritz Pvt. J. Garber Pvt. J. Garcia Pfc. C. I. Garcia-Lopez Pvt. S. J. Giovannini Pfc. T. D. Graham Pfc. L. A. Gutierrez Pfc. B. L. Hallam Pvt. J. W. Helbig Pfc. E. M. Helus Pvt. J. A. Hernandez Pfc. M. C. Ihekwoaba Pvt. T. L. Jackson	Pvt. R. R. Juarez Pvt. T. S. Kaminsky Pvt. K. J. Larrick Pvt. J. R. Laursen Pfc. R. D. Lee Pvt. K. W. Lee Pvt. T. J. Linn Pfc. A. D. Lintag Pvt. R. M. Linton Pvt. S. Lizardo Pfc. A. M. Lopez-Aquino Pvt. G. Lumpkin Pvt. A. G. Mancha Pfc. M. T. Martin Pfc. J. D. McDonough Pvt. B. D. McMullen Pfc. R. M. Monger Pvt. O. Moreno Pfc. D. T. Neufeld Pvt. A. M. Nugent Pfc. D. O. Okeny Pvt. F. S. Pavez Pfc. V. F. Pelayo Pvt. S. K. Perry Pvt. D. P. Pflughaupt Pfc. A. D. Phavong Pvt. J. J. Phillips Pvt. D. B. Pierce Pvt. B. A. Pineda Pfc. C. J. Potts PLATOON 2145 Pvt. A. A. Abboud Pvt. J. A. Baker Pfc. C. M. Baldeon Pvt. G. S. Balilo Pvt. T. J. Banks Pfc. L. M. Barraza Pvt. I. M. Barron- Rodriguez Jr. Pfc. S. W. Baxter Pfc. J. E. Beedle Pfc. J. M. Birnbaum Pfc. A. J. Bole Pvt. J. J. Bolling Pvt. A. R. Canez Pvt. D. J. Cardona Pvt. A. R. Carlson Pvt. D. W. Carpenter Pfc. D. R. Casarez Pfc. M. A. Chapple Pfc. D. K. Clemons Pvt. E. Covarrubias Pvt. U. Cruz Pvt. A. D. Elixman Pfc. Z. A. Farias Pvt. K. D. Francis Pvt. S. J. Gager Pvt. S. Garnica Pvt. R. A. Garrett Pfc. N. A. Gilmore Pfc. C. V. Gipson Pfc. C. D. Giuliani Pvt. E. D. Gomez Pvt. C. R. Griffiths Pvt. M. J. Harding Pfc. H. I. Henderson	Pfc. F. R. Hoffman Pfc. L. D. Johnson Pvt. R. L. Jones Pvt. J. S. Kennard Pvt. J. J. Kim *Pfc. D. S. King Pfc. J. D. Lacy Pfc. D. R. La Fountain Pfc. H. L. Lane Pvt. N. B. Lauck Pfc. B. Lee Pfc. D. B. Lee *Pfc. A. Llamas Jr. Pfc. J. W. Lusk Jr. Pvt. Z. A. Mace Pfc. J. R. Maher Pvt. J. R. Mann Pfc. J. W. Mansur Pvt. R. D. McHugh Pvt. C. T. McKean Pfc. C. Medina Pfc. E. M. Medrano Pfc. P. A. Melendez Pfc. J. L. Mednoza Pvt. H. Mendoza-Gaspar Pfc. S. J. Miller Pfc. D. A. Montenegro Pfc. J. M. Montoya Pvt. J. R. Morefield Pvt. P. R. Morganto Pfc. R. B. Muncy Jr. Pvt. J. A. Oppenheimer *Pfc. I. Orozco Pvt. P. Pascual *Pfc. F. Pena-Cardenas Pvt. J. S. Perez Pfc. D. D. Peterson Pfc. D. J. Pflughaupt Pvt. E. S. Powell Pvt. T. I. Ramos PLATOON 2146 Pvt. O. I. Aguilar Pfc. D. Auvert Pfc. I. Bah Pvt. A. V. Baray Pvt. C. A. Barrera Pfc. Z. A. Barthel Pvt. A. A. Beltran Pvt. A. L. Bennett Pfc. S. R. Bragg Pfc. D. K. Brickwood Pfc. C. A. Brown Pvt. D. J. Burger Pvt. R. J. Castanon- Galvan Pvt. C. H. Choc Pvt. N. J. Deanda Pfc. A. N. Dufon Pvt. K. C. Durkee Pvt. M. V. Estavillo Pfc. J. A. Flinton Pvt. E. M. Gallegos Pfc. J. M. Gray Pvt. N. A. Haser Pvt. M. Heath Pfc. J. E. Hopkins II	Pfc. A. M. Jarona IV *Lance Cpl. I. K. Kaluhiwa Pfc. R. N. Krulikovshiy Pfc. R. A. Landaverde Pvt. A. C. Laubach Pvt. R. A. Mendoza Pfc. N. W. Merich Pvt. B. A. Montalvo Pvt. J. M. Mueller *Pfc. S. J. Murphy Pvt. D. C. Rincon Pfc. J. A. Rogers Pvt. J. R. Romero Pvt. A. Ruiz Pvt. G. E. Sanchez Pvt. M. J. Sanders Pvt. B. Saravia Pfc. T. R. Seidler Pfc. K. A. Snook Pvt. G. E. Solberg Pvt. C. J. Springfield Pfc. T. J. Sticht Pvt. S. E. Strobel Pvt. J. Talavera *Pfc. J. J. Taylor Pvt. J. D. Terkeurst Pfc. B. W. Thornburg Pvt. D. D. Topp Pvt. N. K. Van Erdewyk Pvt. A. J. Van Houte Pfc. N. B. Ventura Pvt. A. F. Villa-Mendez Pvt. C. Villaneda Pvt. B. A. Volking *Pfc. C. J. Vugrinovich Pvt. C. D. Walling Pfc. C. L. Walters Pfc. A. N. Wamboldt Pvt. J. R. Welch Pfc. B. T. Weldon Pvt. R. M. Werner Pvt. T. A. Whaley *Pfc. P. J. White Pvt. D. C. White Pfc. C. C. Woodward Pfc. J. R. Wrightsman Pvt. Z. P. Yielding Pvt. A. M. Young-Bauer Pvt. E. Zavala-Valero Pvt. J. M. Zuniga PLATOON 2147 Pfc. C. M. Arnold Pvt. D. A. Bell Pvt. D. D. Bosma Pvt. B. L. Breeden Pvt. K. E. Cotton Pvt. D. T. Fender Pvt. Z. S. Filipiak Pvt. M. T. Fink Pfc. A. S. Francisco *Pfc. B. M. Goermar Pvt. C. J. Hand Pfc. C. B. Hanel Pvt. M. J. Houtman Pfc. P. F. Hunter Pfc. E. C. McPike	*Pfc. J. T. Perez Pvt. G. A. Raleigh Pvt. C. J. Rathkamp Pfc. C. A. Rdubon Pvt. C. J. Reynolds III Pvt. C. J. Rhodenizer Pvt. T. J. Rhyne Pvt. B. M. Richardson Pfc. A. D. Rivera II Pfc. J. K. Roberts Pvt. R. M. Rocha Pvt. J. T. Romig Pvt. M. A. Rosas Pfc. J. W. Rosinsky Pfc. M. F. Ruiz Pfc. D. K. Saeed Pfc. V. Sambula *Pfc. R. J. Sanchez Pfc. K. J. Santa-Maria Pfc. M. S. Savage Pfc. Z. C. Schmidt Pvt. Z. R. Schultz Pfc. A. W. Siegel Pfc. S. R. Simmons Pvt. K. A. Sinclair Pfc. B. W. Smith Pfc. J. J. Spears Pvt. M. E. Speight Pvt. J. A. Stouffer III Pfc. N. G. Stroud Pfc. F. Suarez Pvt. M. S. Tabor Pvt. S. Tambllyn Pvt. L. A. Tarango Pvt. Y. V. Thao Pfc. G. H. Tice Pfc. E. Y. Torres Pfc. J. F. Torres Pvt. Z. N. Tow Pfc. I. Trejo Pvt. A. E. Turner Pvt. M. M. Valencia Pfc. T. E. Vandenberg *Pfc. J. P. Vanduch Pvt. K. Vang Pvt. L. M. Vargas Pvt. P. G. Vasquez Pfc. K. S. Verduzco Pvt. B. J. Vessar Pfc. R. D. Vishnfske Pfc. A. J. Walker Pvt. J. H. Watson Pvt. J. S. Westerman Pfc. E. S. Wilson Pvt. A. D. Wiskerchen Pfc. Z. D. Wright Pvt. L. Xiong Pvt. L. M. Yanez Pfc. S. A. Yanez Pvt. T. D. Yount
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Recruits of India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, stand at parade rest as they await the Senior Drill Instructor’s Inspection at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Sept. 5. During the inspection it was crucial for the recruits to remain calm, keep their eyes forward while at attention and answer the questions they were asked. It was a sign of confidence and bearing - two traits drill instructors were seeking.

Recruits experience first Marine Corps inspection

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

Bearing is defined as the way one conducts and carries him or herself in a manner that reflects alertness, competence and control.

Recruits of India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, displayed their bearing during their senior drill instructor’s inspection. Only 16 days into training, the recruits were also tested on Marine Corps knowledge, uniforms and rifle manual at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Sept. 5.

The purpose of the SDI inspection was to test the recruits, while under the pressure of drill instructors, on what they’ve learned in recruit training.

“The senior drill instructor inspection shows us where the baseline is for the recruits’

confidence and bearing,” said Gunnery Sgt. Cornell S. Cornish, drill instructor, Platoon 3209. “It shows the drill instructors what they’ve instilled in their recruits and what they need to work on.”

The inspecting drill instructor faced each recruit and snapped his heels together coming to the position of attention, which signaled the recruit to report to the drill instructor by sounding off with his name, hometown and military occupation specialty. After reporting, the inspector began drilling the recruit with Marine Corps knowledge questions and then inspected his uniform.

At the same time, other drill instructors swarmed the platoon creating chaos, which tested the recruits bearing, one of the Marine Corps leadership traits.

“It’s challenging to hold

your bearing while a drill instructor is screaming in your face and asking you several questions while you’re performing different movements with the rifle,” said Recruit Dustin A. Rits, Platoon 3209. “Marines must be able to react under pressure or in the middle of chaos in a combat environment. Your actions of what you do or don’t do could risk the life of a fellow Marine.”

It was crucial for the recruits to remain calm, keep their eyes forward while at the position of attention and answer the questions they were asked. It is a sign of confidence - another trait drill instructors were seeking.

“The biggest challenge the recruits will face is getting over the stress factor,” said Cornish, a 30-year-old Bronx, N.Y., native. “When you have a bunch of drill instructors

swarm the platoon and create chaos, it makes it uncomfortable for the recruits and makes it hard for them to keep their composure.”

Rits, a 17-year-old, Denver, Colo., native explained Marines find themselves in stressful environments, especially on deployments. When things

go wrong in combat, Marines must be able to stay calm and react to the situation without freezing up or second guessing their decisions.

Thus, upcoming Marines must be trained to adapt, whether it’s drill instructors yelling or in a combat situation while being fired upon.



Sergeant Mark D. Reconsal, a drill instructor with Platoon 3214, Co. I, asks a recruit questions during the Senior Drill Instructor’s Inspection. Other drill instructors swarmed the formation, creating chaos and testing the recruits’ bearing, one of the Corps’ leadership traits. Reconsal is a native of Honolulu, Hawaii.



A Company I recruit stands at attention as his rifle is inspected by Sgt. Francis X. Marnell, a drill instructor with Platoon 3215, Co. I, during the Senior Drill Instructor’s Inspection. Recruits were tested on Marine Corps knowledge, uniforms and rifle manual. Marnell is from Kissimmee, Fla.