



**Company I
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CHEVRON

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION



Vol. 75 – Issue 7

“WHERE MARINES ARE MADE”

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2015



Private First Class Nicholas Martinez, Platoon 3203, India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, leads his platoon as they march in formation at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Feb. 25. Martinez honored the memory of his fallen brother by enlisting in the Corps to serve and protect his loved ones.

Marine honors fallen brother, joins Corps

STORY & PHOTO BY
SGT. BENJAMIN E. WOODLE
Chevron staff

There are many reasons why one decides to join and serve in the military. For Pfc. Nicholas Martinez, his reason came from a desire to honor and carry the torch from where his brother left off.

Martinez, Platoon 3203, India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, honored his brother by enlisting in the Marine Corps and attending recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

Martinez was born in Barrington, Ill., and grew up in Elgin, Ill. At the age of three, his mother and father separated and both remarried. His family of just one brother grew to an additional four half-brothers and five half-sisters. One of those half-brothers was Alex, the future Marine who Martinez and his brother looked up to.

“My brother and I copied everything he did,” said Martinez, who was recruited out of Recruiting Station Milwaukee. “If he wore a black hoodie, we went and wore a black hoodie. Whatever music he listened to, we sat there and listened to that same song. He was our role model.”

Martinez explained that when he was growing up, his father, who served in the Navy at the time, taught them to not settle and always try to better themselves. Alex had taken it to heart and made a decision to embark on one of the toughest challenges one could face.

“It shocked us because nobody knew he wanted to join the Marine Corps,” said 18-year-old Martinez. It was a sudden decision he made himself, and no one else pres-

sured him to do it. He didn’t even want to tell anyone; not telling us until two weeks before he shipped to recruit training.”

Martinez explained that his brother graduated military occupation specialty school as a combat engineer and applied his training by sweeping for explosives as the lead man during infantry patrols.

Unfortunately, in 2012, Alex was killed by an improvised explosive device while on a patrol during combat operations in Afghanistan.

“We received a phone call, and shortly after my mother and father were crying hysterically,” said Martinez. “We had no idea what was going on, but when I saw two Marines approaching the door of my house I just went into shock; I couldn’t believe it. I didn’t know what else to do besides be there for my father. At the time, I thought it was unfair to be selfish and cry myself. I knew my father needed me the most.”

Martinez stated that he had been interested in joining the military as well, but the loss of his brother had made him reconsider. He didn’t think it was fair to put his parents through the stress and worry again.

“It wasn’t until my senior year that I decided to join,” said Martinez. “It went through my mind every day; trying to balance my desire to join with the feelings of my family.”

Martinez had made the decision to not only join the Marine Corps, but enlist in the infantry, one of the most dangerous jobs in the Corps. His mother supported his decision to join but struggled with the idea of him being in the infantry. His father was deployed at the time he made his decision and waited to tell him so that he could focus on coming home safely.

“My brother chose a job that he knew was very dangerous, said Martinez. “He knew he wanted to do it though, because he saw himself as a protector.”

Going through recruit training, Martinez had the second thoughts that almost everyone has during the first weeks.

“When you get here and you’re getting yelled at constantly, told how to eat, when to sleep, it’s something different,” said Martinez. “It makes you get thoughts like, ‘why am I here? What did I volunteer for?’ Then I put that behind me and thought that it was for my brother and to protect the people I love.”

Chosen as the guide, Martinez had distinguished himself as someone who could handle the role and pressure of having to lead his platoon. It was a role his drill instructors would notice fit him perfectly.

“He’s probably one of the best guides I’ve ever had,” said Sgt. Tyler T. Huber, senior drill instructor. “He’s tough on the recruits, takes initiative, gets things done before I even have to tell them to, holds the squad leaders accountable and did everything I asked a guide to do.”

The third brother, Brandon Martinez is a student at University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and has also made the decision to follow his brother’s footprints. He is scheduled to ship to recruit training in June 2015, to become a musician in the Marine Corps Band.

With his brother in his heart and the Marine Corps now in his soul, Martinez marches on to his infantry training at the School of Infantry at Camp Pendleton, Calif. He will then be sent to the Fleet Marine Force to fill the role of protector and carry on the legacy that his brother once held.

BRIEFS

Battle Color Detachment

The depot will host a performance of the Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment tomorrow at 2:30 p.m., on Shepherd Field.

The program features the U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps, the Silent Drill Platoon and the Marine Corps Color Guard.

Attached to the Marine Barracks Washington, the Battle Color Detachment appears in hundreds of ceremonies annually across the country.

The performance is open to the public.

Storm drain testing

Depot storm drains will be tested March 16 – 19.

During the test, non-toxic smoke will be pumped into the drains and may be seen emanating from catch basins, manholes and roof drains. This planned activity has been coordinated with the depot’s environmental office and the federal fire department. The smoke poses no danger and will not affect the depot’s mission.

Testing will be conducted near the following buildings: 2, 9, 15, 28, 155, 313, 358, 570, 586, 590, 596, 620, 625, 626, and 662.

For information contact the Environmental Office at (619) 524-6579.

Brown bag lunch financial seminar

The team at the Personal and Professional Development office will host a brown bag lunch financial seminar Wednesday, discussing “How to Establish a Budget & Take Charge of Your Finances.” The meeting starts at 11:30 a.m. and goes to 1 p.m.

The event occurs in Building 14, in the Personal and Professional Development classroom.

Light refreshments will be available, and those attending are welcome to bring their lunches.

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

Golf tournament

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

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

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

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

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

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.



Anti-tank missileman with Anti-Armor Section, Weapons Company, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, fire the MK153 shoulder-launched multipurpose assault weapon (SMAW) during the enemy counter attack portion of a Marine Corps Operational Test and Evaluation Activity assessment at Range 107, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., March 7. GCEITF will continue to conduct individual and collective level skills training in designated ground combat arms occupational specialties through July, in order to facilitate the standards-based assessment of the physical performance of Marines in a simulated operating environment performing specific ground combat arms tasks

Integrated Task Force kicks off infantry assessment

STORY & PHOTOS BY
SGT. ALICIA R. LEADERS
Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. – After completing five months of training at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, with more than 20 live-fire exercises and a week of trial runs at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., infantry Marines of the Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force officially began the Marine Corps Operational Test and Evaluation Activity assessment, March 7.

More than 120 male and female volunteers are being assessed, individually and collectively, while executing the tasks as one of the following military occupational specialties: Infantry rifleman (0311), machine gunner (0331), mortarman (0341), infantry assaultman (0351), and anti-tank missileman (0352). This assessment will help the Marine Corps develop more concise service-wide training and readiness standards for each

of the above MOS's.

Many of the volunteers going through the MCOTEA assessment come from a non-infantry background. One is Sgt. Hannah S. Jacobson, whose primary military occupational specialty is intelligence analyst, but who is currently executing tasks as a machine gunner.

"I volunteered because it's going to help my job as an intel analyst to learn the different terrain grunts operate in, and because I don't like when people say you can't do something, especially when it's gender based," said Jacobson, machine gunner with Weapons Company, GCEITF. "I figured I'm an average female Marine with a first-class combat fitness test and physical fitness test, and I figured if I can do it, I know there are females out there who are far superior than me when it comes to physical fitness who can. If I can't make it, then I will have my own opinion on whether or not females can be in the infantry."

Although the Marines have worked together back at Camp Lejeune, the assessment serves as a first-time experience for most infantrymen because the Inte-

grated Task Force is the first unit they've been to where they work closely with female Marines.

"We're learning how to work with females, and that's a challenge. It's a challenge we accept because we have to learn how they work, and they have to learn how to get along with each other because we're here for the same purpose," said Cpl. Kevin A. Miller, team leader with 2nd Platoon, Company A, GCEITF.

In order for MCOTEA to collect data and gather research for the assessment, each Marine is equipped with a heart-rate monitor and GPS device. Each weapon is attached to a weapons-player pack, which shows researchers the effectiveness of an individual's firing accuracy. Male and female volunteers work hand-in-hand throughout the assessment. MCOTEA randomly selects the Marine volunteers, switching billets within their MOS, and rotating fire teams and squads.

"It's a challenge to go ahead and have a new team each time," Miller said, "and to get to learn how people move and how people bound. On the first day

of the assessment, we assaulted through the initial three objectives, which was the one-click hike up to the conex box, movement to contact, and the casualty evacuation."

For infantry Marines, one full assessment cycle is a two-day event. It consists of a day of offensive operations immediately followed by a day of defensive operations. The Marines are on a four-day rotation, meaning two full assessments are conducted in a four-day period, with one day of rest during their time at Twentynine Palms.

During offensive operations, Marines suit up in combat utilities, flak, Kevlar and a 36-pound combat load. Depending on their billet, each may also carry one of the following weapons: M4 Modular Weapon System, M27 Infantry Automatic Rifle, or the M16 A4 Modular Weapon System. The assaultmen, machine gunners, mortar men, and anti-tank missilemen carry their personal weapons, as well as their job-specific weapon system, and ammunition.

During defensive operations, infantrymen carry a combat load of more than 50 pounds.

"To me, defensive operations are the hardest part of the whole assessment," said Miller. "It's a seven-kilometer hike with a sustainment load, weapon, flak, Kevlar, and full (personal protective equipment). You have to go as fast as your slowest person, which can make it even longer, and the hike becomes very hard because you're hiking over sand. Once we reach the objective, we then spend two hours switching on and off to dig two-man fighting holes."

Each MOS has its specific objectives during the assessment, both in the offense and in the defense. Miller and Jacobson both agree the assessment has its mental and physical challenges, but at the end of the day, they are here to finish what they started.

"I figure there is an end point to every start point," Miller added. "At the end of the day, I know it's going to make me stronger, and I know it's going to make me better. When this whole thing is over, we'll be able to look back and say 'hey, look what we just did.'"

Assessments, which began in October, will continue through July.

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3rd RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION

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Sergeant Major
Battalion Drill Master

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



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* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

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 *Pfc. A. N. Rodgers
 *Pfc. D. N. Rodriguez
 Pfc. G. L. Rogers
 Pvt. F. J. Roman
 Pvt. C. D. Rottinghaus
 Pfc. V. Saracco Jr.
 Pvt. M. F. Scheerer
 Pvt. Z. C. Schwab
 Pfc. C. A. Selva
 Pvt. J. M. Sevier
 Pfc. Z. J. Shafer
 Pvt. J. A. Shelton
 Pvt. D. M. Shepard
 Pvt. J. S. Showen
 Pvt. N. A. Simpson
 Pvt. J. A. Singleton
 Pvt. T. W. Smoot
 Pvt. D. D. Sobaszkiwicz
 Pfc. S. L. Solomua
 *Pfc. K. N. Sowah
 Pvt. P. W. Vandyke
 Pvt. N. R. Welch
 Pvt. E. D. Wimberley
 Pfc. M. E. Yeggy
 Pvt. M. A. Zavala
 Pfc. N. L. Zyliak</p> <p>PLATOON 3207
 Pfc. D. N. Baker
 Pvt. A. A. Caldera
 Pvt. E. Z. Chartrand
 Pfc. D. L. Contreras
 Pvt. C. G. Cullinan
 Pvt. A. J. Dahlman
 Pvt. O. Delarosa-Gomez
 Pfc. Z. M. Ewing
 *Pfc. A. J. Flores
 Pvt. T. M. Fritsche
 Pfc. J. M. Galvin
 Pfc. A. J. Guzman II
 Pvt. E. Guzman
 Pvt. J. B. Hawksley
 Pvt. Z. J. Hawksley
 *Pfc. H. Hernandez
 Pvt. C. C. Huse
 Pfc. D. J. Illies
 Pvt. S. E. Johnson
 Pvt. K. P. Kaohu
 Pfc. J. M. Kekauoha</p> | <p>Pvt. D. R. Kring
 Pfc. C. R. Larsen
 Pvt. D. J. Latchford
 Pvt. A. R. Layne
 Pvt. Z. R. Lively
 Pfc. N. D. Luu
 Pfc. J. A. Marchen
 Pvt. J. C. Mena Jr.
 Pfc. I. A. Musaddiq
 Pfc. A. R. Nardone
 Pvt. J. P. Newstrom
 Pfc. Z. R. Owczarzak
 Pvt. B. A. Peters
 Pvt. C. D. Phillips
 Pvt. B. W. Potter
 Pvt. J. J. Quesada
 Pvt. J. D. Ramirez
 Pvt. A. Z. Rifkin
 Pfc. C. A. Robbins
 Pvt. R. Salmeron
 Pfc. C. A. Seyfried
 *Pfc. B. T. Starr
 Pfc. G. L. Steadman
 Pvt. J. M. Suchnya
 Pvt. M. Tapia Jr.
 Pvt. J. Tatios
 Pfc. C. Thao
 Pvt. A. T. Thompson
 Pvt. I. B. Thorne
 Pvt. K. Trejo
 Pfc. M. M. Tsosie
 Pfc. R. C. Vanhorn
 Pvt. L. T. Vanisi
 *Pfc. F. A. Villanueva
 Pvt. S. J. Vonphul-Washington
 Pvt. W. G. Vonsaur
 *Pfc. T. T. Vue
 Pvt. M. R. Wallis
 Pfc. M. D. Watson
 Pfc. Q. M. Watson
 Pvt. B. A. Welper
 Pvt. C. M. Willard
 Pvt. C. J. Williams
 Pfc. K. Williams
 Pfc. B. S. Willis
 Pvt. A. M. Wilson
 Pfc. L. Xiong
 Pvt. V. Xiong
 Pfc. H. Yoo
 Pvt. N. J. Zachary
 Pvt. B. Zempoaltecatl</p> |
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Recruits of India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, perform a counter to a rear bear hug during the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program test at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Feb. 18. The purpose of the MCMAP test is to ensure recruits retain the martial arts training they received over the course of recruit training.

Company I recruits take down MCMAP test

STORY & PHOTOS BY
SGT. BENJAMIN E. WOODLE
Chevron staff

Modern combat still requires the use of hand-to-hand techniques. When the ammunition runs out, one needs to be prepared to fight an enemy combatant with any

means necessary. The basic level of training takes place at recruit training, where recruits take the first step of expanding their warrior knowledge.

Recruits of India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, earned their tan belt during the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program test at Marine Corps

Recruit Depot San Diego, on Feb. 18.

"This is the culminating event of their MCMAP training," said Sgt. Andreau M. Winslow, martial arts instructor, Instructional Training Company, Support Battalion. "It tests their ability to recall and perform the techniques correctly that they've been taught during recruit training."

During the event, recruits were broken down into groups of 20 and assigned a martial arts instructor who conducted the test. The MAI called out techniques recruits needed to execute in order to advance.

"Some recruits were really nervous, which affected their ability to remember how to perform some of the techniques properly," said Winslow, a Wichita, Kan., native. "They struggled with their confidence during the test."

They'd perform the technique right, we'd ask them to do it again and they would think they did it wrong and try something else."

The MCMAP test rewards recruits with their first belt in the colored belt level system, the tan belt. Once they reach the Fleet Marine Force, Marines can continue their training to earn the higher levels of gray, green, brown, and various degrees of the black belt. For India Company though, it was about teaching the basics.

"It's important for Marines to be able to defend themselves," said Recruit Bryant C. Reeder, Platoon 3201. "After passing the test, it gave everyone a confidence boost now that we have basic combat knowledge and are gaining more tools to become a Marine warrior."

Reeder, a Kingsburg, Calif.,

native who was recruited out of Recruiting Station Sacramento, Calif., explained that while taking the test he treated it as if it were really happening in a combat situation to ensure he had a proper combat mind-set.

"This event will help train us for the real thing," said 18-year-old Reeder. "It could one day save our life, so it needs to be taken seriously." Through the physical conditioning and warrior ethos mental training, MCMAP offers recruits a multitude of opportunities to learn and grow to become the Marine warriors they're striving to be.

"Marines are first to fight," said Winslow. "Hand-to-hand combat is still applicable today, so it's an important skill to develop their basic knowledge in and then expand throughout their career."



Two Company I recruits demonstrate a figure four variation choke during the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program test at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Feb. 18. Recruits were tested on how to perform the chokes as well as how to counter them.



Company I recruits perform the basic warrior stance during the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program test. During the test, recruits were broken down into groups of 20 and assigned to a drill instructor from Instructional Training Company, who conducted the test.